

S B

3 3 4

HOUSE

COMMITTEE REPORT

5/11
Ruler

(9)

Date referred: 5/8/86

FURTHER REFERRALS:

DATE: May 11, 1986

The RESOURCES Committee has considered CSSSSB 334 (Res)
"An Act relating to Hatcher Pass Public Use Area."

and recommends:

- do pass
- do not pass
- do pass with attached amendment(s)
- no recommendation
- replace with _____ same title
- replace with _____ new title

and recommends _____

further referral to the _____ Committee

- and attaches:
- letter of intent
 - first fiscal note
 - new fiscal note
 - zero fiscal note

SIGNING DO PASS:

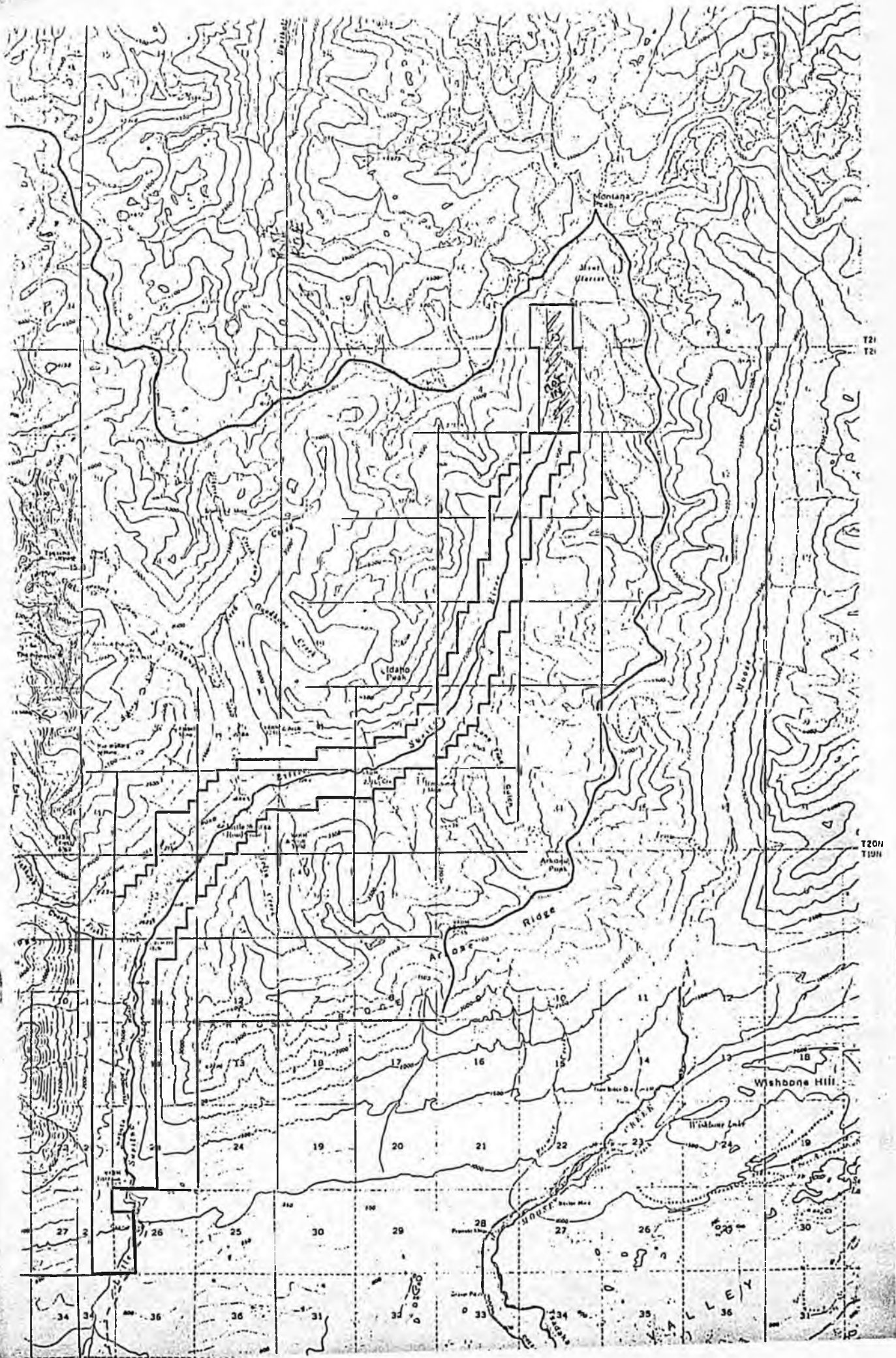
SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

tz _____
 er W.W. Miller
 psor David W. Thompson
Bette Peters

Roy Jenkins
 Jenkins

Steve ...

Dick Shultz
 Co-Chairman Shultz



Hatcher Pass acreage:

TOTAL ACRES = 5,130

State owned = 5,075

private = 55

TOTAL Length = 12.8 mi.

Distance along
Stream = 11.8 mi.

Distance
along
ROAD = 6 mi.

MEMORANDUM

FROM: LANCE Key

LOCATION SCRO R/L

TO: Ned Farquhar
Commissioners Office

TRANSMITTING CN/SPEED _____ DATE 5-1-86 TIME 1:30 PM
PHONE FOR PROBLEMS NAME/NUMBER 762-2270
COMMENTS _____

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO:

FROM: Lance E. Key *LEK*
Southcentral Region
DLWM

SUBJECT: Hatcher Pass Trespass Action

Here is a quick synopsis of the what has happened in Hatcher Pass.

1. Initial field inspection of the Lou Sackett Slippery Rock claim conducted by Bill Betlach (SCR) on 7-19-82 in conjunction with the Hatcher Pass Mngt Plan. A second report was submitted by Pat Beckley (SCR) on 11-30-82.
2. A field inspection of all the Little Susitna claims was conducted by the SCR on 2-20-85. Photos taken and field report filed.
3. All claims along the Little Su (approx. 10-12) were sent Notices of Confirmed Unauthorized Use. They were told to:
 - remove "No Trespassing" and "Private Property" signs and
 - file Annual Placer Mining Applications to justify surface use improvements and use as residences.Notices sent on 8-28-85. Miners given until 10-31-85 to comply with removal or file APMA's.
4. Majority of claims complied with removal of signs. Four claims had improvements, equipment, residences and trash on their sites. Three filed APMA's to justify their surface use. They were:
 - Hungry Dog claim, Dan Lepke (date of filing not available)
 - Slippery Rock claim, Lou Sackett (filed 10-22-85)
 - Adeline claim, Mike McDannel (filed 9-27-85)
5. Between 12-17-85 and 12-24-85 these three APMA's were reviewed by DOM and denied (copies attached).
6. DLWM in conjunction with DOM then notified these three claim owners that their improvements, residences, garbage and equipment were in violation of the regulations governing the surface use of mining claims. They were to remove the signs and cease residence immediately and remove the equipment, improvements and garbage by 5-15-86. These notices went out between 3-7-86 and 4-4-86.

7. Miners are still living on the claims, and some signs are still up on several of these claims. If compliance does not occur by 5-15-86, DLWM will ask the AG's office to begin civil action to ensure compliance.

End of current situation.

Lance E. Key
762-2277

MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING

State of Alaska

TO: Lance Key
DLWM

DATE: December 17, 1985

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 561-2020

FROM: Jerry Gallagher
Geologist V *J. Gallagher*

SUBJECT: Lepke, APMA #852605

I have reviewed the request by Mr. Daniel Lepke (Annual Placer Mining Application #852605) to live on the Hungry Dog Camp #1 and Hungry Dog Camp #2 mining claims (ADL's 355538 and 502829), store equipment and post no trespassing signs on these claims. Comment specific to the application was made by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, DNR-DLWM (Matsu Office) and the Alaska Center for the Environment. Mr. Lepke's requests have been judged against the standards found in 11 AAC 86.145.

According to the APMA #852605, Mr. Lepke's mining operation consists of a 2" suction dredge and portable sluice box. A "truck/camper" is used for processing and black sand storage. Three people work the claims all year according to Mr. Lepke. Living quarters include a 16'x26' canvas quonset hut, an outhouse, a propane storage shed, an equipment storage shed, and a guard shack.

A review of annual labor affidavits filed by Mr. Lepke for 1983 and 1984 for the Hungry Dog Claim #1 indicate work was conducted between the first day of May and the last day of September each year. No 1985 affidavit has been received by this office to date. A field inspection of the site conducted Oct. 9, 1985 by Lance Key and review of the photo's from that inspection show little surface evidence of a mining operation (tailings, disturbed ground, etc.) and only a small suction dredge that appears inoperative.

A review of APMA 852605, affidavits of annual labor, agency and public comment and field inspection photographs support the following conclusion:

- 1) The Hungry Dog claims are located within 12 to 15 miles of either Wasilla or Palmer where adequate living facilities are available.
- 2) Access to the Hungry Dog claims is provided 12 months per year by a state maintained road.
- 3) The past, present and proposed mining activity requires only portable equipment.
- 4) The trash, miscellaneous equipment, tents, sheds, etc. are not related to any mining activity.
- 5) Equipment on site, ground disturbed, and affidavits of annual all indicate only a small, part time mining operation is conducted on the Hungry Dog claims.

Based upon the above information, conclusion, and 11 AAC 85.145, the Division of Mining approves the following actions:

- 1) The application by Mr. Lepke to live on the Hungry Dog claim is denied. The close proximity to town, year round access, level of mining activity, and portable mining equipment do not necessitate living on the claim. Mr. Lepke does not meet the requirements of 11 AAC 86.145(2).
- 2) All "no trespassing" signs, "keep out" signs, and other signs which restrict public access must be taken down. The signs are in violation of 11 AAC 86.145(1)A and B.
- 3) A small storage shed not to exceed 6' x 4' will be allowed on the claim to store mining equipment during the summer mining season. The shed may be locked and posted with a "keep out" sign during the period May 1 to September 30. No equipment may be stored during the periods October 1 to April 30. To minimize vandalism and prevent unauthorized use, the storage shed must be sited so it is not visible from the Hatcher Pass road, have no windows and no heat source.
- 4) All existing tents, sheds, trash, garbage, and equipment must be removed from the area immediately. The area must be left in a clean and safe condition.

JG/jd/1492v

MEMORANDUM

State of Alaska

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING

TO: Lance Key
DLMM

DATE: December 17, 1985

FILE NO:

TELEPHONE NO: 561-2020

FROM: Jerry Gallagher
Geologist V

SUBJECT: McDannel, APMA #31056

I have reviewed the request by Mr. Michael McDannel (Annual Placer Mining application #31056) to live on the Adaline No. 1 and 2 mining claims (ADL's 505708 - 505709). Mr. McDannel states in his application for permanent living quarters that "the claim is under 24 hour security due to vandalism". Comments specific to this application for permanent living quarters have been received by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Department of Natural Resources (DLMM-Hat Su office), and the Alaska Center for the Environment. Mr. McDannel's request has been judged against the standards found in 11 AAC 86.145.

According to APMA #31056, Mr. McDannel's mining operation consists of a 2" suction dredge and hand tools. Two people are used to work the claim from April through November. Although not specified on the APMA, a house, outhouse, camper and other equipment is now on the claim.

The Adaline claims were staked on May 3, 1984 and annual labor has not yet been entered into the mining casefile. No previous Annual Placer Mining Application has been submitted by Mr. McDannel. A field inspection of the site conducted October 9, 1985 by Lance Key and review of the photos from that inspection show the presence of a 2" suction dredge and a small settling pond.

Review of APMA #31056, agency and public comment, and field inspection photographs support the following conclusions:

- 1) The Adaline claims are located within 10 to 15 miles of either Wasilla or Palmer where adequate living facilities are available.
- 2) Access to the Adaline claims is provided 12 months per year by a state maintained road.
- 3) The past, present and proposed mining operation require only portable equipment.
- 4) The house and miscellaneous equipment, except for the suction dredge, are not related to any mining activity.
- 5) The equipment on site and ground disturbed suggest only a small, part time mining operation is conducted on the Adaline claims.

Based upon the above information, conclusions and 11 AAC 85.145, the Division of Mining approves the following actions:

- 1) The application by Mr. McDannel to live on the Adaline claims is denied. The proximity to town, year round access, level of mining activity, and portable mining equipment do not necessitate living on the claim. Mr. McDannel does not meet the requirements of 11 AAC 86.145(2).
- 2) All "No Trespassing" signs, "Keep Out" signs, and other signs which restrict public access must be removed. These signs are in violation of 11 AAC 86.145 (1)A and B.
- 3) A small storage shed, not to exceed 6'x4', will be allowed on the claim to store mining equipment during the summer mining season. The shed may be locked and posted with a "Keep Out" sign during the period May 1 to September 30. No equipment may be stored on the claim during the period October 1 to April 30. To minimize vandalism and prevent unauthorized use, the shed should have no windows and have no heat source.
- 4) The existing house, camper, outhouse and all assorted equipment, garbage and trash must be removed from the area immediately. The area must be left in a clean and safe condition.

JG/jd/1494v

Mr. Sackett has advertised and conducted a "yard sale" on his mining claim during at least the summer of 1985. Miscellaneous trailers and equipment are for sale and DNR photographs taken October 9, 1985 clearly show prices affixed to such items.

Review of APMA 852932, agency and public comment, and field inspection photographs support the following conclusions:

- 1) The Slippery Rock claims are located within 10 to 15 miles of either Wasilla or Palmer where adequate living facilities are available.
- 2) Access to the Slippery Rock claims is provided 12 months per year by a state maintained road.
- 3) The mining plan states the use of a 4" suction dredge, but the exact use of the heavy equipment, specifically the D-6 cat and the back hoe remain unclear. The dredge is portable on a daily basis and the heavy equipment can be moved seasonally.
- 4) The numerous trailers and miscellaneous equipment are not directly related to the mining operation. The D-6 cat and backhoe may be used for mining on a limited basis but the few past APMA submittals and various field reports suggest only a very limited amount of actual mining is conducted at Slippery Rock.

Based upon the above information, conclusions and 11 AAC 85.145, the Division of Mining approves the following actions:

- 1) The application by Mr. Sackett to live on the Slippery Rock claims is denied. The proximity to town, year round access, level of mining activity, and portable mining equipment do not necessitate living on the claim. Mr. Sackett does not meet the requirements of 11 AAC 86.145(2).
- 2) All "No Trespassing" signs, "Keep Out" signs, and other signs which restrict public access must be removed. These signs are in violation of 11 AAC 86.145 (1)A and B.
- 3) A small storage shed, not to exceed 6'x4', will be allowed on the claim to store mining equipment during the summer mining season. The shed may be locked and posted with a "Keep Out" sign during the period May 1 to September 30. No equipment may be stored on the claim during the period October 1 to April 30. To minimize vandalism and prevent unauthorized use, the shed should have no windows and have no heat source.

- 4) As required for mining purposes, non-portable heavy mining equipment may be parked on the mining claim during the summer mining season from May 1 to September 30 if it is used in the mining operation. This equipment is limited to a D-6 Cat and a backhoe. During the period from October 1 to April 30, storage of this heavy equipment on the claim is not approved. Any use of this equipment must be approved prior to use through the Annual Placer Mining Application process.
- 5) The existing trailers, step vans, campers, storage sheds, smoke house, outhouse, living quarters, garbage and trash must be removed from the area. The area must be left in a clean and safe manner.

JG/jd/1499v

Similar notice
sent to Lepke &
McDannel.

March 7, 1986

CERTIFIED MAIL 140 343 623
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Lloyd Sackett
6820 A-1
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Re: Surface Use of the "Slippery Rock" Mining Claim
ADL 80055-57

Dear Mr. Sackett:

The Division of Land and Water Management has recently reviewed the decision of the Division of Mining concerning your Annual Placer Mining Application (APMA #852932) requesting approval of certain surface uses of your mining claims. As noted in a copy of the decision, which is attached, your requests have been judged as not in accordance with the standards of 11 AAC 86.145.

Based on this decision, the Division of Land and Water Management hereby issues this NOTICE AND ORDER OF CONFIRMED UNAUTHORIZED USE.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Division of Land and Water Management and the Division of Mining have determined the surface use of your mining claim (Slippery Rock 1-3) are in violation of Alaska Statute 38.05.255 (Surface Use of Land and Water) and 11 AAC 86.145.

YOU ARE HEREBY ORDERED to take the following corrective action.

1. Due to the proximity to town, year round access, level of mining activity and equipment utilized, no further residential use of the claim will be allowed. All residential use of your claim shall cease immediately upon receipt of this notice.
2. All "No Trespassing", "Keep Out", and other signs which restrict public access shall be removed immediately upon receipt of this notice.

Lloyd Sackett
March 7, 1986
Page 2

- 3. All miscellaneous equipment excluding a 6' x 4' or smaller storage shed shall be removed from the claims no later than May 15, 1986. The shed may be locked and posted with a "Keep Out" sign during the period May 1 to September 30 each year and may be kept on the claim year-round. No equipment shall be stored on the claim during the period October 1 to April 30 each year.
- 4. Non-portable heavy mining equipment may be parked on the mining claims during the summer mining season from May 1 to September 30 if required for use in the mining operation. This equipment is limited to a D-6 sized or smaller bulldozer and a backhoe. No heavy mining equipment shall be stored or parked on the claims from October 1 to April 30 each year. Use of this equipment on the claim must be approved prior to use through the Annual Placer Mining Application process.
- 5. All existing trailers, step vans, campers, storage sheds, smokehouses, outhouses, living quarters, garbage, trash and other personal effects must be removed from the claim no later than May 15, 1986. The area must be left in a clean and safe condition.

These corrective steps must be completed within the time-frames listed above. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the Department of Natural Resources taking appropriate action to bring the surface activities on your claims into compliance with the law. Any costs incurred by such enforcement action will be charged against the claim owner to the extent permitted by law.

Attached find the Department of Natural Resources regulations setting out your right to request reconsideration of this decision or to appeal this decision. Please note that you have 30 days from your receipt of this decision to take such action; otherwise this decision is final and you will have no right to request reconsideration or to appeal.

Tom Hawkins
 Tom Hawkins, Director
 Division of Land and Water Management
5 March 86
 Date

Pedro Denton
 Pedro Denton, Director
 Division of Mining
3/6/86
 Date



Matanuska-Susitna Borough

BOX B. PALMER, ALASKA 99645 • PHONE 745-4801

BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

APR 10 1986

April 7, 1986

Honorable Bill Sheffield, Governor
State of Alaska
Pouch A
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: Hatcher Pass Recreation Area

Dear Governor Sheffield:

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly has gone on record in the past and continues to strongly support the concept of development of the Hatcher Pass Recreation Area. A copy of Resolution No. 86-10 adopted on February 4, 1986 and Resolution No. 86-21 adopted February 18, 1986 are enclosed for your information.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly feels a recreation area such as Hatcher Pass would definitely aid towards a more stable economic future for the Valley. They feel this is a viable project and have further funded \$15,000 for a feasibility study for a ski area at Hatcher Pass by adoption of Ordinance No. 86-20 (enclosed). The public participation and interest generated with this issue has been overwhelmingly in support of this development and the Borough's position remains unchanged, except perhaps for a stronger support of the concept.

If you should have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Jones
Dorothy A. Jones, Mayor
Matanuska-Susitna Borough

DJ/clc
Enclosures

cc: Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources
Representative Ron Larson
Representative Katie Hurley
Senator Jalmer Kerttula
Senator Edna DeVries

Presented by: Mayor Jones
Introduced: 02/18/86
Drafted by: G.L.S.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Resolution Serial No. 86-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
SUPPORTING THE MULTIPLE USE CONCEPT FOR THE AREA WITHIN THE
PROPOSED HATCHER PASS MANAGEMENT PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources made a presentation on a proposed Hatcher Pass Management Plan to a joint meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly and Planning Commission on February 10, 1986, and

WHEREAS, said plan was represented as an attempt to provide for the sound development of the several natural resources and potentials of the area, including, but not limited to, recreation, tourism, mining, hunting, fishing and wildlife management, and

WHEREAS, the public comments regarding use of the Hatcher Pass area indicated the area is susceptible to multiple use development including preservation of scenic quality, enhancement of recreational and historical uses, hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, skiing, hiking, grazing, and mineral development, and

WHEREAS, the Hatcher Pass Management Plan, Subunit Description of Resource Values dated December 1985 indicates many of the subunits contain moderate to high mineral potentials, and

WHEREAS, the area should be developed in such a manner as to maximize its recreational and economic benefits to the people of the state of Alaska and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and

WHEREAS, the multiple use approach to the management of the Hatcher Pass area should be clearly set out in the Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH:

1. That it supports the multiple use concept presented to it by the Department of Natural Resources for the management of the Hatcher Pass area.

2. That it strongly recommends the Department of Natural Resources clearly incorporate in the Hatcher Pass Management Plan the multiple use approach to the management

of the various Hatcher Pass potentials and resources such as recreation, tourism, mining, timber, agriculture, hunting, fishing and wildlife management.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 18th day of February, 1986.

Dorothy A. Jones
Dorothy A. Jones, Mayor

ATTEST:

READ AND APPROVED:

Chris Seagraves
Chris Seagraves
Borough Clerk

Gary Thurlow
Gary Thurlow
Borough Manager

(SEAL)

NON-CODE

INTRODUCED BY: ASSEMBLYMAN CYPR

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 86-20

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH APPROPRIATING \$15,000 FROM THE LAND MANAGEMENT FUND BALANCE TO FUND 820 FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF A SKIING FACILITY AT GOVERNMENT PEAK IN THE HATCHER PASS AREA.

BE IT ENACTED:

Section 1. Classification. This is a non-code ordinance.

Section 2. Appropriation Source. There is hereby appropriated \$15,000 from the Land Management Fund Balance to Fund 820 Feasibility Study.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption by the Borough Assembly.

Introduction: March 18, 1986

First Reading: 3-18-86

Public Hearing: 4-1-86

ADOPTED by the Assembly of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough this

1st day of April, 1986.

Dorothy A. Jones
Dorothy A. Jones, Mayor

ATTEST:

Chris Seagraves
Chris Seagraves, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

Presented by: Assemblyperson

Cypra

Introduced: 01/21/86

Drafted by: S.C.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 86-10 (Substitute)

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE HATCHER PASS, WILLOW AND TALKEETNA MOUNTAIN AREAS AS POTENTIAL WINTER OLYMPIC SITES.

WHEREAS, the Hatcher Pass, Willow and the Talkeetna Mountain areas are recognized for their high recreational value, and

WHEREAS, Hatcher Pass, the Willow and Talkeetna Mountain areas are located in the vicinity of the Municipality of Anchorage, and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage has sought and received nominations as the Winter Olympic site in 1992, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Cross Country Ski Team has recognized Hatcher Pass as having high potential and used this area for training, and

WHEREAS, the Hatcher Pass, Willow area and Talkeetna Mountains receive considerable use by the Anchorage skiing community, and

WHEREAS, there is high unemployment in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and

WHEREAS, the current snowfall in the state of Alaska indicates the Hatcher Pass, Willow and Talkeetna Mountains can be relied upon as good sites for Winter Olympic sports,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH:

That the Assembly of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough
endorses the Hatcher Pass, Willow and Talkeetna Mountain
areas as potential Olympic sites for cross country skiing
and any other appropriate activities.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 4th day of February,
1986.

Dorothy A. Jones
Dorothy A. Jones, Mayor

ATTEST:

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Chris Seagraves
Chris Seagraves
Clerk

Gary Thurlow
Gary Thurlow
Borough Manager

SEAL

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

**SUMMARY OF
MINERAL RESOURCES**

By

Daniel E. Renshaw, P.E.
Renshaw Consulting Engineers

July, 1983

A summary of notable past production and probable future development of metallic and industrial mineral resources within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Produced by The Mapmakers, Palmer, Alaska

years, no great production was ever recorded. With the discovery of the lode gold occurrences beginning in 1909, interest in the placer waned. It was not until the late 30's that any substantial additional placer production occurred.

Several attempts at placer mining are recorded on Willow Creek extending several miles downstream from Grubstake Gulch and on the Little Susitna River below the mouth of Fishhook Creek. These activities were uniformly unsuccessful because of the distributive nature of the gold in the gravels, the small gold particle size, and, particularly in the case of the Little Susitna River, the tremendous amount and size of boulders involved. In the early 1960's several churn-drill holes were drilled into the bottom of Willow Creek in the vicinity of the mouth of Grubstake Gulch. It is reported that these determined that the placer gravels extended to a depth of nearly 100 feet; indicating the existence of a buried canyon filled with probably pre- and inter-glacial gold bearing gravels.

Mining operations have continued over the past 20 years near the confluence of Grubstake Gulch. In recent years, with the addition of modern mining equipment, these operations have apparently been successful. With the dramatic increase in the price of gold in the late 1970's considerable renewed interest was also shown in both the placers on Willow Creek and on the Little Susitna River. Many claims were staked and several mining attempts have been made, but the only apparent viable operation remains that of William Mrak and the Herman Brothers at the confluence of Willow Creek and Grubstake Gulch.

Placer occurrences are also known to be present on Wet Gulch, the next tributary stream to the west, and on Willow Creek upstream from Grubstake Gulch. In the late 1930's and early 40's there was an active placer mining pit on the hillside below the road where Upper Willow Creek is crossed. Coarse gold can still be panned from the hillside gravels in that vicinity. Other operations had previously been attempted on Willow Creek within the five miles reach below Grubstake Gulch.

Much of the Little Susitna River and Reed Creek have been staked for placer mining purposes. Although flour gold can be consistently panned along these two streams, the extremely bouldorous character of the gravels render it doubtful that any viable placer mining operation will be possible on those streams.

Several previous attempts have also been made to mine near the mouth of Fishhook Creek.

The first lode discovery is credited to Robert Hatcher on September 16, 1906. This discovery, and others which followed the next year, was high on the ridge separating Upper Willow Creek and Fishhook Creek. These claims were later acquired by the Alaska Free Gold Mining Company and much later became a portion of the consolidation known as the Independence Mine. Most of the other important mining properties, in addition to many prospects, were discovered during the period of 1908 through 1918. Rapid development followed close upon the initial discoveries and by 1914 there were three producing mines equipped with seasonally operated water powered stamp mills, and in at least one instance, a Chilean or Lane-type mill. These early mills were inefficient at separating the gold from the ore below about 40 mesh screen size. As a consequence the finer sands were retained in ponds and their gold values later recovered by chemical leaching.

Many of the early mining discoveries are credited to the Bartholf brothers. However, some sources indicate that certain of these properties may have actually been discovered as a result of Russian explorations. This is doubtful. Though undocumented, there is some likelihood that the Gold Bullion, and perhaps other discoveries, had initially been made by a group of alien Japanese, who had then been encouraged to go search elsewhere.

In the early years the difficulty of access, short seasons and insufficient water for power limited the milling of ores to the summer months. Later, as access was improved and more substantial equipment acquired, underground development work was pursued during the winter months as well as the summer, and the ore stockpiled for summer milling. When substantial improvements had been made to the access roads, more modern machinery was installed, improved facilities for year-round living quarters were built, and diesel-electric engines acquired for the production of power, year-round mining and milling was practical.

Many of the discoveries within the district were founded on the second or largely non-productive sets of veins. Consequently, relatively few of the properties, and only those on the productive sets of veins, ever became viable. Among those of particular importance (progressing from west to east) are the following:



P.O. Box 45 • Palmer, Alaska 99645

Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce

May 2, 1986

Senator Jan Faiks
PO Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

MAY 8 1986

CSSSSB 334 - HATCHER PASS PUBLIC USE AREA

This is to let you know that the board of directors of the Greater Palmer Chamber of Commerce supports you in your effort to establish the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area.

Sincerely,

GREATER PALMER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Brigitte Lively
President, Board of Directors

✓ cc: Senator Jay Kerttula



COOK INLET
AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

RT. 2, BOX 849
SOLDOTNA, AK 99569
(907) 283-5761

April 9, 1986

Senator Jalmar M. Kerttula
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

APR 14 1986

Dear Senator Kerttula:

The Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association supports the passage of SB No. 334. Establishment of the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area would increase the degree of water quality and habitat protection afforded to the headwater streams of the Little Susitna River. Protection of water quality and habitat will ensure the continued productivity of the River's fish populations.

The Little Susitna River produces significant quantities of all five species of Pacific Salmon which are found in Alaska. Some of these fish are harvested commercially as they pass northward through Cook Inlet. The Little Susitna River salmon are also important to Matanuska-Susitna and Anchorage area recreational fishermen because the stream flows largely through public lands, is close to population centers, is accessible via the road system and is, in itself, picturesque.

The COOK INLET REGIONAL SALMON ENHANCEMENT PLAN lists the Little Susitna River as a site for fish stocking projects which will increase annual recreational fishing harvests by 10,000 coho salmon and 6,000 king salmon. In the future I would expect the Little Susitna River to become even more important to regional salmon harvesters and the creation of the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area through the passage of SB No. 334 would be a wise preparatory step toward that future.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Mears

Thomas E. Mears,
Executive Director

cc: All Senate Resources and Finance Committee Members

March 21 1986

March 3, 1986

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski, Chairperson
Resources Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

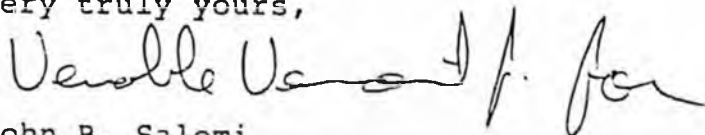
Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

As a frequent user of the Hatcher Pass area, I am writing you as a supporter of Senator Jay Kerttula's "Hatcher Pass Public Use Area" Bill. It is my understanding that this bill will close the Little Susitna River Corridor to new mining and will additionally prohibit state land disposal within the use area.

I believe this bill is a needed piece of legislation. It is a balanced bill in that it won't affect existing valid mining claims, but it will stem the trend regarding squatters on the land in this area. It is clear that the Hatcher Pass area is one of those areas which has both a high tourist value, and yet attracts residents year-round because of its diverse recreational uses. But because squatters and persons on illegal mining claims are posting certain areas so as to prohibit access to the lands, the public in general is suffering. One can find "no trespassing" signs placed by miners in areas on state lands to which the public has a right of use. This should not be tolerated, especially in this area.

I urge you to give this bill your fullest support during the legislative session. I, along with many others, will be following the progress of this legislation.

Very truly yours,



John B. Salemi

4204 COPE ST.
ANCHORAGE, AK. 99503
27 MARCH 1986

SENATOR ARLISS STURGULEWSKI
SENATE RESOURCE COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX V
UNNEAN, ALASKA 99811

DEAR SENATOR

I AM WRITING URGING YOU TO SUPPORT SB-334 WHICH SETS ASIDE
A CORRIDOR IN THE LITTLE SUSITNA VALLEY WHICH IS WITHDRAWN FROM
MINING CLAIMS. I AM AN ACTIVE RECREATIONIST, SKIER / KAYAKER AND
BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THE UNIQUE AND CHARMING VALUES OF THIS
AREA SHOULD BE PRESERVED IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST. I AM NOT
OPPOSED TO MINING PER SE BUT AM OPPOSED TO THE STATE'S LAX
STANCE (OR NON STANCE) IN ^{NOT EVALUATING} ~~REMOVING~~ CLAIM VALIDITY. FURTHER, THE
STATE HAS SHOWN LITTLE INITIATIVE IN EVALUATING WHETHER HOUSING IS
NECESSARY ON THIS CLAIM. IN THE CASE OF ~~THE~~ LITTLE SUSITNA,
WHICH HAS GOOD ROAD ACCESS, HOUSING IS MOST DEFINITELY NOT NECESSARY
AND IS FURTHER AN EYE-SORE AND A NUISANCE TO OTHER VALLEY USERS.
PLEASE APPROVE SB-334 AS A START TO RESOLVING SOME OF THESE
PROBLEMS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

SINCERELY,

DAVID BLANCHET

Jan. 13, 1986
PO Box 2176
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Senate Resources Committee
Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Sturgulewski,

I urge you to support Senate Bill 334, establishing the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area, introduced by Senator Kerttula.

His bill protects public use of a popular area in two ways. First, the legislation disallows new mining on the Little Susitna River. As you know, the river is a tremendously valuable scenic resource to people in my community and visitors from out-of-state. On the other hand, it contains such small quantities of gold that all placer mining attempts have been failures. From the view of state resources management, there is no economic advantage to additional mining on the Little Su. Some of the current claim holders have created substantial eyesores on the stream, in violation of several state regulations. The proposed legislation will see to it that no additional squatters pre-empt the public from using the stream. As Chuck Hawley told me, "There is no gold there. That river should be for tourists."

Secondly, S.B. 334 prohibits state land disposals in the Hatcher Pass area. Private control of state land there fulfills no public needs, but in fact puts resources off-limits to the public now utilizing them there. Plenty of unsold private land lies near the proposed Public Use Area for people requiring a cabin site. At the recent public hearings, participants overwhelmingly objected to land disposals in the Hatcher Pass area.

Although S.B. 334 is valuable legislation, it has some room for improvement. The legislatively designated area should include the high mountains and meadows just to the northeast. This small area is a popular destination for skiers and mountaineers, and it therefore deserves the same legal consideration as the rest of the Public Use area.

I would like to come down to Juneau and talk to the Resources Committee about the bill when it comes up on your agenda.

Sincerely,

Mike Bronson

Mike Bronson

cc: Senate Resource
Committee members
Dorothy Jones
Lester Wunnicke

Senator Artiss Stungulewski
Senate Resource Committee
Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Feb. 22, 1986

Dear Senator Stungulewski,

I am writing you to ask for your support for SB 334, an Act creating a Hatcher Pass Use Area.

While I am currently on the Matanuska Susitna Borough Assembly and represent the area that the Use Area addresses, I am writing this as a private citizen.

There are numerous questions revolving around this bill, but I would like to share several of the things I have come to see as important.

Probably the two major concerns have been regarding mining in the area and whether SB 334 will conflict with the Hatcher Pass Management Plan. On the first concern, I do not believe this bill will establish a precedent miners should feel threatened with. On the contrary, most miners I know feel this area has little mining value and those who're using claims near the Little Susitna River are giving others a bad name. Of the second concern, that of the Hatcher Pass Plan, I have watched the planning process closely and from my perspective feel SB 334 will only strengthen both the public's desire and the Plan's goals.

One of the strongest personal concerns I have is building a diverse and healthy local economy. I believe SB 334 will protect the Little Susitna area for the things we desperately need the most: excellent recreational and tourist destinations.

Sincerely yours,



Steven R. Cybra

cc: Senate Resource
Committee

Black Sands Mining Co.

Phillip D. Strange
P.O. Box 871478
Wasilla, Alaska 99687
(Placer - Gold)

Feb 14 1986

February 14, 1986

Dear Legislators:

I urge you to oppose S.B.334, creating the Hatchers Pass Public Use Area. This bill will force a mineral closure one half mile wide on each side of the Little Susitna River. This will be the beginning of another lock up of a very important mining district. Should S.B.334 pass into law it will cause the loss of private investment for mineral exploration and development on state lands in the Hatchers Pass Area.

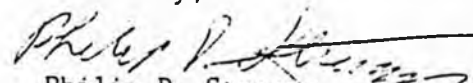
This area is of great economic importance for the vast mineral wealth that is there. The surface has barely been scratched on the mineral deposits of the Willow Creek Mining District. We need to develop this mineral wealth to bring new jobs and start an economically viable industry in the Mat-Su Valley.

The mining industry opened the Hatchers Pass Area and established the first roads into it, now that access is relatively easy, compared to 50 years ago. The people of Anchorage want to make it into their exclusive playground, but we do not need to close an area to mining because of the recreational wants and needs of urban Alaskans who know nothing about mining or the mining industry. With all the advances in mining and milling equipment we can mine lower grade ores at a higher profit with no detrimental effect on the environment.

I am presently working to develop the 200 foot level on a group of hard-rock claims not far from the Little Sustina River. Last year I invested fifty thousand dollars into rehabilitating the old crosscut and this year I plan to invest close to one hundred thousand dollars on development and exploration work. When I get it developed to the point where I can go into production, the cost of bringing in equipment will be very low because of the excellent road access into this mining area.

I believe that the needs of both miners and those who wish to use the area strictly for recreational purposes can be met but feel that S.B.334 will discriminate against the mining interests of the area. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,


Philip D. Strange

PDS/baf

FEB 10 1986

Knik Kanoers and Kayakers
3903 Arkansas Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

February 5, 1986

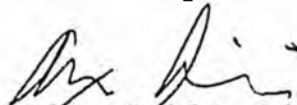
Senator Sturgulewski
Resources Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator,

I am writing on behalf of the Knik Kanoers and Kayakers to urge you to support Senator Kertulla's Bill No. 334. The intent of the legislation is to protect the water quality and public use of the upper Little Susitna River. Kayakers use the Little Susitna on a regular basis. The proposed legislation creates the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area and protects our access to the river and surrounding lands.

The Little Su is an exceptional kayaking river. It is a clear warm water stream of unusual beauty and challenge. S.B. 334 is an important bill for Knik Kanoers and Kayakers. The bill would stop new mining on the stream and thereby the number of residents engaged in illegal placer mining there. A few of these miners have settled along the Hatcher Pass Road and accumulated junk in their yards and erected threatening signs along the road and river. Although they find little gold in the river they have significantly impacted the experience of kayakers paddling the river. Not only kayakers but also hikers, picnickers, fishermen, and motorists must be wary of these mining claims.

Sincerely Yours,


Alex Swiderski
President

JAN 22 1986

Jan. 18, 1986

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Resources Committee
State Senate
Juneau, Alaska

File

Dear Senator,

Please support Senate Bill 334, introduced by Senator Kerttula last week. This legislation seeks to put a stop to further unlawful squatting along the Little Susitna River near Hatcher Pass, and to clean up the area for the tourists.

It is important to me and other people in the area that the Hatcher Pass region be kept attractive. I and my family and our guests like to drive along the Little Susitna River to the old Independence Mine. At any season the area is a real attraction. One of the few detractions from the experience, however, is the trashy "mining" sites along the road. Squatters have erected threatening signs warning the public off their placer claims, and have created a series of small junkyards.

I have nothing against legitimate mining on state lands, however these people are taking unfair advantage of the rules. These "miners" take a couple of ounces of dust from the river each year, certainly an amount insufficient to justify such use of state land. I realize that the Division of Mining in DNR is starting to enforce the regulations on the river, and I encourage them to do so. Unfortunately, we have no assurance that they will persist. Where were they in the past? What enforcement are they pursuing in other areas occupied by squatters now? Can we trust the Department to enforce its regulations in the future under other state administrations?

Senate Bill 334 solves these uncertainties. Although the bill does not directly affect the current squatters, it does prevent the problem from growing. I would like to be assured that the river corridor will be cleaned up and stay cleaned up by statute, rather than to depend on the whim of the bureaucrats in DNR. The bill is just good, basic resource management.

Sincerely,

John Koutsky
John Koutsky

*Box 871306
Wasilla, AK 99687*

P.S. I personally hope you run for governor!

JAN 21 1986

549 E. Caribou
Palmer, AK 99645
15 January 1986

*File
in Hatcher
Pass Bill
File*

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

While a great many of us have benefitted from the State's and Federal Government's largess in dispensing land and privileges in Alaska--and these traditions must continue to provide opportunities to individual Alaskans--we need to insure public benefits, too.

Senator Kerttula has introduced a bill regarding land disposals and new mining claims in the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area. In a world where each citizen exercised a measure of respect for his neighbor's pursuit of happiness such a bill would be superfluous. But this is not the case in Hatcher Pass, and abominable abuses exist there already, coupled with an agonizing inability of some State agencies to enforce their own regulations and protect the public weal.

All summer long one finds a steady stream of Southcentral Alaskans and visitors driving over Hatcher Pass. Almost the sole reason for this exercise is the enjoyment and awe of the scenery. Serious excrescences disfigure this scenery already, and Senator Kerttula is correct in wanting to save our most accessible alpine region while there is still hope of doing so.

Hatcher Pass is a State treasure that benefits most the less we do to it. Please support Senator Kerttula's efforts towards its continued existence.

Sincerely yours,

Joe Lawton
Joe Lawton

cc: Senate Resources Committee Members

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1986
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National Organization for River Sports

Box 6847 314 North Twentieth Street Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904 (303) 473-2466

{ Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Resources Committee Chairman
Alaska State Senate, Box V
Juneau AK 99811 }

NORS BATTLES FOR BOATERS!
CURRENTS COVERS RIVER RUNNING!

Date: March 4, 1986

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

It has come to my attention that the upper portion of the Little Susitna River, and its surroundings known as the Hatcher Pass Area, are the subject of a bill now before you, S.B. 334, which would make this a public recreational use area.

On behalf of our members in Alaska and elsewhere, I strongly urge you to help reserve this area for public recreational use. In recent years I have been amazed at the advances in technique and equipment for running rivers, and I can assure you that this river will carry increasing recreational use in coming years. Already there are not enough rivers to go around, resulting in waits of as long as ten years to get a permit for a trip on certain major rivers in the West. For the future of your state's tourism economy and the benefit of its citizens in general, I urge you to preserve this recreational area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Leaper".

Eric Leaper
Executive Director

EL/fa

cc: Senator Jan Faiks, Finance Committee