

SR

55-H

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date referred: 2/3/88

FURTHER REFERRALS:

DATE: 2/17/88

The Finance Committee has considered CSSB 55 (Res)

"An Act establishing the Minto Flats State Game Refuge; and providing for an effective date."

RECOMMENDS:

- replace with _____ the same title
- attached amendment(s) a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: ^{ENDORSES} HOUSE RESOURCE letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

- fiscal impact same as previous fiscal note published _____
- zero fiscal note same as previous zero fiscal note published _____
- zero with analysis

SIGNING DO PASS:

Al Adams

John L. ...

Ronald L. Larr

Steve ...

...

Tom ...

Ray ...

Ray ...

Mike ...

SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Al Adams

 Chairman's signature

STATE OF ALASKA
1988 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: CCSR 55(Res)
PUBLISH DATE: 4/14/87

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: Senate Res
Title: Minto Flats Refuge
Sponsor: Binkley/Kertulla
Requestor: Senate Res. Comm.

Agency Affected: DNR
BRU: Div. Land and Water Mgt.
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

CAPITAL						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

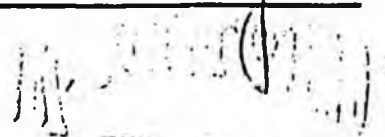
Prepared by: Janet Burleson
Division: Land and Water Management

Phone: 465-3400
Date: 2/1/88

Approved by Commissioner: Judith W. Burlew
Agency: Natural Resources

Date: 2-2-88

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



FEB 2 1988

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: Minto Flats State Game Refuge
Sponsor: _____
Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: ADF&G
BRU: Habitat
Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES			60.0			
TRAVEL			5.0			
CONTRACTUAL			8.0			
SUPPLIES			2.0			
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING			75.0*			
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND			75.0			
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL			75.0			

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

*Amount required if two plans are prepared concurrently. If existing schedule of one plan per year is adhered to, the operating budget would be adequate and this fiscal note would not be necessary.

Prepared by: Representative Al Adams, Chairman Phone: 465-3706
Division: House Finance Committee Date: 2/17/88

Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: _____
Agency: _____

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

Minto Flats State Game Refuge Plan (would take one year to complete and would require the following expenses)

Personnel

Habitat Biologist	(18C)	10 mos.	4500/mo.	45,000
Game/Fish Biol.	(16C)	3 mos.	4000/mo.	12,000
Drafting Tech.	(14D)	1 mo.	3500/mo.	3,500
Clerk Typist	(8A)	1 mo.	2300/mo.	2,300
				<u>\$62,800</u>

Travel

One two-day trip to Fairbanks and one two-day trip to Fairbanks for 2 people

2,000

Contractual

telephone	900
photocopy	120
public notices	1,000
aerial photography	700
printing/photography/blueprinting	5,000
	<u>7,720</u>

Supplies 2,000

TOTAL \$74,520



Alaska State Legislature

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

POUCH V
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
(907) 485-3715

House Resources Committee
Letter of Intent
for SCS SB 55 (Res)
An Act Establishing the Minto Flats State Game Refuge

It is the intent of the legislature that major land owners and agencies with land management authority within or directly adjacent to the refuge be represented on the planning team.

Handwritten signature of Sam Cotten.

Representative Sam Cotten
Co-chair, House Resources
February 2, 1988

Handwritten signature of Adelheid Herrmann.

Representative Adelheid Herrmann
Co-chair, House Resources
February 2, 1988

Original sponsors: Binkley and Kerttula

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 55 (Resources)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
5 A BILL
6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Minto 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. AS 16.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:
10 Sec. 16.20.037. MINTO FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE. (a) The follow-
11 ing state-owned land and water is established as the Minto Flats State
12 Game Refuge:
13 (1) Township 1 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
14 Sections 2 - 11
15 Sections 14 - 23
16 Sections 26 - 34
17 (2) Township 1 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
18 Sections 1 - 36
19 (3) Township 1 North, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
20 Sections 1 - 16
21 Sections 21 - 28
22 Section 35: E1/2
23 Section 36
24 (4) Township 1 North, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
25 Sections 1 - 12
26 (5) Township 1 North, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian
27 Sections 1 - 12
28 (6) Township 1 North, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
29 Sections 1 - 4

1 Sections 8 - 17
 2 Sections 20 - 29
 3 (7) Township 2 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 4 Sections 1 - 36
 5 (8) Township 2 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 6 Sections 1 - 36
 7 (9) Township 2 North, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 8 Sections 1 - 36
 9 (10) Township 2 North, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 10 Sections 1 - 36
 11 (11) Township 2 North, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 12 Section 3
 13 Sections 8 - 10
 14 Section 11: S1/2N1/2, S1/2
 15 Section 12: S1/2N1/2, S1/2
 16 Sections 13 - 36
 17 (12) Township 2 North, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 18 Sections 13 - 15
 19 Sections 22 - 27
 20 Sections 34 - 36
 21 (13) Township 3 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 22 Sections 13 - 36
 23 (14) Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 24 Sections 6 - 8
 25 Section 9: S1/2S1/2
 26 Sections 13 - 36
 27 (15) Township 3 North, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 28 Section 1
 29 Sections 5 - 10

1 Sections 14 - 23
 2 Sections 25 - 36
 3 (16) Township 3 North, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 4 Section 24: S1/2
 5 Section 25
 6 Sections 33 - 36
 7 (17) Township 3 North, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 8 Sections 34 - 35
 9 (18) Township 4 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 10 Sections 2 - 9
 11 Sections 16 - 21
 12 (19) Township 4 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 13 Sections 1 - 4
 14 Section 5: S1/2
 15 Section 6: S1/2
 16 Sections 7 - 24
 17 Sections 30 - 31
 18 (20) Township 4 North, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 19 Sections 10 - 15
 20 Sections 22 - 27
 21 Sections 30 - 31
 22 Sections 35 - 36
 23 (21) Township 5 North, Range 5 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 24 Section 6: W1/2
 25 Section 7: W1/2
 26 Section 18: W1/2
 27 (22) Township 5 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 28 Sections 1 - 3
 29 Section 4: SE1/4

1 Section 9: E1/2
2 Sections 10 - 15
3 Section 16: E1/2, SW1/4
4 Section 20: S1/2
5 Sections 21 - 29
6 Sections 31 - 36
7 (23) Township 5 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
8 Section 35: SE1/4
9 Section 36: S1/2
10 (24) Township 1 South, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
11 Sections 5 - 8
12 Sections 17 - 20
13 Sections 29 - 31
14 (25) Township 1 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
15 Sections 1 - 36
16 (26) Township 1 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
17 Sections 1 - 2
18 Sections 11 - 14
19 Sections 23 - 26
20 Sections 35 - 36
21 (27) Township 1 South, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
22 Sections 1 - 36
23 (28) Township 1 South, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian
24 Sections 7 - 36
25 (29) Township 1 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
26 Sections 25 - 26
27 Sections 35 - 36
28 (30) Township 2 South, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
29 Section 6: S1/2NW1/4, S1/2

1 Section 7: all North and West of the Alaska Railroad
2 right-of-way
3 Section 18: all North and West of the Alaska Railroad
4 right-of-way
5 Section 19: all North and West of the Alaska Railroad
6 right-of-way
7 (31) Township 2 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
8 Sections 1 - 12
9 Section 13: NE1/4, E1/2NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4, S1/2SW1/4,
10 SE1/4
11 Section 14: W1/2
12 Sections 15 - 22
13 Section 23: W1/2
14 Section 24: all North and West of the Alaska Railroad
15 right-of-way
16 Section 27: NW1/4
17 Sections 28 - 32
18 Section 33: NE1/4NE1/4, W1/2NE1/4, W1/2, W1/2SE1/4
19 (32) Township 2 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
20 Section 1
21 Sections 12 - 13
22 Sections 24 - 25
23 Section 36
24 (33) Township 2 South, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
25 Sections 1 - 12
26 Section 17: W1/2NW1/4, NW1/4SW1/4
27 Section 18
28 Section 19: N1/2, N1/2S1/2
29 (34) Township 2 South, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian

1 Sections 1 - 20

2 Section 21: NE1/4, W1/2

3 Section 22: NW1/4

4 Section 24: N1/2, N1/2S1/2

5 Sections 29 - 31

6 (35) Township 2 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian

7 Sections 1 - 5

8 Sections 7 - 36

9 (36) Township 2 South, Range 12 West, Fairbanks Meridian

10 Sections 25 - 26

11 Sections 35 - 36

12 (37) Township 3 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian

13 Section 5: N1/2NE1/4, W1/2

14 Sections 6 - 7

15 Section 18: NE1/4, W1/2, N1/2SE1/4, SW1/4SE1/4

16 (38) Township 3 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian

17 Section 1

18 Section 12

19 Section 13

20 Section 22: NE1/4 (that portion above the ordinary

21 high water mark right bank Tanana River)

22 Section 23: N1/2, SE1/4

23 Section 24: N1/2, SW1/4

24 Section 25: NW1/4

25 (39) Township 3 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian

26 Sections 2 - 10

27 Section 11: N1/2

28 Section 14: SW1/4NE1/4, S1/2NW1/4, SW1/4, W1/2SE1/4

29 Sections 15 - 21

1 Section 22: NE1/4, W1/2, W1/2SE1/4
2 Section 23: NW1/4
3 Section 27: W1/2NE1/4, NW1/4, W1/2SW1/4
4 Sections 28 - 31
5 Section 32: NE1/4, NW1/4, SE1/4
6 Section 33: W1/2
7 (40) Township 3 South, Range 12 West, Fairbanks Meridian
8 Sections 1 - 2
9 Sections 11 - 14
10 Sections 23 - 26
11 Sections 35 - 36

12 (b) The Minto Flats State Game Refuge is established to
13 (1) ensure the protection and enhancement of habitat;
14 (2) ensure the conservation of fish and wildlife; and
15 (3) guarantee the continuation of hunting, fishing, trap-
16 ping and other uses by the public compatible with the protection and
17 enhancement of habitat and the conservation of fish and wildlife.

18 (c) The state may not acquire by eminent domain privately owned
19 land within the Minto Flats State Game Refuge, but may acquire pri-
20 vately owned land by purchase, exchange, or otherwise for inclusion in
21 the Minto Flats State Game Refuge.

22 (d) Management decisions under this section made by the commis-
23 sioner of natural resources and the commissioner of fish and game are
24 applicable only to land and water described in (a) of this section.

25 (e) Public access to the Minto Flats State Game Refuge by means
26 of horse, boat, aircraft, dog team, snowmachine, or other means con-
27 sistent with (b) of this section may not be prohibited.

28 (f) Access to and from private property within the Minto Flats
29 State Game Refuge shall be guaranteed through access corridors

1 established through agreement between the Department of Natural
2 Resources, the Department of Fish and Game, and the private property
3 owners involved.

4 (g) The Department of Fish and Game and the Department of
5 Natural Resources shall exercise their respective authorities over the
6 Minto Flats State Game Refuge consistent with a management plan pre-
7 pared by the Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the
8 Department of Natural Resources.

9 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____ Agency Affected: ADF&G
 Title: Minto Flats State Game Refuge BRU: Habitat
 Sponsor: _____ Components: _____
 Requestor: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES			60.000			
TRAVEL			5.000			
CONTRACTUAL			8.000			
SUPPLIES			2.000			
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING			75.000*			

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
---------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND			75.000			
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL			75.000			

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Bruce H. Baker Phone: 465-4105
 Division: HABITAT Date: 2/2/88
 Approved by Commissioner: Don Williams Date: 2-2-88
 Agency: ADF&G

Distribution (by preparer): *Amount required if two plans are prepared concurrently.
 Legislative Finance If existing schedule of one plan per year is adhered to,
 Legislative Sponsor the operating budget would be adequate and this fiscal
 Requestor note would not be necessary.
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

Minto Flats State Game Refuge Plan (would take one year to complete and would require the following expenses)

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public notices	1,000
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printing/photography/blueprinting	5,000
	<u>7,720</u>

Supplies 2,000

TOTAL \$74,520

Senator Johne Binkley

Alaska State Senate
P.O. Box V • Juneau, Alaska 99811 • (907) 465-4985



Finance Committee
Chairman

M E M O R A N D U M

April 30, 1987

TO: REPRESENTATIVE SAM COTTEN, CO-CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE ADELHEID HERRMANN, CO-CHAIR
House Resources Committee

FROM: SENATOR JOHN E BINKLEY, CO-CHAIR
Senate Finance Committee

Subj: CSSB 55(Res), "An Act relating to establishing the
Minto Flats State Game Refuge."

Minto Flats is located in interior Alaska, 35 air miles west of Fairbanks adjacent to the village of Minto and five miles north of Nenana. The Minto Flats area is primarily low-lying wetlands fed by the Tolovana, Chatanika, and Tatalina Rivers and Goldstream and Washington Creeks. The flats are drained by the Tanana River. The proposed refuge encompasses approximately 507,136 acres.

Minto Flats supports vast concentrations of waterfowl and fur-bearing animals, as well as productive fisheries and a variety of game. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reported that the Minto Flats area is one of the highest quality waterfowl nesting habitats on the North American continent. The Service estimates that Minto Flats produces 150,000 ducks annually, supporting breeding populations averaging 213 ducks per square mile.

The Minto Flats area is used year-round by residents of Minto and Nenana as primary subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping grounds. In addition, sportsmen from Fairbanks and other areas hunt, fish and trap extensively in the Minto Flats area.

Minto Flats is the third most popular duck hunting area in the state, logging over 5,000 hunter days with over 11,000 ducks and 700 geese taken annually. Minto Flats is also one of the most productive sports fisheries in the state; each year over 800 anglers spend 1,800 days fishing in the Minto Flats area harvesting over 2,300 fish. In addition, over 100 beavers are taken each year on Minto Flats. Land otter, lynx, wolverine, wolf, red fox, mink and muskrat are also regularly trapped on the flats.

Representative Sam Cotten
Representative Adelheid Herrmann
April 30, 1987
Page 2

The proposed legislation to establish the Minto Flats State Game Refuge has the endorsement of a wide range of user and interest groups throughout the region. Support for the bill comes from the Alaska Outdoor Council, Arctic Audubon, Cleary Sky Sportsmen Club, Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Healy/Clear Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Minto Native Council, Nenana Native Council, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Seth-de-ya-ah Corporation (Fairbanks), Tanana Chiefs Conference, and the Tanana Valley Sportsman Association.

The bill to establish the Minto Flats State Game Refuge is in response to the findings of the Tanana Basin Area Plan. The Resources Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 55 accomplishes the following:

1. establishes Minto Flats State Game Refuge;
2. identifies the purpose for which the area is established;
3. ensures the protection and enhancement of fish and game and their habitat in the area;
4. ensures the conservation of fish and wildlife; and
5. guarantees the perpetuation of hunting, fishing, trapping, and other uses compatible with the protection of habitat and the conservation of fish and wildlife;
6. provides for acquisition of private property from willing owners;
7. guarantees continued access to private inholdings;
8. provides for the management of Minto Flats State Game Refuge including development of a management plan.

May 27, 1986

Dear Honorable Member of the Alaska Legislature:

We the undersigned users of the Minto Flats area, urge you to introduce the enclosed legislation to create the Minto Flats State Game Refuge.

The abundance of game and nongame fish and wildlife species in the Minto Flats area is widely recognized (e.g., moose, black bear, beaver, muskrat, river otter, wolf, red fox, waterfowl, northern pike, whitefish [including sheefish], and salmon). The Sport Fish Division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimated that during 1984, 819 anglers spent 1829 days fishing the Minto Flats area and harvested over 2300 fish. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has been conducting annual aerial waterfowl breeding population surveys in Alaska for 30 years; they state that "The Minto Flats area is one of the highest quality waterfowl nesting habitats on the North American continent." Minto flats is a very popular human use area for hunting, fishing, trapping and other outdoor uses. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game reports that during the 1984 waterfowl season 5,094 hunter days (6.7% of the total waterfowl hunter effort in the state) were expended hunting waterfowl in the Minto area. The estimated 1984 harvest in the Minto area was 11,685 ducks (11.5% of total state harvest) and 777 geese (5.1% of total state harvest).

It is our intent in proposing the creation of the Minto Flats State Game Refuge that the legislation 1) recognize the high value of fish and game and their habitat in the area; 2) guarantee the perpetuation of hunting, fishing, and trapping activities in accordance with harvest regulations as established by the Boards of Fisheries and Game; 3) guarantee historical and customary access to private lands; and 4) perpetuate nonconsumptive uses. It is our intent that the following human uses will continue without further agency authorization unless otherwise provided by law or found to be incompatible with the purpose for which the refuge is established:

- (1) Hiking and backpacking, horse and dog team travel, cross-country skiing, snowmachining, boating, landing of aircraft and camping (to include campfires);
- (2) hunting, fishing and trapping; and

Proposed Minto Flats
State Game Refuge

-2-

5/27/86

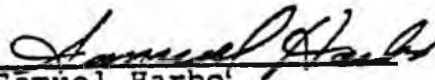
- (3) other related uses that are temporary in duration and have no foreseeable adverse effect on vegetation, drainage, soil stability, fish, game or their habitat.

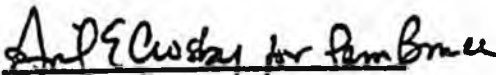
When the compatibility of a use is questioned, the Department of Fish and Game will conduct specific fact-finding efforts, including public meetings, prior to making a final determination.

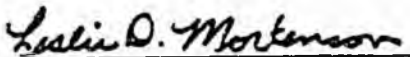
The Department of Fish and Game is to consult with adjacent communities and other interested parties in the preparation of the management plan for the Minto Flats State Game Refuge. It is our desire that the Department of Fish and Game be funded to initiate the management planning process immediately following the legislative designation of this important area.

It is also the objective of this group that this letter of intent be incorporated as part of the legislative record during the establishment of the Minto Flats State Game Refuge.

Sincerely,


v/s Samuel Harbo
President
Alaska Outdoor Council
P.O. Box 73478
Fairbanks, AK 99707

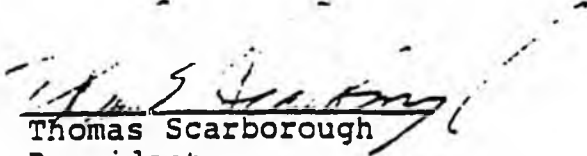

Pamela Bruce
President
Arctic Audubon
940 Kalina Road
Fairbanks, AK 99712

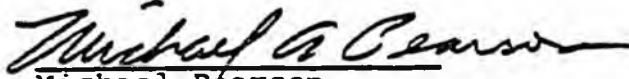

James Mulvihill
President
Cleary Sky Sportsmen Club
P.O. Box 254
Clear, AK 99704


Proposed Minto Flats
State Game Refuge


-3-

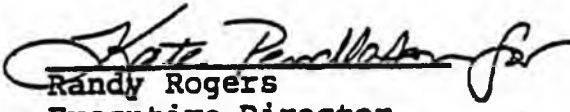
5/27/86



Thomas Scarborough
President
Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee
1676 Taroka Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99701


Michael Pearson
President
Healy/Clear Fish and Game Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 469
Clear, AK 99704


Lee Titus
Chief
Minto Native Council
General Delivery
Minto, AK 99758


Mitch Demientieff
Chief
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Randy Rogers
Executive Director
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
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Fairbanks, AK 99701


Robert Charlie
Land Manager
Seth-de-ya-ah Corporation
Box 849
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Proposed Minto Flats
State Game Refuge

-4-

5/27/86

*Oliver Burris by Joe Nava, Chairman,
Minto Flats Refuge Committee*
Oliver Burris
President
Tanana Valley Sportsman Association
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Enclosure

Proposed Minto Flats State Game Refuge
Background Information

Location: Minto Flats is located in interior Alaska, 35 air miles west of Fairbanks adjacent to the village of Minto and five miles north of Nenana.

Area Description: Minto Flats is a large expanse of low-lying wetlands fed by the Tolovana, Chatanika, and Tatalina rivers and Goldstream and Washington creeks. The flats are dotted with numerous large and small lakes, oxbow lakes, and small potholes in addition to major and minor stream channels. Wetland bog vegetation is prevalent throughout, with shrub and tree cover found in elevated areas. The flats are drained by the Tanana River.

Justification: Minto Flats supports outstanding concentrations of waterfowl and furbearers, as well as productive fisheries and a diversity of game, both large and small. Minto Flats has been estimated to be one of the highest quality waterfowl habitats in Alaska and probably in all of North America. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data suggests that Minto Flats produces 150,000 or more ducks annually, supporting breeding populations averaging 213 ducks per square mile. Numerous lakes on the flats provide high density nesting habitat for trumpeter swans. The flats are also important nesting habitat for white-fronted geese, sandhill cranes, and loons, both common and arctic. In the fall, large numbers of tundra swans rest and feed on Minto Flats.

Minto Flats provides excellent habitat for a large beaver population. Healthy populations of river otter, lynx, wolverine, wolf, red fox, mink, and muskrat inhabit the flats. Even marten, normally a dry land dweller, have been common on the flats in recent years. At present, moose populations on the flats are very low and special management measures have had to be implemented. However, moose habitat potential on the flats is very good. The moose population appears to be increasing, and could conceivably reach a density of 2 moose/square mile.

Land Status: The proposed refuge encompasses approximately 792 square miles (507,136 acres) and is composed primarily of state and state-selected land. Within the refuge boundary, are isolated parcels of private land including several dozen certified and pending native allotments. One parcel of village land is also found within these boundaries. There are no mental health lands in the area.

State Game Refuge status would affect only state lands within the refuge boundaries.

Current Uses: The area is currently used year-round by Minto and Nenana villagers as their primary hunting, fishing and trapping grounds. It is also a popular hunting, fishing and trapping area for residents of Fairbanks and the surrounding area. Minto Flats is the third most popular duck hunting area in all of Alaska, logging over 5,000 hunter days with over 11,000 ducks and 700 geese taken every year. A handful of personal use and trapping cabin permits have been issued on Minto Flats. Over 100 beaver are taken each year on Minto Flats with recent historical catches as high as several hundred a year. Land otter, lynx, wolverine, wolf, red fox, mink, and muskrat are also regularly trapped on the flats. Minto Flats is easily accessible by floatplane or boat. Black bear hunting on the flats is popular during spring and summer. An average of 10 bears is taken annually.

The Minto Flats' sport fishery is one of the most productive in the state, especially for northern pike. Other important fish found on Minto Flats are sheefish, humpback whitefish, grayling, king salmon, silver salmon and chum salmon.

Public Access: Public access is gained via the villages of Minto and Nenana, from the Murphy Dome Road and by air. In the summer, boat and floatplane are the primary methods of access. In the winter, snowmachines and ski planes are used.

Other Natural Resources: The proposed Minto Flats State Game Refuge does not support any commercially viable stands of timber. There are no known coal deposits or valuable ore deposits within the area. There are no known oil or gas reserves. The area is not suitable for agriculture or grazing. It is not suitable for year-round settlement.

Area's History: Minto Flats has a continuous history of use as a productive hunting, fishing, and trapping grounds. Athabaskan Indian communities in Minto Flats predate historic contact (late 1800's) as evidenced by archeological materials uncovered from prehistoric sites on the flats. The Athabaskan community of Old Minto, in the central portion of the flats, was founded in 1915. The current site of New Minto was established in 1970 when most residents of Old Minto resettled on higher ground. An influx of people into the Fairbanks area in the early 1900's, spurred in part by gold discoveries in two tributaries of the Tolovana River, resulted in increased hunting, fishing, and trapping activity on the flats.

Sportsmen from Fairbanks began to build permanent recreational cabins, largely in the Big Minto Lake area, in the late 1940's and early 1950's. Use of the flats increased slowly before statehood, moderately in the 1960's and rapidly after 1970. Population growth of the Fairbanks area combined with improved access to Minto Flats fueled the impressive increase in activity. By 1970, the road to New Minto had been built, providing a new launch access for boats. More private float-planes also increased the number of people with access to the flats. Construction of a road from Murphy Dome to the Chatanika River in 1982 provided more access to the Chatanika River and Minto Flats by boat and by snowmachine.

Threats: Hydraulic gold mining activity in the Chatanika River drainage and Goldstream Creek from the early 1920's to 1963, dumped an estimated 100 million cubic yards of hydraulic muck (overburden) onto Minto Flats, altering hydrology, vegetation, habitat, and drainage patterns on the flats. More recently, over a dozen placer mines have operated in the Minto Flats watershed in the Chatanika and Tolovana rivers and Goldstream Creek. Although of much less impact than the earlier hydraulic mining activity, two of these placer mines did not meet EPA standards for settleable solids in 1984. No mining activity is currently occurring on the flats.

The potential for additional settlement in the area is raised by the current discussion at DNR regarding remote cabin permits in the nearby Tanana Valley State Forest.

Support and Opposition: An impressive coalition of sports hunting and fishing groups, environmental groups, fish and game advisory committees, and native community groups have joined forces to propose this refuge. The coalition, composed of the Alaska Outdoor Council, Arctic Audubon, Clear Sky Sportsmen Club, Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Healy/Clear Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Minto Native Council, Nenana Native Council, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Seth-de-ya-ah Corporation, and Tanana Valley Sportsmen Association have sent a letter and draft legislation to their legislators urging creation of the Minto Flats State Game Refuge.

The Department of Natural Resources has endorsed creation of the Minto Flats State Game Refuge in the Tanana Basin Area Plan, although a smaller acreage was indicated. Additional lands proposed for refuge status by the coalition were classified Wildlife Habitat in the Tanana Basin Area Plan.

Some members of the Alaska Miners Association have recently voiced some concerns regarding closure of the proposed refuge to mineral entry.

Information taken primarily from Impacts of Resource Development and Use on the Athabaskan People of Minto Flats, Alaska, Peter E.K. Shepherd and Marguerite Paine Matthews, August 1985.



Minto Village Council

Minto, Alaska 99758

(907) 798-8001

7112
December 3, 1986



Mr. John Binkley
Senator, Alaska Legislature
P.O. Box 1065
Bethel, AK 99559

Dear Mr. Binkley:

Congratulations on your bid for the Alaska state legislature.

The Minto Village Council is working on putting the Minto Flats into a state refuge. The Minto Village Council doesn't agree with the boundaries as they are now. We want the refuge to go all the way to the river banks of the Tanana River. We would like both sides of the river bank to be included in the refuge.

We took this concern to the people of Minto at a general meeting on November 13, 1986, and they were also concerned about banks of the Tanana River. Our concern is for the future disposals of lands along the river and commercial development along the banks.

The refuge is for a wildlife habitat, and preservation of the animals and their habitat. We would appreciate your support in our efforts. The Minto Flats are of great concern to each resident of Minto.

Sincerely,

Philip Titus

Philip Titus, Member
Minto Village Council
P.O. Box 26
Minto, AK 99758

PT/nc

Enclosure



January 1988

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
SPECIAL AREA PLANNING SCHEDULE

State FY88-FY89

Anchor R./Fritz Cr. Critical Habitat Area Management Plan
November 1987-November 1988

State FY89-FY90

Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge Management Plan
November 1988-November 1989

State FY90-FY91

*Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge Management Plan
November 1989-November 1990

State FY91-FY92

*Minto Flats State Game Refuge Management Plan
November 1990-November 1991

*Depending upon legislative designation.

Original sponsors: Binkley and Kerttula

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 55 (Resources)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Minto 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. AS 16.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 Sec. 16.20.037. MINTO FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE. (a) The follow-
11 ing state-owned land and water is established as the Minto Flats State
12 Game Refuge:

13 (1) Township 1 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian

14 Sections 2 - 11

15 Sections 14 - 23

16 Sections 26 - 34

17 (2) Township 1 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian

18 Sections 1 - 36

19 (3) Township 1 North, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian

20 Sections 1 - 16

21 Sections 21 - 28

22 Section 35: E1/2

23 Section 36

24 (4) Township 1 North, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian

25 Sections 1 - 12

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27 Sections 1 - 12

28 (6) Township 1 North, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian

29 Sections 1 - 4

1 Sections 8 - 17
2 Sections 20 - 29
3 (7) Township 2 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
4 Sections 1 - 36
5 (8) Township 2 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
6 Sections 1 - 36
7 (9) Township 2 North, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
8 Sections 1 - 36
9 (10) Township 2 North, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
10 Sections 1 - 36
11 (11) Township 2 North, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian
12 Section 3
13 Sections 8 - 10
14 Section 11: S1/2N1/2, S1/2
15 Section 12: S1/2N1/2, S1/2
16 Sections 13 - 36
17 (12) Township 2 North, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
18 Sections 13 - 15
19 Sections 22 - 27
20 Sections 34 - 36
21 (13) Township 3 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
22 Sections 13 - 36
23 (14) Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
24 Sections 6 - 8
25 Section 9: S1/2S1/2
26 Sections 13 - 36
27 (15) Township 3 North, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
28 Section 1
29 Sections 5 - 10

1 Sections 14 - 23
2 Sections 25 - 36
3 (16) Township 3 North, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
4 Section 24: S1/2
5 Section 25
6 Sections 33 - 36
7 (17) Township 3 North, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian
8 Sections 34 - 35
9 (18) Township 4 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
10 Sections 2 - 9
11 Sections 16 - 21
12 (19) Township 4 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
13 Sections 1 - 4
14 Section 5: S1/2
15 Section 6: S1/2
16 Sections 7 - 24
17 Sections 30 - 31
18 (20) Township 4 North, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
19 Sections 10 - 15
20 Sections 22 - 27
21 Sections 30 - 31
22 Sections 35 - 36
23 (21) Township 5 North, Range 5 West, Fairbanks Meridian
24 Section 6: W1/2
25 Section 7: W1/2
26 Section 18: W1/2
27 (22) Township 5 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
28 Sections 1 - 3
29 Section 4: SE1/4

1 Section 9: E1/2
2 Sections 10 - 15
3 Section 16: E1/2, SW1/4
4 Section 20: S1/2
5 Sections 21 - 29
6 Sections 31 - 36
7 (23) Township 5 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
8 Section 35: SE1/4
9 Section 36: S1/2
10 (24) Township 1 South, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
11 Sections 5 - 8
12 Sections 17 - 20
13 Sections 29 - 31
14 (25) Township 1 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
15 Sections 1 - 36
16 (26) Township 1 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
17 Sections 1 - 2
18 Sections 11 - 14
19 Sections 23 - 26
20 Sections 35 - 36
21 (27) Township 1 South, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
22 Sections 1 - 36
23 (28) Township 1 South, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian
24 Sections 7 - 36
25 (29) Township 1 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
26 Sections 25 - 26
27 Sections 35 - 36
28 (30) Township 2 South, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
29 Section 6: S1/2NW1/4, S1/2

1 Section 7: all North and West of the Alaska Railroad
2 right-of-way
3 Section 18: all North and West of the Alaska Railroad
4 right-of-way
5 Section 19: all North and West of the Alaska Railroad
6 right-of-way
7 (31) Township 2 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
8 Sections 1 - 12
9 Section 13: NE1/4, E1/2NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4, S1/2SW1/4,
10 SE1/4
11 Section 14: W1/2
12 Sections 15 - 22
13 Section 23: W1/2
14 Section 24: all North and West of the Alaska Railroad
15 right-of-way
16 Section 27: NW1/4
17 Sections 28 - 32
18 Section 33: NE1/4NE1/4, W1/2NE1/4, W1/2, W1/2SE1/4
19 (32) Township 2 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
20 Section 1
21 Sections 12 - 13
22 Sections 24 - 25
23 Section 36
24 (33) Township 2 South, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
25 Sections 1 - 12
26 Section 17: W1/2NW1/4, NW1/4SW1/4
27 Section 18
28 Section 19: N1/2, N1/2S1/2
29 (34) Township 2 South, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian

1 Sections 1 - 20
2 Section 21: NE1/4, W1/2
3 Section 22: NW1/4
4 Section 24: N1/2, N1/2S1/2
5 Sections 29 - 31
6 (35) Township 2 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
7 Sections 1 - 5
8 Sections 7 - 36
9 (36) Township 2 South, Range 12 West, Fairbanks Meridian
10 Sections 25 - 26
11 Sections 35 - 36
12 (37) Township 3 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
13 Section 5: N1/2NE1/4, W1/2
14 Sections 6 - 7
15 Section 18: NE1/4, W1/2, N1/2SE1/4, SW1/4SE1/4
16 (38) Township 3 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
17 Section 1
18 Section 12
19 Section 13
20 Section 22: NE1/4 (that portion above the ordinary
21 high water mark right bank Tanana River)
22 Section 23: N1/2, SE1/4
23 Section 24: N1/2, SW1/4
24 Section 25: NW1/4
25 (39) Township 3 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
26 Sections 2 - 10
27 Section 11: N1/2
28 Section 14: SW1/4NE1/4, S1/2NW1/4, SW1/4, W1/2SE1/4
29 Sections 15 - 21

- 1 Section 22: NE1/4, W1/2, W1/2SE1/4
- 2 Section 23: NW1/4
- 3 Section 27: W1/2NE1/4, NW1/4, W1/2SW1/4
- 4 Sections 28 - 31
- 5 Section 32: NE1/4, NW1/4, SE1/4
- 6 Section 33: W1/2
- 7 (40) Township 3 South, Range 12 West, Fairbanks Meridian
- 8 Sections 1 - 2
- 9 Sections 11 - 14
- 10 Sections 23 - 26
- 11 Sections 35 - 36

12 (b) The Minto Flats State Game Refuge is established to
13 (1) ensure the protection and enhancement of habitat;
14 (2) ensure the conservation of fish and wildlife; and
15 (3) guarantee the continuation of hunting, fishing, trap-
16 ping and other uses by the public compatible with the protection and
17 enhancement of habitat and the conservation of fish and wildlife.

18 (c) The state may not acquire by eminent domain privately owned
19 land within the Minto Flats State Game Refuge, but may acquire pri-
20 vately owned land by purchase, exchange, or otherwise for inclusion in
21 the Minto Flats State Game Refuge.

22 (d) Management decisions under this section made by the commis-
23 sioner of natural resources and the commissioner of fish and game are
24 applicable only to land and water described in (a) of this section.

25 (e) Public access to the Minto Flats State Game Refuge by means
26 of horse, boat, aircraft, dog team, snowmachine, or other means con-
27 sistent with (b) of this section may not be prohibited.

28 (f) Access to and from private property within the Minto Flats
29 State Game Refuge shall be guaranteed through access corridors

1 established through agreement between the Department of Natural
2 Resources, the Department of Fish and Game, and the private property
3 owners involved.

4 (g) The Department of Fish and Game and the Department of
5 Natural Resources shall exercise their respective authorities over the
6 Minto Flats State Game Refuge consistent with a management plan pre-
7 pared by the Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the
8 Department of Natural Resources.

9 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

Original sponsors: Binkley and Kerttula

1 IN THE SENATE
2
3 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 55 (C&RA)
4 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
5 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION
6 A BILL
7 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Minto Flats State Game
8 Refuge; and providing for an effective date."
9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
10 * Section 1. AS 16.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:
11 Sec. 16.20.037. MINTO FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE. (a) The follow-
12 ing state-owned land and water is established as the Minto Flats State
13 Game Refuge:
14 (1) Township 1 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
15 Sections 2 - 11
16 Sections 14 - 23
17 Sections 26 - 34
18 (2) Township 1 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
19 Sections 1 - 36
20 (3) Township 1 North, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
21 Sections 1 - 16
22 Sections 21 - 28
23 Section 35: E1/2
24 Section 36
25 (4) Township 1 North, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
26 Sections 1 - 12
27 (5) Township 1 North, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian
28 Sections 1 - 12
29 (6) Township 1 North, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
Sections 1 - 4

1 Sections 8 - 17
 2 Sections 20 - 29
 3 (7) Township 2 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 4 Sections 1 - 36
 5 (8) Township 2 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 6 Sections 1 - 36
 7 (9) Township 2 North, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 8 Sections 1 - 36
 9 (10) Township 2 North, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 10 Sections 1 - 36
 11 (11) Township 2 North, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 12 Section 3
 13 Sections 8 - 10
 14 Section 11: S1/2N1/2, S1/2
 15 Section 12: S1/2N1/2, S1/2
 16 Sections 13 - 36
 17 (12) Township 2 North, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 18 Sections 13 - 15
 19 Sections 22 - 27
 20 Sections 34 - 36
 21 (13) Township 3 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 22 Sections 13 - 36
 23 (14) Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 24 Sections 6 - 8
 25 Section 9: S1/2S1/2
 26 Sections 13 - 36
 27 (15) Township 3 North, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 28 Section 1
 29 Sections 5 - 10

1 Sections 14 - 23
2 Sections 25 - 36
3 (16) Township 3 North, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
4 Section 24: S1/2
5 Section 25
6 Sections 33 - 36
7 (17) Township 3 North, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian
8 Sections 34 - 35
9 (18) Township 4 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
10 Sections 2 - 9
11 Sections 16 - 21
12 (19) Township 4 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
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14 Section 5: S1/2
15 Section 6: S1/2
16 Sections 7 - 24
17 Sections 30 - 31
18 (20) Township 4 North, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
19 Sections 10 - 15
20 Sections 22 - 27
21 Sections 30 - 31
22 Sections 35 - 36
23 (21) Township 5 North, Range 5 West, Fairbanks Meridian
24 Section 6: W1/2
25 Section 7: W1/2
26 Section 18: W1/2
27 (22) Township 5 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
28 Sections 1 - 3
29 Section 4: SE1/4

1 Section 9: E1/2
2 Sections 10 - 15
3 Section 16: E1/2, SW1/4
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6 Sections 31 - 36
7 (23) Township 5 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
8 Section 35: SE1/4
9 Section 36: S1/2
10 (24) Township 1 South, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
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13 Sections 29 - 31
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19 Sections 23 - 26
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1 Section 7: all North and West of the Alaska Railroad
2 right-of-way

3 Section 18: all North and West of the Alaska Railroad
4 right-of-way

5 Section 19: all North and West of the Alaska Railroad
6 right-of-way

7 (31) Township 2 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
8 Sections 1 - 12

9 Section 13: NE1/4, E1/2NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4, S1/2SW1/4,
10 SE1/4

11 Section 14: W1/2

12 Sections 15 - 22

13 Section 23: W1/2

14 Section 24: all North and West of the Alaska Railroad
15 right-of-way

16 Section 27: NW1/4

17 Sections 28 - 32

18 Section 33: NE1/4NE1/4, W1/2NE1/4, W1/2, W1/2SE1/4

19 (32) Township 2 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
20 Section 1

21 Sections 12 - 13

22 Sections 24 - 25

23 Section 36

24 (33) Township 2 South, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
25 Sections 1 - 12

26 Section 17: W1/2NW1/4, NW1/4SW1/4

27 Section 18

28 Section 19: N1/2, N1/2S1/2

29 (34) Township 2 South, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian

1 Sections 1 - 20
 2 Section 21: NE1/4, W1/2
 3 Section 22: NW1/4
 4 Section 24: N1/2, N1/2S1/2
 5 Sections 29 - 31
 6 (35) Township 2 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 7 Sections 1 - 5
 8 Sections 7 - 36
 9 (36) Township 2 South, Range 12 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 10 Sections 25 - 26
 11 Sections 35 - 36
 12 (37) Township 3 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
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5 Section 32: NE1/4, NW1/4, SE1/4
6 Section 33: W1/2
7 (40) Township 3 South, Range 12 West, Fairbanks Meridian
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11 Sections 35 - 36

12 (b) The Minto Flats State Game Refuge is established to guaran-
13 tee

- 14 (1) the protection and enhancement of habitat;
15 (2) the conservation of fish and wildlife; and
16 (3) the continuation of hunting, fishing, trapping and
17 other uses compatible with the protection of habitat and the conserva-
18 tion of fish and wildlife.

19 (c) The state may not acquire by eminent domain privately owned
20 land within the Minto Flats State Game Refuge, but may acquire pri-
21 vately owned land by purchase, exchange, or otherwise for inclusion in
22 the Minto Flats State Game Refuge.

23 (d) Public access to the Minto Flats State Game Refuge by means
24 of horse, boat, aircraft, dog team, snowmachine, or other means con-
25 sistent with (b) of this section may not be prohibited.

26 (e) Reasonable ingress to and egress from private property
27 within the Minto Flats State Game Refuge shall be guaranteed through
28 access corridors established through agreement between the Department
29 of Natural Resources, the Department of Fish and Game, and the private

1 property owners involved.

2 (f) The Department of Fish and Game and the Department of
3 Natural Resources shall exercise their respective authorities over the
4 Minto Flats State Game Refuge consistent with a management plan pre-
5 pared by the Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the
6 Department of Natural Resources.

7 (g) In the Minto Flats State Game Refuge management plan the
8 commissioner of fish and game shall recognize the existence of his-
9 toric trails and shall provide access across the refuge to the extent
10 consistent with (b) of this section.

11 (h) Land and water within the Minto Flats State Game Refuge that
12 is closed to mineral entry by the commissioner of natural resources
13 under the Tanana Basin management plan is closed to mineral entry
14 under AS 38.05.185 - 38.05.275. In the Minto Flats State Game Refuge
15 management plan, the commissioner of fish and game shall recommend to
16 the commissioner of natural resources which other portions of the
17 refuge, if any, should be closed to mineral entry under AS 38.05.185 -
18 38.05.275.

19 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

1 IN THE SENATE

BY BINKLEY AND KERTTULA

2

SENATE BILL NO. 55

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6

For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Minto Flats State Game
Refuge; and providing for an effective date."

7

8

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

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Sec. 16.20.037. MINTO FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE. (a) The follow-

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Game Refuge:

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(1) Township 1 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian

14

Sections 2 - 11

15

Sections 14 - 23

16

Sections 26 - 34

17

(2) Township 1 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian

18

Sections 1 - 36

19

(3) Township 1 North, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian

20

Sections 1 - 16

21

Sections 21 - 28

22

Section 35: E1/2

23

Section 36

24

(4) Township 1 North, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian

25

Sections 1 - 12

26

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Sections 1 - 12

28

(6) Township 1 North, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian

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 6 Sections 1 - 36
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 15 Section 12: S1/2N1/2, S1/2
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 19 Sections 22 - 27
 20 Sections 34 - 36
 21 (13) Township 3 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 22 Sections 13 - 36
 23 (14) Township 3 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 24 Sections 6 - 8
 25 Section 9: S1/2S1/2
 26 Sections 13 - 36
 27 (15) Township 3 North, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 28 Section 1
 29 Sections 5 - 10

1 Sections 14 - 23
2 Sections 25 - 36
3 (16) Township 3 North, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
4 Section 24: S1/2
5 Section 25
6 Sections 33 - 36
7 (17) Township 3 North, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian
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9 (18) Township 4 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
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11 Sections 16 - 21
12 (19) Township 4 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
13 Sections 1 - 4
14 Section 5: S1/2
15 Section 6: S1/2
16 Sections 7 - 24
17 Sections 30 - 31
18 (20) Township 4 North, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
19 Sections 10 - 15
20 Sections 22 - 27
21 Sections 30 - 31
22 Sections 35 - 36
23 (21) Township 5 North, Range 5 West, Fairbanks Meridian
24 Section 6: W1/2
25 Section 7: W1/2
26 Section 18: W1/2
27 (22) Township 5 North, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
28 Sections 1 - 3
29 Section 4: SE1/4

1 Section 9: E1/2
2 Sections 10 - 15
3 Section 16: E1/2, SW1/4
4 Section 20: S1/2
5 Sections 21 - 29
6 Sections 31 - 36
7 (23) Township 5 North, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
8 Section 35: SE1/4
9 Section 36: S1/2
10 (24) Township 1 South, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
11 Sections 5 - 8
12 Sections 17 - 20
13 Sections 29 - 31
14 (25) Township 1 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
15 Sections 1 - 36
16 (26) Township 1 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
17 Sections 1 - 2
18 Sections 11 - 14
19 Sections 23 - 26
20 Sections 35 - 36
21 (27) Township 1 South, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
22 Sections 1 - 36
23 (28) Township 1 South, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian
24 Sections 7 - 36
25 (29) Township 1 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
26 Sections 25 - 26
27 Sections 35 - 36
28 (30) Township 2 South, Range 6 West, Fairbanks Meridian
29 Section 6: S1/2NW1/4, S1/2

1 Section 7: all North and West of the Alaska Railroad
2 right-of-way

3 Section 18: all North and West of the Alaska Railroad
4 right-of-way

5 Section 19: all North and West of the Alaska Railroad
6 right-of-way

7 (31) Township 2 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
8 Sections 1 - 12

9 Section 13: NE1/4, E1/2NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4, S1/2SW1/2,
10 SE1/4

11 Section 14: W1/2

12 Sections 15 - 22

13 Section 23: W1/2

14 Section 24: all North and West of the Alaska Railroad
15 right-of-way

16 Section 27: NW1/4

17 Sections 28 - 32

18 Section 33: NE1/4NE1/4, W1/2NE1/4, W1/2, W1/2SE1/4

19 (32) Township 2 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
20 Section 1

21 Sections 12 - 13

22 Sections 24 - 25

23 Section 36

24 (33) Township 2 South, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
25 Sections 1 - 12

26 Section 17: W1/4NW1/4, NW1/4SW1/4

27 Section 18

28 Section 19: N1/2, N1/2S1/2

29 (34) Township 2 South, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian

1 Sections 1 - 20
2 Section 21: NE1/4, W1/2
3 Section 22: NW1/4
4 Section 24: N1/2, N1/2S1/2
5 Sections 29 - 31
6 (35) Township 2 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
7 Sections 1 - 5
8 Sections 7 - 36
9 (36) Township 2 South, Range 12 West, Fairbanks Meridian
10 Sections 25 - 26
11 Sections 35 - 36
12 (37) Township 3 South, Range 7 West, Fairbanks Meridian
13 Section 5: N1/2NE1/4, W1/2
14 Sections 6 - 7
15 Section 18: NE1/4, W1/2, N1/2SE1/4, SW1/4SE1/4
16 (38) Township 3 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian
17 Section 1
18 Section 12
19 Section 13
20 Section 22: NE1/4 (that portion above the ordinary
21 high water mark right bank Tanana River)
22 Section 23: N1/2, SE1/4
23 Section 24: N1/2, SW1/4
24 Section 25: NW1/4
25 (39) Township 3 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
26 Sections 2 - 10
27 Section 11: N1/2
28 Section 14: SW1/4NE1/4, S1/2NW1/4, SW1/4, W1/2SE1/4
29 Sections 15 - 21

1 Section 22: NE1/4, W1/2, W1/2SE1/4
2 Section 23: NW1/4
3 Section 27: W1/2NE1/4, NW1/4, W1/2SW1/4
4 Sections 28 - 31
5 Section 32: NE1/4, NW1/4, SE1/4
6 Section 33: W1/2
7 (40) Township 3 South, Range 12 West, Fairbanks Meridian
8 Sections 1 - 2
9 Sections 11 - 14
10 Sections 23 - 26
11 Sections 35 - 36

12 (b) The Minto Flats State Game Refuge is established to ensure
13 (1) the protection and enhancement of habitat;
14 (2) the conservation of fish and wildlife; and
15 (3) the continuation of hunting, fishing, trapping and
16 other uses compatible with the protection of habitat and the conserva-
17 tion of fish and wildlife.

18 (c) The state may not acquire by eminent domain privately owned
19 land within the Minto Flats State Game Refuge, but may acquire pri-
20 vately owned land by purchase, exchange, or otherwise for inclusion in
21 the Minto Flats State Game Refuge.

22 (d) Public access to the Minto Flats State Game Refuge by means
23 of horse, boat, aircraft, dog team, snowmachine, or other means
24 consistent with (b) of this section may not be prohibited.

25 (e) Egress and ingress to and from private property within the
26 Minto Flats State Game Refuge shall be allowed through access corri-
27 dors established through agreement between the Department of Natural
28 Resources, the Department of Fish and Game, and the private property
29 owners involved.

1 (f) The Department of Fish and Game shall manage the Minto Flats
2 State Game Refuge in accordance with a management plan prepared by the
3 department.

4 (g) State-owned land and water within the Minto Flats State Game
5 Refuge are closed to mineral entry under AS 38.05.185 - 38.05.280.

6 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).