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# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

Date referred: 4/24/87

FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

DATE: 2/2/88

The Resources Committee has considered CSSB 55(Res)

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

### RECOMMENDS:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> replace with _____                         | <input type="checkbox"/> the <u>same</u> title |
| <input type="checkbox"/> attached amendment(s)                      | <input type="checkbox"/> a <u>new</u> title    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> do pass                         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> do not pass                                |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> no recommendation                          |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> individual recommendations                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> additional referral to the _____ Committee |  |

ADOPTS:  \_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent

### ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> fiscal impact             | <input type="checkbox"/> same as previous fiscal note published _____             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>zero</u> fiscal note   | <input type="checkbox"/> same as previous <u>zero</u> fiscal note published _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <u>zero</u> with analysis |   |

### SIGNING DO PASS:

See CT  
Adalheid Herrmann  
Heinrich Spruike  
Dick Strutz  
Cliff Davidson  
Lynn Hoff  
Mike Naume

### SIGNING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

Blue Kance  
W. K. K.

See CT  
Chairman's signature



# Alaska State Legislature

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

POUCH V  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
(907) 465-3715

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.

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

Handwritten signature of Adelheid Herrmann.

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



Greater Fairbanks

**Chamber**

of Commerce

First National Center

P.O. Box 74446

100 Cushman Street

(907) 452-1105

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

RESOLUTION 3-0487

MINTO FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE

- WHEREAS, SB-55 has been introduced in the Legislature to create a Minto Flats State Game Refuge in the Minto Flats area; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed refuge is intended to protect and enhance habitat, conserve fish and wildlife, and allow the continuation of hunting, fishing, trapping, and other compatible uses; and
- WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources Tanana Basin Area Plan, already in effect, is capable of offering similar resource protection; and
- WHEREAS, State land in the Minto Flats area should continue to be managed under the provisions of the Tanana Basin Area Plan; and
- WHEREAS, much of the proposed refuge is already designated as the Minto Game Management Area for the purposes of game management; and
- WHEREAS, the Minto Flats area should continue to be designated as the Minto Game Management Area for the purposes of managing game resources; and
- WHEREAS, there is no identifiable impending threat to the habitat or resources of Minto Flats which makes its designation as a game refuge desirable or necessary; and
- WHEREAS, Minto Flats is an important recreation area for the surrounding communities; and
- WHEREAS, land designations such as "game refuge" have historically facilitated stringent restrictions, management plans and court decisions which decrease the ability of the public to access the land and utilize its resources in even a traditional manner; and
- WHEREAS, such stringent restrictions increase over time to the point that the original purpose for the designation is negated; and
- WHEREAS, the proposed refuge includes portions of existing trails which are protected by RS 2477 rights-of-way, and which are important as access to and through the area, and

WHEREAS, the proposed refuge would overlie portions of identified corridors for possible future transportation system extensions west from Nenana, and north and west from Dunbar, to western Alaska, and/or to mineral deposits in the Kobuk River area; and

WHEREAS, the proposed refuge overlies one of the alignment alternatives for the proposed TransAlaska Gas System Pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the refuge proposal includes a mineral closure for which there is no need;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that State land in the Minto Flats area should NOT be designated as a State Game Refuge.

DATED THIS

Fourteenth

DAY OF

April

, 1987

BY

James P. Dodson

James Dodson, Chairman of the Board

BY


Althea St. Martin

Althea St. Martin, Acting President



*Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.*

201 First Ave.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 452-8251  
YUKON-TANANA SUBREGION



April 30, 1987

Representative Sam Cotten  
Alaska State Legislature  
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

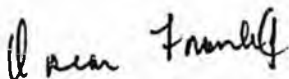
Dear Representative Cotten:

My name is Oscar Frank, Jr., I am the Community Resources Coordinator for the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.-Yukon Tanana Subregion Office. Minto is one of several villages in the Yukon Tanana Subregion and they've been working with different user groups on seeking legislative designation, a Minto Flats State Game Refuge.

There is only one game refuge in Interior Alaska, and that is Creamer's Field. The Minto Flats Support Group has been meeting throughout the past year on seeking a Minto Flats Game Refuge. The game refuge would protect fish and wildlife and still provide opportunities for public use.

The enclosed T.C.C. resolution 87-2 are Minto Villagers reasons for establishing the Minto Flats Game Refuge. If I can be of any assistance, please call me at 452-8251.

Sincerely,



Oscar Frank, Jr., Community Resources Coordinator  
Yukon-Tanana Subregion

OF/sw

Enclosure: T.C.C. resolution 87-2

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE, INC.  
Board of Directors


Resolution No. 87-2

Minto Flats Wildlife Refuge

- WHEREAS, the Villages of Minto and Nenana have subsisted on Fish and Game from the Minto Flats for centuries and
- WHEREAS, there is need to protect the Minto Flats Fish and Game habitat; and
- WHEREAS, protecting the habitat for the use of all Alaskans is in the best interest of all interested parties; and
- WHEREAS, a Bill establishing the Minto Flats State Game Refuge is now under consideration by the State Legislature; and
- WHEREAS, sportsman's organizations, environmental organizations, and various other interested groups have signed off on this bill.
- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tanana Chiefs Conference Board of Directors supports the Minto Flats Wildlife Refuge.
- AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board urges the Legislature to conduct teleconference hearings involving all interested parties.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed by the Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc. Board of Directors on March 19, 1987 at Fairbanks, Alaska and a quorum was duly established.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daisy Northway  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.

Submitted by: Fairbanks Subregion

April 12, 1987

The Honorable Jack Coghill  
Alaska State Senate  
Pouch V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Jack;

Thanks for returning my call.

The Minto Bill -(enclosed)- is the culmination of months of work that put all the assorted constituents in agreement to alleviate the legislators of the risk of support..

Review the signatures and groups and especially the language -(the term guarantee). We were in 100% consensus that the regulators should be kept on the defensive and that sustained yield management is more than adequate to care for all concerns. Refuge is the wrong land classification. Public Shooting Area is more in the character of the public's desires. We don't have that land designation so Refuge is OK with the "Guarantees" left in.

It is felt that with the "Guarantees" deleted, Refuge legislation is not acceptable.

Scott Grundy of Habitat left the mineral industry out of the agreement process, this I objected to, and lost. The miners contacted me and I suggested they lobby in support of their position and I would personally support them.

You will find my signature missing from the approval sheet. I was the designee for the Outdoor Council that negotiated the terms of the Bill. Sam Harbo signed for the Council.

The best I can tell, Scott Grundy and the Habitat division get all of the credit for the deception that has taken place. They have used our signatures and endorsements on a bill that we didn't agree to. I think Binkley was deceived also.

A few things that we are finding out:

1. The regulators can't be trusted with legislative intent.
2. We already have in excess of 168,000,000 acres in refuge, wilderness, parks, etc. restricting human use - how much is adequate?

*The Honorable Jack Coghill*

*April 12, 1987*

*Page 2*

- 3. Each acre we lock up before resource assessment further affects our ability to feed our families and adds to the cost of the Bureaucracy.*
- 4. ANWAR is a current example of the second class position our people are being put in, behind the environment.*

*Thanks for your time.*

*Regards,*

*Bill*

*Bill Hagar*

*431 Gaffney Road*

*Fairbanks, Alaska 99701*

*BH/sh*

*encls*

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

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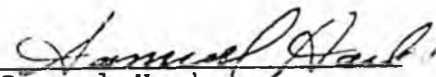
- (3) other related uses that are temporary in duration and have no foreseeable adverse effect on vegetation, drainage, soil stability, fish, game or their habitat.

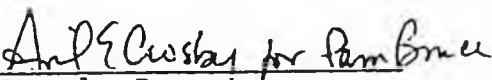
When the compatibility of a use is questioned, the Department of Fish and Game will conduct specific fact finding efforts, including public meetings, prior to making a final determination.

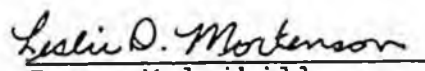
The Department of Fish and Game is to consult with adjacent communities and other interested parties in the preparation of the management plan for the Minto Flats State Game Refuge. It is our desire that the Department of Fish and Game be funded to initiate the management planning process immediately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

  
vict  
Samuel Harbo  
President  
Alaska Outdoor Council  
P.O. Box 73478  
Fairbanks, AK 99707

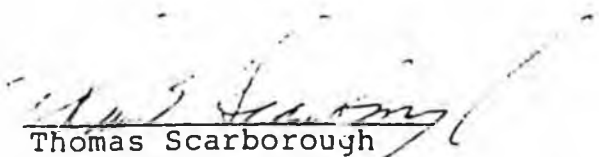
  
Pamela Bruce  
President  
Arctic Audubon  
940 Kalina Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99712

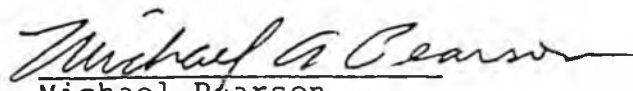
  
James Mulvihill  
President  
Cleary Sky Sportsmen Club  
P.O. Box 254  
Clear, AK 99704


Proposed Minto Flats  
State Game Refuge

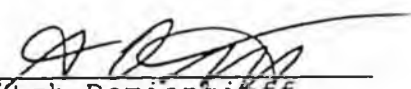
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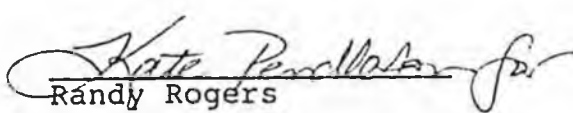
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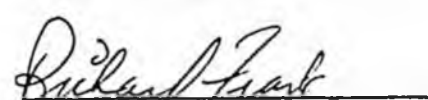
  
Thomas Scarborough  
President  
Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
1676 Taroka Drive  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

  
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  
Nenana Native Council  
P.O. Box 251  
Nenana, AK 99760

  
Randy Rogers  
Executive Director  
Northern Alaska Environmental Center  
218 Driveway  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

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

Proposed Minto Flats  
State Game Refuge

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5/27/86

*Oliver Burris by Joe Nava, Chairman,  
Minto Flats Refuge Committee*

Oliver Burris  
President  
Tanana Valley Sportsman Association  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

Enclosure

5/27/86

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION  
A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act creating the Minto Flats State Game Refuge."

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

\* Section 1. AS 16.20 is amended by adding a new section AS 16.20.037, to read:

Section 16.20.037. Minto Flats State Game Refuge.  
(a) All state-owned land and water contained in the following description is established as the Minto Flats State Game Refuge:

Township 1 N., Range 6 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 2 - 11  
Sections 14 - 23  
Sections 26 - 34

Township 1 N., Range 7 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 36 All

Township 1 N., Range 8 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 16  
Sections 21 - 28  
Section 35: E $\frac{1}{2}$   
Section 36

Township 1 N., Range 9 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 12

Township 1 N., Range 10 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 12

Township 1 N., Range 11 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 4  
Sections 8 - 17  
Sections 20 - 29

Township 2 N., Range 6 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 36 All

Township 2 N., Range 7 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 36 All

Township 2 N., Range 8 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 36 All

Township 2 N., Range 9 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 36 All

Township 2 N., Range 10 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Section 3  
Sections 8 - 10  
Section 11: S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$   
Section 12: S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$   
Sections 13 - 36

Township 2 N., Range 11 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 13-15  
Sections 22-27  
Sections 34-36

Township 3 N., Range 6 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 13 - 36

Township 3 N., Range 7 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 6 - 8  
Section 9: S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$   
Sections 13 - 36

Township 3 N., Range 8 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Section 1  
Sections 5 - 10  
Sections 14 - 23  
Sections 25 - 36

Township 3 N., Range 9 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Section 24: S $\frac{1}{2}$   
Section 25  
Sections 33 - 36

Township 3 N., Range 10 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 34 - 35

Township 4 N., Range 6 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 2 - 9  
Sections 16 - 21

Township 4 N., Range 7 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 4  
Section 5: S $\frac{1}{2}$   
Section 6: S $\frac{1}{2}$   
Sections 7 - 24  
Sections 30 - 31

Township 4 N., Range 8 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 10 - 15  
Sections 22 - 27

Sections 30 - 31  
Sections 35 - 36

Township 5 N., Range 5 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Section 6: W $\frac{1}{2}$   
Section 7: W $\frac{1}{2}$   
Section 18: W $\frac{1}{2}$

Township 5 N., Range 6 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 3  
Section 4: SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 9: E $\frac{1}{2}$   
Sections 10 - 15  
Section 16: E $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 20: S $\frac{1}{2}$   
Sections 21 - 29  
Sections 31 - 36

Township 5 N., Range 7 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Section 35: SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 36: S $\frac{1}{2}$

Township 1 S., Range 6 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 5 - 8  
Sections 17 - 20  
Sections 29 - 31

Township 1 S., Range 7 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 36 All

Township 1 S., Range 8 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 2  
Sections 11 - 14  
Sections 23 - 26  
Sections 35 - 36

Township 1 S., Range 9 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 36 All

Township 1 S., Range 10 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 7 - 36

Township 1 S., Range 11 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 25 - 26  
Sections 35 - 36

Township 2 S., Range 6 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Section 6: S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$   
Section 7: All N. and W. of the Alaska  
Railroad ROW  
Section 18: All N. and W. of the Alaska

Railroad ROW  
Section 19: All N. And W. of the Alaska  
Railroad ROW

Township 2 S., Range 7 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 12  
Section 13: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 14: W $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sections 15 - 22  
Section 23: W $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 24: All N. and W. of the Alaska  
Railroad ROW  
Section 27: NW $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 28 - 32  
Section 33: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Township 2 S., Range 8 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Section 1  
Sections 12 - 13  
Sections 24 - 25  
Section 36

Township 2 S., Range 9 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 12  
Section 17: W $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 18  
Section 19: N $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{4}$ S $\frac{1}{4}$

Township 2 S., Range 10 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 20  
Section 21: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 22: NW $\frac{1}{4}$   
Section 24: N $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{4}$ S $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sections 29 - 31

Township 2 S., Range 11 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 1 - 5  
Sections 7 - 36

Township 2 S., Range 12 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Sections 25 - 26  
Sections 35 - 36

Township 3 S., Range 7 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Section 5: N $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{4}$   
Sections 6 - 7  
Section 18: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{4}$ , N $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Township 3 S., Range 8 W., Fairbanks Meridian  
Section 1  
Section 12

Section 13

Section 22: NE $\frac{1}{4}$  (That portion above the ordinary high water mark right bank Tanana River.)

Section 23: N $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 24: N $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 25: NW $\frac{1}{4}$

Township 3 S., Range 11 W., Fairbanks Meridian

Sections 2 - 10

Section 11: N $\frac{1}{2}$

Section 14: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Sections 15 - 21

Section 22: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 23: NW $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 27: W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$

Sections 28 - 31

Section 32: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$

Section 33: W $\frac{1}{2}$

Township 3 S., Range 12 W., Fairbanks Meridian

Sections 1 - 2

Sections 11 - 14

Sections 23 - 26

Sections 35 - 36

- (b) The Minto Flats State Game Refuge is established to ensure the protection and enhancement of habitat and the conservation of fish and wildlife species dependent thereon; and to guarantee its continued use and enjoyment by the public for hunting, fishing, trapping and other uses compatible with the protection of habitat and the conservation of the fish and wildlife species.
- (c) Public access including, but not limited to, the use of horses, boats, aircraft, dog teams and snowmachines is guaranteed provided that such use is consistent with (b) of this section.
- (d) The state may not acquire by eminent domain privately-owned land within the state game refuge established by this Act but may acquire privately-owned land by purchase, exchange, or otherwise for inclusion in the Minto Flats State Game Refuge.
- (e) Egress and ingress to and from private property within the Minto Flats State Game

Refuge shall be guaranteed through access corridors established through agreement between the Department of Fish and Game and the private property owners involved.

- (f) The Minto Flats State Game Refuge will be managed in accordance with a management plan prepared by the Department of Fish and Game. The management plan will be prepared in a timely fashion in accordance with available funding.

\* Section 2. All state-owned land and water within the state game refuge established by this Act are closed to mineral entry under AS 38.05.185 - 38.05.280.

\* Section 3. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.070(c).



# Senator Johne Binkley

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



FINANCE COMMITTEE  
SENATOR JOHN BINKLEY

## MEMORANDUM

April 30, 1987

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

FROM: SENATOR JOHN 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 Board 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

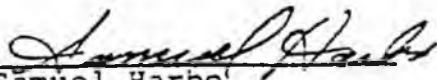
- (3) other related uses that are temporary in duration and have no foreseeable adverse effect on vegetation, drainage, soil stability, fish, game or their habitat.

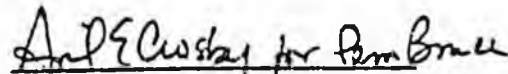
When the compatibility of a use is questioned, the Department of Fish and Game will conduct specific fact-finding efforts, including public meetings, prior to making a final determination.

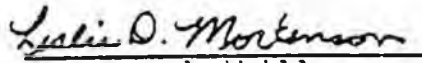
The Department of Fish and Game is to consult with adjacent communities and other interested parties in the preparation of the management plan for the Minto Flats State Game Refuge. It is our desire that the Department of Fish and Game be funded to initiate the management planning process immediately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

  
Samuel Harbo  
Vice President  
Alaska Outdoor Council  
P.O. Box 73478  
Fairbanks, AK 99707

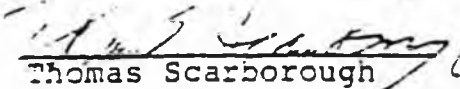
  
Pamela Bruce  
President  
Arctic Audubon  
940 Kalina Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99712

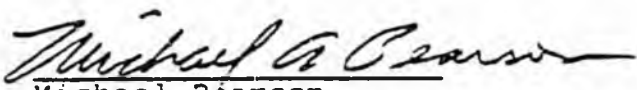
  
James Mulvihill  
President  
Cleary Sky Sportsmen Club  
P.O. Box 254  
Clear, AK 99704


Proposed Minto Flats  
State Game Refuge

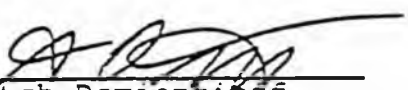
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5/27/86

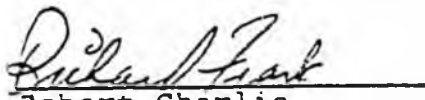
  
Thomas Scarborough  
President  
Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee  
1676 Taroka Drive  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

  
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  
Nenana Native Council  
P.O. Box 251  
Nenana, AK 99760

  
Randy Rogers  
Executive Director  
Northern Alaska Environmental Center  
218 Driveway  
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, Jr. News 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.

10/85

## WHAT IS A STATE GAME REFUGE?

State game refuges are multiple use areas established by the legislature for the protection of productive fish and wildlife habitats and for the public's use and enjoyment.

Alaska Statute 16.20.020 states, "The purpose (of establishing state game refuges) is to protect and preserve the natural habitat and game population in certain designated areas of the state."

State game refuges have a history that is old as the State of Alaska itself. In 1960 the first two state game refuges, Izembek and Chagvan Bay (Cape Newenham), were set aside for waterfowl and shorebirds. Over the years, as one or another outstanding area came to the attention of Alaskans and their legislators, other state game refuges were established.

Protection of fish and wildlife and their habitats and maintenance of public use is the primary focus of the Department of Fish and Game's game refuge management program. Activities which are encouraged and do not require a refuge permit include hunting, fishing, trapping, public access, recreational activities (hiking, skiing, horseback riding, dog team travel, camping, mountain climbing, etc.), boating, berry picking, firewood gathering (dead and down timber) and many others. Other land use activities are

allowed in a manner compatible with those primary values. These other activities which may impact primary uses are authorized through a special area permit system administered by the Habitat Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Multiple uses which pre-date creation of the refuge and multiple uses which fulfill important public needs for which there is no feasible alternative site are permitted on the refuge. But they must be conducted in a manner compatible with the fish and wildlife values and public use for which the area was established.

Why is it important to establish this area as a state game refuge? Each year the status of state lands changes dramatically. Some lands are sold; some lands are leased for development. Creating a state game refuge guarantees that the land will remain in public ownership and will be managed to maintain fish and wildlife populations.

Behind each one of our state game refuges are citizens who enjoy using the area and who helped to get the area designated a state game refuge. As the years go by many things will change, but through the foresight of Alaskans and their Legislature, state game refuges will always remain for the wildlife, for the fish, and for the people to enjoy.

| <u>REFUGE</u>    | <u>ACTIVITY</u>                           | <u>DECISION</u> |
|------------------|---|-----------------|
| Palmer Hay Flats | Personal Use Cabins (3)                   | Approved        |
| Palmer Hay Flats | Pipeline Survey                           | Approved        |
| Palmer Hay Flats | Natural Gas Pipeline                      | Approved        |
| Palmer Hay Flats | Grazing Lease                             | Denied          |
| Palmer Hay Flats | Gravel Fill and Bridge                    | Approved        |
| Trading Bay      | Personal Use Cabins (19)                  | Approved        |
| Trading Bay      | Negotiated Lease<br>(Set Net Cabin)       | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats    | Personal Use Cabin (111)                  | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats    | Gravel Mining                             | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats    | Negotiated Lease<br>(3 Commercial Cabins) | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats    | Negotiated Lease<br>(Set Net Cabin)       | Approved        |

| <u>REFUGE</u> | <u>ACTIVITY</u>                           | <u>DECISION</u> |
|---------------|---|-----------------|
| Susitna Flats | Insect poisoning removal                  | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats | Seismic Exploration                       | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats | Negotiated Lease<br>(Set Net Cabin)       | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats | Negotiated Lease<br>(6 Commercial Cabins) | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats | Gravel Mining                             | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats | Transmission Line Upgrade                 | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats | Bridge Repair/Log Jam<br>Removal          | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats | Fisheries Research Station                | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats | Gas Wells/Pipeline                        | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats | Gravel Extraction                         | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats | Gravel Extraction                         | Denied          |

| <u>PROJECT</u> | <u>ACTIVITY</u>          | <u>DECISION</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Susitna Flats  | Pipeline Survey          | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats  | Road Upgrade             | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats  | Natural Gas Pipeline     | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats  | Motorized Vehicle Use    | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats  | Barge Landing            | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats  | Storage Yard             | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats  | Hydrological Research    | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats  | Winter/Ice Road          | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats  | Survey/Brush Clearing    | Approved        |
| Susitna Flats  | Material Extraction      | Denied          |
| Susitna Flats  | Transmission Line        | Approved        |
| Goose Bay      | Leach Field Construction | Approved        |
| Goose Bay      | Seismic Exploration      | Approved        |

| <u>REFUGE</u>          | <u>ACTIVITY</u>                           | <u>DECISION</u> |
|------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Goose Bay              | Road and Utility<br>Corridor Construction | Approved        |
| Potter Point           | Erosion Control Outfall<br>Stilling Basin | Approved        |
| Potter Point           | Roadway/Parking Area                      | Approved        |
| Isambek                | Gravity Survey                            | Approved        |
| Mendenhall<br>Wetlands | Buried Sewer Outfall Line                 | Approved        |
| Mendenhall<br>Wetlands | Airport Maintenance                       | Approved        |
| Mendenhall<br>Wetlands | Salmon Rearing Pens                       | Approved        |
| Mendenhall<br>Wetlands | Stream Channel Alternation                | Denied          |
| Mendenhall<br>Wetlands | Log Transfer and Storage                  | Approved        |



# Minto Village Council

Minto, Alaska 99758

(907) 798-8607

7112

December 3, 1986



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

Dear Mr. Birkley:

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

BT/nc

Enclosure



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 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 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: Donnell Smith 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)

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

STATE OF ALASKA  
1988 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: Senate Res  
Title: Ninto Flats Refuge  
Sponsor: Binklev/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 Phone: 465-3400  
Division: Land and Water Management Date: 2/1/83

Approved by Commissioner: *Janet Burleson* Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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.

July 1, 1985

Special Area Plans  
Proposed Order of Priority

| <u>TOP</u><br><u>PRIORITY</u> |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
|                               | Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge*<br>Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge<br>Susitna Flats State Game Refuge  |
| 2nd<br>Priority<br>Group      | Mendenhall State Game Refuge<br>Katchemak Bay State Critical Habitat Area<br>Anchor River/Fritz Creek Critical Habitat Area**<br>Trading Bay State Game Refuge<br>Fox River Flats State Critical Habitat Area<br>Copper River Delta State Critical Habitat Area<br>Clam Gulch State Critical Habitat Area<br>Goose Bay State Game Refuge |
| 3rd<br>Priority<br>Group      | Port Moller State Critical Habitat Area<br>Port Heiden State Critical Habitat Area<br>Egegik State Critical Habitat Area<br>Pilot Point State Critical Habitat Area<br>Cinder River State Critical Habitat Area<br>Izembek State Game Refuge   |
| 4th<br>Priority<br>Group      | Walrus Island State Game Refuge<br>Cape Newenham State Game Refuge<br>McNeil River State Game Sanctuary<br>Kalgin Island State Critical Habitat Area   |
| 5th<br>Priority<br>Group      | Chilkat River State Critical Habitat Area<br>Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge  |

- \* First priority after legislative passage  
\*\* To be completed by 1989 as per legislative mandate

## SPECIAL AREAS PLAN PRIORITY CRITERIA

The order in which special area plans are undertaken is determined, in part, by the following considerations:

1. Statutory mandate to prepare plan.
2. Statutory due date to prepare plan.
3. Proximity to major population centers/level of public use.
4. Presence of major land use issues in need of resolution.
5. Local interest in preparation of a plan.

ALASKA STATE ALASKA STATE

# REFUGES

ALASKA STATE ALASKA STATE

# CRITICAL HABITATS

ALASKA STATE ALASKA STATE

# SANCTUARIES

ALASKA STATE ALASKA STATE

1. Izembek State Game Refuge
2. Port Moller State Critical Habitat Area
3. Port Heiden State Critical Habitat Area
4. Cinder River State Critical Habitat Area
5. Pilot Point State Critical Habitat Area
6. Egegik State Critical Habitat Area
7. Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary
8. Cape Newenham State Game Refuge
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14. Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge
15. Goose Bay State Game Refuge
16. Potter Point State Game Refuge
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18. Fox River Flats State Critical Habitat Area
19. Kachemak Bay State Critical Habitat Area
20. Copper River Delta State Critical Habitat Area
21. Chilkat River State Critical Habitat Area
22. Menoenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge



State of Alaska  
 Department of Fish and Game  
 Habitat Division  
 Box 3-2000, Juneau, Alaska 99802  
 November 1983

Juneau headquarters — (907) 465-4107  
 Southcentral regional office — (907) 344-0541  
 Interior regional office — (907) 479-3104  
 Southeastern regional office — (907) 465-4290

The Alaska Legislature has protected portions of Alaska's outstanding natural habitat and associated fish and wildlife resources by establishing State Game Refuges, State Game Sanctuaries, and State Critical Habitat Areas. The statutes which authorize these special areas give the Alaska Department of Fish and Game authority to preserve and protect the unique aspects for which they were established.

STATE GAME REFUGES are established to make sure wildlife continue to populate specific areas and to insure the public continues to have use of these wildlife resources. These areas have fairly sizable concentrations, or many different types, of waterfowl, big game, shorebirds, or other species. One or more elements of habitat — such as food, vegetation, water, etc. — needed by this wildlife is present.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game manages state game refuges by focusing on a featured wildlife species or group of species. This may mean rehabilitating or improving the habitat on which the wildlife depends. Uses of refuge lands are controlled to prevent habitat changes which would be harmful to the wildlife. Activities are also controlled to prevent disturbance of the wildlife itself. Human uses — including recreational pursuits and harvest of wildlife resources — are permitted so long as they are in keeping with the primary reason for establishing the refuge.



STATE GAME SANCTUARIES are also established to protect fish and wildlife and their natural habitats. The primary reason for setting aside lands as state game sanctuaries is to give asylum to important wildlife populations. The wildlife in these cases normally uses the land in somewhat exclusive ways. A sanctuary may provide the only place where a certain population carries out some part of its annual life cycle such as feeding, nesting, hauling out, or migration. (Sanctuaries are special areas set aside to protect featured wildlife populations.)

In managing sanctuaries, other uses of the land are closely controlled, or are prohibited, in order to prevent changes in the habitat or disturbance of the protected species. Use of the wildlife itself is also closely controlled.

STATE CRITICAL HABITAT AREAS are places where protective emphasis is on the environment in which wildlife occurs. Critical habitat areas may be complete biotic systems — identifiable environmental units that operate as self-sustaining systems — or well-defined areas specifically needed by wildlife for certain functions such as nesting or spawning.

Management by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is aimed primarily at providing protection for the habitat. All uses of the land which are not compatible with that aim are restricted. In most instances, harvest of wildlife is not precluded in a critical habitat area.

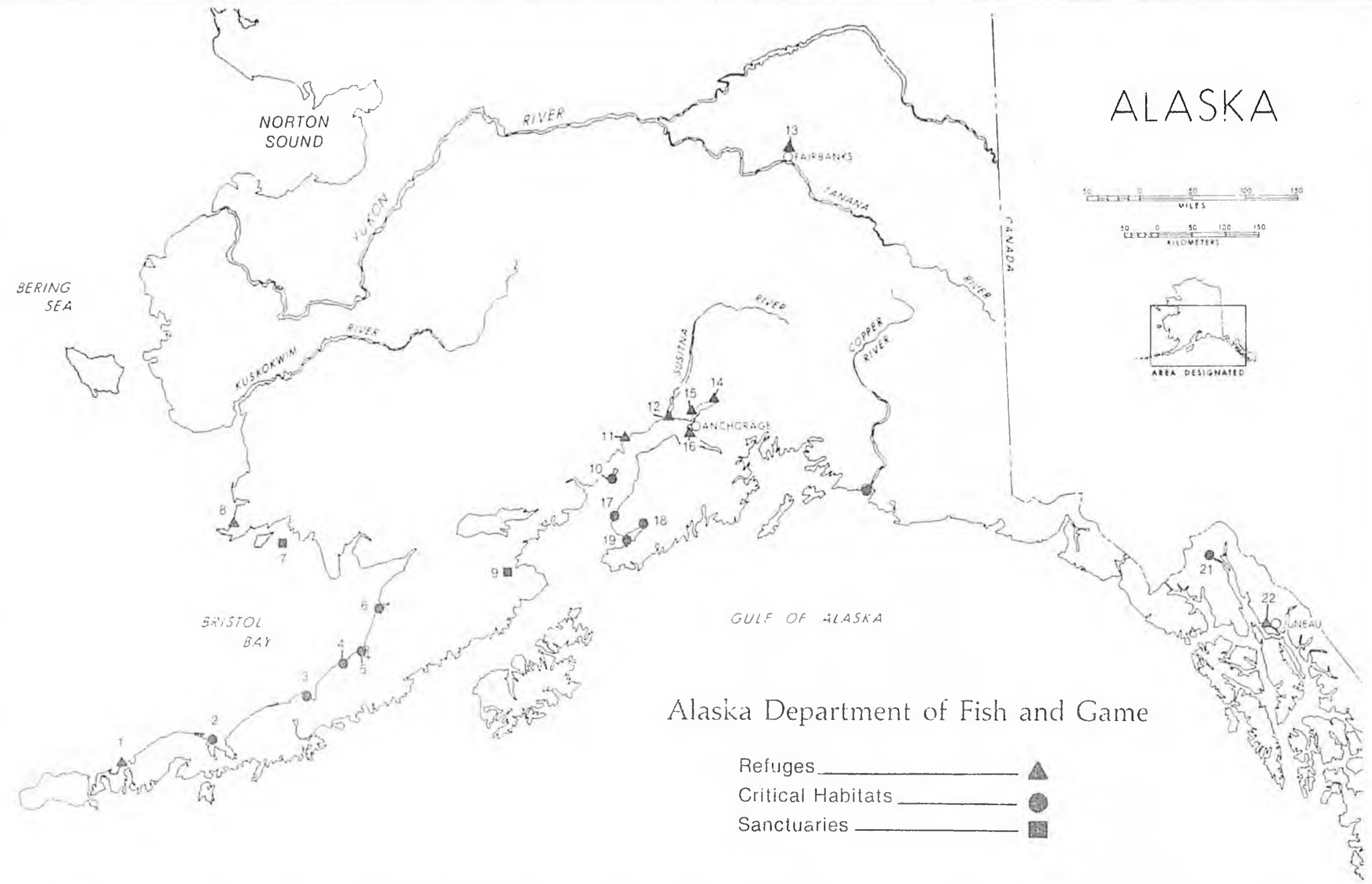
State critical habitat areas are set aside to protect the land and resources necessary for certain species of wildlife.



# ALASKA



- 1 Izembek
- 2 Port Moller
- 3 Port Heiden
- 4 Cinder River
- 5 Pilot Point
- 6 Egegik
- 7 Walrus Islands
- 8 Cape Newenham
- 9 McNeil River
- 10 Kalgin Island
- 11 Trading Bay
- 12 Susitna Flats
- 13 Creamer's Field
- 14 Palmer Hay Flats
- 15 Goose Bay
- 16 Potter Point
- 17 Clam Gulch
- 18 Fox River Flats
- 19 Kachemak Bay
- 20 Copper River Delta
- 21 Chilkat River
- 22 Mendenhall Wetlands



Alaska Department of Fish and Game

- Refuges \_\_\_\_\_ ▲
- Critical Habitats \_\_\_\_\_ ●
- Sanctuaries \_\_\_\_\_ ■

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency Affected: ADFGG  
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 |       |       | 50,000 |       |       |       |
| TRAVEL            |       |       | 5,000  |       |       |       |
| CONTRACTUAL       |       |       | 3,000  |       |       |       |
| SUPPLIES          |       |       | 2,000  |       |       |       |
| EQUIPMENT         |       |       |        |       |       |       |
| LAND & STRUCTURES |       |       |        |       |       |       |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS    |       |       |        |       |       |       |
| MISCELLANEOUS     |       |       |        |       |       |       |
| TOTAL OPERATING   |       |       | 75,000 |       |       |       |

|         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CAPITAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 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. Miller Phone: 225-4105  
Division: Habitat Date: 2/2/88  
Approved by Commissioner: Paul R. Williams Date: 2-2-88  
Agency: ADFGG

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)

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 | <u>5,000</u> |
|                                   | 7,720        |

Supplies 2,000

TOTAL \$74,520

STATE OF ALASKA 1987 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
FISCAL NOTE

Bill Version : CSSB 55  
Publish Date : \_\_\_\_\_

REQUEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Minto Flats State Game Refuge

Agency Affected: Dept. of Fish and Game  
BRU: Habitat Division

Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Components: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

| OPERATING         | FY 87 | FY 88 | FY 89 | FY 90   | FY 91 | FY 92 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| PERSONAL SERVICES |       |       |       | 60,000  |       |       |
| TRAVEL            |       |       |       | 5,000   |       |       |
| CONTRACTUAL       |       |       |       | 8,000   |       |       |
| SUPPLIES          |       |       |       | 2,000   |       |       |
| EQUIPMENT         |       |       |       |         |       |       |
| LAND & STRUCTURES |       |       |       |         |       |       |
| GRANTS, CLAIMS    |       |       |       |         |       |       |
| MISCELLANEOUS     |       |       |       |         |       |       |
| TOTAL OPERATING   |       |       |       | 75,000* |       |       |
| CAPITAL           |       |       |       |         |       |       |
| 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)

Preparation of the Minto Flats State Game Refuge Management Plan.

*Bruce Baker*  
Prepared by: Bruce Baker, Acting Director  
Division: Habitat Division

Phone: 465-4105  
Date: 5/5/87

Approved by Commissioner: *Don Collinsworth*  
Agency: Department of Fish and Game

Date: 5.6.87

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

\*Amount required only if the plans are prepared concurrently in FY90-FY91. If the existing schedule of one plan per year is adhered to, the operating budget would be adequate and this fiscal note would not be necessary.

May 1987

SB55 Fiscal Note  
Summary of Personal Services Costs

| <u>Job Class</u>        | <u>Location</u> | <u>Months</u> | <u>Cost</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Habitat Biologist III*  | Anchorage       | 6             | 31.0        |
| Habitat Biologist III   | Division-wide   | 3             | 12.0        |
| Clerk Typist III        | Anchorage       | 3             | 7.0         |
| Drafting Technician III | Anchorage       | 3             | 10.0        |
|                         |                 | TOTAL:        | 60.0        |

\*Project Manager

May 1987

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME SPECIAL AREA PLANNING SCHEDULE

(DRAFT)

State FY87

Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge Management Plan.  
1985 - November 1986.

State FY87 - FY88

Susitna Flats State Game Refuge Management Plan.  
November 1986 - November 1987.

State FY88 - FY89

Anchor River/Fritz Creek Critical Habitat Area Management Plan.  
November 1987 - November 1988.

State FY89 - FY90

\*Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge Management Plan.  
November 1988 - November 1989.

State FY90 - FY91

Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge Management Plan. or  
\*Minto Flats State Game Refuge Management Plan.  
November 1989 - November 1990.

\*Depending upon legislative designation.

July 1, 1985

Special Area Plans  
Proposed Order of Priority

TOP  
PRIORITY

Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge\*  
Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge  
Susitna Flats State Game Refuge

---

2nd  
Priority  
Group

Mendenhall State Game Refuge  
Kachemak Bay State Critical Habitat Area  
Anchor River/Fritz Creek Critical Habitat Area\*\*  
Trading Bay State Game Refuge  
Fox River Flats State Critical Habitat Area  
Copper River Delta State Critical Habitat Area  
Clam Gulch State Critical Habitat Area  
Goose Bay State Game Refuge

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3rd  
Priority  
Priority

Port Moller State Critical Habitat Area  
Port Heiden State Critical Habitat Area  
Egegik State Critical Habitat Area  
Pilot Point State Critical Habitat Area  
Cinder River State Critical Habitat Area  
Izembek State Game Refuge

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4th  
Priority  
Group

Walrus Island State Game Refuge  
Cape Newenham State Game Refuge  
McNeil River State Game Sanctuary  
Kalgin Island State Critical Habitat Area

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5th  
Priority  
Group

Chilkat River State Critical Habitat Area  
Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge

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\* First priority after legislative passage

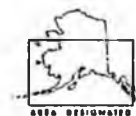
\*\* To be completed by 1989 as per legislative mandate

May 1987

SUSITNA FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE  
MANAGEMENT PLAN COMPLETION SCHEDULE

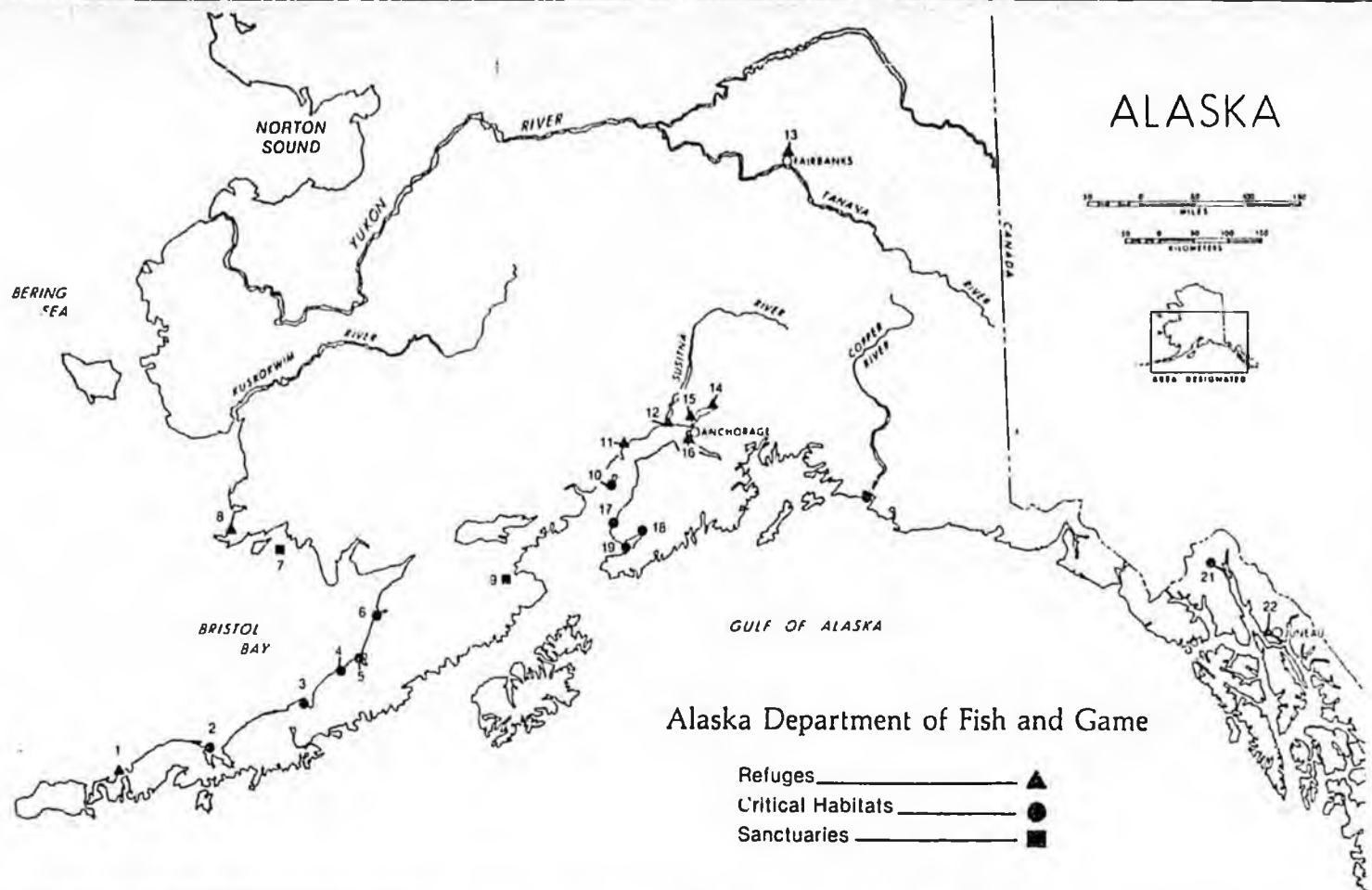
|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| May - June          | Interagency planning team prepares draft refuge management plan.                                   |
| July - August       | Public reviews draft refuge management plan. Public hearings are held.                             |
| September - October | Staff summarizes public review and interagency planning team finalizes the refuge management plan. |
| November - December | Department of Fish and Game implements the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge Management Plan.        |

# ALASKA



AREA DESIGNATED

1. Izembok
2. Port Moller
3. Port Heldon
4. Cinder River
5. Pilot Point
6. Egegik
7. Walrus Islands
8. Cape Newenham
9. McNeil River
10. Kalgin Island
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ALASKA STATE ALASKA STATE

REFUGES

ALASKA STATE ALASKA STATE

CRITICAL  
 HABITATS

ALASKA STATE ALASKA STATE

SANCTUARIES

ALASKA STATE ALASKA STATE



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