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# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred: February 2, 1990

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: \_\_\_\_\_

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 78

HOUSE BILL NO. 78

CARIBOU CREEK RECREATIONAL MINING AREA

"An Act establishing the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area."

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- [X] be replaced with CS HB 78 (FIN) [ ] the same title
- [ ] have attached amendment(s) [ ] a new title
- [X] do pass
- [ ] do not pass
- [ ] no recommendation
- [ ] individual recommendations
- [ ] additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

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

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):  
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Date/Dept)

- [X] fiscal impact HFC
- [X] zero fiscal note HFC
- [ ] zero with analysis \_\_\_\_\_

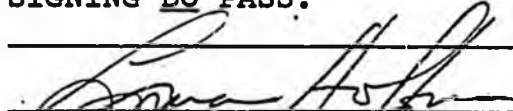
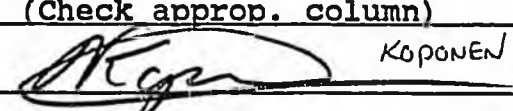
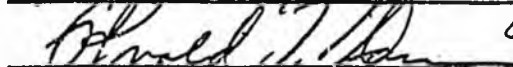
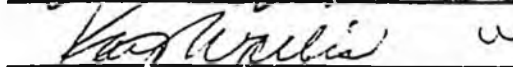





- [ ] fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ] zero fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ] zero fn/analysis \_\_\_\_\_

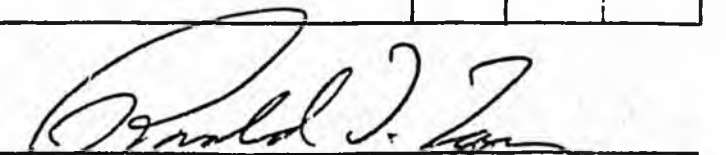
**SIGNING DO PASS:**

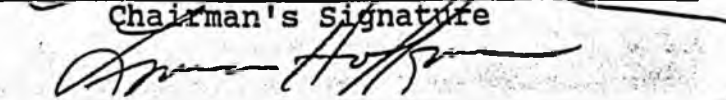
**SIGNING:**

(Check approp. column)

Do Not  
Pass      No Rec      Amend

	Hoffman		KOPONEN		X	
	Carson					
	Wallis					
	BARNES					
	BROWN					
	ULMER					
	PHILLIPS					
	KLEIN					

  
Chairman's Signature



**FISCAL NOTE**

**REQUEST:**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: An Act establishing the Caribou  
Creek Recreational Mining Area.  
Sponsor: Larson and Menard  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: Dept. of Fish and Game  
BRU: Habitat  
Components: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)**

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93.	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>

<b>CAPITAL</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>
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<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>
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**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>	<b>-0-</b>

**POSITIONS:**

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

**ANALYSIS :** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: House Finance Committee Phone: 465-3727  
Division: Co-Chairman Ron Larson *Ronald J. Larson* Date: 3/01/90

Approved by Commissioner: Co-Chairman Lyman Hoffman Date: 3/01/90  
Agency: *Lyman Hoffman*

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

Adopted

**FISCAL NOTE**

**REQUEST:**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: An Act establishing the Carbon  
Creek Recreational Mining Area  
Sponsor: Larson and Menard  
Requestor: House Finance

Agency Affected: Natural Resources  
BRU: Land and Water  
Components: Land & Water

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)**

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	53.2	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

GENERAL FUND	53.2	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS :** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: House Finance Committee Phone: 465-3757  
Division: Co-Chairman Ron Larson Date: 3/01/90

Approved by Co-Chairman Lyman Hoffman Date: 3/01/90  
Agency: Ronald Larson

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

Adopted

INCORPORATED  
Am #1 3/1/90  
MEMO BY BRUCE 6-0386M  
BAKER F&G 2/9/90  
(c)

Original sponsor(s): REP. LARSON, Menard

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 78 (Finance)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Caribou Creek Recreational  
7 Mining Area."

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

9 \* Section 1. AS 41.23 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 ARTICLE 3. RECREATIONAL MINING.

11 Sec. 41.23.600. PURPOSE. The purpose of AS 41.23.600 - 41.23.-  
12 620 is to establish the area described in AS 41.23.620 as the Caribou  
13 Creek Recreational Mining Area. The Caribou Creek Recreational Mining  
14 Area is established to provide for a public recreational mining area  
15 to permit public recreational activities and to allow other multiple-  
16 use activities to continue as long as the activities do not detract  
17 from the primary purpose for the establishment of the Caribou Creek  
18 Recreational Mining Area.

19 Sec. 41.23.610. MANAGEMENT AND REGULATIONS. (a) The commis-  
20 sioner is responsible for the management of the surface and subsurface  
21 estate within the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area necessary to  
22 carry out the purposes of AS 41.23.600. The commissioner shall adopt  
23 and may revise a management plan and shall adopt regulations for the  
24 management, use, and development of the Caribou Creek Recreational  
25 Mining Area.

26 (b) The management plan, including any revisions, and regula-  
27 tions adopted by the commissioner shall be developed in consultation  
28 with the commissioner of fish and game and the commissioner of trans-  
29 portation and public facilities. The management plan and regulations

1 shall address, but not be limited to,

2 (1) the methods of mining permitted within the Caribou  
3 Creek Recreational Mining Area;

4 (2) the types of mining equipment that may be used within  
5 the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area;

6 (3) the protection of habitat within the Caribou Creek  
7 Recreational Mining Area; and

8 (4) other restrictions consistent with the purposes stated  
9 in AS 41.23.600.

10 (c) Except as provided in this subsection, the Caribou Creek  
11 Recreational Mining Area is open to recreational mining under AS 41.-  
12 23.600 - 41.23.620. The commissioner of fish and game is responsible  
13 for the management of the fish and game resources and the public use  
14 of fish and wildlife resources within the Caribou Creek Recreational  
15 Mining Area consistent with the purposes stated in AS 41.23.600. The  
16 commissioner of fish and game shall issue a general permit to the  
17 public authorizing recreational mining activities subject to seasonal  
18 restrictions on the mining activities within specified waterbody areas  
19 necessary to maintain fishery resources within the Caribou Creek  
20 Recreational Mining Area.

21 (d) The Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area is closed to  
22 mineral entry under AS 38.05.175 - 38.05.275.

23 (e) The commissioner shall permit the construction and realign-  
24 ment of the Glenn Highway by the commissioner of transportation and  
25 public facilities within the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area as  
26 follows:

27 (1) Township 20 North, Range 10 East, Seward Meridian

28 Section 29: The centerline of the realigned Glenn  
29 Highway is described as commencing at the Southwest corner of

1 Section 29; thence on a state plane, Zone 4 bearing of North 2  
2 degrees 09'55" West, along the West boundary of Section 29,  
3 1481.55 feet to proposed centerline Station 692+58.19 and the  
4 True Point of Beginning; thence South 85 degrees 52'40" East, a  
5 distance of 3395.32 feet to proposed centerline Station  
6 726+53.51; thence along a curve to the left, having a radius of  
7 916.73 feet, through an arc of 121 degrees 37'14", a distance of  
8 1945.93 feet to P.C.C. Station 745+99.45; thence along a compound  
9 curve to the left, having a radius of 1637.02 feet, through an  
10 arc of 30 degrees 01'50", a distance of 858.01 feet to Point of  
11 Tangent Station 754+57.46; thence North 58 degrees 16'27" West, a  
12 distance of 447.65 feet to P.C. Station 759+10.45; thence along a  
13 curve to the right, having a radius of 996.45 feet, through an  
14 arc of 144 degrees 30'28", a distance of 2513.18 feet to Point of  
15 Tangent Station 784+23.63 BACK = 741+49.55 AHEAD; thence North 89  
16 degrees 58'44" East, a distance of 1347.13 feet to Station  
17 754+96.68, a point on the east boundary of Section 29, said point  
18 is South 2 degrees 09'55" East, a distance of 115.88 feet from  
19 the Northeast corner of Section 29;

20 (2) the right-of-way lines that cross Caribou Creek Recrea-  
21 tional Mining Area extend varying distances from the centerline as  
22 follows:

23 (A) from Station 760+00 to Station 765+00 the right-  
24 of-way extends 300 feet on the left of centerline and 150 feet on  
25 the right;

26 (B) from Station 765+00 to Station 780+00, the right-  
27 of-way extends 300 feet on each side of the centerline;

28 (C) from Station 780+00 to P.T. Station 784+23.63 the  
29 right-of-way extends 300 feet on the left and 400 feet to the

1 right of the centerline.

2 Sec. 41.23.620. CARIBOU CREEK RECREATIONAL MINING AREA. The  
3 vacant and unappropriated state-owned land and water and the state  
4 land and water acquired in the future that lie within 100 feet of  
5 either ordinary high water or mean high tide of the banks of the  
6 creeks or rivers described in this section are designated as the  
7 Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area, are reserved from all uses  
8 incompatible with the purposes of AS 41.23.600, and are assigned to  
9 the commissioner for control and management:

10 Township 20 North, Range 10 East, Seward Meridian

11 (1) That portion of Caribou Creek located in

12 Section 28: W1/2

13 Section 29: E1/2

14 (2) That portion of the Matanuska River located in

15 Section 32: SE1/4

16 Section 33: NE1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4

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Amitt 1  
3/1/90

note record

Feb. 9, 1990

FAX to John Bitney of Representative Ron Larson's office 465-2293

From Bruce Baker, <sup>BB</sup>ADF&G Habitat Division (465-4105)

HB 78

John, I called Representative Kay Brown yesterday regarding SB 78 and confirmed that ADF&G is prepared, under our existing statutory authority (AS 16.05.870), to issue a general permit authorizing the public to mine in the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area using hand tools, gold pans, and suction dredges with an intake nozzle diameter of less than 6 inches. Copies of the general permit would be posted in the area. This would preclude the need for recreational miners to individually notify us, yet it would allow us to amend or issue the permit if necessary to protect anadromous fish and to take enforcement action if there were serious violations. I understood Representative Brown to say that this would address her concern that recreational miners not be required to make a special trip to obtain a recreational mining permit for the area. I also understood her to say that she'd appreciate my clarifying that for the benefit of the House Finance Committee.

If the committee still feels it necessary to amend SB 78 in this regard, we suggest that 41.23.610 be amended to require the commissioner to issue a general permit: (c) The commissioner of fish and game will issue a general permit authorizing specified recreational mining activities which may include seasonal restrictions on mining activities within specified waterbodies necessary to maintain fisheries resources within the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area.

Amitt 1  
Adpt.  
u.c.  
only  
(c)

Please don't hesitate to give me a call if you have a question or would like to discuss further.

*DD*  
*Mike McInnis*



A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY LARSON

TO: CSHB 78(Finance) (2/7/90)

Page 2, line 25:

Delete "within Section 29, Township 20 North, Range 10 East, Seward Meridian."

Insert "as follows:

(1) Township 20 North, Range 10 East, Seward Meridian

Section 29: The centerline of the realigned Glenn Highway is described as commencing at the Southwest corner of Section 29; thence on a state plane, Zone 4 bearing of North 2 degrees 09'55" West, along the West boundary of Section 29, 1481.55 feet to proposed centerline Station 692+58.19 and the True Point of Beginning; thence South 85 degrees 52'40" East, a distance of 3395.32 feet to proposed centerline Station 726+53.51; thence along a curve to the left, having a radius of 916.73 feet, through an arc of 121 degrees 37'14", a distance of 1945.93 feet to P.C.C. Station 745+99.45; thence along a compound curve to the left, having a radius of 1637.02 feet, through an arc of 30 degrees 01'50", a distance of 858.01 feet to Point of Tangent Station 754+57.46; thence North 58 degrees 16'27" West, a distance of 447.65 feet to P.C. Station 759+10.45; thence along a curve to the right, having a radius of 996.45 feet, through an

arc of 144 degrees 30'28", a distance of 2513.18 feet to Point of Tangent Station 784+23.63 BACK and 741+49.55 AHEAD; thence North 89 degrees 58'44" East, a distance of 1347.13 feet to Station 754+96.68, a point on the east boundary of Section 29, said point is South 2 degrees 09'55" East, a distance of 115.88 feet from the Northeast corner of Section 29;

(2) the right-of-way lines that cross Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area extend varying distances from the centerline as follows:

(A) from Station 760+00 to Station 765+00 the right-of-way extends 300 feet on the left of centerline and 150 feet on the right;

(B) from Station 765+00 to Station 780+00, the right-of-way extends 300 feet on each side of the centerline;

(C) from Station 780+00 to P.T. Station 784+23.63 the right-of-way extends 300 feet on the left and 400 feet to the right of the centerline."

# Alaska State Legislature



Rep. Ronald L. Larson  
CO-CHAIRMAN  
(907) 485-3727

INTERIM ADDRESS  
P.O. Box 53  
Palmer, Alaska 99645  
(907) 745-3826

Rep. Lyman Hoffman  
CO-CHAIRMAN  
(907) 485-3706

INTERIM ADDRESS  
P.O. Box 886  
Bethel, Alaska 99559  
(907) 543-3541

## House of Representatives

Committee on Finance

P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

### MEMORANDUM

February 7, 1990

TO: House Finance Committee members

FROM: Ronald L. Larson, Co-chairman

SUBJECT: CS for HB 78(RES)

I would like to take this opportunity to summarize for you some of the provisions of CS for HB 78(RES). As you know, I am the prime sponsor of this piece of legislation.

HB 78, an Act establishing the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area, is an attempt on my part to help promote tourist destinations in the State of Alaska. Currently, there are no public state lands in Alaska specifically set aside for recreational mining use. While it is possible for someone to "recreationally mine" on open state land, it is difficult for someone to know whether or not they are panning on a federal or state mining claim, private land, or within special designated lands (ie. parks, critical habitat areas, etc.).

The Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area would establish a designation that would allow clearly establish this area for recreational mining. Currently the area does provide recreational mining for many people, and the designation by this bill would highlight the area for tourism development.

During today's hearing in Committee on this bill, I will be happy to respond to any questions you might have regarding the purpose of HB 78. I will ask that technical questions be answered by the staff from the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish & Game, and the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities.



STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BILL ANALYSIS

DEPARTMENT Fish and Game	DIVISION Habitat	BILL NUMBER CS HB 78	SPONSOR Reps. Larson and Menard
SHORT TITLE OF BILL Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area			
DEPARTMENT POSITION Support			
PREPARED BY Frank Rue	DATE 1-12-90	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE 1/22/90

SUMMARY

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL Dept. of Natural Resources Dept. of Environmental Conservation	CONSTITUENT GROUP(S) AFFECTED BY BILL Commercial and Sport Fishermen
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL . Unknown

FISCAL IMPACT:  NONE  FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT

The Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area is proposed to designate an area for recreational placer mining for the public.

ANALYSIS OF BILL/PROGRAM EFFECTS

The bill would establish the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area on the lower reach of Caribou Creek and a portion of the Matanuska River. These streams have been specified as being important for the spawning, rearing or migration of anadromous fisheries by the commissioner of the ADF&G pursuant to AS 16.05.870(a). The proposed legislation requires that the commissioner of ADNR adopt a management plan and regulations for the management, use and development of the recreational mining area in consultation with the ADF&G. The plan and regulations may address methods of mining permitted, the types of mining equipment that may be used, the protection of habitat, and other restrictions consistent with the purposes stated in AS 41.23.600. The bill further recognizes that the commissioner of the ADF&G is responsible for the management of fish and game within the proposed area and that the commissioner may require seasonal restrictions on operations within the area to maintain fishery resources. The ADF&G has worked with the sponsors on

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

We recommend the following revisions to the language of the bill.

Page 1, line 26: "The management plan, including any revisions, and..."

Page 1, line 29: "The management plan and regulations MAY shall address, but not be limited to..."

Page 2, line 8: reference to AS 42.23.600 should be changed to AS 41.23.600.

PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR ANALYSIS.

### Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area

Issuance of Title 16 permits and monitoring and enforcement for recreational mining activities in Caribou Creek, a designated anadromous stream, will require the following expenses:

#### Personnel

Habitat Biologist	(18c)	2 months	4.5/month	9.0
Clerk Typist	( 8a)	1 month	2.3/month	<u>2.3</u>
				\$11.3

#### Travel

staff travel to Caribou Creek				1.0
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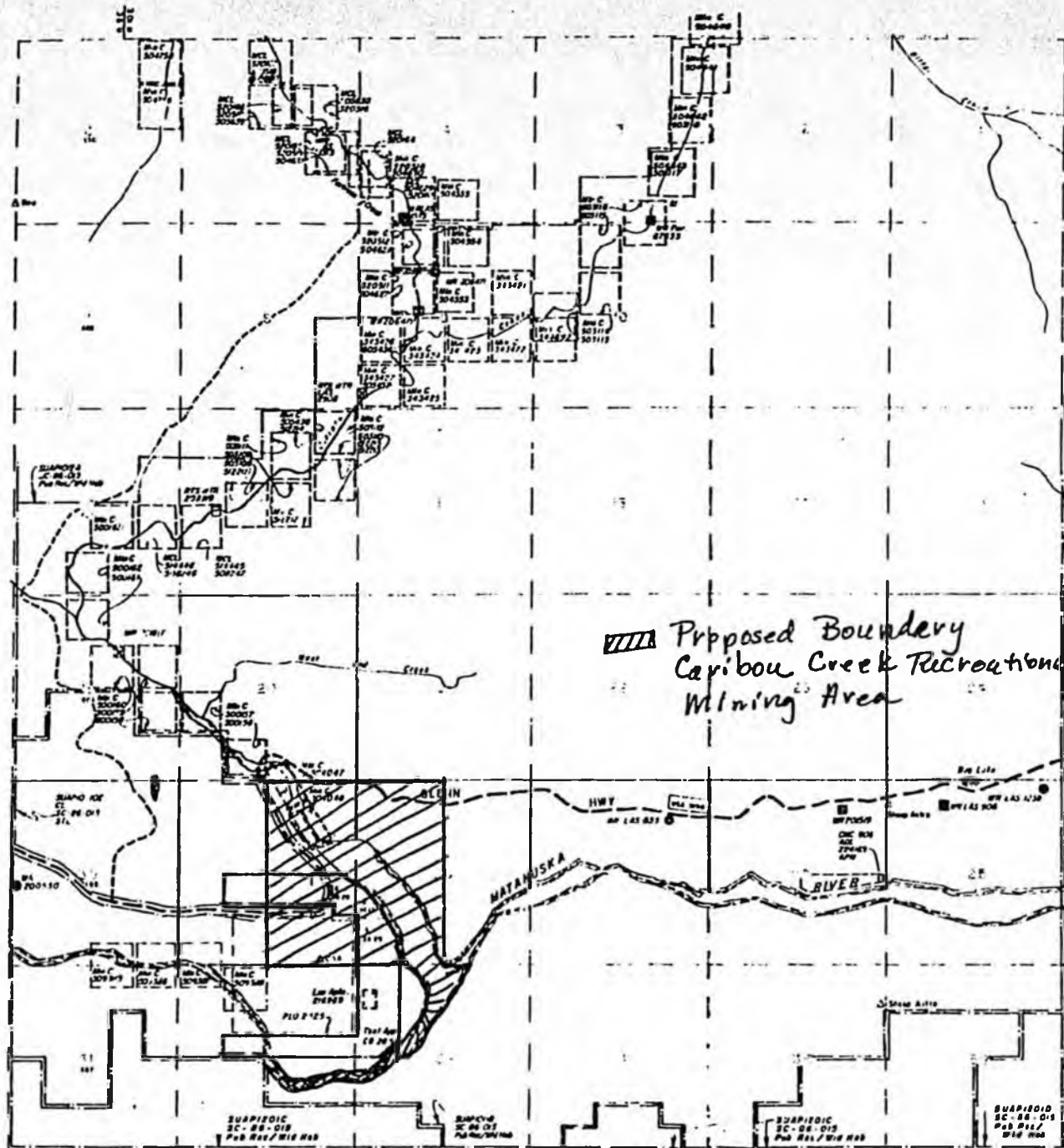
#### Contractual

telephone		75/month x 2 months		0.2
photocopy		10/month x 2 months		
advertising/public notices				<u>0.2</u>
				\$ 0.4

#### Supplies

office supplies				0.1
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TOTAL				\$12.8
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TO BE SET AS APPLICABLE TO THE  
 STATE LANDS  
 AND TO BE  
 FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
 THE STATE LANDS  
 SUBJECT TO THE

DATE: 7-6-98  
 BASED ON: 1988  
 1988

STATE OF ALASKA  
 DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
 DIVISION OF LANDS

SCALE  
 1" = 1 MILE  
 1:62,500

STATE OF ALASKA  
 DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
 DIVISION OF LANDS

MS

20 N  
 10 E  
 5 M

and PLO 1613 4/1" '95B (23 FR 2376)


*BLM Master Title Plat*

*12-2-88*


AA 6189 Easement Deed RCA 25 C/L (R) Slat 441-444)  
as to the following: Sec 24: S 1/2 SE 1/4; Sec. 25: NW 1/4,  
N 1/2 NE 1/4; Sec. 26: N 1/2; Sec. 27: N of Matanuska River;  
Sec 28: W 1/2, NE 1/4, Sec. 29: S 1/2; Sec. 30: NW 1/4, S 1/2.

\* Excl submerged Lds to be identified at time of survey

**LEGEND**

 = Pat. 50-88-0397 to State

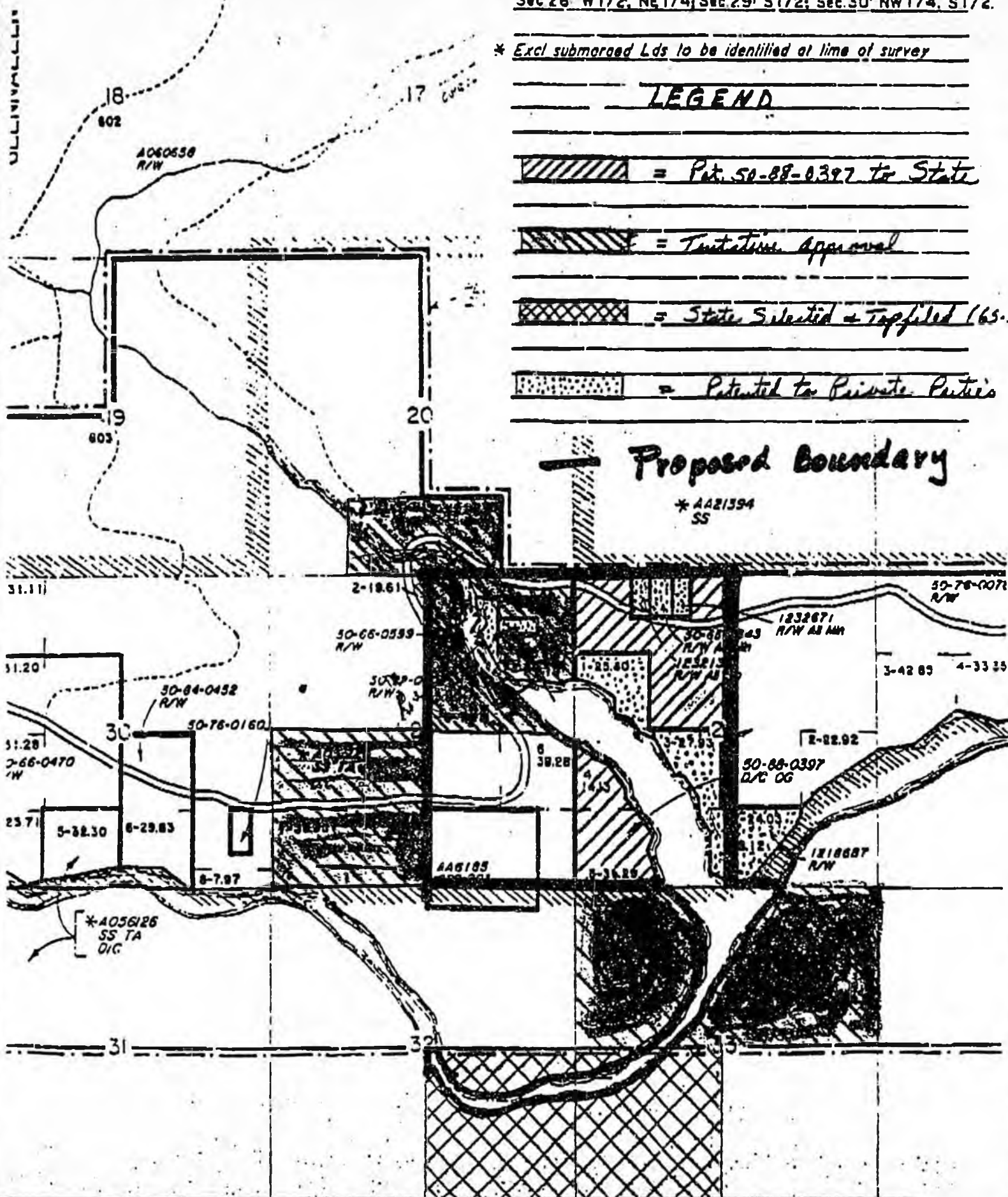
 = Tentative Approval

 = State Selected + Topfiled (65)

 = Patented to Private Parties

**Proposed Boundary**

\* 4421394  
SS



**Stream:** Caribou Creek, South Fork Matanuska River

**Location:** Eastern portion of the Matanuska Susitna Borough, Township 20N, Range 10E, Seward Meridian, Sec. 28, 32, 3.

**Access Point:** Glenn Highway, south side near Caribou Creek bridge.

**Discussion:** Caribou Creek flows southerly from the Talkeetna Mountains to its confluence with the South Fork of the Matanuska River on the south side of the Glenn Highway. Caribou Creek is one of several streams draining the western portion of the Nelchina Mining district. Caribou Creek from the Glenn Highway bridge northward into the Talkeetna Mountains is heavily staked with mining claims.

The section of stream proposed here lies south of the Glenn Highway bridge and is approximately a mile in length to its confluence with the South Fork of the Matanuska River. South of the confluence, approximately a mile and one-half of stream on the South Fork is also proposed.

Below the highway bridge, Caribou Creek forms a broad flood plain with numerous gravel bars. Large amounts of sediment is flushed through the canyon above the bridge during spring runoff replenishing the gravel bar each year. Gold is present in this drainage, although probably not in commercial quantity. Access would be off the south side of the Glenn Highway down a one lane gravel road along the east bank of Caribou Creek.

**Land Status:** This township is presently state selected.

# Recreational Mining Fun, Adventure... and GOLD!

Recreational mining is one of the more popular outdoor activities available to Alaska residents and visitors. Many areas are open to recreational miners, but there are restrictions. You will need to do some research before you go out into the field. The report on Recreational Mining in the Chugach National Forest (page 3) will give you some practical information about where to pursue recreational mining safely but it is still a starting point.

The best way to determine if any area is open for recreational mining is to contact the appropriate agencies. You must determine if and how the land management in the area affects the status of the land, and if it does, what is needed from the Department of Fish and Game.

One place to go for information is the U.S. Bureau of Mines. The local office is located at 201 E. 9th Avenue, Suite 101, Anchorage, AK 99501. The phone number is 907-271-2456. Other agencies to contact include the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Division of Geological & Geophysical Survey.

Information can also be obtained by attending prospecting classes. Steve Henschel, manager of the Mining Department at AMOS, is currently planning some mining classes for this spring. Contact AMOS for more information. Excellent classes are also offered by the University of Alaska, through the Cooperative Extension Service.

About Gold Deposits. Placer Deposits, and Gold Panning. Gold is concentrated by geologic processes to form deposits of two principal types: (primary) deposits and (secondary) deposits.

Gold deposits: the targets of "hard-rock" prospectors, occur within sand rocks. The gold was formed when minerals were

precipitated from mineralizing solutions. One hypothesis suggests the source of the solution was molten rock or magma. As the magma cooled along fractures in overlying rocks, temperatures cooled and the minerals constituents, including gold, precipitated forming veins.

Most areas likely to contain valuable gold deposits have been thoroughly explored. The increased gold prospector with little capital doesn't have much of a chance to locate new gold deposits worth discovering. Gold even if it is present in gold deposits, may not be visible. Hard-rock prospectors send samples of material from the deposit to commercial analytical labs or assay offices.

The most common type of assay is the fire assay. A weighed sample of pulverized material is melted in a mixture of four lead oxide, lead borax and silica. The lead attracts the gold, and the resulting lead-gold melt forms a button. The button is re-melted in a bone-ash crust which absorbs the lead, leaving behind a bead of gold. When the gold is weighed, a gold to rock ratio is obtained for the hard-rock prospector.

Recreational miners are usually more interested in the second type of gold deposit, the placer deposit. A placer deposit is a concentration of natural materials that has accumulated in the sediments of a stream bed or beach. Gold, freed from rock deposits by erosion, transportation, or decomposition of the enclosing rock, is carried downstream

as metallic particles—often flakes, grains or nuggets—and caught in the placer deposits.

The gold pan is the basic equipment used by recreational miners in their exploration of placer deposits. Gold panning, although it is a simple method, is not easy. Some say gold panning comes from correct procedure. Others say it just takes hours of practice. Panning involves digging material from the stream bed and filling the pan. The contents of the pan are then washed. The material is screened while the pan is submerged. The heavier material washes away, and the stones and pebbles are panned out by hand. Theoretically, the heavy gold will concentrate at the edge of the bottom of the pan. But giving step-by-step instructions for gold panning is a good learning to help the prospector in both cases, the only way to learn is by hands-on experience.



Practical, and eventually you will get it right! Other prospecting methods include using suction pumps, rockers, dredges and other placer mining equipment. Much more gravel

can be worked with some of these methods. And, contrary to popular belief, there are some easily accessible areas where dredging and similar operations are allowed. Visit AMOS for information about mining equipment available and contact the agencies discussed above to find out where you can use this equipment.

The reason you find while pursuing recreational mining is more likely to be in recre-

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Editor  
LISA FORD  
FOCUS

The ADVENTURE newsletter does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the owners or staff of Alaska Mining and Drilling Supply, Inc. Contact: 907-275-6113



## Recreational Mining in the Chugach National Forest

(Editor's Note: This information was condensed from a report put together by the United States Department of Agriculture for use by the public.)

### Mining Impact

Before you take your pan in hand or decide to dredge, STOP, consider the impact of recreational mining.

Mining can affect plants, animals, humans, and soil. The impact on streams is the most serious of all.

Silt, washed into streams and rivers during the process of separating soil and minerals, threatens the life of fish. When fish eggs are dug from spawning gravels or silt out of the oxygen supply to fish eggs, the eggs can't hatch. Adult fish and aquatic insects that hatch still have difficulty living in streams that have large amounts of silt. You, the "real miner," can take a part in reducing siltation by not washing soil and vegetative matter into the stream bed.

### Qualities

1. Panning and manual-hand stucc boats are permitted on all streams in the Forest. If you are on a legal claim, check with the claimant.
2. Use of wheel drive vehicles, trail loaders, motorcycles, and all-terrain vehicles is limited to existing roads, some trails and certain river crossing points. (Obtain copies of "ORV Zoning" from Forest Service Offices.)
3. Hydraulic mining is not permitted.
4. Earthmoving equipment such as backhoes, bulldozers, endloaders, or wheel loaders are not permitted.

5. Suction dredging is allowed only on areas less than 300 feet (91 meters) in length, and only on streams used by fish for spawning or rearing. A 100-foot ADF&G high protection dam is required to protect streams designated as "critical" or "sensitive" (designating fish for special protection or dam removal). For more information on dam requirements, please contact the ADF&G Habitat Division, 122 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99502.

Restrictions and time constraints for mining are imposed on some streams by ADF&G. Also, Chugach National Forest District Rangers may restrict certain areas to dredging or the use of dredging tools. If it is necessary to protect other natural resources, a crossing a suction dredge with 4 dammed gravels than a river. (2) If necessary, you should use a "force of 10" with the appropriate District Ranger.

6. Permanent structures such as dams or roads cannot be built.

7. Cut only dead or downed trees in an area.

8. Work only stream channels, avoiding unimpacted gravel bars.

9. Do not dig in excavated debris, debris, or remove archaeological, paleontological, or historical objects from the Forest.

### Mining Rights

As a "real miner," you are concerned about access, land issues, and most of all—where to prospect? Your primary concern is with a claim that is open for recreational mining.

Basically any area of the Chugach National Forest not staked by someone for mining or other purposes is open to recreational mining. But remember, as a recreational miner, you have a legal claim. You do not have the right to prevent others from panning for gold anywhere within the Forest. You have the right to stake your own claim, but you must record the claimant's name and equipment. You do not have the right to claim on another's claim unless the claimant grants you the privilege

### Staking a Claim

1. You desire to file a mining claim of your own and know the location of legal claims check with the Bureau of Land Management, 2000 Room 101, C Street, Box 13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513.

Where to Mine  
Where to mine is on an area to search for the gold.

### Private Concessions

Note: These are historical sites with no claims or other gold mining claims. Open mining is permitted for a fee.

- Crow Creek Mine, located near Gridwood, under special-use permit with the Forest Service.
- Mudlark Mining Museum, near Cooper Landing, under special-use permit with the Forest Service.

- Cross or Aerial
- Indian Loop, Barrow, Alaska
  - Sokolov, Sitka, Alaska
  - Seward, Anchorage, Alaska
  - Shanley, Sitka, Alaska
  - Sturges, Sitka, Alaska
  - Sumner, Sitka, Alaska
  - Taylor, Sitka, Alaska
  - Tracy, Sitka, Alaska
  - Wright, Sitka, Alaska
  - Yukon, Sitka, Alaska

The Anchorage Times

# OUTDOOR

## Recreational panning pays off in fun, gold

by Mark Skok  
Times Writer

**P**ack a gold pan with your picnic lunch if you're heading out of Anchorage today — or anytime.

It provides an excuse to stop at some waysides you would otherwise cruise past. It's also a cheap way to become part of Alaska's heritage.

Gold can be found in many of the streams accessible by the state highway system, says a man who has prospected for 30 years in Alaska. The recreational panner won't get rich, or even pay for his inexpensive equipment. But he can hope to bring home a few of the glinting flecks that drew thousands to the north country during the past 80 years, says James Madonna, owner of Alaskan Pros-

pectors and Geologists, an Anchorage mining equipment shop.

Madonna has a simple answer for those who wonder where they should pan. "The entire state, with the exception of the North Slope, is considered the gold province of Alaska."

Finding color, or gold flecks, is as simple as pulling over at a wayside and panning the gravel, he said. If the wayside is near a stream where it boils out of the mountains, the likelihood of finding gold is relatively good. The water's force can carry the heavy metal only a certain distance. Where streams slow as they cross flatlands, gold is dropped.

Robert Hoekzema, a geologist with the U.S. Bureau of Mines, suggested panners hike upstream of highways to get away from roadway

gravel washed downstream. Gold would be deposited just downstream of rapids, where the water first begins to slow. Gravel bars are good places to look, as are the gravel deposits around boulders.

Many streams do not carry noticeable amounts of gold. But, say both Madonna and Hoekzema, any areas in mountainous terrain are worth a try.

The National Park Service announced last week that recreational panning is allowed in all national parks in Alaska. Gold claim owners at Crow Creek near Girdwood, and at the Hubbard Mining Museum near Cooper Landing on the Kenai Peninsula, provide the opportunity to pan proven gold ground for a price.

"Gold panning is open everywhere but on a man's claim," Madonna said. When leaving a roadside area to pan, be aware that claims might have been staked along it. Miners can be touchy about recreational panners. The gold they take isn't a problem. Vandalism of equipment, liability and interruption of professional mining operations are problems. If you're interested in panning on a staked claim, talk to the claim holder first.

Certain basic equipment is needed to find any flecks. Pans are either dark-colored plastic or steel. Madonna recommends 14- or 16-inch steel pans. "If you throw your spare tire on top of a plastic pan, it breaks."

The dark plastic often is popular with miners because bright gold shows up more readily in it. A shiny steel pan can be blued by baking it in the oven for an hour at 350 degrees.

The edges of the pan should be rippled to keep gold flecks from sliding out when the gravel is swished by over-exuberant miners.

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

400 WILLOUGHBY AVE.  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1798  
PHONE: (907) 465-2400

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

January 23, 1988

The Honorable Curt Menard  
The Honorable Cliff Davidson  
Co-Chairs, House Resources Committee  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representatives Menard and Davidson:

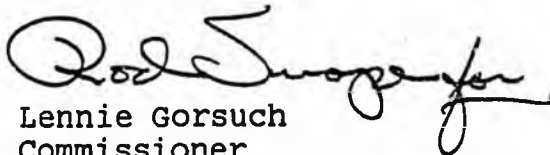
Subject: HB 78, An act establishing the Caribou Creek  
Recreational Mining Area.

Background: A recreational mining area will provide a location for recreational gold panners and suction dredges to mine as a recreation activity rather than as a commercial operation. Creation of this type of area would meet a public need. Each summer, the Mining Information Offices receive numerous inquiries about locations for such activities.

Position: The department supports the concept of recreational mining areas. However, the land ownership pattern in this particular area is very complex, and there are federal and state mining claims which would complicate the operation of recreation mining activities.

We look forward to working with the sponsor on this or an equally or more suitable site.

Sincerely,

  
Lennie Gorsuch  
Commissioner

cc: Committee Members  
Bill Sponsors  
Bob Evans  
Denby Lloyd  
Gary Gustafson  
Jerry Gallagher  
Neil Johannsen

The following amendments are requested:

Pg. 1, line 21:

Delete - "...consistent with AS 41.23.600."

Add - ...necessary to carry out the purposes of this act. Regulations may be included, but not limited to;

1. type of equipment
2. mining methods
3. other restrictions that may benefit the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area.

Pg. 1, line 28:

Delete - "...regulations of the Board of Fisheries applicable to the area of the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area, the area is open generally to recreational mining under AS 41.23.600 - 41.23.620."

Add - seasonal regulations by the Department of Fish & Game restricting activities on these water bodies, the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area is open to recreational mining.

Pg. 2, line 15:

Delete - "NW 1/4, SW 1/4"

Add - W 1/2

Pg. 2, line 16:

Delete - "SW 1/4"

Add - SE 1/4

Pg. 2, line 24:

Delete - "...board"

Add - commissioner, under authority granted in 16.05.870,

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 30-Jan-90 Agency Affected: Natural Resources  
 Title: An Act establishing the Caribou BRU: Land & Water  
Creek Recreational Mining Area.  
 Sponsor: Larson & Menard Components: Land & Water  
 Requestor: House Resources

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES	25.5	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
TRAVEL	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
CONTRACTUAL	53.2	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
SUPPLIES	5.0					
EQUIPMENT						
LAND&STRUCTURES						
GRANTS,CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	84.2	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	84.2	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	84.2	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME		1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
TEMPORARY		1.0				

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See Attached

Prepared by: Larry Ostrovsky Phone: 465-2400  
 Division: Commissioners Office Date: 30-Jan-90  
 Approved by Commissioner: Lennie Gorsuch Date: 30-Jan-90  
 Agency: Department of Natural Resources

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

This fiscal note provides in the first year for six months of a Natural Resource Officer II and 1 month of a temporary Natural Resource Technician II to develop a management plan for the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining area. The plan will involve at least two rounds of public meetings in Glacier View, Sutton/Chickaloon, Palmer and Anchorage. The public meetings will be to identify issues and to review the draft plan. The entire plan will be completed in one year. The capital money will be used to build a road pull-off and parking area and appropriate signing.

After the first year the fiscal note provides for three months of a Natural Resource Officer II to provide on the ground management and processing of necessary permits and enforcement of activities.

Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area Management Plan

Staff	6 months x NRO II (16)	=	\$ 22,500
	1 month x NRT II (12)	=	\$ 3,000
	Personal Services Sub-Total		\$ 25,500
Travel	2 x 1-day field trips =	\$ 200	(mileage + perdiem)
	2 x 3 public meetings =	\$ 300	(mileage and meals)
	Travel Sub-Total	\$ 500	
Public Meetings	2 x 4 communities =	\$ 300	rental in Anchorage, Sutton and Glacier View School
Draft brochure	200 cys @ 8 1/2" x 11", 4pp Xerox BTW	\$ 150	
Final Plan	300 cys, 25pp, BTW Xerox, 8 1/2" x 11"	\$ 750	
Misc. (especially Xerox)		\$ 500	
Ads x 2		\$ 1,500	
	Contractual Sub-Total	\$ 3,000	
	Project Sub-Total	\$29,000	

Assumptions

1. Range 16's time is spread over 8 - 10 month
2. Planing team = DLWM, DM, DFG, DOT, DEC
3. No formal advisory group (I don't know the constituency if one is needed, add \$1,000 for extra meetings and xeroxing)
4. Meetings in Glacier View, Sutton/Chickaloon, Palmer, Anchorage (this may be overkill -- if no interest after 1st round, it could be shortened)
5. 2 sets meetings: Issues and rudimentary alternates draft plan
6. Assumes legal access exists (i.e., no lengthy negotiations w/landowners)
7. This does not include implementation (i.e., vehicle pullout, nice signs, field checks, trails, etc.)

## FISCAL NOTE

**REQUEST:**

Revision Date: 1-12-90  
Title: Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area  
Sponsor: Larson and Menard  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: Dept. of Fish and Game  
BRU: Habitat  
Components: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:** (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES	15.8	4.5				
TRAVEL	1.0	1.0				
CONTRACTUAL	1.2	1.2				
SUPPLIES	0.1	0.1				
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>6.8</b>				
<b>CAPITAL</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>6.8</b>				
<b>REVENUE</b>						

**FUNDING:** (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
<b>TOTAL</b>						

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS :** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

There is not expected to be any impact on the department's FY 90 budget. Beginning in FY 91, however, issuance of a general fish habitat permit, monitoring fish returns and mining activities to determine the need for seasonal restriction, and participation in the department of Natural Resources' (DNR) development of a

Prepared by: Frank Rue Phone: 465-4105  
Division: HABITAT Date: 1/26/90

Approved by Commissioner: William W. Wilby Date: 1/26/90  
Agency: Department of Fish and Game

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

Analysis of Bill/Program Effects Cont'd

Location-specific land management plan will require the expenses identified below.

To the extent that DNR's schedule for developing areawide and location-specific land management plans requires that a plan for the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area be forestalled, the need for the planning portion of our fiscal note will be delayed commensurately.

Attachment Bill Analysis CS HB 78

FY 91

Personnel

Habitat Biologist	(18c)	3 mo.	4.5/mo.	13.5
Clerk Typist	(8a)	1 mo.	2.3/mo.	<u>2.3</u>
				15.8

Travel

Staff Travel to Caribou Creek				1.0
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Contractual

Telephone		75/mo. x 3 mo.		0.2
Charter for Fish Surveys				1.0

Supples

				<u>0.1</u>
		TOTAL		18.1

FY 92-Monitoring Fish Returns and Placer Mining

Personnel

Habitat Biologist	(18c)	1mo.	4.5	4.5
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Travel

Staff Travel to Caribou Creek				1.0
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Contractual

Telephone and Photocopy				.2
Charter for Fish Surveys				1.0

Supplies

				<u>0.1</u>
		TOTAL		6.8