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# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred: April 10, 1989

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/19/89

The FINANCE Committee considered:

SB 33

SENATE BILL NO. 33 [WILLOW MOUNTAIN CRITICAL HABITAT AREA]  
 "An Act establishing the Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area; and providing for an effective date."

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- [ ] be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] the same title
- [ ] have attached amendment(s) [ ] a new title
- [✓] 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)

- [ ] fiscal impact \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] fiscal note(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- [ ] zero fiscal note \_\_\_\_\_ [ 3 ] zero fiscal note(s) <sup>2/16/89 2/16/89 3/20/89</sup> DNE, F&G, Senate
- [ ] zero with analysis \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] zero fn/analysis \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNING DO PASS:**

[Signature] Hoffman  
[Signature] Larson  
[Signature] Swackhammer  
[Signature] Brown  
[Signature] Koponen  
[Signature] Ulmer  
[Signature] Shultz  
[Signature] Rieger

**SIGNING:**

(Check approp. column)

	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend
<u>[Signature]</u> Phillips		↓	
_____			
_____			
_____			
_____			
_____			
_____			

CO- [Signature]  
 CO- [Signature]  
 Chairman's Signature

STATE OF ALASKA  
1989 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: SB 33 (c)  
PUBLISH DATE: 3/20/89

### FISCAL NOTE

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

REVISION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE: Willow Mountain Critical  
Habitat Area  
SPONSOR: Sen. Kerttula  
REQUESTOR: Senate Finance

AGENCY: All Departments  
BRU: \_\_\_\_\_  
COMPONENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

#### EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERS. SERVICES	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTUAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND/BUILD.	0	0	0	0	0	0
GRANTS/CLAIMS	0	0	0	0	0	0
MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0

#### FUNDING: (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

GENERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

#### POSITIONS:

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

#### ANALYSIS:

PREPARED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

  
SENATOR RICK UEHLING, CO-CHAIRMAN  
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: March 20, 1989  
PHONE No.: 465-4821

## FISCAL NOTE

**REQUEST:**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency Affected: Dept. of Fish and Game  
 Title: An Act establishing the Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area BRU: Habitat  
 Sponsor: Kertzula Components: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

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

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES	0					
TRAVEL	0					
CONTRACTUAL	0					
SUPPLIES	0					
EQUIPMENT	0					
LAND & STRUCTURES	0					
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0					
MISCELLANEOUS	0					
TOTAL OPERATING	0					

CAPITAL	0					
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REVENUE	0					
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**FUNDING:** (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	0					
FEDERAL FUNDS	0					
OTHER	0					
TOTAL	0					

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME	0					
PART-TIME	0					
TEMPORARY	0					

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

Prepared by Frank Rue, Director  
 Division: Habitat

Phone: 465-4105

Date: 1/24/89

Approved by Commissioner Owen Williams  
 Agency: Department of Fish and Game

Date: 2.2.89

**Distribution (by preparer):**

Legislative Finance  
 Legislative Sponsor  
 Requestor  
 Office of Management and Budget  
 Impacted Agency(ies)

STATE OF ALASKA  
1989 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION : SB 33 (a)

PUBLISH DATE : 2/16/89

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 25-Jan-89  
Title: Willow Mountain Critical  
Habitat Area:  
Sponsor: Kertulla  
Requester: Senate Resources

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

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND&STRUCTURES						
GRANTS.CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0.0					

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Larry Ostrovsky Phone: 465-2400  
Division: Commissioners Office Date: 25-Jan-89  
Approved by Commissioner: Lennie Gorsuch Date: 25-Jan-89  
Agency: Department of Natural Resources

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

1 IN THE SENATE

BY KERTTULA

2

SENATE BILL NO. 33

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Willow Mountain Critical  
7 Habitat Area; and providing for an effective date."

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

9 \* Section 1. PURPOSE. The Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area is  
10 established to

11 (1) protect the area's exceptional fish and wildlife habitats  
12 and populations;

13 (2) ensure that the area will be managed primarily to maintain  
14 the productivity of the habitat for moose and will provide opportunities  
15 for hunting, trapping, and other dispersed recreational activities.

16 \* Sec. 2. AS 16.20 is amended by adding a new section to read:

17 Sec. 16.20.620. WILLOW MOUNTAIN CRITICAL HABITAT AREA ESTAB-  
18 LISHED. (a) The following described area is established as the  
19 Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area:

20 (1) Township 20 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian  
21 Section 7

22 Sections 18 - 19

23 (2) Township 20 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian  
24 Sections 1 - 2

25 Sections 11 - 14

26 Sections 23 - 24

27 (3) Township 21 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian  
28 Sections 4 - 7

29 Section 18: W1/2

1                   (4) Township 21 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

2                   Section 1

3                   Sections 11 - 14

4                   Sections 23 - 26

5                   Sections 35 - 36

6                   (5) Township 22 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian

7                   Sections 19 - 21

8                   Sections 28 - 33.

9                   (b) Notwithstanding AS 16.20.510 - 16.20.530, the commissioner  
10 of fish and game, in consultation with the commissioner of natural  
11 resources, shall prepare a management plan for the Willow Mountain  
12 Critical Habitat Area. The commissioner of fish and game and the  
13 commissioner of natural resources shall exercise their respective  
14 authorities over the area in a manner consistent with the management  
15 plan.

16               \* Sec. 3. Until a management plan is developed under AS 16.20.620(b),  
17 enacted by sec. 2 of this Act, management decisions for the Willow Mountain  
18 Critical Habitat Area must reflect the intent of the Willow Mountain Sub-  
19 unit of the Hatcher Pass Management Plan adopted in October, 1986.

20               \* Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).



STATE OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
BILL ANALYSIS

DEPARTMENT <b>FISH &amp; GAME</b>	DIVISION <b>Habitat</b>	BILL NUMBER <b>SB163</b>	SPONSOR <b>Senator Kerttula</b>
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DEPARTMENT POSITION  
**Fdvar.**

PREPARED BY <b>HABITAT DIVISION</b>	DATE <b>3/10/87</b>	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE <i>(Signature)</i>	DATE <b>3-17-87</b>
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SUMMARY

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL <b>DEPARTMENT of Natural Resources</b>	CONSTITUENT GROUP(S) AFFECTED BY BILL <b>Hunting, fishing, trapping, recreational interests, Palmer/Wasilla area residents</b>
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL <b>Matanuska-Susitna Borough Department of Natural Resources Environmental Organizations</b>	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL <b>None known</b>

FISCAL IMPACT       NONE       FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT  
 The purpose of establishing Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area is to protect and preserve the habitat that is most crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife populations, especially moose.

RESULTS OF BILL PROGRAM EFFECTS  
 The bill establishes Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area. It provides for the management of the area under the State Critical Habitat Area program. It establishes the purpose for which the area is to be managed and ensures protection of essential moose habitat.

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

ALASKA DEPT. OF  
FISH & GAME  
  
MAR 20 1987  
  
REGION IV  
HABITAT DIVISION

# DRAFT

MOOSE SURVEY: PETERS CREEK TO LITTLE WILLOW CREEK (WILLOW MOUNTAIN, portion of GMU 148)

DATE	HM	SH	FO	FI	F2	LC	CPTS					%M	%F	%C	SM/M	%F2	C/100F	LM/100F
							H	F	C	AD	TH							
04-Oct-85	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	3	1	4	5	20.0	60.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	33.3	33.3
17-Oct-85	13	0	83	26	0	0	13	109	26	122	148	8.0	73.6	17.6	0.0	0.0	23.9	11.9
08-Nov-85	56	5	158	20	2	0	61	180	24	241	265	23.0	67.9	9.1	8.2	9.1	13.3	31.1
18-Nov-85	59	22	160	12	1	0	81	173	14	254	268	30.2	64.6	5.2	27.2	7.7	8.1	34.1
03-Dec-85	53	17	184	27	1	1	70	212	30	282	312	22.4	67.9	9.6	24.3	3.6	14.2	25.0
28-Feb-86	0	0	147	7	1	0	0	155	9	155	164	0.0	94.5	5.5	0.0	12.5	5.8	0.0
31-Mar-86	0	0	111	5	0	0	0	116	5	116	121	0.0	95.9	4.1	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.0
17-Apr-86	0	2	51	3	0	0	2	54	3	56	59	3.4	91.5	5.1	100.0	0.0	5.6	0.0
26-Nov-86	91	17	195	87	5	0	108	287	97	395	492	22.0	58.3	19.7	15.7	5.4	33.8	31.7
24-Dec-86	4	2	35	1	0	0	6	36	1	42	43	14.0	83.7	2.3	33.3	0.0	2.8	11.1
15-Jan-87	0	0	7	4	0	0	0	11	4	11	15	0.0	73.3	26.7	0.0	0.0	36.4	0.0
02-Mar-87	0	0	8	3	0	1	0	11	4	11	15	0.0	73.3	26.7	0.0	0.0	36.4	0.0
02-Nov-87	66	17	146	30	2	1	83	178	35	261	296	28.0	60.1	11.8	20.5	6.3	19.7	37.1
17-Nov-87	67	24	131	27	0	1	91	158	28	249	277	32.9	57.0	10.1	24.4	0.0	17.7	42.4
04-Dec-87	41	19	123	25	0	0	60	148	25	208	233	25.8	63.5	10.7	31.7	0.0	16.9	27.7
21-Dec-87	18	7	107	9	0	0	25	116	9	141	150	16.7	77.3	6.0	28.0	0.0	7.8	15.5
12-Jan-88	0	0	48	6	0	0	0	54	6	54	60	0.0	90.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	11.1	0.0
28-Jan-88	0	0	45	3	0	1	0	48	4	48	52	0.0	92.3	7.7	0.0	0.0	8.3	0.0
27-Mar-88	0	0	28	6	0	0	0	34	6	34	40	0.0	85.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	17.6	0.0
13-Oct-88	36	6	109	20	1	0	42	130	22	172	194	21.6	67.0	11.3	14.3	4.8	16.9	27.7
28-Oct-88	72	42	213	62	1	1	114	276	65	390	455	25.1	60.7	14.3	36.8	1.6	23.6	26.1
15-Nov-88	61	29	163	37	1	0	90	201	39	291	330	27.3	60.9	11.8	32.2	2.6	19.4	30.3
05-Dec-88	24	11	39	14	1	0	35	54	16	89	105	33.3	51.4	15.2	31.4	6.7	29.6	44.4
23-Dec-88	5	4	47	16	0	0	2	63	16	72	88	10.2	71.6	18.2	44.4	0.0	25.4	7.9
15-Jan-89	1	0	41	5	0	1	1	46	6	47	53	1.9	86.8	11.3	0.0	0.0	13.0	2.2

1-18-89

4



# Matanuska-Susitna Borough

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

BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

February 5, 1987

Jan Faiks, Senate President  
State of Alaska  
Pouch V  
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area

Dear Senator Faiks:

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly voted unanimously on February 3, 1987 to approve and endorse legislation to create the Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area (approximately 23,000 acres) and to express concern for ensuring that the management intent of the area stays in-tact as described in the Hatcher Pass Management Plan.

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

Sincerely,

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

DJ/cls  
Enclosure

cc: Commissioner, Dept. of Fish & Game  
Senators Kerttula & Szymanski  
Representatives Larson & Menard  
✓ Jack Didrickson 7:5-5015



ALASKA FRONTIER TRAPPERS ASSN. :  
P.O. BOX 2856  
PALMER, ALASKA 99645 □ (907) <sup>757 6-702-5</sup> ~~745-4660~~

5 October 1985

Dear Sandra,

The Alaska Frontier Trappers Ass. would like to propose that all lands in the Hatcher Pass Management Plan that are 3000 feet elevation or lower and within the following: T19N,R1W T19N,R2W T19N,R1E T20N,R1W T20N,R2W T21N,R1W T21N,R2W T22N,R1W T22N,R2W; be designated as critical wildlife habitat. This area represents the major habitat area for moose and other wildlife left undeveloped in the lower Susitna Basin. Primary consideration should be for protection, and/or enhancement of the habitat area. This was also mentioned in the draft plan for the Willow Sub Basin (1981) in areas 1B, 15A, and 21.

Recreation values are high for both consumptive and non-consumptive users primarily due to its non-development. Most current uses are compatible within this environment. We feel that development of this area would not be compatible with wildlife habitat.

Lets maintain this area with its primary function as wildlife habitat. We also feel that Fish and Game should have primary control in decisions affecting this area. They have the needed expertise in Wildlife Management.

Michael Peryam  
Director, A.F.T.A.



JA

# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

## ALASKA CHAPTER

800 Fritz Cove Road  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

JUN 11 1966



Margaret Hayes, Regional Manager  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Land and Water Management  
Southcentral Region  
3601 C Street  
Box 7-005  
Anchorage, AK 99510-7005

RECEIVED  
JUN 12 1966  
Southcentral  
Regional Office  
Div. of Natural  
Resources

Dear Ms. Hayes:

This is to transmit the recommendations of the Alaska chapter of The Wildlife Society with regard to the draft Hatcher Pass Management Plan.

Despite the lateness of our response I am hopeful that our recommendations will be given full consideration. I would have appreciated having more time to prepare a written response but certainly understand the need to complete the plan according to schedule.

The Wildlife Society is an international organization of wildlife professionals dedicated to the wise use of fish and wildlife resources. It is the Society's intent to provide the best possible scientific information and recommendations regarding the use, development and management of natural resources. In that context I would like to provide the following specific comments and recommendations on the draft plan:

(1) The Willow Mountain Planning Area is an extremely valuable area for moose and several other big game species. Moose population estimates for the area are in the 1,500 to 2,000 range—one of the densest moose concentrations anywhere in the state. The Government Peak and Hillside Planning Areas also contain large populations of moose, estimated to range from 500 to 700 animals. The importance of these areas can not be overstated given the increasing loss of similar habitat to development in the Matanuska - Susitna Valley. The recreational value of these areas to moose hunters is also important and is expected to increase given the dense concentrations of animals and the close proximity of the area to human population centers.

### RECOMMENDATION-

The entire Willow Mountain Planning Area should be designated as a Game Refuge or Critical Habitat Area for moose, brown and black bear, and furbearers. The Department of Fish and Game should play a major role in managing development of the ~~Government Peak and Hillside Planning Areas.~~

(2) The potential may exist for vastly enhancing portions of the Hatcher Pass Management Area for moose populations. This would serve to increase the recreational use of the area and also allow for the planned harvest of timber or other forest products. Such a harvest could be conducted in coordination with moose habitat enhancement efforts.

RECOMMENDATION-

The Department of Fish and Game should have the option to conduct habitat enhancement projects in the Hatcher Pass Management Area as deemed necessary by the Department.

(3) Harvest of moose in the Willow Mountain Planning Area will be greatly curtailed if motorized access is prohibited. This is primarily due to the fact that the location of harvest is often too remote from the existing road system to allow recovery of the animal without the aid of an off-road vehicle. Given the capacity of moose populations to fluctuate greatly in numbers depending on range conditions, weather and other factors it would be wise to retain the option of artificially reducing moose numbers through a controlled harvest. Such capacity would be impaired by a restriction on motorized access in the Willow Mountain Planning Area.

RECOMMENDATION-

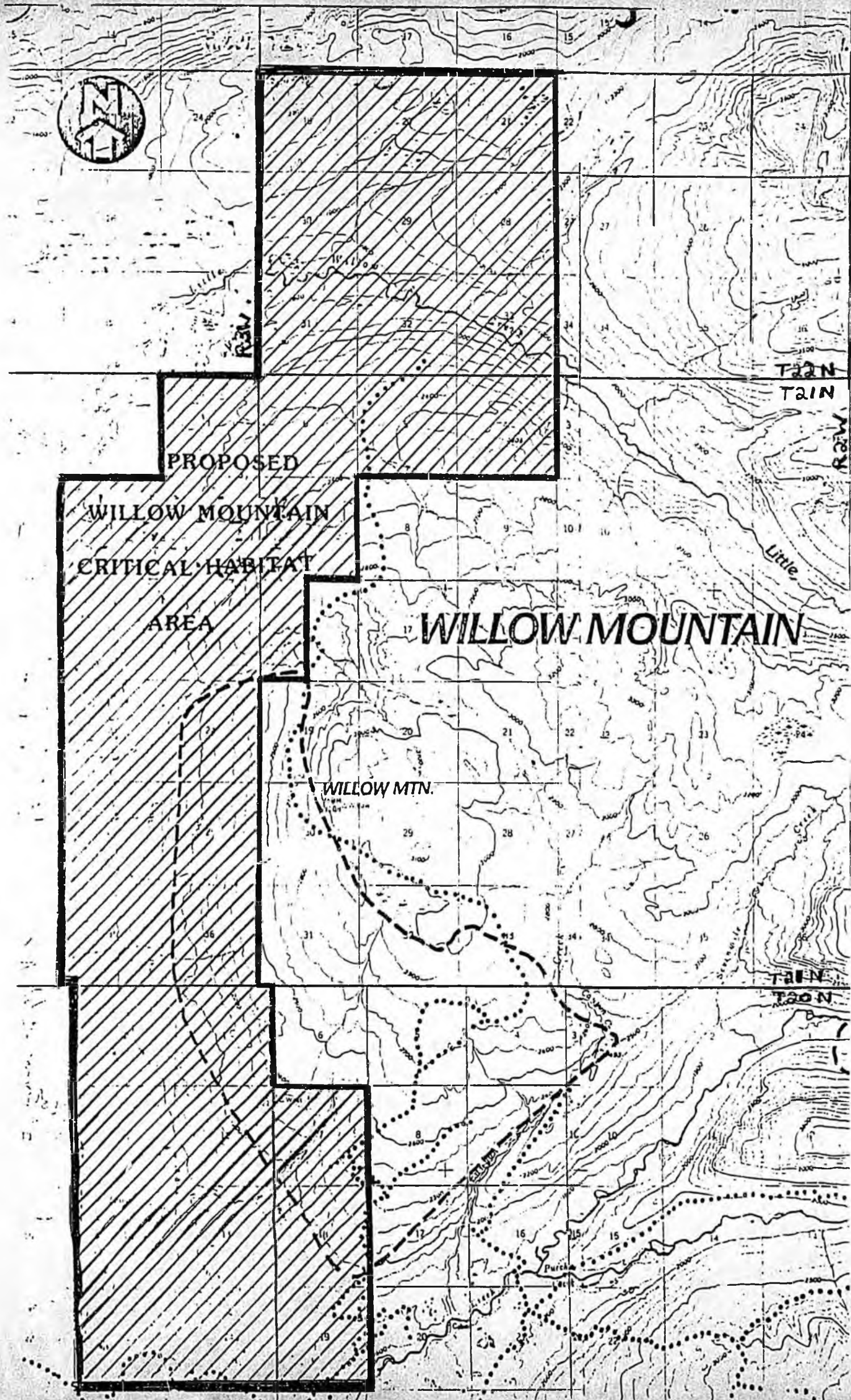
Motorized access should be allowed for the the sole purpose of retrieving downed big game in the Willow Mountain Planning Area and elsewhere, as is deemed necessary by the Department of Fish and Game. Access outside the hunting season should not be allowed.

The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Hatcher Pass Management Plan. If you have any questions on our recommendations please feel free to contact the Southcentral Alaska representative of The Wildlife Society (Jon Andrew) at 786-3437.

Sincerely

John Schoen, President

(for) Jonathan Andrew



PROPOSED

WILLOW MOUNTAIN  
CRITICAL HABITAT  
AREA

WILLOW MOUNTAIN

WILLOW MTN.

T22N

T21N

T20N

T20N