

S B

430

FILE 1

STATE OF ALASKA
1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION: CSSB 430 3/15/90

PUBLISH DATE: _____

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
 Title: Susitna Area Plan Update
CSSB 430
 Sponsor: Sen. Szymanski
 Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: DNR
 BRU: Land & Water Mgmt.
 Component: Land & Water Mgmt.

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES	137.9	137.9	99.6			
TRAVEL	2.0	2.0	2.0			
CONTRACTUAL	33.4	33.9	21.9			
SUPPLIES	3.0	3.0	3.0			
EQUIPMENT	5.0					
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	181.3	176.8	126.5			
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	3	3	1			
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY	1	1	3			

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

SEE ATTACHED

Prepared by: Ron Swanson Phone: 762-2680
 Division: DLWM Date: 3-13-90
 Approved by Commissioner: [Signature] Date: 3/15/90
 Agency: _____

Distribution (by preparer):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor

ANALYSIS

Background

1. Update will combine Susitna and Willow Subbasin area plans.
2. Area includes original land in area plans minus land in the Beluga Subregion within the Kenai Peninsula Borough that will be included in the Kenai Area Plan. Land within management plans that are completed or in progress will not be addressed by the area plan except for regional (Chapter 2) guidelines that apply to the management planning areas. Management plans cover Hatcher Pass, Matanuska Valley Moose Range, state refuges, state parks and recreation areas, state recreation rivers, Deception Creek, and Kashwitna. This proposal assumes a plan will be in progress for the Willow Mt. Critical Habitat Area.

This proposal assumes that legislative designations will not be in place, nor management plans mandated for Jim-Swan Lakes Recreation Area, Susitna State Forest, Chelonus Public Use Area, SB 430, or other new areas prior to the update.

3. The update will do more detailed planning in the Knik Glacier-Jim-Swan Lakes and Susitna Corridor areas. The Susitna Corridor work will fulfill the requirement for a management plan.

Staffing

1. All positions are step A. Estimates include benefits but not merit increases.
2. Planning staff include 1 range 18, 1 range 16, 1 range 14, and 1/3 range 8 clerk. If the Susitna State Forest bill passes and sets up a separate management planning process, the range 14 can be changed to a 1/2-time 14 or a tech position.

Travel

Travel includes per diem for overnight stays during public meetings in Talkeetna, Trapper Creek, Glacier View, and Lake Louise. One trip per year to Juneau for legislative briefings also is included.

Contractual

1. This estimate assumes the legislature will direct consideration of roadless areas. If this alternative is considered, a statistical public attitude survey will be required. \$10,000 is included for a public attitude survey during the public review of alternatives.
2. This estimate assumes the legislature will require a study of recreation and tourism. Absent more detail on the questions to be addressed by this study, it is estimated that \$25,000 will be needed to contract for this study.
3. Printing costs include an introductory brochure and resource assessment in FY91, an agency review draft, public review draft, and summary brochure in FY 92; and the final plan and summary review draft in FY 93. The plans will encompass both the Willow and SAP plans and may require two volumes.

4. Transportation costs include milcage to Palmer-Wasilla for public meetings and planning team meetings, and to Willow, Talkeetna, Trapper Creek, Glacier View, Sutton, and Lake Louise for public meetings. Air charter costs are included for public meetings in Skwentna, and for overflights to the Susitna valley, Matanuska valley, and Knik valley.

Equipment

Desks, chairs, and computer equipment.

Miscellaneous and Supplies

Xeroxing, newsletters, rental for public meeting rooms, mylar, graphic supplies, airphotos, etc.

Position Title Natural Resource Manager I		No. of Positions 1	Range/Step 18/A	Barg. Unit GGU
Time Status Full	Staff Months 12	Location Anchorage		Election District
Type of Expenditure		Amount		
1	2	3		
Salary*	37.4	////////////////////		
Benefits*	12.3	////////////////////		
Premium Pay (Included in Above)	////////////////////	////////////////////		
Other	////////////////////	////////////////////		
Total Personal Services	////////////////////	49.7		
Travel		1.0		
Contractual		1.4		
Commodities		0.5		
Equipment				
Other				
Total Cost		52.6		
Funding Source for Total Cost				
Federal Receipts	1002			
G.F. Match	1003			
General Fund	1004			
Program Receipts/GF	1005	52.6		
I-A Receipts	1007			
CIP Receipts	1061			
Other				
* Personal Services Salary and Benefits Costs are from PACS.				

Justification

Background

1. Update will combine Susitna and Willow Subbasin area plans.

2. Area includes original land in area plans minus land in the Beluga Subregion within the Kenai Peninsula Borough that will be included in the Kenai Area Plan. Land within management plans that are completed or in progress will not be addressed by the area plans except for regional (Chapter 2) guidelines that apply to the management planning areas. Management plans cover Hatch Pass, Matanuska Valley Moose Range, state refuges, state parks and recreation areas state recreation rivers, Deception Creek, and Kachwitna. This proposal assumes a plan will be in progress for the Willow Mt. Critical Habitat Area.

This proposal assumes that legislative designations will not be in plan, nor management plans mandated for Jim-Swan Lakes Recreational Area, Susitna State Forest, Chelstna Public Use Area, SR 430 or other new areas prior to the update.

3. The update will do more detailed planning in the Knik Glacier-Jim-Swan Lakes and Susitna Corridor areas. The Susitna Corridor work will fulfill the requirement for a management plan.

5. The update will do more detailed planning in the Knik Glacier-Jim-Swan Lakes and Susitna Corridor areas. The Susitna Corridor areas. The Susitna Corridor work will fulfill the requirement for a management plan.

Staffing

1. Planning staff include 1 range 18, 1 range 16, 1 range 14, and 1/3 range 8 clerk. If the Susitna State Forest bill passes and sets up a separate management planning process, the range 8 can be changed to 1/2-time or a tech position.

2. This position will be the project manager.

**REQUEST FOR
NEW POSITION**

AGENCY Natural Resources
 BRU Land & Water Mgmt
 COMPONENT Land & Water Mgmt

Page 4 of 7
 Revised Date 3-13-90

FY 91

Position Title Natural Resource Officer II			No. of Positions 1	Range/Step 16/A	Org. Unit GGU
Time Status Full	Staff Months 12		Location Anchorage		Election District
Type of Expenditure			Amount		
1	2	3			
Salary*	32.4	//////////			
Benefits*	10.7	//////////			
Premium Pay (Included in Above)	//////////	//////////			
Other	//////////	//////////			
Total Personal Services	//////////	43.1			
Travel		0.5			
Contractual		1.0			
Commodities		0.5			
Equipment					
Other					
Total Cost		45.1			
Funding Source for Total Cost					
Federal Receipts	1002				
S.F. Match	1003				
General Fund	1004	45.1			
Program Receipts/GF	1005				
I-A Receipts	1007				
CIP Receipts	1061				
Other					
* Personal Services salary and Benefits Costs are from PACS.					

Justification
Recharge

- Update will combine Susitna and Willow Subbasin area plans.
- Area includes original land in area plans minus land in the Refuge Subregion within the Kenai Peninsula Borough that will be included in the Kenai Area Plan. Land within management plans that are completed or in progress will not be addressed by the area plan except for regional Chapter 2) guidelines that apply to the management planning areas. Management plans cover Hatch Pass, Matanuska Valley Moose Range, state refuges, state parks and recreation areas, state recreation rivers, Deception Creek, and Kamikritna. This proposal assumes a plan will be in progress for the Willow Mt. Critical Habitat Area.

This proposal assumes that legislative designations will not be in plan, nor management plans mandated for Jim-Swan Lakes Recreation Area, Susitna State Forest, Chelstna Public Use Area, SB 430 or other new areas prior to the update.3.The update will do more detailed planning in the Knik Glacier-Jim-Swan Lakes and Susitna Corridor areas. The Susitna Corridor work will fulfill the requirement for a management plan.
- The update will do more detailed planning in the Knik Glacier-Jim-Swan Lakes and Susitna Corridor areas. The Susitna Corridor work will fulfill the requirement for a management plan.

Staffing

- Planning staff include 1 range 18, 1 range 16, 1 range 14, and 1/3 range 8 clerk. If the Susitna State Forest bill passes and sets up a separate management planning process, the range 16 can be changed to 1/2-time 14 or a tech position.

**REQUEST FOR
NEW POSITION**

AGENCY Natural Resources
 BRU Land & Water Mgmt.
 COMPONENT Land & Water Mgmt.

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 Revised Date 3-13-90

FY 91

Position Title Natural Resource Office - 1			No. of Positions 1	Range/Step 14/A	Barg. Unit GGU
Time Status Full	Staff Months 12		Location Anchorage		Election District
Type of Expenditure			Justification Background		
		Amount			
1	2	3	1. Update will combine Susitna and Willow Subbasin area plans.		
Salary*	28.2	////////////////////	2. Area includes original land in area plans <u>plus</u> land in the Beluga Subregion within the Kenai Peninsula Borough that will be included in the Kenai Area Plan. Land within management plans that are completed or in progress will not be addressed by the area plan except for regional Chapter 2) guidelines that apply to the management planning areas. Management plans cover Hatch Pass, Macaraska Valley Moose Range, state refuges, state parks and recreation areas, state recreation rivers, Deception Creek, and Kachitna. This proposal assumes a plan will be in progress for the Willow Mt. Critical Habitat Area.		
Benefits*	9.3	////////////////////	This proposal assumes that legislative designations will not be in plan, nor management plans mandated for Jim-Swan Lakes Recreation Area, Susitna State Forest, Chelatna Public Use Area, SB 650 or other new areas prior to the update.3.The update will do more detailed planning in the Knik Glacier-Jim-Swan Lakes and Susitna Corridor areas. The Susitna Corridor work will fulfill the requirement for a management plan.		
Premium Pay (Included in Above)	////////////////////	////////////////////	3. The update will do more detailed planning in the Knik Glacier-Jim-Swan Lakes and Susitna Corridor areas. The Susitna Corridor work will fulfill the requirement for a management plan.		
Other	////////////////////	////////////////////			
Total Personal Services	////////////////////	37.5			
Travel		0.5			
Contractual		1.0			
Commodities		0.5			
Equipment					
Other					
Total Cost		39.5			
Funding Source for Total Cost					
Federal Receipts	1002				
G.F. Match	1003				
General Fund	1004	39.5			
Program Receipts/GF	1005				
I-A Receipts	1007				
CIP Receipts	1061				
Other					
* Personal Services Salary and Benefits Costs are from PACS.			Staffing		
			1. Planning staff include 1 range 18, 1 range 16, 1 range 14, and 1/3 range 8 clerk. If the Susitna State Forest bill passes and sets up a separate management planning process, the range 14 can be changed to 1/2-time 14 or a tech position.		

REQUEST FOR
NEW POSITION

AGENCY Natural Resources
BRU Land & Water Mgmt.
COMPONENT Land & Water Mgmt.

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Revised Date 3-13-90

FY 91

Position Title Clerk Typist III			No. of Positions 1	Range/Step 8/A	Barg. Unit GGU
Time Status Part	Staff Months 4		Location Anchorage		Election District
Type of Expenditure			Justification <u>Background</u>		
1	2	3	<p>1. Update will combine Susitna and Willow Subbasin area plans.</p> <p>2. Area includes original land in area plans <u>plus</u> land in the Seluga Subregion within the Kenai Peninsula Borough that will be included in the Kenai Area Plan. Land within management plans that are completed or in progress will not be addressed by the area plan except for regional Chapter 2) guidelines that apply to the management planning areas. Management plans cover Hatch Pass, Matanuska Valley Moose Range, state refuges, state parks and recreation areas, state recreation rivers, Deception Creek, and Kasikulta. This proposal assumes a plan will be in progress for the Willow Mt. Critical Habitat Area.</p> <p>This proposal assumes that legislative designations will not be in plan, nor management plans mandated for Jim-Swan Lakes Recreation Area, Susitna State Forest, Chelatna Public Use Area, SB 430 or other new areas prior to the update.3.The update will do more detailed planning in the Knik Glacier-Jim-Swan Lakes and Susitna Corridor areas. The Susitna Corridor work will fulfill the requirement for a management plan.</p> <p>3. The update will do more detailed planning in the Knik Glacier-Jim-Swan Lakes and Susitna Corridor areas. The Susitna Corridor areas. The Susitna Corridor work will fulfill the requirement for a management plan.</p> <p><u>Staffing</u></p> <p>1. Planning staff include 1 range 18, 1 range 16, 1 range 14, and 1/3 range 8 clerk. If the Susitna State Forest bill passes and sets up a separate management planning process, the range 14 can be changed to 1/2-time 1/2 or a tech position.</p>		
Salary*	6.5	//////////			
Benefits*	1.1	//////////			
Premium Pay (Included in Above)	//////////	//////////			
Other	//////////	//////////			
Total Personal Services	//////////	7.6			
Travel		0			
Contractual		0			
Commodities		0.5			
Equipment					
Other					
Total Cost		8.1			
Funding Source for Total Cost					
Federal Receipts	1002				
G.F. Match	1003				
General Fund	1004	8.1			
Program Receipts/GF	1005				
I-A Receipts	1007				
CIP Receipts	1061				
Other					
* Personal Services Salary and Benefits Costs are from PACS.					

REQUEST FOR
NEW POSITION

AGENCY Natural Resources
 BRU Land & Water Mgmt.
 COMPONENT Land & Water Mgmt.

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 Revised Date 3-13-90

FY 91

Position Title Natural Resource Officer I		No. of Positions 1	Range/Step 14/A	Barg. Unit GGU
Time Status Full	Staff Months 12	Location Anchorage		Election District
Type of Expenditure		Amount		
1	2	3		
Salary*	28.2	////////////////////		
Benefits*	9.3	////////////////////		
Premium Pay (Included in Above)	////////////////////	////////////////////		
Other	////////////////////	////////////////////		
Total Personal Services	////////////////////	37.5		
Travel		0.5		
Contractual		1.0		
Commodities		0.5		
Equipment				
Other				
Total Cost		39.5		
Funding Source for Total Cost				
Federal Receipts	1002			
G.F. Match	1003			
General Fund	1004	39.5		
Program Receipts/GF	1005			
I-A Receipts	1007			
CIP Receipts	1061			
Other				
* Personal Services Salary and Benefits Costs are from PACS.				

Justification
Background

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2. Area includes original land in area plans plus land in the Beluga Subregion within the Kenai Peninsula Borough that will be included in the Kenai Area Plan. Land within management plans that are completed or in progress will not be addressed by the area plan except for regional Chapter 2) guidelines that apply to the management planning areas. Management plans cover Hatch Pass, Matanuska Valley Moosa Range, state refuges, state parks and recreation areas, state recreation rivers, Deception Creek, and Kashwitna. This proposal assumes a plan will be in progress for the Willow Mt. Critical Habitat Area.

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Staffing

1. Planning staff include 1 range 18, 1 range 16, 1 range 14, and 1/3 range 8 clerk. If the Susitna State Forest bill passes and sets up a separate management planning process, the range 14 can be changed to 1/2-time 14 or a tech position.

REQUEST FOR
NEW POSITION

AGENCY Natural Resources
BRU Land & Water Mgmt.
COMPONENT Land & Water Mgmt.

Page 6 of 7
Revised Date 3-13-90

FY 91

Position Title Clerk Typist III		No. of Positions 1	Range/Step 8/A	Barg. Unit GGU
Time Status Part	Staff Months 4	Location Anchorage		Election District
Type of Expenditure		Justification <u>Background</u>		
		1. Update will combine Susitna and Hill Creek Subbasin area plans.		
		2. Area includes original land in area plans plus land in the Beluga Subregion within the Kenai Peninsula Borough that will be included in the Kenai Area Plan. Land within management plans that are completed or in progress will not be addressed by the area plan except for regional Chapter 2) guidelines that apply to the management planning areas. Management plans cover Hatch Pass, Katanaska Valley Moose Range, state refuges, state parks and recreation areas, state recreation rivers, Deception Creek, and Kashwitna. This proposal assumes a plan will be in progress for the Willow Mt. Critical Habitat Area.		
		This proposal assumes that legislative designations will not be in plan, nor management plans mandated for Jim-Swan Lakes Recreation Area, Susitna State Forest, Chelatna Public Use Area, SB 430 or other new areas prior to the update.3.The update will do more detailed planning in the Knik Glacier-Jim-Swan Lakes and Susitna Corridor areas. The Susitna Corridor work will fulfill the requirement for a management plan.		
		3. The update will do more detailed planning in the Knik Glacier-Jim-Swan Lakes and Susitna Corridor areas. The Susitna Corridor work will fulfill the requirement for a management plan.		
		<u>Staffing</u>		
		1. Planning staff include 1 range 18, 1 range 16, 1 range 14, and 1/3 range 8 clerk. If the Susitna State Forest bill passes and sets up a separate management planning process, the range 14 can be changed to 1/2-time 14 or a tech position.		
Amount				
1	2	3		
Salary*	6.5	////////////////////		
Benefits*	1.1	////////////////////		
Premium Pay (Included in Above)		////////////////////		
Other		////////////////////		
Total Personal Services		7.6		
Travel		0		
Contractual		0		
Commodities		0.5		
Equipment				
Other				
Total Cost		8.1		
Funding Source for Total Cost				
Federal Receipts	1002			
G.F. Match	1003			
General Fund	1004	8.1		
Program Receipts/GF	1005			
T-A Receipts	1007			
CIP Receipts	1061			
Other				
* Personal Services Salary and Benefits Costs are from PACS.				

REQUEST FOR
NEW POSITION

AGENCY Natural Resources
BRU Land & Water Mgmt,
COMPONENT Land & Water Mgmt.

Page 7 of 7
Revised Date 3-13-90

FY 91

Original sponsor(s): SEN. RODEY

IN THE SENATE

BY THE C&RA COMMITTEE

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 430 (C&RA)
 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to state land management generally and within the Susitna Valley."

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

* Section 1. AS 38.04.910(5) is amended to read:

(5) "multiple use" means the management of state land and its various resource values so that it is used in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the people of the state [ALASKA], making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; it includes

(A) the use of some land for less than all of the resources, and

(B) a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the short-term and long-term needs of present and future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, remote recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, roadless areas, and natural scenic, scientific, and historic values;

* Sec. 2. REVIEW OF SUSITNA AREA PLAN. (a) The commissioner of natural resources shall undertake and complete the review of the Susitna area plan within three years from the effective date of this Act.

(b) In the review of the Susitna area plan, the commissioner of

natural resources shall consider remote recreation and the designation of roadless areas and shall contract for an independent economic survey of tourism, recreation, including both remote recreation and site-specific recreation, within the area described by the Susitna area plan. The independent economic survey may not be conducted by an agency supervised by the governor or by an officer supervised by the principal executive officer of a department but may be conducted by an agency such as the Institute of Social and Economic Research of the University of Alaska.

(c) The commissioner shall submit the revised Susitna area plan to the presiding officers of each house of the legislature on its completion.

6-1800E
Bradley
3/14/90

Original sponsor(s): SEN. RODEY

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE C&RA COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 430 (C&RA)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to state land management generally
7 and within the Susitna Valley."

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

9 * Section 1. AS 38.04.910(5) is amended to read:

10 (5) "multiple use" means the management of state land and
11 its various resource values so that it is used in the combination that
12 will best meet the present and future needs of the people of the state
13 [ALASKA], making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of
14 these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide
15 sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to
16 changing needs and conditions; it includes

17 (A) the use of some land for less than all of the
18 resources, and

19 (B) a combination of balanced and diverse resource
20 uses that takes into account the short-term and long-term needs
21 of present and future generations for renewable and nonrenewable
22 resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, remote
23 recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and
24 fish, roadless areas, and natural scenic, scientific, and his-
25 toric values;

26 * Sec. 2. REVIEW OF SUSITNA AREA PLAN. (a) The commissioner of natu-
27 ral resources shall undertake and complete the review of the Susitna area
28 plan within ^{Three}~~two~~ years from the effective date of this Act.

29 (b) In the review of the Susitna area plan, the commissioner of

1 natural resources shall consider remote recreation and the designa on of
 2 roadless areas and shall contract for an independent economic survey of
 3 tourism ~~and~~ recreation, ^{including remote & site specific} within the area described by the Susitna area plan.
 4 The independent economic survey may not be conducted by an agency super-
 5 vised by the governor or by an officer supervised by the principal execu-
 6 tive officer of a department but may be conducted by an agency such as the
 7 Institute of Social and Economic Research of the University of Alaska.

8 (c) In the review of the Susitna area plan, the commissioner shall
 9 consider remote recreational and roadless values for the following areas:

10 (1) Mt. Susitna Block

11 (A) Township 16 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

12 Section 1: S1/2, NW1/4

13 Section 2

14 Section 3: E1/2, E1/2NW1/4

15 Section 10: E1/2E1/2

16 Section 11

17 Section 12: S1/2NW1/4, N1/2NE1/4

18 Section 13: W1/2, NE1/4

19 Section 14

20 Section 15: E1/2E1/2

21 Section 22: SE1/4, E1/2NE1/4

22 Section 23

23 Section 24: W1/2W1/2

24 Section 27: E1/2, E1/2SW1/4

25 Section 33: E1/2SE1/4, SW1/4SE1/4

26 Sections 34 - 35

27 (B) Township 17 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

28 Section 4: SW1/4

29 Section 5: S1/2, S1/2N1/2

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Section 14: E1/2, NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4

Section 23: NE1/4, E1/2SE1/4

Sections 24 - 25

Section 26: E1/2

Section 36: E1/2.

(3) Susitna Lowlands Block

(A) Township 19 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 4 - 5

Section 6: N1/2, N1/2S1/2

Section 8: E1/2

Section 9

Section 15: W1/2, W1/2E1/2

Section 16

Section 21

Section 22: W1/2, W1/2E1/2

Section 27: W1/2, W1/2E1/2

Section 28

Sections 33 - 34

(B) Township 20 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

Section 25: E1/2, E1/2W1/2

Section 28: SW1/4

Sections 29 - 32

Section 33: W1/2, NE1/4

Section 36: NE1/4

(C) Township 20 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

Section 1: W1/2

Sections 2 - 11

Section 12: W1/2, SE1/4

Sections 13 - 20

1
2 Section 21: Northeast of right channel of
3 Yentna River

4 Sections 22 - 26

5 Section 27: E1/2, E1/2W1/2, W1/2NW1/4 east of
6 the right bank of Yentna River, SW1/4SW1/4,
7 E1/2SW1/4 east of right bank of main channel
8 of Yentna River

9 Section 34: N1/2, S1/2 east of right bank of
10 Yentna River

11 Sections 35 - 36

12 (D) Township 20 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian

13 Sections 1 - 2

14 Section 3: E1/2NE1/4

15 Sections 11 - 13

16 Section 14: NE1/4

17 Section 24

18 (E) Township 21 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

19 Section 1

20 Section 2: E1/2E1/2

21 Section 11: E1/2, E1/2NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4

22 Sections 12 - 13

23 Section 14: NE1/4, N1/2SE1/4, SE1/4SE1/4

24 Sections 17 - 20

25 Section 21: W1/2, SE1/4

26 Section 23: E1/2E1/2, SW1/4SE1/4

27 Section 24

28 Section 25: W1/2, W1/2E1/2

29 Section 26: S1/2, NW1/4, N1/2NE1/4

Section 27: SE1/4, S1/2NE1/4

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Sections 28 - 35
 Section 36: W1/2, W1/2E1/2
 (F) Township 21 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian
 Section 7: N1/2, N1/2S1/2
 Section 12: S1/2S1/2
 Sections 13 - 14
 Section 17: E1/2, E1/2NW1/4
 Section 20: NE1/4, NE1/4SE1/4
 Section 27
 Section 28: NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4, NE1/4SE1/4
 Section 34: NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4,
 NE1/4SE1/4
 Sections 35 - 36

(d) The commissioner shall submit the revised Susitna area plan to the presiding officers of each house of the legislature on its completion.

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
Title: Susitna Valley Remote
Recreation Area
Sponsor: Senator Rodey
Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: _____
BRU: Department of Fish and Game
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						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0				

CAPITAL	0	0				
---------	---	---	--	--	--	--

REVENUE	0	0				
---------	---	---	--	--	--	--

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)

No impact on FY 90 Budget

Prepared by: Frank Rue, Director Phone: 465-4105
Division: Habitat Division Date: 2/24/90

Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: _____
Agency: _____

Distribution (by preparer):

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



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BILL ANALYSIS

DEPARTMENT Fish and Game	DIVISION Habitat	BILL NUMBER SB430	SPONSOR Senator Rodey
SHORT TITLE OF BILL Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area			
DEPARTMENT POSITION Opposed			
PREPARED BY Frank Rue, Director	DATE 2.15.90	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE 2/15/90

SUMMARY

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL Dept. of Natural Resources Dept. of Transportation Dept. of Fish and Game	CONSTITUENT GROUP(S) AFFECTED BY BILL see attached
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL see attached	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL Matanuska-Susitna Borough

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT see attached

ANALYSIS OF BILL PROGRAM EFFECTS see attached

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED The bill should require Alaska Department of Natural Resources and Alaska Department of Fish and Game to jointly develop guidelines for traditional access. To accomplish this, the word [MAY] in line 4 on page 4 of the proposed bill should be substituted with the word shall (Bill version introduced 2/2/90).

PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR ANALYSIS.

ATTACHMENT TO BILL ANALYSIS FOR SB 430

CONSTITUENT GROUPS AFFECTED BY BILL

Air taxi operators, guides, Boat charters, Timber companies, Sport hunters, Commercial, Sport, and Subsistence fisheries, and Land developers

ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT FOR BILL

According to recent newspaper articles, 69 organizations and businesses and 4,300 individuals have indicated support for SB 430. Approximately 27% of the organizations and some 700 individuals supporting the bill are residents of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Many air charter services, commercial lodges, outfitters, environmental organizations, and the Susitna Valley Association, a consortium of all the aforementioned organizations, support the bill.

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT

SB 430 emphasizes the protection, maintenance, and management of fish and wildlife habitat and populations; and traditional public uses such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and other forms of remote area recreation on certain state lands in the Susitna Basin. This bill would protect the economic potential of the area's recreation and tourism industries that are dependent on fish and game resources and the maintenance of the area's remoteness.

ANALYSIS

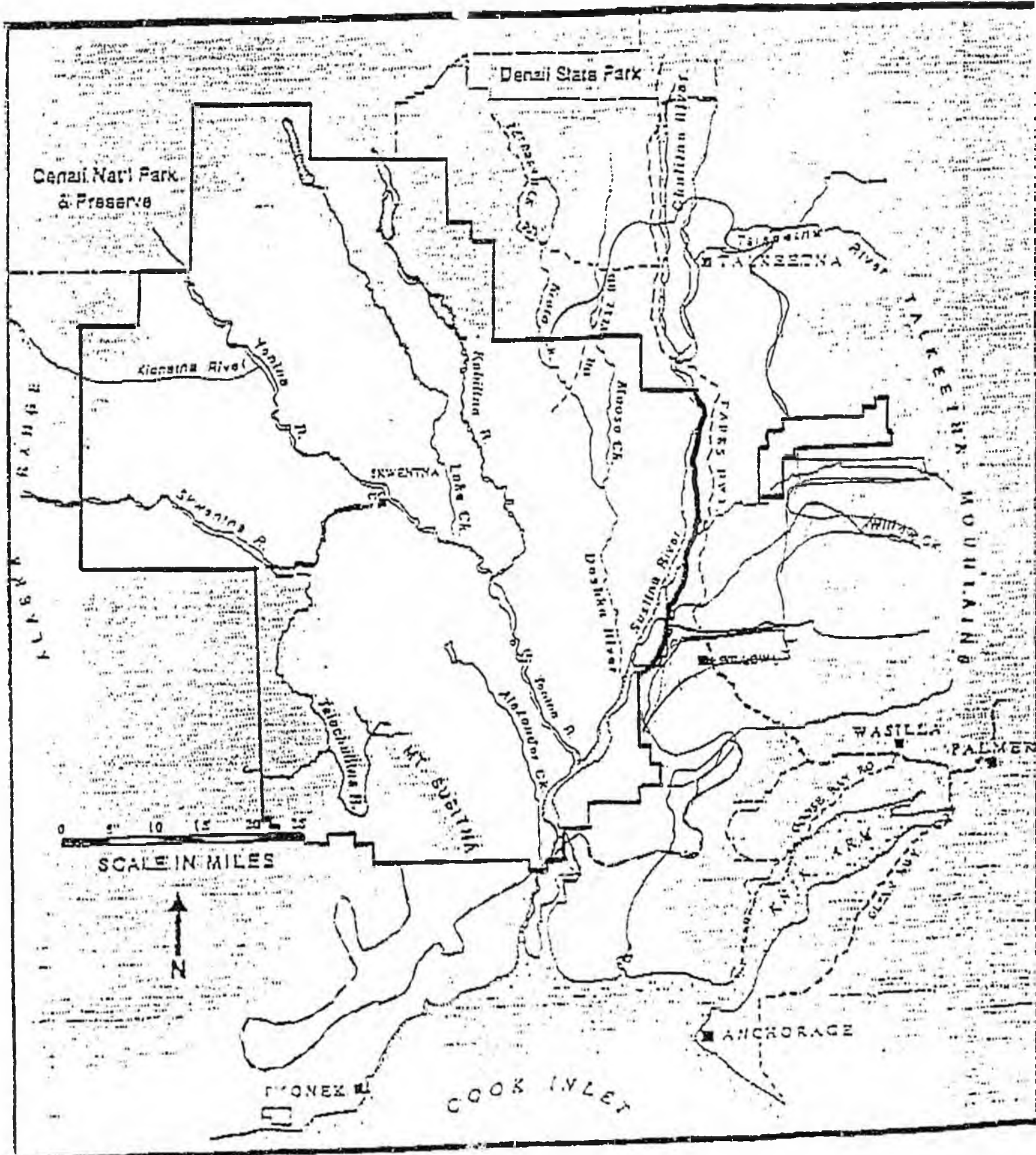
ADF&G is working with ADNR on the Susitna Forest Management Plan and looks to that process to resolve fish and wildlife resource issues. The proposed legislation will prohibit, subject to existing right, the sale or transfer of state lands, commercial logging, mining except by lease (excluding valid existing mines), and construction of publicly financed or maintained roads on state lands within most of the watersheds in the western Susitna Basin including Lake and Alexander Creeks, Kahiltna, Yentna, Kichatna, Skwentna, and Talachulitna Rivers. All other activities would be allowed.

PROGRAM EFFECT

The major effect of this bill on state agencies is to require Alaska Department of Natural Resources to develop a management plan for the proposed recreation area. Alaska Department of Fish and Game would participate in the planning process by assigning a department plan coordinator to collect, analyze, and present fish and game resources and related public use information. A certain number of planning activities are included in the Habitat Division's annual budget.

SE 430

SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA



TELECOPY COVER SHEET

Matanuska-Susitna Legislative Information Office

Office - (907) 376-3704

Fax - (907) 376-6180

TO: Matanuska FAX: _____ PHONE: _____

FROM: W.A. Lee LIO PHONE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Testimony for Sen Co RA
on SB 4300

RECEIVED: Date _____

Time _____

SENT: Date 2/22/90

Time 11:55

DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL: Discard _____ Hold for Pickup _____

NUMBER OF PAGES: 2 (Not counting cover sheet)

SENT BY: MR

DEE LOESCHE
PO BOX 87-2942
WASILLA, ALASKA 99687
(907)892-7111

COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SENATOR SZYMANSKI:

I AM IN TOTAL OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 430.

THE REMOVAL OF 2 MILLION ACRES OF LAND FROM PUBLIC DOMAIN AND FULL MULTIPLE USE FOR THE USE OF A NARROW SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION IS NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE. PARTICULARLY SINCE THE SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARIES OF THIS BILL HAVE FULL USE OF THE AREA NOW AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE UNDER PUBLIC DOMAIN. THERE IS NO NEED FOR THIS MOVE.

THE MOST IMPORTANT REASON FOR OBJECTION TO THE CREATION OF THE SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA AS OUTLINED IN YOUR BILL, IN MY MIND, IS THE EXCLUSION OF ROAD ACCESS FROM EXISTING PUBLIC HIGHWAYS. THIS EFFECTIVELY ELIMINATES ANY POSSIBILITY OF OPENING UP WESTERN ALASKA TO SOUTH CENTRAL ALASKA. THE ONLY POSSIBLE ROUTES THROUGH THE ALASKA RANGE TO REACH WESTERN ALASKA IS ACROSS THIS AREA. THE PEOPLE OF THE KUSKOKWIM VALLEY HAVE JUST AS MUCH RIGHT AS YOU AND I TO HAVE THE ADVANTAGES OF ROAD ACCESS TO THE MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS. ALBEIT, THE STATE HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN GETTING ROADS PUSHED THROUGH TO THE DISTANT COMMUNITIES AS YET, ONE DAY THAT HOPEFULLY WILL CHANGE, BUT IT WILL NOT EVEN BE A REMOTE POSSIBILITY IF THIS AREA IS CREATED.

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, ALASKANS INCLUDED, ARE VERY ATTACHED TO THEIR CARS. THEY ENJOY DRIVING TO PLACES TO RECREATE. AND THE CLOSER THEY CAN GET WITH THEIR CARS, THE BETTER. YES, THERE ARE BOATERS, PILOTS, DOG MUSHERS, ATV DRIVERS, SNOWMACHINERS AND SKIERS. MOST PEOPLE CAN NOT OR DO NOT FALL INTO THOSE CATEGORIES. YES, ONE CAN PAY COMMERCIAL OPERATORS TO TAKE THEM TO THE AREA, BUT NOT EVERYONE CAN AFFORD THAT. THE LACK OF ACCESS POTENTIAL TO THE SVRRA TOTALLY EXCLUDES THOSE PEOPLE FROM UTILIZING THIS 2 MILLION ACRE AREA THAT IS SO CLOSE TO THE MAJOR POPULATION AREAS. WHAT DOES THAT MAKE THEM? SECOND CLASS CITIZENS? AND WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE THAT OWN PROPERTY IN THE AREA. WITH NO ACCESS POSSIBILITY A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS ARISE. WILL THAT PROPERTY EVER HAVE A RESALE VALUE? THE PEOPLE IN TALKEETNA FOUGHT LIKE TIGERS FOR THE ROAD INTO THEIR TOWN SO THAT IT WOULD GROW AND NOW THEY DON'T WANT TO ALLOW ACCESS TO OTHER FOLKS. THAT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT TO ME.

MY OTHER OBJECTION IS THE EXCLUSION OF ANY COMMERCIAL TIMBER OPERATION IN THE AREA. THIS IS PROBABLY THE FIRST CONSIDERATION OF THE AUTHORS OF THIS BILL. THEY PREFER THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR FORESTS THROUGH NEGLECT INSTEAD OF INTELLIGENT, SUSTAINED YIELD MANAGEMENT OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AS MANDATED BY OUR CONSTITUTION. THAT SOUNDS LIKE THEY ARE NOT RECREATIONISTS OR CONSERVA-

TIONISTS BUT INSTEAD, PRESERVATIONISTS. THE IDEA OF MASSIVE CLEAR CUTS THAT THEY HAVE VOICED IS STRICTLY A FIGMENT OF THEIR OVER EMOTIONAL IMAGINATIONS. NO ONE, THE STATE, THE BOROUGH, OR INDUSTRY, HAVE SUBSCRIBED TO THAT IDEA. ALL THOSE THAT ARE IN THE NATURAL RESOURCE PROFESSION WANT THE BEST POSSIBLE MANAGEMENT FOR OUR FORESTS SO THAT THEY WILL BE THERE, HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE, FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN. CURRENTLY THE PLANNING PROCESS IS GOING ON FOR THE SUSITNA VALLEY FOREST LANDS. THIS IS DUE OUT THIS SUMMER IN ITS FINAL FORM AND MUCH PUBLIC INPUT HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THIS STUDY. IT WILL BE QUITE OBVIOUS FROM THAT DOCUMENT THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE AREA ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT THE FOREST LANDS SHOULD BE UTILIZED ON A SUSTAINED YIELD BASIS. THE AUTHORS OF SB 430 APPARENTLY ARE A SMALL MINORITY THAT WANT TO PRESERVE THE LAND FOR THEIR USES ONLY WITH NO REGARD TO THE WELL BEING OF THE PEOPLE, TIMBER, OR FISH AND WILDLIFE OF THE AREA AND THE SUSITNA REGIONAL FOREST PLAN DOES NOT ACCOMPLISH THAT END. THEREFORE, THEY ARE PROPOSING THIS BILL.

THE PROPONENTS OF THIS BILL QUOTE MANY INSTANCES OF ECONOMIC BENEFIT FROM TOURISM THAT THE AREA DERIVES. IF THOSE FIGURES WERE INVESTIGATED, I BELIEVE YOU WOULD FIND THAT MOST OF THOSE BENEFITS ARE ACCRUED BY COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS IN ANCHORAGE. ONE FACT THAT THE PEOPLE IN TALKEETNA DO NOT ADVERTISE IS THAT THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 130 FAMILIES IN THE NORTH SUSITNA VALLEY THAT ARE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE. IF THEY HAVE SUCH A TREMENDOUS TOURIST BUSINESS WHY ARE SO MANY PEOPLE ON WELFARE?

RESPECTFULLY,

Dee Loesche

DEE LOESCHE

TELECOPY COVER SHEET

Matanuska-Susitna Legislative Information Office

Office - (907) 376-3704

Fax - (907) 376-6180

TO: Sen Szymanski FAX: _____ PHONE: _____

FROM: _____ PHONE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: to Sen CRA committee re
teleconference on 2/20 on SB 430

RECEIVED: Date 2-20-90 Time _____

SENT: Date _____ Time _____

DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL: Discard _____ Hold for Pickup _____

NUMBER OF PAGES: 1 (Not counting cover sheet)

SENT BY: _____

Call Judith Bronson
376-3642



Matanuska Valley
Sportsmen

Box 1875
Palmer, Alaska 99645
February 9, 1990



Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Legislator,

The 110 members of the Matanuska Valley Sportsmen are in opposition to SB 430 establishing the Susitna Valley Remote Recreational Area.

Our reasons are manifold but center around the current moose controversy. SB 430 disallows any possibility of improving browse to carry moose through bad winters. It is our belief that the second growth browse that moose need to exist is produced by change. That change is well documented in the Mat-Su Valley, where early railroad fires caused by coal burning engines created the browse that has been giving the Alaska Railroad headaches ever since. Also, homesteaders' clearings (both by fire and machinery) helped give us the moose population we have today.

Since both fires and homesteading are no longer with us, it is our belief that to continue and improve our moose populations we need to create browse. In order to do that in an economical manner we look to forestry, Fish and Game and the forest products industry to plan and execute browse creating openings in the over mature forest which dominates the Susitna Valley.

SB 430 would disallow any such management of both the forest and the moose. We also believe the legislation to be self-serving, having been written by a lodge owner in Unit 16 with ties to air taxi and flightseeing services.

In closing, we do want to recreate in Unit 16, but feel strongly that SB 430 would not only not accomplish those recreational opportunities but would reduce them to nearly zero except for the favored few.

We respectfully request that you dump this legislation where it belongs, in the wastebasket.

Sincerely,

Gary Feaster
President

TELECOPY COVER SHEET

Matanuska-Susitna Legislative Information Office

Office - (907) 376-3704

Fax - (907) 376-6180

TO: Sen Szymanski FAX: _____ PHONE: _____

FROM: _____ PHONE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: to Sen CRA committee re
teleconference on 2/20 on SB 430

RECEIVED: Date 2-20-90 Time _____

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NUMBER OF PAGES: 1 (Not counting cover sheet)

SENT BY: _____



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____ committee name
 committee on SB 430 , dated 2/2/90
 bill/subject

I oppose SB 430 due to the fact
 it CIRCUMVENTS the S.A.P. Plan. State lands
 are to be "managed" NOT "LOCKED UP" like
 SB 430 advocates. It looks like SB 430
 is a SELF SERVING PIECE OF LEGISLATION
 WHICH PRECLUDES 90% of the MAT-SW
 BOROUGH RESIDENTS. MR. BRANSON should do his
 homework before using my name in Public Testimony.
 GET THE FACTS STRAIGHT.

Signed: Jim Page
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. 872573 WASILLA AK. 99687
 Address
376-7721
 Phone No.

TELECOPY COVER SHEET

Matanuska-Susitna Legislative Information Office

Office - (907) 376-3704

Fax - (907) 376-6180

TO: Sen Szymanski FAX: _____ PHONE: _____

FROM: _____ PHONE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: to Sen CRA committee re
teleconference on 2/20 on SB 430

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SENT: Date _____ Time _____

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NUMBER OF PAGES: 4 (Not counting cover sheet)

SENT BY: _____



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Community & Regional Affairs committee name
 committee on SB 430 , dated 2-20-90
 bill/subject

My name is Lynn Fuller, & I am a resident of Palmer. I spend a lot of time recreating in the Mat-Su Borough, have fished in Cooke Inlet, & I see recreation, fishing and tourism as important uses in all of southcentral Alaska. I am concerned about the need for economic development in Mat-Su, as my job depends on a healthy economy like many people. But I do not see the proposed SVREA as a threat to our economy, rather I think it will help maintain Mat-Su as a center for tourism that a number of lodge owners, guides, & tourist related industries rely on. So I am in favor of SB 430 not because I want to "lock up" public lands, but to ensure

Signed: Lynn Fuller
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
Box 1814 Palmer
 Address

745-3812 w 745-8278 h
 Phone No.

that existing uses are given fair priority
 + to maintain recreational lands and wildlife
 habitat.

Before I would support commercial logging
 on state lands, I would want to see a realistic
 economic feasibility study and a management
 plan that convinces me that existing uses and
 habitat degradation have been addressed.

In areas of high commercial yield, timber harvesting
 is an appropriate use with proper environmental
 safeguards. But in Mat-Su, where commercial
 logging has not proved to make economic sense,
 and tourism and remote uses are only increasing,
 devoting large acreage to timber harvesting
 doesn't justify the potential detriments.

In short, my support for HB 430
 stems from a fear that DNR is proposing timber sales
 without consideration of existing uses, or on the ground
 updated surveys that show ^{the} timber volume that
 could be extracted will turn a profit. I'd like to
 suggest that instead of putting money into roads and forest
 management plans, that the state agencies responsible
 for all of our resources be ^{first} given adequate funding to do the



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Sen. Rodey
Community & Regional Affairs
committee name

committee on

SB 430

dated

2-20-90

bill/subject

My name is Judy Bronson. I've lived in Palmer Alaska for over 10 years. I am a teacher. I've taught English in the valley for over 10 years.

I'm here today to support SB430 for 3 reasons;

- 1) Roadless areas are beautiful. Wilderness is beautiful. I am one of very few fortunate Americans whose home is so close to wilderness. It is beautiful. Wilderness is needed for the survival of the human spirit, the humane spirit.
- 2) The people living and working in the west Slope Basin need support in their proven business success which is compatible with the land and the waters that are there.
- 3) If as newspapers report (Anch Times Feb. 13) the state is 2 years behind in its obligation to replant trees, then ethically, the state should not enter into new logging contracts when it is not able to fulfill its current obligations.

Thank you, Sen. Rodey for introducing this bill. It shows you care about ethics, people, and beauty.

P.S. The democratic process needs help in our valley. The people are not being heard! Why do the office holders who

Signed:

Judith A. Bronson

Testifier

myself

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 2176 Palmer, Alaska 99645

Address

376-3642

Phone No.

(OVER)

2

are elected to ~~the assembly~~ serve the people
talk first when they did not come first ???
The meeting is ~~so~~ finished at 5:30 and three
members of the assembly have voiced their
lobbying efforts while two dedicated
teachers sit here and write out their
remarks in an abbreviated manner.

TELECOPY COVER SHEET

Matanuska-Susitna Legislative Information Office

Office - (907) 376-3704

Fax - (907) 376-6180

TO: Sen Szymanski FAX: _____ PHONE: _____

FROM: _____ PHONE: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: to Sen CIRA committee re
teleconference on 2/20 on SB 430

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DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL: Discard _____ Hold for Pickup _____

NUMBER OF PAGES: ~~10~~ 2 (Not counting cover sheet)

SENT BY: _____



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Senate Community + Regional Affairs committee name

committee on SB 430 , dated Feb. 20, 1990.
bill/subject

My name is Nancy Michaelson and I have come to the Wasilla Legislative Information Office tonight to testify in favor of SB 430 - a bill establishing the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area. I was unable to use the microphone - ~~so I need~~ send you this quick summary. I am here representing my family and myself, which represents my husband - who is employed (11 yrs.) at the UA Ag. Experiment Station - and my two children (ages 6 and 9).

I refuse to any longer accept the concept that any setting - aside of public lands for any use other than development is a "lock up". To the contrary, this bill would save this beautiful area for all of us to recreate, enjoy, and love.

I also refuse to any longer accept the local generalization that anyone who wants to use the land for uses other than instant development is a newly arrived Cheechako - or an Anchorageite. Our family of 4 has a total of 69 years residence in the Susitna valley, so I know of which I speak.

(OVER)

Signed: Nancy Michaelson
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
HCO 1 Box 6916 F, Palmer, AK 99645
Address
745-6673
Phone No.

Fact 1: The present state planning effort has not even addressed whether the logging is economically appropriate, therefore it is not true that it is logically feasible.

Fact 2: Interests that originally inspired all of us to even think of this in the 1st place long ago withdrew their interest.

Fact 3: I am a local resident. I have been a local resident for 15 years. Within the walls of my house, eating food on my table that I buy at local stores (or grown from seeds bought at local stores) and wearing clothes bought at local stores are 3 other family members - all born in the valley - representing 69 years of residency in the valley. We not only live here, we use the resource.

I will be sending a complete testimony to you over the FAX tomorrow. Thank you for this opportunity. Sincerely,

Nancy Michaelson

SUMMARY OF THE SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA PROPOSAL

PURPOSES - The purposes of the SVRRA is to perpetuate and enhance the present character and existing uses of a portion of the Susitna Valley. Specifically, the SVRRA has six main purposes:

1. Protection and maintenance of fish and wildlife populations and habitat;
2. Continued public enjoyment of fish and wildlife;
3. Continued remote recreation while protecting natural integrity and scenic values;
4. Continued remote commercial recreation in a quality environment;
5. To perpetuate and enhance the remote character upon which the recreational uses and community lifestyles depend; and
6. To allow additional public uses in a manner compatible with the above purposes.

ALLOWED ACTIVITIES - Addresses only activities on state lands. Except as noted in the next section, all existing uses would be allowed, including:

1. Personal-use timber sales for individuals and commercial facilities.
2. Adequate and feasible access to private land, existing mining claims, borough land, and other valid occupancies.
3. Local roads not connected with the existing interstate highway system.
4. Trails.
5. Construction of commercial recreation and tourism facilities.
6. Land disposals.
7. Mineral leasing.

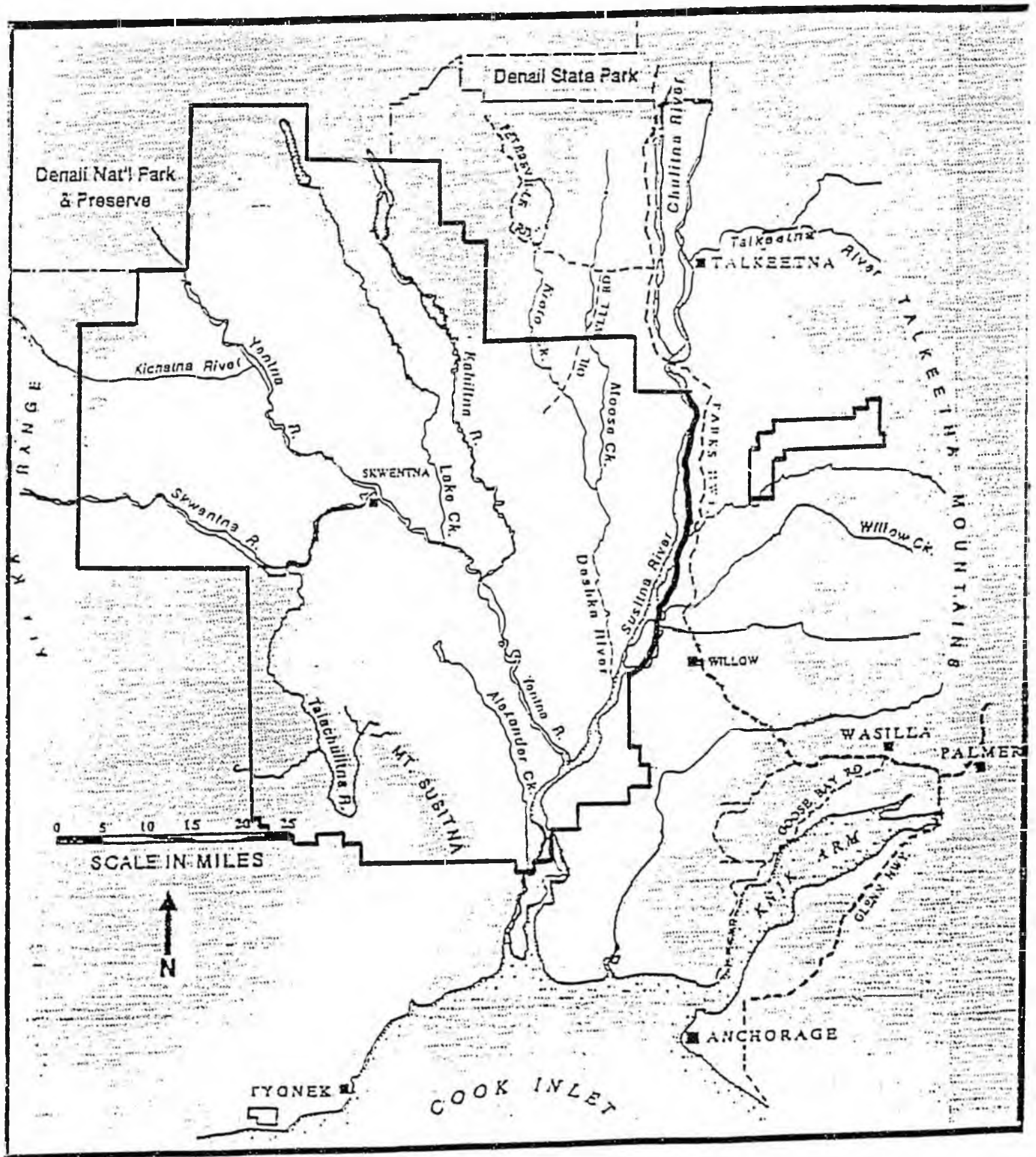
The legislation assures that traditional access, both motorized and nonmotorized, such as by boat, plane, ATV, snowmachine, dogsled, snowshoes, skis, etc., will continue.

INCOMPATIBLE ACTIVITIES - the following activities would not be allowed:

1. Commercial logging on state land. (Existing commercial firewood sale areas are all outside the SVRRA boundaries and would not be impacted.)
2. Publicly financed or maintained roads connected to the highway system.
3. Mining claims. (Valid existing rights would continue.)

MANAGEMENT - The SVRRA will be managed by DNR, through a management plan, requiring public review and comment. ADF&G has management responsibilities for fish and wildlife resources. The commissioner of DNR may determine that a use is incompatible or needs to be modified, but only after public review and comment.

SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA



Susitna Valley Association
9600 Slalom Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99516
346-1943

**Economic Values of Remote Recreation, Tourism, and
Commercial Fisheries In the Susitna Valley**

The Susitna Valley is an intensively used remote recreation and tourism area which also supports a valuable commercial fishery. A highly complex pattern of both developed and undeveloped recreation opportunities has evolved which is supported by thousands of people and which channels millions of dollars into the local economies. Following is a synopsis of various valley activities and resource uses which the Susitna Valley Association (SVA) has compiled:

Real estate. Over the past twenty years the state has encouraged recreational use of the Susitna Valley by selling thousands of properties in state land disposals in the area, mostly for recreational purposes. Just within the SRF planning area, there are 17,609 private properties, and many more still for sale. (Borough Tax Assessment Office, 12-19-89) These are widely scattered throughout the valley. Land sales were a high priority of the state and borough during the '70s in the form of various land disposal programs, and even earlier with the Open-to-Entry program, homesteading and remote parcel distributions. As one would expect, this resulted in the formation of a potent constituency for protecting those values that attracted people to the area. The property owners have a vested interest in their lands and cannot be expected to remain silent on what happens in the valley. The assessed value of the private property is \$14.8-million.

Lodges. According to the Department of Fish and Game, there are 52 lodges which operate in the Susitna Valley, most of them remote. SVA has surveyed 23 of the lodges. Based on that survey, the total gross income for the 52 lodges was estimated at \$7.5-million, with a total employment of approximately 283 people. All but two of the lodges surveyed were owned and operated by Alaskans. 93% of their clients were from out-of-state, bringing new dollars into the Alaskan economy.

Air taxi services. 38 air taxi charter services presently fly clients into the valley for recreational activities and flightseeing. They service lodges, year-around residents, recreational cabin owners, and their own remote camps. 24 of those companies are based in Anchorage, and 14 in the Borough. Based on an SVA survey of ten of the companies, a total combined gross income derived from servicing the Susitna Valley in 1987, for only those 10 companies, was \$4-million, with employment of 145 people. The companies estimated 74.5% of their clients were non-residents. (Note that 28 of the companies are not included in the above figures.)

Commercial fishery. The entire Susitna drainage serves as a vast spawning and fish rearing habitat for a highly productive commercial fishing industry. According to

Economic Values

Page 2

the ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries, the direct income to commercial fishermen dependent upon fish reared in this drainage is between \$8-million and \$11-million per year. In 1986, the total economic activity generated in Southcentral Alaska attributed to this harvest, excluding processing, was just under \$18-million.

Sportfishing. The ADF&G Division of Sport Fisheries established that 242,850 days were spent sportfishing in the Susitna Valley in 1986, with associated expenditures of \$10.4-million. 84 percent of those days was spent at streams with no road access. The lack of roads, rather than being a barrier, was very likely what attracted people to the area. It also indicates the complex economic network which exists just to get people to and from their fishing sites. According to Fish and Game, salmon stocks in the Susitna Basin are already fully allocated.

Moose and bear hunting. The annual expenditures for moose and bear hunting in the Susitna Valley is estimated by ADF&G at up to \$18.9-million dollars. This includes activities of game guides and outfitters, as well as the independent hunters.

Recreational pilots. There are over 5000 registered pilots in the Anchorage area and 800 in the Mat-Su Borough. The Anchorage pilots own a total of over 2000 airplanes. SVA surveyed 208 of the pilots and found that the Susitna Valley was their destination 81 percent of the time. Based on data from our survey, the total value of the airplanes based just in Anchorage can be estimated at \$90-million. Total plane related expenditures for 1987 was estimated at \$7.4-million.

Hotel expenditures. According to a study by the Alaska Hotel/Motel Owners Association, approximately 3 percent of the occupied rooms in Anchorage are related to clients traveling to or from hunting and fishing destinations in the Susitna Valley. The economic value of these rooms is \$6.8-million.

Tour companies. Tour operators sell the Susitna Valley as an accessible "Alaska wilderness experience". The valley is marketed for independent and adventure tours such as flightseeing trips, riverboat fishing and camping, sportfishing and hunting, remote lodge vacations, and rafting trips.

The valley is also an important component of the large package tours. According to information SVA received in 1988, Westours and Princess Tours had purchased and were renovating 14 railroad dome cars at an investment of \$8-million. These dome cars travel through the east side of the Susitna Valley. The tour companies are anticipating related gross revenues during 1990 of over \$100-million dollars.

Other users. The Alaska Boaters Association estimates there are approximately 20,000 boats in the Anchorage area, a high percentage owned to access the Susitna Valley streams. There are 20 to 30 riverboat charter services doing business on the streams of the valley. Many activities such as river freight services, mushing, skiing, trapping, and snowmachining remain to be quantified.

Economic Values
Page 3

Related services. Also to be taken into consideration are the local businesses in adjacent communities that are economically supported by these activities and industries; the multiplier factor. These factors would take into account such items as the purchase of construction materials; maintenance costs of buildings and equipment; advertising; insurance; purchase and maintenance of airplanes, boats, motors, and snowmachines. It would include employee expenses; gas, oil, and propane; generators; radio equipment; food and supplies; purchase of camping equipment, guns, fishing gear, and clothing; fish and game packing and processing; taxidermy services; and money spent at eating and drinking establishments when going to and from the valley.

(DATED: January 1, 1990)

Recreational boating's popularity and impact on the United States' economy is well documented.

According to the National Marine Manufacturer's Association:

- About 75 million Americans participated in some form of boating in 1989, including 14 million who tried the sport for the first time.

- One out of every seven American households now owns a boat.

- Boating industry sales (including motors, trailers and accessories) more than doubled during the 1980s, from about \$7.5 billion in 1980 to more than \$17 billion in 1989.

- The boating industry employs approximately 600,000 people.

- Boating industry sales rank fourth in the United States among all leisure activities, ahead of such traditional favorites as movies, magazines and books and spectator sports.

The NMMA also has a state-by-state breakdown of boat, motor, trailer and accessories purchases for 1988 (the most recent year for which statistics are available). No. 1 in sales, not too surprisingly, is Florida, with \$854.2 million in retail sales. At the bottom of the list is New Mexico, with \$2.9 million in sales.

Only two states are not included in the NMMA's listing, for lack of information. Hawaii. And Alaska.

Very little — almost nothing, in fact — is known of recreational boating's economic impact on the Alaska economy, despite the sport's popularity in our state.

According to U.S. Coast Guard statistics, nearly 29,000 boats were registered in Alaska in 1988, or about one boat for every 20 people. But that figure doesn't reflect total boat ownership for a couple reasons. First, the Coast Guard requires only that motorized boats be registered; non-motorized canoes, kayaks, rafts and sailboats are not included. Second, it's likely that a significant number of the state's rural boat owners haven't registered their boats.

Boating industry impact on Alaskan economy unknown

Given those circumstances, Steve Morgheim estimates that Alaskans own 50,000 to 60,000 boats. Or more. "I think it's safe to say that at least one out of 10 Alaskans owns a boat, which is right in line with the national average," says Morgheim, executive director of the Alaska Marine Dealers Association.

Beyond Coast Guard statistics, several other bits of evidence suggest that recreational boating is among Alaska's most popular outdoors activities.

Many Southcentral rivers are clogged with boat fishermen during the salmon season. Sea kayaking is widely recognized as one of the state's fastest-growing sports. Conflicts between boat owners — big boats vs. small, motorized vs. non-motorized — are steadily rising as waterways become increasingly crowded during the spring and summer. Increased boating impacts on the environment and safety concerns have already resulted in regulations requiring horsepower limits on the Kenai River and have prompted the state to formulate a recreational river management plan for the Susitna Basin.

Yet for all that, data that demonstrates the recreational boating industry's importance is noticeably lacking.

"We can't tell anyone what's happening with the Alaska boating industry because we don't have the information. It doesn't exist anywhere,"

says Dave Benesch, co-owner of Alaska Mining & Diving and a member of the AMDA Board of Trustees.

But Benesch and Morgheim hope that situation will soon begin changing.

The AMDA is in the process of completing an economic survey of its membership, which includes 50 boating-related businesses, primarily within the Southcentral region.

The survey's findings — scheduled to be released in March — won't paint a complete picture, but should at least provide an a data base from which economic trends can eventually be determined.

"Right now we're in the building stages," Morgheim says. "The survey will provide a snapshot of where we're at in 1990. With that in hand, we'll be able to track the Alaskan (boating) market on an annual basis and take a more realistic look at growth patterns and trends."

As data becomes available, ADMA members hope state lawmakers will come to them for information when making decisions that affect recreational boating.

"It's not our goal to become lobbyists or be controversial. But we want our state's decision-makers to understand the economic consequences of legislation they pass. Some decisions are being made without adequate information," Morgheim says. "As we gather information, we'll do a better job of defining our industry's role. And we'll gain more more credibility (with lawmakers) in the process."

Susitna Valley Association
9000 Sialom Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99516
346-1943

Is the Necessary Volume Available for a Wood Products Industry in the Valley?

Timber industry representatives, as well as DCED, have stated that a minimum of 50-million board feet a year would be needed for a successful wood products industry in the Susitna Valley.

According to the Division of Forestry, in the Susitna Valley it takes an average of 367 acres to produce 1-million board feet of timber. This calculation is based on an average volume of 940 cubic feet of wood per acre, and a conversion factor of 2.9 board feet per cubic foot. The volume is not comparable to Southeast timber.

In the Susitna Valley, 18,350 acres would have to be harvested per year to produce 50-million board feet. That's equal to 1 1/2 Point McKenzies being cut and accessed every year. Over an 80-year rotation, almost 1.5-million acres of commercial timber would be needed from the valley to meet this demand.

The Susitna Valley simply does not have that volume of timber. There's not even a third that volume; and what is there is spread out over a 2-million acre area. The SRFP has identified 450,000 acres with commercial potential that is in a land-use designation that would allow forestry as one of the uses. But not all that acreage is available for forestry. Much of it is in areas where "forestry" is only a secondary use, and must not conflict with the primary uses. In some cases "forestry" is allowed, but only for local personal use. Buffers for wetlands must be discounted from the timber base. Mitigation measures to minimize conflict with other values will further reduce the base. The final volume will be substantially less than the 450,000 acres being analyzed. The forest lands will not be contiguous and much of it will not be economically accessible.

In short, the Susitna Valley Association believes that, while existing small-scale timber harvest can and should continue in certain areas to accommodate commercial firewood sales and personal use wood lots, large-scale commercial harvesting is out of the question. The resource simply isn't there.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF HABITAT

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

BOX 3-2000
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802
PHONE: (907) 465-4106

February 8, 1990

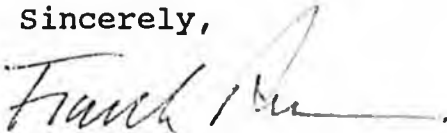
RECEIVED
FEB 13 1990

The Honorable Mike Szymanski
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Szymanski:

With reference to your letter dated January 22, we have already prepared a response to Ms. Becky Long in which we explained how our recommendations to protect fish and wildlife resources were developed and submitted for consideration by the Matanuska-Susitna Forest Management Plan Steering Committee. I agree with your suggestion that it is important to develop immediate habitat protection plans for any future level of timber harvesting. For your information, I have enclosed a copy of the letter sent to your constituent and a copy of our comments prepared for the Borough. I am also enclosing a copy of the forest management guidelines for the protection of fish and wildlife resources that we recommend be included in the Borough's forest plan.

Sincerely,



Frank Rue
Director

Enclosures

Dw.

June 7, 1989

Mr. Bill Luria
Resource Management Associates
P.O. Box 100741
Anchorage, AK 99510

Dear Mr. Luria:

As per your request, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has reviewed the 14 Forest Management Units (FMUs) developed for the Mat-Su Borough Forest Management Plan. Along with the short resource summary we have included recommended land use designations for these units. We urge the land allocation working group to include Fish and Wildlife Habitat as a co-primary use designation in all FMUs. Timber harvests in these units should be planned and managed to maintain and improve existing wildlife habitat, especially moose habitat, maintain water quality and stream productivity and sustain opportunities for public recreation in a high quality environment. The department assumes that the Mat-Su Forest Plan Steering Team will adopt the habitat guidelines developed by the Susitna Regional Forest Plan and will follow the land use designations and guidelines in the Susitna Area Plan and Willow Sub-basin Plan. Existing public hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities should also be maintained in all FMUs. A copy of the resource summaries for each unit is enclosed.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this document and provide input to the planning process.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Albert

Steven W. Albert
Habitat Biologist
Region II
Habitat Division

Enclosure

cc: L. Trasky, ADF&G
D. McKay, ADF&G
D. Bader, ADF&G
C. Grauvogel, ADF&G
L. Engel, ADF&G
G. Liepitz, ADF&G

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCE SUMMARIES

FMU 1 - SPH 3b + PR 2e (Whiskers Creek-Chulitna Corridor)

Whiskers Creek is an important drainage and supports coho and pink salmon rearing and spawning, and has abundant populations of rainbow trout, grayling and Dolly Varden char. This watershed has moderate to heavy use by moose for summer and winter range. Black bears are fairly common with brown bears utilizing mainly the upper elevations in this unit. The upland forests have a high potential for supporting increased amounts of high quality moose forage if proper forestry practices occur.

There may be several old flooded gravel pit ponds located within this FMU. There is great potential for increased public recreational opportunities through lake stocking programs if such an enhancement program is feasible. In the Chulitna River corridor wildlife values are considered moderate with moose and black bear fairly common. Local residents are the primary users of this resource. Timber management activities could enhance moose habitat values if properly planned.

Classification Recommendation: Fish and Wildlife Habitat,
Forestry, Public Recreation

FMU 2 - SPH 4b

This FMU parallels the Alaska RR and includes the upper end of the Wiggle Creek watershed. This creek is not known to support anadromous fish. However, a different unnamed creek crossing the railroad ROW at approximately Mile 236 and its tributaries do support chinook and coho salmon spawning with all five species of Pacific salmon having been documented in this drainage. This FMU provides both summer and winter range for moderate numbers of moose. Black bears are abundant with some brown bears in the subalpine habitats.

Classification Recommendation: Fish and Wildlife Habitat,
Forestry

FMU 3 - SPH 5d (No. Bartlett Hills)

This FMU has no documented anadromous fish streams. Wildlife populations and habitat are believed to be of low to moderate value depending on local conditions. Moose, black bear, and

some brown bear can be found in this area. This FMU is likely an important hunting and trapping area for local residents.

Classification Recommendation: Forestry, Public Recreation (hunting and trapping opportunities should be maintained), Fish and Wildlife Habitat

FMU 4 - SPH 11 + 12c (No. Sheep Creek)

This FMU contains no known anadromous fish streams but is considered important wildlife habitat. The unit supports a high diversity of wildlife species. The area is used on a year-round basis by moose, brown bear, black bear, a number of furbearer species, upland game birds, and small game species. Moose are generally considered abundant and thus attract comparatively large numbers of hunters. Based on continuing research studies, seasonal concentrations of moose have been observed in sections 32, 33, 5, and 4 within this FMU. Black bears are more common than brown bear. Many other forms of public recreation also occur in this area.

Classification Recommendation: Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Public Recreation, Forestry

FMU 5 - PR 3e (West Fork Moose Creek)

This FMU is bisected by the Petersville Road and the West Fork of Moose Creek with the mainstem of Moose Creek flowing along the eastern perimeter. Both the West Fork and mainstem of Moose Creek support rainbow trout, grayling, and Dolly Varden char; chinook, coho, and sockeye salmon spawn and rear in the mainstem with pink salmon also being present. Part of this unit lies within the Moose Creek Recreation River Plan corridor and should be managed according to the policies developed in that planning process. Most of this unit and the adjoining lands contain very important wildlife habitat and are heavily used by the public for hunting and trapping. Moose and black bears are abundant in this unit. Moose tend to congregate in winter in the riparian habitats; the area is also used for breeding and calving habitat. Because the area adjacent to Petersville Road is heavily hunted, moose are dependent on the existing timbered areas for escape cover. Properly planned timber harvesting could improve habitat quality for those wildlife species, such as moose, that depend on early successional vegetation. The easy access results in heavy recreational use by many different user groups, especially hunters, fishermen, trappers, cross-country skiers, dog mushers, snowmobilers, et al. Moose Creek is also a favorite put-in point for people floating the river.

Classification Recommendation: Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Public Recreation, Forestry

FMU 6 - Pr 6b, 6d + addition

Much of this FMU lies along the Susitna River. Rabideaux Creek supports coho spawning and coho and chinook rearing habitat and an unnamed tributary of the Susitna River in the furthest south portion of the west bank parcel also supports coho salmon rearing habitat. Many of the clearwater sloughs of the Susitna River are used for spawning and rearing areas for chinook and coho salmon. This area is heavily used by moose as winter range and supports a high-density concentration of animals. The more mesic cover types are also important calving habitat for moose in late spring. Because of the relatively large amount of boat and road access, this area receives heavy use by moose and black bear hunters, sport fishermen, and various other recreational users.

Classification Recommendation: Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Forestry, Public Recreation

FMU 7 - PR 7d, 7e (West Susitna River)

Most of this FMU borders the Susitna River. Trapper Creek flows through the northern portion of the unit and supports coho rearing and spawning. Many of the clearwater sloughs of the Susitna River are used for spawning and rearing areas for chinook and coho salmon. This area is heavily used by moose as winter range and supports a high-density concentration of animals. The more mesic cover types are also important calving habitat for moose in late spring. Because of the relatively large amount of boat and road access, this area receives heavy use by moose and black bear hunters, sport fishermen, and various other recreational users.

Classification Recommendation: Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Forestry, Public Recreation

FMU 8 - SL 10a (Chijuk Creek)

Low to moderate numbers of moose are found throughout this FMU in summer but are relatively scarce during winter because of a lack of available browse. Some calving probably occurs in the eastern portion of the unit in the more mesic cover types between Pear Lake and Parker Lake. Black bears are more common in the western portion of the unit. Moderate to abundant numbers of marten, beaver and other furbearer species occur throughout this FMU. Chinook and coho salmon spawn and rear in Chijuk Creek. Rainbow trout, Dolly Varden char, whitefish and grayling are also resident to Chijuk Creek. Winter access to the area is readily available from Oil Well Road, numerous seismic trails, and skiplanes. The primary recreational uses include dog mushing, snowmobiling, ATV's, sport hunting and fishing, and trapping. We believe that the resources within this FMU offer exceptional potential to improve wildlife habitat and recreational values in

this FMU if the appropriate timber management objectives and guidelines are put in place.

Classification Recommendation: Forestry, Public Recreation, Fish and Wildlife Habitat

FMU 9 - GH 6a (Moose Range-Premier Creek)

This unit is less than 400 acres and is intersected by Premier Creek in the Matanuska Valley Moose Range. The Buffalo Mine Road serves as access to this area. The department has no evidence of anadromous fish presence in Premier Creek. The unit probably provides some escape cover for moose and likely has limited forage value. The general area experiences heavy use during moose hunting season and in fact is part of an area with a high harvest success rate in comparison to the adjoining area. Moose Creek receives moderate recreational fishing use. Timber harvests could improve moose habitat quality if conducted properly.

Classification Recommendation: Forestry, Public Recreation, Fish and Wildlife Habitat

FMU 10 - North Matanuska River

Local residents use the area for various purposes including hunting and trapping. This FMU is not known to support significant wildlife resources. Timber harvests of hardwoods in the vicinity of the Glenn Highway should be limited to avoid increasing the potential for for moose-vehicle collisions.

Classification Recommendation: Forestry, Public Recreation

FMU 11 - SPH 14a + additions (Kashwitna River-Iron Creek)

This FMU includes several important anadromous fish streams. Caswell Creek is an important coho salmon spawning and rearing system. The Kashwitna River with its many oxbows and sloughs provides habitat for pink and chum salmon spawning in this FMU. Chinook and coho salmon also have been documented in this system. It also support rainbow trout, grayling, and Dolly Varden char fisheries. Chinook salmon rearing habitat has been documented to the upper reaches of 196 Mile Creek. The Little Willow Creek drainage is important for chinook and coho salmon spawning and rearing with Iron Creek supporting only chinook and coho rearing. Much of the FMU contains high value moose habitat and supports high concentrations of moose. Black bears are common with occasional brown bear use. Although navigable access up the Kashwitna is limited by boulders, there is a very active sport fishery. The existing timber and associated vegetation provide important wildlife cover habitat and forage. Wetland swamps are

common throughout the area and support a diverse number of wildlife species. The scheduling of any timber harvests in this unit need to be closely coordinated with harvest schedules for adjoining state lands within the Kashwitna Unit.

Classification Recommendation: Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Forestry, Public Recreation

FMU 12 - Willow Creek South

This FMU is bisected by a tributary of Willow Creek which provides rearing habitat for coho salmon. Moose are common throughout this unit as they migrate to and from riparian habitats along the Susitna River and Willow Creek. Some calving activity occurs in May or early June. Generally this unit is of moderate value to moose. Other wildlife species such as black bear and some of the furbearer species use the area but are not abundant. Because of the relative ease of access, this area is likely used by local residents for hunting, trapping, and other winter recreational pursuits.

Classification Recommendation: Public Recreation, Forestry, Fish and Wildlife Habitat

FMU 13 - Pt. McKenzie (Lost Lake-Twin Is. Lake)

Comments: This FMU contains no known anadromous fish streams and receives moderate use by wildlife. Moose are distributed throughout the area but the habitat suitability is probably marginal to moderate. Consideration should be given to recreational users on the two large lakes adjacent to this unit. Appropriate harvesting techniques should be used to protect existing recreational values and ensure continued public access.

Classification Recommendation: Port Development, Public Recreation, Forestry, Fish and Wildlife Habitat

FMU 14 - Mt. Susitna 2a (Olson-Pretty Ck.)

Comments: This parcel is isolated, remote, and somewhat inaccessible. Three important anadromous fish stream drainages (Theodore River, Pretty Creek, Olson Creek) course through this FMU. These streams are important for chinook, coho, sockeye, and pink salmon spawning and rearing. This parcel borders the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge (SFSGR) and contains high value moose, black bear, brown bear, and furbearer habitat. After migrating down from the Little Mt. Susitna-Mt. Susitna complex, moose utilize the white spruce cover and the riparian habitats in late winter. Some calving occurs in late spring. During the summer the three streams receive moderate use by sport fishermen. It appears that the most likely road access to this

unit would require crossing the SFSGR. The department will probably not support such a proposal within the Refuge.

Classification Recommendation: Public Recreation, Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Straight talk on evolving forest management plans

1-27-90

By BECKY LONG

is have some straight talk on the two current logging forest management plans that will affect Valley residents and users.

State and borough plans are blueprints for logging and road access. The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) plan, called Susitna Remote Forest Plan, is planning timber harvests for 150,000 acres. Public hearings should occur in January. The Mat-Su Borough plan, called Borough Use Forest Management Plan, covers 12,000 acres in 14 forest management units. Comment was due Dec. 26. After that, the plan will go through the Borough Planning Commission and the Borough Assembly, with its own public hearings.

People want to propose to the governor and Mat-Su Borough administration that these timber harvest plans be put on hold until the Susitna Remote Forest Plan (SAP) is revised publicly in 1990. SAP is the guiding plan for land management decisions. Passed into law in 1985, the plan does call for modifications and amendments if needed. The public has been asked if they want large-scale commercial logging on their state and borough public lands. This crucial public policy question can be re-addressed through the 1990 revision. The governor's and the borough administration are under a great deal of criticism for these plans.

The state is a multi-million dollar industry in the Susitna Valley now. People are not going to sit back and watch the tourism, recreation, hunting and fishery, that they have invested in and built their lives and communities around, to be threatened for the sake of a few logging jobs subsidized



by the state and borough.

Specifically, a 1990 public revision of SAP is needed for the following reasons:

- Since SAP was signed in 1985, land-use patterns have evolved into social and economic conditions with different demands on public lands than envisioned in SAP. Data, which has been gathered by the Habitat Division and the Susitna Valley Association, shows this. State and borough agencies continue to ignore this data in their professional planning. Thus, the public is proposing a special legislative designation, the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area, in order to recognize and protect these outstanding public values that support Valley economies, and have been ignored by the agencies.

- To the detriment of all land uses, the 1985 SAP mandates have not been followed. It was mandated in SAP that "Each land management division within ADNR and ADF&G will need to prepare detailed regional implementation programs built around the land-use designations and guidelines specified in this plan." So far, ADNR has only gone ahead with planning for annual timber sales, access improvements and timber marketing. We have no program for wildlife habitat, public recreation, or water quality. This is a bias favoring a special use.

- The current forest management process is flawed, leading to an unrealistic planning agenda.

For instance, the draft report "Economic Impact Potential for Forest Products in the Mat-Su Borough," prepared for DNR, is not adequate to responsibly plan a wood-products industry in the Valley. The report's timber harvest data base is incomplete, the forest acreage is incorrectly overestimated and the annual allowable harvest is miscalculated. Thus, all sorts of unrealistic and misleading assumptions could be made to advocate a large-scale intensive timber harvest program. And, of course, the existence of the current economic uses of the Valley is not addressed adequately. This certainly makes for a litigious situation.

All of this points to the need for a revision of our guiding plan.

There is a viable logging industry in the Valley now. Admittedly, it is hard to document the current use. Perhaps that should be the job of the state and borough, rather than creating pie-in-the-sky plans.

Borough consultants in their June 1989 report "Economic/Market Feasibility; Timber Sale Implementation; Timber Sale Contracts/Agreements," state that in the Mat-Su Borough there are annual timber sales of one to two million board feet each year on state lands, and the borough timber sale program has averaged over one million board feet annually and 12,000 to 13,000 cords of firewood.

Borough Assemblyman Ted Smith stated in a 1989 Spectrum article that 200,000 board feet in 1988 were harvested in the Valley.

Valley legislator and co-chairman of the House Resource Committee, Rep. Curt Menard stated in a

July 7, 1989 letter to the editor that "approximately 19 million board feet of timber are to be offered for sale in November 1989. This compares with 4.5 mbf in 1988 and 5-7 mbf in 1987. Moreover, there are currently 11 mbf of timber in the Mat-Su which have been contracted out for sale but have not been cut."

Whatever the statistical reality is, translate this into everyday language: logging is occurring now on public lands. The public is clearly saying through community council, comprehensive plan, and environmental group meetings that we do not need massive clearcut harvests and roads that favor corporations exporting our forests for chips. They are not saying "no" to logging, for there is a need for firewood, house logs and roughcut lumber in our communities.

Let us continue the present cutting agenda with better management and environmental improvements. Let us favor small independent loggers in the Valley and personal use for firewood and building materials. This benefits our communities, the Susitna Valley, and the Anchorage Bowl for many years to come.

The state constitution states that "Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources" must "be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle." With responsible use and recognizing the limits of the land, the Susitna Valley has this now. Why won't the state and borough recognize this?

Becky Long is a Upper Susitna Valley resident active in land-use issues.

FORUM

Wilderness means jobs, lifestyle in Talkeetna

By PAUL BRATTON

TALKEETNA — "Make jobs, not more wilderness."

I first saw this bumper sticker plastered on a fancy Cadillac parked in Wasilla. Redcorp and other timber industry promoters are distributing this to promote their philosophy.

In Talkeetna we don't have many Cadillacs or any Redcorp bumper stickers, but if we did plaster a slogan on our Super Cubs, fishing boats, pickups, or dog sleds, it would read "Wilderness produces our jobs."

Commercial fishing and processing employs more people in Alaska than any other private industry. I make my living gillnetting salmon and herring. There's no place on this Earth that has been able to maintain a healthy salmon fishery once the wilderness is gone. There's no reason to believe Alaska would be an exception.

But you don't have to look out to the coast to see the jobs that the Susitna basin wilderness produces. I've been around Talkeetna for 17 years and have seen a few changes, but the major one is the development and growth of a wilderness-based recreation economy. In the early '70s, Ray Genet guiding climbers and a couple air taxis flying them was about it.

Now I couldn't begin to list all the air taxis, riverboat charter services, guides, outfitters, tour operators, and other businesses that depend upon the tourism and outdoor recreation economy.



People in Talkeetna didn't just sit around waiting for the state or borough to develop a ski area or park hotel or timber industry to hand them a subsidized income. Instead they built an economy using renewable natural resources but not destroying those resources.

Local initiative found the niches where an individual, family, or small business could survive and make a profit.

Today this economy is threatened with ruin by the state and borough's reckless attempts to create timber industry jobs at any cost.

In coming weeks the Mat-Su Borough Planning Commission will hold public hearings on a plan to encircle Talkeetna with blocks of land dedicated to commercial timber harvest. That means road construction and clear-cutting on some of the most valuable wildlife habitat and remote recreation areas in our community.

There is no surer or quicker way to destroy the community character and wild country that makes Talkeetna an economically viable community.

This isn't just one man's opinion. At a half-dozen community meetings over the past three months I have yet to hear a single resident support the borough's timber plan. In 17 years I've never seen this kind of unanimity before.

Unfortunately, this community consensus hasn't deterred the borough's single-minded drive to implement widespread clear-cutting in the Upper Susitna Valley. This is especially distressing as more than 150 area residents are now participating in the Talkeetna and Chase Comprehensive Planning processes to determine appropriate land uses and development directions for our community. Many who have dedicated their energies to this planning effort view the unseemly rush to impose clear-cutting units here as a slap in the face to community self-determination.

In this age of perestroika, when people all over the Earth are insisting on their right to determine their own destinies, the borough appears to be telling Talkeetna that we have little choice but to accept the dictates of a handful of special-interest promoters and logging bureaucrats.

I know the timber industry consultants, pressure groups, and promoters along with their friends in government will not believe it but they occupy exactly the same position that the Communist Party had in Eastern Europe until recent weeks.

When I made this analogy at a planning

commission meeting, some found it objectionable. But I contend the comparison is valid. I am not ascribing evil motives merely pointing out that this group occupies the position of a party elite certain they know better than those of us who from and on the lands, they intend "develop."

In contrast, the community comprehensive planning process is a fine example of decentralized Jeffersonian democracy. It may be slower and seem awkward, but in the long run it is the only way excellent decisions can be made about the proper use of public lands. I encourage borough residents to attend hearings and contact planning commission members to stop the clear-cutting juggernaut which threatens to raze down our forests.

I hear that Palmer, Wasilla and Houma are talking about pulling out of the borough. In Talkeetna people are beginning to talk about incorporation if the borough attempts to impose their timber-cut plans on our community.

Unless the borough learns to listen to its citizens, rather than just a handful of special-interest promoters, borough officials may one day find themselves administering a borough only the size of Rhode Island.

Paul Bratton is a Talkeetna resident.



ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL, INC.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Ed Grasser, Director
Legislative Affairs

RE: Susitna Valley Association's proposed legislation

DATE: February 5, 1990

Recently you received a packet of information from the Susitna Valley Association supporting legislation for a remote recreational parcel in the Susitna River Drainage. Within the packet were listed several organizations which purportedly participated in the drafting of this proposal. The Alaska Outdoor Council, along with several member affiliates were so listed.

In order to clarify any misconceptions which may or may not have been inferred by the presence of our organization on SVA's list, we would like to inform you that we currently are not in support of their proposal, nor did we participate in any of their discussions leading to this proposal. Also, several of our member affiliates have indicated they are currently opposed to SVA's proposed legislation.

We regret any inconvenience or misconception SVA's inclusion of our name on this proposal may have caused. We appreciate your consideration of our concerns on this matter and look forward to a more constructive level of participation on this legislation after our members have had time to relate their concerns and comments to us.

cc: Member Clubs

Mat-Su assembly criticizes Susitna recreation-area bill

By CHARLES WOHLFORTH
Daily News reporter

PALMER — The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly on Tuesday denounced a bill in the legislature that would turn most of the Susitna Valley into a recreation

area rather than allowing the logging industry the assembly prefers.

The Susitna Valley Association, an anti-logging group, proposed the bill to create the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area,

which was introduced by Sen. Pat Rodey, D-Anchorage, and faces a long, uncertain course through three Senate committees.

The association was formed in 1987 by local residents, conservationists, tourism operators and outdoors groups to fight a massive state timber sale proposed for the Susitna Valley. The sale was blocked and an elaborate land-use planning process was begun, but is still incomplete.

But Loisann Reeder, president of the association, said the state's planning process has focused too much on timber development.

The Mat-Su assembly was predictably unenthusiastic. The borough government badly wants the jobs it hopes would come from large-scale timber cutting, and even joined a logging

industry lobbying group in which all the other members are private sector companies that stand to gain from it.

The assembly's resolution says Rodey's bill would halt all forms of development, including tourism, although the bill says its purpose is to promote recreation, including lodges, guides and riverboat charters.

The resolution also says the bill would make the borough's own land in the area useless for its intended purpose of development and that it contradicts the state's own plans for the area. Borough Manager Don Moore wrote to the assembly that there is already enough recreation land in the borough.

Assembly members said the bill was wrong to favor tourism over all other land uses. They criticized Rodey as an interloper.

"The majority of lodge owners and people flying tourists out to that area are coming out of Anchorage, so it's appropriate that it's an Anchorage legislator locking up our land," Assemblywoman Eleanor Malapanes said. "I think it would be good if we could come up with a bill that would lock up Anchorage so we could show Senator Rodey how it feels."

Mark Begich, an Anchorage assemblyman and the aide to Rodey who wrote the bill, said the bill would block commercial timber harvest on state lands, but leaves alone borough land and allowed access to it.

Martha Welbourn, who has for two years run the Department of Natural Resources efforts to draft a Susitna Regional Forest Plan, said the bill would

remove from consideration about two-thirds of the area the plan addresses.

Welbourn said the plan hasn't been drafted, so it is too early for Rodey or anyone else to react to it. But she said the plan is mandated by the Susitna Area Plan, which calls for multiple use of the land, including forestry. She said it would not be within the power of the plan writers to outlaw commercial logging in a large area, as Rodey's bill would.

Reeder's complaint is that by drafting a forestry plan, the state gives that use priority. She said a recreation plan should have been drafted at the same time to give it equal weight.

But Welbourn said the forest plan work has addressed recreation, fish and wildlife resources, and other competing uses.

OPINION

Frontiersman

Duncan Frazier
 Publisher
 Sean Hanlon
 Managing Editor
 Susan Morgan Howk
 Associate Editor



Fight brewing: Tourism vs. timber

As the Mat-Su Borough's 1991 budget winds its way through government halls, it is subject to a variety of pressures that push it this way and tug it that way. Politics and the clash of competing interests sometimes disrupt the process, which could be the case in one budget section this year.

A small segment of the Borough Assembly appears interested in diminishing the borough's commitment to our developing visitor industry. That lessening of commitment would likely take the form of a shrunken Matanuska-Susitna Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the borough's leader in adding to this important industry in the Valley.

Interestingly, those who would have the borough lessen or abandon its efforts in tourism are the same ones who seek to develop a viable timber industry in the Valley. It appears the stage has been set for a duel between two industries, tourism and timber, with the future shape of the Valley stuck right in the middle.

Development of a timber industry in the Mat-Su remains a topic of much debate. The lifestyle-versus-jobs argument is often heard, and in a way it is a basic force in the collective borough psyche. We can add to only one or the other, some wrongly believe. We must have both.

The borough's foray into tourism development is still young. Building and expanding the visitor industry is a long-term project with a long-term payback. Diminishing the local commitment to tourism now would set the borough back years, and it would guarantee that we would see no more tourism success stories like those in Talkeetna and Big Lake.

A large group of European and Japanese travel agents was recently hosted by the MSCVB and Talkeetna's tourism vendors as part of a marketing strategy that can mean important growth in local tourism. The agents' enthusiasm for the country, even in the village's sub-zero cold, was palpable. The Europeans' desire for independent travel and rustic accommodations in a unique setting was perfectly suited to Talkeetna and the rest of the Valley, and we expect greater demand for that in the future from Europeans and Americans alike. But only if we manage to let people know we are here, and that task falls to the young visitor bureau.

It's one thing for the Borough Assembly to support development of a timber industry in the Valley, but it shouldn't be at the expense of an already-established visitor industry with tremendous future potential. The upcoming borough budget will tell us much about borough priorities.

As for the lifestyle-versus-jobs argument, the voters of the Valley will eventually rule on the wisdom of this Assembly's actions, and it is those same voters who will ultimately decide if we have a growing tourism industry, a timber industry, both, or neither.

'What is your favorite part of Fur Rendezvous?'



Dixie Summerlin, housewife, Wasilla: This is my first year to see the Fur Rendezvous. I lived in Dutch Harbor before moving here. I'm most excited about seeing the ice sculptures.



Jerry Johnson, warehouseman, Anchorage: We usually start with the fireworks and then go to the Grand Prix, weight pulls, trade shows, ice sculptures. I guess you could say we just do everything.



Melissa Reynolds, student, Wasilla: My favorite part is the rides, because they're fun and scary. I also like the ice sculptures and eating french fries.



Kristen Egbert, student, Wasilla: I like the rides. I get cold but it's OK because it's fun. I also like eating candy apples and I want to watch the car races on the streets.

In Talkeetna 'wilderness means jobs'

By PAUL BRATTON

Make jobs not more wilderness. I first saw this bumper sticker plastered on a fancy Cadillac parked in Wasilla. REDCOR and other timber industry promoters are distributing this to promote their philosophy.

In Talkeetna we don't have many Cadillacs or any REDCOR bumper stickers, but if we did plaster a slogan on our super cubs, fishing boats, pickup trucks or dog sleds, it would read "Wilderness Produces Jobs."

Commercial fishing and processing employs more people in Alaska than any other private industry. I make my living gillnetting salmon and herring. There's no place on this earth that has been able to maintain a healthy salmon fishery once the wilderness is gone. There's no reason to believe Alaska would be an exception.

But you don't have to look out to the coast to see the jobs that the Susitna basin wilderness produces. I've been around Talkeetna for 17 years and have seen a few changes, but the major one is the development and growth of a wilderness-based recreation economy. In the early '70s, Ray Genet guiding climbers, and Don Sheldon and Cliff Hudson flying them was about it. Now I couldn't begin to list all the air taxis, riverboat charter services, guides, outfitters, tour operators and other businesses that depend upon the tourism and outdoor recreation economy.

"People in Talkeetna didn't just sit around waiting for the state or borough to develop a ski area or park hotel or timber industry to hand them a subsidized income. Instead they built an economy using renewable natural resources but not destroying those resources. Local initiative found the niches where an individual, family or small business could survive and make a profit.

Today this economy is threatened with ruin by the state and borough's reckless attempts to create timber industry jobs at any cost. In coming weeks the Mat-Su Borough Planning Commission will be holding public hearings on a plan to encircle Talkeetna with blocks of lands dedicated to commercial timber harvest. That means road construction and clearcutting on some of the most valuable wildlife habitat and remote recreation areas in our community.

There is no surer or quicker way to destroy the community character and wild country that makes Talkeetna an economically viable community.

This isn't just one man's opinion. At a half dozen community meetings over the past three months, I have yet to hear a single resident support the borough's timber plan. In 17 years I've never seen this kind of unanimity before. The timber plan has



achieve something I wasn't sure was possible. It has all elements of the Talkeetna community.

Unfortunately this community consensus hasn't deterred the borough's single-minded drive to implement widespread clearcutting in the upper Susitna Valley. This is especially distressing as more than 150 area residents are now participating in the Talkeetna and Chase comprehensive planning process to determine appropriate land uses and development directions for our community. Many who have dedicated their energies to this planning effort view the unseemly rush to impose clearcutting units here as a slap in the face to community self-determination.

In an age when people all over the earth are insisting on their right to determine their own destinies, the borough appears to be telling Talkeetna that we have little choice but to accept the dictates of a handful of special interest promoters and logging bureaucrats. I know the timber industry consultants, pressure groups and promoters, along with their friends in government, will not believe it, but they

occupy exactly the same position that the Communist Party has in Eastern Europe until recent weeks.

When I made this analogy at a Planning Commission meeting, some found it objectionable. But I contend the comparison is valid. I am not ascribing evil motives, merely pointing out that this group occupies the position of a party elite certain that they know better than those of us who live from, and on, the lands they intend to "develop."

In contrast the community comprehensive planning process is a fine example of decentralized Jeffersonian democracy. It may be slower and seem awkward, but in the long run it is the only way excellent decisions can be made about the proper uses of public lands. I encourage borough residents to attend hearings and contact Planning Commission members to stop the clearcutting juggernaut which threatens to mow down our forests.

I hear that Palmer, Wasilla and Houston are talking about pulling out of the borough. In Talkeetna people are beginning to talk about incorporation if the borough attempts to impose their timber-cutting plans on our community.

Unless the borough learns to listen to all its citizens, rather than just a handful of special interest promoters, borough officials may one day find themselves administering a borough only the size of Rhode Island.

Paul Bratton is a resident of Talkeetna.

Police invaded privacy

By W. MICHAEL MOODY

The United States and Alaska Constitutions guarantee each citizen a right to privacy and a right to be free from unreasoned searches and seizures. On Oct. 3 and 4, 1989, the Anchorage Police Department occupied the Administration Building of the Anchorage School District, and searched the premises for two days. This unprecedented intrusion raises many serious questions which must concern every thoughtful member of our community.

The search appears to have been a fishing expedition in the broadest sense. The search warrant sought evidence pertaining to one named teacher. Yet the search as conducted was a wholesale invasion of the privacy of others. It included the reading of children's test scores, personnel records of many teachers and employees, curriculum and facilities reports and numbers of other files totally unrelated to the specific teacher.

One of the worst examples was the reading of files of special education students. Who is more deserving of privacy, protection and consideration than special education students and their families? Their files contain extensive: personal, medical, family and psychological information. The files are specially protected by state and federal status. What possible justification was there for this invasion? Who will be next?

We are also greatly concerned with the attempt of the Anchorage Police Department to seize files of attorneys for the School District. Communication between attorney and client are privileged. The work product of the attorney is also protected by qualified privilege. These files should be inviolate, except in the most exceptional circumstances. What possible justification was there for this wholesale seizure of attorney-client materials? Which citizen? (Continued on Page 5)

Don't let Susitna Valley Association lock up land

By ROBERT W. LANG

It's time that this merry-go-round between Preservationist and sound Multiple Use Management Practices ceases. I am referring to the front page article in the Frontiersman, on Jan. 17, about the proposed two thousand acre "Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area."

Are we, the residents of Alaska, going to sit back and let a person, to wit, Lois Reeder and her adherents in the Anchorage-based Susitna Valley Association (SVA) tell us how to run our state and the Mat-Su Valley?

Who is the SVA? Look at their roles. They are individuals, organizations and businesses of whom the majority are not from the Mat-Su Valley, but rather, from the Anchorage area. They are preservationists, a group of people who already have land holdings, remote cabins, lodges, riverfront lots, etc., within the Mat-Su Valley who do not want any more people to encroach upon them. They have existing roads and trails to their places. They are a well organized group that have what they want.

They do not want anyone else to build roads and trails to land which they might acquire from individuals or the state in the future, or to use its full potential of Natural Resources under the Multiple Use Management Concept, the SVA is totally against the concept of Multiple Use Management.

Apparently the SVA forgot to read the Constitution of the State of Alaska. Article VIII, "Natural Resources" reads in part: "Section 1 - Statement of



Policy. It is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest. Section 2 - General Authority. The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people.... Section 4 - Sustained yield. Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and managed on the sustained yield principle, subject to differences among beneficial uses. Section 5 - Facilities and Improvements. The legislature may provide for facilities, improvements, and services to assure greater utilization, development, reclamation, and settlement of lands, and to assure fuller utilization and development of the fisheries, wildlife, and waters."

There are 18 sections in all. Take the time to know your Constitutional rights. Pick up a copy of the Constitution of the State of Alaska at your nearest Legislature Information Office. In Wasilla, the

Mat-Su Legislative Information Office is in the Krenik Building. The telephone number is 376-3704.

Are you also aware that there are still 22 surviving Delegates of the People of Alaska, who wrote our Alaska Constitution, which was adopted by the Constitutional Convention, of February 5, 1956? I cannot begin to imagine what must be going through their minds when they see such organizations as the SVA deliberately violating our State Constitution.

The SVA say they are not in opposition to small-scale logging. Therefore, small-scale logging to them must be nothing more than personal use permits. They have been at the back door of every timber sale presented and voiced their objections. Did you know that in calendar year 1989, there was not a single timber sale offered for public auction in the Mat-Su Valley, due in part to the endeavors of the SVA? Did you know that the workload of forest activities at the Big Lake office of the Alaska Division of Forestry, is such, that two foresters are able to handle this workload on the approximately 1.2 million acres, administered by that office? Of the dozen or so forest technicians that work out of that office, only one is on year round, and his primary duties are fire-related. The remainder are all seasonal employees because there is such a small workload.

Compare this to any other such comparable forests in the Lower 48 or Canada. You would be astonished at the amount of forest activity that should

be in progress on some 1.2 million acres. On Jan. 10, there were only four timber sales offered at public auction at the Big Lake Office. It's a miracle that these four ever made it through all the obstacles created by such organizations as the SVA.

Did you notice that the cost of local forest products, i.e., lumber, firewood, house logs, timbers, slabs, posts and poles, etc. went up in price this past winter, re: Frontiersman Jan. 19, page three, and may go even higher, state officials said in the article. A lot of this can be attributed to such organizations as the SVA, so long as they continue their attempts to lock up our land.

Our forests are growing older just as we are, and expiring too. We have almost as much over mature dead and dying commercial timber in the Mat-Su Valley as we do healthy stock, in part because we are unable to harvest it. Dead and dying forests invite disease and insect infestation, and if left unchecked by sound forest management practices.

The SVA talks about tourism, however I do not believe the tourists, who sometimes spend thousands of dollars to come to Alaska, want to look at millions of acres of dead and dying or blackened forests.

If we are ever going to save our land from a total "Land Lockup" and maintain it for Multiple Use Management for all Alaskans to enjoy, now is the time to step forward and speak out.

Robert W. Lang is a resident of Palmer.

RECEIVED

FEB 12 1990

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION SERIAL NUMBER 90- 014

"A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDING THAT THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE OPPOSE THE CREATION OF THE PROPOSED SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA."

WHEREAS, legislation has been proposed to create a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, the State and Borough through a open public planning process adopted the Susitna Area Plan as management guidelines for public lands within the Susitna Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Susitna Area Plan does not recommend the creation of a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, approximately fifty-five percent of all State lands within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough are already classified as Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat lands; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area will severely retard the State's and Borough's efforts to diversify their economies by halting all forms of development including tourism; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area will subvert the rationale for past decisions for selecting lands under the Municipal Lands Entitlement program by rendering the lands selected under this program useless for the uses they were selected for; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area will provide an economic windfall to existing property (lodge) owners by restricting competition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough strongly opposes the creation of the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area and respectfully recommends that the Alaska State Legislature oppose this legislation.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Assembly of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough this 6 day of February, 1990.

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

ATTEST:

Linda Dahl
Linda Dahl
Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

SUBJECT: Proposed Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area Legislation

For Agenda of: 02/06/90

No. AM90-034

ATTACHMENTS: Proposed Legislation *Resolution 90-014*

Route to:	Dept/Committee/Individual	Initials	Remarks
	(Please review & return to originator)		
1	Planning Director	JD	Originator
	Borough Assessor		
	Public Works Director		
2	Finance Director	<i>Handwritten initials</i>	
3	Borough Attorney	<i>Handwritten initials</i>	
4	Borough Manager		
	Mayor		

STATEMENT The Susitna Valley Association (SVA) and several environmental organizations, e.g., Sierra Club, have proposed legislation that would establish a remote recreation unit within the Susitna Basin. It is expected that Senator Rodey will introduce the legislation during the last week of January, 1990; a House sponsor was not identified at the time this memorandum was written.

The proposed legislation, if adopted, would not allow commercial timber harvesting, land disposals, mining nor the construction of publicly financed roads within the Susitna Valley. The restrictions, especially the restrictions on road construction, will severely restrict the

FISCAL ACTION (TO BE COMPLETED BY FINANCE) FISCAL IMPACT? YES/NO

AMOUNT REQUESTED \$ at this time FUNDING SOURCE _____

FROM ACCOUNT # _____ PROJECT # _____

TO ACCOUNT # _____ PROJECT # _____

VERIFIED BY: *Handwritten signature* CERTIFIED BY: *Handwritten signature*

DATE: 1-29-90 DATE: 1-24-90

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The Borough Administration respectfully recommends that the Borough Assembly strongly oppose the proposed Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area legislation.

APPROVED BY: *Handwritten signature*
 Donald L. Moore
 Borough Manager

economic development of the Borough in all phases of the economy including tourism and recreation. The proposed legislation violates and subverts the public land use classification process undertaken by the State and Borough through the Susitna Area Plan. Moreover the proposed legislation will convey an economic windfall on existing property (lodge) owners since entry by new lodge owners via existing and future land disposals will not be allowed. The proposed legislation, if adopted, would also subvert the land selection decisions made by the Borough since the Borough would not be allowed to use the lands for the reasons it selected them. Finally, a cursory analysis of present land use classifications (see Table 1) within the Borough indicates that approximately 55% of State lands within the Borough are already classified as either Public Recreation (20%) or Wildlife Habitat (35%) and very little as Forest Management (6%) and Agriculture (1%); therefore, it does not appear that additional remote recreation lands are needed.

RECOMMENDATION The Borough Administration respectfully recommends that the Borough Assembly strongly oppose the proposed Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area legislation.

TABLE 1
STATE LAND USE DESIGNATIONS
IN MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

(ACRES X 1000)

	PUBLIC RECREATION	WILDLIFE HABITAT	FOREST MANAGEMENT	SETTLEMENT	AGRICULTURE	TOTAL
WILLOW SUB-BASIN PLAN	16.6	371.0	66.5	5.5	44.5	504.1
SUSITNA AREA PLAN (1)	1,555.1	3,126.6	521.5	4,391.2	26.1	9,620.5
LEGISLATIVELY DESIGNATED:						
GOOSE BAY STATE GAME REFUGE		10.9				10.9
PALMER HAY FLATS		26.0				26.0
SUSITNA FLATS		300.8				300.8
MATANUSKA VALLEY MOOSE RANGE	16.6	101.7	85.1			203.4
WILLOW MOUNTAIN CRITICAL HABITAT		23.0				23.0
DENALI STATE PARK	421.1					421.1
NANCY LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA	22.7					22.7
WILLOW CREEK STATE RECREATION AREA	3.6					3.6
HATCHER PASS PUBLIC USE AREA	5.1					5.1
SIX RECREATION RIVERS	240.9					240.9
TOTAL	2,281.7	3,960.0	673.1	4,396.7	70.6	11,382.1
PERCENT	20.0%	34.8%	5.9%	38.6%	0.6%	100.0%

Note: (1) Includes 4,391,244 unverified acres in Settlement - this is based on conversation with DNR personnel regarding survivor classifications.
Includes 19,897 unverified acres in Agriculture - total Agriculture figure is based on narrative in plan.

Willow Sub-Basin Plan, Susitna Area Plan and Matanuska Valley Moose Range figures include many areas with more than one primary designation.

All figures for Willow Sub-Basin Plan taken from narrative of plan except Public Recreation. Public Recreation taken from information supplied by DNR personnel.

SUMMARY OF THE SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA PROPOSAL

11-2-89

1. PURPOSE - the purpose of the SVRRA is to perpetuate and enhance the present character and existing uses of a portion of the Susitna Valley. Specifically, the SVRRA has five main purposes:

- a. Protect and maintain fish and wildlife populations and habitat;
- b. Perpetuate and enhance public enjoyment of fish and wildlife;
- c. Perpetuate and enhance remote recreation while ensuring the scenic and natural integrity of the area;
- d. Perpetuate and enhance continued remote commercial recreation in a quality environment;
- e. Protect and perpetuate the remote character upon which present and future recreational use and community lifestyles depend.

2. ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES - except as noted in (3) below, all existing uses would be allowed, including:

- a. Personal use logging, including house logs and firewood for private or commercial facilities;
- b. Local roads not connected to the existing road system;
- c. Adequate and feasible access to private lands, existing mining claims, or other valid occupancies;
- d. Traditional means of access.

3. INCOMPATIBLE ACTIVITIES - the following would not be allowed:

- a. Commercial logging;
- b. Future land disposals by the state;
- c. Publicly financed and/or maintained roads connected to the highway system and intended for use by highway vehicles.
- d. Exploration, development, and the extraction of minerals (except for valid existing rights).

4. MANAGEMENT - The following management considerations apply:

- a. Management of the area will be by DNR, with ADF&G being responsible for management of fish and wildlife resources;
- b. A Management Plan is required to be prepared by DNR with the consultation of ADF&G, and with public review and comment;
- c. The commissioner of DNR may prohibit or restrict incompatible uses, after public review and comment.

DISCUSSION DRAFT

11-2-89

For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area."

SECTION 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this act is to establish the area described in this act as the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area. The Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area is established to

(1) manage, protect, and maintain fish and wildlife habitat so that traditional public uses of fish and wildlife populations may continue on a sustained yield basis;

(2) perpetuate and enhance public enjoyment of fish and wildlife and their habitat including fishing, hunting, trapping, viewing, and photography;

(3) perpetuate and enhance remote recreation including camping, boating, cross-country skiing, dogsledding, hiking, flightseeing, snowmobiling, and all-terrain vehicle use, while ensuring the scenic and natural integrity of the area;

(4) perpetuate and enhance continued remote commercial recreation, including air taxi and flightseeing services, lodges, guided hunting and fishing, adventure tours, riverboat charter services, and commercial operations supporting these industries, in a quality environment;

(5) Protect and perpetuate the remote character which has historically attracted people to the area, and upon which present and future recreational uses and community lifestyles depend;

(6) allow additional public uses of the area in a manner compatible with the purposes specified in (1) - (5) of this section.

SECTION 2. MANAGEMENT. (a) Management of the surface and subsurface estate within the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area is the responsibility of the commissioner. The commissioner shall adopt and may revise a management plan for the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area after public hearings. With regard to the management of land within the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area described in this act, the commissioner shall consult with the Department of Fish and Game in the adoption and revision of the management plan.

(b) The Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the management of fish and wildlife resources and public use of fish and wildlife in the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area consistent with the purposes of this act. Nothing in this act

shall be construed to prohibit the Department of Fish and Game from engaging in protection and maintenance of the fish and wildlife habitat within an area described in this act. The Department of Public Safety and the Department of Fish and Game shall have necessary access for fish and wildlife management, research, and enforcement purposes.

(c) Subject to valid existing rights, the commissioner shall not dispose of the surface estate in state land within the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area.

(d) Consistent with the purposes of this act and the management plan adopted under this act, the commissioner may allow the construction and operation of commercial recreation and tourism facilities, by

(1) leasing land under AS 38.05.070; or

(2) contracting for the construction and operation of a facility under AC 36.30 so long as the facility is not in competition with a private facility or enterprise.

(e) Publicly financed and/or maintained roads connected to the public highway system and intended for use by vehicles designed and licensed for highway travel shall not be constructed within the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area.

(f) The commissioner shall not dispose of timber under AS 38.05.110 - 38.05.120, AS 41.15, or AS 41.17 within the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area. The commissioner may permit the harvesting of timber for personal use, including house logs and fuelwood for private or commercial facilities.

(g) Subject to valid existing rights, the commissioner shall not allow for exploration, development, and the extraction of minerals under AS 38.05.135 -- 38.05.275

(h) The commissioner shall give such rights as may be necessary to ensure adequate and feasible access to private lands, existing mining claims, or other valid occupancies within or effectively surrounded by the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area. Such access rights shall be subject to regulations to protect the natural and other values of the land and water within the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area, and does not necessarily mean access by road. The construction of roads to provide access shall not be allowed unless the commissioner determines other modes of access are not adequate or feasible.

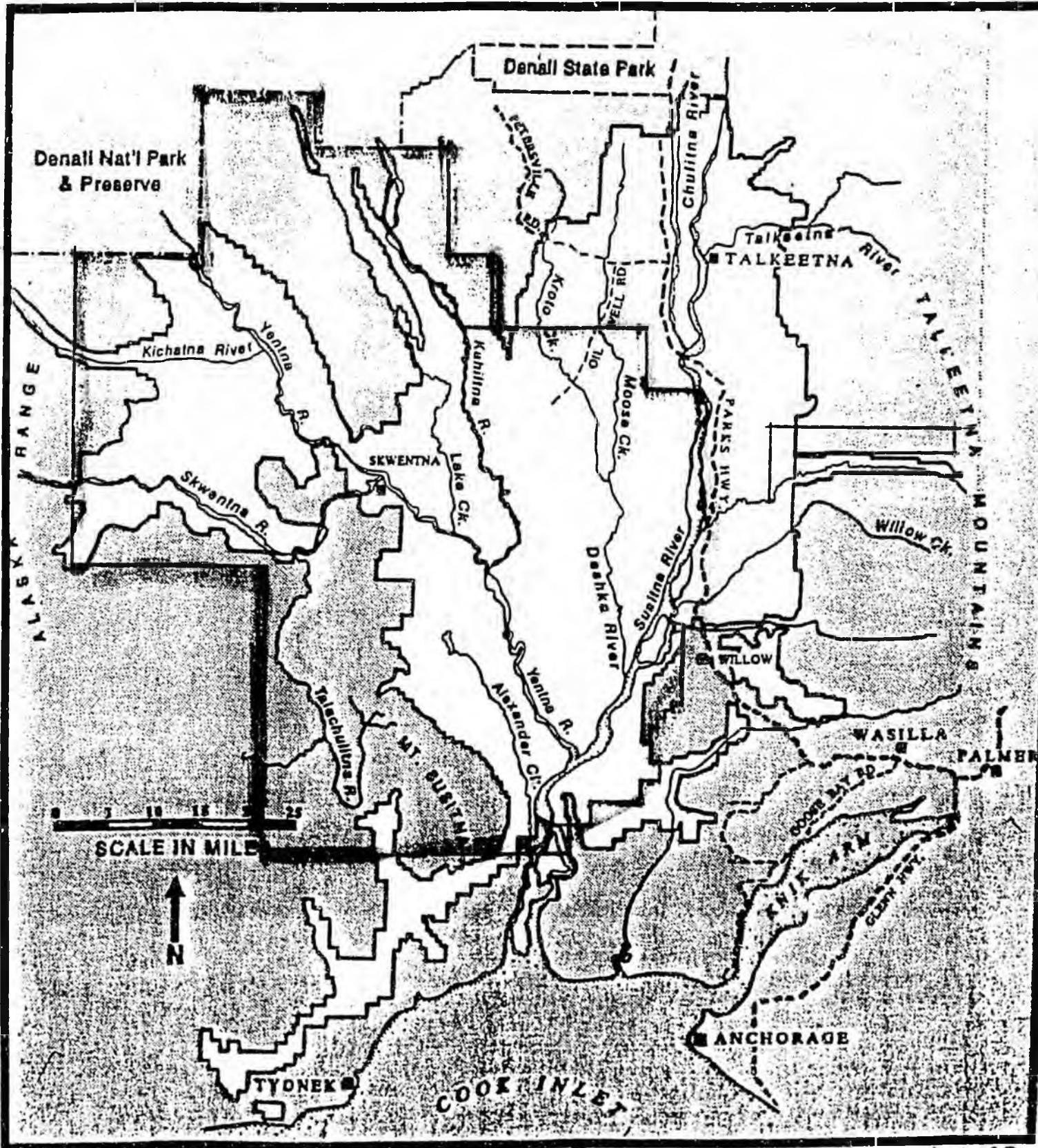
(i) The commissioner shall allow traditional access to the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area by motorized or nonmotorized means of transportation to private land, interests in private land, and for lawful sport and subsistence hunting, fishing, trapping, and recreational purposes in a manner that is compatible with the purposes specified in this act. The commissioner and the commissioner of fish and game may jointly develop guidelines for traditional access.

(j) Except as provided in this section, the commissioner may not restrict lawful sport and subsistence fishing, hunting, or trapping rights allowed under a regulation of the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game within the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area.

(k) The commissioner may determine a use is incompatible with the purposes of this act only after public hearings. If the commissioner determines that a use is incompatible, the commissioner shall state,

- (1) each determination of incompatibility;
- (2) the specific area where the incompatibility is determined to exist;
- (3) the time within which the incompatibility is determined to exist; and
- (4) the reasons for each determination of incompatibility.

SECTION 3. SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA. The vacant and unappropriated state-owned land and water and the state land and water acquired in the future, excluding the Recreation Rivers and Recreation River Corridors described under AS 41.23.500, that lie within the boundaries described in this section are designated as the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area, are reserved for all uses compatible with their primary function as public remote recreation land, and are assigned to the commissioner for control and management:



Legislative Designation Needed To Protect Susitna Valley

Stretching from Cook Inlet on the south to Mt. McKinley on the north, and from the Talkeetna Mountains on the east to the Alaska Range on the west, the Susitna Valley is a vast expanse of lakes, rivers, wetlands, muskeg, meadows and forests rich with wildlife and fish. The area has long been popular for hunting, fishing, boating, skiing, flightseeing, wildlife viewing, and a myriad of other outdoor recreation pursuits. Due to its proximity to the population centers of Southcentral Alaska, the Susitna Valley is used extensively by residents and visitors alike who are seeking, at relatively little expense, the wilderness experience for which Alaska is internationally known.

A significant segment of the economy of Southcentral Alaska relies on these remote recreational and tourism activities in the Susitna Valley. Daily, large numbers of planes leave Lake Hood in Anchorage to ferry recreationalists, private property owners, and supplies to wilderness lodges, remote cabins, or favorite fishing holes. Tourists leave their hotels for a day of flightseeing. Boaters put in at Susitna Landing or at the boat ramp in Anchorage

to access the Big Susitna, Little Susitna, Deshka, Yentna, Skwenta, and Kahiltna Rivers, as well as Alexander and Lake Creeks.

This substantial and growing remote recreation industry pumps tens of millions of dollars into the Alaska economy every year. The 52 wilderness lodges alone contributed approximately \$10 million to the economy in 1987; about 93% of these dollars were brought to the economy in 1987; about 93% of these dollars were brought in from outside of Alaska. Approximately 38 air taxi and flightseeing businesses service the Susitna Valley, with an economic impact estimated at \$13 million annually. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Susitna Valley anglers contributed over \$10.4 million to the Alaskan economy in 1986; in 1987 the area supported a total of 242,850 angler days, with 83.6% of those days spent at lakes and streams with no road access. In 1989, bear and moose hunting could result in as much as \$18.9 million worth of activity according to ADF&G. The value of hotel and motel rooms in

Anchorage occupied in relation to hunting and fishing in the Susitna Valley was \$6,764,580 in 1987. Tour operators also contribute substantially to the economy.

In spite of the economic and cultural importance of the Susitna Valley as a world renowned remote recreation area, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is continuing its pursuit of logging and road-building through the preparation of the Susitna Regional Forest Plan (SRFP). Although initiated in response to the overwhelming public opposition to a large timber sale proposal two years ago, the SRFP will provide a blueprint for logging and will sidestep the question of whether logging major portions of the Susitna Valley is consistent with the public interest.

Therefore, the Sierra Club Alaska Chapter has joined with other organizations and individuals of the Susitna Valley Association (SVA) in calling for the legislative designation of a portion of the Valley as the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area. As envisioned by the SVA, the Remote Recreation Area would provide protection for the Valley's established remote recreation, tourism and subsistence uses by placing certain restrictions on future land disposals by the state, commercial logging, future mining claims, and publicly financed roads connected to the existing highway system within the designated area. Although the exact wording of the bill is still being hammered out, the intent of the proposed legislation is to perpetuate the existing economic base and current use patterns of the Susitna Valley. Legislative designation is the only way in which long term protection of the spectacular remote recreation values of the Susitna Valley can be achieved.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION SERIAL NUMBER 90-09

"A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING THAT THE BOROUGH ASSEMBLY OPPOSE SENATE BILL 430 WHICH AUTHORIZES THE CREATION OF THE SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA."

WHEREAS, legislation has been proposed to create a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, the State and Borough through an open public planning process adopted the Susitna Area Plan as management guidelines for public lands within the Susitna Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Susitna Area Plan does not recommend the creation of a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 430 subverts the Susitna Area Plan planning process; and

WHEREAS, approximately fifty-five percent of all State lands within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough are already classified as Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat lands; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area will severely retard the State's and Borough's efforts to diversify their economies by halting all forms of development including tourism; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area will subvert the rationale for past decisions for selecting lands under the Municipal Lands Entitlement program by rendering the lands selected under this program useless for the uses they were selected for; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area will provide an economic windfall to existing property (lodge) owners by restricting competition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Planning Commission of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough strongly urges the Borough Assembly to oppose the creation of the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Planning Commission of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough this 5th day of February, 1990.

ATTEST:

John Duffy
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(SEAL)

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Is the Necessary Volume Available for a Wood Products Industry in the Valley?

Timber industry representatives, as well as DCED, have stated that a minimum of 50-million board feet a year would be needed for a successful wood products industry in the Susitna Valley.

According to the Division of Forestry, in the Susitna Valley it takes an average of 367 acres to produce 1-million board feet of timber. This calculation is based on an average volume of 940 cubic feet of wood per acre, and a conversion factor of 2.9 board feet per cubic foot. The volume is not comparable to Southeast timber.

In the Susitna Valley, 18,350 acres would have to be harvested per year to produce 50-million board feet. That's equal to 1 1/2 Point McKenzies being cut and accessed every year. Over an 80-year rotation, almost 1.5-million acres of commercial timber would be needed from the valley to meet this demand.

The Susitna Valley simply does not have that volume of timber. There's not even a third that volume; and what is there is spread out over a 2-million acre area. The SRFP has identified 450,000 acres with commercial potential that is in a land-use designation that would allow forestry as one of the uses. But not all that acreage is available for forestry. Much of it is in areas where "forestry" is only a secondary use, and must not conflict with the primary uses. In some cases "forestry" is allowed, but only for local personal use. Buffers for wetlands must be discounted from the timber base. Mitigation measures to minimize conflict with other values will further reduce the base. The final volume will be substantially less than the 450,000 acres being analyzed. The forest lands will not be contiguous and much of it will not be economically accessible.

In short, the Susitna Valley Association believes that, while existing small-scale timber harvest can and should continue in certain areas to accommodate commercial firewood sales and personal use wood lots, large-scale commercial harvesting is out of the question. The resource simply isn't there.

SUSITNA VALLEY ASSOCIATION

ECONOMIC SUMMARY OF EXISTING BUSINESSES

Which will be Impacted by Susitna Valley Logging

AIR CHARTER SERVICES which service the Valley	
Combined gross income for 1987 (10 of 38)	\$4,000,000
Combined value of businesses (10 of 38)	\$11,400,000
REMOTE LODGES in the Valley	
Combined gross income in 1987 (23 of 52)	\$3,340,000
AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SHOPS	
Combined value of businesses (2 of 15 at Lake Hood)	\$1,500,000
COMMERCIAL FISHERIES (from Susitna Drainage harvest)	
Estimated ex-vessel value in '86: \$10,664,716	
Total sales generated in Alaska due to this harvest	\$17,703,428
(Does not include value of processing of fish.)	
SPORTFISHERIES	
Value to Southcentral Alaska of sportfishing on Susitna Valley streams in 1986	\$10,420,000
ANCHORAGE HOTEL/MOTEL ROOMS	
Value of Susitna related hunting and fishing to the Anchorage Hotel/Motel business	\$5,104,080
Value to Anchorage of impacted Hotel/Motel wages	\$1,660,500

EMPLOYMENT SUMMARY OF EXISTING BUSINESSES

AIR CHARTER SERVICES (10 of 38)	
39 Full time + 106 Part time = 145 total employees	
	Full time equivalent 75
REMOTE LODGES (23 of 52)	
Total employees: 125	
Estimated 46 Full time and 79 Part time	
	Full time equivalent 73
AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SHOPS (2 of 15 at Lake Hood)	
18 Full time + 8 part time = 26 total employees	
	Full time equivalent 21
HOTEL/MOTELS	
Number of employees to service related rooms	
	Full time positions 90
Total employees:	386
Total full-time equivalent employees:	259

PRIVATE PROPERTIES

Number of privately owned parcels within the area being considered for timber harvesting	13,685
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WHAT IS THE SUSITNA VALLEY ASSOCIATION?

The Susitna Valley Association formed in January 1988, in opposition to large state timber sales that were being proposed in the core of the Susitna Valley. The association formed primarily for three purposes:

- first, to serve as a contact for the state and Mat-Su Borough on timber harvesting plans for the Susitna Valley,
- second, to serve as spokesperson on this issue when necessary and appropriate, and
- third, to serve as a clearinghouse for dispersal of timber-related information to interested individuals and groups.

The association has grown into a coalition of over 4300 individuals, numerous businesses, and 69 organizations. Some of those organizations are, in turn, coalitions. There are active chapters in Wasilla, Talkeetna, and Anchorage. Over 700 SVA people are valley residents, and 27 percent of the coalition organizations are Mat-Su groups.

The association is broad-based, representing a wide diversity of interests. In addition to people who own property in the Susitna Valley, there are people with business interests such as commercial fishermen, guides and outfitters, river charter services, lodge owners, air taxi operators, people in the tourism industry, and business people who support those businesses. There are people with recreation interests such as pilots, boaters, hunters, fishermen, skiers, sightseers, bikers, mushers, snowmachiners, and photographers. There are environmentalists and conservationists; people with health interests, and public land policy interests. And simply people who think large-scale logging in proximity to Southcentral Alaska's largest population centers will create unacceptable negative impacts. The interests and concerns are as varied as the individuals involved. Clearly, opposition to proposed timber harvesting in the Susitna Valley is a far-reaching issue of deep public concern that involves the entire community.

Dated: January 1990

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SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION, TOURISM AND FISHERY VALUES

Brief Background Information

The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR), met with disastrous results in an attempt to hold a large-scale timber sale in the Susitna Valley two years ago. As a result, DNR went into a planning mode, and is currently in the process of writing a "forest management plan" for the area. The plan is called the Susitna Regional Forest Plan (SRFP).

All lands in the valley below 1000' in altitude, a total of over 2 million acres, are being analyzed for commercial timber harvesting potential. The goals of the SRFP are to identify the location and volume of the commercial timber, determine how to access it, and establish guidelines for harvesting it. It is not a park plan; it is a forestry plan. The plan is required to take into consideration other forest values as they relate to forestry, but the focus is on the best economic return for the wood products industry, not for tourism, recreation, or fish and wildlife habitat.

The public will not be offered a range of land management options for the valley because other options, or alternatives to logging, have not been considered and analyzed. People will not even have the option to approve or disapprove of the plan to log the Valley, but will merely be asked to comment on the state's proposed guidelines for doing it.

Economic Values of Remote Recreation, Tourism, and Commercial Fisheries in the Susitna Valley

The Susitna Valley is an intensively used remote recreation and tourism area which also supports a valuable commercial fishery. A highly complex pattern of both developed and undeveloped recreation opportunities has evolved which is supported by thousands of people and which channels millions of dollars into the local economies. Following is a synopsis of various valley activities and resource uses which the Susitna Valley Association (SVA) has compiled:

Real estate. Over the past twenty years the state has encouraged recreational use of the Susitna Valley by selling thousands of properties in state land disposals in the area, mostly for recreational purposes. Just within the SRFP planning area, there are 17,609 private properties, and many more still for sale. (Borough Tax Assessment Office, 12-19-89) These are widely scattered throughout the valley. Land sales were a high priority of the state and borough during the '70s in the form of various land disposal programs, and even earlier with the Open-to-Entry program, homesteading and remote parcel distributions. As one would expect, this resulted in the formation of a potent constituency for protecting those values that attracted people to the area. The property owners have a vested interest in their lands and cannot be expected to remain silent on what happens in the valley. The assessed value of the private property is \$14.8-million.

Lodges. According to the Department of Fish and Game, there are 52 lodges which operate in the Susitna Valley, most of them remote. SVA has surveyed 23 of the lodges. Based on that survey, the total gross income for the 52 lodges was estimated at \$7.5-million, with a total employment of approximately 283 people. All but two of the lodges surveyed were owned and operated by Alaskans. 93% of their clients were from out-of-state, bringing new dollars into the Alaskan economy.

Air taxi services. 38 air taxi charter services presently fly clients into the valley for recreational activities and flightseeing. They service lodges, year-around residents, recreational cabin owners, and their own remote camps. 24 of those companies are based in Anchorage, and 14 in the Borough. Based on an SVA survey of ten of the companies, a total combined gross income derived from servicing the Susitna Valley in 1987, for only those 10 companies, was \$4-million, with employment of 145 people. The companies estimated 74.5% of their clients were non-residents. (Note that 28 of the companies are not included in the above figures.)

Commercial fishery. The entire Susitna drainage serves as a vast spawning and fish rearing habitat for a highly productive commercial fishing industry. According to the ADF&G Division of Commercial Fisheries, the direct income to commercial fishermen dependent upon fish reared in this drainage is between \$8-million and \$11-million per year. In 1986, the total economic activity generated in Southcentral Alaska attributed to this harvest, excluding processing, was just under \$18-million.

Sportfishing. The ADF&G Division of Sport Fisheries established that 242,850 days were spent sportfishing in the Susitna Valley in 1986, with associated expenditures of \$10.4-million. 84 percent of those days was spent at streams with no road access. The lack of roads, rather than being a barrier, was very likely

what attracted people to the area. It also indicates the complex economic network which exists just to get people to and from their fishing sites. According to Fish and Game, salmon stocks in the Susitna Basin are already fully allocated.

Moose and bear hunting. The annual expenditures for moose and bear hunting in the Susitna Valley is estimated by ADF&G at up to \$18.9-million dollars. This includes activities of game guides and outfitters, as well as the independent hunters.

Recreational pilots. There are over 5000 registered pilots in the Anchorage area and 800 in the Mat-Su Borough. The Anchorage pilots own a total of over 2000 airplanes. SVA surveyed 208 of the pilots and found that the Susitna Valley was their destination 81 percent of the time. Based on data from our survey, the total value of the airplanes based just in Anchorage can be estimated at \$90-million. Total plane related expenditures for 1987 was estimated at \$7.4-million.

Hotel expenditures. According to a study by the Alaska Hotel/Motel Owners Association, approximately 3 percent of the occupied rooms in Anchorage are related to clients traveling to or from hunting and fishing destinations in the Susitna Valley. The economic value of these rooms is \$6.8-million.

Tour companies. Tour operators sell the Susitna Valley as an accessible "Alaska wilderness experience". The valley is marketed for independent and adventure tours such as flightseeing trips, riverboat fishing and camping, sportfishing and hunting, remote lodge vacations, and rafting trips.

The valley is also an important component of the large package tours. According to information SVA received in 1988, Westours and Princess Tours had purchased and were renovating 14 railroad dome cars at an investment of \$8-million. These dome cars travel through the east side of the Susitna Valley. The tour companies are anticipating related gross revenues during 1990 of over \$100-million dollars.

Other users. The Alaska Boaters Association estimates there are approximately 20,000 boats in the Anchorage area, a high percentage owned to access the Susitna Valley streams. There are 20 to 30 riverboat charter services doing business on the streams of the valley. Many activities such as river freight services, mushing, skiing, trapping, and snowmachining remain to be quantified.

Related services. Also to be taken into consideration are the local businesses in adjacent communities that are economically supported by these activities and industries; the multiplier factor. These factors would take into account such items as the purchase of construction materials; maintenance costs of buildings and equipment; advertising; insurance; purchase and maintenance of airplanes,

boats, motors, and snowmachines. It would include employee expenses; gas, oil, and propane; generators; radio equipment; food and supplies; purchase of camping equipment, guns, fishing gear, and clothing; fish and game packing and processing; taxidermy services; and money spent at eating and drinking establishments when going to and from the valley.

The Potential for the Remote Recreation and Tourism Industries in the Susitna Valley

The number of tourists coming to Alaska is expected to increase by 10 percent a year; to Denali by up to 18 percent. The Alaska Railroad has been growing almost 10 percent a year in passengers and has added six new cars. Both the large tour companies and the railroad are marketing new tour packages for flightseeing, boating, and fishing out of Talkeetna, which is expected to be a growth area.

Princess Tours is designing new land tours to extend the company's cruises. The state is planning to construct a new lodge in Denali State Park. Lodges, air taxi services, and river charter businesses say their businesses have grown by at least 200 percent during the past 2-3 years. One company which primarily markets in Europe, brought 450 to 500 Europeans over this past summer to stay at their lodge and to float Alexander Creek. These people also rented RVs and did independent touring. A tour company which caters to Japanese clients is looking for a small lodge in a "primitive" area to accommodate eight clients per week for next summer. An Australian tour agent stated that his company had sold \$1.6-million dollars of Alaska adventure tours.

According to Westours, Alaska is increasingly becoming the traveler's destination of choice, and the emphasis is shifting from Southeastern to the Interior. Much of this change is in response to the companies marketing strategies to encourage repeat visitors. One lodge owner reported 67 percent of his business at Lake Creek during the summer of '89 was repeat business, clients who have stayed at the lodge before. They like what they've found and will pay to come back.

Economists have stated that Alaska needs to discover what it has that is unique . . . and market it. What Alaska does have in abundance, and what people come to Alaska to experience, and will pay to come back for, is quality "wilderness". Very few other places have it, and it's becoming scarcer all the time. Scanning through Alaskan magazines and travel brochures, it becomes apparent that advertisers consider "wilderness" to be a highly marketable commodity. There is economic value in it, especially coupled with the growing interest in outdoor adventure and nature tours, as well as the renewed interest in the environment.

For the industries in the Susitna Valley previously discussed, the perception of wilderness or remoteness is a critical factor in the marketing of the valley activities. As world populations continue to increase, that commodity will become more and more valuable. However, wilderness as a marketable commodity quickly loses its value once roads go in and clearcutting takes place. It will not be possible to go backward and regain it once it is gone. Large scale commercial logging is not compatible with remote recreation and tourism. And, the incompatibility becomes even more pronounced in an area such as the Susitna Valley where the primary orientation is from the air.

The borough and state are at a crossroads in deciding the most appropriate use of the Susitna Valley lands. The type of tourism discussed focuses on a low volume/high dollar approach. It focuses on a "working" wilderness, not a "hands-off" wilderness. But, the success and continuation of the existing businesses is dependent on not crossing the threshold into high volume/low dollar. The latter may be appropriate along well-traveled roadways, but there are other areas where it is more economically astute to go the other direction, thereby providing the full recreational spectrum.

Limitations of DNR's Current SRFP Planning Process as it Relates to Remote Recreation and Tourism.

A basic flaw of the SRFP planning process is that it does not recognize or evaluate the economics of the existing remote recreation and tourism industries, or their potential. It does not evaluate whether or not these industries are compatible with large scale commercial logging and related roading such as being proposed. Nor does it evaluate whether the development potential of the remote industries could ever be realized if the proposed logging and roading activity goes forward. Finally, it does not balance any of these competing values against the expected return from logging, which itself has never been determined in this process.

The SRFP advances a management plan for only "forestry", independent of management plans for the other designated land uses, even though the necessity for concurrent planning for all uses was stressed in the Susitna Area Plan.

The Department of Commerce and Economic Development was asked to do an economic feasibility study of the wood products industry in the valley, and was to address the other resource values in the process. This was not done. Instead, the department conceded that the data necessary to address the economics of the other uses was incomplete, and there was not time, personnel, or money available to acquire the data.

In the spring of '88, the legislature passed a \$30,000 budget increment with the following stipulation, "It is the intent of the legislature that the Department work with all interested parties to conduct an economic and environmental analysis of the Mat-Su Timber sale which includes but is not limited to the economic effects on the guiding industry, commercial and sport fisheries, lodges, tourism and recreational uses." This was not done.

The SRFP, if adopted, will provide a blueprint for logging and roading the valley, complete with an annual allowable cut determination. By so doing, and by not identifying and analyzing other competing and conflicting values, the plan will predispose the valley to logging. Since a "forestry plan" will be the only management plan the state has developed, it will obviously be the plan that will be advanced.

Without the pertinent information regarding other values, SVA contends it will not be possible for the state to make an informed comparison to determine the highest and best use of the public resources in the Susitna Valley. With hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars in existing investments and income at stake, and with no research into the potential of those existing investments, this does not seem like a responsible approach to land use management. Rather than introducing a new and conflicting industry, perhaps the state would be wiser to promote, protect, and enhance industries that are already in place, successful, and growing.

(DATED: December 30, 1989)

SUSITNA VALLEY ASSOCIATION

FACT SHEET

Introduction: A number of proposals have surfaced recently which would involve large scale commercial timber harvesting in the Susitna Valley. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently in the process of formulating a "forest management plan" which would serve as a blueprint for logging and roading activities in the valley. DNR's plan is called the Susitna Regional Forest Plan.

A "forest management plan" is not a plan for managing all uses of the forest. It is a plan which focuses upon logging the forest, and regrowing it to be logged again. The focus is on the best economic return for the wood products industry, not for tourism, recreation, or fish and wildlife habitat.

What is the Susitna Valley: The valley is an intensively used remote recreation and tourism area that also supports a large and successful commercial fishery. It is located just a short distance across Cook Inlet from Anchorage, and has developed a very complex pattern of both developed and undeveloped recreation opportunities.

All areas of the valley below 1000' in altitude, over 2,000,000 acres, are being analyzed by DNR for commercial logging. In this area, there are 52 remote lodges, 38 air taxi businesses, 20 to 30 riverboat charter services, and 13,685 private properties.

Fundamental issue: Incompatibility of large scale commercial timber harvesting and related roading with existing land uses and resources in the valley.

Remote recreation and tourism values are economically and culturally important to Alaskans. Roading and logging are incompatible with the continuation of these wilderness-based values.

What degree of the economically successful existing uses would have to be sacrificed to develop a timber industry? Some of the state's own studies have determined that certain other industries would likely be displaced. Would we be trading existing jobs for speculative forestry jobs?

Crucial questions not being addressed: The public has not yet had the opportunity to address the crucial question of whether or not it approves of large-scale commercial logging as the highest and best use of the forest resources in the Susitna Valley. Or whether or not the scale of logging, or the type of timber management being proposed, is compatible with the other forest uses in the area. Rather than being asked if they approve of having the area logged, people will merely be asked to comment on the state's proposed method for doing it.

What DNR sees as the state's mandate for logging is not what the public perceived when the Susitna Area Plan was prepared, nor is it a mandate that the public wants now. Alaskans feel the scale of proposals being advanced by the state and borough, for both logging and roading, threaten the long established and successful land use patterns in the valley. They believe the trade-off that would be required is not justified either economically or socially.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES

Existing economic values which must be considered.

- 242,850 days were spent sportfishing in the Susitna Valley in 1986, with associated expenditures of \$10,420,000. Eighty-four percent of those days was at streams with no road access indicating a complex economic network exists just to get people to and from their fishing sites. (ADF&G)
- The direct income to commercial fishermen dependent upon fish spawned and reared in the Susitna Valley is \$8-11,000,000 per year. (ADF&G) In 1986, the total economic activity generated in Southcentral Alaska due to this harvest, excluding processing, was more than \$17,700,000.

- The annual expenditures for moose and bear hunting in the Susitna Valley is estimated at up to \$18,900,000. (ADF&G)
- The Susitna Valley is the destination of choice by 81 percent of the recreational pilots flying float planes. (Susitna Valley Association survey)
- 13,685 private properties are located within the area being analyzed for timber harvests. (Mat-Su Borough tax records)
- Additionally, the basin is heavily used for hunting, trapping, boating, camping, rafting, cross-country skiing, snowmachining, and dog-mushing.

Costs.

- Massive state subsidies would be necessary to provide access for the timber industry. . .and further, to maintain that access.
- Studies are establishing that stumpage value of available timber is not high enough to cover associated costs of timber harvesting, processing, shipping, reforestation, and roading. Should the state heavily subsidize the creation of jobs for a wood products industry if the creation of those jobs would likely displace even more jobs in other industries?
- The state has acknowledged it has no standards for winter access in the Susitna Valley with its unique climatic conditions which often result in thawing conditions and extensive overflow problems. Yet DOF has stated much of the logging would be done in the winter under these conditions. Funding for research would be imperative to develop the standards necessary to protect the extensive valley wetlands?
- What level of timber harvesting, and related wood products industry, would be commercially viable? Is there really a sufficient timber base that would be accessible and available?

Small-scale logging.

- Even with the existing small-scale timber harvesting that is going on now, as it expands into the valley, will the state and Mat-Su borough develop and enforce meaningful controls that will allow it to remain compatible?
- At what point does small scale become large scale?
- Once a mill is built, would the industry continue to expand because we are locked into feeding the mill to the detriment of other pre-existing industries. (See separate paper on Suggested Alternatives.)

Planning process.

- The DNR planning process advances a management plan for only "forestry", independent of management plans for the other designated uses, resulting in a lop-sided planning process.
- The state has acknowledged a major lack of information regarding the value of remote recreation and tourism in the Susitna Valley, and that they do not have the time, personnel or money to acquire the data. New data is being acquired, however, on the wood products industry. As a result, the SRFP process is proceeding without adequate and balanced data.
- In order to do a responsible economic feasibility study of the logging industry, it is critical that DNR also address the negative impacts to the other uses, meaning they must be identified and evaluated.

In conclusion:

SVA believes the state and municipalities should concentrate on further promotion of the Susitna Valley as a prime forest-dependent, wilderness-based tourist and recreation area with a growing and healthy commercial and sportfishing industry.

Valley economy stands at fork in road

Anchorage Daily News Sunday, January 28, 1990

By CHARLES WOHLFORTH
Daily News reporter

PALMER — On the lonely Palmer Hay flats, where frigid wind from the Knik Glacier builds dunes of snow, a line of cars two hours long passes in the dark every morning and every night like an endless desert caravan.

But instead of bearing Persian rugs or Oriental spices, this caravan brings a far more valuable commodity to the Matanuska Valley: people who make money in Anchorage and spend it here.

Commuters provide half the wealth keeping the stagnant Matanuska-Susitna Borough economy alive, and it appears likely that most of the Valley's growth will come from commuter paychecks, too. They contribute more than 10 times the money produced by agriculture, mining, logging, tourism and all other Valley basic industries combined.

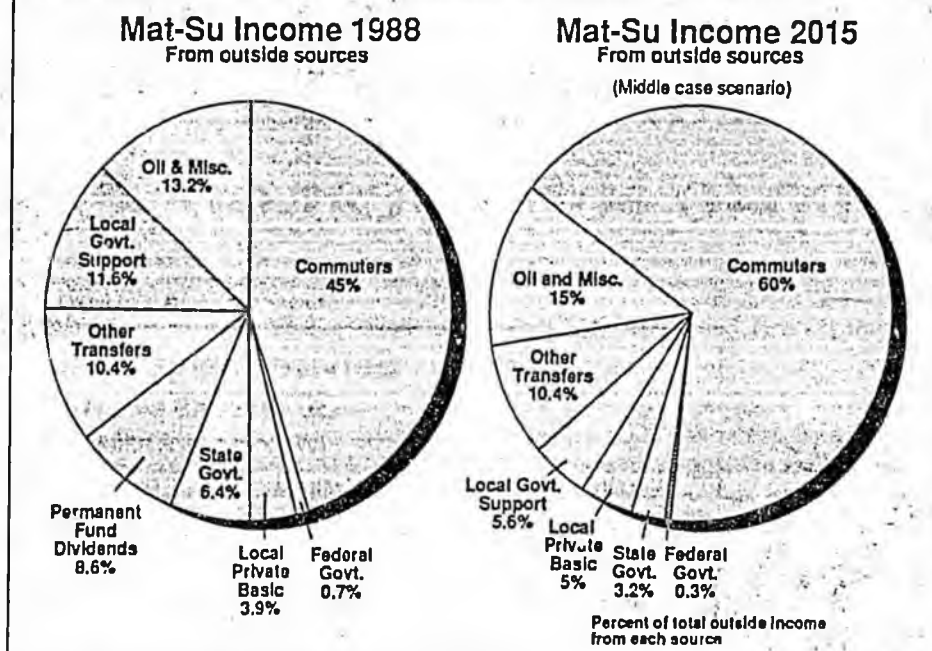
That analysis came last year from Scott Goldsmith and Eric Larson of the University of Alaska Institute of Social and Economic Research. Even the state's permanent fund dividend program brings in twice the wealth of the Valley's basic industries, and so do government social service programs, according to their report for the state Department of Transportation.

The Valley's main function is to provide bedrooms. According to a recent survey, people who work elsewhere want their bedrooms in the Valley because of the isolated, rural lifestyle.

But despite evidence that keeping those bedrooms full of commuters will determine the area's future economic health, a cadre of borough leaders would rather the people who sleep in them didn't commute. They want a return to the frontier Valley and its economy of rough-handed work like logging, mining and farming, its fast growth, and its wide-open development.

They don't think that approach puts the current commuter economy at risk.

What Will Power the Mat-Su Economy



Sources: I.S.E.R., Alaska Dept. of Transportation, Mat-Su Borough

Anchorage Daily News/Don Tulious

If they are wrong, the stakes of the gamble are high. Paychecks of Anchorage and the North Slope commuters produce 45 percent of the Valley's income. The local industries produce less than 4 percent of its income.

Goldsmith and Larson predicted that commuters will become even more important if the Valley is to grow. Even though they assumed a huge ski resort at Hatcher Pass and a coal mine at Sutton both will be built soon, by the year 2015 they expect commuters to bring in 60 percent of the income, compared to 5 percent for basic industry.

But the economists said commuter income is not a sure thing. It depends on commuters wanting to live in the Valley. And a growing number of residents say the way for the Valley economy to succeed is to plan its future so the quality of living there that attracts commuters is protected.

For instance, when debate turned to a major timber operation in the Valley, the borough commissioned a public opinion survey to find out how residents feel about

logging. The survey showed that 79 percent want logging to stay small, as it is now. Six percent supported the borough's goal of attracting large, outside timber developers.

Despite that kind of public sentiment, the borough government's economic program is devoted entirely to increasing resource and industrial development. The borough wants to rid itself of dependence on commuters and has pushed hard for large-scale timber development. Borough assembly members say they want commuters to stop commuting and work in the Valley in a self-sufficient economy.

Politicians say commuters import political apathy, lack community spirit, and spend too little time with their families. Their children need expensive schooling, but their places of work can't be taxed to pay for it because they are in Anchorage.

Still, commuters are a dominant economic force, and there is mounting evidence that most don't support wide open, frontier-style development.

Talkeetna, Chase, Chickaloon and the central core have begun efforts to manage their own development, saying the best way to boost the borough economy is to keep the Valley a pleasant place to live. They criticize the borough's attempts to launch big development projects at the expense of stable, basic government.

Environmentalists have organized and gained clout. One group plans to fill an empty Wasilla storefront with an office of the Alaska Center for the Environment, "in the belly of the beast," as one of them joked.

The group claims to represent a silent majority.

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Some day a million people will live in the heart of the borough, between Palmer and Wasilla, if the future unfolds the way Bob Vroman predicts. When that happens, today's strip development along the highways won't bother anyone, he said, because similar development will fill in the areas between.

Vroman was a development activist in the old days of borough politics, when bad roads prevented commuting. Today he is part of a group working to plan the future of the core area.

He remembers formation of the borough in 1964. The economic problems have not changed. The Sutton coal mine had closed. The Matanuska Maid creamery had moved to Anchorage. Lower shipping costs from Outside were making Valley agriculture less competitive. The area seemed to be losing its economic reason to exist.

Vroman was borough chairman. He set to work drafting a comprehensive plan to attract industry to the Valley. It took years to write and was finally published in 1970.

The borough sent copies of the plan all over the country, and received inquiries about timber and industrial development, Vroman said. A dairy project on Point MacKenzie was proposed and a Texas millionaire leased borough land to build an enclosed, futuristic city on the point.

But at the same time Vroman was working on another project that ultimately changed the Valley far more. He was a construction engineer, and he helped lay the deep gravel foundations of the highway across the swampy flats, which makes Anchorage less than an hour's drive from Palmer and Wasilla.

Oil was discovered at Prudhoe Bay, and as the state's population grew, commuting workers from Anchorage and the North Slope helped super-heat the Valley's economy. The population of the borough increased from 7,400 in 1970 to 44,280 in 1987.

Most of the new residents were commuters and people working for businesses that survived on commuter dollars.

In their study, Goldsmith and Larson asked why people with jobs in Anchorage were willing to drive 40 miles each way to work. The survey found the main attractions were low housing costs, large lots and clean air.

Anchorage and Mat-Su residents were asked how much cheaper a house has to be in the Valley to make the commute worthwhile. Answers settled around 40 percent — a comparable house would have to cost 40 percent less in the Valley for most people to choose to commute. The study said Valley housing is now about 50 percent cheaper.

But the government has to provide good roads and protect the lifestyle that attracts commuters if it wants to keep them, the economists said.

"I've talked to a bunch of people, and they all want that — they want to protect their lifestyle," said Bob Gilfilian, who owns an engineering firm and serves with Vroman on the Core Area Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee. "Most of the people here want their rural-urban thing. They're on their one acre, but they don't want their neighbor to put in a cow barn."

Gilfilian said the borough could help the economy by

aiding residents who, like him, want planning to protect their piece of suburbia.

"People like myself — entrepreneurs — are looking at what can be done with what we've got here," Gilfilian said. "I don't see any help coming from the local government or the state. They're not creating work out there.

"I think the borough government has its place to make sure the community will be stable. I'm not talking about creating jobs, but just making it possible for business to exist."

Instead, he and others said, the borough pursues big development projects, which might be good, but leave the basic business of government undone. Even Vroman, who is as pro-development as they come, criticizes the borough assembly for chasing rainbows.

"Over the last 10 years, the borough has shotgunned everything," Vroman said. "They've tried to be all things to everybody. Everyone who comes in, they get on with them, and then someone else comes in, and bang, they're off with them. They go from one thing to the other, and leave all these things lying here like unpoped popcorn. And it's left everyone in the community divided."

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Vroman himself was part of the borough's biggest 180-degree shift. In 1984, the borough drafted a comprehensive plan that residents interpreted as a move to begin zoning. Vroman helped lead a successful fight against the idea. Zoning opponents voted in a pro-development assembly and threw Borough Manager Gary Thurlow out of office. The planning department became the development services department, then changed back to planning in 1988.

But the borough's new emphasis on industrial and resource development hasn't led to much actual development.

The assembly built a road — at a cost of nearly \$1 million — to the water at Point MacKenzie in hopes of

putting a port there to export timber and other resources. It formed a port commission and asked voters to approve \$25 million in bonds to build the port.

Voters narrowly turned down the measure, and a study later showed the port would be speculative and unlikely to break even. But the borough is still pushing it.

In 1987, the state proposed a massive timber sale in the Susitna Valley. Borough officials have supported large-scale logging on borough land.

But an alliance of cabin owners, guides and rural residents rose up and blocked the state's timber. Studies by the state and borough since then have shown that a large-scale timber industry in the Valley probably isn't possible because the land available doesn't produce enough wood.

Trees in the Valley take 50 to 100 years to grow large enough to cut. Some potential timber has been reserved for wilderness or is in private hands, and much of what is left is swamp.

Ted Smith, a contrarian assembly member from Willow and former state forester, said the Valley could support only a small timber industry.

Various studies on the Valley's trees have produced widely varying estimates of how much lumber they could produce. But using optimistic standards of how much wood grows on each acre, and assuming it takes 80 years for cut trees to grow back, the 450,000 acres of state and borough land that studies show might be available could produce no more than 18 million board feet a year. By comparison, a new sawmill being built in Seward will be able to handle 80 million board feet a year.

Other basic industries also show little chance of a boom.

Small vegetable farmers are making a living selling produce to Anchorage grocery stores, but the dairy industry, unable to produce milk for a competitive price,

is in shambles. Only two dairy farmers are still in business except on the state-subsidized Point MacKenzie Project. Almost all the farms on the project have collapsed or are being run by the state.

A huge ski resort planned by a Japanese company for state land in Hatcher Pass appears unlikely to happen soon. The company never did as much work on the idea as borough and state officials. The company asked for an additional year before it has to do anything more because a study showed Japanese skiers are not interested in coming to Alaska.

There is still hope that a coal mine will reopen in Sutton, but borough officials say it may not be economically practical unless the borough and state governments buy a train to move the coal to the port in Seward.

The borough's Overall Economic Development Program, which the assembly approved earlier this month, is aimed almost entirely at developing five "major economic sectors," which it defines as forestry, agriculture, coal and hardrock mining, marine port developments, and tourism.

The federally mandated plan was written by the borough staff. It represents the views of the assembly, which passed it with words of praise, rather than the broad-based citizen's committee that had been required by the federal government. Although the plan identifies the committee members as co-authors, one member said he had never seen it and another is listed only by her last name.

Borough economic development specialist Dan Slaby admitted that he ran short of time to prepare the plan and did most of the work himself.

Slaby said there is no conflict between resource development and lifestyle issues such as outdoor recreation and open space. He said opposition to logging is instead based on a mistaken concept of man's relation to nature.

"I think this goes back to fairy tale mythology," Slaby said. "I think it goes back to the Garden of Eden, and people thinking that nature is in some way pure and perfect and man's involvement will just destroy it. . . . Nature is a constant struggle against death, a struggle to live, and only man has been able to overcome that."



Most of the assembly was elected after the economy went bad, and economic development was the constant theme of election campaigns. Although most Valley residents have not lived here long enough to remember a time when the area had its own self-sustaining economy, those who voted installed a pro-development assembly that wants the local jobs of the past to come back.

"This is the first time anyone in our family has had to leave the state to make a living," Assemblywoman Eleanor Malapanes said. "And that's in generations."

Borough Mayor Dorothy Jones said resource development will help commuters, too, by providing jobs in the Valley so they don't have to commute. She and assembly members say development doesn't have to conflict with the rural pleasures of living in the Valley.

But groups like the new Center for the Environment and Susitna Valley Association don't agree.

"There is a growing number of conservationists in the Valley," said Mike Bronson, a commuter and one of the new center's board members. "It's the amenities that attract people to the Valley — besides the cheap housing — like the natural surroundings."

The people running the borough don't agree, he said, because they belong to a small group that stands to profit from resource development.

"I think that is a very important element of our local politics," Bronson said, "that the people who are the most likely to derive direct

benefit from real estate speculation are also the most likely to sit on the boards and commissions that will make decisions on that."

Three of the seven members of the borough assembly hold real estate licenses, and a fourth has large land holdings.

Malapanes owns Double Eagle Real Estate Investments. She said real estate dealers bring important skills to the assembly, planning commission and platting board. But she agreed that their interests differ from Bronson's.

"It really scares me to have this be a bedroom community," Malapanes said. "That was a reason why I ran for the assembly, because I was hearing people saying all we have to be is a bedroom community for Anchorage."

Commuters have children who need to be educated, but their places of work can't be taxed to pay for it, she said.

"It means that the local taxpayer — the property owner — is going to have to pick up more and more of the burden of educating children."

□

But what do the people of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough really want?

In the last election, which included the hot port issue, only 29 percent of registered voters voted. That amounted to 5,443 ballots, or one for every nine residents.

Community leaders on every side of the issues say it is difficult to get anyone involved. Neighborhoods are diffuse and populated by commuters too tired to go to meetings after coming home from Anchorage.

"You can almost isolate yourself here," said Richard DeBusman, a high school teacher and one of the organizers of the new Center for the Environment office.

"There's not a lot of cohesiveness in the community. There is the old guard who sticks together, but the rest of the newcomers are not cohesive. It's a real problem.

because a small group of people can get a lot of power easily."

He and other environmentalists say the apathy has hurt them rather than their foes. They say those who stand to make money from development have taken roles in the government, while those who want planning and protection of their lifestyle say nothing until they are directly threatened.

The state's timber sale proposal gave birth to the anti-logging Susitna Valley Association, which DeBusman said still has 600 members in the Valley.

"People come out and buy a house and find out it's next to a gravel pit, and then they cry out for planning," Smith said. "And when you get enough people who do that, you get planning. I think we're getting to that point."

Wasilla Mayor John Stein said Wasilla doesn't want smokestack industry and prefers tourism to logging. But the city council recently voted to offer tax incentives to new industries that come to town.

Stein, Vroman, Gilfilian and others said developers need planning, too, because they now are afraid to act for fear of unpredictable reactions from their potential neighbors.

"As it is now, development is afraid to come in because they don't know what the rules are," Stein said.

Even the borough's pro-development economic plan points to the need for a more cohesive community. One of its goals is to, "Encourage the formation of a Borough identity through clarification of community values, prioritize community development goals, and creation of a community image integrated with a Borough identity."

Slaby translated. "Everyone's kind of lived their own life and had the leeway to hold their own views without having to worry about the affect on anyone else," he said. "We need to pull the community together."

Susitna Valley Association
9600 Slalom Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99516
346-1943

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS

The Susitna Valley Association communicates with its approximately 4300 individual members through a newsletter mailout and through periodic Updates to 68 organizations. These organizations have all expressed a desire to have information concerning the status of the Department of Natural Resources' Susitna Regional Forest Plan planning process. Many of these organizations, in turn, incorporate information from the SVA Updates into their respective newsletters. Following is a list of the current member organizations:

AKPIRG

Alaska Air Carriers Association
Alaska Airmens Association
Alaska Boating Association
Alaska Center for the Environment
Alaska Environmental Lobby
Alaska Flyfishers Association
Alaska Hotel and Motel Association
Alaska Outdoor Council
Alaska Professional Sportsmens Association
Alaska Professional Hunters Association
Alaska Professional Sport Fishing Association
Alaska Sportfishing Association
Alaska Survival
Alaska Visitors Association
Alaska Wildlife Alliance
Alexander Property Owners
American Lung Association
Anchorage Audubon
Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau
Anchorage Recycling Center
Anchorage Waterways Council
Arctic Bicycle Club - Mountain Bikers
Chase Community Council, #1
Chase Community Council, #2
Clean Air Coalition
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
Cook Inlet Fisheries Coalition
Cook Inlet Professional Sport Fishing Association
Denali Citizens Council
Flathorn Property Owners Association
Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Alaska Chapter

Susitna Valley Association Organizations
Page 2

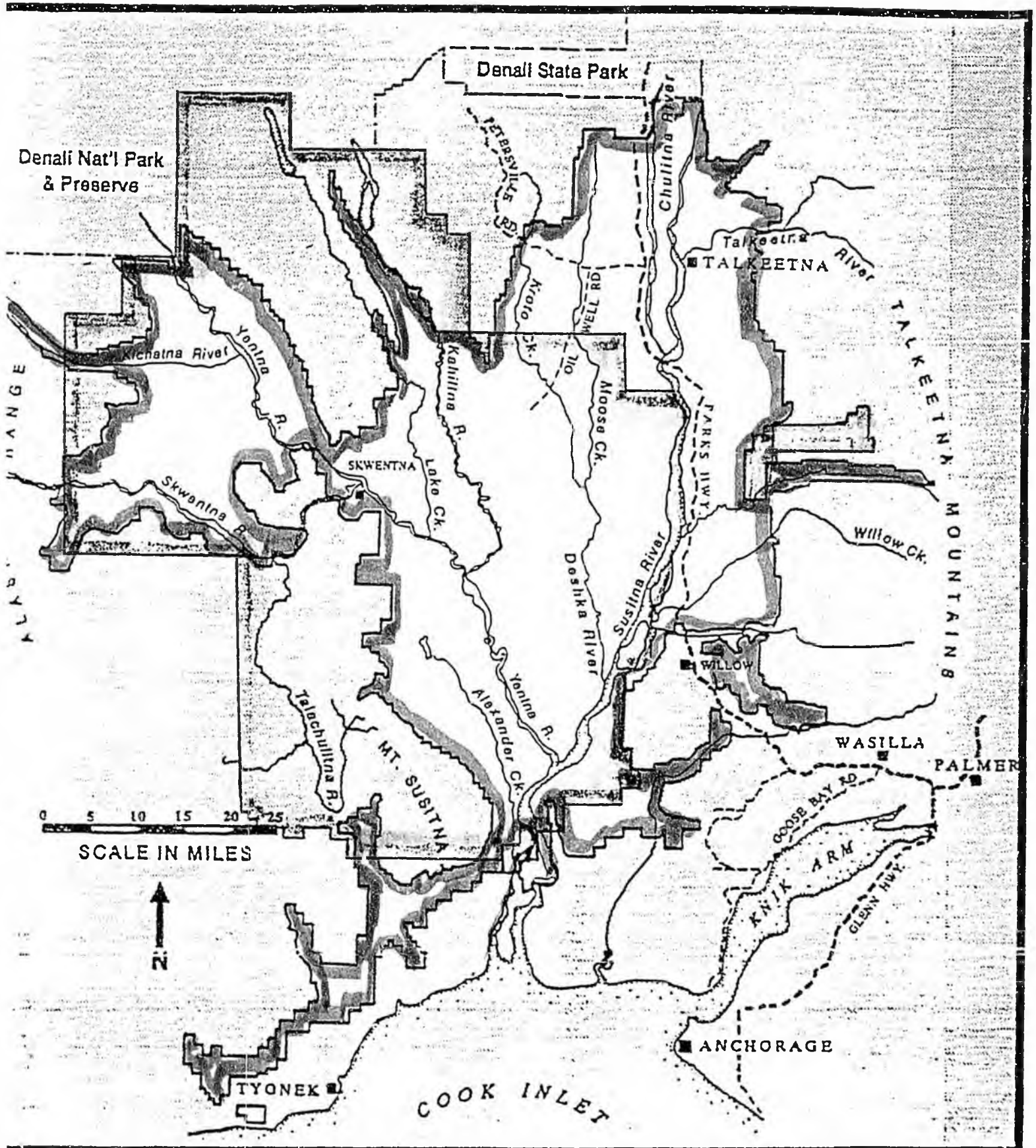
Friends of the Earth
Goodpaster River Property Holders Assn.
Iditarod Organizing Committee
Iditarod National Historic Trail Advisory Council
Iditarod Trail Blazers, Knik Chapter
Kachemak Bay Citizens Coalition
Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association
Kenai River Sportfishing Association
Knik Kanoers & Kayakers, Inc.
Mat-Su 99's
Mat Valley Sportsmen's Assn.
National Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Ass'n.
North Pacific Fisheries Association
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Northern District Setnetters of Cook Inlet
Nunam Kitlutsisti
Prince William Sound Conservation Alliance
Rolejo Lake Association
Salcha River Property Owners Association
SE Alaska Conservation Council
SE Alaska Seiners Association
Shirley Lake Homeowners Association
Sierra Club, Alaska Chapter
Skwentna Community Council
Skyensu Property Owners Association
Susitna Basin Charter Operators Association
Susitna Valley Lodge Association
Talkeetna Chapter, Susitna Valley Association
Tokosha Citizen's Council
United Cook Inlet Drift Association
United Fishermen of Alaska
Upper Cook Inlet Drift Assn.
Wasilla Chapter, Susitna Valley Association
Wildlife Federation of Alaska

(Dated: January 1, 1990)

SUSITNA REGIONAL FOREST PLAN



Plan Boundary





ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL, INC.

3786 W. CHINAIK DR. JUNEAU, AK 99801
(907) 789-3450

P.O. Box 34097
Juneau, Ak. 99803
(907) 463-3830

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Legislators

FROM: Ed Grasser, Director
Legislative Affairs

RE: Susitna Valley Association's proposed legislation

DATE: February 5, 1990

Recently you received a packet of information from the Susitna Valley Association supporting legislation for a remote recreational parcel in the Susitna River Drainage. Within the packet were listed several organizations which purportedly participated in the drafting of this proposal. The Alaska Outdoor Council, along with several member affiliates were so listed.

In order to clarify any misconceptions which may or may not have been inferred by the presence of our organization on SVA's list, we would like to inform you that we currently are not in support of their proposal, nor did we participate in any of their discussions leading to this proposal. Also, several of our member affiliates have indicated they are currently opposed to SVA's proposed legislation.

We regret any inconvenience or misconception SVA's inclusion of our name on this proposal may have caused. We appreciate your consideration of our concerns on this matter and look forward to a more constructive level of participation on this legislation after our members have had time to relate their concerns and comments to us.

cc: Member Clubs

Mat-Su assembly criticizes Susitna recreation-area bill

By CHARLES WOHLFORTH
Daily News reporter

PALMER — The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly on Tuesday denounced a bill in the legislature that would turn most of the Susitna Valley into a recreation

area rather than allowing the logging industry the assembly prefers.

The Susitna Valley Association, an anti-logging group, proposed the bill to create the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area,

which was introduced by Sen. Pat Rodey, D-Anchorage, and faces a long, uncertain course through three Senate committees.

The association was formed in 1987 by local residents, conservationists, tourism operators and outdoors groups to fight a massive state timber sale proposed for the Susitna Valley. The sale was blocked, and an elaborate land-use planning process was begun, but is still incomplete.

But Loisann Reeder, president of the association, said the state's planning process has focused too much on timber development.

The Mat-Su assembly was predictably unenthusiastic. The borough government badly wants the jobs it hopes would come from large-scale timber cutting, and even joined a logging

industry lobbying group in which all the other members are private sector companies that stand to gain from it.

The assembly's resolution says Rodey's bill would halt all forms of development, including tourism, although the bill says its purpose is to promote recreation, including lodges, guides and riverboat charters.

The resolution also says the bill would make the borough's own land in the area useless for its intended purpose of development and that it contradicts the state's own plans for the area. Borough Manager Don Moore wrote to the assembly that there is already enough recreation land in the borough. Assembly members said the bill was wrong to favor tourism over all other land uses. They criticized Rodey as an interloper.

"The majority of lodge owners and people flying tourists out to that area are coming out of Anchorage, so it's appropriate that it's an Anchorage legislator locking up our land," Assemblywoman Eleanor Malapanes said. "I think it would be good if we could come up with a bill that would lock up Anchorage so we could show Senator Rodey how it feels."

Mark Begich, an Anchorage assemblyman and the aide to Rodey who wrote the bill, said the bill would block commercial timber harvest on state lands, but leaves alone borough land and allowed access to it.

Martha Welbourn, who has for two years run the Department of Natural Resources efforts to draft a Susitna Regional Forest Plan, said the bill would

remove from consideration about two-thirds of the area the plan addresses.

Welbourn said the plan hasn't been drafted, so it is too early for Rodey or anyone else to react to it. But she said the plan is mandated by the Susitna Area Plan, which calls for multiple use of the land, including forestry. She said it would not be within the power of the plan writers to outlaw commercial logging in a large area, as Rodey's bill would.

Reeder's complaint is that by drafting a forestry plan, the state gives that use priority. She said a recreation plan should have been drafted at the same time to give it equal weight.

But Welbourn said the forest plan work has addressed recreation, fish and wildlife resources, and other competing uses.



CITY OF WASILLA

290 E. HERNING AVE.
WASILLA, ALASKA 99687
PHONE: (907) 373-9050
FAX: (907) 373-0786

February 13, 1990

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

The Honorable Mike Szymanski
Alaska State Senate
P. O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mike:

Attached is Wasilla Council Resolution WR90-08 opposing SB430. We hope that you will consider the Council's position and act to drop this legislation.

Sincerely,

John C. Stein
Mayor, City of Wasilla

JCS/sbh



CITY OF WASILLA

290 E. HERNING AVE.
WASILLA, ALASKA 99687
PHONE: (907) 373-9050
FAX: (907) 373-0788

Requested By: Mayor Stein
Prepared By: Administration

RESOLUTION NO. WR90-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF WASILLA, ALASKA OPPOSING SENATE BILL 430, "ESTABLISHING THE SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA".

WHEREAS, Senator Pat Rodey has introduced legislation, prepared by the Susitna Valley Association, to reserve use of the Susitna Valley solely for recreational purposes; and

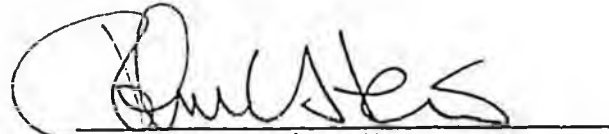
WHEREAS, the Council favors multiple use of the Susitna Valley for timber development, mining, recreation, public road access and a mix of compatible development; and

WHEREAS, the Council supports forest management, the existing Susitna Area Plan and Recreational Rivers District.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Wasilla City Council that it opposes, in total, SB 430 and the single use emphasis it proposes.

I certify that a resolution in substantially the above form was passed by a majority of those voting at a duly called and conducted meeting of the governing body of the City of Wasilla this 12th day of February, 1990.

APPROVED:


John C. Stein, Mayor

ATTEST:


Erling P. Nelson, CMC
City Clerk

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

PO. BOX 107005
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510-7005
PHONE: (907) 561-2020

February 19, 1990

The Honorable Mike Szymanski, Chair
Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee
P. O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Szymanski:

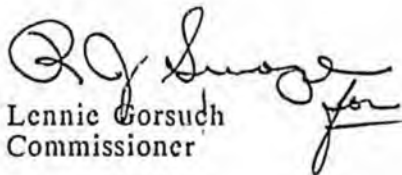
Subject: SB 430, Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area

Background: SB 430 proposes establishment of a remote recreation area covering 2.1 million acres in the Susitna Valley. The bill would prohibit commercial timber harvesting, construction of publicly-funded roads, coal leasing, and oil and gas leasing. It would require new mining claims to acquire a lease prior to production.

The proposed recreation area is within the Susitna and Willow Subbasin area plans adopted by the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Game, and Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The plans support legislative designation of portions of the Susitna Valley, but they do not support legislative designation of all state lands, and they allow a wider variety of land uses.

Position: The Department of Natural Resources opposes SB 430 because of conflicts with the land use designations and legislative recommendations in the area plans. The department continues to support legislative designation of the Susitna State Forest, the Susitna-Yentna Public Use Area, and the Chelatna Public Use Area, as recommended by the plans.

Sincerely,


Lennie Gorsuch
Commissioner

cc: Committee Members
Sen. Rodey
Denby Lloyd, GO
Gary Gustafson, DLWM
Frank Rue, DFG
Dorothy Jones, Mat-Su Borough

STATE OF ALASKA
1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL VERSION : SB 430
PUBLISH DATE : _____

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____ Agency Affected: Natural Resources
 Title: Susitna Valley Remote Recreation BRU: _____
 Area
 Sponsor: Sen. Rodey Components: _____
 Requestor: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES	122.2	211.2	221.2	89.0	89.0	89.0
TRAVEL	2.0	3.0	3.5	2.0	2.0	2.0
CONTRACTUAL	9.0	15.0	52.2	33.0	33.0	18.0
SUPPLIES	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.5	0.5
EQUIPMENT			7.0	1.5	1.5	7.0
LAND&STRUCTURES						
GRANTS,CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	133.7	230.2	284.9	126.0	126.0	116.5

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

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

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	2.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
PART-TIME	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See Attached

Prepared by: Martha Welborn Phone: 762-2660
 Division: LWM Date: 15-Feb-90
 Approved by Commissioner: *Lennie Gorsuch* Date: _____
 Agency: Department of Natural Resources

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

ANALYSIS

FY 91

100	Planning staff:		
	18A	\$50.5	
	16A	44.5	
	12A (1/2)	17.6	
	8A (1/3)	9.6	
		<u>122.2</u>	
200	Travel	2.0	Public meetings, reconnaissance, and fieldwork
300	Contractual	2.0	Publish introductory brochure
		2.0	Xeroxing, newsletters, etc.
		5.0	Resource assessment research
		<u>9.0</u>	
400	Supplies	0.5	Graphic and misc. supplies
TOTAL		133.7	

FY 92

100	Planning staff:		
	18A	\$50.5	
	16A	44.5	
	12A (1/2)	17.6	
	8A (1/3)	9.6	
	Management staff:		
	16A	\$44.5	
	16A	44.5	
		<u>211.2</u>	
200	Travel	3.0	Public meetings, field work, enforcement
300	Contractual	3.0	Print resource assessment (150)
		7.0	Print agency review draft (300)
		2.0	Newsletters, xeroxing, etc.
		3.0	Public attitude survey, research
		<u>15.0</u>	
400	Supplies	1.5	Graphic and misc. supplies
TOTAL		230.2	

FY 93

100	Planning staff:		
	18A	\$50.5	
	16A	44.5	
	12A (1/2)	17.6	
	8A (1/3)	9.6	
	Management staff:		
	16A	\$44.5	
	16A	44.5	
		<u>211.2</u>	
200	Travel	3.5	Public meetings, field work, enforcement
300	Contractual	7.0	Print public review draft (300)
		0.7	Print draft plan brochure (1000)
		10.0	Print final plan (500 copies)
		1.5	Print plan summary (1500 copies)
		8.0	Air & boat charter & vehicle rental for field staff
		<u>25.0</u>	Trail construction, informational signs, etc.
		52.2	
400	Supplies	1.0	Graphics and misc. supplies
500	Equipment	7.0	Equipment for field staff, incl. radios and 4-wheelers
TOTAL		<u>284.9</u>	

FY 94

100	Management staff:		
	16A	\$44.5	
	16A	44.5	
		<u>89.0</u>	
200	Travel	2.0	Field work, enforcement, maintenance
300	Contractual	25.0	Trail construction, informational signs, etc.
		8.0	Air/boat charter and car rental
		<u>33.0</u>	
400	Supplies	0.5	Miscellaneous supplies
500	Equipment	1.5	Equipment maintenance

TOTAL 126.0

FY 95

100 Management staff:
16A \$44.5
16A 44.5
89.0

200 Travel 2.0 Field work, enforcement, maintenance

300 Contractual 25.0 Trail construction, informational signs, etc.
8.0 Air/boat charter and car rental
33.0

400 Supplies 0.5 Miscellaneous supplies

500 Equipment 1.5 Equipment maintenance

TOTAL 126.0

FY 96

100 Management staff:
16A \$44.5
16A 44.5
89.0

200 Travel 2.0 Field work, enforcement, maintenance

300 Contractual 10.0 Trail maintenance, informational signs, etc.
8.0 Air/boat charter and car rental
18.0

400 Supplies 0.5 Miscellaneous supplies

500 Equipment 7.0 Equipment replacement and maint.

TOTAL 116.5

NOTES:

1. Assumes all personnel are at step A. Includes benefits but not merit increases.
2. Travel costs assume public meetings will be held in Trapper

Palmer), and Anchorage, and that some planning team meetings will be held in Wasilla and Palmer. Includes per diem for overnights in Trapper Creek and Talkeetna, and standby flight time for trips to Skwentna. Assumes charter flight time = \$250/hr.

3. Assumes plan will take three years. Implementation staff will begin work in year 2 of the plan (i.e., reviewing permit applications, etc.) and will gear up to a full program of field work and enforcement by year 3.
4. Assumes a three-year program to construct trails, campsites, and other facilities identified through the plan; maintenance would continue in subsequent years.
5. Field staff transportation is by a combination of car to trailheads then 4-wheeler, air charter, and boat charter since roads are prohibited in the 2.1 million-acre area. Field equipment costs include 4-wheelers and radios.



TED SMITH

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly
District 7

SB 430 AND SUSITNA VALLEY FOREST MANAGEMENT

SB 430, a bill by Senator Pat Rodey to establish the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area, would remove about 2.3 million acres of state land from multiple use management and prohibit any resource development, roads, or homesteads or other conveyances to private parties.

The bill was drafted by and introduced at the request of the Susitna Valley Association (SVA). The SVA was formed to oppose a large scale, long term timber sale in the Valley proposed almost 3 years ago by the State. Most thinking people also opposed the sale - including the Mat-Su Loggers Association. The resulting discussion led to the discharge of the then Director of the Division of Forestry, followed shortly by the departure of his boss, the Commissioner of Natural Resources, and the cancellation of the proposed sale.

Having won that battle, SVA was in search of a cause and found it in the planning process inaugurated by the State and a similar process undertaken by the Borough. They promptly warned that these efforts were actually part of a plan to loose hordes of loggers in the Valley. They thereby created the myth of THE GREAT SUSITNA VALLEY CLEARCUT. This is a time-honored propaganda technique: erect a straw man and then proceed to gain points by destroying it, but I don't believe such tactics have a place in the discussion of public policy.

And make no mistake - the likelihood of clearcuts covering thousands of acres of the Susitna Valley IS a myth. Provisions of law, the State planning process, and nature make it so. Cries of "Beware the loggers" have the same validity as the fabled boys cry of "Wolf! Wolf!"

Provisions of law include: 1. the Constitutional requirement for sustained yield management - i.e. that each year we can cut only what we can grow. The land on which the timber is grown must be available for the entire length of time necessary to grow the next crop (80-100 years) so that only 10-12% can be cut each year. 2. the Forest Practices act which requires that harvest practices be non-destructive and that reforestation be complete within 5 years, and 3. multiple-use management statutes which require that a balance be achieved between competing resource uses.

The planning process sets public interest standards for utilization and/or conveyance of public resources. The area covered by SB 430 is also covered by the Susitna Area Plan. The land use allocations for this plan plus legislative designations are shown on the attached chart. For this discussion the pertinent statistic is the allocation of less than 600,000 acres to forest management. On average, only about 6,000 acres (which is only 1/4 of the area in the Point MacKenzie ag project) could be harvested each year and still comply with the sustained yield management requirement of the Constitution. The planning process also designates buffers to be left along waterways and around lakes, screening along roads and trails, and high value special use areas - all of which are deducts from the acreage available for long term timber production.

Nature, combined with the planning process, makes the idea of large scale harvest areas preposterous. The combination of marginal timber and the prevalence of lakes, streams and swamps with their accompanying buffers makes it nearly impossible to find a single operating area of as much as two sections.

So, if the whole concept of large scale logging is impossible, is there any reason to have a forest management program? Absolutely! As noted, we can harvest 6,000 acres a year. This could be done in a number of sales of 500 acres or less to supply wood to 3 or 4 small specialty mills making paneling and other products. This might provide 200 year-round privately financed jobs, or about twice the number expected from the Job Corps center, which the State and Local governments must subsidize for about \$6 million.

I believe that a forest management program of that size can be conducted so as not to damage the recreational or wildlife resources. After all, it would occupy less than 6% of the total land in the Valley and its recreational and wildlife benefits would still be mostly available under the multiple use criteria mandated by State law. Any impact on scenic values would be noticeable only for the time necessary to green-up after reforestation, say 10 years. That means that the maximum impact on scenic and recreational values (if any) at any one time would be limited to 1/8th of the total land under forest management. I think that is a very favorable cost/benefit ratio, considering the other benefits available from a managed forest.

Primary among those benefits is a continued supply of wood for construction, heating, etc. and the jobs that go with that harvest. Most people seem to be in favor of a continued supply of firewood and house logs and are not adamantly opposed to logging, so long as it is small scale. I think by sizing timber sales under 500 acres we can continue that benefit without damaging the other resources. A young forest is also more insect and disease resistant. Failure to harvest mature timber leads to situations such as we currently have on the Kenai Peninsula with mortality from the spruce bark beetle creating a very serious fire hazard. State game biologists have also identified the overmature forest as a major cause of moose starvation this winter.

None of these benefits would be available under SB 430. It also unfairly limits private ownership to those fortunate few who were fiscally and physically able to stake their claim under prior state land disposal programs, and any public benefits it purports to offer are available without it.

I think that the State and Borough plans, conducted with input from all the people in Southcentral, provide a sound framework for management of the public resources in the Susitna Valley. I don't think those plans and the multiple-use management philosophy which underlies them should be abandoned in favor of the restrictive use provisions of SB 430.

TABLE 1
STATE LAND USE DESIGNATIONS
IN MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

(ACRES X 1000)

	PUBLIC RECREATION	WILDLIFE HABITAT	FOREST MANAGEMENT	SETTLEMENT	AGRICULTURE	TOTAL
WILLOW SUB-BASIN PLAN	16.6	371.0	66.5	5.5	44.5	504.1
SUSITNA AREA PLAN (1)	1,555.1	3,126.6	521.5	4,391.2	26.1	9,620.5
LEGISLATIVELY DESIGNATED:						
GOOSE BAY STATE GAME REFUGE		10.9				10.9
PALMER HAY FLATS		26.0				26.0
SUSITNA FLATS		300.8				300.8
MATANUSKA VALLEY MOOSE RANGE	16.6	101.7	85.1			203.4
WILLOW MOUNTAIN CRITICAL HABITAT		23.0				23.0
DENALI STATE PARK	421.1					421.1
NANCY LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA	22.7					22.7
WILLOW CREEK STATE RECREATION AREA	3.6					3.6
HATCHER PASS PUBLIC USE AREA	5.1					5.1
SIX RECREATION RIVERS	240.9					240.9
TOTAL	2,281.7	3,960.0	673.1	4,396.7	70.6	11,392.1
PERCENT	20.0%	34.8%	5.9%	38.6%	0.6%	100.0%

Note: (1) Includes 4,391,244 unverified acres in Settlement - this is based on conversation with DNR personnel regarding survivor classifications.
Includes 19,897 unverified acres in Agriculture - total Agriculture figure is based on narrative in plan.

Willow Sub-Basin Plan, Susitna Area Plan and Matanuska Valley Moose Range figures include many areas with more than one primary designation.

All figures for Willow Sub-Basin Plan taken from narrative of plan except Public Recreation. Public Recreation taken from information supplied by DNR personnel.



State of Alaska
Senate Community and Regional Affairs
Committee

Senator Mike Szymanski, Chairman
Senator Al Adams
Senator Steve Frank
Senator Drue Pearce
Senator Pat Pourchot

P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811
(907) 465-4978

March 2, 1990

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dick Bradley, LAA Legal
FROM: Senator Mike Szymanski
RE: Redrafting SB 430

Mike

I would like to redraft SB 430, the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Bill, with the following changes:

- 1) Draft a temporary statute that directs the Department of Natural Resources to complete the review of the Susitna Area Plan by a date two years from the beginning of the Plan's five-year evaluation. Direct the Department to submit the updated Susitna Area Plan
- 2) Direct DNR to consider remote recreation and areas with roadless designations in the Susitna Area Plan. This needs to be drafted in such a way that it also applies to all other area plans developed and/or reviewed by the Department.
- 3) Direct the Department to conduct an independent economic survey of recreation and tourism in the region covered by the Susitna Area Plan.
- 4) State that the two-year review period for the Susitna Area Plan precludes forestry development in the following sections:
 - * Susitna Lowlands
 - * Susitna River Corridor
 - * N.E. Side of Mt. Susitna
 - * Trail Ridge

While these areas will be temporarily excluded from any timber sales or harvests for two years, they may be incorporated into the overall Susitna Forest Plan currently under development.

- 5) Amend definition of "multiple use" to include roadless designations and remote recreation purposes.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT

FYI
STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

3601 C STREET
P.O. BOX 107005
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510-7005
PHONE: (907) 561-2020

February 28, 1990

Barbara Hunt
Office of Rep. Larson
P.O. Box 53
Palmer, AK 99645

RECEIVED

MAR 5 1990

Dear Barbara,

I have been working on your request for information on our investment in Susitna valley planning. I understand that you wish to use this information to explain to explain Representative Larson's opposition to SB 430 to constituents.

A single dollar figure is hard to produce, because budgets from multiple state and federal agencies and the borough are affected back to 1980. However, you could use the following information to explain the same point.

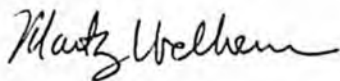
- Five planning staff worked from 1980-1982 to produce the Willow Subbasin Area Plan and from 1982-1985 to complete the Susitna Area Plan.
- The planning staff represents only part of the effort expended on planning. Other agencies in DNR, DFG, DEC, and DOT/PF committed staff to research resource potential and land use and to negotiate the designations and guidelines in the plans.
- Federal agencies also supported this effort through funding for research and inventory.
- The public also invested time in the development of these plans through their extensive comments, participation in workshops and public meetings, and meetings with interest groups.
- DNR is currently preparing the Susitna Regional Forest Plan. This has involved two years of work by agency staff and extensive time from citizens' groups. Over 80 groups have worked with the citizens' advisory committee for the plan.
- Considerable time and money have been spent publishing reports on issues, public comments, and resources and circulating draft plans for public review and final plans for use by the agencies and the public. Although we charge \$5.00/copy for the Susitna Area Plan, the actual cost just for printing is \$40.00/copy.
- DNR estimates that the cost of doing detailed management planning and active land management in the remote recreation area in SB 430 would total \$1,017,000 from FY 91 through FY 96.

In short, borough governments, state and federal agencies, interest groups, and the general public have invested a decade of staff time, research, travel, and publication costs to address land use issues in the Susitna valley. Opportunities to help shape land management policies continue -- in the next several months we will hold public meetings on the draft Kashwitna Management Plan and draft Susitna Regional Forest Plan. In addition, we will start our first update of the Susitna and Willow area plans later this year and there will be extensive opportunities for public involvement. If anyone would like to get better

acquainted with current management policies, copies of the Susitna Area Plan are available. We would be happy to add any interested citizens to our mailing lists for any of these plans.

Barbara, I hope this helps. Please call if you have additional questions. I'm sorry for the delay in getting this to you.

Sincerely,



Martha Welbourn, Unit Manager
Management and Resource Plans

cc: Rep. Curt Menard
~~Sen.~~ Mike Szymanski
Tom Hawkins
Gary Gustafson
Janet Burleson
Ron Swanson

STATE OF ALASKA

STEV COWPER, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT

3601 C STREET
P.O. BOX 107006
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510-7006
PHONE: (907) 561-2020

March 12, 1990

Mary McBurney
Office of Sen. Szymanski
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Mary,

Gary Gustafson asked me to respond to you on proposed legislation for planning and timber harvesting in the Susitna Valley. Our general comments follow.

Legislative direction of planning

We appreciate the support you have given the planning process throughout your work on SB 430. We are concerned that legislative direction to complete the Susitna update within two years won't be possible without adequate funding. The Susitna Update is a high priority for DNR. However, we must balance the update timing with needs for area plans in unplanned areas such as the Kenai Peninsula and Yakataga, and with other legislatively mandated projects such as the Susitna State Recreation Rivers plan. We will not have staff available to start the Susitna update until some ongoing projects are completed later this year. Depending on the effective date of the bill, two years may be inadequate as there is a long list of issues for the update to address. We would hate to give them inadequate consideration because of a combination of insufficient funding and a mandated deadline.

Intent for recreation and tourism

We support including a study of recreation and tourism in the Susitna Update, but must receive funding to do so. It is also appropriate to include consideration of roadless areas in the update. It must be clear, however, that recreation and tourism are only two of the many uses of the Susitna Valley that will be considered by the plan. The required consideration must not prejudice the outcome of the planning process. We recommend including consideration of remote recreation and roadless areas in legislative intent rather than the bill.

Coordination with other legislation

This bill overlaps with HB 356 (Susitna State Forest) and SB 454 (Multiple Use). We recommend including all changes to the multiple use definition in a SB 454, which we support. DNR also supports HB 356. That bill requires management planning for some of the same lands covered in this legislation. The boundaries and intent are consistent with the Susitna and Willow Subbasin area plans.

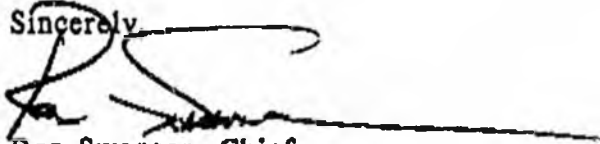
Moratorium on harvesting

DNR can support a moratorium on harvesting in areas (3) Northeast Side of Mt. Susitna and (4) Trail Ridge provided the boundaries are consistent with those in the Susitna Regional Forest Plan and with HB 356. Areas (1) Susitna River and (2) Susitna Lowlands are the heart of the area proposed for near-term expansion of timber harvesting and road access by both the state and the borough. DNR opposes a moratorium in these areas. The current DNR 5-year timber sale schedule includes sales in both these areas. Part of the area in unit

(1) is even east of the Susitna River and is already road accessible. [Note: the Susitna Regional Forest Plan will be reviewing block (2) in the next ten days. More information on proposals for this area will be available after that review.]

We look forward to continuing working with you on these issues and the Susitna update. Thank you again for your support for the planning process.

Sincerely,



Ron Swanson, Chief
Land and Resources Section

cc: Gary Gustafson, DLWM
Tom Hawkins, CO
Marty Welbourn, LRS

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

400 WILLOUGHBY AVE.
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1796
PHONE: (907) 465-2400

March 16, 1990

The Honorable Mike Szymanski
Alaska State Senator
P. O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Szyranski:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 430 yesterday. We are pleased with the changes in the bill.

During the hearing, you requested the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) comments on coordinating multiple use language in SB 430 and SB 454 (Multiple Use). We would like discussion of changes to AS 38.04.910 coordinated, so that the final statute is consistent. The thrust of SB 454 is legislative monitoring of administrative restrictions on multiple use or mining on state lands. The bill requires that DNR report annually to the legislature on new mineral closures (Sec. 2(d)) and closures of land to multiple use (Sec. 3 (b)). It also requires 5-year reports summarizing total closures to mining and multiple use.

DNR has testified in support of SB 454. However, I understand that a hearing on SB 454 is being held this morning in Senate Finance, so changes may have been made since our last testimony.

We recommend combining the changes to 38.04.910 from both bills in SB 454 so that Legislative discussion considers the joint effect of adding roadless area consideration to the multiple use definition and requiring new reports on restrictions to multiple use. It should also be clear that the resources and uses considered under multiple use management include, but are not limited to, the finite list in 38.04.910. There are many other uses and activities that could also be included.

Senator Mike Szymanski

-2-

March 16, 1990

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. We welcome the opportunity to work with you on these bills.

Sincerely,


Lennie Gorsuch
Commissioner

cc: Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp
Senator John Binkley
Senator Rick Uehling
Commissioner Don Collinsworth
Department of Fish and Game

Judith Anderegg/David Pelto
P.O. Box 1472
Palmer, Alaska 99645

RECEIVED

FEB 27 1990

February 9, 1990

Senator Mike Szymanski
Chair
Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

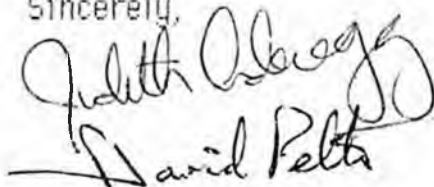
Dear Senator Szymanski:

We are writing in support of SB430 (Bill to Create the Su Valley Remote Recreational Area) as it is and urge you to pass it out of committee.

We feel that it will allow for small scale logging and good silviculture practices while it will hopefully prevent the development of a large network of roads which would lead to the eventual destruction of the area for recreational purposes.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



cc: Senator Jay Kerttula
Rep. Curt Menard
Rep. Ron Larson

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: KEN WIDMER
TITLE:
ADDRESS: P O BOX 978142
CITY: WASILLA ZIP: 99687
PHONE: 373-2222
BILL NO: SD 430
SUBJECT: SUSITHA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL. THANK YOU.

POMID: 14162038
DATE: 03/15/90
TIME: 16:20:38
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

LARSON
MENARD

KERTTULA
FRANK
PEARCE
POURCHOT
ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: RON YOUNG
 TITLE: YOUNG'S GEAR
 ADDRESS: 2240 STANDARD AVENUE
 CITY: FAIRBANKS ZIP: 99701
 PHONE: 456-6464
 BILL NO: SJR 5
 SUBJECT: PERMANENT FUND/BUDGET RES./APPROP LIMIT
 MESSAGE: PLEASE VOTE YES ON SJR 5.

POMID: 07154043
 DATE: 03/15/90
 TIME: 15:40:43
 LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS
BOYER	BROWN	BINKLEY
COLLINS	COTTEN	COGHILL
DAVIDSON	DAVIS, C.	DUNCAN
DAVIS, M.	DONLEY	ELIASON
ELLIS	FINKELESTEIN	FAHRENKAMP
FOSTER	FURNACE	FAIKS
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FISCHER
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	FRANK
HOFFMAN	HUDSON	HALFORD
JACKO	KOPOHEN	JONES
KUBINA	LARSON	KELLY
LEMAN	MACLEAN	KERTTULA
MARTIN	MENARD	PEARCE
MILLER	NAVARRE	POURCHOT
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	RODEY
RIEGER	SHARP	STURGULEWSKI
SHULTZ	SWACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: VALERIE LUCZAK
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: HC33 BOX 3050
 CITY: WASILLA ZIP: 99687
 PHONE: 376-3258
 BILL NO: SB 430
 SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
 MESSAGE: I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT SB430. I HOPE YOU WILL DO THE SAME.

POMID: 14160741
 DATE: 03/15/90
 TIME: 16:07:41
 LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATOR

LARSON	KERTTULA
MENARD	

March 9, 1990

Senator Szymanski
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

RECEIVED

Dear Senator Szymanski:

MAR 12 1990

The Mat-Su Valley is a recreational/tourism jewel for Alaska. The tourism industry here provides hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars to the economy of Alaska. It offers a roadless setting for recreational experiences, yet is in close proximity to the populated centers of South-central Alaska. This is a unique and irreplaceable area. Large scale logging and roading is incompatible with the established remote recreation and tourism industry here. The public should have the opportunity to respond to a range of alternatives regarding how the Susitna Valley will be managed and whether an increased level of logging is appropriate here. We strongly support legislative designation of a portion of the Valley as the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area.

In addition, we strongly support the 100 foot plus 200 foot buffer requirement along all anadromous and high value resident fish waters on state and federal lands. (HB 331 and SB 317)

Talkeetna is known as the place where the road ends and wild country begins. We are strongly against any commercial clearcutting proposals, new road constructions or new land disposals by the state or borough surrounding Talkeetna. It is a unique bush town setting accessible by road. Legislation should direct agencies to maintain public lands in their current state to support the burgeoning wilderness recreation economy and the community character which makes Talkeetna a special place to live or visit. We support establishing the Talkeetna Remote Recreation Area.

We can help DEC improve their enforcement with your support of HB 409 and HB 315.

Tourism is a replenishable resource, while the average tree in this area requires 50 years of growth. Let's think about the long-term future of our beautiful state.

Sincerely,

Susan + Burtch Davis
600 E. Glenwood Ave.
Wasilla, Alaska
99687

March 13, 1990

RECEIVED

MAR 16 1990

Senator Mike Symanski

P.O. Box V

Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Symanski;

It has been brought to my attention that SB 430 is being held up in your committee. I feel that this is a very important piece of legislation. The intent of the legislation is not to "lock up" a large piece of land but to prevent the decimation of an area by logging on a large scale basis. This land isn't just sitting there idle. This is the recreation area for the largest center of population in Alaska. A handful of people may benefit from the logging financially but it certainly won't be the state of Alaska, especially when I'm sure that the state would make it another highly subsidized venture. There are many people and businesses (associated) generating money from the natural resources in this area at the present time and these livelihoods would be threatened by any proposed timber harvests.

At the present time the state is spending millions of dollars to stop logging on native land in the Kachemak Bay area of Homer. The Susitna Basin is surely equal in importance and I'm sure that the actual recreational use is much higher in the Susitna basin. I urge you to do what ever possible to move SB 430 through committee. Forget the politics and do something for future generation Alaskans, ie. my 5 year old son who has yet to experience his first King Salmon on the end of a fishing line.

I'm not sure who the Mat Su Borough Assembly is getting their

information and backing from, but the more I read and hear it sounds like their motive is personal gain. I will certainly remember their opposition to SB 430 next election day.

Sincerely

RONALD V. GRIMM
P.O. Box 1435
Palmer, Alaska 99645

RECEIVED

MAR 8 1990

March 2, 1990

Sen. Mike Szymanski,

I have lived and worked in Talkeetna for the past 10 years. I own land not only in Talkeetna but also north-east of Talkeetna near a creek named Chumilna Creek (Clear Creek). I live in this area because of its remote characteristics and share this value with other people whom have moved here for the very same reason. Harvesting timber here would destroy the livelihood of the area. For this reason I am strongly opposed to the idea of harvesting timber in this area and urge you to introduce and support the proposed Talkeetna Remote Recreation Area.

Sincerely,

Rodney E. Hardy

Rodney Hardy
PO Box 366
Talkeetna, AK.
99676



Sen. Mike Szymanski
PO Box V
Juneau, AK.
99811

Feb. 27, 1990

HCO4 Box 9595
Palmer, AK. 99645

RECEIVED

MAR 2 1990

Dear Senator Szymanski,

I would like to inform you that I am in favor of state Bill 430.

Many people come to this area to appreciate its remote character. Allowing the possibility of a large scale timber operation to operate would destroy this! Many people have jobs now due to this remote recreation area and there exists the opportunity for more as the tourism industry continues to grow.

Our forests should be left as a statement of the future. There is no need to log our Susitna Valley.

Again I am in favor of SB 430.

Sincerely,

Donna Ford

cc

Jay Kerttula
Curt Menard
Ron Larson



Box 873542, Wasilla, AK 99687
(907) 376-1060

RECEIVED
MAR 1 1990

February 23, 1990

Honorable Mike Szymanski
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Mike, we hope you have had an opportunity to take a look at SB 430 regarding the establishment of a remote recreation area in the Susitna Valley. As you might imagine, REDCOR does not see the benefit of such an action for the state in general or for the Mat-Su Borough in particular. Removing this natural resource base from the economic base of the State and Borough is unthinkable.

Should SB 430 pass, very few people will benefit. But it appears those who do will receive great benefits. They will have succeeded in setting aside over two million acres as a private resource for air and river borne fishing guides. Many of the people who use that area do not contribute to the Mat-Su economy in that they are headquartered in Anchorage. This is made especially clear when we look at the make-up of the group requesting the legislation, the Susitna Valley Association. Its membership includes only 700 Mat-Su residents, according to Lois Reeder's explanation to the Wasilla Chamber of Commerce a few weeks ago. The other 3,600 are from Anchorage and elsewhere.

Most importantly, negative impacts of the bill include: it perpetuates Alaska's dying forests; continues the moose habitat problem which is causing numerous casualties to the moose population; ignores the value of the harvestable timber; and denies other significant economic and wildlife and fisheries management opportunities to the Mat-Su Borough and its residents.

REDCOR urges you to oppose SB 430 and any similar legislation which may be introduced. We have enclosed a resolution to that effect.

Budd Goodyear
Budd Goodyear
Executive Director

Enclosure



Box 873542, Wasilla, AK 99687
(907) 376-1060

RESOLUTION 90-5

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the Alaska Legislature which would create a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, the Susitna Area Plan approved by the Mat-Su Borough and State of Alaska establishes guidelines for land-use in the Susitna Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Susitna Area Plan does not recommend the creation of a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, nearly fifty-five (55) percent of all State lands within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough are already classified as Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat lands; and

WHEREAS, the classification of the Susitna Valley as a remote recreation area will severely interfere with State and Borough efforts to diversify the economy by eliminating all forms of development, including tourism; and

WHEREAS, classification of the Susitna Valley as a Remote Recreation Area will subvert and side-step past decisions for selecting lands under the Municipal Lands Entitlement program by classifying the selected lands in category not compatible with the reason the lands were selected; and

WHEREAS, the classification of the Susitna Valley as a Remote Recreation Area will provide an unfair economic advantage to existing property (lodge) owners and significant numbers of tour operators outside the Mat-Su Borough by restricting competition;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that REDCOR strongly opposes Senate Bill 430 and any others which will lock-up the Susitna Valley against environmentally sound resource development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that REDCOR respectfully urges the Alaska Legislature oppose this legislation.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the REDCOR Board of Directors this 12th day of February 1990.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold Newcomb", written over a horizontal line.

Harold Newcomb
President

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Reimer", written over a horizontal line.

Andrew Reimer
Treasurer

P. O. Box 20
Palmer, AK. 99645-0020

7 February 1990

RECEIVED

FEB 12 1990



Senator Mike Szymanski
Chairman, Comm. & Regional Affairs
Capitol Room 11
P. O. Box V
Juneau, AK. 99811
MS: 3100

Dear Senator Szymanski;

Please find enclosed a copy of the three page letter I wrote entitled, "Multiple Use Management or SVA Land Lock Up".

I am very disappointed that a large organization, i.e., SVA, would deliberately draft and support an Act such as the proposed 2.13 Million Acre, Susitna Valley Remote Recreational Area. This goes directly against our State Constitution, the one that you are empowered to support and defend. I am even more disappointed that there are some of our elected officials in Juneau who would even consider selling out to a large organization, by supporting an Act that goes against the grain of our State Constitution. This 2.13 Million Acre piece of Alaska is Public Land, for all Alaskans, not just a select few.

I ask that you do everything within your power to Stop this Act dead in its tracks and any other version that may come before you, whether it is 2.13 Million Acres or just 200 Acres. If we allow these people to eat away at our Public Lands, acre by acre, soon there will be no open, Public Lands left for all Alaskans to enjoy. This land is for all of us to enjoy, not just a select few.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to one of your individual constituents. Please keep me informed of your views on this subject and provide me with any updated versions that may come before you. I have included my address for this purpose. May I hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert W. Lang".

Robert W. Lang

MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT "OR" SVA LAND LOCK UP

The question is, which will it be, the choice is yours if you will speak up, now. Its time that this Merry-Go-Round between Preservationist and sound Multiple Use Management Practices, ceases. I am referring to the front page article in the Frontiersman, on 1-17-90, the Proposed 2 Million Acre "Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area".

Are we, the residents of Alaska going to sit back and let a person, to wit, Lois Reeder and her adherents in the, Anchorage based, Susitna Valley Association, (SVA), tell us how to run our State and the Mat-Su Valley? Who is the SVA, look at their roles, they are individuals, organizations and businesses of whom the majority are not from the Mat-Su Valley, but rather, from the Anchorage area. They are preservationist, a group of people who already have land holdings, remote cabins, lodges, river front lots, etc., within the Mat-Su Valley who do not want any more people to encroach upon them. They have existing roads and trails to their places. They are a well organized group that have what they want, they do not want anyone else to build roads and trails to land which they might acquire from individuals or the State in the future, or to use its full potential of Natural Resources under the Multiple Use Management Concept, the SVA is totally against the concept of Multiple Use Management.

Apparently the SVA forgot to read The Constitution Of The State Of Alaska. Article VIII, "Natural Resources" reads in part: Section 1 - Statement of Policy. It is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest. Section 2 - General Authority. The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people. Section 4 - Sustained Yield. Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses. Section 5 - Facilities and Improvements. The legislature may provide for facilities, improvements, and services to assure greater utilization, development, reclamation, and settlement of lands, and to assure fuller utilization and development of the fisheries, wildlife, and waters.

There are 18 sections in all, to Article VIII, Natural Resources. Take the time to know your Constitutional Rights, pick up a copy of The Constitution Of The State Of Alaska at your nearest Legislature Information Office. In Wasilla, the Mat-Su Legislature Information Office is in the Krenik Building, their telephone number is 376-3704. Are you also aware that there are still 22 surviving Delegates Of The People Of Alaska, who wrote our State Constitution, which was adopted by the Constitutional Convention, on February 5, 1956. I can not begin to imagine what

must be going through their minds when they see such organizations as the SVA, deliberately violating our State Constitution.

The SVA say they are not in opposition to small-scale logging, therefore, small-scale logging to them must be nothing more than personal use permits. They have been at the back door of every timber sale presented and voiced their objections. Did you know that in calendar year 1989, there was not a single timber sale offered for public auction in the Mat-Su Valley, due in part to the endeavors of the SVA. Did you know that the workload of forest activities at the Big Lake office of the State Division of Forestry, is such, that 2 Foresters are able to handle this workload on the approximately 1.2 million acres, administered by that office. Of the dozen or so, Forest Technicians, that work out of that office, only one is on year round, and his primary duties are fire related, the remainder are all seasonal employees, because there is such a small workload. Compare this to any other such comparable size forests in the lower 48 or Canada, you would be astonished as to the amount of forest activity that should be in progress on some 1.2 million acres. On 1-10-90, there were only 4 timber sales offered at public auction, at the Big Lake office. Its a miracle that these 4 ever made it through all the obstacles created by such organizations, as the SVA.

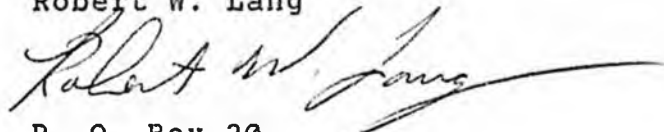
Did you notice that the cost of local forest products, i.e., lumber, firewood, house logs, timbers, slabs, posts and poles, etc., went up in price this past winter, re: Frontiersman 1-19-90, page 3, and may go even higher, state officials said in the article. A lot of this can be attributed to such organizations as the SVA, so long as they continue their attempts to "Lock Up Our Land".

Our forests are growing older just as we are, and expiring too. We have almost as much over mature, dead and dying commercial timber in the Mat-Su Valley as we do healthy stock, in part, because we are unable to harvest it. Dead and dying forests invite disease and insect infestation, and if left unchecked by sound forest management practices, i.e., timber harvesting, our forest will expire and along with it, the fish, wildlife, hiking trails, scenery, clean streams, etc. Did you notice that in some areas of the Mat-Su Valley, large blocks of White Spruce are turning brown. This is caused by the Spruce Beetle infestation, which is in progress in some parts of the Mat-Su Valley, now. This infestation will continue to spread if left unchecked by sound forest management practices or by a forest fire, which could start and blacken thousands of acres, in the valley. There is nothing else so ripe for a forest fire than a dead and dying White Spruce forests. Sound forest management practices would allow us to utilize this resource on a sustained yield basis and good silvicultural practices would increase regeneration of new stock in a healthy environment. The SVA talks about tourism, however I do not believe the tourist, who sometimes spend

thousands of dollars to come to Alaska, want to look at millions of acres of dead and dying or blackened forests.

If we are ever going to save our land from total "Land Lock Up", and maintain it for Multiple Use Management, for all Alaskans to enjoy, now is the time to step forward and speak out. Contact your local State Senators and Representatives now, and ask them to defeat the proposed 2 million acre, Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area and any other such "Land Lock Up" plans that may come before them. Be ever watchful, because when this proposed plan goes down to defeat, you can bet that the SVA will be right back with another plan of similar or stronger magnitude. It is our land, not just theirs, therefore come out fighting for your Constitutional Rights, as mandated by law.

Robert W. Lang

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert W. Lang". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

P. O. Box 20
Palmer, AK. 99645-0020

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: MIKE RODGERS
TITLE:
ADDRESS: P O BOX 873666
CITY: WASILLA ZIP: 99687
PHONE: 746-4425
BILL NO: SD 430
SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: I AM OPPOSED TO THE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL AND I WOULD APPRECIATE IT
IF YOU WOULD NOT SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION.

FOIID: 14084931
DATE: 02/20/90
TIME: 08:49:31
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

LARSON
MENARD

KERTTULA
FRANK
PEARCE
POURCHOT
ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: JACK DUNLAP
TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 418
CITY: PALMER ZIP: 99645
PHONE: 746-2352
BILL NO: SB 430
SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: I QUESTION THE INTENT OF THE BILL TO MANAGE AND PROTECT WILDLIFE HABITAT. BY ELIMINATING ANY COMMERCIAL TIMBER HARVEST YOU ARE ALSO ELIMINATING A VERY SIGNIFICANT CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUE OF PROVIDING BROWSE FOR MOOSE POPULATIONS. ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THIS YEARS DEVASTATING WINTER. I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED TO SB430.

POMID: 14125443
DATE: 02/20/90
TIME: 12:54:43
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

FRANK
PEARCE
POURCHOT
ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: PHIL MORTIZ
TITLE: DDSPRES. AK DENTAL SOCIETY
ADDRESS: 400 WILLOUGHBY AVE.SUITE 208
CITY: JUNEAU ZIP: 99801
PHONE: 586-1385
BILL NO: SR 12
SUBJECT: SUBSTITUTE
MESSAGE: I SUPPORT THE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE RESOLUTION 12. PLEASE REJECT ANY AMENDMENTS TO THIS SENATE SUBSTITUTE. THE INTENT OF AN AMENDMENT IS TO REESTABLISH THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE OF THE RESOLUTION. SENATE HESS REJECTED THAT RESOLUTION AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED THE SUBSTITUTE WHICH I SUPPORT.

POMID: 00130914
DATE: 02/20/90
TIME: 13:09:14
LIONAME: JUNEAU LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

ADAMS
BINKLEY
COGHILL
DUNCAN
ELIASON
FAHRENKAMP
FAIKS
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
JONES
KELLY
KERTTULA
PEARCE
POURCHOT
STURGULEWSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: ROSE PALMQUIST

NAME: JULIA REEVES

TITLE:

TITLE:

ADDRESS: PO BOX 870294

ADDRESS: 1733 GREEN DALE DRIVE

CITY: WASILLA

ZIP: 99687

CITY: ANCHORAGE

ZIP: 99504

PHONE: 376-0110

PHONE: 337-3537

BILL NO: SB 430

BILL NO:

SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

SUBJECT: SB 444 AND HB 515/PERS CREDIT

MESSAGE: THE MATANUSKA SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY VOTED UNANIMOUSLY IN OPPOSITION OF SB430.

MESSAGE: PLEASE SUPPORT SB 444 AND HB 515 WHICH WILL FINALLY GIVE US THE EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS THAT IS LONG OVERDUE IN THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM. /BN

POMID: 14172749

POMID: 03082742

DATE: 02/15/90

DATE: 02/15/90

TIME: 17:27:49

TIME: 08:27:42

LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORSCOPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

MACLEAN	FOSTER	BINKLEY
PETTYJOHN	DAVIS, C.	ELIASON
KUBINA	LARSON	FAHRENKAMP
HOFFMAN	SWACKHAMMER	FAIKS
WALLIS	KOPONEN	HALFORD
ULMER	BROWN	JONES
SHULTZ	RIEGER	KELLY
PHILLIPS	BARNES	KERTTULA
GOLL	GRUENBERG	RODEY
DAVIS, M.	ELLIS	STURGULEWSKI
DAVIDSON	MILLER	UEHLING
MARTIN	MENARD	ZHAROFF
JACKO	HAVARRE	FRANK
FURNACE	SHARP	PEARCE
HUDSON	BOUCHER	POURCHOT
DONLEY	HANLEY	ADAMS
ZAWACKI	FINKELSTEIN	DUNCAN
		FISCHER

BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS
BOYER	BROWN	BINKLEY
COLLINS	COTTEN	COGHILL
DAVIDSON	DAVIS, C.	DUNCAN
DAVIS, M.	DONLEY	ELIASON
ELLIS	FINKELSTEIN	FAHRENKAMP
FOSTER	FURNACE	FAIKS
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FISCHER
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	FRANK
HOFFMAN	HUDSON	HALFORD
JACKO	KOPONEN	JONES
KUBINA	LARSON	KELLY
LEMAN	MACLEAN	KERTTULA
MARTIN	MENARD	PEARCE
MILLER	NAVARRE	POURCHOT
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	RODEY
RIEGER	SHARP	STURGULEWSKI
SHULTZ	SWACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

HCO2 Box 7342
Palmer AK 99645
February 12, 1990

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

Senator Mike Szymanski
Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V (MS3100)
Juneau AK 99811

Dear Senator Szymanski:

SB 430 has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Pat Rodey to create the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area. We respectfully request that you vote against SB430. Please consider very carefully the economic implications to the Mat-Su Borough. Can reserving it for the benefit of the few special interests, and the bill is quite clear in this regard, serve the best economic interests of the borough as a whole? Now is the time to look at the economic realities of the future of this borough and state. The oil will run out and if Alaska does not develop or make use of its other renewable resources the outlook is pretty gloomy.

At a meeting of the Butte Community Council with John Duffy, the borough planning director, on proposed uses of borough forest land, Al suggested that the borough timber land be put out to commercial bid, first to harvest the commercial quality timber and build roads, followed by issuing permits for personal use on the remaining low grade timber, and finally with reforestation for future commercial use. Perhaps the borough and state could do this on a cooperative basis.

How much wilderness and recreation can the Mat-Su Borough afford to furnish to the rest of the state and nation? I suspect that if the actual dollars of tourist and recreation income to Alaskans was totaled up it would not offset sound commercial development of our land and loss of tax base. How much economic support to our schools can we afford to lose? And, perhaps more to the point how much financial support are the other areas of Alaska and the nation willing to kick in to maintain the necessary social and educational needs of our area while we furnish their fishing and play grounds?

We appreciate the fact that you have to contend with competing forces in your position but when this bill, or for that matter any other bill that would detract from a sound economic base in our borough or state, comes up for your vote can you please give the above issues your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Albert + Lucille Frey

Albert and Lucille T. Frey

February 9, 1990

RECEIVED

Senator Pat Rodey
P O Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

FEB 20 1990 Senate Bill 430

Dear Senator Rodey:

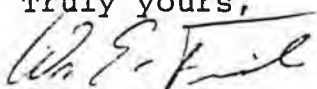
This letter is in reference to the bill to establish the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation area. This bill is not at all necessary. It will totally lockup the Susitna Valley in favor of the current landowners, lodgeowners, air taxi operators and the environmentalists. How could you introduce a bill that would serve the minority interest groups like this?

Alaska already has over 50 million acres of designated wilderness and this does not include other federal or State park lands which limit use. How can anyone enjoy the fish and wildlife if we can't even get to it? In a rough figure, your bill includes over 2 million acres. Have you sat down and looked at the area on a map?

Do you really want that massive amount of land stretching from the Alaska Range south to almost Cook Inlet restricted so that no trail or road construction could be done in the years ahead? If so, why not just shut down the whole state? It is almost coming to that now with all the parks, refuges, and what all that is in Alaska now that we can not get to to use!

Alaska is struggling to find new revenues from the state aside from the oil. If we can use the timber industry to help us make a step forward then why should we lock up any land that would prevent us from taking this one small step forward? MANAGE is the word. Why can't we manage the timber to make it useful to us for years to come? Do you know what the word MANAGE means? It means: to treat with care; to handle or direct with a degree of skill; to succeed in accomplishing. Why can't we manage the timber. Locking up this land is not managing by a long shot, nor is it preserving or conserving. Locking up that land would be killing or ruining the forest in the future. Why don't you talk to the people who wanted you to introduce this bill about that or have they no common sense?

Truly yours,


W. E. Frisch
POBx 872912
Wasilla, AK 99687

cc: Gov. Cowper
Rep. Larson
Rep. Menard
Sen. Szymanski ✓
Sen Kerttula

February 9, 1990

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

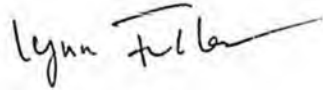
Senator Mike Szymanski
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Szymanski:

I would like to express my support for SB 430, concerning the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area.

I am an employed, voting resident of Mat-Su who recreates both summer and winter in the proposed area. While I am not necessarily opposed to commercial logging on state lands, in this instance I am not convinced that either the state or the borough has done the groundwork necessary to insure that a larger timber industry would not harm the character of the area. I would like to see the people of Mat-Su polled on this issue.

Sincerely,


Lynn Fuller
Box 1814
Palmer, Ak. 99645
(907) 745-8278

To

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

SEN KERTTULA

SEN SZYMANSKI

REP MENARD

REP LARSON

I SUPPORT SENATE BILL 430.

THE MAT-SU VALLEY CAN BE
USED MUCH MORE EFFECTIVELY
AS A RECREATIONAL AREA
THAN AS A WOOD CUTTING FOREST.

DON COUILLARD

CC TED SMITH

[13 YEAR RESIDENT IN
THE MAT-SU VALLEY]

Alexander Creek, AK
Feb. 8, 1990

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

Sen. Dymanski,

I am writing this letter in strong support of Senate Bill 430.

We are residents of the valley since 1970. We have resided at Alexander Creek as full time residents for the past 2 years. I can't even comprehend what is even being considered in our beautiful valley.

We had visitors from Finland this past year who were telling us this very kind of timber harvest took place there. Their country was ruined, the streams & fishing destroyed. That was why they were here. Their words were, "Don't let them ruin this beautiful country."

Alexander Creek is full of foreign guests all summer. They bring tremendous amounts of dollars to our economy. We won't be seeing this if this tree harvest

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

February 10, 1990

Dear Mr. Szymanski,

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that I am very much for the swift passing of Senate Bill 430.

I feel that there is already sufficient designated commercial logging area available, therefore it is in our best interest to prohibit future large scale logging west of the Susitna River.

I pray that when you address this worthy bill, you do not sit on this important issue and that our cause will be pushed forward to a positive future for our unreplaceable asset.

Sincerely,

Mandy Jo Hartley

Feb. 15, 1990

Dear Sen. Szymanski

I support SB 430 which would
create the Susitna Valley Remote
Recreation Area.

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

Marcia Whelan
5460 Revolutionary Way
Wasilla 99687

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

To: Senator Keattala
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Date 9 Feb 90

From: Michael D. Keefe
Hence of Pelow Alexander Creek, Ak.

Dear Jay, I am writing to you today in support of Senate Bill 430 which would establish the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area. I have been a willing resident since 1953 and am currently homesteading a parcel near Alexander Creek.

I am opposed to the Susitna Regional Forest Plan as it does not currently address the critical areas of interest in the Susitna Valley.

If the SRFP goes through not only will it destroy my home area as I have known it but economically destroy the lifestyles that exist in the Alexander area.

I would appreciate any assistance you can accomplish in regard to the matter as it would be greatly appreciated.

RECEIVED - 9-90

FEB 20 1990

Dear Sen. Szymanski,

I am a property owner and resident of Alexander Creek. I have been a recreational user of the Sustina Valley since 1970. I now own and operate a wholesale nursery at Alexander Creek. I have witnessed the environmental degradation of this area over the years and feel it is imperative that we take action to prevent further destruction. I therefore support, and urge your support of S.B. 430.

Yours truly,
Ron Osowski
mile 2
Alexander Creek, Ok.
996 95-0020

C.S. J. Kuttala
L. Menden
R. Larson
Ted Smith, Nat. In. Sec.

RECEIVED 1990

FEB 20 1990

DEAR SEN. SZYMANSKI,

I AM WRITING TO YOU CONCERNING
THE SUSITNA VALLEY. MY FAMILY
LIVES NEAR ALEXANDER CREEK IN THE
HEART OF THIS PROPOSED TIMBERSALE
PROPOSAL. A TIMBER SALE HERE
WOULD DESTROY MY WAY OF LIFE AND
MY JOB. THIS AREA IS FULL OF
RECREATION POSSIBILITIES FOR THE PUBLIC
OF ALASKA PLEASE DON'T ALLOW LOGGING
IN THE SUSITNA VALLEY. WE MUST
PRESERVE SOME OF OUR WILDERNESS.
PLEASE SUPPORT SB. 430 AS I
AND ALL MY NEIGHBORS. THIS IS
VERY IMPORTANT TO US.

CC TEDSMITH
SEN KERTULLA
REP RICHARD
REP LARSON

THANK YOU

FRED SORENSEN
PROPERTY OWNER OF 6 ACRES

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

10 February 90

Dear Senator Szymanski,

I am writing you from Alexander Creek. I moved out here full time 2 years ago after spending summers here for 12 years. The reason I moved to the Susitna Valley was to get away from the roads & commotion of city life. Now I understand that the State wants to build roads to my quiet new community which would totally change the remote allure of the area. I also understand that they want to try to log these marginal forests threatening the rich wildlife of the area as well as ruining the visual purity of the Susitna Valley wilderness. As a resident of the affected area I want to register my opposition to roads and logging in the valley.

Senate Bill 430 addresses the issues I've mentioned above. I hope we can count on your support of SB 430.

Thank you.
Nancy Conzelin

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

February 9, 1990

Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box 1
Juneau, Alaska

Attn: Sen. Szymanski

I am a permanent resident of Alexander Creek and have been a part of Alexander Creek and the Susitna Valley for 3 1/2 years. Before residing here I spent many many years recreating with boats, planes and snowmachines all over the Susitna Valley enjoying its hunting, fishing camping and snowmachining.

The proposed timber sale is a CRIME, to say the least. The Susitna Valley produces millions of dollars in tourism, lodges, personal use of planes etc and to scar it with the cutting of timber is just plain sick. If you feel this is going to take place no matter what we all have to say I beg you so please, please, please support SB 430 designating the

Susitna Valley Remote Recreation
Area.

It strikes me, the amount of
money brought in by the Susitna
Valley tourism + private use is
far and above what can be
seen by timber off this land.

Thank you for your help
in this matter.

Sincerely

Anne A. Lewis
Alexander Creek
Alaska 99695-0020

cc: Jay Ker, Hula
Rep. Menard
Rep. Larson

cc: Ted Smith

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: LORRAINE BOHN

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 3827 BALCHEN DRIVE

CITY: ANCHORAGE

ZIP: 99517

PHONE: 243-7070

BILL NO: SB 430

SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

MESSAGE: I SUPPORT SB 430 AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO ACT AND MOVE THE BILL OUT OF COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 20TH. I HAVE SEVERAL CABINS AND RECREATIONAL PROPERTY IN THE VALLEY AND WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE SUSITNA VALLEY AS A RECREATIONAL AREA.

/CMR

POMID: 03174203

DATE: 02/15/90

TIME: 17:42:03

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

FRANK
PEARCE
POURCHOT
ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: DONALD PETERSON

TITLE:

ADDRESS: BOX 770821

CITY: EAGLE RIVER

ZIP: 99577

PHONE: 694-6779

BILL NO: HB 19

SUBJECT: FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS

MESSAGE: SUPPORT HB 19. DO AWAY WITH DFYS POLICING THEMSELVES AT A COST OF \$800,000 WHEN THEY DO NOT COMPLY WITH POLICIES OR PROCEDURES ANYWAY. /LD

POMID: 03155717

DATE: 02/15/90

TIME: 15:57:17

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

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BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS
BOYER	BROWN	BINKLEY
COLLINS	COTTEN	COGHILL
DAVIDSON	DAVIS, C.	DUNCAN
DAVIS, M.	DONLEY	ELIASON
ELLIS	FINKELSTEIN	FAHRENKAMP
FOSTER	FURNACE	FAIKS
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FISCHER
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	FRANK
HOFFMAN	HUDSON	HALFORD
JACKO	KOPONEN	JONES
KUBINA	LARSON	KELLY
LEMAN	MACLEAN	KERTTULA
MARTIN	MENARD	PEARCE
MILLER	NAVARRE	POURCHOT
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	RODEY
RIEGER	SHARP	STURGULEWSKI
SHULTZ	SWACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: JIM PAGE

TITLE:

ADDRESS: PO BOX 872573

CITY: WASILLA

ZIP: 99687

PHONE: 892-6027

BILL NO: SB 430

SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

MESSAGE: I OPPOSE SB 430. IT CIRCUMVENTS THE PLANNING PROCESS WHICH HAS GONE ON SINCE 1980. THE SUSITNA AREA PLAN SHOULD BE FOLLOWED! WE SHOULD MANAGE ALL OUR RESOURCES INSTEAD OF LOCKING THEM UP FOR SPECIAL SELF SERVING INTERESTS. STATE LANDS ARE MULTIPLE USE LANDS AND SHOULD BE MANAGED AS SUCH!

POMID: 14172326

DATE: 02/15/90

TIME: 17:23:26

LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

LARSON	KERTTULA
MENARD	FRANK
	PEARCE
	POURCHOT
	ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: JAMES MINTON
TITLE:
ADDRESS: P.O.BOX 190121
CITY: ANCHORAGE ZIP: 99519
PHONE: 248-1965
BILL NO: SB 430
SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: I LIVE AND WORK IN THE SUSITNA VALLEY. I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT AND TAKE
ACTION ON SB 430 IN YOUR COMMITTEE. /CMR

POMID: 03122926
DATE: 02/15/90
TIME: 12:29:26
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

FRANK
PEARCE
POURCHOT
ADAMS

RECEIVED
FEB 20 1990

2-10-90

Dear Sen Kerttala

I've been a resident at
Linda on Alexander Creek for a
number of years and have recently
been educated on the plan to
timber harvest in the Susitna valley.
I'm very much opposed to the
prospect of timber harvest in the
valley, not only due to my own
personal ~~own~~ concerns but also
to the economic concerns of the
Alaskan people as a whole.

In support of SB 430

with Respect

CC. Ted Smith

Sen. Szymanski

Rep. Menard

Rep. Larson

Joy Tennant

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: WILLIAM M COX, M.D.

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 7806 LINDA LANE

CITY: ANCHORAGE

PHONE: 349-7080

BILL NO: SB 430

SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

MESSAGE: I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO SUPPORT SB 430 TO CREATE THE SUSITNA VALLEY
REMOTE RECREATION AREA. I HOPE YOU WILL MOVE THIS BILL OUT OF COMMITTEE ON THE
20TH OF FEBRUARY. /CMR

ZIP: 99518

POMID: 03104815

DATE: 02/15/90

TIME: 10:48:15

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATOR

FRANK

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: LORRAINE BOHN

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 3821 BALCHIN DRIVE

CITY: ANCHORAGE

PHONE: 243-7070

BILL NO: SB 430

SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

MESSAGE: I SUPPORT SB 430 AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO ACT AND MOVE THE BILL OUT OF
COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 20TH. I HAVE SEVERAL CABINS AND RECREATIONAL PROPERTY IN
THE VALLEY AND WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THIS SUSITHA VALLEY AS A RECREATIONAL AREA.
/CMR

ZIP: 99517

POMID: 03122327

DATE: 02/15/90

TIME: 12:23:27

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

FRANK

PEARCE

POURCHOT

ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: DOROTHY GARRETT

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 1807 KALGIN STREET

CITY: ANCHORAGE

PHONE: 333-7991

ZIP: 99504

BILL NO: SB 15

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS BY PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

MESSAGE: NEED YOUR SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT TO SB 15 TO PREVENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS FROM DENYING BARGAINING RIGHTS TO EMPLOYEES. PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP OF THIS CRITICAL ISSUE. /CMR

POMID: 03173308

DATE: 02/15/90

TIME: 17:33:08

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: STEVE STRUBE

TITLE:

ADDRESS: PO BOX 521155

CITY: BIG LAKE

PHONE: 892-7760

ZIP: 99652

BILL NO: SB 430

SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

MESSAGE: I HEARD SENATOR RODEY'S COMMENTS TODAY REGARDING THIS BILL. HE IS APPARENTLY UNAWARE THAT THE FOREST PRACTICES ACT EXISTS AND THAT DNR HAS SQUANDERED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS ON MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR THE AREA. IF SENATOR RODEY DOESN'T TRUST PLANNERS AND FORESTERS THAN WHY PAY THEM TO PLAN AND TO MANAGE?

POMID: 14173245

DATE: 02/15/90

TIME: 17:32:45

LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

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BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS	RODEY
BOYER	BROHN	BINKLEY	FRANK
COLLINS	COTTEN	COGHILL	PEARCE
DAVIDSON	DAVIS, C.	DUNCAN	POURCHOT
DAVIS, M.	DONLEY	ELIASON	ADAMS
ELLIS	FINKELSTEIN	FAHRENKAMP	
FOSTER	FURNACE	FAIKS	
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FISCHER	
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	FRANK	
HOFFMAN	HUDSON	HALFORD	
JACKO	KOPONEN	JONES	
KUBINA	LARSON	KELLY	
LEMAN	MACLEAN	KERTTULA	
MARTIN	HENARD	PEARCE	
MILLER	NAVARRRE	POURCHOT	
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	RODEY	
RIEGER	SHARP	STURGULEWSKI	
SHULTZ	SWACKHAMMER	UEHLING	
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF	
WALLIS	ZAWACKI		

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: GARY BPETTRAGER
TITLE:
ADDRESS: HC01 6763-A3
CITY: PALMER ZIP: 99645
PHONE: 745-7085
BILL NO: SB 430
SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: I OPPOSE SB 430 BECAUSE IT LIMITS FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SUCH AS TIMBER OR MINING. EVEN RECREATION ITSELF! IT WOULD
PREVENT GROWTH OF THE MAT-SU BOROUGH AND PREVENT OWNERSHIP OF ANY
EXISTING STATE LANDS IN THIS AREA.

POMID: 14100257
DATE: 02/16/90
TIME: 10:02:57
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

LARSON
MENARD

KERTTULA
FRANK
PEARCE
POURCHOT
ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: MARK WEBB

TITLE:

ADDRESS: PO BOX 2617

CITY: PALMER

PHONE: 746-1100

BILL NO: SB 430

SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

MESSAGE: THANKYOU SENATOR RODEY FOR SPONSORING THIS LEGISLATION. I AM OPPOSED TO LARGE SCALE LOGGING IN THE MATSU VALLEY. I SUPPORT THE SUSITNA VALLEY ASSOCIATION PLAN. I HAVE LIVED IN THE VALLEY SINCE 1979. PLEASE SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF SB430

ZIP: 99645

POMID: 14145133

DATE: 02/16/90

TIME: 14:51:33

LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

RODEY

FRANK

PEARCE

POURCHOT

ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: NANCY MC QUIRE

TITLE:

ADDRESS: BOX 456

CITY: NOME

PHONE: 443-5235

BILL NO: HB 284

SUBJECT: PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT PAYMENTS

MESSAGE: DEAR SENATOR: PLEASE SUPPORT HB 284 FOR PROMPT PAYMENT BY STATE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS. SMALL BUSINESSES NEED THIS LEGISLATION BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN HURT TOO FREQUENTLY BY LATE PAYMENTS. SINCERELY, NANCY MC QUIRE

ZIP: 99762

POMID: 11150315

DATE: 02/16/90

TIME: 15:03:15

LIONAME: NOME INFORMATION OFFICE

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: HERMAN OLSON
TITLE:
ADDRESS: HC30 BOX 5438
CITY: WASILLA ZIP: 99687
PHONE: 373-4612
BILL NO: SB 430
SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: SB430 IS AN OUTRAGEOUS VIOLATION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS. LOCAL PROPERTY OWNERS ALONG OILWELL ROAD DO WANT OILWELL ROAD UPGRADED TO A YEAR ROUND 2-WHEEL DRIVE ROAD. I HAVE A TWENTY ACRE CHRISTMAS TREE FARM IN THE AREA WHICH I WILL NEED 2-WHEEL DRIVE ACCESS TO IN FIVE YEARS.

POMID: 14134657
DATE: 02/16/90
TIME: 13:46:57
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

ADAMS
BINKLEY
COGHILL
DUNCAN
ELIASON
FAHRENKAMP
FAIKS
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
JONES
KELLY
KERTTULA
PEARCE
POURCHOT
RODEY
STURGULEWSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: DANA OLSON
TITLE: AMBER LAKES NORTH HOMEOWNERS ASSOC.
ADDRESS: HC30 BOX 5438
CITY: WASILLA ZIP: 99687
PHONE: 373-4612
BILL NO: SB 430
SUBJECT: SUSITNA VAL' . REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: THE AMBER LAKES NORTH HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION IS AGAINST SB430 AS IS WRITTEN. OILWELL ROAD MUST BE UPGRADED TO A YEAR ROUND 2-WHEEL DRIVE R ALL THE WAY TO KROTO CREEK. PLATTED ROAD ACCESS TO ALL PRIVATE PARCELS MUST BE RETAINED WITH NO LIMITATIONS. VOTE NO TO SB430.

POMID: 14135024
DATE: 02/16/90
TIME: 13:50:24
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

ADAMS
BINKLEY
COGHILL
DUNCAN
ELIASON
FAHRENKAMP
FAIKS
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
JONES
KELLY
KERTTULA
PEARCE
POURCHOT
RODEY
STURGULEWSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF



**WILDLIFE
FEDERATION
OF ALASKA**

The Alaska Affiliate of the
National Wildlife Federation

RECEIVED
FEB 20 1990

February 9, 1990

The Honorable Mike Szymanski
Chair, Senate Regional Affairs Committee
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Szymanski:

The Wildlife Federation of Alaska supports legislation establishing the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area.

The Susitna Valley is now used by members of WFA, and thousands of additional Alaskans, for numerous and diverse activities--fishing, hunting, boating, skiing, dog mushing and other activities. It is also the site of hundreds of recreational cabins of the residents of nearby cities--cabins which offer the possibility for city-dwellers to get into the Alaska we all love. All of these activities and uses are at risk fro proposals for extensive timber harvests in that area.

Advocates of large scale timber harvest, who wish to establish a "forest products industry" in Southcentral Alaska, fail to realize that the highest and best use of the Susitna Valley--from an economic as well as a recreational perspective--requires that the present character of the valley be maintained. The area now supports a huge recreation industry--primarily hunting and fishing--which caters to both Alaskans and tourists from outside. These people go to the Susitna Valley because it is easily accessible from nearby cities and towns and, most importantly, because of its wilderness quality, particularly when judged by lower-48 standards. Extensive logging in the area and creation of an industry associated with mills, will destroy this aspect of the valley. The present economy associated with the region--an economy which is stable, long-term and totally compatible with the environment--would be destroyed for the new economy which would destroy the existing resource.

The legislation designating the area as the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area is needed in order to preserve the current character of the valley. The legislation which has been introduced protects all existing uses of the Valley, and even provides for future limited and compatible expansion of existing activities. We urge you to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Jackson
President



cc: Senator Al Adams
Senator Steve Frank
Senator Drue Pierce
Senator Pat Pourchot

PUBLIC CPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: TED CREMER
TITLE:
ADDRESS: POB 870657
CITY: WASILLA ZIP: 99687
PHONE: 376-5453
BILL NO: SB 430
SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED. WE DO NOT NEED ANY MORE DORMANT LAND IN THE
STATE OF ALASKA. WE HAVE TOO MANY PEOPLE ON WLEFARE AND
UNEMPLOYMENT; UNABLE TO MAKE A LIVING.

POMID: 14175352
DATE: 02/21/90
TIME: 17:53:52
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

LARSON	KERTTULA
MENARD	FAHRENKAMP
DAVIDSON	ELIASON
JACKO	FRANK
FOSTER	HALFORD
NAVARRE	STURGULEWSKI
FURNACE	ZHAROFF
SHARP	PEARCE
HUDSON	POURCHOT
DAVIS, M.	ADAMS

Carol Compton
HC31 Box 5175-V
Wasilla, AK 99687

RECEIVED

FEB 27 1990

Senator Mike Szymanski
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Szymanski,

Hi! Thank you for responding to my letter on Senate Bill 430. In your reply you indicated that you wanted to work toward an equitable and environmentally sound compromise and give the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area your full and careful consideration. I take this to mean that you feel the bill has some merit and should therefore receive your consideration. I disagree.

In my earlier letter I indicated that the State already has the Susitna Area Plan that governs management of the lands proposed within the Remote Recreation bill. I believe this Plan already spells out the desires of the public on this area and I believe the Area Plan is the means to do any changes that persons might feel are warranted in a particular area of the Plan. I do not feel compromises need to be made for this bill because the proponents of the bill should be taking their concerns to Department of Natural Resources and have them taken before the public through the planning process.

I personally do not feel locking this massive area in the Susitna Valley will serve anyone to any good purpose, with the exception of those that are spearheading this bill as private land holders. The State of Alaska was told by the Legislature to offer land to the public for disposal into private ownership and as far as I know that mandate is still in force. I do not believe it would be serving Alaska's best interests to close the Susitna Valley to future land sales. And I believe that the timber industry can play an important role in developing the Susitna Valley. With environmental watchdogs around today no timber operator will ever get away with going out and raping the Susitna Valley of all its trees--I don't believe the timber operators would ever work that way and I don't believe the citizens of the Valley would ever want that. My point is that the Susitna Valley will survive without having to become a roadless area and an area locked up to all but a certain few land owners. I believe more access into the area would be good for the Valley in fact. It will allow people to be able to disperse over a larger area of land where now they have to fight to get to a spot along the Parks Highway road system. We actually NEED more accessible recreation opportunities to the public in this State because there are just too few places to go and too many people that want to enjoy that type of recreation.

I don't believe compromises are necessary at this point in time to accommodate SB 430. We actually need more accessible recreational opportunities for the people in Alaska.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Carol Compton
Carol Compton

cc: Ron Larson
Curt Menard
Pat Rodey

2/10/90

RECEIVED

FEB 27 1990

Dear Senator,

I am ~~an~~ ~~ten~~ ten years old and live in the bush. As long as I live in the bush I want it to be like it is right now, that means the forest stays ~~at~~ or I leave and as soon as I can vote I will not vote for you. I don't want you to ruin or home. The forest is my home and we cut ~~some~~ fire wood & some cabin wood. Don't destroy the valley!! I am in favor of S B 430 to protect or forest

Sincerely
David B. Tabbert



CC: Senators Kerttula, Brynmanski,
Rep. ~~Monard~~ Larson, Ted Smith

David Gilbert
Alexander Creek
AK 99695-0020



Senator Szymanski
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V
Juneau AK 99811

ATTN:
SEN. KORTTILA
SEN. SYMANSEKI
REP. MENARD
REP. LAIZSON.

RECEIVED
FEB 20 1981

Dear Sir,

As a lodge owner and taxpayer in the Mat Suu Valley and a year round resident, I would like to protest the Susitna Regional Forest Plan. In a sense is a blueprint for logging. I feel it will damage the beauty and ecology of the area. I feel more weight must be given to the existing contribution to the economy of the area. The logging is a ~~strong~~ threat to the wildlife, the tourism, the economy, the beauty and the way of life in the Susitna Valley.

I think Legislative designation of a portion of the Susitna Valley as a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area is needed.

Regards
Paul H. Abbott
Abbott's Fish Camp
Abraham Creek, Alaska 99695

cc TED SMITH

Ruth W. Conillard

Alexander Creek
AK 99695
February 10, 1990

RECEIVED
FEB 27 1990

To
Senator Jay Kerttula
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area

As a resident of Alexander Creek for 13 years and appreciating the remote character of this area, I very much ask you to support Senate Bill 430 which would establish the Susitna Valley Remote Area.

This Bill supports a million Dollars Industry, which would be destroyed by logging.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Wendy Conillard

February 20, 1990

Diane and Brian Okonek
P.O. Box 566
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

Senate Resource Committee Members
Juneau, Alaska

RE: Senate Bill 430

Dear Senate Resource Committee Members,

We are in favor of Senate Bill 430 which would establish the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area.

Besides being residents of Talkeetna we also own and operate a guiding business which specializes in mountain climbing, hiking and rafting.

There is a growing tourism industry in the Susitna Valley. These tourists come from within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Anchorage, other parts of Alaska, the Lower 48 and from around the world. They come to enjoy the scenic beauty, the forest and the rivers, the wildlife and the fish. They come here because of the remote character of the area and the unspoiled lands within it. Tourism is a long term, renewable resource. Alaskan tourists unanimously agree, however, that it is the wilderness that they came to see, to feel and to experience. To maintain our tourism economy and to allow it to grow it is vital that the land of the Susitna Valley is protected so its wilderness character does not disappear.

The Susitna Regional Forest Plan has not addressed the impact increased logging would have on the environment, lifestyle and economy of the Susitna Valley. The State needs to find out what impact logging would have on other industries (commercial fishing, sports fishing, flightseeing, river rafting, remote lodges, etc.) before continuing with any logging plans. We believe that large scale logging and the construction of roads that would be required would have a detrimental effect on the tourism industry.

We also strongly support the creation of a Talkeetna Remote Recreation Area.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Diane and Brian Okonek

Diane and Brian Okonek

cc: Rep. Curt Merfeld
Rep. Ron Larson
Sen. Jay Kirtvik

*P.S. - Sen. Szymanski
please send copies of
this letter to the other
members of the Community
and Regional Affairs
Committee. Thank you!*



RECEIVED
FEB 20 1990

GABBERT'S CAMP

February 21, 1990

Senator Szymanski,
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Szymanski,

My name is Cathy Gabbert. I am a resident of Alexander Creek. I have worked here for ten years, and lived here for eight years. My husband and myself own and operate a sport fishing and hunting lodge on Alexander Creek. There are several proposed bills currently before the legislature that can directly impact my lifestyle and my livelihood.

I whole heartedly SUPPORT SB 430, Senator Rodey's proposal for a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area. I am opposed to Representative Menard's legislation to establish a Susitna Regional Forest Plan. I am in favor of current proposals to amend and improve the Forest Practices Act, as they were written. It is essential that mandatory buffers on all streams be maintained and enforced.

I am a part of an established, growing industry in the Susitna Valley, and commercial timber harvesting would be detrimental to that industry (TOURISM, REMOTE RECREATION). As a group we contribute to the economy of the State, Natanuska-Susitna Borough and Anchorage. I do not believe that the Susitna Area Plan mandates forestry (commercial timber harvest) as the primary and only use for State lands in the Susitna Valley. It is my understanding that the Department of Natural Resources is demanding legislative designation of this area to provide for the perpetuation of remote recreation activities. Please consider existing uses as important and necessary to the livelihoods and lifestyles of the many residents, property owners, Alaskans and tourists in this beautiful, remote, roadless recreation area. Please help us maintain our lifestyles and livelihoods by voting
YES on SB 430!!

Thank You.

Sincerely,


Cathy Gabbert

Paul & Cathy Gabbert & Family
2nd West Bend
Alexander Creek, Alaska 99695
(907) 733-2371

RECEIVED
FEB 26 1990

February 20, 1990

Senator Szymanski
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Szymanski,

Being a resident of Alexander Creek, I am in support of SB 430, a proposal to create the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area.

Logging is incompatible with remote recreation and tourism. Clear cutting near rivers and streams and hillsides erodes the hills, ruins streams and salmon and other fisheries, commercial and sport.

It also ruins the beauty from the air for our tourism-flightseeing.

Congratulations on your recent marriage.

Sincerely,



Kris Sherwood

KS/cg

cc: Representatives Menard, Larson; Senator Kerttula



P.O. BOX 355 / ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519 / TELEPHONE (907) 243-6813 / TELEX 25-147

Senator Pat Rodey
Alaska State Senate
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RECEIVED

FEB 27 1990

February 23, 1990

re: SB 430

Dear Senator,

I support your effort to preserve the last wilderness area in South-central Alaska. The following is a summary of reasons why I support your Bill, and recommendations to enhance it.

The Susitna Valley

The Susitna Valley is a unique to Alaska wilderness area. It supports the highest concentration of fish & wildlife in Alaska (1987 ADF&G Habitat Division). It is encompassed by world-class scenery including Mt. McKinley, the Alaska and Aleutian Ranges. These mountains provide an awe-inspiring background for visitors while fishing several of the world-class freshwater fishing streams such as the Deshka River, Lake Creek, and Talachulitna River. These streams meander through lush old growth Boreal forests of Spruce, Birch and Aspen—the largest forest of its kind in Alaska. My guests often remark how much better this area is than Bristol Bay. The scenery is more dramatic; the weather warmer and dryer; the streams smaller, hence more fishable and wadable; and the heavily forested streams provide a much more intimate experience with nature than the barren tundra landscape of Bristol Bay.

The area supports an existing \$12 million Tourism industry, growing at a steady 6% per annum (1987 ADF&G Economic Study), yet there are problems.

Politically Unstable Business Climate

The State, and more recently, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly have embarked upon continued efforts to utilize the Valleys forests in order to promote industrial development of their proposed Port facility. Such a move would adversely affect the growth of Tourism, and degrade the basis of attraction for visitors, land owners, and local residents alike. Despite widespread opposition, the Assembly continues to press forward against the wishes of a majority of their people, and Anchorage residents who own property or recreate there.

The Port has never been proven to be economically feasible. The Assembly purports to be development oriented, yet their continued single-interest views, are hindering the one successful industry within the Valley, Tourism. No sensible businessman (or business-woman) would want to invest in a politically unstable business climate such as exists within the past 3 years. Those of us, who were here long before the Borough, or State for that matter, find our investments in jeopardy. I have an investment in facilities of over \$1.2 million. I have been unable to expand my business in the past 3 years because of the adverse political climate.

Tourism Potential

A majority of Alaska's business leaders feel that Tourism holds the greatest promise for long term economic stability within our State of any other industry, according to a past Dittman Poll.

Tourism will become the world's leading industry with 15 years, according to the Wall Street Journal. As global tensions decrease, conversely, trade between nations will increase, hence travel will become more affordable as economies stabilize worldwide.

For Tourism to flourish, there must be a politically and economically stable climate, in order to promote private investment.

When Tourism is flourishing, only then will we be able to tax, and fund the maintenance of Parks, Wilderness Areas and Wild & Scenic River systems. Preservation of our outstanding natural wilderness attractions is vital to allow for future expansion of the Tourism industry, and to insure future economic stability for future generations.

Wilderness-Based Tourism

What attracts visitors to Alaska, is the wilderness.

Not all wilderness is the same. There are those who will say that "we already have too much wilderness", and that it "locks up" the public lands. Alaska does have a lot of wilderness, however, very little of it is "marketable". Tundra, taiga, muskeg and un-scenic mountain ranges, we do have a lot of, but these do not sell on the world market. "Marketable Wilderness", are those public lands which hold outstanding scenic, fishery, wildlife, cultural, historic and other values, that should be held in trust for the public. These lands do sell in the world marketplace. The ultimate "lockup", is the transfer of these special lands into the private sector, or the permitted use of public land for private benefit, which precludes the public use.

Wilderness-based Tourism is big business. The highest \$ value per visitor spent in Alaska is at Wilderness Lodges & Resorts. The lowest \$ value per visitor spent, is at road-accessible attractions.

Wilderness-Based vs Road-Accessable Tourism - Economic Benefits

Compare the difference between the wilderness-based Nushagak River System and the road-accessable Kenai River System (similar attractions). The Nushagak supports a \$25 million Tourism industry with a visitor use of 12,500. The Kenai supports a \$30 million Tourism industry with a visitor use of 330,000 (1987 ADF&G Economic Study). The more accessable an area becomes, the less \$ value per visitor it brings into the local economy. The law of supply and demand applies-the more the supply, the less the demand.

Wilderness-Based vs Road-Accessable Tourism - Costs to the State

Of the two attractions, one operates at no cost or liability to the State. Wilderness-based Tourism operates at no cost to the State because the private sector incurs costs of facilities, and all maintenance. Road-accessable Tourism operates at high cost to the State because roads, campgrounds, facilities, and other improvements built by the State, must be maintained, and if they are not, the State is liable, as recent court decisions have upheld.

Remote Recreation Area vs Wilderness Area

From a marketing perspective, a simple name change, with the same conditions, does alot to improve the image and saleability of a product. Calling this area the "Susitna Remote Recreation Area", infurs a host of permitted uses including airboat races, fishing derbies, 4x4 and dirtbike race tracks, to the general public, and visitors alike. Recreation can mean many things to many people. Calling the area the "Susitna Wilderness Area" infurs limited uses in the minds eye of the public, and carries a mystic, from a marketing perspective, which attracts, and makes one more aware of the delicate nature of ones surroundings. In effect, it attracts visitors better, is more saleable, and promotes more respect of public lands in the minds eye of the public.

Economic Developement - Existing and Potential

The following is a listing of existing and potential uses of the area encompassed by SB 430 regarding economic developement potential, which may be adversely affected by SB 430.

Forest Products:

"Production of these (plywood, pulp, and other forest) products genrally requires large scale operations...such operations have been shown not to be feassible in (3) previous studies."
(Smith, R.C. 1980, Potential Economic Developement of Forest Products in Interior Alaska; USDA Forest Service PNW Forest & Range Experiment Station, Portland, OR; E.G. Lindth, C.J. 1979 An Assessment of the Domestic market for Alaska Wood Products, Dept. of Commerce & Economic Dev., State Division of Forestry Manual 1984, pg. 19.)

Existing commercial logging."At present, for every 4 tress cut, only 1 is sold. The rest are cut for firewood, milled, or left as "slash"" ADN news article, 1988.

Firewood sales are down significantly, from a peak 2 years ago, mainly because of increased distribution of natural gas lines within the Valley. Milled, rough cut lumber, cut "green" in the summer when the sap is at it's highest concentration, is unsuitable for building, and therefore only used for fences, decks, and cabins, mainly because of shrinkage & warpage.

The "forest is dying". The only forests that are dying, are those near logged-off areas, for which, because of large amounts of left over "slash", Spruce Beetle infestation has taken hold. It is a natural occurrence in single-specie (Spruce only) areas, exaggerated by improper (low budget) logging practices.

There is a potential forest products industry, that has been overlooked by the industry-log cabins and high-quality interior furniture locally manufactured, from local Birch.

I have logged the first 3 miles of the Deshka River, up to 100' of the stream bank for the past 8 years. I have built a 8,000 sq. foot Log Lodge, and all improvements out of local Spruce. I only cut in the winter, when the sap it out of the tree, mill, and build immediately. There is no shrinkage or warpage in any of the lumber or logs that I have cut. I only use existing seismic trails, sloughs, and swamps for access with a snow cover of at least 2' in order that I may not disturb the natural environment. I only harvest the most mature Spruce, never exceeding 15% cut per acre (only 15% per acre is commercial quality in the Susitna valley-No. 2 sawlogs or better), and cut the trees below the root crown so a cut tree is not visible. The forest is healthy, and regenerating in the area I have cut. I hosted Ted Smith, member of the Board of Forestry, and former Director, Division of Forestry, on an inspection in August of 1989. He was quite surprised that not only was the forest healthy, but re-generating, and there was no signs of it having been cut.

Selective cut, 15% take per acre, winter access only logging practices could be employed throughout the Valley with no harm to the environment, or adverse impact to Land owners, recreationists, or the Tourism Industry.

There is a ready market for the sale of log cabins to the over 3,700 applicants who have to prove up on their State selected parcels by building a cabin of at least 400 sq. ft.

Additionally, with a State subsidized Kiln located within the Valley, loggers would have a market for their material, and carpenters and craftsman could take advantage of low cost kiln dried Birch lumber to start their own cottage industry producing furniture in their garage. This would provide employment throughout the winter (and all season), when un-employment is highest. It should be the responsibility of the Dept. of Commerce to conduct training seminars in craftsmanship, and establish standards for products, as well as securing a market for their products. High quality items sells in a local and world market.

Oil & Gas

Gas deposits have been found in the Ivan/Theodore River area by Chevron, and are being developed. These are outside the area encompassed by SB 430. Two wildcat wells were drilled in the early '60's (Lum Lovely No. 1 & 2), but were abandoned. These were located near the eastern edge of the area encompassed by SB 430. Although the Susitna Valley was extensively explored, in the '60's, and as late as the early '70's, with 3 wells drilled, one near the Pt. McKenzie project; one near Red Shirt lake and the other west of Alexander lake, these wells have been abandoned. There still remain many current leases in the area, but many have lapsed.

Agriculture

"Over 40,000 acres of Borough and State lands have been sold for agricultural development in this (Susitna) area. Very little is in production today." Susitna Area Plan-Agriculture, pg. 2-4.

"While this land clearly has the physical ability to grow crops, it is doubtful that agricultural commodities can be produced at lower prices than those products shipped in from outside Alaska where growing seasons, labor costs, access, soils and other factors are often more favorable." Susitna Area Plan-Agriculture, pg. 2-4.

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing interests depend heavily on the Susitna Valley for spawning and rearing habitat, to support their industry.

"Ex-vessel value (fish only) of \$44.9 million was generated from Commercial fishing in Upper Cook Inlet, of which 71% and 90%, respectively, were Alaska residents." Upper Cook Inlet Management Report #86-7, ADF&G, Commercial Fish Division, December 1986, pg. 1-2.

Mining

There are proven placer gold deposits that support small mining operations in the Petersville Hills, and Upper lake Creek headwater streams. Under new water quality constraints, recently enacted by the EPA and DEC, these operations will remain small in nature. Access to these claims, has traditionally been by ice road trail in the winter following a route just south of the Kahiltna Glacier and is outside the area encompassed by SB 430.

Coal deposits are located along the foothills of the Aleutian Range between Beluga and Friday Creek. just west of the Talachulitna River, and in the Kichatna River area. Future extraction of these deposits would no doubt follow a route along the base of the mountains, however it would be uneconomical to Bridge the Squentna River, Cross the headwater area of Beluga lake to access these areas in light of larger, and more viably accessable locations elsewhere in the State such as the Colville, or Bering River deposits.

Regarding the highest and best use of the Susitna Valley, I recommend that it remain in a wilderness state, with no road access to preserve its existing wilderness-based Tourism industry, and allow for regulated expansion of the industry in the future.

Regarding the name designation, I recommend that you call it the "Susitna Wilderness Area", to give it more marketability, and respect by the public.

Regarding the Forest products industry, I recommend that you allow commercial Logging on a 15% take per acre maximum; winter access only with no roads, utilizing existing trails, and other open areas; on a selective cut basis only; in those areas near Anadromous Streams, leave a 200' uncut buffer in order to allow for dense wildlife habitat; require all logging to take place from October through April with a snow cover over frozen ground not less than 18"; no trails may follow or be built upon or near Anadromous streams.

Regarding road construction, I recommend that no new roads be built, and encourage the use of winter trails for transportation of materials and other non-flyable or boatable items.

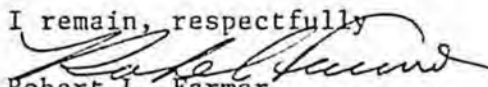
Regarding controlling the growth of Tourism so as not to adversely impact base attraction values, I recommend that you request that the Department of Fish & Game, in concurrence with the Division of Tourism to study anticipated growth patterns, and recommend an orderly development of our Tourism industry.

Regarding the use of public lands for private benefit, whether Tourism industry, or not, I recommend that you not allow the leasing, sale or interest to be conveyed in any public lands other than those existing or proposed through the normal State land Sale program of DNR, so high value public lands remain in the public domain.

Regarding the Talachulitna, Lake Creek and Deshka River, I recommend that these streams be named as State "Wild & Scenic Rivers" in order to increase their marketability, and Federal guidelines for "Wild & Scenic Rivers" be applied, under State control.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

I remain, respectfully


Robert L. Farmer

cc Honorable Steve Cowper
Senator Mike Syzmanski
Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Senator Rick Halford
Senator Rick Uehling
Senator Fred Zharoff
Director Dana Brockway

Rep. David Finklestein
Rep. Johnny Ellis
Rep. Curt Menard
Rep. Richard Foster
Rep. Fran Ulmer
Rep. Jim Zawacki

FROM THE DESK OF

Richard W. Tindall

RECEIVED

2/21/90
FEB 23 1990

Dear Senator Szymanski:

I attended the teleconference yesterday but time ran out before I had my chance to testify.

I'm mailing my testimony to you so that it will be made part of the record.

Sincerely,

Dick Tindall

TESTIMONY VIA TELECONFERENCE NETWORK BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING ON
SB #430 - SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

RECEIVED

20 February 1990

FEB 23 1990

Senator Szymanski, members of the committee, my name is Richard Tindall. I live at 6821 Sherwood Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, 99504. My telephone number is 333-1914. I have been a resident of Alaska 18 years. I am a consulting forester, a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters, and am Director, Division of Renewable Resources with the Resource Development Council of Alaska, Inc..

I oppose the passage of SB #430 and urge the Community & Regional Affairs, as well as the other committees to which it has been referred, Resources and Finance, to kill this piece of potentially disastrous legislation.

SB #430 proposes to classify and dedicate over 2 million acres of state land to limited, not multiple uses. The proposal would prohibit forest management and value-added wood production from over 1 million acres of forest land (Susitna Regional Forest Plan - 1989), foreclosing on a potential multi-million dollar per year forest product industry.

The SB #430 proposal would cast aside the millions of man hours and public funds that have already been invested in planning and public hearings in the Susitna Area Plan, the Willow Area Plan, and the not-yet completed Susitna Regional Forest Plan; all of which recommend forest management practices and commercial timber harvesting on the commercially productive forest lands of the area.

Prohibition of commercial timber harvesting and professionally accepted silvicultural practices as proposed by SB #430, will not "ensure the scenic and natural integrity of the area". Trees and forests are not cast in concrete, they are living, and ever changing, but are renewable. Without forest fires (which is nature's way - but unacceptable in terms of human values) or without commercial timber harvesting, the present forest over time will decline and decay, to be replaced, not with the present species, nor their thrifty offspring, but by an ingrowth of underbrush and grass, largely the genus Calamagrostis, - the same grasses that prevent reforestation of the seismic trails, the rights of way corridors, and the Tyonek bark beetle sale area that was logged during the '70's.

Without either forest fire or commercial timber harvesting, prohibited by SB #430, moose habitat, especially critical winter habitat, will continue to decline until starvation brings the moose population down to the level with the available food supply. Without habitat improvement, this will result in but a small population fraction of what the productivity of the valley could support if good forest management together with good game habitat management were permitted.

Harvest of timber limited to negotiated personal use sales would rob the state of millions of dollars annually, as well as subsidize those individuals and commercial businesses already situated in the area. Negotiated sales to "commercial facilities such as lodges" discriminates against other commercial users, such as the forest industry, which is able to provide value-added wood products to improve the local, as well as the state economy. The present "individuals and commercial facilities such as lodges" contribute very little to the economy of the Matanuska Susitna Borough. Those interests most likely to benefit from SB #430 are from Anchorage, and from outside the state that already have established their interests in "remote" sites in the area and wish to remain "privileged".

Harvest of timber limited to negotiated personal use sales would high-grade the present timber stands, as untrained cutters leave high stumps, cut undesignated wood, waste merchantable wood, wander off the designated area, cut more than allowed, damage reserved trees, fail to dispose of debris, leave on the area the most defective, misshapen trees, thereby robbing the best of the wild-stock gene pool of the forest, as well as not providing the means to regenerate the most desirable species, let alone promote genetic improvement.

SB #430 assumes that the scenic and natural integrity of the area can be insured, (1) by continued elimination of forest fires, and (2) prohibition of commercial timber harvesting. These assumptions are wrong because, first of all, wild fires are not in the public interest and second, commercial timber harvesting, followed by reforestation will provide not only thrifty young trees and improved game habitat, but also income and economic stability for the state and the borough as well.

SB #430 prohibits the commissioner from using public funds to construct or maintain roads connected to the "interstate" highway system. Since all of Alaska is not connected to the interstate highway system, I assume that the intrastate highways were intended. Providing no link to our existing highways forecloses any future possibility of surface access to the west side of Cook Inlet, to the Kuskokwim valley and interior, or to the west side of Denali National Park. This seems to me to be a highly unjustified foreclosure on our future transportation options.

SB #430's concerns are based upon myth and emotions, not upon facts. A forest industry involving good forest management which includes commercial timber harvesting, can exist with the recreation industry, even enhance it - especially so in the Susitna valley. The present "remote recreation industry" does extremely little to strengthen the economy, or lessen the jobless rate in the Matanuska Susitna Borough. Establishment of a modern integrated forest products industry would not only meet the economic objectives of the borough, but enhance the outdoor recreation opportunities for thousands of people - not perpetuate the status quo of a privileged few.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my oral testimony, and I'll be happy to respond to any questions from the members of the committee.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dick Tindall".

Richard W. Tindall

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: JANICE TATLOW
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: PO BOX 1621
 CITY: PALMER ZIP: 99645
 PHONE: 745-4488
 BILL NO: SB 430
 SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
 MESSAGE: SB430 ONLY ENHANCES THE FLY IN TOURIST OPERATION, BENEFITTING A FEW.
 SB430 RESTRICTS THE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF MATSU BOROUGHS RESIDENTS AND
 ALL ALASKANS. SB430 NEGATIVELY IMPACTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE MATSU
 BOROUGHS. DEPT OF LABOR, UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECEMBER 89 WAS 15.1. PLEASE KILL S
 B430.

POMID: 14090800
 DATE: 02/22/90
 TIME: 09:08:00
 LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

FRANK
 PEARCE
 FOURCHOT
 ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: EDWARD MCKRILL
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: 9191 LEE SMITH DR
 CITY: JUNEAU, AK ZIP: 99801
 PHONE: 789-2135
 BILL NO:
 SUBJECT:
 MESSAGE: I WOULD LIKE FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM
 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST IN PRIORITY GROUP 5 OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FY91
 BUDGET AND OPERATING REQUEST.

POMID: 00091036
 DATE: 02/22/90
 TIME: 09:10:36
 LIONAME: JUNEAU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS
BOYER	BROWN	BINKLEY
COLLINS	COTTEN	COGHILL
DAVIDSON	DAVIS, C.	DUNCAN
DAVIS, M.	DONLEY	ELIASON
ELLIS	FINKELSTEIN	FAHRENKAMP
FOSTER	FURNACE	FAIKS
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FISCHER
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	FRANK
HOFFMAN	HUDSON	HALFORD
JACKO	KOPONEN	JONES
KUBINA	LARSON	KELLY
LEMAN	MACLEAN	KERTTULA
MARTIN	MENARD	PEARCE
MILLER	NAVARRE	POURCHOT
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	RODEY
RIEGER	SHARP	STURGULEWSKI
SHULTZ	SWACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: ROBIN WEBB
TITLE:
ADDRESS: BOX 2617
CITY: PALMER ZIP: 99645
PHONE: 746-1100
BILL NO: SB 430
SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: THANK YOU TO SEN RODEY FOR INTRODUCING SB 430. I AM VERY
MUCH OPPOSED TO LARGE SCALE LOGGING IN THE MAT-SU VALLEY. I AM IN
SUPPORT OF THE SUSITNA VALLEY AREA PLAN. LETS KEEP THE VALLEY
UNSCARED.

POMID: 14151931
DATE: 02/23/90
TIME: 15:19:31
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: SENATOR

RODEY

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: RYLE RADKE

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 2136 AIRPORT WAY

CITY: FAIRBANKS

ZIP: 99701

PHONE: 452-1250

BILL NO:

SUBJECT: FY'91 BUDGET - U OF A

MESSAGE: PLEASE SUPPORT THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT REQUEST IN PRIORITY GROUP 5 OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA'S FY'91 BUDGET AND OPERATING REQUEST. THIS APPROPRIATION WILL ENABLE THE SCHOOL TO CONTINUE AND TO ENROLL 18 DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENTS. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT A FULL-TIME DENTAL DIRECTOR BE ON STAFF.

POMID: 07081328

DATE: 02/23/90

TIME: 08:13:28

LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS
BOYER	BROWN	BINKLEY
COLLINS	COTTEN	COGHILL
DAVIDSON	DAVIS, C.	DUNCAN
DAVIS, M.	DONLEY	ELIASON
ELLIS	FINKELSTEIN	FAHRENKAMP
FOSTER	FURNACE	FAIKS
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FISCHER
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	FRANK
HOFFMAN	HUDSON	HALFORD
JACKO	KOPONEN	JONES
KUBINA	LARSON	KELLY
LEMAN	MACLEAN	KERTTULA
MARTIN	MENARD	PEARCE
MILLER	NAVARRE	POURCHOT
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	RODEY
RIEGER	SHARP	STURGULEWSKI
SHULTZ	SHACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: LARRY DEVILBISS

TITLE:

ADDRESS: HCO 4-9302

CITY: PALMER

ZIP: 99645

PHONE: N/R-

BILL NO: SB 430

SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

MESSAGE: WE HAVE FARM GROUND IN THIS AREA THAT WOULD BE ADVERSELY EFFECTED BY THIS LEGISLATION AND ARE CONSEQUENTLY AGAINST SB430.

POMID: 14085459

DATE: 02/23/90

TIME: 08:54:59

LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATOR

LARSON	KERTTULA
MENARD	

February 24, 1990
PO Box 2176
Palmer, Alaska
99645

Senator Mike Szymanski
Committee on Community and Regional Affairs
PO Box V
Juneau, Alaska
99811

RECEIVED

MAR 1 1990

Dear Senator Szymanski,

Please support Senate Bill 430, to form the Susitna Remote Recreation Area and halt plans for state timber sales in the roadless areas of the Su Basin. I urge you to vote the bill unchanged out of committee as soon as possible.

Introduction to the Issue

People who live, work and own property west of the Susitna River and south of Petersville Road don't want big commercial logging in that remote area. People like pilot Hank Rust, musher Joe Redington, lodge owners Ed and Judy Sharpe, the Skwentna Community Council, and the Alaska Hotel and Motel Association joined in 1987 to fight the 200,000 acre timber sale proposed by Commissioner Judy Brady. They formed the Susitna Valley Association.

Now the residents of the Su Basin face new plans by the Department of Natural Resources to sell timber over a much larger area. As instructed by the governor, the Division of Land and Water Management has been drawing up the Susitna Regional Forest Plan, containing guidelines for commercial timber sales. Unfortunately, this plan, like the 1987 proposal, neither weighs in the large existing economic values nor provides the public a say in whether commercial logging should proceed at all in the remote areas of the Basin.

Highlights of the Issue

For your information, here are some common questions and answers about the new bill:

Q. What does SB 430 do?

A. It prohibits the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources from selling state-owned timber for commercial logging and from extending highways into the western Su Basin.

Q. What else does the bill prohibit?

A. Nothing. All other uses on those state lands continue, including land disposals and mining leases. Hunting and fishing are unaffected. The bill allows timber cutting for personal firewood and for lodge and cabin logs.

Q. Won't large-scale commercial logging make lots of money?

A. In 1988, DNR examined the economics of new logging roads in the Susitna Basin Small Scale Transportation Study. The study found that an average acre in good timber yields 900 board feet of sawlogs and 18 cords when it is completely cut. For this, the operator receives a sales price of about \$1,825.

However, the costs of timber purchase, road construction, cutting, hauling, slash removal and re-forestation exceed this income. As a result, you can expect the state to subsidize commercial logging where it extends into new, remote areas. The public loses both its money and its trees.

Q. What land would be affected under SB 430?

A. Some of the timber the state plans to sell through the Susitna Regional Forest Plan would be off-limits for commercial sales. The protected areas would lie south of the Petersville Road and generally west of the Susitna River, scattered over a roadless area of 2 million acres.

SB 430 does not cover private or borough lands.

Q. Why protect that region from logging?

A. The forests of the Su Basin are heavily used for sport and commercial fisheries. Alaskans make their living in that area from 52 lodges, 38 flight services, and a number of river boat services. They offer their clients a landscape unbroken by roads. State studies show that sportsfishermen generate more than \$10 million per year in business fishing Su Basin streams away from roads. Salmon from the Su Basin account for \$18 million per year in economic activity in southcentral Alaska, not including processing.

With SB 430, business and private property owners seek assurance they can invest in their properties without the threat of logging roads and clear-cutting.

Q. Will the bill affect current logging activity?

A. No. The state lands of the proposed Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area currently have no commercial logging activity.

All commercial logging in the Mat-Su Borough occurs close to roads and outside the proposed protected area. During 1989, small commercial loggers had 28 state and 15 borough timber sales. They cut about 700 acres, according to Mr. Strube of the Division of Forestry.

Q. What about spruce bark beetle epidemics?

A. We don't have a spruce bark beetle epidemic in the Su Basin. And we are not likely to have a major problem in the future because (a) the well-timbered areas are a mix of broadleaf trees with only about 25% spruce, and (b) we have little logging slash in which the beetles can reproduce.

Q. Who is against SB 430?

A. Several groups are against the bill. They include the Mat-Su Borough's assembly, mayor, and manager, the Wasilla City Council. The borough-subsidized Regional Economic Development Corp. also opposes the bill.

Q. What is wrong with remote commercial sales?

A. o The 1989 Program Review of the Division of Forestry cited a "severe problem with reforestation" following timber harvests in southcentral Alaska. Scarification of the soil, the only technique currently used in southcentral Alaska, produces re-growth on only 30% of the acreage to which it is applied. Re-planting with seedlings is not carried out.

o State foresters have little opportunity, under current budgets, to enforce the Forest Practices Act.

o In remote areas, commercial sales are money losers. For example, DNR's 1988 road study showed the most useful new road for timber removal in the Su Basin was the Kashwitna Road near the road system in the Willow area. However, after adding up all the economic benefits, the study showed that the return likely would be five cents for each dollar spent on the road on an annual basis

Community Views

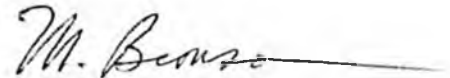
As you heard in the February 20 testimony, several governmental bodies oppose SB 430, including the Mat-Su Borough government. Mayor Dorothy Jones with Assembly members Rose Palmquist and Eleanor Malapanes maintained that the provisions of the bill would jeopardize economic activity the the borough. Eleanor Malapanes, at your questioning, also cited local opinion polls opposing the bill.

Such statements, however, have little basis, as I testified on February 20. The bill seeks to protect businesses and resources whose economic value is long-proven against the risks from remote commercial logging, which state studies show will cost more than it will produce.

Furthermore, the bill is the response of area residents to the state's logging plans. Although Mrs. Malapanes maintained that 79% of the respondents opposed SB 430 in a local opinion poll, no such poll has been conducted. She may have been thinking of a poll conducted by the Overall Economic Development Committee on other issues last month. In contrast, the only local poll on the issue of commercial logging in the Basin was a non-scientific poll by the local newspaper a year and a half ago. Most people interviewed in the Palmer and Wasilla area said they did not like the notion of large timber sales in the Susitna Valley. Attitudes are even stronger among people directly affected by the state's proposals. Talkeetna businessmen, Skwentna Community Council, Tokosha Citizens' Council, Alaska Hotel and Motel Association, and more than 60 other groups, together with some 4,000 people in Anchorage and the Valley, comprise the group that requested SB 430. These people want no commercial logging industry in the roadless areas of the Su Basin.

Please consider these observations and help move SB 430 to the Senate Resources Committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Michael Bronson



SIERRA CLUB

Alaska Chapter



PO Box 103441
Anchorage, AK 99510
February 21, 1990

Senator Szymanski and Members of the
Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee,

Re: Your questions regarding planning from your hearing yesterday
on SB430

If the Alaska Chapter believed that the revision planning process for the Susitna Area Plan would take care, if you will, of our concerns about the multiple uses current in the Susitna Valley, we would hesitate to support SB430.

From our membership's point of view, the Department of Natural Resources has treated the public with mere formality at best during recent planning efforts. From the overnight amending of the Hatcher Pass plan to accomodate foreign ski development interests to the casual dismissal of public testimony upon several occasions regarding resort development in Denali State Park, DNR has demonstrated that it is operating on its own agenda. This agency's many mistakes with timber harvests in the Cape Yakataga and Icy Bay areas frustrate, frighten and anger us. It is rather difficult to trust this agency with the Susitna Valley.

Those of us involved with the many meetings for the Susitna Regional Forest Plan have repeatedly asked that other values and those listed in the Susitna Area Plan along with forestry, be given equal consideration. From the beginning this planning effort has been a march toward finding large amounts of timber to cut.

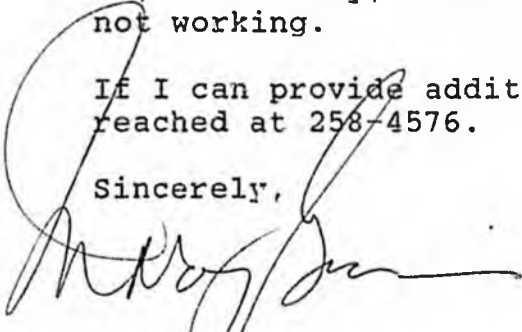
"Not blind opposition to progress, but opposition to blind progress."

Assistant DNR Commissioner Hawkins and Dr. Welbourn have told us that the only way to achieve the perpetuation of remote, roadless recreation, tourism and community values in the Susitna Valley is for us to seek a legislative solution. The revisions of the Susitna Area Plan will not provide what we seek, we have also been told.

So, in summary, SB430 has our support. DNR's planning processes are not working.

If I can provide additional assistance, please let me know. I can be reached at 258-4576.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mary Grisco', written in dark ink. The signature is positioned to the left of the typed name and extends upwards into the 'Sincerely,' line.

Mary Grisco
Volunteer



SIERRA CLUB

Alaska Chapter



PO Box 103441
Anchorage, AK 99510
February 20, 1990

Chairman Szymanski and Committee Members,

My name is Mary Grisco and I represent the nearly 1,900 members of the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club; Alaskans from Diomedes to Adak, Kotzebue to Ketchikan.

I want to thank the ANCHORAGE TIMES for giving us publicity for this legislation. However, facts are different from newsprint. We are just one of the 68 organizations working together with the Susitna Valley Association. We did not ask Senator Rodey to introduce this legislation before you.

We do support this legislation however.

This is rather straightforward legislation. It directs that the way the Susitna Valley is currently being used continue....that includes the smallscale logging activities.

The proximity of this Valley to our state's population center and our largest international airport means that many residents and tourists hunt, fish, boat, flightsee and hike in this roadless area. The established remote recreation and tourism industry provides hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars for our state, including the Mat-Su Borough. It makes no sense to destroy jobs to create jobs. Large scale road-building and commercial logging are incompatible with the established industries. Surely diversifying our economy does not mean taking jobs away from our residents.

The present DNR planning effort (called the Susitna Regional Forest Plan) does not address an essential question: will an increased level of logging be economically, culturally, and environmentally appropriate in the Susitna Valley?

This planning you may recall began in response to the public's unwillingness to let the State undertake major clearcutting and roadbuilding without first planning about how to use our public lands.

"Not blind opposition to progress, but opposition to blind progress."

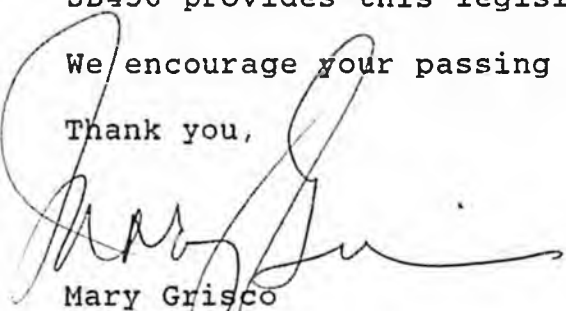
DNR's planning remains flawed; it is biased in favor of logging without giving equal consideration to other uses. The Susitna Area Plan, the basis for this planning, does not list forestry (logging) as the only, primary use for any part of the Valley. Yet, DNR is carrying out this planning as if their version of forestry were the primary use. We, along with many others, continue to participate in this planning process.

We are tired however of the arrogance of DNR; this agency works for us. And yet our concerns are ignored.

This legislation is a way to deal with the multiple uses current in this Valley. The proposed Susitna State Forest legislation also shows others are frustrated with this process. When DNR completes its logging plan, how would a State Forest designation help? The Susitna Area Plan is due to be amended this year. How will this DNR plan help? DNR has stated that they will provide for the perpetuation of remote, roadless recreation, tourism and community values ONLY IF directed to do so by the Legislature. SB430 provides this legislative direction.

We encourage your passing out of this legislation.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mary Grisco', written in dark ink.

Mary Grisco
Volunteer

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 27, 1990

To: MatSu Borough Planning Dept.
MatSu Borough Planning Commission
MatSu Borough Assembly

From: Becky Long *B. Long*
Information Co-ordinator
Alaska Survival



Subject: Habitat Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Susitna Regional Forest Plan (SRFP) guidelines
Application to MatSu Borough Forest Management Plan

RECEIVED

MAR 25 1990

The protection of our natural resources is necessary for healthy rural and remote communities in the Upper Susitna Valley. This is the goal of residents involved in the public process for the borough forest management plan.

The public looks to the appropriate agencies that are statutorily mandated to protect resources. Unfortunately, ADF&G and ADNR have no statutory regulations to protect the resources of visual quality, recreation, and lifestyles. Fortunately, ADF&G does regulate fish and wildlife resources.

It was with disappointment to note the lack of Habitat Division, ADF&G comments on the borough forest plan beyond a summary of fish and wildlife resources in the 14 proposed management units. There are no detailed comments regarding potential logging impacts on the habitats and fish and wildlife resources in the units.

Through correspondence with Frank Rue, Director of the Habitat Division, the situation is as follows:

1. RMA, authors of the borough plan, requested only a summary of fish and wildlife resources from the division.
2. This information is contained in part 3.0 Forest Management Units of the RMA report.
3. The division "offered to provide more detailed background information describing the geographic distribution and abundance of fish and wildlife resources in the Mat-Su Borough Forest Management Plan area, species-specific habitat requirements, food habits, a description of potential impacts resulting from timber harvesting, and a set of management guidelines and recommendations to avoid or ameliorate these impacts."

"All of this work had already been completed for the Susitna Regional Forest Plan (SRFP) currently being developed by ADNR."

4. RMA indicated that the steering committee of the borough plan was inclined to include these guidelines developed for SRFP.
5. The MatSu Borough has not yet indicated whether they will use the SRFP guidelines.
6. The Habitat Division will be recommending to the borough to adopt these guidelines for the 14 units.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEMORANDUM IS TO STRONGLY RECOMMEND
THAT THE BOROUGH ACCEPT THESE GUIDELINES!

These guidelines are incorporated into the Division's January 1990 report Susitna Regional Forest Plan Fish and Wildlife Resources which "summarizes the distribution, habitat requirements, food habits, and potential logging impacts to a number of fish and wildlife species found in the Susitna Regional Forest Plan area. Background information is also summarized from which management guidelines were developed to avoid or ameliorate impacts to the fish and wildlife resource in the planning area."

Management considerations and recommended management options are included for:

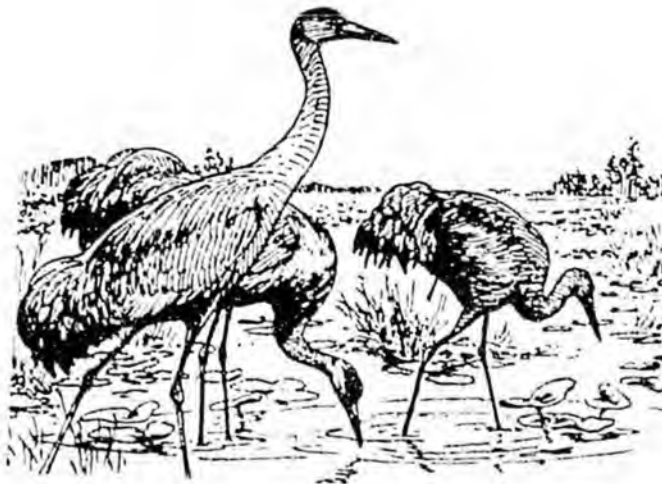
- *1. Logging Road Location
- *2. Logging Road Construction and Design
- *3. Logging Road Management
- *4. Scheduling Harvest Activities
- *5. Location and Shape of Harvest Units
- *6. Harvesting Methods
- *7. Debris Management
- *8. Site Preparation
- *9. Prescribed Burning
- *10. Tree Harvesting Systems
- *11. Herbicides
- *12. Forest Regeneration

Although Alaska Survival does not agree with all the recommended management options, it is a good start in protecting moose, bear, furbearers, bald eagles, trumpeter swans, spruce grouse (did not see a section on fish) from logging and roading.

Of course, to fully protect the public fish and wildlife interests, the Habitat Division needs to review and comment for each specific unit. Unfortunately, this will probably not happen until specific timber sales are proposed. It can be argued that at that point, the momentum to log has been established and it is harder for the public to control the uses of these public lands.

We request that you incorporate the Habitat SRFP guidelines into the borough forest management plan.

quotes from correspondence with the Habitat Division



Briefings

SUSITNA PLANNING PROJECTS

- DNR Area plans
- Briefing: Susitna and Willow Area Plans
- Briefing: SB 430 (Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area)
- Briefing: Susitna Regional Forest Plan
- Citizens' Advisory Committee for forest plan
- Briefing: Susitna State Recreation Rivers Management Plan
- Susitna Recreation Rivers Plan brochure
- Briefing: Kashwitna Management Plan

February 15, 1990



Alaska Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

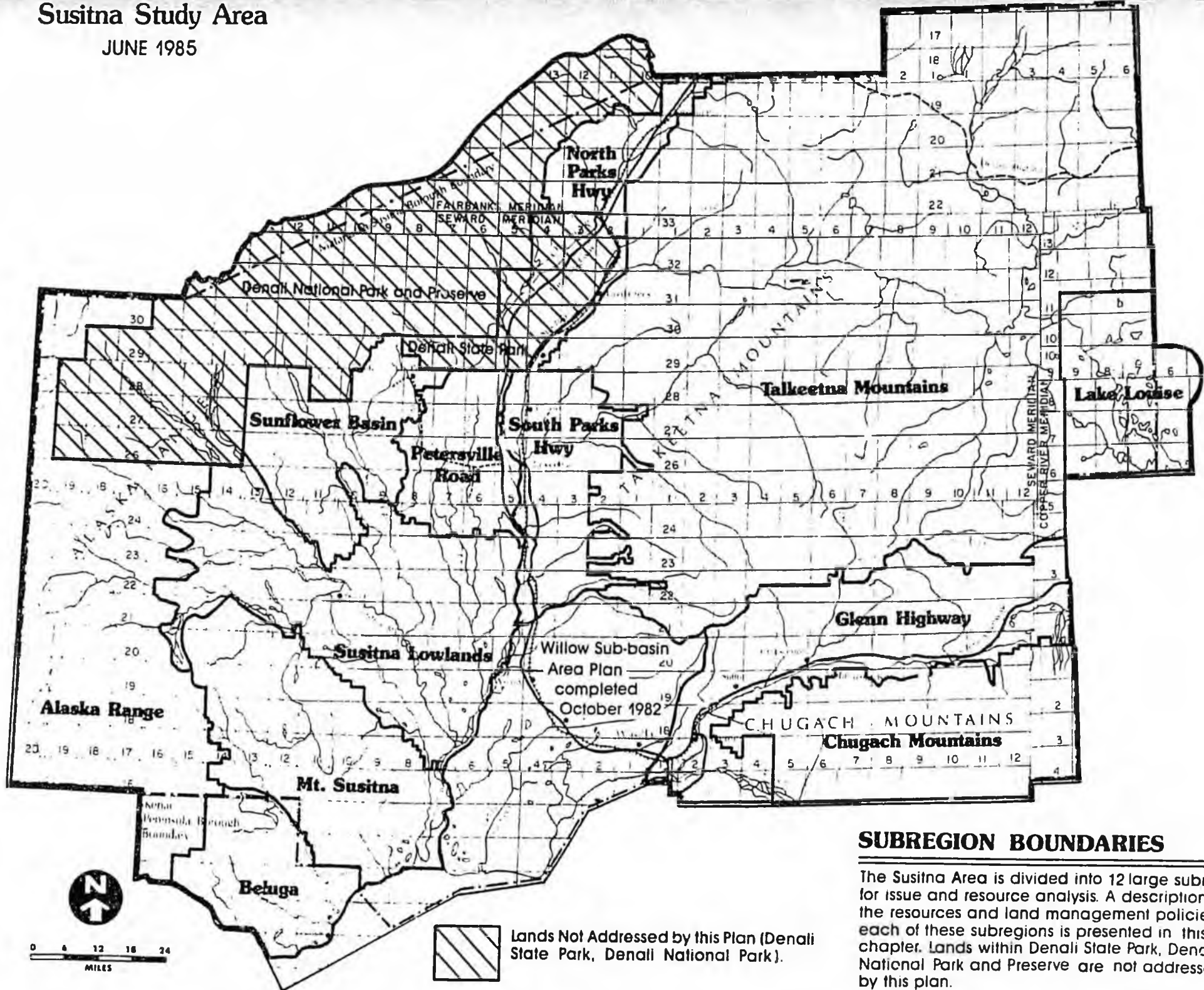
February 12, 1990

SUSITNA AND WILLOW AREA PLANS

- Purposes** Designate main uses of state and borough lands
Establish guidelines to ensure that multiple uses occur compatibly
Coordinate use of state and borough lands
- Area** 15.8 million acres of land in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Tyonek areas including:
-- 9.5 million acres of state land
-- 600 thousand acres of borough land
- Process** Issues identified by public and agencies
Information gathered by state, borough, and federal agencies
Alternatives reviewed by public
Draft plan reviewed by agencies
Draft plan reviewed by public
Final plan adopted by DNR, DFG, and Mat-Su Borough in 1985
- Participants** Planning team: DNR, DFG, DOT&PF, Mat-Su Borough
Cooperating agencies: USDA Soil Conservation Service, BLM, Kenai Borough
Public: 40 public meetings, written + oral comments, meetings with groups
- Major Decisions** Designated primary and secondary land uses
Established land use guidelines to keep multiple uses compatible
Identified 105,000 acres for future disposals
Identified 50,000 acres for agriculture, including agric. homesteads
Established stream, lake, trail, and wetland buffers in land disposal areas
Identified areas open to new mineral entry and leasehold location; closes lands along some streams and sensitive habitats to mineral entry
Recommended State Recreation Rivers (adopted), Nelchina Public Use Area (adopted), Susitna State Forest (HB 356 in committee), and legislative designation of trumpeter swan nesting areas, Susitna-Yentna Public Use Area, addition to Susitna Game Flats, and recreation sites.
Recommended transportation corridors to support land use designations
Classified land as required by AS 38.04.065
Established process for modifying the plan
- Update Process** Plans are updated about every five years. The first update for the Susitna Area Plan is scheduled to begin in 1990. The Susitna and Willow plans will be combined during the update. The update process will be done with the interagency planning team and public review.
- The process will review guidelines, land use designations, legislative recommendations, and proposed settlement and agriculture areas to determine where changes are needed. It will also update land status and develop guidelines for commercial leasing.

Susitna Study Area

JUNE 1985

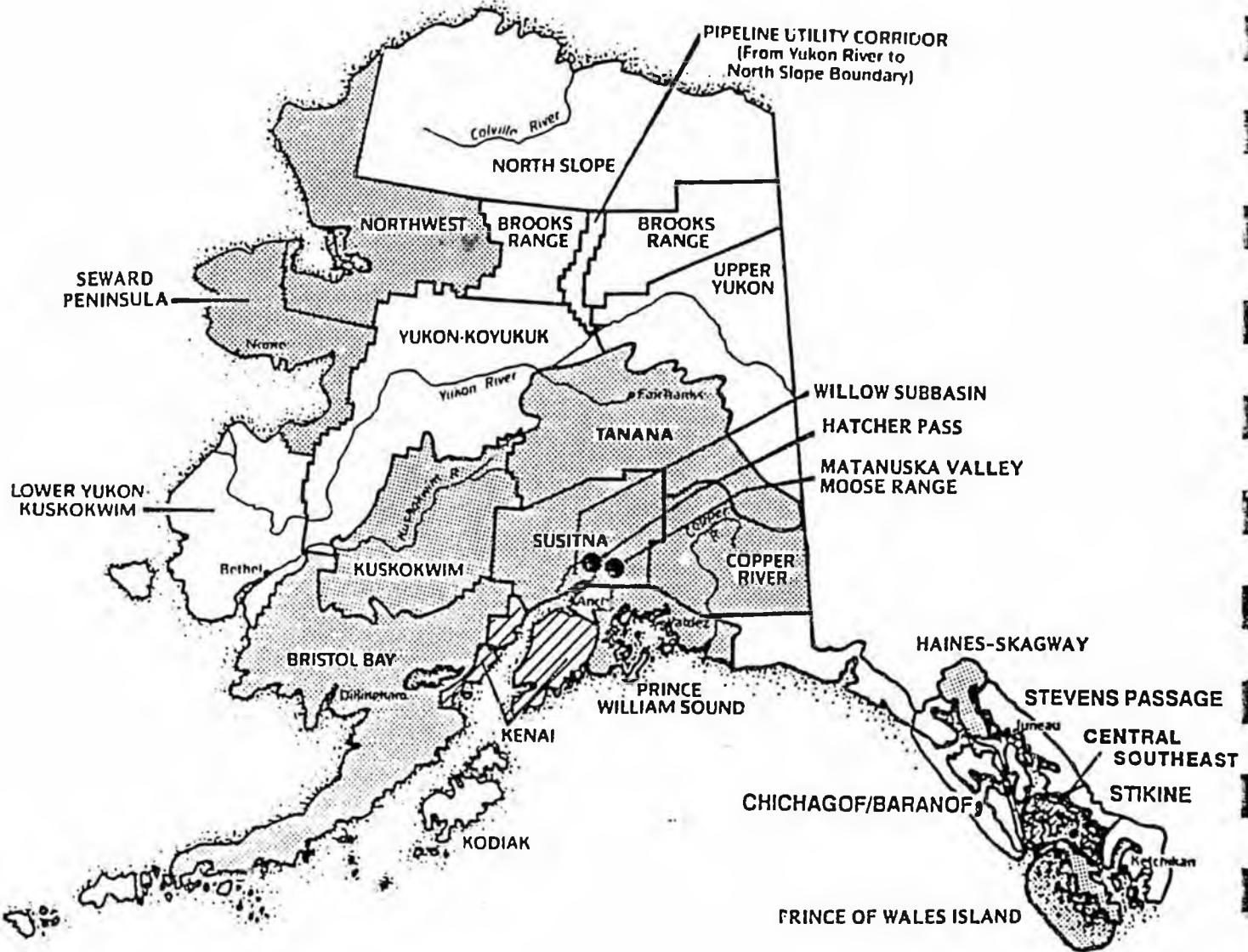


SUBREGION BOUNDARIES

The Susitna Area is divided into 12 large subregions for issue and resource analysis. A description of the resources and land management policies for each of these subregions is presented in this chapter. Lands within Denali State Park, Denali National Park and Preserve are not addressed by this plan.

Figure 3.

Alaska Department of Natural Resources AREA PLANS



AREA PLANNING STATUS

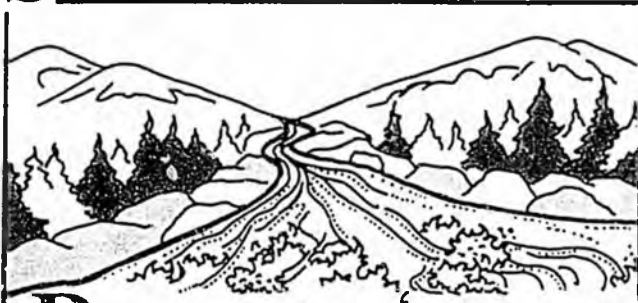
- Completed area plans
- Area plans in progress
- Not scheduled for area plans at this time

December, 1989



THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT HAS
NOT BEEN FILMED BUT IS
AVAILABLE IN THE ORIGINAL
FILE

Susitna Basin



Recreation Rivers Management Plan



THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT HAS
NOT BEEN FILMED BUT IS
AVAILABLE IN THE ORIGINAL
FILE

Susitna Area Plan

PRIMARY SURFACE LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

This map shows generalized land use designations. Only the primary surface designations are shown. The primary uses are not the only uses that will be permitted; the large majority of publicly retained lands are multiple use areas where a variety of other uses, including mining, are allowed. Information on the management of subsurface resources including boundaries of areas open and closed to mining are shown on the Subsurface Designation Map. See also Chapter 2 for land management guidelines that apply to the whole planning area and Chapter 3 for a complete statement of management intent for each location.

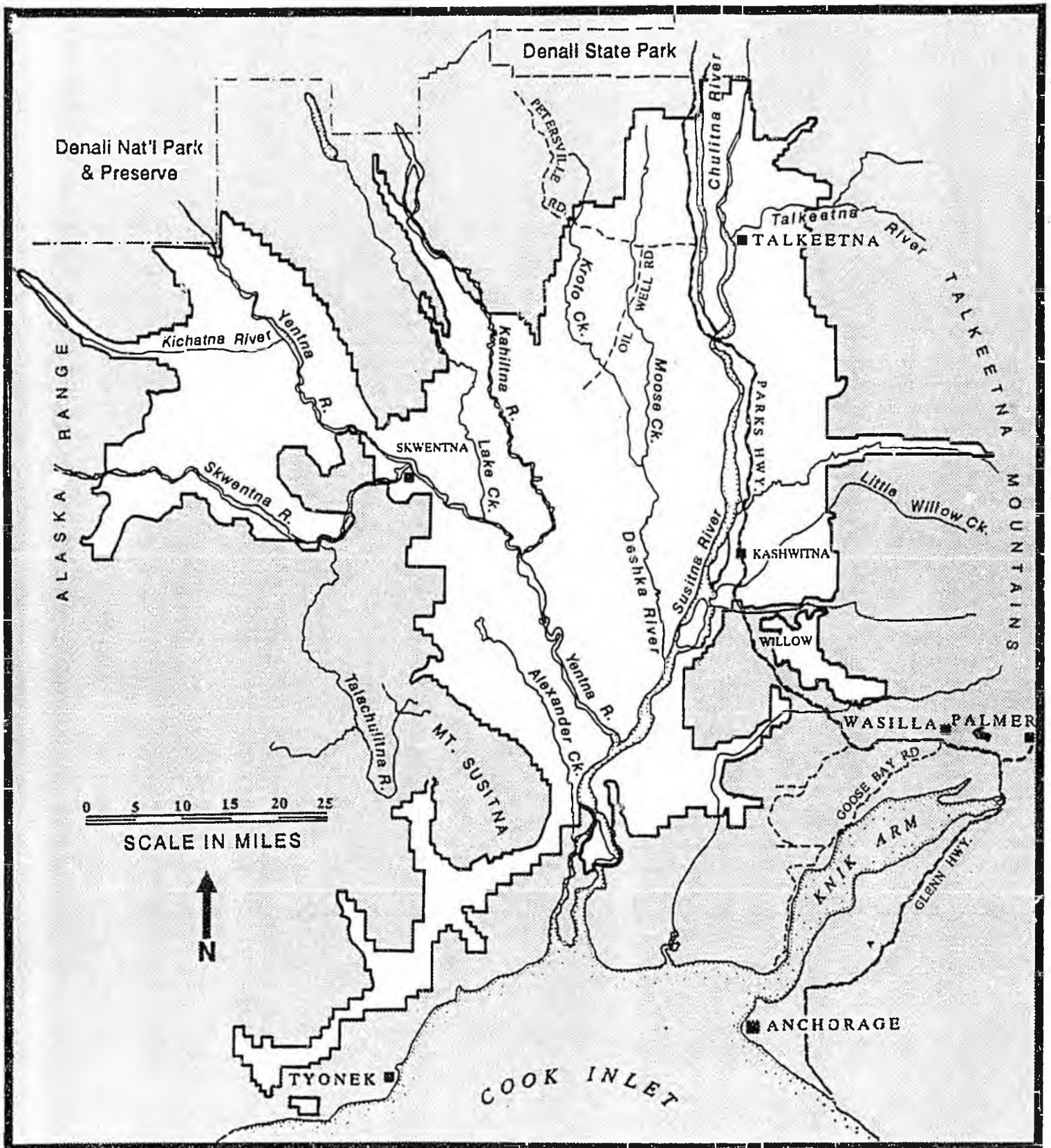


Department of Natural Resources
Division of Land and Water Mgmt.
Land and Resources Section
Box 107005, Anchorage, Alaska 99510 • 907-762-2660

February 12, 1990

- Purposes** Determine the areas available for timber harvesting
Set the rules for timber harvesting in the Susitna Valley
Determine the volume of timber available for harvest
- Area** 2 million acres total area in the lowlands of the Susitna basin and Tyonek area
1 million acres of state land with designations allowing timber harvest
400,000 acres of designated state forest land with mixed forests, cottonwood, or closed white spruce forest
- Process** Issues identified winter 1988
Planning begun spring 1988
Data collection summer, fall, winter 1988
Develop regional guidelines 1989
Develop site-specific guidelines winter 1990 - **CURRENT STEP**
Public review of draft proposal spring 1990
Final plan summer 1990
- Participants** Planning team
DNR Forestry, Land & Water, Parks, Agriculture
Dept. of Fish and Game
Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities
Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Kenai Peninsula Borough
- Technical advisors -- US Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Citizens' Advisory Committee -- representatives of 80 interest groups, local governments, corporations, and legislative offices
- General public -- meetings on issues and draft proposals, newsletters, briefings to interest groups, phone calls and letters
- Major Issues** Rules for timber harvesting
Fish and wildlife habitat and water quality
Recreation, tourism, and scenery
Access development
Coordination with adjacent landowners
Public involvement
- Current Step** Regional guidelines on habitat, recreation, cultural resources, access, and landowner issues are drafted. Planning team is developing guidelines for site-specific issues. Draft plan will be presented to the public in spring 1990.

SUSITNA REGIONAL FOREST PLAN BOUNDARY



BRIEFING PAPER

SB 430: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

Summary The Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area (SVRRA) proposed in SB 430 conflicts with designations in the Susitna Area Plan and proposed legislative designations.

Land Status The SVRRA encompasses approximately 2.1 million acres (see map), nearly all state land. Approximately 58 thousand acres are borough land, and seven thousand acres belong to the university. Several thousand private parcels are located within the boundary.¹ The bill would not apply to borough, university, or private lands

Relation to Susitna and Willow Plans **Roads.** SB 430 prohibits publicly-funded roads connected to the main road system. The plans identify potential future routes that would provide road access to timber harvest areas, private and borough lands, mining areas, and recreation sites and recommends road access in certain areas, especially between the Susitna and Yentna rivers. The bill does not define "road" nor clarify whether seasonal roads are included in the prohibition.

Timber. The SVRRA proposal would delete forestry as a primary use within its boundaries, and prohibit commercial forestry. This would remove the majority of the timber with commercial potential from the available pool. Timber harvesting for habitat enhancement would depend on state funding. SB 430 allows harvesting for personal use for individuals and commercial facilities. Current DNR policy does not allow use by commercial facilities under the definition of personal use, since the wood supports a profit-making operation.

Agriculture. About half the agricultural areas designated in the Susitna and Willow plans, the Kashwitna Knobs and Fish Creek projects are in the bill boundary. Under the bill, roads to these areas would have to be privately funded.

Mining. SB 430 allows mining under leasehold location if approved in a management plan and prohibits mineral location by claims. The plans requires leasehold location only in specific areas with known resource conflicts.
[what is current status on leasehold statewide]

Land disposals. Over half the land disposal pool in the Susitna and Willow Plans is within SB 430. The bill does not preclude land sales, but a prohibition on publicly-funded roads could affect markets and property values. Currently, roads with public funding such as timber roads often provide access to private lands.

Process. The bill makes extensive changes to the designations in the area plans. The plans are the result of years of interagency work and over 40 public meetings. The first five-year review of the plans will start this year,

¹Approximately 13,000 private parcels are within the Susitna Regional Forest Plan which overlaps much of this area. It is not known what portion of the parcels are within the SVRRA, or how many private parcels are in the part of the SVRRA outside the forest plan boundary. The total amount of private ownership probably totals 50-100 thousand acres.

The review will consider changes to designations and legislative recommendations. However, DNR believes that a prohibition on roads and timber harvest in an area the size of SB 430 would have to be a legislative rather than administrative action.

Relation to other legislation

Susitna State Forest. The bill would remove two-thirds of the acreage from the state forest proposed by the Susitna Area Plan, and over half the area in HB 356 (Susitna State Forest).

Chelatna Public Use Area. The Chelatna Public Use Area (SB 165) is entirely within SB 430. The public use area does not prohibit roads and allows new mining claims.

Susitna-Yentna Public Use Area. This designation was recommended by the Susitna Area Plan but legislation has not been introduced. It does not prohibit roads; forestry is a primary use in part of the area.

Trumpeter Swan nesting areas. Most of the areas recommended by the Susitna plan for legislative designation to protect trumpeter swan nesting habitat are within SB 430. These areas do not specifically prohibit roads, but limit activities that could disturb nesting.

Susitna State Recreation Rivers. The Lake Creek, Talachulitna River, Deshka River (part), and Alexander Creek corridors are within the bill boundary, but are not affected by SB 430.

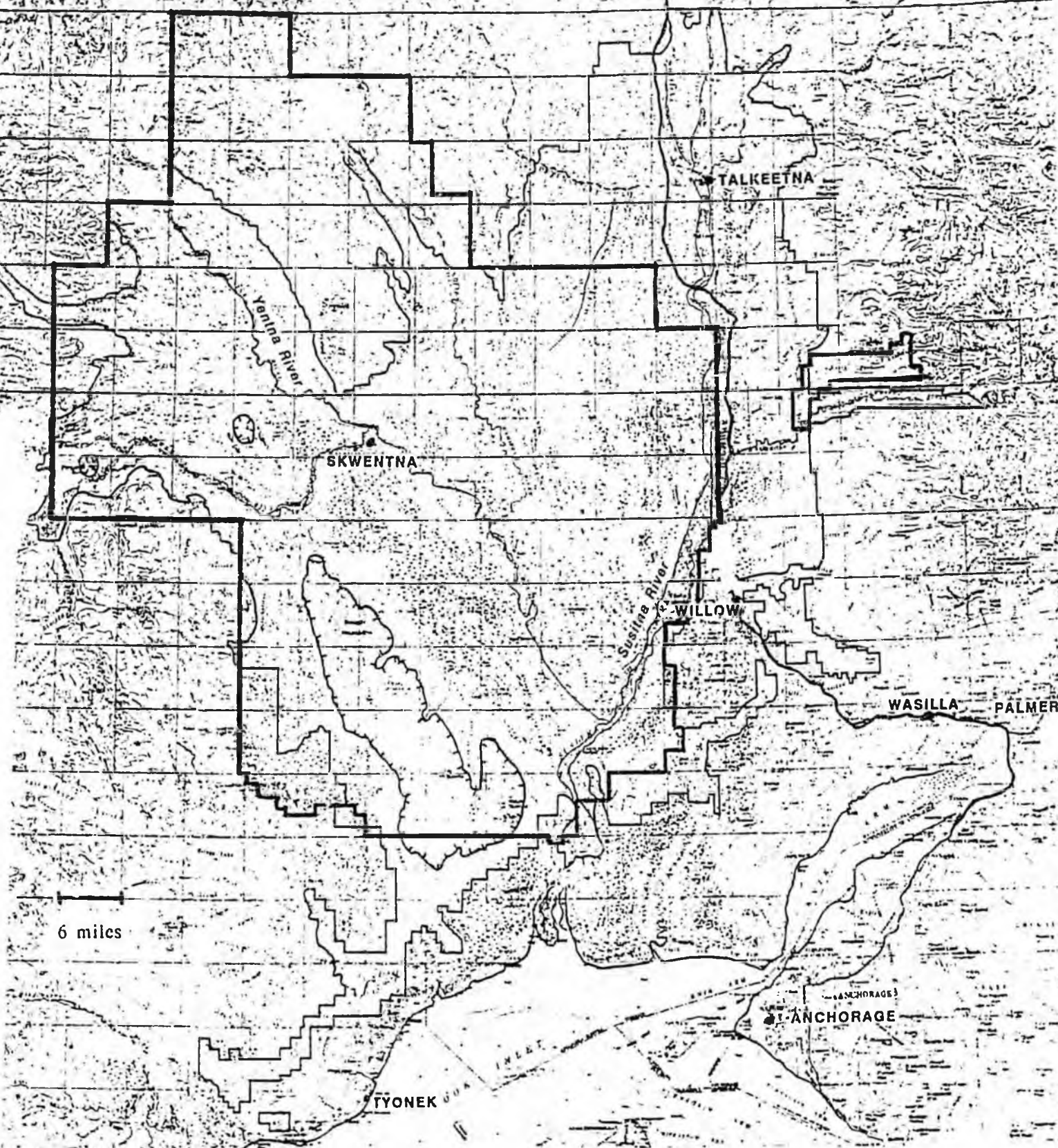
Fiscal Impact

The bill requires a management plan for the area. Detailed planning for an area this size would take 2-3 years with a staff of one range 18 and one range 16 plus technical, clerical, graphic, and GIS support. The bill would prevent state investment in roads and timber sales.

Division Authority

The bill gives management authority to DNR under Title 41. It does not specify whether or not it has park status nor which division is the lead authority. Since the legislation includes mining, we assume this land would be managed as a public use area under the Division of Land and Water Management

**SB 430: Susitna Valley Remote
Recreation Area**





STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BILL ANALYSIS

DEPARTMENT Fish and Game	DIVISION Habitat	BILL NUMBER SB430	SPONSOR Senator Rodey
SHORT TITLE OF BILL Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area			
DEPARTMENT POSITION Opposed			
PREPARED BY Frank Rue, Director	DATE 2-15-90	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE 2/15/90

SUMMARY

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL Dept. of Natural Resources Dept. of Transportation Dept. of Fish and Game	CONSTITUENT GROUP(S) AFFECTED BY BILL see attached
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL see attached	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL Matanuska-Susitna Borough

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT see attached

ANALYSIS OF BILL PROGRAM EFFECTS see attached

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED The bill should require Alaska Department of Natural Resources and Alaska Department of Fish and Game to jointly develop guidelines for traditional access. To accomplish this, the word [MAY] in line 4 on page 4 of the proposed bill should be substituted with the word shall (Bill version introduced 2/2/90).

PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR ANALYSIS.

ATTACHMENT TO BILL ANALYSIS FOR SB 430

CONSTITUENT GROUPS AFFECTED BY BILL

Air taxi operators, guides, Boat charters, Timber companies, Sport hunters, Commercial, Sport, and Subsistence fisheries, and Land developers

ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT FOR BILL

According to recent newspaper articles, 69 organizations and businesses and 4,300 individuals have indicated support for SB 430. Approximately 27% of the organizations and some 700 individuals supporting the bill are residents of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Many air charter services, commercial lodges, outfitters, environmental organizations, and the Susitna Valley Association, a consortium of all the aforementioned organizations, support the bill.

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT

SB 430 emphasizes the protection, maintenance, and management of fish and wildlife habitat and populations; and traditional public uses such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and other forms of remote area recreation on certain state lands in the Susitna Basin. This bill would protect the economic potential of the area's recreation and tourism industries that are dependent on fish and game resources and the maintenance of the area's remoteness.

ANALYSIS

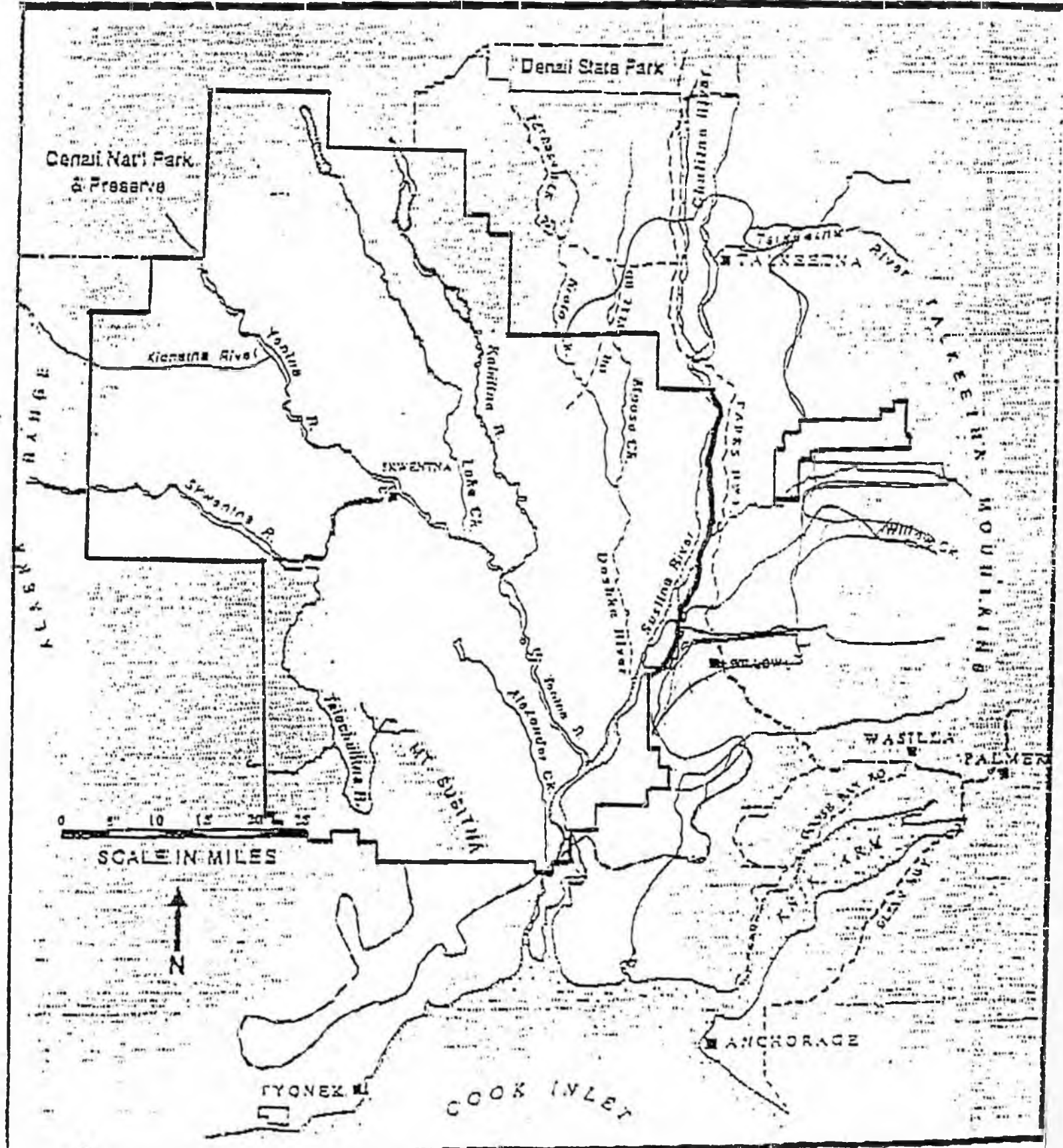
ADF&G is working with ADNR on the Susitna Forest Management Plan and looks to that process to resolve fish and wildlife resource issues. The proposed legislation will prohibit, subject to existing right, the sale or transfer of state lands, commercial logging, mining except by lease (excluding valid existing mines), and construction of publicly financed or maintained roads on state lands within most of the watersheds in the western Susitna Basin including Lake and Alexander Creeks, Kahiltna, Yentna, Kichatna, Skwentna, and Talachulitna Rivers. All other activities would be allowed.

PROGRAM EFFECT

The major effect of this bill on state agencies is to require Alaska Department of Natural Resources to develop a management plan for the proposed recreation area. Alaska Department of Fish and Game would participate in the planning process by assigning a department plan coordinator to collect, analyze, and present fish and game resources and related public use information. A certain number of planning activities are included in the Habitat Division's annual budget.

SE 430

SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA



FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
 Title: Susitna Valley Remote
Recreation Area
 Sponsor: Senator Rodey
 Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: _____
 BRU: Department of Fish and Game

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						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0				

CAPITAL	0	0				
---------	---	---	--	--	--	--

REVENUE	0	0				
---------	---	---	--	--	--	--

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)

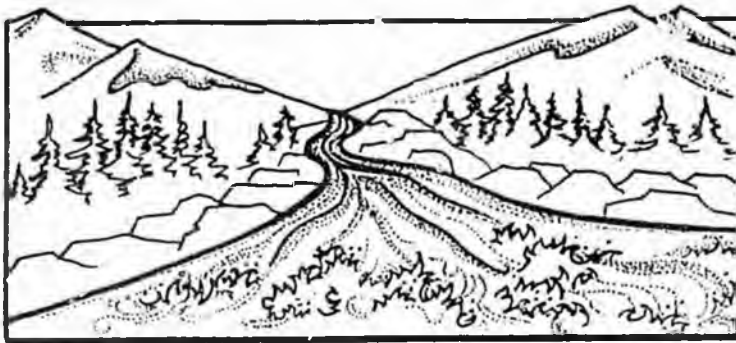
No impact on FY 90 Budget

Prepared by: Frank Rue, Director Phone: 465-4105
 Division: Habitat Division Date: 2/24/90

Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: _____
 Agency: _____

Distribution (by preparer):

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



Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Land and Resource Section

Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan

- Purpose** To decide how to manage state land and water in corridors along six recreation rivers: Little Susitna River, Deshka River (including Moose and Kroto creeks), Talkeetna River, Lake Creek, Talachulitna River, and Alexander Creek.
- Area** 260,000 acres and 460 river miles along six river systems
238,000 acres of state-owned land and water
15,000 acres of borough-owned land
2,700 acres private land
- Schedule** Issues identified winter (1988-1989)
Data collection and draft resource assessment written (summer 1989)
Public reviews alternatives (winter 1989)
Agencies review draft plan (summer 1990)
Public reviews draft plan (fall 1990)
Final plan (winter 1990)
Legislature reviews plan (winter, spring 1991)
- Participation** Planning team: representatives from Dept. of Natural Resources divisions of Land & Water, Parks, Forestry, Agriculture, Oil & Gas, Geological & Geophysical Surveys, and Mining; Dept. of Fish and Game; Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities; Dept. of Environmental Conservation; Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and City of Houston
- Technical advisors: National Park Service
- Citizens' advisory board: 11 members appointed by the governor's office representing user groups; 2 members appointed by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- General public: 3 rounds of public meetings, meetings with interest groups, letters and phone calls
- Major Issues** Levels of allowable development, including lodges, airstrips, and seasonal tentcamps
Access, including boating, roads, and off-road vehicles
Public facilities, including campgrounds and day use areas
Implementation, including user fees, project priorities, field staff, enforcement, and additional regulations
- Current Step** Public reviews alternatives in series of eight public meetings. Comments will assist planning team and advisory board in developing an agency review draft plan by May, 1990.





Department of Natural Resources
Division of Land and Water Mgmt.
Land and Resources Section
Box 107005, Anchorage, Alaska 99510 • 907-762-2660

Greetings --

January 5, 1990

During the last several months, you returned a blue card stating your interest in the Susitna Regional Forest Plan. As requested, a list of the organizations represented on the Citizens' Advisory Committee for the forest plan is enclosed. If you are interested in more involvement in the planning process, you may wish to contact one or more of these organizations.

The planning team and advisory committee have developed draft regional guidelines for timber management in the Susitna area. They are now starting review of individual units within the planning area to determine where additional site-specific guidelines are needed. When draft guidelines are completed, we will hold public meetings and send out a summary of the draft plan for your review.

Thank you for your interest in the planning process.

Sincerely,

Martha Welbourn
Project Manager

Susitna Regional Forest Plan - Citizens' Advisory Committee

Record#	FIRST	LASTNAME	ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
	CHARLIE	AKERS	FISH & GAME ADV COUN	PO BOX 1	PALMER	AK	99645
	JUDITH	ANDREGG	SUSITNA VALLEY ST PARK	CITIZEN'S ADV BOARD	BOX 1472	PALMER	AK 99645
	WALT	BEGALKA	ALASKA LOGGERS ASSOC	BOARD OF FORESTRY	BOX 6600	KETCHIKAN	AK 99901
	GREG	BELL	AK LOGGERS ASSOC	VALLEY SAWMILL	6231 OLD SEWARD HWY	ANCHORAGE	AK 99502
	DUKE	BERTKE	SUSITNA VALLEY LODGE	OPERATOR'S ASSN	4801 AIRCRAFT DR	ANCHORAGE	AK 99502
	TROY	BLAYLOCK	YEN-SU PROP OWNERS		5208 COPE ST	ANCHORAGE	AK 99518
	G G "JERRY"	BOOTH	BOARD OF FORESTRY		139 E 51ST AVE	ANCHORAGE	AK 99505
	TERRY	BRADY	ALASKA HUSKY WOOD		2900 BONIFACE #672	ANCHORAGE	AK 99504
	WALTER	BRIGGS	COOK INLET REG	PLANNING TEAM	8820 BANJO CIRCLE	ANCHORAGE	AK 99502
	DANA	BROCKWAY EXEC DIR	AK VISITORS ASSN		PO BOX 102220	ANCHORAGE	AK 99510
	MIKE	BRONSON	WASILLA CHAPTER	SUSITNA VALLEY ASSN.	PO BOX 2176	PALMER	AK 99645
	WAYNE	BURKHART PRES	MAT-SU CONV & VIS BUREAU		191 EAST SWANSON	WASILLA	AK 99687
	GEORGE	CARTE'	MAYOR CITY OF PALMER		231 W EVERGREEN	PALMER	AK 99645
	JIM	CARTER	WASILLA CHAM OF COMMERCE		PO BOX 286	WILLOW	AK 99688
	DAVE	CLINE VICE-PRES	NATL AUDOBON SOC	AK REG OFFICE	308 G ST SUITE 210	ANCHORAGE	AK 99501
	JOE AND NORMA	DELIA	SKWENTNA COMM ASSOC			SKWENTNA	AK 99667
	DENNIS	DEVORE	CHASE AREA REP		PO BOX 362	TALKEETNA	AK 99767
	GENE	DICKASON	ROLEJO LAKE ASSOC		3130 LOCHWOOD CIR	ANCHORAGE	AK 99504
	JACK	DICKERSON	MAT VALLEY SPORTSMEN		PO BOX 712	PALMER	AK 99654
	CARL	DIXON	RIVERSONG LODGE			SKWENTNA	AK 99667
	DAN	DORRAN	REDCOR	C/O ALAGCO	SRB 7814	PALMER	AK 99645
	BILL	DUGDALE PRES	AK HOTEL AND HOTEL ASSC		PO BOX 104900	ANCHORAGE	AK 99510
	PAULA	EASLEY	DEPT OF DEV & PLANNING	MUNI OF ANCHORAGE	PO BOX 196650	ANCHORAGE	AK 99519
	BILL	EASTHAM	MAT-SU MOTOR MUSHERS		HCO-3 BOX 8286	PALMER	AK 99645
	RUTH	EDMONDSON EXE DIR	COALITION FOR BOREAL	FOREST DEV	6821 SHERWOOD AVENUE	ANCHORAGE	AK 99504
	JOHN	EVANS	TYONEK NATIVE CORP		4433 LAKE OTIS PKWY	ANCHORAGE	AK 99507
	JOE	EVANS	BOARD OF FORESTRY		4741 SO PARK BLUFF DR	ANCHORAGE	AK 99516
	LORFN	FLAGG	KENAI PENIN FISHER ASSN		BOX 546	SOLDOTHA	AK 99669
	DIANE	FRANK	TOKOSHA CITIZEN'S COUN		2224 TURNAGAIN PKWY	ANCHORAGE	AK 99517
	CHRIS	GOLL	AK PROF SPORTFISHING ASSN		4127 RASBERRY ROAD	ANCHORAGE	AK 99502
	REP MARY	GRISCO	SIERRA CLUB AK CHAPTER		PO BOX 202045	ANCHORAGE	AK 99520
	ROBERT E	HARRIS	DEPT ADMINISTRATOR	CITY OF WASILLA	290 E HERNING AVE	WASILLA	AK 99687
	GENE	JENNE	TALKEETNA CHAMBER OF COM			TALKEETNA	AK 99676

DOROTHY	JONES MAYOR	MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH		PO BOX B	PALMER	AK	99645
SUSIE	KAISER	COOK INLET COALITION		PO BOX 110381	ANCHORAGE	AK	99511
STEVE	KALLICK ASSOC DIR	SE AK CONSER COUNCIL	BOARD OF FORESTRY	BOX 021692	JUNEAU	AK	99802
CAL	KERR	KERR AND ASSOCIATES		PO BOX 111293	ANCHORAGE	AK	99511
DR DAVID	LAW	ALASKA FLYFISHERS		300 E FIREWEED	ANCHORAGE	AK	99503
GARY	LEE	BOARD OF FORESTRY		C/O DOYON 201 1ST AVE	FAIRBANKS	AK	99701
DEAN	LITTLEPAGE	IDITAROD NATL HIST TRAIL	ADV COMMITTEE	PO BOX 230983	ANCHORAGE	AK	99523
BOB	LOESCHER CEO	SEALASKA CORP	BOARD OF FORESTRY	1 SEALASKA PLAZA STE 200	JUNEAU	AK	99801
ROBERT	LOISELLE PRES	KLUKWAN FOR PROD INC	BOARD OF FORESTRY	BOX 2077	JUNEAU	AK	99803
BECKY	LONG	AK SURVIVAL		BOX 344	TALKEETNA	AK	99686
RON	MCNEESE	MAT-SU PROP OWNERS ASSOC		PO BOX 128	PALMER	AK	99645
PEPPER	MERCURIO	UPPER COOK INLET DRIFT	ASSOC	HC 2 BOX 550	KASILOF	AK	99610
JAMES	MINTON	FLAT HORN LAKE ASSN		PO BOX 190121	ANCHORAGE	AK	99519
MARCELLA P	PADIE	MAYOR CITY OF HOUSTON		PO BOX 940027	HOUSTON	AK	99694
ROSE	PALMQUIST	MAT-SU BOROUGH ASSEMBLY	MAT-SU BOROUGH	PO BOX 1608	PALMER	AK	99645
JEFF	PARKER PRES	WILDLIFE FEDERATION OF AK		3111 C STREET	ANCHORAGE	AK	99503
JOHN	PECKHAM	BOARD OF FORESTRY		BOX 9579	KETCHIKAN	AK	99901
LARRY	PEET	BIG LAKE CHAMBER OF COMM		PO BOX 520067	BIG LAKE	AK	99652
ANDY	PENYAK	AK BOATING ASSOC		9608 DINAAKA DRIVE	EAGLE RIVER	AK	99577
MIKE	PERYAM	AK FRONTIER TRAPPERS ASSN		#C 32 BOX 6637 B	WASILLA	AK	99687
DREW	PESNELL	KLUKWAN FOREST PROD INC		PO BOX 240225	ANCHORAGE	AK	99524
ART	PETERSEN	UPPER SUSITNA SOIL &	WATER CONSERVATION DIST	HC BOX 562	WILLOW	AK	99688
ALAN	PHIPPS STATE LNDS DIR	AK CENTER FOR THE ENV		700 H STREET SUITE 4	ANCHORAGE	AK	99501
JOHN W	PICKERING	KLUKWAN FOREST PROD INC		PO BOX 240225	ANCHORAGE	AK	99524
TAMMY	PITTS	BIG LAKE CHAMBER OF COMM		PO BOX 520067	BIG LAKE	AK	99652
RUSS	REDICK	AK SPORTFISHING ASSN		3605 ARCTIC BLVD #800	ANCHORAGE	AK	99503
LOISANN	REEDER PRES	SUSITNA VALLEY ASSN		9600 SLALOM DR	ANCHORAGE	AK	99516
JIM	RICHARDSON	COOK INLET CHAPTER	AK SOC OF AM FORESTERS	3339 WENTWORTH	ANCHORAGE	AK	99508
CINDY	ROBERTS EXEC OFF	WORLD TRADE CENTER ANCH		2001 CHURCHILL DRIVE	ANCHORAGE	AK	99517
ANN	ROTHE	NATL WILDLIFE FEDERATION	AK REG OFFICE	19049 WHIRLWAY ROAD	EAGLE RIVER	AK	99577
SUSAN	RUDDY	NATURE CONSERVANCY THE	AK FIELD OFFICE	601 W 5TH STE 550	ANCHORAGE	AK	99501
HENRY	RUST	AK AIR CARRIERS ASSN	C/O RUST'S FLYING SER	PO BOX 190325	ANCHORAGE	AK	99519
GEORGE	SAMPSON	BOARD OF FORESTRY		119 GRUENING WAY	FAIRBANKS	AK	99712
JIM	SEELY	ROLEJO L ASSN		4340 SEELEY CT	ANCHORAGE	AK	99502
ROBERTA	SHELDON	TALKEETNA CHAPTER	SUSITNA VALLEY ASSN	PO BOX 292	TALKEETNA	AK	99676
TED	SMITH	MAT-SU ASSEMBLY	BOARD OF FORESTRY	PO BOX 1026	WILLOW	AK	99688
LARRY	SMITH	SC REG COUN OF FISH &	GAME ADV COMM		FRITZ CREEK	AK	99603
RON	SOMERVILLE	AK OUTDOOR COUNCIL		3780 MCGINNIS DR	JUNEAU	AK	99801
JOHN	SPALDING	AK AIRMAN'S ASSN		6445 IMLACH WAY	ANCHORAGE	AK	99502

DONALD	STANDIFER	TYONEK NATIVE CORP		4433 LAKE OTIS PKWY	ANCHORAGE	AK	99507
JOEL	STEFANSKI	MAT-SU LOGGERS ASSN		HC01 BOX 6031A	PALMER	AK	99645
JOHN	STURGEON	KONCOR	BOARD OF FORESTRY	3501 DENALI STE 202	ANCHORAGE	AK	99503
JIM	SYKES	CHASE COMMUNITY COUNCIL		309 GAYLENE CIR	ANCHORAGE	AK	99504
JOHN	THOMAS	BOARD OF FORESTRY		BOX 8282	KETCHIKAN	AK	99901
DICK	TINDALL	RESOURCE DEVELOP COUNCIL		PO BOX 100516	ANCHORAGE	AK	99510
BILL	TULL	PALMER CHAMBER OF COM		634 S BAILY STE 201	PALMER	AK	99645
CYNTHIA	WATSON PRES	GREATER WASILLA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE		PO BOX 871826	WASILLA	AK	99687
JACK	WILLIS	SUSITNA BASIN CHARTER APT C/O AK REC SER		HC 32 BOX 6525-75	WASILLA	AK	99687
RON	WOLFE	KLUKWAN FOREST PROD INC		PO BOX 34659	JUREAU	AK	99803
DICK	ZOBEL CHAIRMAN	WASILLA SOIL & WATER	CONSERV DIST	2640 WASILLA-FISHOOK RD	WASILLA	AK	99687

Susitna Regional Forest Plan
Division of Land and Water Management
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 10-7005
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
PERMIT #9
ANCHORAGE, AK

February 12, 1990

KASHWITNA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Purposes	Required by Willow Subbasin Area Plan to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Schedule timber and farm sales2. Design roads3. Minimize conflicts between land uses.
Area	Lowlands between Willow Creek (Hatcher Pass road) and Kashwitna River Approximately 21,000 acres of state land, 6,500 acres of borough land, and 700 acres of private land.
Process	Issues identified by Willow Subbasin plan Information gathered through Susitna Regional Forest Plan Resolution of issues begun October 1989 Agency review draft - CURRENT STEP Public review of draft plan spring 1990 Final plan June 1990
Participants	Same groups as for Susitna Regional Forest Plan Planning team: DNR, DFG, DOT, DEC, Mat-Su Borough Citizens' Advisory Committee with representatives of 80 interest groups General public will review plan at public meetings in spring 1990
Major Proposals	<u>Access</u> Routes for main N-S road and year-round road access to borough lands and agricultural homestead areas Routes for temporary access to timber harvest areas Routes for ATV access to Willow Mt. Critical Habitat Area Summer ATV use on designated trails only <u>Agriculture and timber sales</u> Eight agricultural homesteads proposed for sale in 1991 Existing timber sales will continue; additional sales will be scheduled through the DNR 5-year timber sale schedule No timber harvest within 500' of main road; selective cutting only within 1/4-mile of main road Susitna Regional Forest Plan guidelines will apply <u>Recreation</u> Recreation study of boating and fishing prior to bridging Little Willow Creek Recreation sites on northern lake and southern ATV trailhead <u>Grazing</u> Guidelines to keep grazing compatible with wildlife habitat and forestry
Next Step	Summarize agency and advisory committee comments and hold public meetings

KASHWITNA

Land Use Designations

