

S B

430

FILE 2

HB 356

Designate areas
to be placed
in a special
category for
planning review

Susitna Forest
Plan

SB 430

Moratorium
for specified
areas

Susitna Area
Plan

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 Szymanski:

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

**STATE OF ALASKA
1990 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL VERSION: CSSB 430 3/15/90

PUBLISH DATE: _____

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
 Title: Sustina Area Plan Update
CSSB 430
 Sponsor: Sen. Szvanski
 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, Chelatina 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 mileage 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		Justification		
		Background		
1	2	3	1. Update will combine Susitna and Willow Subbasin area plans.	
Salary*	37.4	////////////////////	2. Area includes original land in area plans <u>minus</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 plans except for regional (Chapter 2) guidelines that apply to the management planning areas. Management plans cover Hatch Pass, Katanukuk 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.	
Benefits*	12.3	////////////////////	This proposal assumes that legislative designations will not be in plan, nor management plans mandated for Jim-Swan Lakes Recreation Area, Susitna State Forest, 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.	
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	////////////////////	////////////////////	Staffing	
Total Personal Services	////////////////////	49.7	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.	
Travel		1.0	2. This position will be the project manager.	
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.				

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	Barg. Unit GGU
Time Status Full	Staff Months 12	Location Anchorage		Election District
Type of Expenditure		Justification Background		
1	2	3		
Salary*	32.4	////////////////////	1. Update will combine Susitna and Willow Subbasin area plans.	
Benefits*	20.7	////////////////////	2. Area includes original land in area plans <u>minus</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, Mataruska Valley Moose Range, state refuges, state parks and recreation areas, state recreation rivers, Deception Creek, and Keshwitna. This proposal assumes a plan will be in progress for the Willow Mt. Critical Habitat Area.	
Premium Pay (Included in Above)		////////////////////	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, SA 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.	
Other		////////////////////	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.	
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.				
		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 5 of 7
 Revised Date 3-13-90

FY 91

Position Title Natural Resource Office - I		No. of Positions 1	Range/Step 14/A	Barg. Unit GGU	
Time Status FL11	Staff Months 12	Location Anchorage		Election District	
Type of Expenditure		Justification Background			
	Amount	<p>1. Update will combine Susitna and Willow Subbasin area plans.</p> <p>2. Area includes original land in area plans plus 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 Kashwitna. 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 650 or other new areas prior to the update. 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 work will fulfill the requirement for a management plan.</p> <p>Staffing</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 14 or a tech position.</p>			
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.					

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>			
	Amount	<p>1. Update will combine Susitna and Willow Subbasin area plans.</p> <p>2. Area includes original land in area plans <u>minus</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, Mataruska Valley Moose Range, state refuges, state parks and recreation areas, state recreation rivers, Reception Creek, and Kaskwina. 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 14 or a tech position.</p>			
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				
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.

Page 7 of 7
 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			
OSP Receipts	1061			
Other				
* Personal Services Salary and Benefits Costs are from PACS.				

Justification
Background

- Update will combine Susitna and Willow Subbasin area plans.
- 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, Hatanuska 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 designation will not be in plan, nor management plans mandated for Jim Swan Lakes Recreation Area, Susitna State Forest, Cholatna 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.
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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 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 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 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 Kashwitna. This proposal assumes a plan will be in progress for the Willow Mt. Critical Habitat Area.		
		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.		
		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.		
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				
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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

RECEIVED

MAR 16 1990

Talkeetna Community Council Endorsement

March 12, 1990

You are hereby notified that the Talkeetna Community Council, consisting of seven community members elected by popular vote, hereby supports and endorses Senate Bill 430 (SB 430) which provides for the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area.

Our concern for the quality of our valuable recreational/ tourist based economy prompts this endorsement.

Joe Page

for the Talkeetna Community Council

3/12/90

passed: unanimous



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 FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF HABITAT

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

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

February 8, 1990

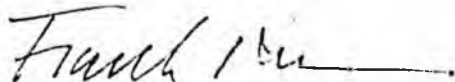
RECEIVED
FEB 13 1990

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

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 2q (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

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.

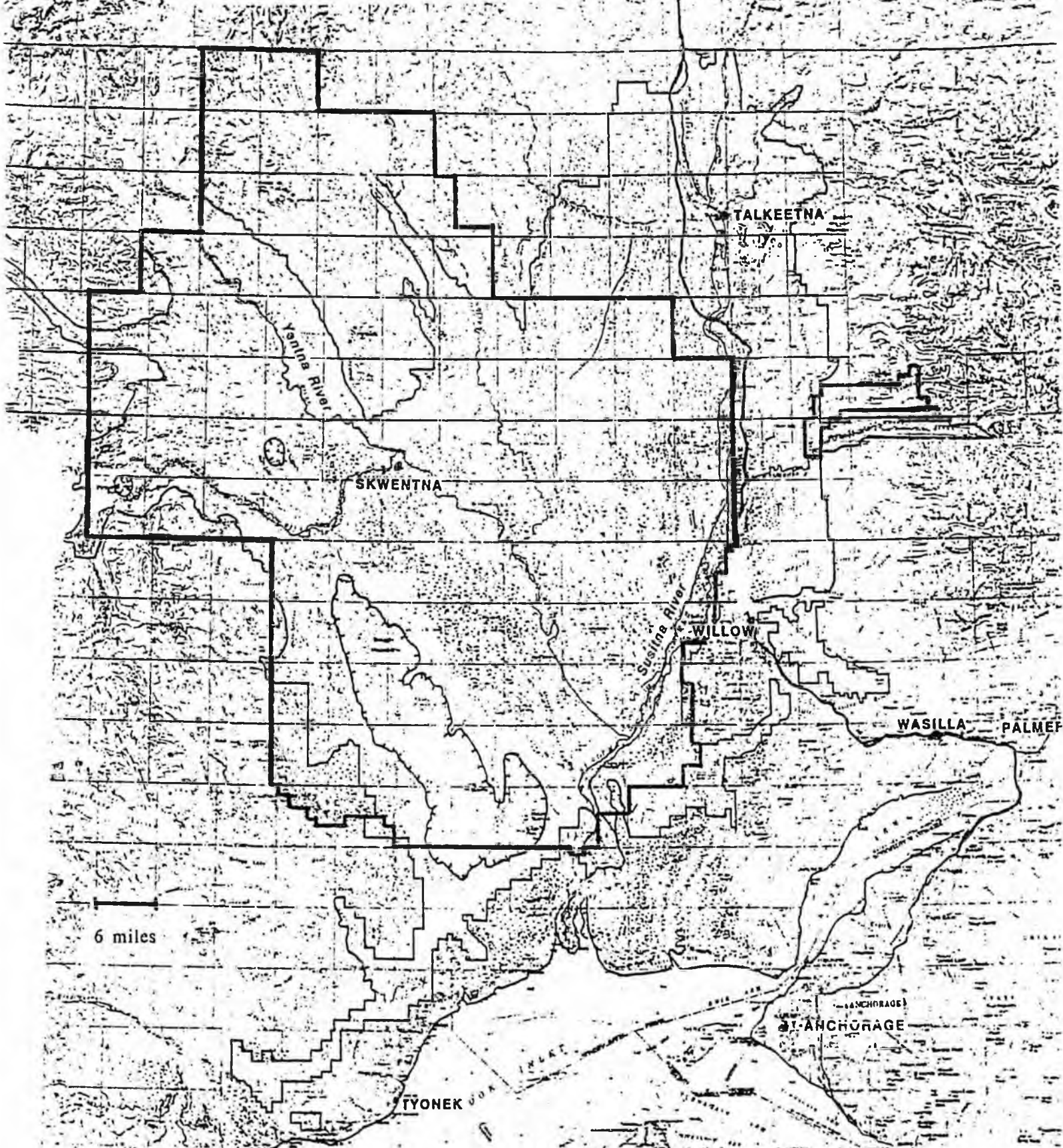
**Fiscal
Impact**

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**



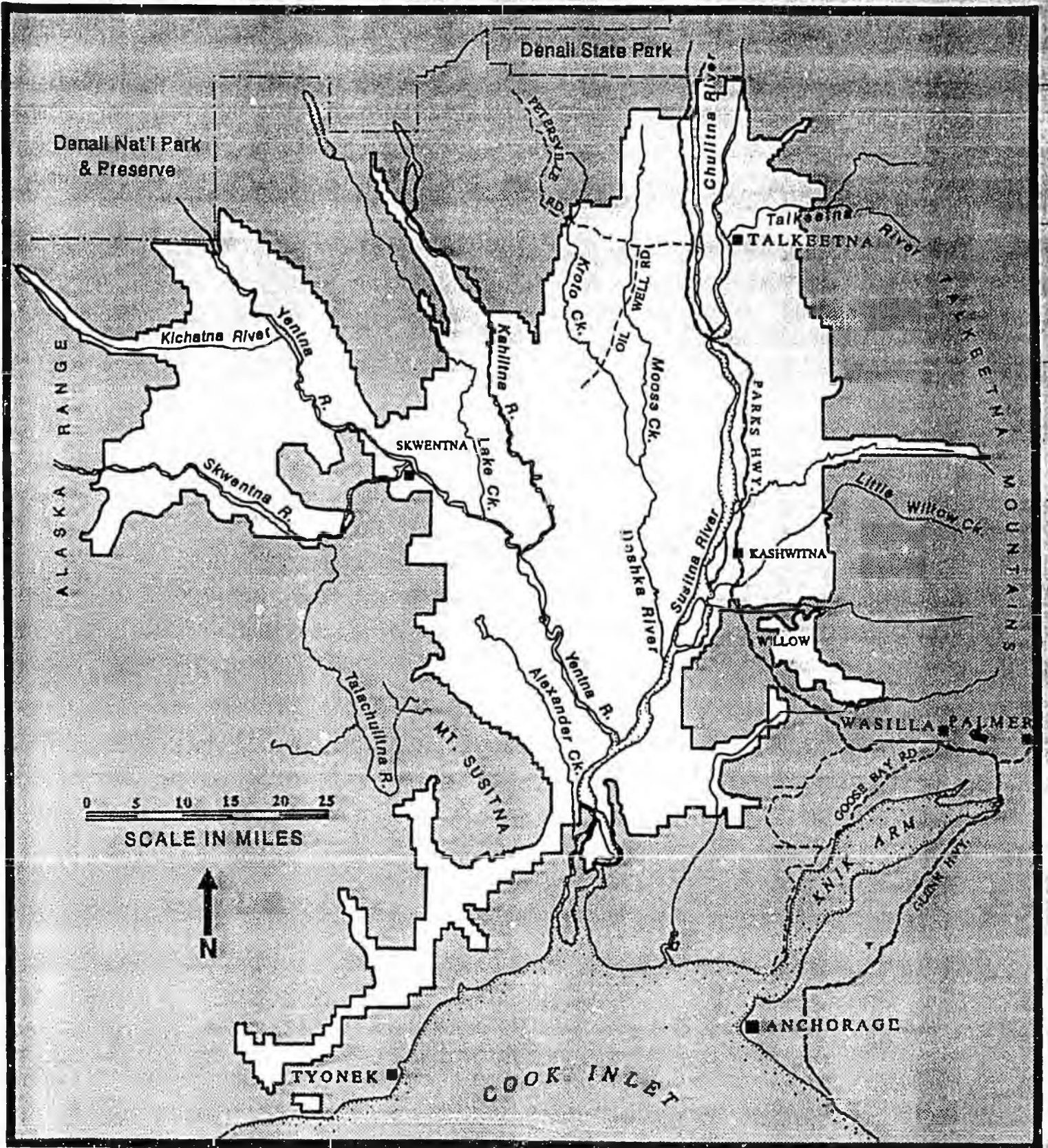


Department of Natural Resources
Division of Land and Water Mgmt.
Land and Resources Section
Box 107005, Anchorage, Alaska 99510 • 907-762-2660

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



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.

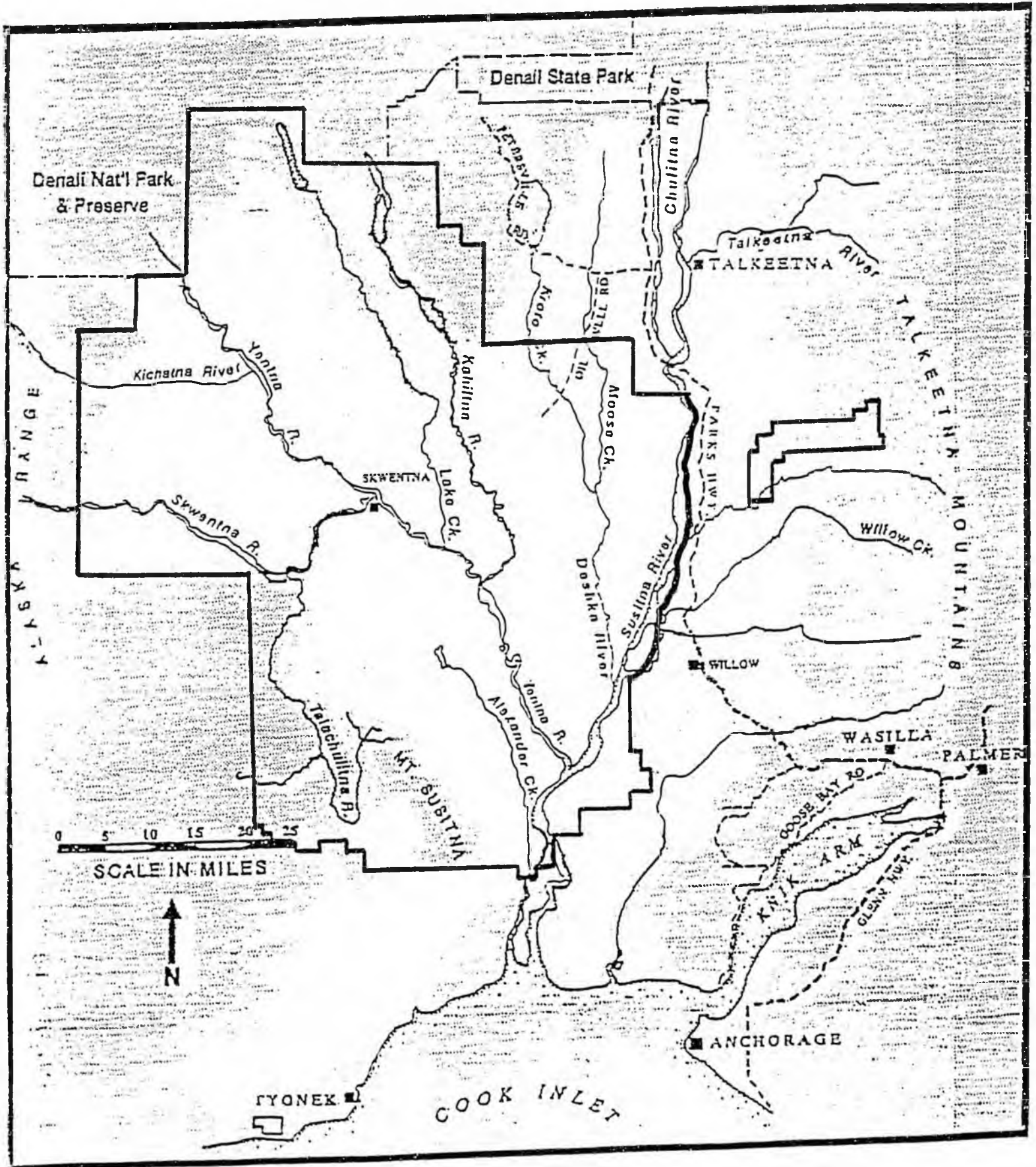
The legislation assures that traditional access, both motorized and nonmotorized, such as by boat, plane, ATV, snowmachine, dogsled, snowshoes, skis, etc., will continue.

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

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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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.

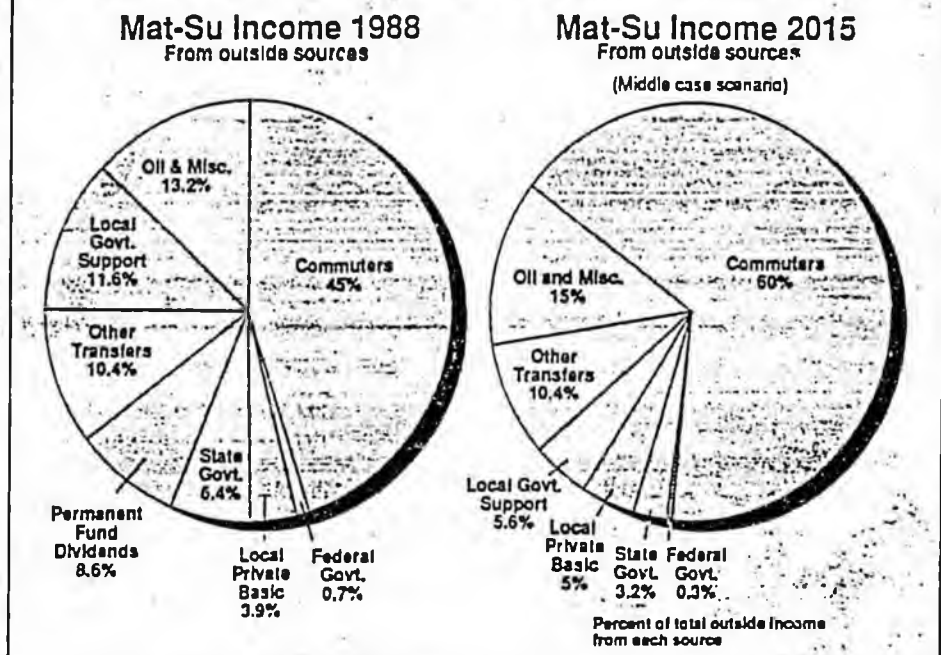
That analysis came last year from Scott Goldsmith and Eric Larson of the University of Alaska Institute of Social and Economic Research. Even the state's permanent fund dividend program brings in twice the wealth of the Valley's basic industries, and so do government social service programs, according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

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.

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 unpopcorn. And it's left everyone in the community divided."

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."

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

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.
Iditabike 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)

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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)

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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

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.

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 live from and on the lands, they intend "develop."

In contrast, the community comprehensive planning process is a fine example of a 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 rip 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.

Straight talk on evolving forest management plans

1-27-90

By BECKY LONG

is have some straight talk on the two current 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 Resources (DNR) plan, called Susitna Re-Forest Plan, is planning timber harvests for 150,000 acres. Public hearings should occur in the Mat-Su Borough plan, called Borough Use Forest Management Plan, covers 12,000 acres in 14 forest management units. A public comment was due Dec. 26. After that, the plan will go through the Borough Planning Commission and the Borough Assembly, with its final public hearings.

They want to propose to the governor and Mat-Su Borough administration that these timber management plans be put on hold until the Susitna Re-Forest Plan (SAP) is revised publicly in 1990. SAP is the guiding plan for land management decisions. Since it was put into law in 1985, the plan does call for modifications and amendments if needed. The public has never 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.

Logging is a multi-million dollar industry in the Susitna Valley now. People are not going to sit back and let the tourism, recreation, hunting and fishery, that they have invested in and built up, 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.



ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL, INC.

3788 McGINNIS ST. 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's 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
 At Large 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: 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 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.

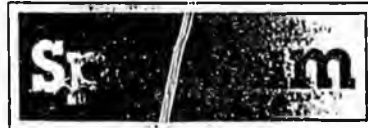
But you don't have to look out to the coast to see the jobs that the Susitna basin wilderness produces. I've been around Talkeetna for 17 years and have seen a few changes, but the major one is the development and growth of a wilderness-based recreation economy. In the early '70s, Ray Genet guiding climbers,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



achieved something I wasn't sure was possible. It has united 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 import 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 use 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 as the borough attempts to impose their timber-cult 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 unreasonable 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 statutes. 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 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. 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.

PHONE MEMO

TO Jim Sykes DATE 2/9 TIME AM PM

FROM live 14m N.E. of Talkeetna AREA CODE

OF Box 68 - Talkeetna EXT. 278-7436

MESSAGE Would like to participate in
t/c on SB480
in Anchorage
& Talkeetna

"People are very supportive of this concept -
great unanimity - economy based Martie
outdoorism,

PHONED CALL BACK RETURNED CALL WANTS TO SEE YOU WILL CALL AGAIN WAS IN URGENT

PHONE MEMO

TO "Himber ... subsidy to work their place" DATE TIME AM PM

FROM AREA CODE

OF NO.

MESSAGE To MARY
I can probably
interpret the above
I have a copy
Martie

PHONED CALL BACK RETURNED CALL WANTS TO SEE YOU WILL CALL AGAIN WAS IN URGENT

Kathleen Fleming

School - 733-2443
Contact - Kathleen 2241 hsch.
2252 elem

Library - 733-2359
Christa MacKislec
2703

3PM

773-2252

line 3



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 deducted 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	11,382.1
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.

Straight talk on evolving forest management plans

Frontiersman

Jan. 26, 1990

By BECKY LONG

Let us have some straight talk on the two current evolving forest management plans that will affect Susitna Valley residents and users.

The state and borough plans are blueprints for logging and road access. The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) plan, called Susitna Regional Forest Plan, is planning timber harvests for some 450,000 acres. Public hearings should occur in 1990. The Mat-Su Borough plan, called Borough Multiple Use Forest Management Plan, covers about 112,000 acres in 14 forest management units. Public comment was due Dec. 26. After that, the plan still will go through the Borough Planning Commission and the Borough Assembly, with its attendant public hearings.

I respectfully want to propose to the governor and the Mat-Su Borough administration that these timber harvest plans be put on hold until the Susitna Area Plan (SAP) is revised publicly in 1990. SAP is the guiding plan for land management decisions. Signed into law in 1985, the plan does call for major revisions and amendments if needed. The public has never been asked if they want large-scale commercial logging on their state and borough public lands. This crucial public policy question can be resolved through the 1990 revision. The governor's office and the borough administration are under a lot of criticism for these plans.

~~There is a multimillion dollar industry in the Susitna Valley. People are not going to sit back and allow the state and borough to take away their economy that they have developed and built their homes and communities around. It is a threat to the future of the valley. We have no need 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." ~~State ADNR has only gone ahead with planning for commercial logging, access, road construction, and timber marketing. We have no programs 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.

~~The current public logging industry in the Mat-Su Borough is 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 19-89 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.

~~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.

RECEIVED

FEB 9 1990

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.

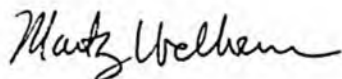
- Five planning staff worked from 1980-1982 to produce the Willow Subbasin Area Plan and from 1982-1985 to complete the Susitna Area Plan.
- The planning staff represents only part of the effort expended on planning. Other agencies in DNR, DFG, DEC, and DOT/PF committed staff to research resource potential 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

PHONE MEMO	TO	<i>Mary</i>		DATE	TIME	AM	
	FROM	<i>Marty Welbourn</i>		<i>2/26</i>		PM	
	OF	<i>(in mtg all day)</i>		AREA CODE			
	MESSAGE		<i>Tom Hawkins from DNR will join</i>		NO.		
			<i>via conference call today</i>		EXT.		
		<i>762-2483</i>					
		<i>She will call Joison to that office -</i>					
				SIGNED			
	PHONED	<input type="checkbox"/>	CALL BACK	<input type="checkbox"/>	RETURNED CALL	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			WANTS TO SEE YOU	<input type="checkbox"/>	WILL CALL AGAIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			WAS IN	<input type="checkbox"/>	URGENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	



Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Land and Resource Section

February 9, 1990

P.O. Box 2176
Palmer, AK 99645

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

Dear Mr. Bronson,

Thank you for your December 22 letter concerning the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan. I apologize for the delay in responding to it. We are currently in the process of compiling and analyzing responses from over 550 alternatives workbooks and the many letters received during the comment period.

In response to your first point (failure to substantiate the options), we considered including the costs and benefits of each alternative in the workbook, and decided against it. The workbook is comprised of 24 multiple alternative questions. Three of the 24 questions include a range of alternatives for over 30 individual river reaches. We concluded that including cost and benefit information for each alternative would result in a workbook that was complex and tedious to complete, and expensive to produce. In addition, long workbooks often result in a low public response rate.

Until funding is available to conduct a study on the affect of large-horsepower boats on the six rivers, the department is not willing to propose horsepower regulations based on environmental damage it cannot document. Through an instream flow study and the random user survey conducted last summer the department may be able to quantify safety and recreation experience criteria with which to develop boating restrictions in the draft plan.

In response to your second point (withholding major options), when the planning team and advisory board identified current levels of development and considered future levels, it was necessary to recognize the affect of private lands on the pattern of use on public lands. While there are nearly 200 cabins and lodges on the 460 private parcels within the corridors, there are 20 remote leases (under the land disposal program), only one lodge under lease, and no managed public facilities on state land within the corridors. The department cannot revoked leases without cause and is not considering this option for the corridors. It can, however, remove unauthorized structures from state land and is pursuing this action through the procedures available to it.

RR Disk 1 LW/February 9, 1990/Bronson

Mike Bronson
February 9, 1990
Page 2

The question on roads was developed because the public identified roads as an issue. The public had the option to select "yes" or "no" for each area where roads might be built in the future.

Our intent was to present a range of general alternatives. The purpose of the workbook was to determine the general type and level of management preferred by the public, rather than to present fully developed, detailed proposals. The planning team and advisory board will carefully consider the issues, the costs and benefits of the alternatives, and the public's responses when they develop the draft plan this Spring.

Thank you for your comments and continued interest in the plan.

Sincerely,



Bruce Talbot
Project Manager

cc: Lennie Gorsuch
Tom Hawkins
Marty Wellbourn
Senator Kerttula
Senator Szymanski
Representative Menard
Representative Larson



Alaska State Legislature

Senator Mike Szymanski

While in Session:
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4978

Interim:
3111 C Street, Suite 510
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 561-7617

or
165 E. Parks Highway
Wasilla, Alaska 99687
(907) 376-6453

March 13, 1990

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dick Bradley, LAA Legal

FROM: Senator Mike Szymanski

RE: Work Draft 6-1800E

Please make the following changes and additions to work draft 6-1800E, CSSB 430 (C&RA):

1) Page 2, Line 2: Clarify the definition of "independent" to specify that the survey not be conducted by another state agency, such as ADF&G, but by some other research group such as ICER.

2) Page 2, Lines 4-7: Delete language in subsection (c) referring to areas covered by the moratorium and replace with language expressing the following intent:

"In the review of the Susitna area plan, the commissioner of natural resources shall consider the remote recreational and roadless values for the following areas:"

3) Include the attached legal descriptions.

6-1800E
Bradley
3/6/90

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 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 designation of
2 roadless areas and shall contract for an independent economic survey of
3 tourism and recreation within the area described by the Susitna area plan.

4 (c) During the period before the submission of the revised Susitna
5 area plan to the legislature under (e) of this section, and for one year
6 from that date, the commissioner of natural resources may not conduct
7 timber sales or timber harvests within the following areas:

8 (1) Susitna River Block:

9
10
11
12 (2) Susitna Lowlands Block:

13
14
15
16 (3) Northeast Side of Mt. Susitna Block:

17
18
19
20 (4) Trail Ridge Block:

21
22
23
24 (d) Notwithstanding the prohibition on timber sales and timber har-
25 vest under (c) of this section, the commissioner may propose timber sales
26 and timber harvest in the revised Susitna area plan.

27 (e) The commissioner shall submit the revised Susitna area plan to
28 the presiding officers of each house of the legislature on its completion.
29

6-1800E
Bradley
3/6/90

Original sponsor(s): SEN. RODEY

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE C&RA COMMITTEE

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

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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
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8 (1) Susitna River Block:

12 (2) Susitna Lowlands Block:

16 (3) Northeast Side of Mt. Susitna Block:

20 (4) Trail Ridge Block:

24 (d) Notwithstanding the prohibition on timber sales and timber har-
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27 (e) The commissioner shall submit the revised Susitna area plan to
28 the presiding officers of each house of the legislature on its completion.
29

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 356

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Susitna State Forest."

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

8 * Section 1. AS 41.17 is amended by adding a new section to read:

9 Sec. 41.17.410. SUSITNA STATE FOREST. (a) Subject to valid
10 existing rights and except for land owned by or transferred to the
11 University of Alaska under a settlement agreement between the state
12 and the university, the state-owned or acquired land and water lying
13 within the parcels described in (d) of this section is designated as
14 the Susitna State Forest.

15 (b) The commissioner shall prepare a management plan for the
16 Susitna State Forest under AS 41.17.230.

17 (c) The commissioner shall consider and permit the uses de-
18 scribed in AS 41.17.230(e) within the Susitna State Forest subject to
19 findings by the commissioner under AS 41.17.230(f).

20 (d) The Susitna State Forest includes the state-owned or
21 acquired land and water lying within the following described parcels:

22 (1) Kashwitna Block

23 (A) Township 20 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

24 Sections 3 - 10

25 Sections 15 - 22

26 Section 27: W1/2, W1/2NE1/4

27 Section 28

28 Section 29: N1/2, E1/2SE1/4

29 (B) Township 21 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

1 Sections 4 - 9

2 Section 15: W1/2W1/2, E1/2NW1/4, W1/2NE1/4

3 Sections 16 - 21

4 Section 22: W1/2

5 Section 27: W1/2

6 Sections 28 - 33

7 Section 34: N1/2

8 (C) Township 21 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian

9 Section 36: E1/2, E1/2W1/2

10 (D) Township 22 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

11 Sections 1 - 3: S1/2

12 Section 4

13 Section 5: E1/2

14 Section 8: E1/2

15 Section 9

16 Section 16

17 Section 17: E1/2

18 Section 20: E1/2NE1/4

19 Section 21

20 Section 28

21 Section 33

22 (E) Township 23 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

23 Section 3: N1/2

24 Section 9: N1/2

25 Section 16: S1/2

26 Section 21

27 Section 28

28 Section 33

29 (F) Township 24 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

1	Section 4
2	Section 5: E1/2, SW1/4, SE1/4NW1/4
3	Section 8: N1/2
4	Section 9
5	Section 10
6	Section 15
7	Section 22
8	Section 27
9	Section 34
10	(2) Petersville Road Block
11	(A) Township 24 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian
12	Sections 3 - 5
13	Section 6: NE1/4
14	Section 8: N1/2, N1/2S1/2, S1/2SE1/4
15	Sections 9 - 10
16	Section 18: SW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4, SW1/4SE1/4
17	Section 19: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, E1/2SE1/4,
18	SE1/4NE1/4
19	Section 20: S1/2
20	Section 28: W1/2
21	Sections 29 - 31
22	(B) Township 24 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian
23	Section 1: W1/2
24	Sections 2 - 3
25	Section 5: SW1/4
26	Sections 6 - 8
27	Sections 10 - 11
28	Section 12: W1/2, W1/2SE1/4
29	Section 13: W1/2NE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4

1 Section 15

2 Section 16: W1/2

3 Sections 17 - 20

4 Section 22

5 Section 23: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, NE1/4NE1/4

6 (C) Township 24 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian

7 Section 1

8 Section 2: E1/2

9 Section 11: E1/2

10 Sections 12 - 13

11 Section 14: E1/2

12 Section 15: E1/2E1/2

13 (D) Township 25 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

14 Sections 3 - 4

15 Section 6: W1/2, N1/2NE1/4

16 Section 7: W1/2NW1/4

17 Section 8: E1/2, E1/2SW1/4

18 Sections 9 - 10

19 Sections 15 - 17

20 Sections 20 - 22

21 Section 23: W1/2

22 Section 26: W1/2

23 Sections 27 - 29

24 Sections 32 - 34

25 Section 35: W1/2

26 (E) Township 25 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

27 Section 25

28 Section 36

29 (F) Township 26 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

1		Section 20: SE1/4
2		Section 21: S1/2
3		Sections 27 - 28
4		Section 29: NE1/4
5		Section 31: W1/2, SE1/4
6		Section 33
7	(3)	Susitna Lowlands Block
8	X (A)	Township 20 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian
9		Section 18: S1/2
10		Section 19
11		Section 28: SW1/4
12		Sections 29 - 32
13		Section 33: W1/2, NE1/4
14	(B)	Township 21 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian
15		Section 2: W1/2
16		Section 5: W1/2, N1/2NE1/4
17		Sections 6 - 7
18		Section 8: NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4
19		Section 11: W1/2
20		Section 14: NW1/4
21		Section 15: SE1/4, E1/2NE1/4
22		Sections 18 - 19
23		Section 20: W1/2
24		Section 22: N1/2
25		Section 29: W1/2
26		Section 30
27		Section 31: N1/2, SE1/4
28		Section 32: W1/2SE1/4, SW1/4NE1/4
29	(C)	Township 21 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

1 Sections 1 - 14
 2 Section 15: N1/2, SE1/4
 3 Sections 16 - 21
 4 Section 23: NE1/4
 5 Sections 24 - 25
 6 Section 27: W1/2, W1/2E1/2
 7 Section 28: E1/2, E1/2W1/2
 8 Section 33: NE1/4
 9 Section 34: NW1/4, W1/2NE1/4, SE1/4
 10 Section 36: E1/2
 11 (D) Township 21 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian
 12 Section 1
 13 Section 2: E1/2E1/2
 14 Section 3: W1/2E1/2, E1/2NW1/4
 15 Section 11: E1/2, E1/2NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4
 16 Sections 12 - 13
 17 Section 14: NE1/4, W1/2SE1/4, SE1/4SE1/4
 18 Section 24
 19 (E) Township 22 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian
 20 Section 15
 21 Section 28: W1/2SW1/4
 22 Section 29: W1/2, SE1/4, W1/2NE1/4
 23 Sections 30 - 32
 24 Section 33: N1/2NW1/4
 25 Section 35: W1/2
 26 (F) Township 22 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian
 27 Section 1: SW1/4
 28 Sections 12 - 36
 29 (G) Township 22 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

1 Sections 13 - 16: S1/2, S1/2N1/2
 2 Section 17: S1/2 East of Kahiltna River,
 3 S1/2N1/2 East of Kahiltna River
 4 Section 20: Northeast of Kahiltna River
 5 Section 21: E1/2, W1/2 North of Kahiltna River
 6 Sections 22 - 27
 7 Section 28: E1/2
 8 Section 33: NE1/4, N1/2SE1/4, SE1/4SE1/4
 9 Sections 34 - 36
 10 (4) Mt. Susitna Block
 11 (A) Township 14 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian
 12 Section 3
 13 (B) Township 15 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian
 14 Section 9: S1/2S1/2, NE1/4SE1/4
 15 Section 10: W1/2
 16 Section 11: S1/2
 17 Sections 12 - 16
 18 Section 17: E1/2E1/2, SW1/4SE1/4, S1/2SW1/4
 19 Section 18: SW1/4, S1/2SE1/4
 20 Sections 19 - 22
 21 Sections 29 - 31
 22 (C) Township 15 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian
 23 Sections 3 - 4
 24 Section 10
 25 Section 11: W1/2, SE1/4
 26 Section 12: SW1/4
 27 Sections 13 - 15
 28 Sections 22 - 27
 29 Sections 34 - 36

1	(D) Township 16 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian		
2	Section 3:	W1/2	
3	Section 8:	E1/2	
4	Section 9		
5	Section 10:	W1/2	
6	Sections 15 - 17		
7	Section 18:	S1/2, NE1/4	
8	Section 19:	N1/2	
9	Sections 20 - 21		
10	Section 22:	N1/2, SW1/4	
11	Section 27:	W1/2	
12	Section 28		
13	Section 29:	E1/2	
14	Section 32:	NE1/4	
15	Section 33		
16	Section	34:	W1/2

6-0896E
Bradley
2/27/90

Original sponsor(s): Resources Committee

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 356 (Resources)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Susitna State Forest."

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

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12 and the university, the state-owned or acquired land and water lying
13 within the parcels described in (d) of this section is designated as
14 the Susitna State Forest.

15 (b) The commissioner shall prepare a management plan for the
16 Susitna State Forest under AS 41.17.230. The management plan for the
17 Susitna State Forest must include the guidelines from the Susitna
18 Regional Forest Plan.

19 (c) The commissioner shall consider and permit the uses de-
20 scribed in AS 41.17.230(e) within the Susitna State Forest subject to
21 findings by the commissioner under AS 41.17.230(f).

22 (d) The Susitna State Forest includes the state-owned or
23 acquired land and water lying within the following described parcels:

24 (1) Susitna River Block

25 (A) Township 17 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

26 Section 2: NW1/4

27 Section 3: W1/2, NE1/4, N1/2SE1/4

28 Section 4: East of the left bank of the Susitna
29 River

1 Section 7: East of the left bank of the Susitna
2 River

3 Section 8: East of the left bank of the Susitna
4 River

5 Section 9: NW1/4 lying east of the left bank of
6 the Susitna River, N1/2NE1/4

7 Section 17: NW1/4

8 Section 18: N1/2 east of the left bank of the
9 Susitna River, SW1/4, W1/2SE1/4

10 Section 19: NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4, W1/2NE1/4

11 (B) Township 17 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

12 Section 24: N1/2 east of the left bank of the
13 Susitna River, N1/2S1/2

14 (C) Township 18 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

15 Section 1: East of the left bank of the Susitna
16 River

17 Section 2: E1/2E1/2 east of the left bank of
18 the Susitna River

19 Section 11: East of the left bank of the
20 Susitna River

21 Section 12: N1/2, SW1/4

22 Section 13: W1/2, W1/2SE1/4

23 Sections 14 - 15: East of the left bank of the
24 Susitna River

25 Section 22: East of the left bank of the
26 Susitna River

27 Sections 23 - 26

28 Section 27: East of the left bank of the
29 Susitna River

1 Section 33: SE1/4 East of the left bank of
2 the Susitna River

3 Section 34: East of the left bank of the
4 Susitna River

5 Section 35

6 Section 36: NW1/4

7 (D) Township 19 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian

8 Sections 3 - 10

9 Section 15: NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SW1/4,
10 W1/2NE1/4

11 Sections 16 - 21

12 Section 22: W1/2W1/2

13 Section 28: NW1/4

14 Sections 29 - 32

15 (E) Township 19 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

16 Section 1: E1/2

17 Sections 12 - 13

18 Section 24

19 Section 25: East of the left bank of the
20 Susitna River

21 Section 36: East of the left bank of the
22 Susitna River

23 (F) Township 20 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian

24 Sections 1 - 2: West of the left bank of the
25 Susitna River

26 Sections 3 - 4

27 Section 5: E1/2E1/2

28 Section 8: E1/2

29 Sections 9 - 10

1 Section 11: West of the left bank of the
2 Susitna River

3 Section 14: West of the left bank of the
4 Susitna River

5 Sections 15 - 17

6 Section 18: E1/2E1/2

7 Section 19: E1/2

8 Sections 20 - 21

9 Sections 22 - 23: West of the left bank of the
10 Susitna River

11 Section 27: West of the left bank of the
12 Susitna River

13 Sections 28 - 33

14 Section 34: West of the left bank of the
15 Susitna River

16 (G) Township 20 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

17 Section 25: E1/2E1/2

18 Section 36: E1/2

19 (H) Township 21 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian

20 Section 23: S1/2SE1/4

21 Section 24: W1/2SE1/4 west of the left bank of
22 the Susitna River, E1/2SW1/4 west of the left
23 bank of the Susitna River, SW1/4SW1/4

24 Section 25: West of the left bank of the
25 Susitna River

26 Sections 26 - 27

27 Section 28: NE1/4

28 Section 33: SE1/4

29 Sections 34 - 35

Section 36: West of the left bank of the
Susitna River

(2) Kashwitna Block

(A) Township 20 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 3 - 10

Sections 15 - 22

Section 27: W1/2, W1/2NE1/4

Section 28

Section 29: N1/2, E1/2SE1/4

(B) Township 21 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 4 - 9

Section 15: W1/2W1/2, E1/2NW1/4, W1/2NE1/4

Sections 16 - 21

Section 22: W1/2

Section 27: W1/2

Sections 28 - 33

Section 34: N1/2

(C) Township 21 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian

Section 25: S1/2, SE1/4

Section 36: E1/2, E1/2W1/2

(D) Township 22 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian

Section 7

Section 8: W1/2W1/2, E1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SE1/4

Section 16: N1/2NW1/4

Sections 17 - 18: N1/2N1/2

(E) Township 22 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 3 - 6: S1/2

Sections 7 - 12

(F) Township 22 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian

not included

1 Section 1: S1/2

2 Sections 2 - 12

3 Section 18: N1/2, N1/2S1/2

4 (G) Township 22 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

5 Sections 1 - 3: S1/2

6 Section 4

7 Section 5: E1/2

8 Section 8: E1/2

9 Sections 9 - 12

10 Section 13: N1/2, N1/2S1/2

11 Sections 14 - 16

12 Section 17: E1/2

13 Section 20: E1/2NE1/4

14 Section 21

15 Section 28

16 Section 33

17 (H) Township 23 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

18 Section 2: S1/2, S1/2NE1/4, SE1/4NW1/4

19 Section 3

20 Sections 9 - 10

21 Section 11: N1/2N1/2, S1/2NW1/4, SW1/4NE1/4,
22 N1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SW1/4

23 Section 15: N1/2N1/2

24 Section 16

25 Section 21

26 Section 28

27 Section 33

28 (I) Township 24 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

29 Section 4

Section 5: E1/2, SW1/4, SE1/4NW1/4

Section 8: N1/2

Sections 9 - 10

Section 15

Section 22

Section 27

Section 34

(3) Petersville Road Block

(A) Township 24 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 3 - 5

Section 6: NE1/4

Section 8: N1/2, N1/2S1/2, S1/2SE1/4

Sections 9 - 10

Section 18: SW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4, SW1/4SE1/4

Section 19: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, E1/2SE1/4,
SE1/4NE1/4

Section 20: S1/2

Section 28: W1/2

Sections 29 - 31

(B) Township 24 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

Section 1: W1/2

Sections 2 - 5

Sections 6 - 11

Section 12: W1/2, W1/2SE1/4

Section 13: W1/2NE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4

Section 15

Section 16: W1/2

Sections 17 - 20

Section 22

*no
included*

1 Section 23: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, NE1/4NE1/4

2 Section 28: W1/2

3 Sections 29 - 31

4 (C) Township 24 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian

5 Section 1

6 Sections 2 - 3

7 Section 5: SW1/4

8 Sections 6 - 8

9 Sections 10 - 13

10 Section 14: E1/2, SW1/4

11 Section 15

12 Section 16: W1/2

13 Sections 17 - 20

14 Section 21: E1/2NE1/4

15 Section 22

16 Section 23: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, NE1/4NE1/4

17 Sections 26 - 27: N1/2NE1/4

18 (D) Township 24 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian

19 Section 1

20 Section 2: E1/2

21 Section 10: E1/2

22 Sections 11 - 14

23 Section 15: E1/2E1/2

24 (E) Township 25 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

25 Sections 3 - 4

26 Section 6: W1/2, N1/2NE1/4

27 Section 7: W1/2, NW1/4

28 Section 8: E1/2, E1/2SW1/4

29 Sections 9 - 10

1 Sections 15 - 17

2 Sections 20 - 22

3 Section 23: W1/2

4 Section 26: W1/2

5 Sections 27 - 29

6 Sections 32 - 34

7 Section 35: W1/2

8 (F) Township 25 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

9 Section 1: E1/2, SW1/4

10 Section 12

11 Section 13: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, E1/2NE1/4

12 Section 14: E1/2, SW1/4

13 Section 23

14 Section 24: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, E1/2SE1/4

15 Sections 25 - 26

16 Sections 35 - 36

17 (G) Township 26 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

18 Section 20: SE1/4

19 Section 21: S1/2

20 Sections 27 - 28

21 Section 29: NE1/4

22 Section 31: W1/2, SE1/4

23 Section 33

24 (H) Township 26 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

25 Section 24: E1/2E1/2

26 Section 25: E1/2

27 Section 36: E1/2

28 (4) Susitna Lowlands Block

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

all included

1 Sections 4 - 5

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

3 Section 8: E1/2

4 Section 9

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

6 Section 16

7 Section 21

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

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

10 Section 28

11 Sections 33 - 34

12 (B) Township 18 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

13 Sections 1 - 2: West of the left channel of the
14 Susitna River

15 Section 3

16 Section 10: N1/2, N1/2S1/2

17 Section 11: N1/2 west of the left channel of
18 the Susitna River, N1/2S1/2 west of the left
19 channel of the Susitna River

20 (C) Township 20 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

21 Section 5: SW1/4, E1/2NW1/4

22 Section 6

23 Section 8: W1/2, W1/2SE1/4

24 Section 17

25 Section 20: W1/4, W1/2SE1/4

26 Section 28: SW1/4

27 Sections 29 - 32

28 Section 33: W1/2, SE1/4, SW1/4NE1/4

29 X(D) Township 20 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

Section 1: E1/2

Section 18: S1/2

Section 19

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

Section 28: SW1/4

Sections 29 - 32

Section 33: W1/2, NE1/4

Section 36: NE1/4

X (E) Township 20 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

Section 1: W1/2

Sections 2 - 11

Section 12: W1/2, SE1/4

Sections 13 - 20

Section 21: Northeast of right channel of
Yentna River

Sections 22 - 26

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

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

Sections 35 - 36

X (F) Township 20 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 1 - 2

Section 3: E1/2NE1/4

Sections 11 - 13

Section 14: NE1/4

Section 24

(G) Township 21 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

Section 2: W1/2

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

Sections 6 - 7

Section 8: NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4

Section 11: W1/2

Section 14: NW1/4

Section 15: SE1/4, E1/2NE1/4

Sections 18 - 19

Section 20: W1/2

Section 22: N1/2

Section 29: W1/2

Section 30

Section 31: N1/2, SE1/4

Section 32: W1/2SE1/4, SW1/4NE1/4

(K) Township 21 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 1 - 14

Section 15: N1/2, SE1/4

Sections 16 - 21

Section 23: NE1/4

Sections 24 - 25

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

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

Section 33: NE1/4

Section 34: NW1/4, W1/2NE1/4, SE1/4

Section 36: E1/2

X(I) Township 21 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

Section 1

Section 2: E1/2E1/2

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Section 3: W1/2E1/2, E1/2NW1/4

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

Sections 12 - 13

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

Sections 17 - 20

Section 21: W1/2, SE1/4

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

Section 24

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

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

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

Sections 28 - 35

Section 36: W1/2, W1/2E1/2

X (J) 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

(K) Township 22 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

Section 19

Section 28: W1/2SW1/4

Section 29: W1/2, SE1/4, W1/2NE1/4

Sections 30 - 32

1 Section 33: N1/2NW1/4

2 Section 35: W1/2

3 (L) Township 22 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

4 Section 1: SW1/4

5 Sections 12 - 36

6 (M) Township 22 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

7 Sections 13 - 16: S1/2, S1/2N1/2

8 Section 17: S1/2 East of Kahiltna River,

9 S1/2N1/2 East of Kahiltna River

10 Section 20: Northeast of Kahiltna River

11 Section 21: E1/2, W1/2 North of Kahiltna River

12 Sections 22 - 27

13 Section 28: E1/2

14 Section 33: NE1/4, N1/2SE1/4, SE1/4SE1/4

15 Sections 34 - 36

16 (5) Mt. Susitna Block

17 (A) Township 14 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian

18 Section 3

19 (B) Township 15 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

20 Section 3

21 Section 4: S1/2, S1/2N1/2, N1/2NE1/4,

22 NE1/4NW1/4

23 Section 5: S1/2, SE1/4NE1/4

24 Section 6: S1/2

25 Sections 7 - 9

26 Sections 17 - 18

27 (C) Township 15 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian

28 Section 9: S1/2S1/2, NE1/4SE1/4

29 Section 10: W1/2

need partial description

Section 11: S1/2

Sections 12 - 16

Section 17: E1/2E1/2, SW1/4SE1/4, S1/2SW1/4

Section 18: SW1/4, S1/2SE1/4

Sections 19 - 22

Sections 29 - 31

(D) Township 15 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 3 - 4

Section 10

Section 11: W1/2, SE1/4

Section 12: SW1/4

Sections 13 - 15

Sections 22 - 27

Sections 34 - 36

X (E) Township 16 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

Section 1: S1/2, NW1/4

Section 2

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

Section 10: E1/2E1/2

Section 11

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

Section 13: W1/2, NE1/4

Section 14

Section 15: E1/2E1/2

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

Section 23

Section 24: W1/2W1/2

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

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

1 Sections 34 - 35

2 (F) Township 16 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian

3 Section 3: W1/2

4 Section 8: E1/2

5 Section 9

6 Section 10: W1/2

7 Sections 15 - 17

8 Section 18: S1/2, NE1/4

9 Section 19: N1/2

10 Sections 20 - 21

11 Section 22: N1/2, SW1/4

12 Section 27: W1/2

13 Section 28

14 Section 29: E1/2

15 Section 32: NE1/4

16 Section 33

17 Section 34: W1/2

18 X (G) Township 17 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

19 Section 4: SW1/4

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

21 Section 6

22 Section 7: N1/2

23 Section 8: W1/2, SE1/4

24 Section 15: W1/2, S1/2SE1/4

25 Section 16

26 Section 17: NE1/4

27 Section 21: E1/2

28 Section 22

29 Section 23: SW1/4

Section 25: SW1/4, S1/2NW1/4

Section 26

Section 27: N1/2, SE1/4

Section 34: NE1/4

Sections 35 - 36

(H) Township 17 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian

Section 1: SE1/4

(I) Township 17 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian

Section 34: E1/2SE1/4

Section 35: SW1/4

(6) Trail Ridge Block

(A) Township 18 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

Section 18: SW1/4, E1/2SE1/4

Section 19: W1/2, SE1/4, W1/2NE1/4

Section 28: W1/2

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

Sections 30 - 33

(B) Township 18 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

Section 1: W1/2W1/2

Sections 2 - 3

Section 4: E1/2

Section 10: N1/2, SE1/4

Section 11

Section 12: W1/2, W1/2SE1/4

Section 13

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

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

Sections 24 - 25

Section 26: E1/2

all included

Section 36: E1/2.

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sources for the project that equals the amount of grant money to be used for the project. The total amount of grant money provided to an organization during a fiscal year may not exceed \$50,000.

(d) There is established in the department the regional development fund consisting of appropriations to the fund. Money from the fund may be used only for regional development grants.

(e) In this section

(1) "department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic Development;

(2) "regional development organization" or "organization" means a nonprofit organization or nonprofit corporation formed to encourage economic development within a particular region of the state that includes the entire area of each municipality within that region and that has a board of directors that represents the region's economic, political, and social interests. (§ 2 ch 94 SLA 1988; r § 3 ch 94 SLA 1988)

Postponed repeal. — Section 3, ch. 94, SLA 1988 repeals this section effective July 1, 1993.

Cross references. — For statement of legislative purpose, see sec. 1, ch. 94, SLA 1988 in the Temporary and Special Acts.

Secs. 44.33.030 — 44.33.060. Power development. [Repealed, § 10 ch 79 SLA 1983.]

Sec. 44.33.110. Civil Air Patrol. [Repealed, E.O. No. 33 (1968). For current provisions, see AS 18.60.146.]

Article 2. Alaska Division of Tourism.

Section	Section
119. Purposes	124. Membership of the Tourism Coordinating Committee
120. Alaska division of tourism	135. Grants for promotion or development of visitor travel
122. Establishment of Tourism Coordinating Committee	

Sec. 44.33.119. Purposes. The purposes of AS 44.33.119 — 44.33.135 and AS 44.33.700 — 44.33.735 are to

- (1) encourage the expansion and growth of the state's visitor industry for the benefit of the citizens of the state;
- (2) ensure that the economic benefits to be derived from tourism in the state are retained in the state, to the greatest extent possible;
- (3) ensure that a maximum number of residents of the state are employed in the tourism industry;
- (4) promote cooperation between the state and private sector in the planning and execution of a generic visitor marketing campaign in the public interest;

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(5) promote the development of visitor industry facilities, both in the public sector and the private sector, through the use of state resources, as appropriate;

(6) ensure that the visitory experience in the state is and continues to be satisfactory and leads to word-of-mouth advertising and return visits to the state;

(7) ensure that consideration is given in the development and implementation of the tourism program to local community goals and objectives, to impacts on existing private enterprises, and to impacts on recreational and subsistence opportunities for the residents of the state;

(8) promote the development of tourism opportunities along the highway system of the state, including the marine highway, and in rural areas of the state. (§ 5 ch 78 SLA 1988)

Cross references. — For legislative findings, see sec. 1, ch. 78, SLA 1988 in the Temporary and Special Acts.

Sec. 44.33.120. Alaska division of tourism. (a) There is created in the Department of Commerce and Economic Development the Alaska division of tourism. The director of tourism is appointed by the commissioner of commerce and economic development and serves at the pleasure of the commissioner.

(b) The Alaska division of tourism shall

(1) cooperate with the tourism marketing council and organizations in the private sector for the promotion and development of tourism and conventions into and within the state;

(2) coordinate with municipal, state, and federal agencies for the development and promotion of tourism resources and conventions in the state;

(3) review and approve the procurement documents and procedures of the tourism marketing council to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations;

(4) promote and develop the state's tourist and convention industry by any of the following:

(A) publicizing state attractions through such means as display advertising in magazines and newspapers, advertising on radio and television or other advertising media, publishing pamphlets, brochures and other graphic and pictorial materials, or by aiding and assisting representatives of the media, to ensure greater coverage of the visitor attractions in the state;

(B) participation in travel shows;

(C) increasing the awareness of the citizens of the state at the state-wide, regional and community level of the economic importance of the visitor industry;

- (D) assisting potential investors in creating new visitor facilities;
- (E) administering programs of the state in which the state provides matching funds for municipalities of the state or nonprofit organizations that undertake the promotion of visitor travel to and the development of visitor amenities in the state;
- (F) administering visitor information centers;
- (G) conducting research to evaluate the effectiveness of the tourism marketing council's marketing programs;
- (H) analyzing the effect on the state's visitor industry of state land and resource development projects;
- (I) organizing, administering, and evaluating demonstration projects for the promotion of the state's visitor industry and the development of new tourism destination markets; and
- (J) administering grants under AS 44.33.135.

(c) The commissioner of administration shall separately account for money that derives from the sale of advertising space, pamphlets, brochures, and other graphic and marketing materials under this section and AS 44.33.020(28) and that the division of tourism deposits in the general fund. The annual estimated balance in the account may be used by the legislature to make appropriations to the Department of Commerce and Economic Development to cover related costs of the division of tourism. (§ 4 ch 207 SLA 1975; am § 72 ch 138 SLA 1986; am § 6 ch 78 SLA 1988)

Effect of amendments. — The 1986 amendment added subsection (c).

The 1988 amendment, effective July 1, 1988, added the second sentence in subsection (a); in subsection (b), inserted "the tourism marketing council and" in paragraph (1), substituted "the state" for "Alaska" in paragraphs (1) and (2), made a minor punctuation change in paragraph (2), inserted present paragraph (3), redesignated former paragraphs (3)-(8) as present paragraphs (4) and (4)(B)-(4)(F), divided the formerly undivided language in paragraph (4) into an introductory paragraph and subparagraph (A), added "any of the following" at the end of the introductory paragraph of paragraph (4), substituted "media, to ensure greater coverage of the visitor attractions in the state" for "media to insure greater coverage of Alaska's visitor attractions" in paragraph (4)(A), "participation" for "participate" in paragraph (4)(B), and "increasing" for "increase" and "visitor" for "tourist" in paragraph (4)(C), rewrote paragraphs (4)(D)-(4)(F), which read "assist potential investors in creating new tourist facilities," "administer any program of the state in which the state provides matching funds for political subdivisions or nonprofit organizations that undertake the promotion and development of tourism," and "administer visitor information centers which participate in state funds," respectively, and added paragraphs (4)(G)-(4)(J); and, in the first sentence in subsection (c), inserted "advertising space" and substituted "marketing" for "pictorial."

Sec. 44.33.122. Establishment of Tourism Coordinating Committee. (a) The Tourism Coordinating Committee is established in the Department of Commerce and Economic Development.

(b) The committee is established to advise the division of tourism and to coordinate the activities of state agencies that affect tourism.

(c) The committee shall

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 sion of tourism
 affect tourism.

(1) provide a forum to develop interagency goals for visitor attraction and services that are consistent with the public interest and that will provide increased economic benefits to the various regions of the state;

(2) conduct analyses of problems facing development of tourism in the state and develop solutions to those problems by exploring successful models for the development of travel and recreation in other tourism-focused states and nations;

(3) develop, review, and recommend to the governor and commissioners budget requests for tourism development in the various programs of the agencies of the state; and

(4) coordinate the operating programs of state agencies to enhance tourism development efforts.

(d) The committee may hold formal or informal meetings concerned with the responsibilities assigned under this section and with other associated responsibilities. The committee may appoint subcommittees and may consider topics at meetings with less than the entire membership of the committee present. (§ 7 ch 78 SLA 1988)

Sec. 44.33.124. Membership of the Tourism Coordinating Committee. The governor shall appoint the members of the Tourism Coordinating Committee. Members may be appointed from the operational level of state agencies and may include representatives from the following:

(1) Office of the Governor (office of management and budget, international trade);

(2) Department of Commerce and Economic Development (tourism, business development);

(3) Department of Community and Regional Affairs;

(4) Department of Education (state museums);

(5) Department of Environmental Conservation;

(6) Department of Fish and Game (sport fish, habitat, fisheries rehabilitation, enhancement, and development);

(7) Department of Labor;

(8) Department of Natural Resources (parks, forestry, land and water, and historic preservation);

(9) Department of Revenue (taxation and revenue considerations);

(10) Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (airports, ferry system, highways);

(11) University of Alaska (Center for International Business, School of Management);

(12) Alaska Railroad. (§ 7 ch 78 SLA 1988)

STATE OF ALASKA

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT

3601 C STREET
P.O. BOX 107005
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510-7005
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

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.

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FEB 20 1990

Talkeetna Remote Recreation Area - An Alternative to Clearcutting

Purpose - To protect the publicly-owned lands and waters containing the wild waterways, scenic flightpaths, prime fishing and hunting grounds, wilderness recreation lands, and the remote settlements that lie North and East of Talkeetna from clearcutting, logging roads, and habitat destruction which would destroy the unique character of the Talkeetna area.

Geographical Description - The approximately 44 townships in the proposed Talkeetna Remote Recreation Area include the watersheds of Whiskers Creek, Chunilna Creek, Iron Creek, Sheep River, and the Talkeetna River. It is bound on the East by the Nelchina Public Use Area; on the North by a block of Native Corporation land at Devil's Canyon and Prarie Creek. To the West, Denali State Park forms the boundary from Gold Creek to Lane Creek and then the Chulitna River south of the Park to the confluence with the Susitna. At Talkeetna, the Talkeetna River would be the Southern boundary east to Bartlett Hills, where the line would veer south-east to enclose the Sheep River drainage. Also included are two townships in the Tokosha area.

Current Public Uses - Tens of thousands of visitors are attracted to these wild lands every year. While most are hunters, fishermen, climbers, and tourists visiting during the spring, summer, and fall months, winter use is growing with x-country skiing, dog mushing tours, and the Su Valley 300 sled dog race. Many recreational users and resident cabin dwellers enjoy the remote country throughout the year.

Talkeetna is known as the place where the road ends and wild country begins. Here, the traveler leaves their auto or camper behind for bush plane, river boat, dogsled, snowmachine, skis, or foot travel. While there are a few human footprints in the form of access trails and rustic cabins, the virtually unbroken forest up to 1,200 feet and the trackless tundra of the high country are major draws to those searching for the "real Alaska".

According to the Susitna Area Plan, the Talkeetna Mountains are one of the most heavily used big game hunting areas in the state, offering moose, Dall sheep, bear, and caribou. The watersheds included in this proposal produce the bulk of salmon and trout spawned in the upper Susitna Valley. A multi-million dollar sport and commercial fishery depends upon the high water quality and valuable rearing habitat.

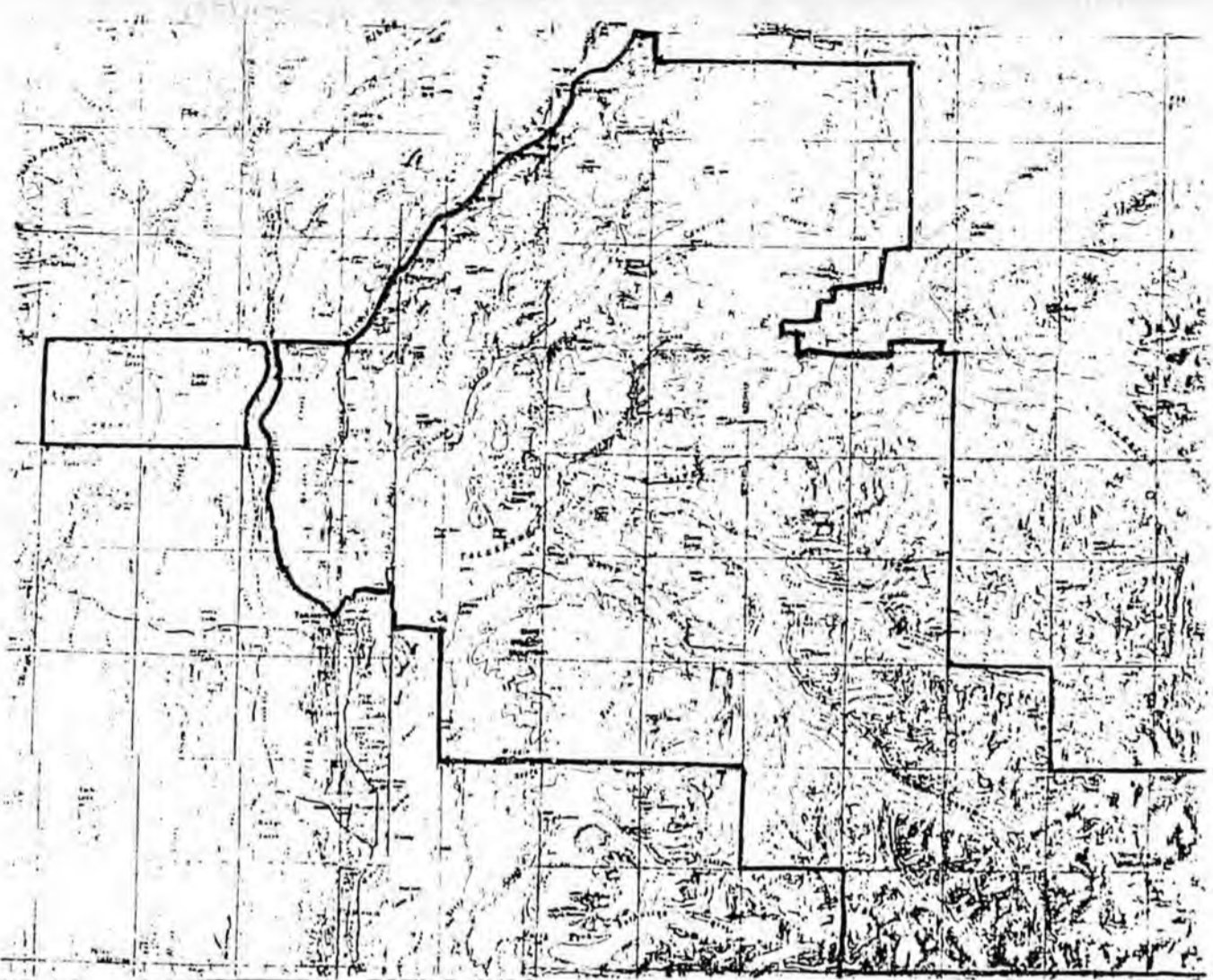
Why is Legislation Needed? - In recent years the state and borough have promoted a variety of destructive and ill-conceived projects which would damage and ultimately destroy that which has attracted both residents and tourists to the Talkeetna area. The current proposal for massive clearcutting surrounding Talkeetna is only the latest in a long line of special interest boondoggles.

Area residents are developing the proposal for a Talkeetna Remote Recreation Area to ensure protection for the remote character, fish and wildlife habitat, and wilderness recreation values of these public lands. This designation would prohibit commercial (but not personal use) logging, new road construction by the state or borough, and new land disposals. Existing private lands and existing land uses would not be affected. Over the counter offerings of past disposals will be allowed and mining would continue to be regulated under existing law.

In effect the purpose of the legislation is to direct agencies to maintain these public lands in their current state. This is necessary to support the burgeoning wilderness recreation economy and the community character which makes Talkeetna a special place to live in or visit.

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FEB 20 1990



Talkeetna Remote Recreation Area - proposed boundaries

Please contact our Senators and Representatives to ask them to introduce and support this proposal:

call:

Sen. Jay Kerttula	465-3771
Sen. Mike Szymanski	465-4978
Rep. Ron Larson	465-3727
Rep. Curt Menard	465-2679

or write:

Name
P.O.Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

If you would like more information, or to assist with this proposal, contact:

Krista Maciolek	733-2703
Roberta Sheldon	733-2414
Dennis Devore	733-1010
Diane & Brian Okonek	733-2649
Becky Long	Box 344, Talkeetna

ALASKA SURVIVAL
Box 344
Talkeetna, AK 99676



Senator Mike Szymanski
P.O. Box V
Juneau 99811



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 22, 1990

NEWS RELEASE

The Senate Community and Regional Affairs Committee, chaired by Senator Mike Szymanski, this week passed an amended version of SB 430, the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area bill. "I feel that it's necessary to strike a balance between the conservation, visitor industry and resource development interests in the Valley," said Szymanski, "and the amended version of SB 430 does just that." The C&RA committee substitute for SB 430 includes four major changes to the original legislation.

- 1) changes the title to: "An Act relating to state land management generally and within the Susitna Valley;"
- 2) amends the definition of "multiple use" to include remote recreation and roadless resource values;
- 3) directs the Department of Natural Resources to include remote recreation and roadless considerations in the update of the Susitna Area Plan, and
- 4) directs DNR to conduct an independent economic survey of tourism and recreation (both remote recreation and site-specific) within the area described by the Susitna Area Plan.

"I feel that the changes made to SB 430 are good public policy." According to Szymanski, the amendments give the Department of Natural Resources the direction and latitude it needs to deal with remote recreation and roadless designations in their area planning processes. The current definition of "multiple use" used by DNR does not include remote recreation and roadless designations.

"It's important to consider all resource values when making decisions regarding economic development," said Szymanski. "The original proposal to create a remote recreation area out of the entire Susitna Valley was too restrictive and did not accommodate resource interests such as timber and mineral development. We cannot afford to close the door on timber development in the Valley, but at the same time, we must recognize the economic potential and benefits of the tourism and recreation industries - this is what the C&RA Committee set out to accomplish with its amendments to SB 430."

SB 430 now goes to the Senate Resources Committee, chaired by Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp, and then to the Senate Finance Committee.