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SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/29/90

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 4/19/90

The Finance Committee considered

CSHB 78 (Finance)

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

and recommended:

replace with SCS CSHB 78 (FIN)
 or adopt _____ CS _____

same title
 new title
 technical title change
(HB only)

attached amendment(s)
 _____ letter of intent adopted

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to _____

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Dept/Date:

fiscal note(s) DNR 35.2 4/5/90

zero fiscal note(s) _____

appropriation-no fiscal note

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

Dept/Date:

fiscal note(s) _____

zero fiscal note(s) DF+G 3/1/90

SIGNING DO PASS:

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature] No Rec

[Signature] DO PASS

1.

2.

Co-Chairs: Signatures and Recommendations

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 4/5/90
Title: Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area
Sponsor: Rep. Larson, Rep. Menard
Requestor: Senate Finance

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

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL	35.2	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	35.2	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5

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

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

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	35.2	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	35.2	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

- The FY 91 funds are for signs (\$13.2) and a road pullout (22.0).
- The FY 92 - 96 funds are for upkeep and maintenance (5.0 per year)

Prepared by: Carol Wilson Phone: 465-2400
Division: Commissioner's Office Date: 4/5/90

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature] Date: _____
Agency: Natural Resources

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

Changes in SCS CSHB 79 (Fin)
have no fiscal impact.
This fiscal note is
appropriate. 4/19/90 mhw

Adopted

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

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

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

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

CAPITAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
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REVENUE	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS:

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

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

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

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

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

Changes in SOS CSHB 78(Fin)
have no fiscal impact.
This fiscal note is
appropriate. 4/19/90 MJ

Adopted

Original sponsor(s): REP. LARSON, Menard

IN THE HOUSE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 78 (Finance)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

A BILL

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

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

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

ARTICLE 3. RECREATIONAL MINING.

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

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

(b) The management plan, including any revisions, and regulations adopted by the commissioner shall be developed in consultation with the commissioner of fish and game and the commissioner of transportation and public facilities. The management plan and regulations

shall address, but not be limited to,

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

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

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

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

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

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

(e) The commissioner shall permit the construction and realignment of the Glenn Highway by the commissioner of transportation and public facilities within the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area as follows:

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

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

Section 29; thence on a state plane, Zone 4 bearing of North 2 degrees 09'55" West, along the West boundary of Section 29, 1481.55 feet to proposed centerline Station 692+58.19 and the True Point of Beginning; thence South 85 degrees 52'40" East, a distance of 3395.32 feet to proposed centerline Station 726+53.51; thence along a curve to the left, having a radius of 916.73 feet, through an arc of 121 degrees 37'14", a distance of 1945.93 feet to P.C.C. Station 745+99.44; thence along a compound curve to the left, having a radius of 1637.02 feet, through an arc of 30 degrees 01'50", a distance of 858.01 feet to Point of Tangent Station 754+57.45; thence North 57 degrees 31'44" West, a distance of 453.00 feet to P.C. Station 759+10.45; thence along a curve to the right, having a radius of 996.45 feet, through an arc of 144 degrees 30'28", a distance of 2513.18 feet to Point of Tangent Station 784+23.63 BACK = 741+49.55 AHEAD; thence North 86 degrees 58'44" East, a distance of 1347.13 feet to Station 754+96.68, a point on the east boundary of Section 29, said point is South 2 degrees 09'55" East, a distance of 115.88 feet from the Northeast corner of Section 29;

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

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

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

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

right of the centerline.

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

Township 20 North, Range 10 East, Seward Meridian

- (1) That portion of Caribou Creek located in
 - Section 28: W1/2
 - Section 29: E1/2
- (2) That portion of the Matanuska River located in
 - Section 32: SE1/4
 - Section 33: NE1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4

Alaska State Legislature



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CO-CHAIRMAN
(907) 485-3727

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House of Representatives

Committee on Finance

P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

MEMORANDUM

March 30, 1990

TO: Senate Finance Committee members

FROM: Representative Ronald Larson, Co-chairman
House Finance Committee

SUBJECT: HB 78, establishing a recreational mining area

HB 78, an Act establishing the Caribou Creek Recreation Area, is an attempt on my part to establish a tourist destination point. Such an area would give tourists a location where they can pan for gold or other minerals without having to research land title status or go through procedures to acquire state permits. For example, the state Division of Mining estimates they receive about 250 letters from out-of-state inquiring about opportunities and areas in Alaska available for small scale, recreational mining activities.

Caribou Creek is located at approximately mile 105 on the Glenn Highway--about 65 miles from Palmer. The Recreational Mining Area consists of the drainage of Caribou Creek located between the Glenn Highway bridge and its confluence with the Matanuska River, and up to 100 feet of the highwater mark on each side of the creek.

Please note on page 1, line 15 that all other multiple-use activities are allowed to continue. The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be responsible for the management of

Senate Finance Committee members
March 30, 1990
page 2

the land, and the Department of Fish & Game will continue to manage the fish and wildlife resources. Seasonal restrictions that may be necessary to protect fisheries habitat will be provided in a general permit to be issued by Fish & Game (page 2, line 16).

Caribou Creek is catalogued as an "anadromous stream" under AS 16.05.870. Stream surveys done last summer failed to confirm that salmon use this drainage for spawning. Surveys will continue to monitor Caribou Creek in order to determine if an anadromous classification by the Dept. of Fish & Game is necessary.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

and PLO 1613 4/1 958 (23 FR 2376)


Blm. in. title Plat.

12-2-58


AA 6189 Easement Dead RCA 25' C/L (81 Slc) 441-444) as to the following: Sec 24: S1/2 SE1/4; Sec.25: NW1/4, N1/2 NE1/4; Sec.26: N1/2; Sec. 27: N of Motanuska River; Sec 28: W1/2, NE1/4; Sec.29: S1/2; Sec.30: NW1/4, S1/2.


* Excl submerged Lds to be identified at time of survey

LEGEND

 = Pat. 50-88-0397 to State

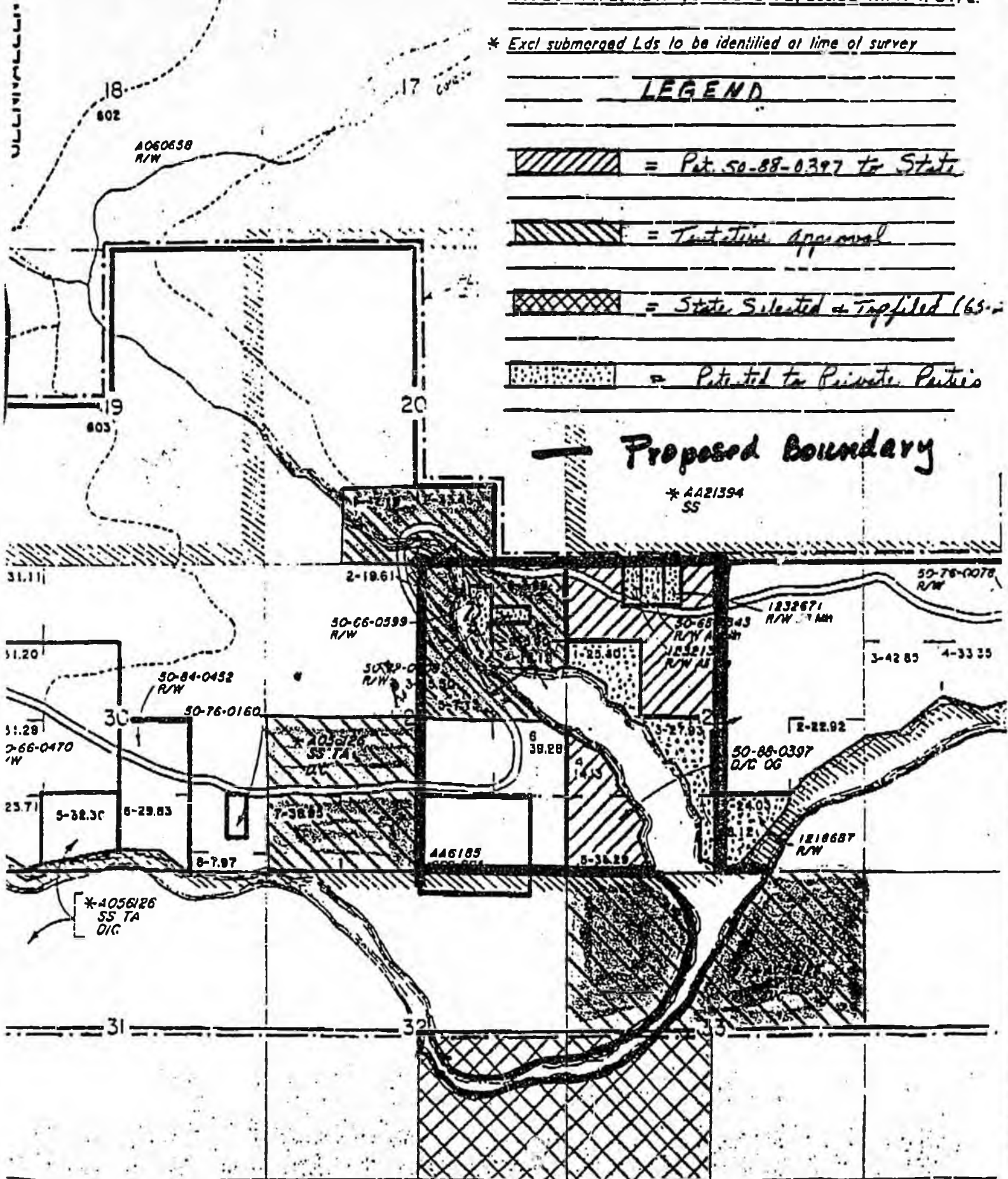
 = Tentative approval

 = State Selected & Tapped (65-)

 = Patented to Private Parties

Proposed Boundary

* 4421394
SS



Vertical text on the left margin, possibly a page number or reference code.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Resolution No. 89- 065 *Am*

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA
BOROUGH, SUPPORTING RECREATIONAL MINING IN THE CARIBOU CREEK
MINING AREA

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, encompassing approximately 23,000 square miles, is one of the largest Boroughs in the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough consists of suburban, urban and rural areas and is presently experiencing one of the highest rates of unemployment in the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has taken an aggressive approach in the promotion of economic development and tourism in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 78 proposes to establish the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area which will attract visitors and promote tourism in the state of Alaska and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area will include vacant and unappropriated State-owned land and waters within the NW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 28, the NE1/4, SW1/4 Section of 29, the SE1/4 of Section 32, and the NE1/4, NW1/4, SW1/4 of Section 33 Township 20 North, Range 10 East, Seward Meridian, Alaska.

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation may be improved with two revisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough supports the passage of House Bill 78 with the following revisions:

- 1) That the recreational mining activities receive a waiver from the standard DEC and EPA water quality standards for non-recreational mining; and
- 2) That in the event the area is never placed into operation because of the costs associated with meeting the State and Federal water quality standards then the land would fall back to its current status.

ACCEPTED AND APPROVED by the Assembly of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska, this 20 day of April, 1989.

Dorothy A. Jones
Dorothy A. Jones, Mayor

ATTEST:

Linda Dahl
Linda Dahl, Clerk

(SEAL)

JD/tc174

Stream: Caribou Creek, South Fork Matanuska River

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

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

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

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

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

Land Status: This township is presently state selected.

Recreational Mining Fun, Adventure... and GOLD!

Recreational mining is one of the more fun outdoor activities available to Alaska residents and visitors. Many areas are open to recreational miners, but there are restrictions you will need to do some research before you go out into the field. The section on Recreational Mining in the Chugach National Forest (page 2) will give you some practical information about where to pursue recreational mining today and its status as a starting point.

The best way to determine if any area is open to recreational mining is to contact the appropriate agencies. You must determine who handles the land management in the area: (1) what is the status of the land, and (2) if permits are needed from the Department of Fish and Game.

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

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

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

Lode deposits are the largest of "hard-rock" deposits. They occur when mineral veins are formed when minerals were

displaced from mineralizing solutions. One theorist suggests the source of the solution was molten rock or magma. As the magma cooled along fractures a circulating fluid, temperatures cooled and the minerals crystallized, including gold precipitated forming veins.

Most areas likely to contain valuable lode deposits have been thoroughly explored. The inexperienced prospector with little capital doesn't have much of a chance to locate new lode deposits worth discovering. Gold veins are present in lode deposits, but they are not visible. Hard-rock prospectors send samples of material from the deposit to commercial analytical labs or assay offices.

The most common type of assay is the fire assay. A weighed sample of pulverized material is melted in a mixture of flux, lead oxide, soda, borax and silica. The lead attracts the gold and the resulting lead-gold melt forms a button. The button is remelted in a cone-shaped crucible which absorbs the lead, leaving behind a bead of gold. When the gold is weighed, a gold to rock ratio is obtained or the hard-rock prospector.

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

as mineral particles—gold flakes, grains or nuggets—and caught in the placer deposits.

The gold can be panned using the basic equipment used by recreational miners in the exploration of placer deposits. Gold panning equipment is a simple method, not easy. Some say gold panning comes from correct instruction. Others say it will take hours of practice. Panning involves digging material from the stream bed and filling the pan. The contents of the pan are then washed. The material is kneaded while the pan is submerged. The lighter material washes away and the stones and pebbles are picked out by hand. Theoretically the heavy gold will concentrate at the edge of the bottom of the pan. But giving step-by-step instructions to gold panning is a giving step-by-step instructions to a child learning to tie his shoes. In both cases, the only way to learn is by hands-on experience.



Practical, and eventually you will get a right. Other prospecting methods include using sluiceways, rockers, dredges and other placer mining equipment. Much more gravel

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

The weather you find is pursuing recreational mining is more likely to be in terms

of gold prices. The price of gold is fluctuating. It is not known if it will rise or fall. But you should know that the price has been around \$350 an ounce for some time. It is not known if it will rise or fall.

ADVENTURE is published by Alaska Mining and Drilling Supply, Inc. 3222 Commercial Drive Anchorage Alaska 99501 (907) 279-6113

Editor
USA FORD
FOCUS

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Recreational Mining in the Chugach National Forest

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

Mining Impacts

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

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

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

Guidelines

1. Panning and manual-feed sluice boxes are permitted on all streams in the Forest. If you are on a legal claim, check with the claimant.
2. Use of 4-wheel drive vehicles that scooters, motorcycles, and all-terrain vehicles is limited to building roads, some trails and certain river outwash plains. (Obtain copies of "ORV Zoning" from Forest Service Offices.)
3. Hydraulicking is not permitted.
4. Earthmoving equipment such as backhoes, bulldozers, excavators or similar machines are not permitted.

5. Suction dredging is allowed but not deeper than 300 feet (91 meters) high canyons, or as noted in the publication or as indicated by the District Ranger.

Note: Before using a dredge check the Alaska Department of Fish and Game catalog of streams used by fish or marine fish spawning or rearing. A free ADF&G fish protection permit is required to dredge streams designated as important or anadromous (sea-going) fish. For additional information on permit requirements, please contact the ADF&G Habitat Division, 313 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507.

Restrictions and time constraints for mining are imposed on some streams by ADF&G. Also, Chugach National Forest District Rangers may restrict certain areas to dredging or the size of dredging equipment if it is necessary to protect other natural resources. If operating a suction dredge with a diameter greater than 4 inches (102 millimeters) you should file a Notice of Intent with the appropriate District Ranger.

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

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

8. Work only stream channels including unvegetated gravel bars.

9. Do not dig in meadows, alluvial terraces or remove archaeological, paleontological or historical objects from the Forest.

Creeks of Rivers

Tincan, Lyon, Berlin, Poles and Spokane. Sluice within 100 feet (30 meters) of Several Anchorage highways.

Several Sluice within 100 feet (30 meters) upstream from highways.

Summit Sluice within 100 feet (30 meters) of Hope Road to S 112 (89 km) of Hope Road. Sluice on road side.

State and Summit Sluice within 100 feet (30 meters) of the main highway.

Recreation Sluice within area of several Forest Service bridges for Recreation. Sluice 1/2 mile downstream from Pay Sluice mining claim.

Gravel Sluice within 100 feet (30 meters) of any area except 300 feet (91 meters) Campground.

Butcher and Tenderfoot Entrepreneurs Creeks. Sluice within area of several bridges on the Old Sluicing Highway and dredges (claims).

Cooper Sluice within 100 feet (30 meters) of Sluicing Highway and dredges (claims).

Mining Rights

As a "recreational miner" you are concerned about access, land status, and most of all—where to prospect? Your primary concern is—where is open to recreational mining?

Basically any area on the Chugach National Forest not staked by someone for mining or other purposes is open to recreational mining. But remember as a recreational miner you have a legal claim you do not have the right to prevent others from panning for gold anywhere within the Forest. You have the right to use fish ponds, rivers, trails and recreation on a mining claim on public land but you must respect if a claimant's operations and equipment. You do not have the right to pan on another's claim unless the claimant grants you this privilege.

Staking a Claim

If you desire to file a mining claim or claim to show the location of legal claims, check with the Bureau of Land Management, Public Room, 701 C Street, Box 13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513.

Where to Mine

Where to mine depends on where to search for the gold.

Private Concessions

Note: There are historical sites with unique minerals of earlier gold mining days. Open mining is permitted for a fee.

Cross Creek Mine, located near Gravel wood, under special-use permit with the Forest Service.

Muskegon Mining Museum, near Cooper Sluicing, under special-use permit with the Forest Service.

The Anchorage Times

OUTDOOR

Recreational panning pays off in fun, gold

by Mark Skok
Times Writer

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

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

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

pectors and Geologists, an Anchorage mining equipment shop.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GORDON MAYHEW

P.O. Box 39441
Phoenix, Arizona 85069
(602) 285-1627

January 27, 1990

Mines Information Office
3601 C Street
Anchorage, AK 99503

To Whom It May Concern:

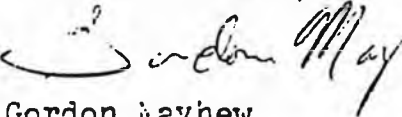
Can you please send me information about mining for precious metals in your state. Not on a super-serious level, but just with a couple of pans, etc.

I need to know the laws, so we will not be in violation and locations that are free to the public for panning for recreational purposes.

If you might have some maps available on some good locations that we can go to, please send this information also.

Thankyou for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Gordon Mayhew

gm

DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

FEB 12 1990

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
JUNEAU

RECEIVED
DIVISION OF MINES



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BILL ANALYSIS

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

SUMMARY

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

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT

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

ANALYSIS OF BILL/PROGRAM EFFECTS

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

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED

We recommend the following revisions to the language of the bill.
Page 1, line 26: "The management plan, including any revisions, and..."
Page 1, line 29: "The management plan and regulations MAY shall address, but not be limited to..."
Page 2, line 8: reference to AS 42.23.600 should be changed to AS 41.23.600.

PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR ANALYSIS.



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CC

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