

HB

78

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/13/90

FURTHER: Finance

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 3-28-90

Resources Committee considered CSHB 78 (FINANCE)

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

and recommended:

- replace with _____ CS _____
 - or adopt _____ CS _____
 - attached amendment(s)
 - _____ letter of intent adopted
- same title
 - new title
 - technical title change (HB only)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendation

individual recommendations

further referral to _____

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

- fiscal note(s) _____ Dept/Date: _____
- _____
- _____

zero fiscal note(s) _____

appropriation-no fiscal note

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

- fiscal note(s) DNR Dept/Date: _____
- _____
- _____

zero fiscal note(s) F+G

Governor's bill w/fiscal note

SIGNING DO PASS:

[Signature]

[Signature]

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature] Do Not Pass

[Signature]

Chair: Signature and Recommendation

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

Distribution (by preparer):

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

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

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

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

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

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

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	53.2	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	53.2	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

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

Approved by Co-Chairman Lyman Hoffman Date: 3/01/90
 Agency: [Signature]

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



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BILL ANALYSIS

DEPARTMENT Fish and Game	DIVISION Habitat	BILL NUMBER CS HB 78	SPONSOR Reps. Larson and Nenard
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.

Analysis of Bill/Program Effects Cont'd

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

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

Attachment Bill Analysis CS HB 78

FY 91

Personnel

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

Travel

Staff Travel to Caribou Creek				1.0
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Contractual

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

Supplies

				<u>0.1</u>
		TOTAL		18.1

FY 92-Monitoring Fish Returns and Placer Mining

Personnel

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

Staff Travel to Caribou Creek				1.0
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Contractual

Telephone and Photocopy				.2
Charter for Fish Surveys				1.0

Supplies

				<u>0.1</u>
		TOTAL		6.8

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

January 23, 1988

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

Dear Representatives Menard and Davidson:

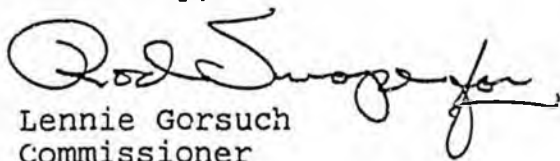
Subject: HB 78, An act establishing the Caribou Creek
Recreational Mining Area.

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

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

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

Sincerely,


Lennie Gorsuch
Commissioner

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

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.

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

BLM Mustang title

12-2-83

AA 6189 Easement Dead RCA 25 C/L (81 Slat 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 Motonaska 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

[Hatched pattern] = Pat. 50-88-0397 to State

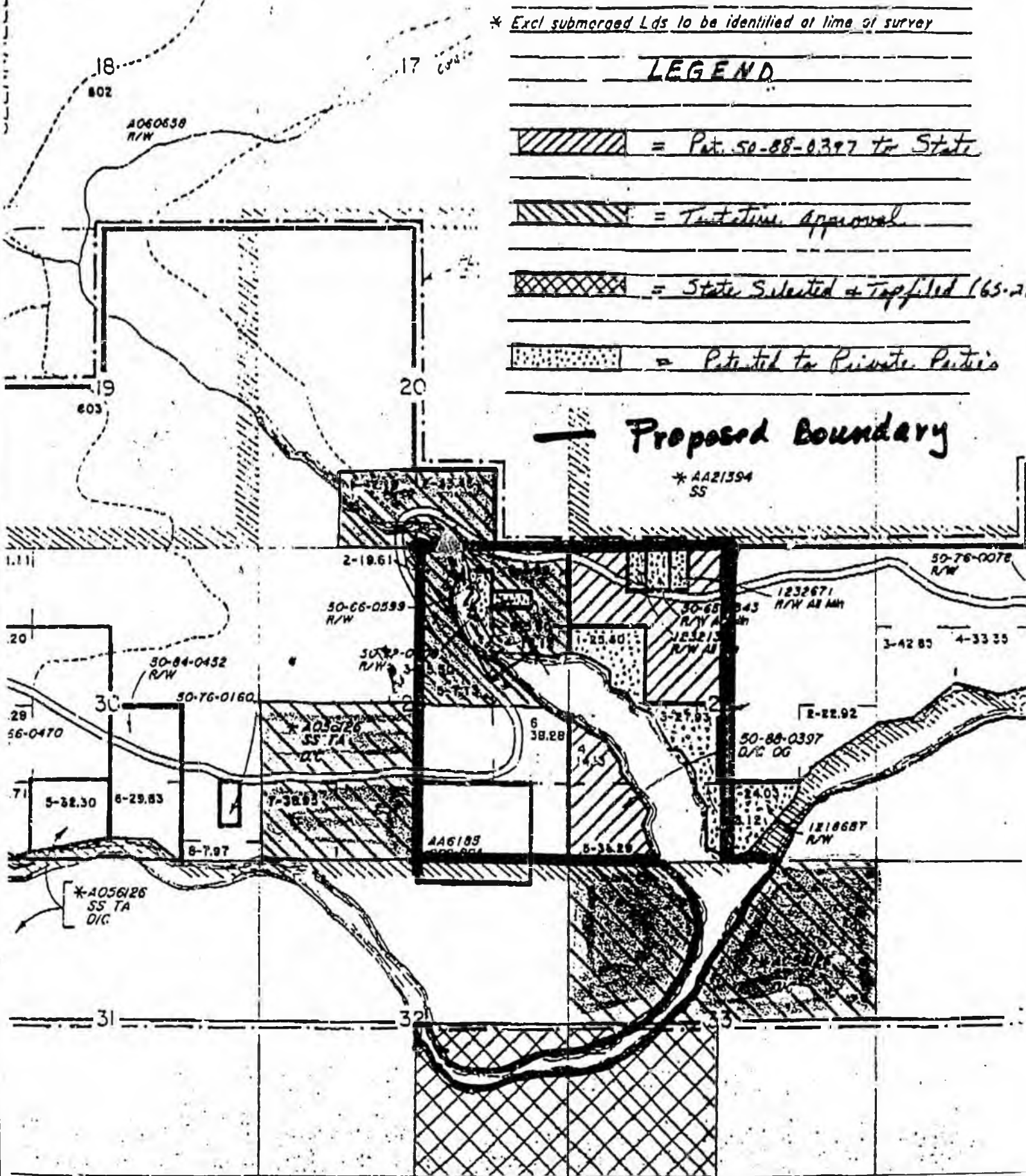
[Diagonal lines pattern] = Tentative approval

[Cross-hatched pattern] = State Selected & Topfiled 165-28

[Dotted pattern] = Patented to Private Parties

Proposed Boundary

* 4421394 SS



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 MINING

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.

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.

Alaska State Legislature



Rep. Ronald L. Larson
CO-CHAIRMAN
(907) 465-3727

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

Rep. Lyman Hoffman
CO-CHAIRMAN
(907) 465-3708

INTERIM ADDRESS
P.O. Box 888
Bethel, Alaska 99550
(907) 543-3541

House of Representatives

Committee on Finance

P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

MEMORANDUM

March 14, 1990

TO: Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee

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

SUBJECT: HB 78, an Act establishing Caribou Recreational Mining

I would like to take this opportunity to request your consideration for scheduling HB 78, an Act establishing the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area, for a hearing before the Senate Resources Committee.

HB 78 is an attempt on my part to help establish a tourist destination point where recreational mining can take place. Establishing 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 acquire state permits. The Caribou Creek area would allow for someone to recreational mine without worrying about being in violation of state laws or regulations.

If you have any questions regarding this piece of legislation, please don't hesitate to contact me. My staff person working on this bill is John Bitney, who can be reached at 3727.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

SENATE

P.O. Box V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

STATEMENT ON HOUSE BILL 78

CARIBOU CREEK RECREATIONAL MINING AREA

House Bill 78 would establish a tourist destination point in the Caribou Creek area where tourists can pan for gold or other minerals without having to research land title status or go through procedures to acquire state permits. 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.

All other multiple-use activities in the area will be allowed to continue. The Department of Natural Resources will be responsible for the management of the land and the Department of Fish and Game will continue to manage the fish and wildlife resources. Seasonal restricts that may be necessary to protect fisheries habitat will be provided in a general permit to be issued by Fish and Game.

I urge passage of House Bill 78.



Senator Jay Kerttula

The Anchorage Times

OUTDOOR

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by Mark Skok

Times Writer

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