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**FISCAL NOTE**

**STATE OF ALASKA  
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO. HB 585**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Department Affected: Natural Resources  
 Title: Create Mt. Eyak State Park BRU: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Component: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor: House State Affairs  
 Requestor: House Resources COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 

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

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE FUND SOURCE:	-					
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**FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)**

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER FUND SOURCE:						
<b>TOTAL</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of current year impact: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Prepared By: Rep. Cliff Davidson, Chairman Phone: 465-2487  
 Division: House Resources Date: May 7, 1992  
 Approved by Commissioner: Rep. Cliff Davidson, Chairman *[Signature]*  
 Agency: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: May 7, 1992



# Alaska State Legislature

## HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

P.O. Box V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-3715

### HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE LETTER OF INTENT FOR

HOUSE BILL 585, "AN ACT ESTABLISHING MT. EYAK STATE PARK."

It is the intent of HB 585 to create the Eyak State Park in name for the purpose of promoting tourism in the Cordova and Prince William Sound without obligating either the Department of Natural Resources or the Division of Parks to the creation of any new personnel positions or the implementation of any new capital projects in this regard.

This does not preclude the Department of Natural Resources or the Division of Parks from the creation of new personnel positions--or to transfer of existing ones--to the Eyak State Park in the future. And it does not preclude said department and said division in the future from developing capitol projects in the Eyak State Park. Such expansions of responsibilities of said department and said division would be the result of future negotiations between them and other third parties, such as the city of Cordova.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cliff Davidson".

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Rep. Cliff Davidson, Chair  
House Resources Committee  
April 30, 1992

# Alaska State Legislature



Chairman  
State Affairs  
Committee  
  
Legislative Council  
  
Transportation  
Committee

During Session  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
(907) 465-4859

During Interim  
P.O. Box 2463  
Valdez, Alaska 99686  
(907) 835-2111

Representative Eugene Kubina

## SPONSOR STATEMENT

**Sponsor:** Representative Gene Kubina  
**Subject:** House Bill  
**Date:** 27 April 1992

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**HB 585** is intended to create the Eyak State Park out of state lands near Cordova that have been utilized for decades as recreation lands by the local community, as well as visitors to the area. This proposed park is the site of a series of trails that were built in the '30s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Beginning at the base of Mt. Eyak and extending by two routes to the summit, the trails take visitors up to a panoramic view of Prince William Sound, the surrounding mountains, and the Copper River Delta.

It should be emphasized that the proposed Eyak State Park, located on Eyak Mountain above the community of Cordova, contains no known mineral deposits or significant tracts of harvestable timber.

Further, it is not the intent of this bill to add any additional positions to the Division of Parks. Solely by the act of creating a state park near Cordova, the community would be helped to diversify its tourism potential in the following manner:

- 1) The community would qualify for volunteers to help with the park via the Division of Parks extensive volunteer program.
- 2) Tourists often plan their itinerary around the location of state parks, making Cordova and the surrounding area additionally attractive.

— DISTRICT SIX —

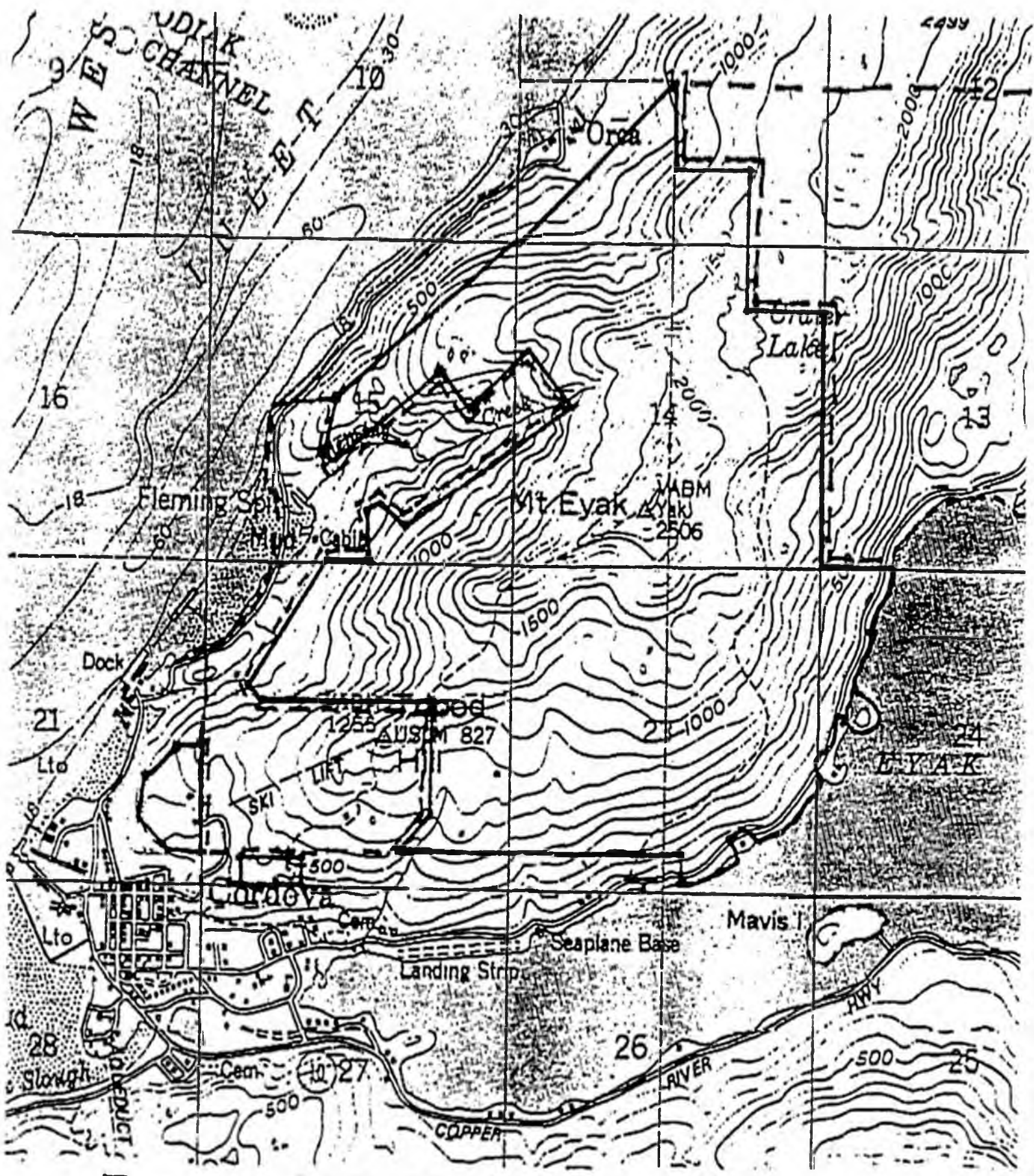
• Chenega Bay • Chitina • Cooper Landing • Cordova • Hope • Moose Pass • Seward • Tatitlek • Valdez • Whittier •



The creation of the Mt. Eyak State Park through House Bill 585 will be a simple yet effective way for the state government to help promote tourism in this region. Further, if access to Prince William Sound via Cordova and Whittier is made easier in the future, Mt. Eyak State Park would be an integral part of the comprehensive recreational planning for this part of the state.

Finally, under the proposed approach, which places an emphasis on volunteerism and community support, the state would be helping to resurrect a policy that vanished years ago when budgets were awash in petrodollars.

The state would give Cordova an opportunity for growth and development by a simple change in land status. The rest would be up to the people of the community and the region.



# Proposed Mt. Eyak State Park

Proposed Park ——— Detailed Addition

# CITY OF CORDOVA



April 22, 1992

Representative Cliff Davidson, Chairman  
House Resource Committee  
Capitol Building, Room 108  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: HB 585 - The Establishment of Mt. Eyak State Park

Dear Representative Davidson:

The Mt. Eyak area has been a traditional and historic summer recreation and winter ski area since the founding of Cordova. Scandinavian railroad workers established the Sheridan Ski Club and ski area which continues to this day. A rope tow was fabricated, trails and cabins were built and maintained, and there was a ski jump in town!

The close proximity of the mountain to town and the sweeping vistas afforded there, draw many hikers and other summer recreationalists. Sydney Laurence was so impressed, he hiked to the summit of Mt. Eyak in 1909 to paint his first landscape in Alaska.

The Civil Conservation Corps built trails as well as a cabin in the forest and meadows on the flank of Mt. Eyak that faces Eyak Lake.

The City of Cordova acquired one of the first chair lifts in America when it was replaced at Sun Valley and constructed a downhill ski area on land leased from the State.

Currently managed for the City by the Sheridan Ski Club, the area has been slowly developing expanded facilities and recreational opportunities and is a popular area for both local residents and visitors.

Now, unfortunately with the inevitable decline of oil royalties, State funds available to municipalities have begun to decline and will continue to diminish. Cordova's ability to raise revenue has likewise diminished. For two years in a row, no funds have been able to be budgeted for Cordova's City Parks Commission.

If the parcel of State land surrounding the ski area lease was to be redesignated as Mt. Eyak State Park, many things would be accomplished.

Henceforth, every map produced will show a State Park in Cordova. Many, if not most tourists plan their trips around State and National Parks, monuments, and recreation areas. A great deal of perpetual advertising and marketing will occur at no cost.

Thousands of volunteers travel at their own expense to participate in the Alaska State Parks volunteer program. Cordova's volunteer force is fishing during the summer months when needed development should seasonally occur. Access to the State Volunteer Program would allow the development and operation of facilities to provide for year-round world class tourism and recreation.

With no fiscal obligation from the State, we can prepare for and promote economic diversification through the tourism industry, which we could not otherwise accomplish without this partnership with the State.

The existing management intent of the State's Prince William Sound Area Plan is to retain these lands for public use and recreation. There are no mineral, oil or gas deposits and the lands are steep and a poor timber resource. No existing use will be restricted and potential development is allowed.

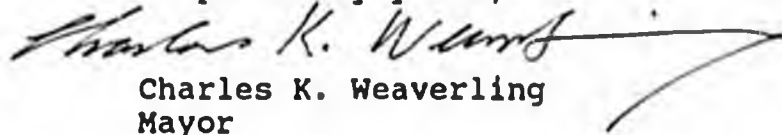
The creation of Prince William Sound as a world-class tourism and recreation designation is a stated aim of the Administration. The creation of Mt. Eyak State Park would be a step in achieving that aim and has the support of DNR, State Parks, our regions delegation, the Mayor and City Council of Cordova, the Planning Commission, Parks Commission, the Sheridan Ski Club and the Prince William Sound Tourism Coalition.

I am always pleased (if not flabbergasted as well) when I find the relatively unique situation of a proposal that has such broad support at all levels.

I sincerely hope the honorable members of the House and Senate and their appropriate committees feel the same pleasure and confidence as I, to wholeheartedly support this Bill and the establishment of Mt. Eyak State Park.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding this Bill, or provide any reference materials you may wish.

Respectfully yours,

  
Charles K. Weaverling  
Mayor

Cordova City Council  
Agenda of 4/1/92

CORDOVA CITY COUNCIL

CORDOVA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 92-15

A resolution in support of establishing a State Park in Cordova, Alaska.

WHEREAS, establishing a State Park in Cordova is an idea which has been discussed frequently over the past few years, and

WHEREAS, this idea has broad community support and has been endorsed by various civic groups, and

WHEREAS, establishing a State Park in Cordova is a priority item in the 1991 Overall Economic Development Plan and is part of the City's strategy to assist the tourism industry and diversify the local economy, and

WHEREAS, the benefits to the visitor industry associated with having a State Park here include free "marketing" for Cordova, development of a local attraction to keep visitors in town, assistance with developing campgrounds, boat ramps and other facilities, and assistance in promoting Cordova itself as a destination point for visitors, and

WHEREAS, other benefits a State Park designation would provide include increased availability of volunteer labor, funding for park projects, and eligibility for various types of grants for park projects, and

WHEREAS, a State Park is consistent with the Governor's vision for Prince William Sound as a world class recreation area, and

WHEREAS, a State Park is an integral part of the Cordova Parks Plan and would increase the recreational opportunities for all Cordova residents, and

WHEREAS, the Mt. Eyak/Crater Lake area and the State lands adjacent to and west of the Heney Range were discussed as areas having excellent potential for a State Park at a recent workshop attended by members of the Cordova City Council, the Sheridan Ski Club, and the Cordova Planning Commission.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cordova City Council finds that establishing a State Park here will enhance the quality of life for Cordova residents and help diversify the local economy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cordova City Council endorses the concept of establishing a State Park in the Mt. Eyak and Heney Range areas, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cordova City Council will work closely with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to make the park a reality beginning with negotiations for a lease extension on the Mt. Eyak Recreation Area (State ADL #57396) and securing agreements by which the ski area could be expanded in the future.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 1st DAY OF April, 1992.

  
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Charles K. Weaverling, Mayor

  
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D. Lynda Plant, City Clerk

CORDOVA PARKS COMMISSION

CORDOVA, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 92-01

A resolution in support of establishing a State Park in Cordova, Alaska.

WHEREAS, establishing a State Park in Cordova is an idea which has been discussed frequently over the past few years, and

WHEREAS, this idea has broad community support and has been endorsed by various civic groups, and

WHEREAS, establishing a State Park in Cordova is a priority item in the 1991 Overall Economic Development Plan and is part of the City's strategy to assist the tourism industry and diversify the local economy, and

WHEREAS, the benefits to the visitor industry associated with having a State Park here include free "marketing" for Cordova, development of a local attraction to keep visitors in town, assistance with developing campgrounds, boat ramps and other facilities, and assistance in promoting Cordova itself a destination point for visitors, and

WHEREAS, other benefits a State Park designation would provide include increased availability of volunteer labor, funding for park projects, and eligibility for various types of grants for park projects, and

WHEREAS, a State Park is consistent with the Governor's vision for Prince William Sound as a world class recreation area, and

WHEREAS, a State Park is an integral part of the Cordova Parks Plan and would increase the recreational opportunities for all Cordova residents, and

WHEREAS, the Mt. Eyak/Crater Lake area and the State lands adjacent to and west of the Heney Range were discussed as areas having excellent potential for a State Park at a recent workshop attended by members of the Cordova City Council, the Sheridan Ski Club, and the Cordova Planning Commission, and

WHEREAS, a State Park has been discussed at a number of previous Parks Commission meetings.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cordova Parks Commission finds that establishing a State Park here will enhance the quality of life for Cordova residents and help diversify the local economy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cordova Parks Commission endorses the concept of establishing a State Park in the Mt. Eyak and Heney Range areas, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Parks Commission strongly encourages the Cordova City Council to formally endorse this idea and to see that the necessary steps are taken to make this community goal a reality.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 25th DAY OF MARCH, 1992.

Penny Oswalt  
Penny Oswalt, Chair

W. Keith L. Bell  
Attest

March 26, 1992

Sheridan Ski Club  
P.O. Box 2446  
Cordova, Ak 99574-2446

City of Cordova  
P.O. Box 1210  
Cordova, Ak 99574-1210

To the Cordova City Council;

The Sheridan Ski Club supports the idea of a State Park in Cordova. A State Park will benefit Cordova in its plans to increase tourism and to open up the area to more people by providing and maintaining facilities.

We want to work with the City of Cordova and the State of Alaska in negotiating the boundaries of the state park as they relate to the Tripod Recreational Area on Mt. Eyak to insure that the ski area is protected.

We would like to extend the lease with the state for the Tripod Recreation Area for an additional 50 years prior to the state status change. We would also like to see language included granting an easement up the mountain for any future expansion of the ski area with a pommel lift.

We look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely;

*Penelope E. Oswald, Secretary*

Mike Anderson, *for Mike Anderson*  
President, Sheridan Ski Club

STATE OF ALASKA  
1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 585

Revision Date: 28-Apr-92 Department Affected: Natural Resources  
 Title: Mt. Eyak State Park BRU: Parks & Outdoor Recreation  
 Components: Parks Management  
 Sponsor: House State Affairs  
 Requestor: House Resources COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 452

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98
PERSONAL SERVICES	6.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
TRAVEL	3.0	3.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
CONTRACTUAL	40.0					
SUPPLIES	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
EQUIPMENT	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
LAND&STRUCTURES						
GRANTS.CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	54.0	15.0	16.0	18.0	18.0	18.0

CAPITAL	0.0	65.0	500.0	200.0	0.0	0.0
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REVENUE						
Funding Source:						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	54.0	80.0	516.0	218.0	18.0	18.0
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
Funding Source:						
TOTAL	54.0	80.0	516.0	218.0	18.0	18.0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

Estimate of Current year impact:

ANALYSIS:	(Attach a separate page if necessary)
See Attached	

Prepared by: AJ Meiners Phone: 762-2616  
 Division: Parks and Outdoor Recreation Date: 28-Apr-92

Approved by Commissioner: Harold C. Heine Date: 28-Apr-92  
 Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Distribution (by preparer) : Legislative Finance, legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

## Fiscal Note Description for HB 585

The costs in the attached fiscal note are to prepare a park management plan for Mt. Eyak State Park. The plan will be prepared under contract with two months of a park ranger II funded to supervise the contract and plan development. Actual contracting for the plan may be done by the City of Cordova.

In FY-94, site planning and construction engineering will be done for the developments recommended in the management plan. This work will be contracted. Two months of a park ranger II is funded to supervise this effort.

In FY-95, \$500.0 is proposed for facility develop. An additional \$200.0 is proposed for development in FY-96. From that year the operating budget funding for park staff is \$18.0.

Upon completion of a negotiated agreement with the City of Cordova for management of this area, the state's costs would be reduced to zero.



**PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND TOURISM COALITION  
RESOLUTION 92- 1**

A resolution in support of establishing a State Park in Cordova, Alaska.

WHEREAS, establishing a State Park in Cordova is an idea which has been discussed frequently over the past few years, and

WHEREAS, this idea had broad community support and has been endorsed by various civic groups, and

WHEREAS, establishing a State Park in Cordova is a priority item in the 1991 Overall Economic Development Plan and is part of the City's strategy to assist the tourism industry and diversify the local economy, and

WHEREAS, the benefits to the visitor industry associated with having a State Park here include free "marketing" for Cordova, development of a local attraction to keep visitors in town, assistance with developing campgrounds, boat ramps and other facilities, and assistance in promoting Cordova itself as a destination point for visitors, and

WHEREAS, other benefits a State Park designation would provide include increased availability of volunteer labor, funding for park projects, and eligibility for various types of grants for park projects, and

WHEREAS, a State Park is consistent with the Governor's vision for Prince William Sound as a world class recreation area, and

WHEREAS, a State Park is an integral part of the Cordova Parks Plan and would increase the recreational opportunities for all Cordova residents, and

WHEREAS, the Mt. Eyak/Crater Lake area and the State lands adjacent to and west of the Honey Range were discussed as areas having excellent potential for a State Park at a recent workshop attended by members of the Cordova City Council, the Sheridan Ski Club, and the Cordova Planning Commission, and

WHEREAS, the Cordova City Council found that establishing a State Park in Cordova will enhance the quality of life for Cordova residents and help diversify the local economy, and

WHEREAS, the Cordova City Council has endorsed the concept of establishing a State Park in the Mt. Eyak and Honey Range areas in Resolution 92-15,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Prince William Sound Tourism Coalition supports the establishment of a State Park in Cordova, Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 1ST DAY OF MAY, 1992.

*Marilynn Heddell*

Marilynn Heddell, Chair