

HB

58

REPRESENTATIVE CON BUNDE
CO-CHAIR HEALTH, EDUCATION
& SOCIAL SERVICES
VICE-CHAIR RULES

Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives

DURING SESSION:
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 108
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182
1 (907) 465-4843

DURING INTERIM:
716 WEST 41st AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2133
1 (907) 258-8168

SPONSOR STATEMENT
SCSCSHB 58 (STA)

“An Act establishing the Chickaloon Flats Critical Habitat Area; and providing for an effective date.”

The purpose of CSHB 58 is to assure adequate habitat for waterfowl. CSHB 58 will not create a stumbling block for future development of resources nor will this legislation inhibit access for outdoor recreational purposes. This legislation strikes a balance between the need to preserve habitat and the possible need to explore and use our natural resources in the future.

Chickaloon Flats is on the northeast side of the Kenai Peninsula, on the Turnagain Arm facing the Anchorage Coastal Refuge and Potter Flats. The area has a local nesting population of ducks and geese. The most important use of this area is as a feeding and resting area for migrating ducks, geese and shore birds. Up to 25,000 birds a day use the mud flats and tidal marsh. For example, the area is often used when Portage Pass is closed due to bad weather. The waterfowl that normally transit the pass have to have a place to rest and feed. Chickaloon Flats is the principal place they use on Turnagain Arm.

Alaska has the most comprehensive waterfowl refuge and critical habitat system of any state in the nation. It is noteworthy that our critical habitat and waterfowl refuge system both protect our state's fragile wildlife habitat areas and allow for the exploration and use of our natural resources. HB 58 seeks to continue the balance between natural resource use and habitat protection.

Chickaloon Flats will be an important addition to our critical habitat system. I urge your positive consideration of this legislation.



ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL

4506 Robble Rd.
JUNEAU, AK. 99801
(907) 463-3830

Mar. 22, 1996

Senator Loren Leman, Chair
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Ak. 99801

Dear Senator Leman:

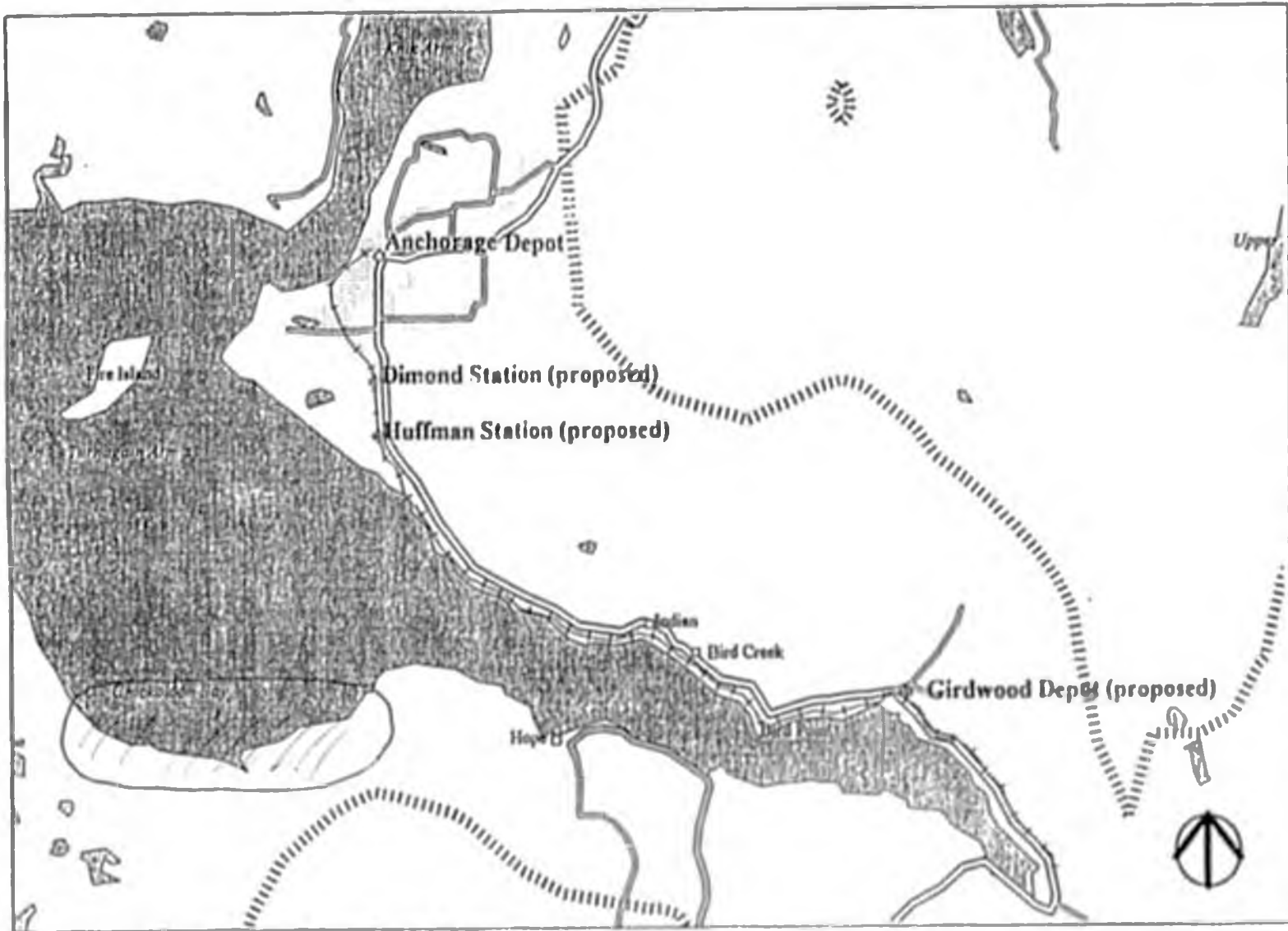
The Alaska Outdoor Council supports HB 58, "Chickaloon Flats Critical Habitat Area" with one caveat. We would like the current bill amended so as to give a better level of protection to traditional access. We suggest amending the bill itself, or the purposes section AS 16.20.500 by inserting appropriate language creating reasonable parameters under which the Commissioner of Fish and Game would be constrained whenever closing any traditional access to a critical habitat area.

Sincerely,

Eddie Grasser
Governmental Affairs

cc: Rep. Con Bunde

Figure 1. Area Map
Girdwood Rail Service Feasibility



PROPOSED CHICKALOON FLATS
CRITICAL HABITAT AREA
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LOCATION: The proposed Chickaloon Flats Critical Habitat Area is located on the south side of Turnagain Arm at the head of Cook Inlet and is bisected by the Chickaloon River.

AREA DESCRIPTION: The proposed Chickaloon Flats Critical Habitat Area encompasses a large expanse of state-owned tidelands lying within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Adjacent uplands are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES: Chickaloon Flats is one of a handful of key waterfowl and shorebird habitats in Cook Inlet that provide vital staging habitat for arctic nesting birds on their way to and from nesting grounds in the north. Created by the dramatic tidal action of Turnagain Arm, the mudflats and tidal marsh at the mouth of the Chickaloon River are critical waterfowl and shorebird feeding and resting habitat during spring and fall migration. In the fall, waterfowl waiting out bad weather replenish energy reserves on Chickaloon Flats before flying south through Turnagain Pass. Up to 25,000 birds per day, including up to 5,000 lesser Canada geese at a time, use the mudflats and tidal marsh for resting and feeding during fall migration. Besides lesser Canada geese, fall migrants include: tundra and trumpeter swans; white-fronted geese; sandhill cranes; mallards; pintails; green-winged teal; shovelers; gadwalls; and American wigeon. Additional waterfowl species found during ice-free months include: red-breasted mergansers, canvasbacks, common merganser, greater scaup, and common goldeneye. Snow geese and swans are most numerous on the flats during spring migration.

Red phalaropes, glaucous-winged gulls, mew gulls, Bonaparte's gulls, arctic terns, common snipe, yellowlegs, dowitchers, semipalmated plovers, sandpipers, whimbrels, and godwits also feed on the productive estuarine tideflats.

PUBLIC USE AND ACCESS: Chickaloon Flats has long been recognized as an important waterfowl hunting area in Cook Inlet. Fall waterfowl hunters access Chickaloon Flats by floatplane, landing on river channels and larger ponds, or arrive by boat from the nearby community of Hope. Four-wheel drive vehicles are also used to access the area along unmaintained pipeline access roads through the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Mallards, pintails, wigeon, and green-winged teal are most frequently harvested species.

REFERENCES:

Quimby, Roland L. 1972 Waterbird Habitat and Use of Chickaloon Flats. pp 86.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1985 Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan. pp 195.

Ketchum



AIR SERVICE, INC.

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On the North Shore of Lake Hood

FAX 907-243-8311

Con Bunde
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

February 2, 1995

Dear Representative Bunde,

Ketchum Air Service, Inc. supports HB 58 and the establishment of the Chickaloon Critical Habitat Area. We believe that such areas are beneficial to migratory waterfowl and are a valuable resource for all Alaskans.

Best regards,

Craig L. Ketchum
President



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Alaska Chapter

Waterfowl U.S.A.

3105A Lakashore Drive • Suite 105 • Anchorage, Alaska 99517
(907) 243-3235

February 7, 1995

FAX TO 465-2418

Representative Mark Hanley
State Capital
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: HB 58 Chickaloon Flats
Critical Habitat Bill

Dear Representative Hanley:

Please support HB 58, the Chickaloon Flats Critical Habitat bill. This area, which is on Turnagain Arm, is on the northeast side of the Kenai Peninnula. The area is especially valuable to ducks, geese and shorebirds that use the area to rest and feed when on migration. There is also local breeding populations of ducks, geese and shorebirds. The local birds tend to be more numerous at Pincer Creek and the Chickaloon River.

This bill will also protect the salmon runs that ascend the Chickaloon River. This is important to commercial, sport and personal use fishermen.

The Chickaloon Flats will remain open for oil and gas production and exploration. Further it will remain open for mineral entry and other traditional uses such as hunting, fishing and camping. We would appreciate your support on this bill.

Sincerely,


C. H. Rosenthal
Chairman-Alaska Chapter
Waterfowl U.S.A.

"Dedicated to increasing our waterfowl resource."

FISCAL NOTE

No. 2

Bill Version: SCS CS HB 58 (STA)

(S) Publish Date: 2/23/96

STATE OF ALASKA
1996 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: 1/20/96 Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 Title: Chickaloon Flats Critical Habitat Area BRU: Habitat and Restoration
 Component: Stream and Refuge Permits
 Sponsor: Rep. Con Bunde
 Requester: Senate State Affairs COMPONENT SERIAL NO. 2099

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02
PERSONAL SERVICES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TRAVEL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CONTRACTUAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SUPPLIES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LAND & STRUCTURES	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
GRANTS, CLAIMS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MISCELLANEOUS	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0	0	0	0	0	0
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other						
TOTAL						

Estimate of any current year (FYE) cost: \$ 0

POSITIONS

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

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Garen Bruce Phone: 485-6143
 Division: Commissioner's Office Date: 1/20/96
 Approved by Commissioner: Frank Rue Date: 1/20/96
 Agency: Fish and Game

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FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
994 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Number 1
 Bill Version: CSHB 58(RES)
 (H) Publish Date: 2/3/95

Revision Date: _____
 Title: Chickaloon Flats Critical Habitat Area
 Sponsor: Representative Bunde
 Requestor: House Oil and Gas

Dept. Affected: Fish and Game
 BRU: Habitat and Restoration
 Component: Habitat
 COMPONENT SERIAL NO. _____

Expenditures/Revenues	(Thousands of Dollars)					
	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
OPERATING EXPENDITURES						
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHANGE IN REVENUES	0	0	0	0	0	0

FUND SOURCE	(Thousands of Dollars)					
	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
002 Federal Receipts						
003 GF Match						
004 GF						
005 GF/Program Receipts						
006 GF/MHTIA						
Other						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of any current year (FY 94) cost: \$ 0

POSITIONS	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00
FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared By: Frank Rus Phone: 465-3065
 Revision: Habitat and Restoration Date: _____
 Approved by Commissioner: [Signature]
 Copy: Alaska Department of Fish and Game Date: _____

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