

HB

165

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2002 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: CSHB165(RES)
 () Publish Date: _____
 Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
 BRU: Minerals, Land & Water Dev.
 Component: Title Defense & Acquis.
 Component Number: 2459

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): 05/01/02
 Title: Kenai River Special Management Area
 Sponsor: Reps. LANCASTER, Scalzi
 Requester: (S) STA

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

FUND SOURCE	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2002) cost: None
 Check this box if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY2003 budget proposal: []

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill transfers management of the listed parcels from Division of Mining, Land & Water to Division of Parks as additions to the Kenai River Special Management Area. These additions were envisioned in both the 1997 Revised Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan, adopted by DNR in 1997, and the Kenai Area Plan adopted by DNR last year. There is no fiscal impact on this division.

Prepared by: Bob Loeffler Phone 269-8600
 Division: Mining, Land and Water Date/Time 1-May-02
 Approved by: Pat Pourchot Date 1-May-02
 Agency: Natural Resources

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Representative Ken Lancaster District 8

Sponsor Statement
For

HOUSE BILL 165

"An Act relating to the Kenai River Special Management Area;"

The Kenai River Special Management Area (KRSMA), under direction from the Alaska Legislature (AS 41.2.1500), is managed as a unit of the Alaska State Park system by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Department of Natural Resources. To provide the protection and management called for in the management plan revision, 7,938 acres of general state lands, 11 upper Kenai River or Kenai lake tributaries, and the waters of Upper and Lower Trail Lakes must be legislatively added to the boundary of KRSMA. This includes almost all the public lands and waters that contribute to sustaining the Kenai River's important fish, wildlife, and recreational resources. The level and consistency of management to adequately protect the valuable resources of these lands and waters is currently not possible without KRSMA designation. Existing park staff assigned to KRSMA is adequate to cover additional management responsibilities. No new facilities are planned for the proposed additional lands.

The largest blocks of proposed lands are on the south side of Kenai Lake along Snug Harbor Road and up to Cooper Lake, and around much of Upper and Lower Trail lakes, and Trail River in the Moose Pass area. Of key importance are the numerous tributary streams draining into the upper Kenai River and Kenai Lake. These are important contributors to the watershed's fishery and water resources. A 200-foot corridor has been retained along each side of most of the tributaries and is proposed for KRSMA addition, along with each tributary. The mineral closing order for the KRSMA does not include those streams north of Cooper Creek.

Downstream from Skilak Lake there are a few limited additions proposed, primarily lands acquired as habitat and recreation lands under the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill settlement funding, or isolated tracts of state land overlooked during the 1984 KRSMA legislation.

This bill will transfer State lands to the Kenai River Comprehensive Management Area.

E-Mail: Representative_Ken_Lancaster@legis.state.ak.us

Cooper Landing • Bear Creek • Funny River • Hope • Moose Pass • Ridgeway • Seward • Soldotna • Sterling
Listening to you – Getting things done.

Subject: House press releases 04102001: HB 156, HB 111, HB 34, HB 156

Date: Tue, 10 Apr 2001 19:20:40 -0800

From: Dan Saddler <Dan_Saddler@legis.state.ak.us>

Organization: House Majority

To: media <lsncdrs+media@legis.state.ak.us>,

reps <lsncdrs+housemajlegs@legis.state.ak.us>,

people <lsncdrs+people@legis.state.ak.us>, staff <lsncdrs+hmajstaff@legis.state.ak.us>

File

Alaska State Legislature
House of Representatives
Representative Ken Lancaster

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
(907) 465-2693 Phone
(907) 465-3835 Fax

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 10, 2001

CONTACT: Rep. Ken Lancaster, (907) 465-2693

House Passes Kenai River Area Expansion HB 165 Would Help State Better Manage Popular Watershed

(JUNEAU) – The House today passed legislation that would help the state better manage the Kenai River watershed to protect not only environmental quality, but also the region's recreational and commercial industries that depend on a healthy river system.

Rep. Ken Lancaster (R-Soldotna) sponsored House Bill 165, which would expand the Kenai River Special Management Area (KRSMA) to include an additional 7,938 acres of land and water.

"The health of the entire Kenai River system, including its many communities, depends upon sustaining adequate water quality and healthy wildlife habitat throughout the watershed basin," he said. "Now that the federal government has conveyed this land to the state, the Legislature needs to make this designation to assure good management practices and to protect this key element of the Kenai Peninsula's natural resources."

The Legislature created the KRSMA as a unit of the state parks system in 1984, and during public testimony on revisions of the area's comprehensive management plan, it became clear the state could do a better job of managing the area if it included the entire watershed, Lancaster said.

The bill would expand the KRSMA to encompass almost all of the public lands and waters that contribute to sustaining the river's fish and wildlife. It includes 200 feet of riverbank along each side of 11 upper Kenai River or Kenai lake tributaries, and the waters of the Upper and Lower Trail Lakes.

A healthy Kenai River, and access to it, is at the heart of the Kenai Peninsula's fishing, boating, camping and sightseeing businesses, and the improved management afforded by expansion of the management area should help protect and enhance the local economy, Lancaster said.

HB 165 moves next to the Senate for consideration.

New Proposed Land Additions For the Kenai River Special Management Area

Background

During public meetings to revise the Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan and subsequent review of DNR's Kenai Area Plan, comments clearly suggested that the State should manage the Kenai River as a watershed system. The health of the entire Kenai River system, including its many communities, depends upon sustaining adequate water quality and quantity, and healthy riparian fish and wildlife habitat throughout the watershed's basin. The region's economy depends on the \$37 million in direct spending by non-locals visiting the Kenai River. River guides, RV Park owners, motels, B&B and restaurant operators, car and boat rental dealers, and many other local Kenai Peninsula businesses depend upon a healthy Kenai River for economic sustainability.

Proposal

The Kenai River Special Management Area (KRSMA), under the direction from the Alaska Legislature (AS 41.21.500), is managed as a unit of the Alaska State Park system by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. To provide the protection and management called for in the management plan revision, 7938 acres of general state lands, 11 upper Kenai River or Kenai Lake tributaries, and the waters of Upper and Lower Trail Lakes are proposed to be legislatively added to the boundary of KRSMA. This includes almost all of the public lands and waters that contribute to sustaining the Kenai River's important fish, wildlife and recreational resources. The level and consistency of management to adequately protect the valuable resources of these lands and waters is currently not possible without KRSMA designation. Existing park staff assigned to KRSMA is adequate to cover additional management responsibilities.

Where are these lands?

The largest blocks of proposed lands are on the south side of Kenai Lake along Snug Harbor Road and up to Cooper Lake, and around much of Upper and Lower Trail Lakes, and Trail River. Of key importance are numerous tributary streams draining into the upper Kenai River and Kenai Lake. These are important contributors to the watershed's fishery and water resources. A 200-foot corridor has been retained along each side of most of the tributaries and is proposed for KRSMA addition, along with each tributary.

Why now?

During the creation of the KRSMA in 1984, the State had not yet received title from the federal government to lands surrounding Upper and Lower Trail Lakes, Trail River, and adjacent lands around the upper Kenai River and Kenai Lake. The original Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan directed the State to designate these lands for the KRSMA once they became available. Since that time, these lands have been conveyed to the State. The recent plan revision re-emphasizes the intent that these important habitat and recreation lands and waters should be included in the boundaries of the Special Management Area.

Future Management: Facility development for most of the new land additions would not be consistent with KRSMA's intent: to preserve and protect the important fish and wildlife resources and habitat of the river and adjacent area. However, the KRSMA enabling legislation has directed Parks to manage and to provide for quality recreation. Some recreational development, primarily improved access, is appropriate, but the exact sites have not been selected. Recreational demands and user conflicts already occur on several access sites within the proposed additions. Examples of such areas include the Upper Trail Lake boat launch (also known as the "Ball Diamond"), and the Kenai Lake "Snail-a-thon Beach." Conceptually, the Division could enter into cooperative management agreements with the Cooper Landing and Moose Pass communities to care for these popular sites with minimal cost to the State. Basic sanitary facilities are greatly needed at these sites along with a clear management presence to deter negative behavior by some visitors. Without the lands being legislatively added to KRSMA, no solutions can be pursued to solve some of the most immediate problems at specific sites.

Introduced by:	Navarre
Date:	02/02/99
Action:	Adopted
Vote:	7 Yes, 2 No

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

RESOLUTION 99-013

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
INCLUDE ADDITIONAL STATE LAND INTO THE
KENAI RIVER SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA**

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature established the Kenai River Special Management Area in 1984 to preserve and protect important fish and wildlife habitat and resources and to provide for recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with the Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board developed the 1986 Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, in December 1997 a revised Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan was adopted by the Commissioner of Natural Resources based on recommendations from the Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the revised plan has recommended the additional State-owned lands and tributaries adjacent to the Kenai River be included in the boundary of the Kenai River Special Management Area; and

WHEREAS, Goal 3.9 of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan is to provide quality outdoor recreational areas and opportunities for Borough residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Goal 4.3 of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Coastal Management Program recommends public lands be retained for public open space or recreation areas; and

WHEREAS, the addition of these State lands and tributaries meets the goals and objectives of these Borough plans;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. The Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly supports the addition of State land adjacent to the

Kenai River and the addition of Kenai River tributaries into the boundaries of the Kenai River Special Management Area.

SECTION 2. The Alaska State Legislature is urged to introduce legislation to amend Alaska Statute 41.21.500 and to expand the boundaries of the Kenai River Special Management Area to include the 9,681 acres identified in the 1997 Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan.

SECTION 3. That copies of this resolution shall be provided to The Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor, State of Alaska; the Honorable John Shively, Commissioner of Alaska Department of Natural Resources; the Honorable Brian Porter, Speaker of the House, Alaska House of Representatives; the Honorable Drue Pearce, Senate President, Alaska State Senate; Representative Gary Davis, Representative Hal Smalley, Representative Scott Ogan, Representative Jerry Sanders, Senator John Torgerson, and Senator Jerry Ward.

SECTION 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 2ND DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1999.

QUARTZ CREEK HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 315, Cooper Landing, AK 99572
907-595-2129

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HB 165
March 31, 2001

Whereas, HB 165 will protect important land parcels adjacent to Quartz Creek Homeowners' Association (QCHA) properties, by including these parcels in the Kenai River Special Management Area, and

Whereas, the members of the QCHA have been stewards of the subject land parcels beginning as early as 1947, and following establishment of the QCHA in 1958, and

Whereas, the members of the QCHA now extend into the 4th generation, and have individually and collectively worked with the residents of Cooper Landing; and local, state, and federal agencies to plan for the future of the area; and

Whereas, the members of the QCHA understand that the natural setting and habitat of the alpine area around QCHA properties and Cooper Landing is very fragile and cannot be randomly developed without initiating undesirable and irreversible changes, which will greatly reduce property values and other personal values related to the natural setting, and

Whereas, inclusion of the important land parcels listed in HB 165, as parkland within the Kenai River Special Management Area will prevent loss of property values and other personal values related to the natural setting.

Therefore, the Quartz Creek Homeowners' Association strongly supports passage of HB 165.

FOCL

Friends of Cooper Landing

Post Office Box 815
Cooper Landing, Alaska 99572

**FRIENDS OF COOPER LANDING
RESOLUTION 2001-01
REGARDING HB 165
March 30, 2001**

Whereas, HB 165 seeks to add lands adjacent to critical waters in the Cooper Landing area to the Kenai River Special Management Area, and

Whereas, the residents of Cooper Landing have participated in years of planning efforts that produced the Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan, the Kenai Area Plan, and the Cooper Landing Land Use Plan, and

Whereas, the residents of Cooper Landing recognize the importance of preserving habitat, preventing water pollution, and retaining public recreational access to these waters and the Kenai Lake shore, and

Whereas, additional development of the Kenai Lake shore will destroy habitat, introduce water pollution, and restrict public access, and

Whereas, the health of Kenai River and all of its tributaries is a critical factor in maintaining robust commercial and sport salmon fisheries, and trout fisheries; and traditional incomes on the Kenai Peninsula, and

Whereas, the economy of Cooper Landing is totally based on tourism and outdoor activities, which are dependent upon retaining the natural waters, habitat, and viewshed of the area, and

Whereas, addition of the land parcels described in HB 165 to the Kenai River Special Management Area will prevent negative impacts, which is critical to both the present economy and the future vitality of Cooper Landing; and is supported by a majority of Cooper Landing residents.

Therefore, the Friends of Cooper Landing strongly support passage of HB 165 and gratefully thank Peninsula legislators for its introduction.

Friends of Cooper Landing, P.O. Box 815, Cooper Landing, Alaska 99752
Bob Baldwin, President, 907-595-2129; 250-3913
<cooperlanding@alaska.com>

-- Our focal point is Cooper Landing --

3-26-01

Representative Ken Lancaster,
A quick note (since I can't
take part in today's teleconference)
to support land additions
to KRSMA. I'm especially
concerned with protecting
Kenai Lake, Kenai River, &
tributaries of both. Our Snail-
a-Thou Beach site is in Unit 390 -
a site very important to Cooper
Landing. Helen Rhode Memorial
Park is in Unit 391 (can't recall
subsection ^{letter} number) and is also
an important community
maintained and supported
KRSMA property - our welcome
to all passing through on the
Sterling Highway.

Sincerely,

Monafainter

POB 711
Cooper Landing, AK 99572
(907) 595-1248
painter@arctic.net



COOPER LANDING COMMUNITY CLUB, INC.
Library, Park, Cemetery, Ambulance Squad, Dall Homemakers, Gun Club
P.O. Box 508 : Cooper Landing, AK 99572

February 1, 1999

Chris Degernes, Kenai Area Superintendent
Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
P.O. Box 1247
Soldotna, AK 99669

Dear Chris:

The Cooper Landing Community Club voted to endorse the accompanying Resolution in Support of Expanding the Kenai River Special Management Area during our last meeting on Jan. 28, 1999. Sixteen members were present; there was one dissenting vote. Notice of this possible action appeared on agendas posted the week before at the post office, library, and at the Shrew's Nest. Agendas were passed out at the Cooper Landing Advisory Planning Commission meeting on Jan. 21. The agenda item read: " 10 b. State Parks Chris Degernes, Jim Richardson, David Rhode: Consider endorsing addition of State lands to KRSMA as outlined in KRSMA plan available at the library and previously endorsed by CLAPC."

As you know, Jim H. Richardson and David Rhode made the presentation aided by maps of the lands in question. Several people entered into the discussion. One of the concerns was that the Dept. of Transportation lot adjacent to the old Community Hall site near Mile 49 (for which the Community Club holds patent) would be put into KRSMA. Several members of the community have been wanting to have that piece added to the old Hall site which is to become a museum site. It was explained that while this is also state land, it is managed by DOT and so is not a part of KRSMA lands.

Another concern expressed was that this was taking land away from ownership by the public. It was explained that these lands are already DNR lands and they are not borough selectable lands nor state lands that would be earmarked for settlement.

Hope you are feeling well now---we missed your participation!

Sincerely,

Mona Painter, president

painter@arctic.net

**A Resolution in Support of Expanding
the
Kenai River Special Management Area**

WHEREAS, the Kenai River Special Management Area (KRSMA) was established in 1984 to preserve and protect the important fish and wildlife habitat and resources of the Kenai River watershed and to provide for recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, certain state owned lands adjacent to the Kenai River were combined with the waters of Kenai River, Kenai Lake and Skilak Lake to form the KRSMA; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan was revised in December, 1997 and recommended the addition of a number of new state owned parcels and tributaries to the KRSMA; and

WHEREAS, these land parcels adjacent to Kenai Lake, Cooper Lake, Upper and Lower Trail Lakes, plus a number of Kenai Lake tributaries, and the waters of Upper and Lower Trail Lakes and Trail River all combine to provide additional protection of fish and wildlife resources and habitat, as well as provide an opportunity manage recreational activities in a larger area of the Kenai River watershed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY *the Cooper Landing Community Club:*

We hereby urge the Alaska Legislature to expand the Kenai River Special Management Area by adding the lands and waters identified in the 1997 Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan. Such lands and waters are to be managed consistently with the mandate within Alaska Statutes Section 41.21.500.

Approved:

Monal Painter, president

Jan. 28, 1999
Date



Printed On Recycled Paper

March 30, 2001

TO: Representative Lancaster
FAX: 907-465-3835

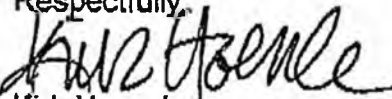
RE: Kenai River Special Management Area

Dear Representative Lancaster,

As a tour operator doing business on the Kenai River, we fully support the expansion of the Kenai River Special Management Area.

Our main base of summer operations is in Cooper Landing. We provide rafting trips on the upper Kenai and through the Kenai River Canyon. We also offer day trip and multi day fishing packages along the upper and lower Kenai. We recognize that our guests appreciate the fine quality of this river environment. It is imperative that the fish habitat and wildlife resources be protected. The riparian ecosystem must remain intact in order to provide quality recreational opportunities – especially for those who are willing to spend money to experience a river with wild attributes.

The Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan recommended the addition of new state owned parcels and tributaries to the KRSMA. By doing so, the intent of providing additional fish and wildlife resource protection will be accomplished. Quality recreational opportunities will simultaneously be expanded. This is good for business and good for the environment.

Respectfully,

Kirk Hoessle
President

Cc: Representative Drew Scalzi
Senator John Torgerson




KENAI PENINSULA
Learning Center

At the Scenic Trail Lake Lodge

Date: 4/1/00

To: Rep. Ken Lancaster (fax 907-465-3835)
Rep. Drew Scalzi (fax 907-465-3472)
Sen. John Torgerson (fax 907-465-4779)
Dir. Jim Stratton (fax 269-8907)

From: Justin Ripley 

Re: Support for KRSMA Additions

As the owners of the Trail Lake Lodge located in scenic Moose Pass, we recognize the need to protect the area's watershed resources and corresponding recreational opportunities. We therefore support the 1997 Management Plan additions to KRSMA to the extent that they accomplish such protection.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions regarding our operations in Moose Pass, please do not hesitate to call me at 907-245-0900.

P.O. BOX 221011
ANCHORAGE, AK 99522

(907) 245-0200
(907) 245-0300 FAX

Justin@2alaska.net
www.2alaska.net

STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

COOPER LANDING FISH AND GAME ADVISORY COMMITTEE

P.O. BOX 721
COOPER LANDING, AK 99572
PHONE: (907) 595-1540
FAX: (907) 595-1540

April 6, 2001

Honorable Ken Lancaster
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Lancaster,

At its scheduled and advertised meeting of April 3, 2001, the Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory Committee took public comment, discussed and voted on agenda item HB 165, KRSMA additions. Our recorded vote was 6 members in support of HB 165 and 2 members opposed to HB 165.

Those supporting HB 165 felt these land and water additions support public future access and recreational opportunity, the sustainability of future fish and wildlife resources, and the protection of fish and wildlife habitat. Those opposed felt that this legislation was not politically viable and that future public access, use and development of these lands and waters could be needlessly protected and restricted by adding these lands and waters to KRSMA.

We hope that our comments both pro and con are useful during the debate on HB 165. If we can be of further assistance on this issue, please contact Bill Stockwell at 595-1540.

Sincerely,



Bill Stockwell, Chair

cc: Senator John Torgerson
Representative Drew Scalzi
Ted Wellman, KRSMA Advisory Board President
ADF&G Board Support Section

APR 4 - 2001



ALASKA FLYFISHERS



Winners of the 1994 McKenzie Cup

March 31, 2001

Representative Lancaster
State Capitol, Room 421
Juneau Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Lancaster:

I am writing you on behalf of the Alaska Fly Fishers (AFF) regarding an issue which we feel is important to a large number of Alaskans. That issue is the habitat and resources related to the Kenai River and Russian River and their tributaries. According to a study published by UAA/ISER at the request of ANF & G, the Kenai and Russian Rivers were the most popular fishing sites in the State of Alaska, with 14% of the total fishing trips in the State being to this destination. Of the total households in the Anchorage and Kenai areas 75,163 households reported they had fished during the three years previous to the study being conducted. In 1993 approximately 540 million dollars were spent on sports fishing in Alaska and I'm confident that number has increased significantly by now.

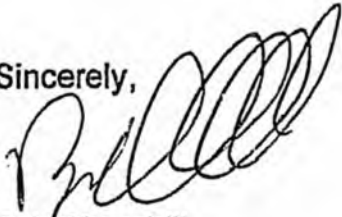
AFF is a nonprofit organization that has approximately 500 members. The majority of our members are located in Southcentral Alaska, including the Kenai Peninsula. When AFF was formed in 1973 one of our primary objectives was to protect and enhance the fisheries resources in Alaska. It is not our intent to "lock up lands", but to make sure the lands are available for use by the broadest number of people consistent with responsible use of the habitat. Examples of these types of actions directly related to the Kenai Peninsula, include our members are active members of Fish & Game Advisory Committees, sit on task forces related to habitat and resource issues on the Kenai River, and in 1992 initiated a Kenai River Cleanup which takes place each fall.

It is our understanding that the legislature is considering areas on the Kenai Peninsula for inclusion in the State of Alaska Park through HB 165. It is also our understanding this effort is made to insure these lands are put into uses consistent with the Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan adopted in December of 1997. We have reviewed the text of HB 165, discussed these issues with the Chair of the Cooper Landing Fish & Game Advisory Committee and one of the members of the Kenai River Board. We encourage the legislature to consider the importance of the habitat and resources of this area prior to taking any action or failing to take action regarding this area.

We are very concerned about insuring the use these lands are consistent with the enhancement of the habitat and resources of the rivers and drainage's in this area (Trail Lakes, Kenai River, etc.). The Kenai River and it's tributaries are valuable and irreplaceable that if lost would have an extremely negative impact on Alaska and many Alaskans. This is clearly supported by the data contained in, "Economics of Sport Fishing In Alaska" published by the Institute of Social and Economic Research of UAA referenced earlier.

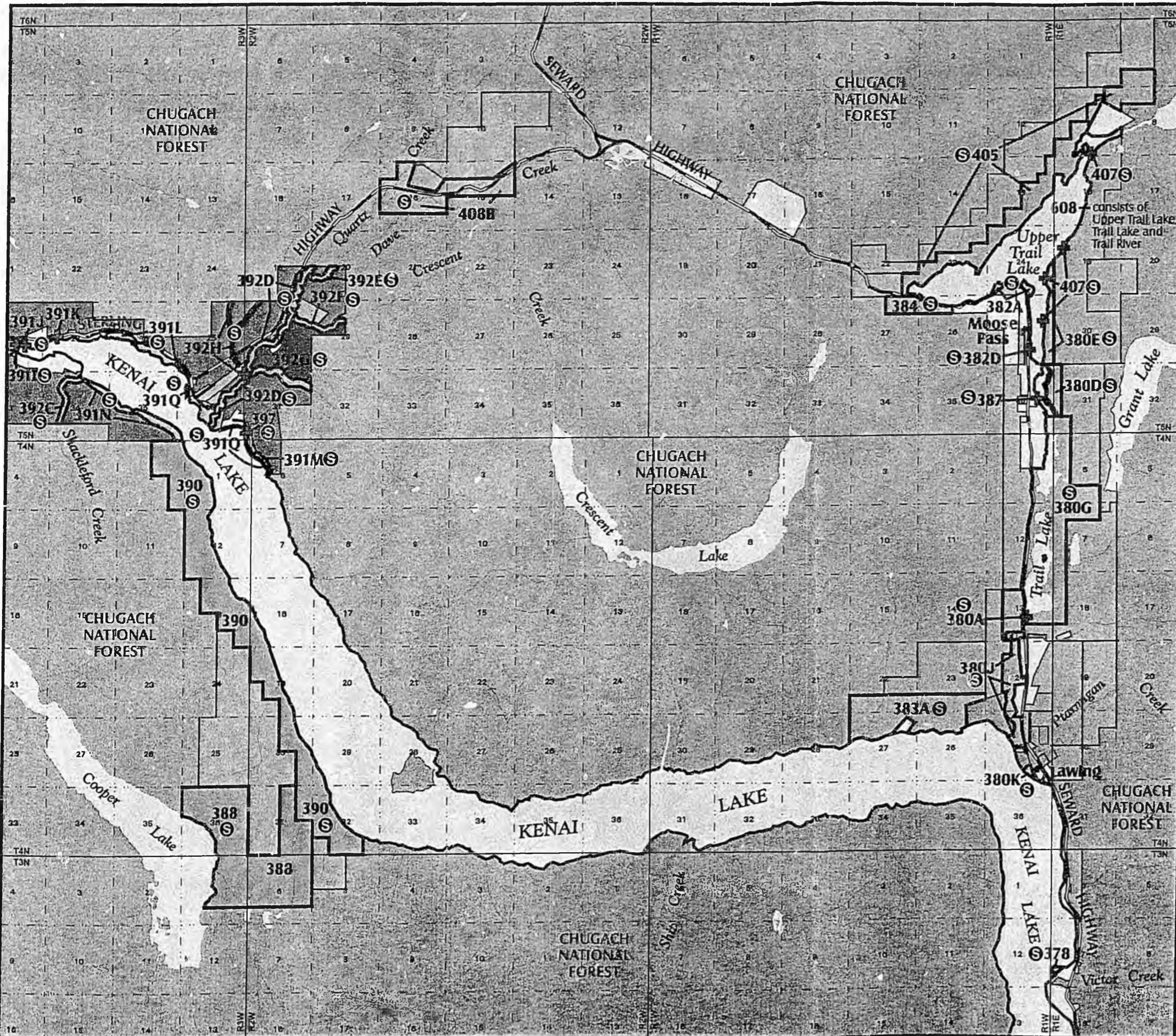
Therefore, it is our hope that whatever action is taken by the legislature is consistent with the enhancement of the habitat and fisheries resources of this area. This will provide an exception fisheries resource for Alaskan's and our visitors. This is not only for the inherent value of these lands and waters, but for the dollars in brings in to support Alaskan and for the enjoyment it provides for many of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Churchill", written in a cursive style.

Bob Churchill
President

Map 2 Kenai Lake










LEGEND



Affected Parcels:

-  Parcels affected by Proposed Leasehold Location Order and Special Use designation

Land Ownership:

-  ANY COLOR KRSMA - Managed by Alaska State Parks
-  Other State Owned
-  Borough
-  Borough selected
-  Municipal (City of Kenai, City of Soldotna)
-  Federal (Nat'l. Forest, Refuge, Wilderness)
-  Private

Projects:

-  Recreation projects
-  Restoration projects

Proposed Additions to KRSMA:

-  State
-  State parcels smaller than 2 acres

Map features

-  Main roads

Note 1: Parcel numbers reference the revised Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan (December 1997).

Note 2: See also Table 1, attached, for further parcel description.



Subject: HB527 Testimony

Date: Fri, 10 May 2002 10:55:21 -0800

From: Nancy Fresco <nancy@northern.org>

**To: senator_john_torgerson@legis.state.ak.us, senator_gary_wilken@legis.state.ak.us
senator_ben_stevens@legis.state.ak.us**

**TO: Senate Resources Committee
FROM: Northern Alaska Environmental Center
RE: Testimony on HB 527**

May 10, 2002

Dear Sirs and Madams,

Please accept the following testimony from the Northern Alaska Environmental Center, pertaining to House Bill 527.

House Bill 527 specifies that "entry upon the Minto Flats State Game Refuge for purposes of exploration and development of oil and gas resources shall be permitted when compatible with the purposes specified in (b) of this section". While we do not directly disagree with this statement, it is our studied opinion that in no case will the stipulation of compatibility prove tenable. The Minto Flats Game Refuge is an area of major ecological and social importance, and the purposes for which it was set aside are not compatible with gas drilling. Thus, HB 527 should not be passed out of committee.

The Minto Flats State Game Refuge was established for the purposes of protecting habitat, conserving fish and wildlife, and guaranteeing fishing, hunting and trapping, when these are compatible with conservation. The Game Refuge is an important area for both subsistence users and sport hunters, with extensive hunting, trapping, and fishing taking place along the Tanana River and smaller waterways. The complex mosaic of forests, rivers, and wetlands that spans the Game Refuge is prime habitat for salmon, moose, black bear, raptors, and waterfowl, and also supports healthy populations of many other species. For moose, this is a crucial area for calving and over-wintering. Chinook, coho, and chum all spawn here. Local residents' concerns center around access issues, hunting pressure, and habitat conservation.

Gas exploration and drilling, even if done with the lowest-impact modern techniques, requires detonation of explosives, significant land clearing, and creation of access routes. These impacts in turn can lead to habitat fragmentation, unprecedented stresses on nesting birds and calving moose, and increased pressure on game species through increased hunter access.

The Northern Center's position is that while gas is a cleaner substitute for fuels such as oil and coal, it should be considered a transitional fuel on the way to much cleaner technology. Whenever gas is developed,

the resultant infrastructure should be designed to minimize ecological impacts, and should be kept within existing development corridors. The Minto Flats State Game Refuge contains crucial habitat for many game species which we believe would be significantly impacted by development. In addition, the Refuge has no existing development corridors. Therefore, the Northern Center strongly believes that development should not occur within the Minto Flats State Game Refuge.

For the above reasons, we ask that you reject House Bill 527. Thank you for your attention in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Arthur Hussey, Executive Director

Northern Alaska Environmental Center
830 College Road
Fairbanks AK 99701
(907) 452-5021