

**HB**

**378**

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Photo Courtesy of K. L. Ramseyer



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## BALD EAGLE PRESERVE, Haines, Alaska

### The Preserve

The Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve was created by the State of Alaska in June of 1982. The preserve was established to protect and perpetuate the world's largest concentration of Bald Eagles and their critical habitat. It also sustains and protects the natural salmon runs and allows for traditional uses provided such uses do not adversely affect preserve resources. The Preserve consists of 48,000 acres of river bottom land of the Chilkat, Kleheni, and Tsirku Rivers. The boundaries were designated to include only areas important to eagle habitation. Virtually every portion of the preserve is used by eagles at some time during the year.

The river "flats" of the Chilkat River along the Haines Highway between miles 18 and 21 are the main viewing area for eagle watchers and considered critical habitat in the preserve. Bald eagles are attracted to the area by the availability of spawned-out salmon and open waters in late fall and winter. The natural phenomena responsible for five miles of open water on the Chilkat River during freezing months is called an "alluvial fan reservoir". The Tsirku fan, which is a fan-shaped accumulation of gravel, rock, sand, and glacial debris, at the confluence of the Tsirku, Kleheni, and Chilkat Rivers acts as a large water reservoir.

During the warmer spring, summer and early fall seasons, water from snow and melted glacial ice flows into the alluvial fan. The fan receives water



Photo Courtesy of K. L. Ramseyer

### Visitor Guidelines

The following guidelines were developed to insure protection to the eagles and other critical features of the preserve. Please help us protect this area for the eagles and future visitor use.

**STAY OFF THE FLATS!** This is where the eagles feed. Their energy is better utilized by feeding than by flying away from intruders.

**VIEW EAGLES FROM AREA BETWEEN HAINES HIGHWAY AND RIVER.** Staying within this area prevents stressful conditions for the eagles. They need their space to roost and feed.

**DO NOT DISTURB THE FISH IN ANY WAY.** Fish are the eagles' food. Please leave all fish and fish carcasses where nature has placed them.

**STOP AND PARK ONLY IN DESIGNATED TURNOUTS.** The road is narrow and has many curves. Watch for traffic at all times. Never stop on the roadway. Do not set up tripods on the road.

## The Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

The Bald Eagle is found only on the North American continent. Adult eagles generally weigh between 9 and 12 pounds and have a wing span of 7 feet. Females are slightly larger than males. Immature eagles are mottled brown and white. The distinct white head and tail of the mature bird is developed between 4 and 6 years of age.

Eagles feed mainly on fish, but water fowl, small mammals and carrion supplement their diet, especially when fish are in short supply. Eagles can fly up to 30 m.p.h. and can dive at speeds up to 100 m.p.h.. Their keen eyesight allows them to spot fish at distances up to 1 mile.

Bald eagles mate for life. Courting behavior begins in early April and often involves spectacular aerial displays of eagles diving and locking talons. Eagles lay from 1 to 3 eggs (commonly two) and the eggs usually hatch between late May and early June after a 34 or 35 day incubation period. The young usually leave the nest by early September.

The Chilkat Valley is year-round home for between 200 and 400 eagles. Over 80 eagle nests have been observed in the Eagle Preserve. By the time of the Fall Congregation the resident eagles are through raising their young, although immature eagles may stay near their parents for a year or more. Over 3,000 bald eagles have been counted within the preserve during the Fall Congregation.

faster than it can flow out, creating a huge reservoir of water. When winter arrives, cold weather sets in and surrounding waters freeze. However, water in this large reservoir remains from 10 to 20 degrees (F) above surrounding water temperatures. This warmer water "percolates" into the Chilkat River and keeps it from freezing.

Five species of salmon spawn in these and other nearby streams and tributaries. The salmon runs begin in the summer and continue on through late fall or early winter. The salmon die shortly after spawning and it is their carcasses which provide large quantities of food for the eagles. This combination of open water and large amounts of food bring large concentrations of eagles into the Chilkat Valley beginning early October and last through February.



Photo Courtesy: Ed Woody (Burlington)

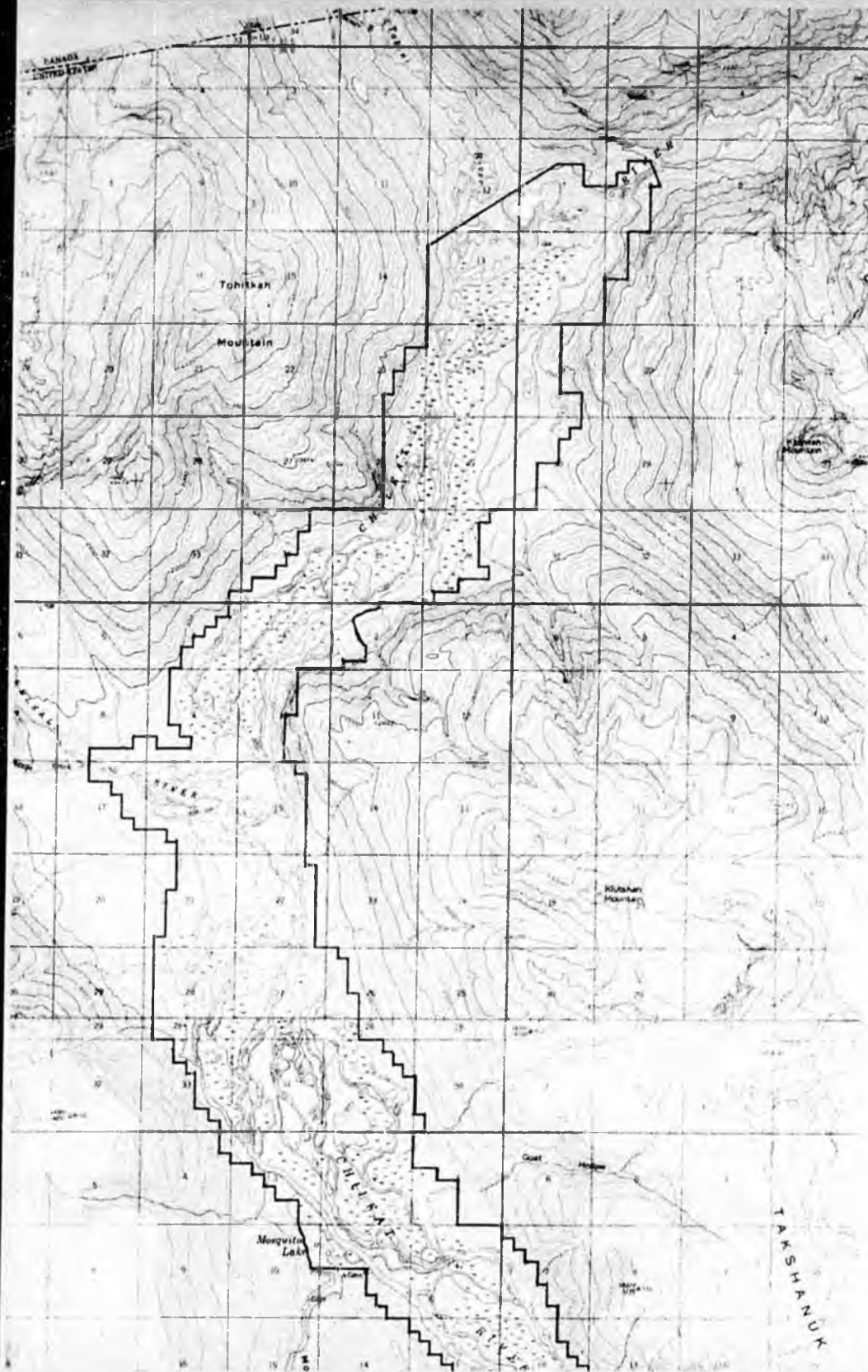


ALASKA STATE PARKS  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation  
400 Willoughby, 3rd Floor  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

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## REGULATIONS

The use and discharge of weapons for the purpose of lawful hunting or trapping is allowed in the preserve, except within one-half mile of a developed facility. Fireworks are prohibited.

The Critical Habitat Area is closed to aircraft landing.

No person may disturb, damage, deface or remove cultural, archaeological or historical materials. No person may damage or remove natural objects including rocks and minerals, except that edible plants and roots may be gathered for personal use.

Normal animal waste discarded from lawful hunting, trapping, or fishing must not be left within 100 feet of a trail, road, or a developed facility. Fish waste should be discarded in the waters from which they were taken.

The Bald Eagle Protection Act, a federal law, states that it is unlawful to possess, sell, barter or transport bald eagles (dead or alive or any part of), nests or eggs. Violations of this law can result in a fine of up to \$10,000 and up to a two-year imprisonment.

Permits are required for certain activities within the preserve. Any commercial activity including any form of guiding, transportation services, or sale of any goods or services within the boundaries of the preserve requires a Commercial Use Permit. A list of permitted operators is available at the parks office.

Special Use Permits are required for activities that may affect the environment of the preserve. A partial list of activities includes scientific research, promotional activities, construction of facilities or structures of any kind, and camping longer than 15 days.

Persons having questions concerning permits or needing assistance in determining if permits are required for certain activities should contact the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation at the locations listed in this brochure.

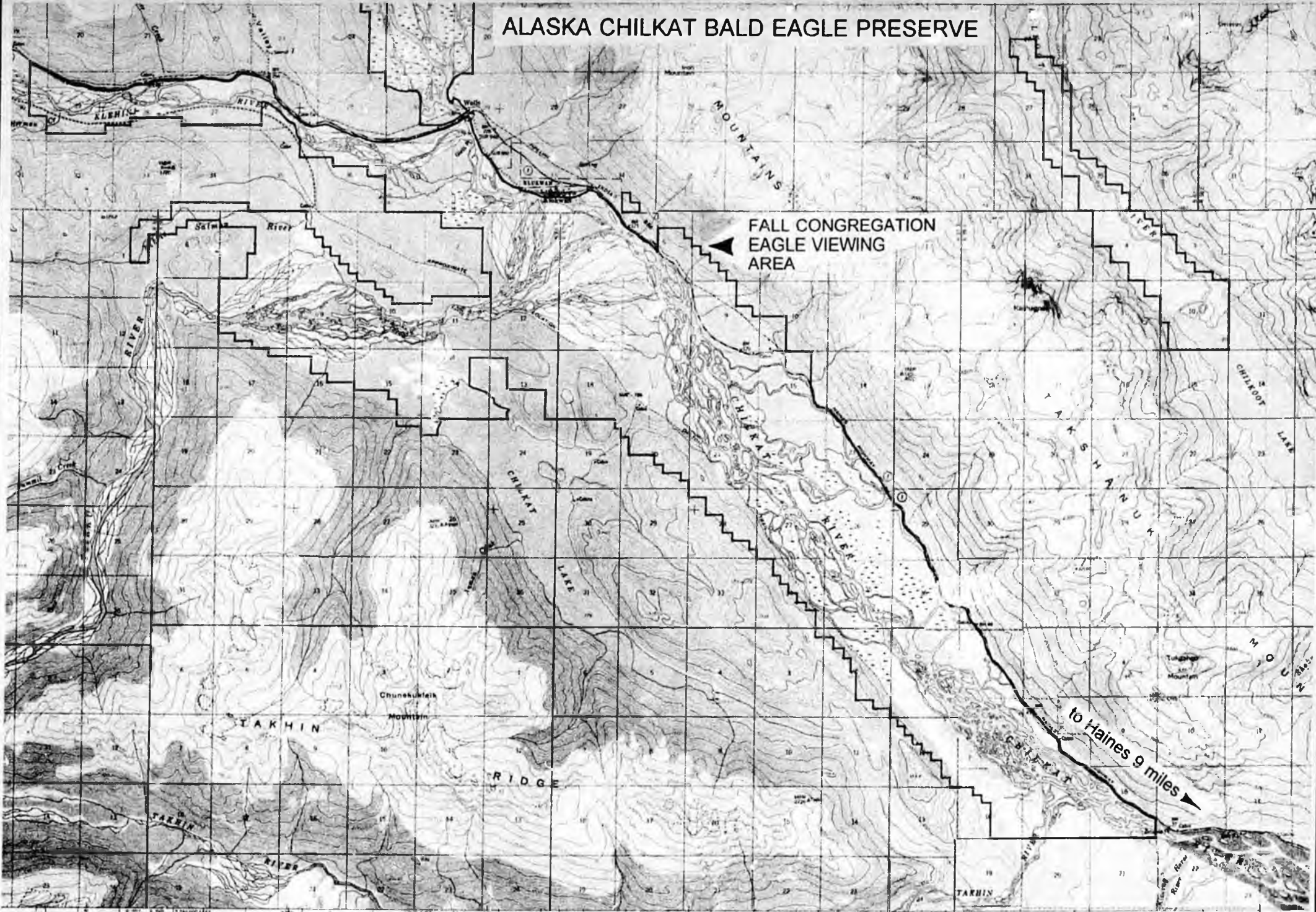
## MANAGEMENT

The Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve is managed by the State of Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation with the assistance of the 13-member Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council.

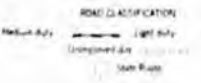
## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Alaska State Parks  
400 Willoughby Ave.  
Juneau, AK 99801  
(907) 465-4563

# ALASKA CHILKAT BALD EAGLE PRESERVE



revised, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 of the U.S.G.S., U.S.C.G.S. and Geologic Survey of Canada  
 maps by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
 1948; field annotated 1954. May not be used checked  
 and Transverse Mercator projection, 1927 North American datum  
 60 foot grid based on Alaska coordinate system, zone 1  
 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 5' shown in blue  
 (not printed in grey represents unurveyed and unmarked  
 and predetermined by the State of Alaska, Division of Land  
 & River Management)



FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
 FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99701, DENVER, COLORADO 80226, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

SKAGWAY (B-3) ALASKA  
 50000-101545-10275

This map should not be used for survey information or land status and ownership. The State of Alaska assumes no responsibility for any graphical errors or omissions.



## REPRESENTATIVE BILL THOMAS

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 5

e-mail: [Representative.Bill.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative.Bill.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us) webpage: [www.akrebublicans.org/thomas/](http://www.akrebublicans.org/thomas/)

State Capitol

Juneau AK, 99801-1182

907-465-3732

888-461-3732

FAX 907-465-2652

Date: 2-2-06

To: Representative Olson, Co-Chair House C&RA

From: Representative Thomas, Co-Chair House C&RA

Re: Hearing Request for CSHB 378 An act designating a representative of a Haines nonprofit recreational group as an ex officio member of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council and removing the mayor of the City of Haines as an ex officio member of the council.

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CSHB 378 will fill a currently vacant seat on the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council with a person who represents a recreational interest and who has been appointed by the Haines Borough Mayor.

I request that CSHB 378 be scheduled for a hearing at your earliest convenience.



## REPRESENTATIVE BILL THOMAS

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 5

e-mail: Representative.Bill.Thomas@legis.state.ak.us webpage: www.akrebullians.org/thomas/

State Capitol

Juneau AK, 99801-1182

907-465-3732

888-461-3732

FAX 907-465-2652

Date: 2 2-06

To: Representative Olson, Co-Chair House C&RA

From: Representative Thomas, Co-Chair House C&RA

Re: Sponsor Statement for CSHB 378 An act designating a representative of a Haines nonprofit recreational group as an ex officio member of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council and removing the mayor of the City of Haines as an ex officio member of the council.

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The Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve was created by the State of Alaska in 1982. The preserve, located along the Haines Highway, was created to protect the world's largest concentration of Bald Eagles and their habitat. Along with the large eagle population, the preserve is home to five species of salmon that spawn in the surrounding streams and tributaries.

At the heart of the Eagle Preserve, between 18 and 24 mile of the Haines Highway, is the main viewing area for eagle watchers. This area hosts a particularly large concentration of eagles due to the availability of salmon and open water in the winter months.

In order to protect the sanctity and utility of the Eagle Preserve, the Alaska Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council was created. The council consists of 12 seats representing local, state, environmental, traditional, and commercial interests. One of these seats is dedicated to the Haines City Mayor. However, the City of Haines and the Haines Borough have since consolidated leaving the seat for the Haines City Mayor open. CS 378 designates this open seat to a person who represents a recreational use who has been appointed by the Haines Borough Mayor.

I respectfully request your support of CSHB 378.

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 378( )**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY**

**Offered:**

**Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS**

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act designating a representative of a Haines nonprofit recreational group as an ex**  
 2 **officio member of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council and**  
 3 **removing the mayor of the City of Haines as an ex officio member of the council."**

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

5 **\* Section 1. AS 41.21.625(c) is amended to read:**

6 (c) The [MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HAINES, THE] mayor of the Haines  
 7 Borough, the president of Klukwan, Inc., the chair [CHAIRMAN] of the Council of  
 8 the Chilkat Indian Viliage, and the chair [CHAIRMAN] of the Chilkoot Indian  
 9 Association are ex officio members of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve  
 10 Advisory Council. A member of the board of directors of a Haines nonprofit  
 11 recreational group who has been selected by the mayor of the Haines Borough is  
 12 also an ex officio member of the advisory council. The mayor of the Haines  
 13 Borough may recommend to the governor for appointment to the advisory council the  
 14 name of a resident of the Haines Borough for the representation of commercial or

1

industrial interests.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version: HB378-DNR-Parks-02-06  
 ( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Natural Resources  
 Title Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve RDU Resource Development  
Advisory Council Component Parks Management  
 Sponsor Rep. Thomas  
 Requester (H) CRA Component No. 452

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>						
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>						
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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 (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

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

There is no fiscal impact associated with implementation of this legislation.

Prepared by: Jerry Lewanski, Director  
 Division: Parks  
 Approved by: Michael Menge  
 Agency: Natural Resources

Phone 907-269-8701  
 Date/Time 2/6/2006  
 Date 2/6/2006

**State of Alaska****Office of Boards and Commissions****BALD EAGLE PRESERVE**

BOARD: Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council

BOARD IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 009

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

AUTHORITY: AS 41.21.625; Chapter 95, SLA 1982

STATUS: Active

SUNSET DATE:

REQUIREMENTS: No Legislative Confirmation or Financial Disclosure required

PROHIBITIONS: None

TERM: 2 years

**DESCRIPTION:** 12 member council. Governor appoints a resident of the Haines Borough representing a conservation organization, a representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a member of the Upper Lynn Canal fish and game advisory committee. The Mayor of the City of Haines, the Mayor of the Haines Borough, the President of Klukwan, Inc., the chairman of the Council of the Chilkat Indian Village, and the chairman of the Chilkoot Indian Association serve as ex officio members. The Mayor of the Haines Borough may recommend to the Governor for appointment to the council a resident of the Haines Borough for representation of commercial or industrial interests. The commissioner of Fish and Game, the director of the Division of Parks, and the director of the Division of Forestry, or their designees also serve ex officio. Members may select alternates to act as members in their absence.

**FUNCTION:** Assists the department in the development and monitoring of a management plan for the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve.

**CHAIR:** No provisions.

**SPECIAL FACTS:** Advisory.

**COMPENSATION:** Standard Travel and Per Diem.

**MEETINGS:** 7 times per year; 7 days total; September through March.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Mr. Michael Eberhardt  
Southeast Area Superintendent  
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
DNR, 400 Willoughby Avenue, Fifth Floor M/S 1000  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Phone: (907) 465-4563, FAX: (907) 465-5330

Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council Members  
February 2006

Kimberley Strong	Chilkat Indian Village P.O. Box 210, Haines, Ak 99827 kstrong@aptalaska.net	
Gary Hess	Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee P.O. Box 125, Haines Ak 99827 gdhess@aptalaska.net	
Fred Shields	Mayor, Haines Borough P.O. 1209, Haines Ak 99827 fshields@haines.ak.us	<b>Co-Chair</b>
Mike Jacobson	U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service/Raptor Management 3000 Vintage Blvd #240 Juneau, Ak 99801 Mike_Jacobson@fws.gov	
Travis Reid	Business and Industry P.O. Box 267, Haines Ak 99827 travisreid@chilkatguides.com	
Lori Crupi	Conservation Organization P.O. Box 1606, Haines Ak 99827 Cassadie22@yahoo.com	
Bill Thomas	Chilkoot Indian Association P.O. Box 490 (CIA business office), Haines Ak 99827 Thomasgroup@aptalaska.net	
Roy Josephson	Division of Forestry P.O. Box 263, Haines Ak 99827 Roy_Josephson@dnr.state.ak.us	
Les Katzeek	Klukwan, Inc P.O. Box 104, Haines Ak 99827	
Randy Bachman	Department of Fish and Game P.O. Box 330, Haines Ak 99827 Randy_Bachman@fishgame.state.ak.us	
Jerry Lewanski, Director or Joel Telford	Department of Parks and Outdoor Recreation P.O. Box 430, Haines Ak 99827	
Vacant	City Mayor	

Juneau Audubon Society  
PO Box 21725  
Juneau, AK 99802

Wednesday, February 08, 2006

Re: HB378 "An Act designating a representative of Chilkat Snowburners, Inc. as an ex officio member of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council and removing the mayor of the City of Haines as an ex officio member of the council."

Dear Community and Regional Affairs committee member:

Juneau Audubon Society is proud to have the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, one of the world's premier birding locations, so near to us. The State of Alaska must continue to manage the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve with the high standards of protection granted at its creation. For the Preserve to be effective in protecting the populations of bald eagles that roost and forage here, the salmon runs within this river system, and the hydrological function of the Chilkat must be protected. We recommend that an elected official be retained as the ex officio member of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council.

The Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve was created by the State of Alaska in June of 1982. The preserve was established to protect and perpetuate the world's largest concentration of Bald Eagles and their critical habitat. The Preserve also sustains and protects the natural salmon runs and allows for traditional uses provided such uses do not adversely affect Preserve resources. The boundaries were designated to include only areas important to eagle habitation. Virtually every portion of the preserve is used by eagles at some time during the year.

The eagles are indelibly connected to the salmon runs, which thus require protection for rearing of young (safeguards from bank erosion and greater siltation of rearing areas). A natural hydrological storage of surface water into the immense quantities of gravel in the Chilkat valley provide water during the fall available for spawning salmon. This late chum salmon spawning run provide the food and attraction to the thousands of eagles that congregate in the preserve from October to February.

The Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve has special protections as a state park and preserve. Juneau Audubon wants to help ensure that the preserve will remain protected to the full extent of the original legislation. Juneau Audubon Society wants the present boundaries of the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve maintained. Please safeguard this unique resource. It brings not only bald eagles, visitors, and tourist dollars to Haines but it also protects critical habitat for our national symbol. The bald eagle is our national bird and the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve is a unique showcase for it in a wild and historic location. It needs careful guardianship by the State. Long term protection is essential for the continuation of the habitat conditions that bring the salmon and eagles to this location. The Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve is a unique and incredible resource and public relations statement for the state of Alaska. Juneau Audubon Society does not support HB 378, nor any decreases in the size of the preserve boundary.

Thank you for your attention,  
Sincerely,

*/s/ Brenda Wright*

President, Juneau Audubon Society



# Audubon ALASKA

715 L Street, Suite 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Tel: 907-276-7034  
Fax: 907-276-5069  
[www.audubonalaska.org](http://www.audubonalaska.org)

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Co-chairs and Members, Committee on Community and Regional Affairs  
**From:** Stan Senner, Executive Director  
**Date:** 8 February 2006  
**Re:** HB 378, Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve

The National Audubon Society was deeply involved in the formation of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve in 1982, and the advisory council established by the Alaska Legislature in the original legislation has served all interests well for more than 20 years.

The proposed legislation—HB 378, Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council—would upset the balance of interests represented on the advisory council by replacing the seat of an official elected by the public with a seat representing a special interest. Due to municipal consolidation, there no longer is a Mayor of the City of Haines, and that seat on the advisory committee has been vacant since 2002.

The Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve exists because of the Chilkat River's international importance for Bald Eagles and other fish and wildlife resources, and the Haines community, State of Alaska, and others showed great foresight in seeking its protection. Since 1982, the preserve has become a great asset to the community and Alaska, and it brings tangible economic benefits to the area. Although Audubon was deeply involved in the formation of the preserve, we have watched its management from a distance, believing that the State—with participation from the Haines community and oversight by the preserve's preserve advisory council—has been a good steward.

Unfortunately, we find that it makes no sense whatsoever to replace what had been a seat for an elected public official with a seat for a specific organization or special interest, regardless of what that interest might be (motorized recreation, environmental or whatever). If there is need to replace the seat previously allocated to the Haines' Mayor, it should remain a seat representing truly the public, not a special interest. Otherwise, Audubon encourages Members of the Committee on Community and Regional Affairs to reject HB 378 and make no other changes to the original legislation, which has stood the test of time.

The Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve is a treasure for the Haines community, the State of Alaska, and the Nation, and its avian resources are of international significance. After more than 20 years, there is no reason now to start tinkering with a successful formula. Thank you for your consideration of our views.

February 8, 2006

To: House Community and Regional Affairs Committee

From: Lynn Canal Conservation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 964  
Haines, Alaska  
(907) 766-2295  
[lcc11@aptalaska.net](mailto:lcc11@aptalaska.net)

RE: HB 378

Lynn Canal Conservation (LCC) has been an active participant in the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve since its inception in 1982. LCC is opposed to HB 378 because it inappropriately replaces a publicly elected representative on the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council with a special interest seat.

Although the city mayor's seat was dissolved when the city and borough of Haines consolidated into a single municipality, it did not dissolve the need for full and complete public representation on the advisory council.

HB 378 does not allow the Haines community to maintain the balance of representatives on the advisory council as was intended in the original statute.

Please do not move HB 378 from committee with any additional special interest seats. We ask you to ensure that there is no decline in public representation on the preserve advisory council.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Berland, Issues Coordinator



## AMERICAN EAGLE FOUNDATION™

P.O. Box 333 • PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE 37868

WWW.EAGLES.ORG

February 7, 2006

House Committee on Community and Regional Affairs, State of Alaska

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee

I am writing in behalf of the American Eagle Foundation (AEF) of Pigeon Forge, TN, a nonprofit organization of concerned citizens and professionals founded in 1985 to develop and conduct bald eagle and environmental recovery programs in the United States.

We are among many state and national groups committed to the absolute protection of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, a small but nationally precious set aside inside the Haines State Forest.

We understand that the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve is again subject to threat. We believed that threats to this area were resolved in 1982, when Congressional support, and that of the National Audubon Society resulted in the State of Alaska's establishing the Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve.

The law provides for multiple use in the Haines State Forest and sets aside the Eagle Preserve for protection of the Bald Eagle habitat, including its salmon food supply. However, since 2001, there has been increasing political pressure to ignore this provision.

We understand House Bill 378 replaces a publicly elected municipal seat on the Preserve's advisory council, with a possible special interest seat, and that it is viewed as a potential first step by some interests to destroy the Preserve. If so, we would strongly oppose such loss of publicly elected balance on the Council.

As you well know, the Chilkat is known worldwide. In September, 2003, AEF Eagle Consultant Bob Hatcher, retired Tennessee Endangered Species Coordinator (1978-2001), visited that stretch of the Chilkat River. Even though it was two months prior to the early winter eagle concentration, he reported that felt the tingling effect of walking on "hallowed ground".

The preserve is a magnet for tourism with all protections in place, and one of the great assets of Alaska. Please do not ignore your trust to America's national symbol.

Sincerely,

Al Cecere, President  
American Eagle Foundation  
P.O. Box 333, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868

8 Feb 04

Dear Rep. Thomas,

The Chukot eagle preserve is a spectacular + very special place, with one of the largest (perhaps THE largest) aggregations of eagles ever known. Feeding on the late chum run is undoubtedly important to their winter survival + the maintenance of the great eagle concentrations in Southeast Alaska. People come from all over to see this spectacle without disturbing either the fish or the eagles. We should protect the entire preserve in order to protect an area of great ecological importance and an important tourist draw.

HB 378 - or any attempt to reduce protection for the Preserve - is a really bad idea + should not be supported.

MA Wilken  
5230 Terrace Pl.  
Juneau.



Historical Note:

In 1982, the Legislature created the Haines State Forest for multiple use activities including logging, mining and recreation. Within the State Forest, is the smaller Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve.

The Eagle Preserve is *withdrawn from multiple use for the purpose of protecting in perpetuity the Salmon habitat* on which the eagles and area's people depend.

Traditional uses are protected in the Preserve. Sport and commercial activities that pose no threat of impact are allowed. All uses are permitted in the surrounding State Forest.

The law has served well and continues to do so. Please protect its integrity. It is of deep concern to the state and the nation, and provides Haines with a tourist attraction requiring nothing more than respect and promotion to serve its purpose.

Date: February 8, 2006  
To: House Community and Regional Affairs  
From: Peter Goll, Box 261, Haines, 99827  
Retired State Representative from Haines (1983-1991)  
Subject: House Bill 378 regarding the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve

Thank you for accepting this testimony on HB378. I respectfully ask that HB378 be amended or held in Committee. The bill assures unnecessary and damaging controversy, and specifically reduces elected local control over the Preserve.

A suggested solution:

*The empty seat can be filled, with no reduction of local voter control, and no change in policy impact, by providing that the Haines Borough Assembly select a member of its own to serve on the Preserve Advisory Council as the second local public seat. Thank you for your consideration.*

This bill is neither a small housekeeping matter nor a local matter. There are significant local, state and national interests. The affected parties have neither been consulted nor have they concurred with the bill as written. A brief summary of issues follows.

1. *HB378 serves no public purpose. Instead it replaces public representation with special interest representation on the Advisory Council. Specifically, it replaces the Mayor of the City of Haines with a member of the board of a local recreation club, damaging the public's authority and creating needless controversy among interest groups;*
2. *It creates an improper, new and controversial appointment process: providing the Haines mayor with appointment power to a State board, arbitrarily requiring that a board member of one among many non-profits representing various and competing interests be appointed. The resulting local conflict for special interest seats is evident already.*
3. *The bill has been drafted over opposition of many affected parties and without the approval of others including the Haines Borough Assembly and the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Advisory Council. No public discussion has occurred.*
4. *HB378 will create negative publicity damaging to Haines business interests. Negative attention is already coming to Haines from those in and out of state concerned about the Preserve: from those who promote visitation. Wilderness tourism in Haines is threatened if Haines becomes home to unnecessary resource conflicts regarding eagles. The existing law has worked. Please do not lead Haines to conflict. Retain the balance on the Advisory Council. This is not a conservation v. development issue. It is one of public control and public relations.*
5. *The requirement to appoint a recreation club officer is an insult to subsistence users and in-holders who feel threatened. It ignores in-holders and others directly dependent on the Preserve such as commercial fishers. It opens up the long term fight among special interests that can only do damage to Haines and Klukwan.*