

HB

307



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name
Committee on HB 307, dated 3/29/06
Bill/Subject

Please see attached.

Signed: Gary Dorsey
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

USGS MAPS

March 30, 2006
House Resource committee
Re: House Bill 307
Rep. Stoltze

Thank you for listening to us yesterday. You asked for the recommended boundary changes to make this Bill work. Here they are.

The South Knik River Community will not approve the boundary going through our residential community. Please modify as follows:

- Township 16 North, range 4 East, Seward Meridian
 - Sections 1-18
 - Section 19-20: Portions located below the ordinary high water of Knik River
 - Sections 21-26
 - Sections 27-29: Portions located below the ordinary high water of Knik River
 - Sections 34-35: Portions located below the ordinary high water of Knik River
 - Section 36

1) Delete:

Township 15 North, Range 4 East, Seward Meridian - entirely

2) Delete:

Township 17 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian - entirely

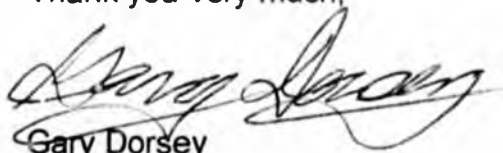
This wetland area must be separately Billed as a State Recreation Area.

*per 1985 DNR Suiting Area Plan, 1987
MAISU BOA*

The remaining PUA area listed should satisfy all users very well. Gunshots in the middle of the night, revelry, and other loud noises are very tolerable from this adjusted location. Bullets will have lost their energy before striking the South side of the river.

Additionally, The South Knik River Community Council and our developing Comprehensive Planning committee wish that this Bill 307 be redesignated as the "NORTH KNIK RIVER PUBLIC USE AREA". There is no land south of the river suitable as PUA or SRA.

Thank you very much,



Gary Dorsey
President: South Knik River Community Council



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony in the HOUSE RESOURCE
Committee name

Committee on Senate Bill 307, dated 5-15-06
Bill/Subject

see accompanying letter please.

Thanks
Bob High

Signed:

Bob High Carl Bingham/Pam Bingham
Testifier

Property owner
Representing (Optional)

18927 E Knik River rd. Palmer 99645
Address

746-0201
Phone number

3-26 9:24pm

To whom it does concern:

My name is Carl Bingham, I can't be at this meeting, I have a job. My Parents Homesteaded across from Jim Creek in 1952. Currently I and my wife and 3 of my 4 children, plus my Mother of 83 years of age live on the family Homestead. We are at the end of our rope.

Most Every day we have to listen to guns

I've had buildings shot into a hole I was in them, I've had bullets ricocheted off playground equipment while my children played on them.

I've listened to bullets zip by very close to where I've stood.

It's getting un-nerving. I like guns, but enough. We'll keep living on the river, but give us a safe standard of living, give us a bill with some teeth to it.

Thank you for your time
Carl Bingham Jr.



Alaska State Legislature

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Committee on Senate Bill 307, dated 3-15-06
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This draft still does not address any enforcement. I + love the whole of Jim/Swan Lake area needs to be a designated State Recreation area and I do not think any of the existing ATV Public use trails should be grandfathered in. I believe there should be designated trails that do NOT harm streams or lands. As a resident of Knik River Rd. for 20 plus years I would like the Knik River Rd portion of this bill deleted as well as the entire section south of Knik River Rd.

Signed: Jeanie Whittak, Mike Whittak
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

23411 E. Knik River Rd. Palmer AK 99645
Address

907 745 3062
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
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Committee on HB 307 , dated 3-29-06
Bill/Subject

As a resident of Knik River area, I want everything that deals with Knik River Road and everything south of it deleted from the bill.

The Swan Lake area should be SAA and Jim Creek. The rest, minus the deleted area, can be PUA.

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

18590 E Knik River Rd Palmer
Address

907-745-2407
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name
Committee on HB 307, dated 3/29/06
Bill/Subject

Please see the attached 5
Pages

Signed: DICK COURTS
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

To: State of Alaska
House Resource Committee

Subject: The creation of a ***Knik River Public Use Area***

Hello, my name is Dick Coutts. I am a board member of the Butte Community Council and I am in favor of creating a Knik River Public Use Area. There is an old traditional method in the United States that decides the outcome of issues when there is a controversy or disagreement. It is called "the majority rules".

Even though the small handful of opponents of this issue are organized and loud, I think that the people in Juneau responsible for deciding this issue are intelligent enough to realize that there are thousands of legitimate lawful motorized users of the Knik River Valley off-road use area and there are only a handful of fanatics that are complaining about the "burnt cars" etc.

I hope this old tradition of "the majority rules" will still work for us in deciding this issue of creating a Knik River Public Use Area in the Knik River Valley.

We need a public use area, not another park. Three of the Public Use Areas now in existence (Nelchina, Goldstream, and Ernie Haugen) and the 6 Rivers Rec. Area all have provisions in their statutes that they will not be managed as a unit of the state park system!

Nelchina: Sec 41.23.010 (e)
Ernie Haugen: Sec 41.23.050 (c)
Goldstream Sec 41.23.140 (f)
6 Rivers Rec Area Sec 41.23.480 (c)

There are already millions of acres of "non-motorized" National Parks in Alaska. There are millions of acres of designated Wilderness Areas including the eastern part of Chugach State Park which is adjacent to the Knik River. The Chugach State Park, which is 1/2 million acre's in size, and is mostly non-motorized is right at the back door of the people complaining about motorized users in the Knik River Valley.
Sec 41.21.121 Chugach State Park Wilderness

We wish to retain our traditional uses and lifestyles. There is a definition in the Alaska Statutes, that any method of transportation that has become "popular" is traditional. All-Terrain vehicles have definitely become popular and are obviously included in that definition! *Alaska statute Sec 38.04.200 (2)*

We have extensive support for the creation of a Knik River Public Use Area. Such as the 5 Butte Community Council resolutions that the BCC passed in the last 13 years for keeping existing trails open for public use. Copy's of these resolutions are included in the 91 page report from the Butte Community Council that was sent to all committee members.

We have two petitions with over 3,000 names supporting keeping existing trails open, and supporting a Public Use Area.

There is a Mat-Su Borough resolution supporting a Public Use area. *Resolution Serial No. 05-068 (AM) 05/17/05*

There are the existing **generally allowed uses** of the DNR that support motorized access on state lands).

Alaska statutes 11AAC 96.020

There is documentation from the Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game stating that fish & game populations in the Knik River area are healthy. *Aug 16, 2005 by Tony Kavalok, state of Alaska wildlife biologist. There are approx. 15,000 trumpeter swans in Alaska and they are not endangered! BLM Ring of Fire Volume I page 3-72*

There are approximately 50 public "agency's", sub agency's, plans and acts that have regulations in place that apply to the public lands in question and form the basis for an Infrastructure for management and regulation of a Knik River Public Use Area.

Susitna area plan

Mat-Su Borough Comp Plan

Asset management plan for borough owned land in the Butte area

DNR allowed uses on state land

DEC regulations

EPA regulations

Coastal Management Plan (State)

Coastal Management Plan (Borough)

Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulations

Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys

North Anchorage land agreement

BLM federal regulations

BLM "Ring of Fire Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

USACE.... U.S Army Corps of Engineers

Mat-Su Borough general regulations for public and private land

Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement

State troopers

FBI (federal lands)

FAA aircraft operations

Fire Department Butte area)

Fire Fighting (State of Alaska)

BATF
Coast Guard
The Endangered Species Act
ANILCA
Alien Species Prevention Enforcement Act
Antiquities Act
Archaeological Resources Protection Act
Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
Coastal Zone Management Act
Eagle Protection Act
Endangered Species Act
Historic Sites Act
Migratory Bird Conservation Act
North American Wetlands Conservation Act
Soil and Water Conservation Act
Watershed Protection and Flood Control Act
Federal Land Policy and Management Act
ANCSA Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
U.S. Water Resources Council
Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Soil Conservation District
Alaska Interagency Fire Management Council
National Environmental Policy Act
Cook Inlet Intrastate Air Quality Control Region
National Ambient Air Quality Standards
Soil Conservation Service
NHPA National Historic Preservation Act
NRHP National Register of Historic Places

The state of Alaska has certified the main trail corridor through the Knik River Valley to the Knik Glacier as an RS 2477 Public Right-Of-Way for access to mining claims, private property, and other uses.

There are many other public easements that provide an infrastructure for a trail system and a Knik River Public use Area.

In summary: We don't think that it is appropriate to punish and restrict all users of this area because a few kids are burning cars, any more than we should punish and restrict all the residents of Anchorage for the murders, bank robberies, rapes, drug deals and other crimes committed there.

Some documentation and verification of these facts was included in the 91 page report that was created by the Butte Community Council and sent to Committee members. Any specific additional documentation needed will be sent on request.

Thank you.

Dick Coutts
P.O. Box 185
Palmer, Alaska
99645

To: Representative Jay Ramras, Co-Chairman
Re: Public Hearing on the Knik River Public Use Area
Date: March 29, 2006

Summary: Statement of Opposition to HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A. Due to time restraints at the hearing, I may be unable to voice my concerns. Below is my statement of record regarding the Knik River Public Use Area legislation.

My name is Scott Wolfe and I am a south Knik River resident.

I wish to thank the legislatures for their efforts at attempting to develop legislation to address concerns and conflicts that have developed because of repeated, irresponsible use of the Knik River area by recreational users. However, HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A sound as if they were written to perpetuate and enhance the problems instead of develop solutions. Clearly, this is special interest legislation to protect the rights of motorized users at the expense of everyone else (including the quality of life for local residents). Representative Bill Stoltze, the writer, is the director at large of the Alaska Outdoor Council, an affiliation of the Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance so there is a potential conflict of interest. This potential bias was shown again during Monday's hearing when Stoltze failed to mention that during the previous 2 public hearings nearly half of the testimonies were against the bill. Moreover, Stoltze mentioned that the Butte Community Council voted in favor of the bill but failed to mention that the South Knik River Community Council voted against the bill.

For over 20 years, residents have expressed concerns about the following problems caused by overuse and abuse:

1. Burned and abandoned vehicles
2. Uncontrolled gunfire
3. Erosion, dust, and damage to habitat caused by ORVs
4. Pollution (Ground, air, water, noise)
5. Abandoned campfires
6. Poaching
7. Wildlife and fish harassment and disturbance
8. Trespassing
9. Alcohol and drug use while operating motorized vehicles
10. Incompatible uses (e.g.; airboats on Jim Creek adjacent to Jim Lake while canoes are present, lead shot in waterways)

I strongly recommend for the legislators to review everyone's recommendations, reject this bill, and allow a more extensive public review process before approving any legislation for this critical area.

The Knik River area and its residents deserve much better than a Public Use Area. Now is the opportunity to pave the way for wise- and sustainable- use, instead of the "take what you can, give nothing back" attitude so prevalent with many current users and in this proposed bill. Yes, the State must act on this ever-growing problem. However, HB307 and the redraft are not the best answer.

Scott Wolfe

I apologize for not using Representative Stoltze for each & every reference. However, this was just to save time to get the speech in the 2 minute time frame.

Date: March 29, 2006
Re: Knik River Public Use Area Legislation (HB 307/CS HB307A)
Summary: Resident Opposition of HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A.

My name is Carrie Gray Wolfe and I am a South Knik River resident.

I oppose HB307 and the redraft.

Representative Bill Stoltze, the director at large of the Alaska Outdoor Council and affiliation of the Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance, drafted legislation catering to special interest groups. This bill is heavily biased towards off-road vehicle use. This bias is at the expense of most other user groups. For example, Page 3, Lines 11-16, is dedicated solely to the protection and rights of off-road users. Where is the language that specifically includes the "recognition" of existing areas of non-motorized uses or the "accommodations, maintenance, and enhancement" of areas for non-motorized trails and waterways?

Page 2, Lines 7-11, states, "the commissioner may designate incompatible uses," but, Page 3, Lines 5-10, states, "the commissioner shall allow...activities that include all-terrain vehicles, etc..." As written, there are no "incompatible uses." What if one or more of the stated activities is determined harmful to the perpetuation and enhancement of general recreation or the protection and maintenance of wildlife habitat?" (See Page 1, Lines 7-12)

Page 3, Lines 2-4, fails to adequately address target shooting. It states, "The commissioner may not restrict the use of weapons...except in locations...that the use of weapons constitutes a threat to public safety." Target shooting is a constant threat in most areas. Local residents fear for their safety and safety of their children. Weapons are being discharged up to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week towards homes, residents, and other recreational users. Residents have no relief from the noise pollution or potential danger. And, fish and wildlife are at greater risk to lead poisoning from excessive shooting practices.

Representative Stoltze misled the committee this past Monday. The opposition nearly equaled those who supported this bill at the public hearings in 2005. The South Knik River Community Council voted against this legislation as written. Please review the testimonies of those unable to attend today's hearing but who made the effort on Monday. Many were against the bill.

This issue goes far beyond recreational activities. Why should hundreds of Knik River residents continue to suffer from users who destroy the land and disrespect the local inhabitants? The residents need a better solution than this poorly written legislation such as creating a Knik River State Recreation Area.

Thank you,



Carrie A. Gray Wolfe
HC02 Box 7686-J
Palmer, Alaska 99645
Telephone: (907) 746-8008
Email: graywolfe@gci.net

Wednesday 3/29/06

Re: HB307 Knik River Public Use Area

Oppose HB307 as originally written

Support Rep Stoltze's work draft of 3/15/06 with further changes suggested below

I am Charlotte Sartor a 33 year resident of the Butte. The Butte area is a divided community where a large percentage of residents do not feel represented by the current community council.

Regarding this bill: Special ^{Recreation} ~~Use~~ Area designation rather than Public Use area would allow easier enforcement and follow the recommendations of previous studies. But action is needed, so we should work together for changes to make this bill an effective compromise.

I opposed HB307/SB197 as originally written – it continues the status quo. I support the recent changes regarding management plan, shooting safety & enforcement plan.

Further needed changes include: *to the redraft*

Line 14 Purposes Section, (41.23.180) Page 1.

“Provide for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses including off-road (and *ADD the phrase*) and non-motorized recreation determined to be compatible with (1) and (2) of this section”

Lines 5 -11, Management section, (41.23.190) Page 2.

Include workshops, a citizen's advisory board, and a deadline for implementing the management plan

Incompatible Uses section (41.23.200) Page 2 & 3.

Has lots of problems. It is contradictory and ineffective.

Page 2 lines 21 & 22, allows the commissioner to regulate uses except as provided in the section, [Page 3 Lines 5 -16 (d) (1) & (2)] lists all uses and existing trails.

The result is that the commissioner cannot regulate any use or any existing trail even if it is detrimental to the purposes.

Page 3 Line 6. Need to Add the phrase, AS COMPATIBLE WITH PURPOSES in AS 41.23.180. ALL USES NEED TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH PURPOSES! It is not necessary to list every activity.

Page3 Lines 11-16 Delete “recognize existing ” Substitute allow as compatible with purposes.

Page 3 starting line 19 - Enforcement authority 41.23.210 & 41.23.220

The need cannot be overstated. Ensure that the wording allows timely enforcement
Suggested funding is not adequate.

This is a wonderful area –scenic, abundant wildlife, close to a large population. We desperately need a bill that addresses the problems & ensures continued use by all without ruining it. But without further changes, this bill should not be passed.

Charlotte Sartor
5900 S Our Rd
Palmer, AK 99645



I am Brit Lively, represent Butte Area Residents Civic Organization, am opposed to HB 307 but support responsible multiple use.

For Background: Last year, area residents asked Mr. Stoltze for a plan to help to protect us and our surroundings destructive effects of irresponsible and illegal recreation, including motorized. Instead, motorized groups statewide banded together as AOAA and with AOC wrote HB 307 to manage the area FOR motorized recreation and additional unrestricted access, which Rep. Stoltze, Director at Large of AOC, introduced on their behalf without working with residents.

Because none of you can imagine life in Butte unless you spend a weekend with us to experience the terrible side-effects of unrestricted motor recreation, we implore you to study the material we took to your Juneau offices as well as the thoughtful letters your received, before deciding the fate of our community. Take the time and let us show you how we see things here.

You are the governing stewards of our lands and our waters which we are so richly blessed with in the Knik River Valley. They are indeed our biblical "blessed waters" because they give and sustain life. We understand that you are under much pressure to do right by everyone. Fortunately you have the Alaska statutes and the DNR mission statement to guide you, to: "Develop, conserve and enhance natural resources for present and future Alaskans." HB 307 rewrite Public Use Area doesn't.

Only a State Recreation Area, can as for the HB307 deficiencies submitted in writing. The major reason is based on DNR's mission where the "Purpose of HB307" should have the paragraphs reversed. If you put recreation ahead of protection of habitat and wildlife along with the limited enforcement in this legislation, you may well end up with a gravel pit and a dust bowl extending beyond the boundaries of this proposed Public Use Area considering that 1-3,000 people on motors are using this area on sunny weekends.

Purpose, Page 1, line 7-12 should read

1) Perpetuate, mitigate, protect and maintain migratory waterfowl nesting areas and fish and wildlife habitat for sustaining and enhancing

- a) traditional public use of fish and wildlife populations and**
- b) general public enjoyment and recreation**

Our small community should not have to suffer the entire burden of motorized recreation for south-central Alaska, where we already endure the race track noise every weekend up to 12 hours a day all summer from May to Labor Day. Add to that the noise and other detrimental activities described by others during this hearing, it is just too much.

Please, help our community discard the prevalent perception of, "who cares, it's the Butte," and provide a strong framework of a State Recreation area designation which will give us the respect we deserve and the wings we need to soar to new heights.

Butte Area Residents Civic Organization Email: resource@buttealaska.org

R Howard for Brit Lively

3/29/06



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Bureau of Land Management
Committee name

Committee on HB307 and SB197, dated 3-28-06
Bill/Subject

I support HB307 and SB197 to keep
Knik river drainage open to motorized vehicles and
boats.

Signed: Arthur Stevens
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

3555 Sams Dr. Wasilla AK. 99654

Address

907-357-3370

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource Committee
Committee name
Committee on House Bill 307 Knick River dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

I am in support of H.B. 307
and wish to continue to have public
Access and motorized usage. As
a senior citizen I wish to
continue access.

Signed:

Mac J. Dangeloh

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

225 Goldendale Dr. Wasilla 99654

Phone number

907-376-8989



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 Bill/Subject, dated 5-27-06

*I drive to Twin Creek to fish
Don't shut me out*

Signed: *[Signature]*
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

1026 K Bellwood St. H / Wasilla AK 99654

Address

(907) 353-0856

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource
Committee name
Committee on HB 307, dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

Stop closing places we can ride with our friends
We need Jim Creek and Knik River areas
to ride our dirt bikes.

Signed: Andrew Behr
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1807 N. meadow LKS Dr. Wasilla, AK 99654
Address

(907) 376-9117
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource Committee

Committee on HB 307 Knik River/Jim Creek Committee name House Resource Committee
dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

Not all Alaskans and our Visitors
can walk in to experience the
beauty of Jim Creek.

Let us ride in
putting the boat in at the
Knik River Access
Don't shut down access because of
a few delinquents. Enforce current laws
don't punish us all I support HB 307

Signed: Beverly J. Dwyer
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
2200 Wasilla Fishhook Rd
Address
376-3958
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource Committee name

Committee on HB 307, dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

I am in favor of HB 307 for the following reasons
First of all, when you look at a map of this state you see nothing more than extremely vast areas of land already designated as either state or national parks. Due to these designations on these large areas they have been set aside as a means of keeping them as pristine environments. If people do not want to see 4 wheelers and swamp buggies while out hiking they should visit these pristine lands that are going to stay that way. Second of all as a frequent visitor of the Knik River and its surrounding, I feel that motorized vehicles are not causing any more harm to the environment than the river does on its own course of erosion, as most trails and places that citizens of Alaska play on are in the river bed. If we were to simply enforce the current laws & codes already in existence the area would naturally be a cleaner place. And on a last note, ATVs, Hunting, fishing, Swamp buggies, Air boats, River Boats, and air planes are all part of living the Alaska dream. We have these technologies we just need a place to be ALASKA.

Signed: Joe Bell
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

mi. 45.5 Par to Hwy Wasilla
Address

(907) 376-9117
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Resource Committee

Committee name

Committee on

HB 307

Bill/Subject

, dated

3-27-06

With the price of gas we can't afford to haul
our 4 wheelers up the highway.

Let us ride in our own valley.

Signed:

Amy Segrada

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

1024 E Delwood St #1 Wasilla, AK 99654

Address

(907) 357-0856

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 - Jim Creek, dated 3/27/08
Bill/Subject

My family has been using the area since the 1940's, the Sexton Trail-head in the area is named after my grandfather

I am in support of HB 307

Signed: Michael H. Sexton
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

1574 Melanie Wasilla, AK. 99654
Address

357-1732
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Resource

Committee name

Committee on

HB 307

dated

3-27-06

Bill/Subject

We put the boat in at the Knik River access, I cant imagine why shutting this access down is even considered. Where is the regular guy supposed to put in?

We cant afford a fly out trip, dont make our valley into a no-use area.

Signed

Shonda Dargatzis

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

2201 Wasilla Fishhook Rd, Wasilla, AK 99654

Address

907-376-0603

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 dated 3/29/06
Bill/Subject

Please see attached.

Signed: MICHAEL OWENS
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

To The House of Representatives,

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that I approve of the house Bill #307 concerning the Knik River Public use Area as it is written.

I have been a resident of the area for 35 plus years and have spent a lot of time on the river bar with family and friends, It is an awesome place for people to go and have fun. I know that there are some problems with laws being broke out there but if we can get Law enforcement out there that would make these issues go away.

I am a Leader over about 100 youth in the palmer area and we go out there quite a few times every year and just have cook outs and go swimming and a lot of different activities and I would sure hate to see this place shut down to these types of activities

I personally know that there is a group of Individuals that are trying to shut down this area to off road Vehicles because they own Horses and they like to ski and things. I would like to mention that they have already shut down an area that I use to ride my 4-wheeler in so that they could ride there horses and ski on there trails without the presence of these other machines. So I feel that if they have there areas to go and play in, then we should have areas where we can go and ride also. The horse and ski area that I am referring to is the Morgan Horse trail area Off of Huntley road about 3 miles out of Palmer.

It is also a beautiful area that they have already made there own.

Thanks for your time and please support House Bill #307

Michael R Owens



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, dated 3/28/06
Bill/Subject

Signed: See attached AGNES Quaas
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

Please enter into the record my testimony to the **Resources Committee** on House Bill 307,
March 28, 2006.

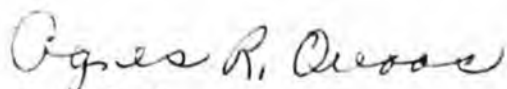
I am opposed to **HB 307** the way it is written.

I was not happy that on March 27, 2006 that your committee had no time to listen to the testimony of the local residents, but you had time to listen to the President of the Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance which in my understanding Representative Stoltze is a board member of. The AOAA guy does not even live in the area and all he wants is a place for him and his macho buddies to have a place to play. I am a resident of the surrounding area.

A misrepresentation is being given that this is a complete rural area, which it is not. Much of it is bordered by private residents and this activity spills over into the private property and affects the residence immensely. In order to access this area they are crossing private property. When told that they are on private property they either threaten to shoot the property owner or tell them to move if they don't like it.

This Bill and the revision the way it is written provides only minimal enforcement. Without enough enforcement any words about protecting wildlife and people is nothing but lip service. When we call the troopers about burning cars, irresponsible shooting or other things we are told that they don't have a vehicle to get in there. Nothing is really being done to address the illegal hunting, poaching and people on their ATVs or Trucks riding up and down the creeks and streams and lakes. Nesting and migrating swans have been and are being driven off their nesting area. When the salmon are spawning ATV riders are trying to run them over to see how many they can get. Bodenbug Creek is a salmon protected creek and signs have been put up to show where the designated crossings are and they are destroyed and taken away in less than a week. The bank is so eroded that the water now reaches the Old Glen Highway. The no shooting signs the state put up along the side of the Old Glen and posters presenting safe shooting have been painted over and shot full of holes. If there is no problem as these people claim, why is the National Guard hauling out over a hundred trashed cars every year and why is tons of trash being taken out by clean up groups? Excessive shooting is lead poisoning the land and water. Reckless shooting is endangering residents and visitors. How long before an innocent bystander is shot and killed?

As this is a popular, easy to access location, the increased use has and is seriously overloading the area. The damage being done with the willy-nilly use will take Mother Nature centuries to repair. Mr. Arno stated there is no problem with the salmon runs, but by the time the problem can be seen it will be too late. With what is going on and the habitat being destroyed, there will probably be no hunting or fishing within 20 years. It's not in Rep. Stoltze's backyard as he is from the Municipality of Anchorage where all this has been banned because of the mayhem and destruction that was taking place there. All we are is a playground for the Anchorage area. People from Anchorage often boast that they can go out to the Knik River area and they can do anything and everything they want as there are no rules or regulations or law enforcement. Thank you for reading my testimony.



Agnes R. Quaas
(South Knik River Resident)
21550 E. Arnold Cir
Palmer, Alaska 99645
746-6414



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 dated 3/28/06
Bill/Subject

Signature: see attached ARTHUR Guas
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Resources Committee on House Bill 307, March 28, 2006.

I am **opposed** to **HB 307** the way it is written.

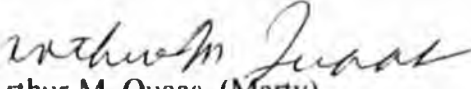
I was greatly disappointed on March 27, 2006 that your committee had no time to listen to the testimony of any of the local residents. I did however have the opportunity to listen to the hearing where you allowed the Alaska Access Alliance President to testify as he was in Juneau.

While there is little private land within the proposed public use area, there is a lot of private land bordering the area, mostly in the Bordenburgh Butte area and along the Knik River Road. At a rough estimate, I would say that 18 miles of residents border this area. Where private land is between roads and public lands, trespassing is rampant. These easy to reach access points is where most of the activities such as camping, ATV riding, partying and shooting take place at all hours of the day or **night**. Unfortunately these activities do not remain on the public lands, but carry over back onto the private lands. The sounds of shooting can be heard and it carries for several miles not to say anything of the bullets. Tax paying residents are woken out bed often in the wee hours by the sounds of shooting, at times by automatic weapons. Residents who have lived there for 20, 30, 40 years and longer can not get a good nights sleep and when they ask the shooters to please keep it quite are told "If you don't like it, move". ATV riders do not remain off the public roads, often with little respect for residents or highway vehicles. Trespassers on private land will challenge the property owner to prove they own the land with "show me your deed".

The outdoor people while they say they are willing to compromise, they have not made any compromises or have they made any serious efforts to create any rules to limit their activities. Some simple gestures such as quiet hours, limiting shooting near residential areas, not riding ATV's on roads or private lands would be a start.

The residents simply want this curse to simply go away and their simple solution is to close the area down. Some local residents also feel that this area is in their back yard and that they should have access to it with no compromises, the heck with their neighbors. Residents should also be entitled to the safety, peace and quite that they enjoyed just a few years in the past, as any resident living anywhere in Alaska is entitled to enjoy.

In it's present form, HB 307 sacrifices the rights of the local residents to favor the out door activities. The rewrite only moved the wording around and in no way changed any meaning. One the first and without a doubt most important items that must be addressed is serious enforcement. Unfortunately, the promoters of this bill are also intimately involved with the Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance and I do not feel that they are really listening to the entire story. Please listen to the residents who are finding themselves crying in the dark while their neighborhood is being over run by jerks.


Arthur M. Quaas (Marty)
(South Knik River Resident)
21550 E. Arnold Cir
Palmer, Alaska 99645
746-6414



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Resources

Committee name

Committee on

HB 307

Knik River Public Use Area

dated

3-27-06

Bill/Subject

HB 307 is a good thing because it keeps public lands open to public use. The public enjoys the land and the wildlife.

Signed:

GENE YATES

Testifier

Myself as my family

Representing (Optional)

General Delivery Willow AK 99688

Address

907 355 4467

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 KIVIK RIVER PUBLIC USE AREA dated 03-27-06
Bill/Subject

I Support HB 307 because we have enough parks and restrictions on public land use. I have used this area for many years in different aspects of Recreation and have abused or harmed nothing. There are some that ruin it for all, but because there are a few irresponsible people we the rest should not have to pay or suffer for this. Examples there is garbage and burned vehicles along the highway from Palmer to Seward Lake this means we should shut down the highway. People say airplanes (jets) and boats eat. There are many animals and birds, there are many many many planes that leave the anchorage and out area 24-7 yet geese and swans and other birds and animals do not flee from this or sting area. I agree there is a problem because of a few people with this area but making it a state park is very bad. The state is already closing state parks because of lack of funds which leaves this public land non usable for public use. I do believe that law enforcement of some sort should be used for people that cause this problem.
Public use area

Signed:

Jim Pettie
Testifier

James S. Pettie

Myself and my family
Representing (Optional)

5750 C WINDY LEAF RD PALMER AK 99645
Address

907-749-4120
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 "An Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area" dated 3/28/2006
Bill/Subject

The Knik River Area is a great recreational Area currently open to all. Creating this as a Public Use area, using Bill 307 sponsored by representative Bill Stoltze will keep this area an equal access to all Alaskans and Matanuska Valley Residence while still maintaining its fish and wildlife.

I have seen this area used for years by everyone, hikers, campers, fishermen, hunters, trippers, four wheelers, motorcycles, 4x4 vehicles and auboters. As a fellow female Alaskan I have done almost everyone of these activities. Giving me the opportunity to create stronger bonds with my family. Now that I have kids of my own this area has given us the ability to do more than just sit at home.

In opposition to creating the Knik River Area as a State Park or Controlled Use area it seems like a frivolous and wasteful spending of the Alaska State Parks monies and already limited resources. Our state park have closed and threatened to close Alaskas lands to access due to lack of funds. If Knik River Area is created as a State Park or Controlled Use area, there is no guarantee that this great family destination will ^{not} be targeted for closure.

Signed: Due to lack of state funding. Buffy Meyer (Buffy Meyer)
Testifier

Myself and my family
Representing (Optional)

5750 N. Cunningham Rd Palmer AK 99645
Address

907 745-6252
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource Comm.
Committee name

Committee on 307, dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

I came here in 1935 w/ the colonists and since that time this Knik area has been used for recreation that is mentioned in this 307 bill. I am in favor of this bill. We are rapidly being restricted and I don't believe that making more restrictive is not for the best interest of our community. Yes there has been abuse but please don't restrict the majority because of the abuse of a few.

Thank you
Kent Sandvik

Signed: Kent L. Sandvik
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

6006 S. Bodenborg, Palmer, AK.
Address

907-745-3054
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Brian Winnestaffer Mat-Su
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

The Knik watershed is a beautiful place that can ~~not~~ allow for multi-uses by people. We must make sure we are representing all user groups. Some user groups cannot co-exist with other user groups in and on some trails. These sensitive areas must be addressed. A "Plan" must be made on how we all can use and enjoy our recreational areas. Motorized and non-motorized uses must be considered fairly!

Signed

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Box 1105 Chickaloon AK
Address

745-7452

Phone number

→ I do not support HB 307 until it is written to represent all user groups. However, this bill is a good start.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Jessica Dryden, Mat-Su Borough
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

① I support more Comprehensive Planning with all affected user groups, citizens, agencies, & concerned individuals including facilitated work sessions more than public hearings.

② I support enhancing/improving ORV trails AND non-motorized trails.

③ I support Immediate Enforcement of rules/regulations.

④ I support Strong Inclusion of area residents and their 'quality of life' concerns into the Planning Process.

⑤ I support the restrictions on weapons in this area.

Signer:

Jessica Dryden
Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 1105, Chickaloon, AK 99674

Address

745-0737

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Resources

Committee name

Committee on

SB 307

, dated

3-27-06

Bill/Subject

See attached letter

Signed

Blaine Blaine

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

18590 E. Homer River Rd Palmer, AK

Address

907-745-2407

Phone number

99645

Page 1
Blaine

March 27, 2006

Senator Huggins and Representative Stoltz

I am opposed to HB307/SB197. I live in the Knik River area and the bill does not do anything to address the issues we deal with on a daily basis. During the summer months, I hear gunshots at all hours of the night. Some nights I do not fall asleep until 2 AM, and they are still shooting. They shoot across the river toward the residential side, on the south of the river.

There are no restroom facilities and this presents a huge problem. Trash and debris are left everywhere, cans and broken bottles used for target practice, McDonalds sacks and other food containers, not to mention the burned cars. Many of the users of this beautiful area show no respect for the area or the residents. ATVer's make trails anywhere and everywhere, through Salmon streams and vegetation areas that should be protected. The bill does not give us adequate enforcement in this area.

I want the area designated a State Recreation Area. That is the only way we can have the maintenance and control needed, as well as, restroom facilities, trash containers and the protection of Salmon and wetland areas and other wildlife, such as, migrating swans. It would allow for responsible motorized recreation users, with designated trails and designated places for firearms use, with enforcement of the No Shooting areas. Grandfathering of the current trails will not work.

This is a beautiful state and this is one of the most beautiful areas in the state. please don't trash it any further.

Respectfully,



Virginia Blaine
18590 E Knik River Rd
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Page 2
Blaine



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____

Committee name _____

Committee on 307 King River, dated 3 27 06

Bill/Subject _____

I support this bill and do not wish to see this put into a park. I have used this for 35 years for recreation and hunting. I haven't seen any decline of birds for bird watchers.

There isn't very much of a place for people to ride their machines so I support this bill.

Signed: William F. Baker
Testifier

Representing (Optional) _____

1351 S Pioneer Dr Palmer AK 99645
Address

907 745 3051
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource Committee.
Committee name

Committee on H.B. 307, dated 03/27/06
Bill/Subject

This is to state my strongest support for H.B. 307 as drafted. This is a very good Bill that will bring some very important order to an area most important to many Alaskans. This legislation will permit continued use ~~and~~ now and in the future. It is most important that we do not allow more land to be "locked up". I compliment Rep. Stoltze for his good leadership on this Bill.

Signed: Peter M. Probasco Adam Robson
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 361 Palmer Alaska 99645
Address

907-745-3182
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 dated 27 MAR 06
Bill/Subject

I've used this area since 1952. The differences between then and now is the lack of vegetation. The ground cover is disappearing under the indiscriminate use of motorized vehicles. The ensuing dust clouds are getting bigger and more frequent. Ask the people in Anchorage about their air quality. Safety is another concern, who likes to be shot at. This bill only ensures more of the same. Don't call it a public use area if all the public can't use it. Listen to the people that live there and have to put up with the mis use of a public resource.

Signed: Jay Cook
Testifier

self
Representing (Optional)

PO Box 520845 Big Lake AK 99652
Address

892-7579
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____

Committee name

Committed on Bill 809 KUPAR, dated 3/27/86
Bill/Subject

I like the AREA of KINK RIVER on the REENTIN
and I don't think it needs to be a PARK
I have used this AREA since 1976, I have
help clean it up several times
I would like see it stay as a public use AREA.
There is alot of people using it,

Signed:

Stanley M Carter
Testifier

SELF

Representing (Optional)

3600 Butte Rd.
Address

745-4994
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the AK House Resource Committee
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 / CS HB307A / Knik River, dated 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

Name: Carrie A. Gray Wolfe

I am disappointed in the way this public hearing is proceeding. We need the time to express our opinions. Attached is my 3-minute statement. Please read.

Signed: Carrie A. Gray Wolfe, Carrie A. Gray Wolfe
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

20340 E. Birch Hill Drive, Palmer, AK 99645
Address

(907) 746-8008
Phone number

Page 1
WOLFE

To: Representative Jay Ramras, Co-Chairman
Re: Public Hearing on the Knik River Public Use Area
Date: March 27, 2006

Summary: Statement of Opposition to HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A. Due to time restraints at the hearing, I may be unable to voice my concerns. Below is my statement of record regarding the Knik River Public Use Area legislation.

My name is Carrie Gray Wolfe and I am a south Knik River resident.

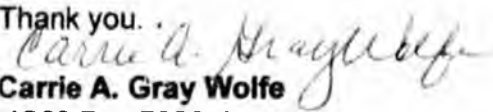
I oppose HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A. I cannot fully address my opposition in 3-minutes; therefore I will concentrate on the biases, inadequate restrictions, and the inability to protect our fish and wildlife as the legislation is currently written.

The legislation is heavily biased towards off-road vehicle use. This bias is at the expense of most other user groups. For example, Page 1, Lines 13-14, states: to "Provide an area for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses including maintenance and enhancement of off-road vehicle opportunities." And Page 3, Lines 11-16, is dedicated solely to the protection and rights of off road users. Where is the language that specifically includes the "recognition" of existing areas of non-motorized users, the "accommodations" of areas for non-motorized use, and the "maintenance and enhancement" of non-motorized trails and waterways? Page 2, Lines 7-11, state that "the commissioner may designate incompatible uses" but Page 3, Lines 5-10, state, "The commissioner shall allow the...area to be used for activities that include all-terrain vehicles, etc..." As written, there are no "incompatible uses." What if one or more of the stated activities is determined harmful to the perpetuation and enhancement of general public recreation, the public enjoyment of fish and wildlife, or the protection and maintenance of wildlife habitat? (Page 1, Lines 4-12)

Page 2, Line 29, and Page 3, Lines 2-4, fails to adequately address target shooting. It states, "The commissioner may not restrict the use of weapons...except in locations...that the use of weapons constitutes a threat to public safety." Where is it not a threat? Weapons are being fired into hillsides and across waterways with homes, residents, and recreational users on the opposite sides. Reckless shooting is destroying wildlife and vegetation. The fish and birds may be at greater risk to lead poisoning from excessive, non-hunting shooting practices. Local residents have to listen to weapons being discharged up to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We have no relief from the noise pollution. Many residents and outdoor enthusiasts avoid using the area in fear for their safety.

I ask you to reject this legislation. There are alternative solutions such as writing a new, non-biased bill or creating a Knik River Valley State Recreation Area. A State Recreation Area (SRA) under AS 41.21 will accommodate all user groups, support effective law enforcement, provide for a public planning process, and abide by the Susitna Area Plan. Two groups in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley already exist to help assist with the development of a SRA. This includes a state park Citizen's Advisory Board comprised of multi-users and The Friends of States Parks that provides supplemental park funding.

Thank you.


Carrie A. Gray Wolfe
HC02 Box 7686-J
Palmer, Alaska 99645
Telephone: (907) 746-8008
Email: graywolfe@gci.net

Page 2
Wolfe



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the AK House Resource Committee
Committee name

Committee on HB307 and CS HB307A dated 3/27/05
Bill/Subject

The way in which this public hearing is proceeding is entirely unprofessional, disorganized, irresponsible, and unacceptable. Many of us local residents, who strongly oppose this bill, have given considerable effort in preparing for this last chance at making our voices and concerns heard. After 2 public hearings, our representatives should have realized the split, opposing sides and concerns over this specific issue. It is disheartening to realize that these same representatives did not set aside enough time to fully address all people through this public process. Attached is my short-version for my "speech".

Signed: Scott A. Wolfe
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

20390 E. Birch Hill Dr., Palmer AK 99645
Address

746-8008
Phone number

Page 1
Wolfe

My name is Scott Wolfe and I am a south Knik River resident.

I wish to thank the legislatures and the public for their significant efforts for attempting to develop legislation for addressing concerns and conflicts that have developed because of repeated, irresponsible use of the Knik River area by recreational users. However, HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A sounds as if it were written to perpetuate and enhance the problems instead of develop solutions.

For over 20 years, residents have expressed concerns to government personnel and enforcement officials about the following problems caused by overuse and abuse:

1. Burned and abandoned vehicles
2. Uncontrolled gunfire
3. Uncontrolled motorized use
4. Erosion, dust, and damage caused by ORVs
5. Pollution (Ground, air, water, noise)
6. Abandoned campfires
7. Poaching
8. Wildlife and fish harassment and disturbance
9. Trespassing
10. Alcohol and drug use
11. Incompatible uses (e.g.; airboats on Jim Creek adjacent to Jim Lake while canoes are present, lead shot in waterways)

So, obviously to everyone involved, something needs to be done to curtail the destructive activities that have existed for far, far too long. Nevertheless, this legislation does not provide mechanisms for perpetuating and enhancing non-motorized use. After the 2 public hearings, it should be very clear that much opposition still exists over what is our "best" alternative for managing the incredible wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities in this area. All testimonies are available on public record.

Due to time constraints, I will not reiterate a step-by-step walk through the shortcomings of the proposed legislation but strongly recommend for the legislators to review everyone's recommendations, make a much better attempt at improving the legislation, and allow a more extensive public review process before approving any legislation for this critical area.

The Knik River area and its residents deserve much, much better than a Public Use Area. I've heard ATVs say, "hey, this is Alaska, where we can do whatever we want when we want" - "If you don't like it, just move!" This legislation paves the way for this illogical thinking. Because no legislation has been previously developed specifically for the area, this is now the opportunity to pave the way for wise- and sustainable- use, instead of the "take what you can, give nothing back" attitude so prevalent with many current users and in HB307.

Yes, the State must act on this ever-growing problem. However, HB307 and the redraft are not the answer.

Page 2
Wolfe



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____

Resources

Committee name

Committee on _____

H.B. 307 Knik River

, dated 3-27-06

Bill/Subject

I wish to complement the author of this Bill that allows multiple users to continue enjoying their personal method of useage. I personally first used the Knik valley with the Scout Troop that Mr. Hawalters loaded on his 1 1/2 ton truck and drove us to the glacier at the head of the Knik river 1946. Since then I have enjoyed the valley every year, hunting, fishing, picnics, with boats and off road vehicles. I support this bill as it does not discriminate against any type of recreation and supports management oversight.

Signed: _____

Noel Woods

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 827 Palmer, ALASKA 99645

Address

745-3027

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Alaska House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, dated 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

I ask that the committee reject HB 307 and its revisions. The Knik River area needs and deserves a better measure, one that makes this a safe area for residents and recreational use and that will make it truly accessible. As it is presently, I cannot take my grandchildren into the area without concern for their safety.

I am in favor of designating the area a State Recreation area in which regulations and law enforcement will better address the needs of the area. I do not believe that a Public Use Area designation meets those needs. A Public Use Designation only serves the interests of those who are currently using the area inappropriately - most of whom do not live in the affected area!

Signed: Katherine Cross
Testifier

self
Representing (Optional)

14725 W. Ryans Creek Dr, Wasilla
Address

892-7579
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name
Committee on HB 307, dated 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

Please see attached
3 pages

Signed: Dick Loutts
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

Hello, My name is Dick Coutts, I am a 42 year resident of the Knik River Valley. I am speaking today for myself, as a present Board Member of the **Butte Community Council**, as the Secretary of the Butte Community Council **Trails Committee**, and as a representative of the **thousands of people** who signed our petition. I am in favor of creating a Knik River Public Use Area as described in House Bill 307 and Senate Bill 197. The land described in the bills is presently open to off-road motorized transportation as well as other multiple uses as described in the State of Alaska statutes under "generally allowed uses" 11AAC 96.020.

I have been using this area for off-road motorized travel to the Knik Glacier area for recreation, hunting, mineral exploration, mining and trapping for 42 years, This area has been used relatively unrestricted for motorized access for over 50 years without any significant damage to the environment or habitat.

Proof of this in the hunting, fishing, and waterfowl regulations currently in place and by statements of the Alaska Fish and game department that show healthy populations of moose, sheep, bears and other animals. A chart from the Fish and game shows that the salmon populations for the Knik River area are at an all time high, and after 50 or more years of unrestricted crossings of salmon streams in our area, there is no significant damage to the salmon habitat and no resulting drop in salmon populations due to the stream crossings.

We think that a designated area for Off Road vehicle use is entirely appropriate located here close to the most populated area of Alaska. We need a designated Off-Road Vehicle, Public Use Area here in close proximity to Anchorage and the Matanuska valley for the thousands of hunters, all-terrain vehicles enthusiasts and others with valid reasons for motorized travel in the Knik River Valley, such as miners for access to their mining claims and private property owners for their access to their property. There are several parcels of private property in the Off-Road areas of the Knik River valley and several mining claims located near the Knik Glacier.

We wish to retain our **traditional methods of transportation and our traditional lifestyles** here in the Knik River valley!

The State of Alaska Statutes define "**traditional uses and traditional** methods of transportation. **Sec 38.04.200 (2)** traditional means of access means those types of transportation for which a popular pattern of use has developed.

There are several non-motorized **National Parks** here in Alaska constituting millions of acres. There are also millions of acres of **designated "wilderness"** areas, and **additional millions of acres** of State Parks, Wildlife Refuges and

various other land areas already set aside for people who desire a "Quiet wilderness experience"

Located right here between Anchorage and the Knik River Valley is the **Chugach State Park**, ½ million acre's (one of the largest state parks in the United States) with several access points from the Old Glen Highway and the Seward highway. The eastern part of the Chugach State park is a designated "wilderness" area.

The proposed Knik River Public Use Area is **relatively small** in comparison to the huge areas already set aside to satisfy the requirements of non-motorized users. The area presently used for Off-Road recreation is approximately 1 mile wide by 18 miles long in the main valley of the Knik River. The sand and gravel bar area along the north edge of the Knik River is the main corridor used by motorized vehicles, along with some trails in the foothills and highlands along the mountains.

Regulation that apply to these lands

There are approx. 20 "agency's" that have plans and / or regulations that apply to all or part of the Borough, State, and federal lands in the vicinity of the proposed Knik River Public Use Area.

Wetlands are adequately protected by provisions in this bill that state: With the assistance of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the commissioner shall identify wetland areas within the Knik River Public Use Area and provide for the protection of the wetland areas in the **management plan**.

Support for a public use area

There is a lot of **support** for this bill by local residents. Two **petitions** with over 3,000 names has been collected over the past 2 years. 5 **resolutions** by the Butte Community Council over the last 13 years support the House and Senate Bills and support keeping traditional trails open in our valley.

The Mat-Su Trails Council has voted to support the Knik River Public Use Area as amended and has also voted to retain the existing trails provision that is *included in the draft of House Bill 307*.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly has voted to support state designation of land in the Knik River Watershed as a Public Use Area. Matanuska-Susitna Borough **Resolution Serial No. 05-068 (AM)**

Trails in the area. There are Mat-Su Borough easements, Federal section 17b easements, a certified State of Alaska (DNR) RS 2477 Right-of-Way corridor, many other trails constructed under the DNR "generally allowed uses" with a

long history of public use that constitute a basic infrastructure for a public use area.

The main trail corridor in the Knik River valley is the **RS2477 trail** that has been certified by the state of Alaska (DNR) as a public trail. This trail corridor extends from near the Old Glen Highway to the Knik Glacier area and 4 miles up Metal Creek canyon.

There is an **easement** from the BLM through the native land grant that coincides with the RS 2477 trail corridor. This easement from the BLM allows access to public lands beyond the native lands.

Easements by the Mat-Su Borough designate public access corridors in the Jim Creek trailhead area.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the AK House Resources Committee
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, dated 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

I am appalled that time is apparently not allotted for testimony for the many people who prepared to do so & took time out of their schedules to come

I oppose HB 307 as originally written. Support the recent changes with further changes to make this a good compromise bill. Without the recommended changes the bill should not be passed

Page 1 - line 14 Add wording to read "Provide for the public to enjoy the full spec and non-motorized recreation determined to be compatible with (1) & (2) of this section

Incompatible Uses Section has big problem Contradictory & ineffective
By allowing commissioner to regulate except as provided in the section, then listing all uses & existing trails - the result is the commissioner cannot regulate any use or any trail even if it is detrimental to the purpose

line 5 - Add the phrase AS COMPATIBLE WITH PURPOSES

line 11 - Delete - This circumvents good trail planning

Importance of Enforcement cannot be overstated Correct wording is necessary to ensure enforcement of existing laws

Complete Prepared testimony attached

Agree completely with Stolte the behavior & access are two different things

Signed: Charlotte Sartor
Testifier

30 year Butte resident, User of area Also on Board of KRWG
Representing (Optional) but testifying for self

5900 S. OVR RD
Address

907-745-4565 bobchar@mtaonline.net
Phone number

Page 1 Sartor

Monday 3/27/06

As a Butte area resident and user of the Knik River, Swan/Jim/Mud Lake area for more than 30 years I think we need to work for the best possible bill to address problems, and to allow all users to continue to use this area in the years to come. HB307/SB197 as originally written does not do this. Proposed changes to HB307 introduced 3/15/06 have some improvements - calling for a management plan that includes provisions for enforcement & is established after public hearings; managing shooting on the basis of safety; and introducing important enforcement authority. But further changes are needed.

Purposes Section, (41.23.180) Page 1.

The wording needs to include non-motorized use and compatibility with purposes.

Line 14 should be changed to read "Provide for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses including off-road and non-motorized recreation determined to be compatible with (1) and (2) of this section"

Management section, (41.23.190) Page 2.

I would like to see this expanded to include workshops and/or establishing a citizen's advisory board to address residents concerns about quality of life & safety

Incompatible Uses section (41.23.200) Page 2 & 3.

This is a big problem area. It is still contradictory and it is ineffective as written

Page 2 lines 21 & 22 states "except as provided in this section, the commissioner may prohibit or restrict uses..."

Page 3 of this section, Lines 5 -16 (d) (1) & (2) list a variety of uses and recognition of all existing off road trails. The result of this wording would seem to be that the commissioner cannot regulate any use or any existing trail even if it is detrimental to the purposes.

Page 3 Line 6, needs to be reworded to read: allow the Knik River Public Use Area to be used for activities, as compatible with purposes in AS 41.23.180. It is not necessary to try to list every activity. All of the uses and trails do need to be compatible with the purposes section to have an effective bill, and this needs to be clearly stated in the bill

Page 3 Lines 11-16 try to circumvent good public process trail planning and should be deleted.

Page 3 & 4 Enforcement authority 41.23.210 & 41.23.220 Importance of Enforcement cannot be overstated. The majority of users agree enforcement is badly needed. It is important that the wording is such to ensure timely and adequate enforcement of existing laws. Correct wording is necessary to ensure enforcement of existing laws

Thank you for proposing some changes to this bill as written and for allowing testimony today. I have heard that special recreation areas allow for more enforcement power than public use areas. But I hope, further changes will allow for good enforcement, and this bill can be a good compromise, rather than starting all over. However, if these further changes cannot be made, the bill should not be passed.

Charlotte Sartor
5900 S Our Rd
Palmer, AK 99645

Page 2 Sartor

Good Day!

I am Robert Howard, Alaskan resident since 1961 – past member of the MSB Trails Committee, Mat Su Trails Council, and Knik River Watershed Group.

Among many activities, my family uses the Knik R. area for motorized recreation. We have recognized the need and advocated two decades for stewardship.

Our primary concern is that HB 307 fails to recognize forgone, costly, public processes aimed at solutions for the area – all of which go well beyond a Public Use Area.

The Susitna Plan mandates a State Recreation Area for the Jim/Swan Wetlands. Among the many documents available to you is this January's draft of the MSB Butte Asset Management Plan, which states "The Butte has several areas that warrant consideration as regional parks including the Knik R. Jim Cr. Area as well as the Mt. and Jim Lk. Area currently owned by the State and should be managed by DNR to be consistent with the above".

HB307 limits management options and specifically excludes that possibility.

The bill mentions 'enhancing off- road opportunities' twice. Knowledge of the area and aerial photos reveal thorough saturation of motor trails. (Please refer to my graphic and photos provided).

ORV use is devastating the dunes channeling the outlet of Jim Cr. and potential course of the river. Ruts are 9 feet deep with full growth cottonwoods tumbling into them.

ORV trails extend into wetland areas holding thousands of waterfowl spring and fall.

ATV's have extended far beyond and claim as 'traditional' logging trails past Jim Lk. churning up springs open all year around, turning out onto wetlands, and imperiling anadromous streams – some of which I have personally made DNR aware.

HB307 attempts to 'recognize' trails that are not viable.

Wetlands are assaulted from all sides in an area already utilizing National Guard cleanups.

6 fuel barrels I reported along with a now removed illegal camp and helped DNR post, remain in the wetlands 1 ½ yrs. later.

The enforcement proposal in HB307 is too cumbersome compared to solutions available under AS41.21 A State Recreation Area is a better choice.

Gov. Murkowski was recently in the news advocating improving Alaska's image. . Truly a jewel accessible to over 300K people, home to prolific wildlife, deserving of all options, Knik River Watershed is a fine place to start.

Please do not disregard the legitimate processes preceding HB307!
Toss out the petition signatures from the Huggins/Stoltze soldiers – they were observed fraudulently using KRWG's cover letter at the State Fair – and give special attention to the residents concerns.

Thank You!



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

Resources

Committee name

Committee on

HB 307, Knik River

, dated

3-27-07

Bill/Subject

The work draft dated 3-15-06 does have some improvements and comes closer to what most people spoke up for during public testimony. Most people seemed to want sustainable use for several groups, and enforcement I speak as a member of 2 hiking groups and the Valley Walkers and Hikers Association. I did not notice any mention in the work draft about restoration of areas that have been eroded or trampled or were bogged, and that is one detail I'd urge you to consider.

The second consideration is in Section 1, Item 4-B - a phrase about "additional uses that are compatible with motorized use" - it implies that non-compatible uses would be not so welcome. Sometimes, in order to let non and motorized groups be compatible, some extra effort needs to be made - maybe some specified trails, or schedules for certain uses on certain days - but I'd like that section to be revised to be more inclusive. Hiking is mentioned only once I think, and I'd like more consideration for more uses.

My third consideration is regarding sustainability - there is a phrase about "minimizes damage" but that seems weak when the idea of keeping an area usable and healthy for future generations is concerned. I suggest a stronger mention of protecting the area for the future.

Enforcement is my last big issue and I just urge you to pass a law that allows people to use the area safely and comfortably. Good luck with this process, and I appreciate the opportunity to testify:

Signed:

J. Clark

Testifier

Happy Hikers, Valley Wanderers, Valley Mountain Bikers and Hiker Assoc.

Representing (Optional)

PO Box 876395, Van Nuys, CA 91418

Address

(901) 376-9576

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources Committee name

Committee on HB 307 Bill/Subject, dated 3/27/06

Thank you for the work that has already been done. I still feel that the best management tool for the Knik River Area is to become a Special Recreation Area.

See testimony attached

I will be out of town on Weds

I do not believe Parks should be mentioned in this bill. Management by State Parks should be an option at another time.

Signed: Henry Moore
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

PO Box 399
Address

907 745-1540
Phone number

Page | Moore

Testimony for HB 307
March 27, 2006

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. Also thank you for the work that has already been done amending this legislation.

I still feel that the best management tool for the Knik River Area is creating a Special Recreation Area which was recommended in the 1985 Susitna Area Plan. Division of Parks manages SRAs and already has the organizational structure to provide enforcement, interpretive signs and facilities such as outhouses, pavilions and the like.

However today we are addressing HB 307 creating the Knik River Public Use Area. I have commented on this legislation in the past, am pleased to see the changes that have been made thus far and would like to provide additional comments.

Handwritten mark
*Please ensure adequate funding is attached to this bill so that more than one enforcement personnel can provide round the clock presence during peak periods of activity. (In 1995 I was involved in a project that repaired the portage between Jim Lake and Jim Creek. The Troopers at that time were conducting evening patrols. We would see them about 11:00 pm as we were wrapping up our work. Shortly after they cruised through, people would start showing up. Sometimes the next morning there would be litter, broken glass, empty shotgun shells and fire pits full of nails.) In addition I have found 3 campfires left smoldering and or burning.

Safety of the residents of the area and lawful users of the area cannot be overemphasized.

Funding also needs to be able to address human and solid waste management by establishing and maintaining outhouses and garbage cans/dumpsters.

To refer specifically to the legislation

*On page 1 line 14 - please add "and non motorized recreation, compatible with section (1) and (2) of this section" to the end of this line.

*On page 2 line 7 - include workshops with the public hearings.

Also recommend that a citizen's advisory board be established with a balanced representation. This would help ensure that quality of life and safety issues for the local residents would be addressed.

*page 3 line 6 please insert 'compatible with purposes' after activities. *new word*

*page 3 lines 11-16 This section should be deleted. ORV use has already been established and the points addressed in this section can be resolved in the public hearing/workshop process.

Please consider these comments and adequately fund this legislation so that the Knik River Area can be lawfully managed for the benefit and safety of local residents, diverse user groups and the rich natural resources found in this valley.

Thank you for your time and effort on this legislation

Nancy Moore
PO Box 399
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Nancy Moore

907-745-1540



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307A dated 3/15/06 to 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

As attached - Brit Lively

Opposed to HB307A - reasons previously faxed.

Additional information as attached.

Signed

Brit (Brigitte) Lively
Testifier

Butte Area Residents Civic Organization eslf
Representing (Optional)

Res: 5505 South Old Glenn, Palmer

Mail: 259 S. Alaska St, Palmer AK 99645
Address

907 - 45-7126

Phone number

Brit Lively

Mr. Chairman and members of the Alaska State House Resources Committee

I am Brit Lively, long-time Butte resident I support responsible multiple use. I also represent Butte Area Residents Civic Organization

Because none of you can imagine life in Butte unless you spend a weekend with us to see the beauty and the beast, we have done the next best thing and taken a packet of documentation including 2 videos showing the sunny side and the dark side of Butte to most of Juneau offices. Before deciding the fate of this community, please, assure us that you spend a couple of hours studying the material and the faxed testimony from those who could not come today. *you in Juneau*

You are the governing stewards of our lands and our waters which we are so richly blessed with in the Knik River Valley. We understand that you are under much pressure to do right by everyone and fortunately you have statutes and a mission statement to guide you, to: "Develop, conserve and enhance natural resources for present and future Alaskans."

With this in mind I emphasized the major deficiencies of HB 307 re-write with suggested changes in my faxed material. The major change is based on DNR's mission where the "Purpose of HB307" should have the paragraphs reversed. If you put recreation ahead of protection of habitat and wildlife along with the limited enforcement in this legislation, you may well end up with a gravel pit and a dust bowl extending beyond the boundaries of this proposed Public Use Area. You may not realize that anywhere from 1,000 to 3,000 people are using this area on most weekends.

Therefore change
Page 1, line 7-12: change to read:

1) Perpetuate, mitigate, protect and maintain migratory waterfowl nesting areas and fish and wildlife habitat for sustaining and enhancing

- a) traditional public use of fish and wildlife populations and
- b) general public enjoyment and recreation

still
But I primarily advocate for a Knik River Valley State Recreation Area under AS 41.21 to provide strong and immediate law enforcement, a management plan with multi-user advisory, infrastructure including sanitary facilities, allowing users to share the cost for their services and giving Butte residents economic opportunities based on our high-value recreational area.

through
Our small community should not have to suffer the entire burden of every conceivable kind of motorized recreation for south-central Alaska, where we already endure the race track noise most every day of every weekend and mid-week events all summer long *even* while the owners are *still* trying to mitigate the noise. *But*, add to that all the detrimental *issues* activities described by others during this hearing, it is just too much.

Please, help our community discard the prevalent perception of, "who cares, it's the Butte," and provide a strong framework of a legislative designation which will give us the respect we deserve and the wings we need to soar to new heights. *in a structured multi-use environment.*



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the 4RES Committee name
Committee on HB 307, dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

I object to the Jim Creek and Jim Lake Area becoming a STATE PARK. I and many others use this area a lot for hunting, hiking, and fishing. I believe it would depress the use of this area and I personally would probably look for another area for recreational purposes. I believe fewer people would use the area if it were turned into a state park.

Signed: Clayton J. Martin
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 4636, Palmer, Ak. 99645 sitka 5651A N. Mavorick Dr.
Address

(907) 745-6447
Phone number

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Vice Chair:
House Finance Committee

Chair:
House Finance Subcommittees for,
Department of Public Safety
Department of Law



Session:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-4958
Fax (907) 465-4928

Interim:
P.O. Box 104
Chitina, AK 99567

BILL STOLTZE STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us

House Bill 307

Knik River Public Use Area

"An act creating the Knik River Public Use Area."

The Knik River Valley is a destination for many Alaskans looking for outdoor recreational opportunities. The area is utilized by a wide variety of Alaskans for a wide variety of recreational activities.

With the increasing population in South Central Alaska, more and more people are traveling to the Knik River Valley to recreate. This increase has created the need to establish specific management for the area. House Bill 307 will establish a Knik River Public Use Area. The framework set down by this legislation will protect the area's habitat and provide the recreational activities now available for future generations to enjoy.

I ask for your consideration and support of HB 307 so that this area will have the management it needs to continue to be a source of recreational opportunities for all Alaskans.

DISTRICT 16

BIRCHWOOD • BUTTE • CHUGIAK • EKLUTNA • FAIRVIEW LOOP
KNIK RIVER ROAD • LAZY MOUNTAIN • PALMER • PETERS CREEK

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER

FRANK MURKOWSKI, GOVERNOR

550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1070
Anchorage, AK 99501
PHONE: (907) 269-8600
FAX: (907) 269-8904
EMAIL: bobl@dnr.state.ak.us

April 21, 2005

Ben Mulligan
Legislative Assistant to Representative Stoltze
Juneau, AK

Dear Ben:

Thank you for the opportunity to review draft legislation for the Knik River Watershed. We do have a couple of comments. Specifically, we have three more substantial comments and then a few technical comments.

Substantial Comments

Emphasis on off-road vehicles. I understand that Representative Stoltze wishes to ensure that state management maintains and enhances off-road vehicle opportunities. However, I think that the emphasis is stated in a manner that will be perceived as overly weighted toward ATV use and even may create some legal problems. I think the perception of unbalance is created by having off-road vehicle recreation named particularly in the Purpose section without mentioning most of the other uses. It can be solved by putting a general mention of other uses.

The potential legal problem may be created similarly. By providing off-road vehicles in the primary intent in subsection (1) and (3) of the intent "Purpose" Section, and then not mentioning most other uses shall be allowed until subsection (d) of the "Incompatible Use" Section, it creates the impression that those other uses are allowed only if they are compatible with the off-road motorized vehicles. I think that this impression will be controversial, and will constrain the public discussions that occur. While I understand the emphasis on off-road vehicles, I do not think that this intent is what is required.

Subsection §180(1). Some suggested language that would replace §180(1) is below. I hope this language makes clear an emphasis on maintaining (and enhancing) off-road vehicles use, but avoids some of the problems of intent in the current language. Either one of these might replace subsection (1):

- (1) Provide an area for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses including maintenance or enhancement of off-road vehicles opportunities
- (1) Provide an area for the public to enjoy motorized and non-motorized uses of fish, wildlife and the land.

DNR Comments

Alternatively, you could have one subsection that talks about all the uses, and one subsection that indicates, "provide for the maintenance or enhancement of opportunities for motorized and non-motorized use of the area."

Subsection §180(3). I would eliminate the words "through off-road vehicles recreation" and go back to the Nelchina Public Use Area language of "including." Note that off-road vehicles haven't been restricted in Nelchina. The lack of this language in Nelchina hasn't created problems.

Mention Planning Process. It would help the Department if the legislation mentioned a planning process, as does the Nelchina. I recommend that language be added to the Management Section as follows:

§190(a). The commissioner is responsible for the management of the surface and subsurface estate within the Knik River Public Use Area consistent with the purposes of AS 41.23.180. After adequate public hearings the commissioner may designate incompatible uses consistent with 41.21.200 and shall adopt and may revise a management plan for the Knik River Public Use Area.

Mention Education/Compliance. The Knik River area, more than most places in the state, suffers from lack of field presence, education, and enforcement. All the junk cars around Jim Lake are the prime example. It's such a big deal in this area, that one of the major issues surrounding management of this area is how DNR will ensure compliance. I think it will help DNR greatly in the ultimate management if the legislation mentions this. I do not advocate new powers making DNR into police. We do, however, recommend that the following be added to the end of §190(a) above:

The management plan shall address mechanisms to encourage and enforce compliance with required provisions.

Technical Comments

We have a number of technical comments. Comments that we do not believe change the intent of the legislation.

Page 2, line 19. §190(d). We recommend taking out the requirement to adopt regulations. There are lots of regulations about wetlands now. It's unclear that we need more. The management plan may provide education, move trails, etc. etc. It's unclear that specific wetland regulations are needed. Thus, we recommend that "shall adopt regulation providing for" be replaced with "the management plan for the Knik Public Use Area shall provide mechanism for"... That way, if we need regs, we can do them. If we don't, we don't have to.

Page 3, Lines 5-8. §200(e). This section requires that existing off-road trails be maintained. Some are probably not appropriate. Some may be in areas that encourage damage and should be re-routed. This section would not allow DNR to reroute the trails. Also, sometimes it is appropriate to disperse off-road use. In some locations it is typically appropriate to

accommodate it. The legislation should be silent about this level of detailed land management decisions.

We recommend that the emphasis be on maintaining existing off-road *opportunities*, rather than the exact trails. Specifically, we recommend the subsection be written to say:

The commissioner shall maintenance or enhance off road motor vehicle opportunities in the Knik Public Use Area, and shall endeavor to accommodate increased use of the public use area.

Page 3, lines 9-12. §200(f). The legislation should not restrict the DNR's regulation of firearms to these specific areas. Rather, it should restrict the regulation only to threats to public safety. Currently, the subsection reads that the firearm use must be a threat to public safety *and* in areas of high public use. DNR, especially this Division has a history of very rarely regulating guns. We just don't do it. But there are some areas, especially in the Knik Area where people are shooting across the river into residential areas. This isn't a high public use area, so it wouldn't qualify. Therefore, we recommend that the subsection be changed as follows:

The commissioner may not restrict the use of weapons, including firearms, within the Knik River Public Use Area except ~~in sites of high public use such as picnic areas, boat ramps, camping grounds, and parking areas~~ where for locations where the commissioner determines that the use of weapons constitutes a threat to public safety.

If you really need to specify these areas, add "such as sites of frequent public use, picnic areas"....at the end of the sentence. But we don't think its necessary.

Page 1, lines 9-11. §180(2). The specification of fish and wildlife should be broader. We recommend the following minor change:

Protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat including habitat for trumpeter swan nesting areas, habitats for moose, Dall sheep, and brown bear ~~and other fish and wildlife habitat~~ so that traditional public use of fish and wildlife populations may continue;

Page 3, lines 13-14. §210. "Subject to valid existing rights" is the same concept in this situation as "vacant and unappropriated. And until the state receives title, it isn't state-owned land or water. Therefore, we recommend the following minor change:

Subject to valid existing rights, ~~and the receipt of state title, the vacant and unappropriated~~ state-owned lan and water and the state land and water acquired....

Page 3, line 1-4. §200(d). I don't think you mean this to be an all-inclusive list. There is probably something left out. So, I would either change the word "involving" to "including" (which means "including but not limited to") or I would have some general, "and other recreational uses" at the end of the list.

Thanks. I hope this is helpful.

-- Bob Loeffler

Conceptual
AMENDMENT #1

OFFERED IN HOUSE RESOURCES BY Seaton

To: CSHB 307(RES) 24-LS0737\I.1

Page 1, line 14

Following "vehicle"

Insert "and non-motorized recreation"

Renumber accordingly.

Uman

Conceptual
AMENDMENT #2

OFFERED IN HOUSE RESOURCES

BY

Seaton

To: CSHB 307(RES) 24-LS0737I.2

Page 2, lines 18

Following "(d)"

Delete "With the assistance of the United States Army Corps of
Engineers,"

Renumber accordingly.

UNAN

Conceptual
AMENDMENT #3

OFFERED IN HOUSE RESOURCES BY

Seaton

To: CSHB 307(RES) 24-LS0737\I.3

Page 3, line 6

Following "activities"

Insert "as compatible with purposes specified in AS 41.23.180"

Renumber accordingly.

UNAN

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB307CS(RES)-DNR-MLW-03-24-06
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
 Title: Knik River Public Use Area RDU: Resource Development
 Component: Claims, Permits and Leases
 Sponsor: Rep. Stoltze
 Requester: (H) RES Component No.: 2460

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	92.1	127.2	70.8	70.8	70.8	70.8
Travel	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Contractual	75.2	16.2	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0
Supplies	7.5	4.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	176.8	149.4	88.8	88.8	88.8	88.8

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

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	176.8	149.4	88.8	88.8	88.8	88.8
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type—Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	176.8	149.4	88.8	88.8	88.8	88.8

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0
 Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

Full-time	2	2	1	1	1	1
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The bill establishes the Knik River Public Use Area. The legislation would require DNR to prepare and adopt a land management plan, and manage the area consistent with the purposes established in the legislation and the plan. The costs to DMLW would include expenses related to preparation of the land management plan, public notice and review, adoption and printing of the plan, as well as ongoing management of the public use area.

Prepared by: Dick Mylius, Acting Director Phone (907)269-8600
 Division: Mining, Land and Water Date/Time 3/24/2006
 Approved by: Mike Menge, Commissioner Date 3/24/2006
 Agency: Natural Resources

FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

BILL NO. HB307CS(RES)-DNR-MLW-03-24-06

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

Plan Preparation and Adoption

(We have assumed that this process will take two years to complete.)

PERSONAL SERVICES COST - \$113.4 total (for 18 months)

One Natural Resource Specialist (NRS) III (range 18) - 9 Mo. FY07, 9 Mo. FY08 - total 18 months at \$6.3/month = \$113.4 - for plan preparation, review and adoption.

TRAVEL, CONTRACTUAL, SUPPLIES

Travel would be minimal at \$1.0 in FY07 and \$1.0 in FY08 as most of the public meetings would be in the Mat-Su Borough.

Contractual costs in FY07 would be for a User Survey (\$36.0), scoping and draft plan ads, public notice printing, room rentals, and the preparation and distribution of news letters and a draft management plan (\$9.5).

Contractual costs in FY08 would be for follow up public meetings room rental, printing and distribution of the final adopted plan (\$2.0).

Other contractual costs include \$7.0 for office space, telephones, core service charges and related expenses for the new position in FY07, and \$2.5 in FY08.

Supplies are budgeted at \$2.0 per year. FY07 includes one-time start-up costs for new computers and office equipment of \$9.5.

Management of Public Use Area

(We have assumed that the permitting and management begin in FY07 and will be ongoing.)

PERSONAL SERVICES COST - \$70.8/year

One Natural Resource Specialist (NRS) II (range 16) @5.9/month - 6 months in FY07 and 12 months/year in FY08 and beyond.

TRAVEL, CONTRACTUAL, SUPPLIES

Travel would be minimal (assumed at \$1.0/year) as the management activities would be in the Mat-Su Borough.

Annual contractual includes \$7.0/year for office space, telephones, core service charges and related expenses for the new position. Other annual contractual costs would be for professional services as needed (\$2.0). FY09 and beyond includes contractual costs of \$5.0/year for a dedicated vehicle for use by the NRS I for field presence.

Supplies are budgeted at \$2.0 per year. FY07 includes one-time start-up costs for new computers and office equipment of \$9.5.

24-LS07371
Ballock
3/15/06

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 307()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE STOLTZE

A BILL
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act creating the Knik River Public Use Area."

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 * Section 1. AS 41.23 is amended by adding new sections to article 1 to read:

4 Sec. 41.23.180. Purpose of AS 41.23.180 - 41.23.230. The purpose of
5 AS 41.23.180 - 41.23.230 is to establish the area described in AS 41.23.230 as the
6 Knik River Public Use Area. The Knik River Public Use Area is established to

7 (1) perpetuate and enhance

8 (A) general public recreation;

9 (B) public enjoyment of fish and wildlife;

10 (2) protect and maintain migratory waterfowl nesting areas; habitats
11 for moose, Dall sheep, and brown bear; and other fish and wildlife habitat so that
12 traditional public use of fish and wildlife populations may continue;

13 (3) provide an area for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public
14 uses, including maintenance and enhancement of off-road vehicle opportunities;

15 (4) allow

1 (A) continued motorized access for miners and owners of
2 private property in the Knik River Public Use Area; and

3 (B) additional public uses of the area determined by the
4 commissioner to be compatible with this section.

5 **Sec. 41.23.190. Management.** (a) The commissioner is responsible for the
6 management of the land and mineral estate within the Knik River Public Use Area
7 consistent with the purposes of AS 41.23.180. After adequate public hearings, the
8 commissioner may designate incompatible uses and shall adopt and may revise a
9 management plan for the Knik River Public Use Area. The management plan must
10 include provisions for the enforcement of the plan and compliance with the
11 requirements of the plan.

12 (b) The commissioner of fish and game, the Board of Fisheries, and the Board
13 of Game are responsible for the management of fish and game resources and public
14 use of fish and wildlife in the Knik River Public Use Area consistent with the purposes
15 of AS 41.23.180.

16 (c) The Knik River Public Use Area may not be managed as a unit of the state
17 park system.

18 (d) With the assistance of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the
19 commissioner shall identify wetland areas within the Knik River Public Use Area and
20 provide for the protection and use of the wetland areas in the management plan.

21 **Sec. 41.23.200. Incompatible uses.** (a) Except as provided in this section, the
22 commissioner may prohibit or restrict uses determined to be incompatible with the
23 purposes of the Knik River Public Use Area under AS 41.23.180 within the state-
24 owned land and water described in AS 41.23.230.

25 (b) Nothing in AS 41.23.180 - 41.23.230 prohibits the Department of Fish and
26 Game from engaging in rehabilitation, enhancement, and development of fish and
27 wildlife habitat within an area described in AS 41.23.230 that is consistent with the
28 purposes stated in AS 41.23.180.

29 (c) The commissioner may not restrict

30 (1) lawful fishing, hunting, or trapping ~~as provided in AS 41.23.230~~
31 regulation of the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game in the Knik River Public

1 Use Area; or

2 (2) the use of weapons, including firearms, in the Knik River Public
3 Use Area except in locations where the commissioner determines that the use of
4 weapons constitutes a threat to public safety:

5 (d) The commissioner shall

6 (1) allow the Knik River Public Use Area to be used for activities that
7 include all-terrain vehicles, aircraft, watercraft, airboats, snowmobiling, horseback
8 riding, hiking, bicycling, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, skijoring, camping,
9 hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, and, where permitted, mineral
10 exploration and mining; and

11 (2) recognize the existing off-road motor vehicle trails and the access
12 those trails provide to areas in the Knik River Public Use Area, make accommodations
13 that will provide the shortest possible route to avoid critical habitat, conduct trail
14 rehabilitation in a way that minimizes damage, maintain and enhance off-road motor
15 vehicle options and opportunities in the Knik River Public Use Area, and provide for
16 increased use of the public use area.

17 (e) The commissioner of public safety and the commissioner of fish and game
18 shall have necessary access for fish and game management, research, and enforcement
19 purposes.

20 **Sec. 41.23.210. Enforcement authority.** (a) In the Knik River Public Use
21 Area described in AS 41.23.250, the following persons are peace officers of the state
22 for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of AS 41.23.180 - 41.23.230 and
23 regulations adopted under AS 41.23.180 - 41.23.230:

24 (1) an employee of the department or other person authorized by the
25 commissioner;

26 (2) a peace officer, as that term is defined in AS 01.10.060.

27 (b) A person designated in (a) of this section may, when enforcing the
28 provisions of AS 41.23.180 - 41.23.230 or a regulation adopted under AS 41.23.180 -
29 41.23.230,

30 (1) execute a warrant or other process issued by an officer or court of
31 competent jurisdiction;

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(2) administer or take an oath, affirmation, or affidavit; and

(3) arrest a person who violates a provision of AS 41.23.180 - 41.23.230 or a regulation adopted under AS 41.23.180 - 41.23.230.

Sec. 41.23.220. Penalty. (a) A person who violates a provision of AS 41.23.180 - 41.23.230 or a regulation adopted under AS 41.23.180 - 41.23.230 is guilty of a violation as defined in AS 11.81.900.

(b) The supreme court shall establish by order or rule a schedule of bail amounts for violations under (a) of this section that allow the disposition of a citation without a court appearance.

Sec. 41.23.230. Knik River Public Use Area. Subject to valid existing rights, state-owned land and water and the state land and water acquired in the future that lie within the boundaries described in this section are designated as the Knik River Public Use Area, are reserved for all uses compatible with their primary function as public use land, and are assigned to the department for control and management:

(1) Township 15 North, Range 4 East, Seward Meridian;

(2) Township 15 North, Range 5 East, Seward Meridian;

(3) Township 15 North, Range 6 East, Seward Meridian;

(4) Township 15 North, Range 7 East, Seward Meridian

Section 3: NW1/4NW1/4

Section 4: N1/2NE1/4, N1/2NW1/4

Section 5: N1/2NE1/4, NW1/4

Section 6: SW1/4SE1/4, N1/2SE1/4, SW1/4, N1/2

Section 7: SW1/4NW1/4, N1/2NW1/4;

(5) Township 16 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian

Section 1: Portions located below the ordinary high water of Knik River

Section 2: Portions located below the ordinary high water of Knik River

Section 3: Portions located below the ordinary high water of Knik River.

(6) Township 16 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian

1

Sections 1 - 3

2

Section 4: Portions located below the ordinary high water of
Knik River

3

4

Section 5: Portions located below the ordinary high water of
Knik River

5

6

Section 6: Portions located below the ordinary high water of
Knik River

7

8

Section 9: Portions located below the ordinary high water of
Knik River

9

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Section 10: Portions located below the ordinary high water of
Knik River

11

12

Sections 11 - 13

13

Section 14: Portions located below the ordinary high water of
Knik River

14

15

Section 23: Portions located below the ordinary high water of
Knik River

16

17

Section 24: Portions located below the ordinary high water of
Knik River;

18

19

(7) Township 16 North, Range 4 East, Seward Meridian;

20

(8) Township 16 North, Range 5 East, Seward Meridian;

21

(9) Township 16 North, Range 6 East, Seward Meridian;

22

(10) Township 16 North, Range 7 East, Seward Meridian

23

Section 6: NW1/4SE1/4, S1/2SE1/4, W1/2

24

Section 7

25

Sections 17 - 20

26

Section 28: NW1/4SW1/4, S1/2SW1/4

27

Sections 29 - 32

28

Section 33: S1/2NE1/4, SE1/4, W1/2

29

Section 34: SE1/4SW1/4, W1/2SW1/4;

30

(11) Township 17 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian

31

Section 36: Portions located below the ordinary high water of

1
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Knik River:

(12) Township 17 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian

Sections 1 - 5

Sections 9 - 16

Section 17: S1/2

Sections 20 - 29

Section 31: NE1/4NE1/4, S1/2NE1/4, SE1/4, SW1/4 located below the ordinary high water of Knik River

Sections 32 - 36;

(13) Township 17 North, Range 4 East, Seward Meridian;

(14) Township 17 North, Range 5 East, Seward Meridian;

(15) Township 17 North, Range 6 East, Seward Meridian;

(16) Township 18 North, Range 6 East, Seward Meridian.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION 05-22 (AM)

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA PLANNING COMMISSION REQUESTING THE ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT ALASKA LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A KNIK RIVER PUBLIC USE AREA FOR PUBLIC LAND IN THE KNIK RIVER WATERSHED AND TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PUBLIC LAND IN THE AREA.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough are the primary landholders of public land in the Knik River Watershed (KRW) and recognize the need to address management issues in the Jim Creek-Swan Lake-Knik River area; and

WHEREAS, the area includes over 7,600 acres of public land, the majority of which is owned and managed by the state DNR, and

WHEREAS, this area consists of uplands, wetlands, anadromous streams and other water bodies, unique geologic features, waterfowl staging and nesting areas, and wildlife to include resident moose, black and grizzly bear; and

WHEREAS, citizens and users have expressed repeated concern about significant increases in unmanaged uses, vandalism and other unlawful violations, safety, pollution, littering, impacts to fish and wildlife resources, impacts on nearby residents and users, and have committed significant volunteer resources in attempts to educate local residents and visitors in order to improve the situation; and

Resolutions

WHEREAS, the draft Asset Management Plan for Borough Owned Land in the Butte Area (2004) recognizes that "use impacts [on state land] are so significant to warrant a special study area that should be established under cooperative management; the Knik Arm Wetlands Study (1981) and the Susitna Area Plan (1985) recognized important wildlife value, current and potential future impacts of unmanaged use, and recommended special designation for areas within the KRW; and the South Central Recreation Action Plan (1984) recommended a master plan for the Jim-Swan Lakes area of the KRW to more effectively serve diverse recreational interests; and

WHEREAS, DNR has statewide experience in developing sustainable multiple-use plans for state land; and

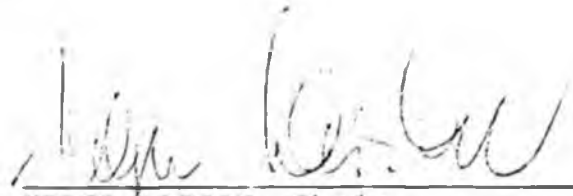
WHEREAS, a planning team led by DNR would include public and private land owners and managers, scientists, user groups, citizens, and adjoining private landholder representation, and would be developed using an open public process; and

WHEREAS, legislative designation and a management planning effort would enhance opportunity for multiple-use management that would include partnering, collaboration and volunteerism for agencies, landholders, diverse users, residents and citizen groups.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission recommends the Assembly support

state legislative efforts to create a Public Use Area for the public land in the Knik River watershed and to provide funding to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to develop and implement a management planning process for the public land in the area.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Planning Commission this 4 day of April, 2005.



HELGA LARSON, Chair

ATTEST:



PRISCILLA M. GOFF, Planning Clerk

(SEAL)

By: L. Woods
Amended: 05/17/05
Adopted: 05/17/05

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 05-068(AM)**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SUPPORTING STATE DESIGNATION OF LAND IN THE KNIK RIVER WATERSHED AS A PUBLIC USE AREA AND FOR THE STATE TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP A MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE AREA.

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough are the primary landholders of public land in the Knik River Watershed (KRW) and recognize the need to address management issues within portions of the watershed, particularly in the Jim Creek - Swan Lake - Knik River areas; and

WHEREAS, the area includes over 250,000 acres of public land, the majority of which is owned and managed by the Alaska State Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the Borough recognizes that use impacts on State land are so significant as to warrant a special study area that should be established under cooperative management; and

WHEREAS, the Knik Arm Wetlands Study (1981) and the Susitna Area Plan (1985) recognized important wildlife value, current and potential future impacts of unmanaged

use, and recommended special designation for areas within the Knik River Watershed; and the South Central Recreation Action Plan (1984) recommended a master plan for the Jim Creek - Swan Lakes area of the Knik River Watershed to more effectively serve diverse recreational interests; and

WHEREAS, this area consists of uplands, wetlands, anadromous streams and other water bodies, unique geologic features, waterfowl staging and nesting areas, and wildlife to include resident moose, black and grizzly bear; and

WHEREAS, citizens and users have expressed repeated concern about significant increases in unmanaged fires, vandalism and other unlawful violations, safety, pollution, littering, impacts to fish and wildlife resources, impacts on nearby residents and users, and have committed significant volunteer resources in attempts to educate local residents and visitors in order to improve the situation; and

WHEREAS, DNR has statewide experience in developing sustainable multiple-use plans that recognize and provide for a wide variety of users of State land, yet in a way that protects important areas; and

WHEREAS, a planning team led by DNR would include public and private land owners and managers, scientists, a wide variety of user groups that currently use the area,

citizens, and adjoining private landholder representation, and would be developed using an open public process; and

WHEREAS, a management planning effort would enhance the opportunity for multiple-use management that would include partnering, collaboration and volunteerism for agencies, landholders, diverse users, residents and citizen groups.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly supports the State creating a public use area for public land in the Knik River watershed and urges the appropriation of funds to the Alaska State Department of Natural Resources to initiate a management planning process which includes all user groups and appropriate agencies for the public land in the area. The State funding should include sufficient resources to implement the management plan and provide enforcement of land-use regulations as provided to them under State Statute for their stewardship of public lands.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this
17 day of May, 2005.

TIMOTHY L. ANDERSON, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

MICHELLE M. MCGEHEE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Woods, Allen, Colberg, Kvalheim,
Simpson, Colver, and Vehrs

SUBJECT: A resolution supporting state designation of land in the Knik River Watershed as a state special management area and to provide funding to the Department of Natural Resources to develop a multiple-use management plan for the area.

AGENDA OF: May 17, 2005

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

MANAGER RECOMMENDATION: Present to the assembly for consideration.

APPROVED BY JOHN DUFFY, BOROUGH MANAGER: _____

Route To:	Department/Individual	Initials	Remarks
	Originator		
	Community Development Director		
	Planning and Land Use Director		
	Finance Director		
	Borough Attorney		
	Borough Clerk		

ATTACHMENT(S): Fiscal Note: Yes ___ No X
 Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board
 Resolution No. 05-05 (2pp)
 Planning Commission Resolution No. 05-22 (AM)
 Resolution Serial No. 05-___

SUMMARY STATEMENT: The Susitna Area Plan, when it was adopted in 1985, recognized that a variety of special habitat, scenic and recreational values existed in the Knik River Watershed. That plan specifically recommended that the area surrounding Jim and Swan Lake be designated as a State Recreation site.

The plan specifically found that legislative designation of the area was important for the area because of the heavy public use of the areas lakes and streams for salmon and trout fishing, waterfowl hunting, canoeing, hiking and winter recreation activities. The plan further stated that use of the area was likely to increase as

the population of the surrounding area grew, and that the area should be managed to provide recreation while protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat and protecting visual quality.

In recent years we all have been hearing more and more frequently about conflicts between users of the area, concerns about personal safety and the need for active management of the area to help resolve these conflicts, protect important habitat areas from complete destruction while at the same time allowing the multitude of recreational activities that have occurred in the area over the years to continue.

With the recent process we have gone through as part of developing an asset management plan for borough owned land in the Butte area, the subject of management of the adjacent state land again became a major issue. While the public did not totally agree on how the area should be managed, they did point out that any action on Borough owned land is meaningless if not followed through by the adjacent public land owners and vice-versa.

Fortunately, the state Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) had participants at all our public meetings and were involved in the review of our planning documents. Following the last round of public review (summer and fall of 2004) they took the message back that a plan for the entire watershed was the only sensible way to proceed to deal with the real and perceived conflicts that exist in the area.

The DMLW is now supportive of a legislative designation of the area (either a public use area or a public recreation area) neither of which prohibit any uses of the area, but allows the department to utilize a planning process to arrive at an enforceable management plan.

Legislation was proposed by DMLW and the Knik River Watershed Group to accomplish the above and a fiscal note was drafted to complete a management plan for the area within two years. Although no legislation was introduced a draft was prepared that could be used as a good vehicle for the public to review and discuss in preparation for the next legislative session.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION: Because of the large amount of public, mainly state land in the Knik River Watershed and the amount of conflicts and safety concerns that we have all heard and read about, it is recommended that the Borough recommend to the state that a management plan for the area be adopted and the area be protected for its multiple-use recreational and habitat values. The administration supports the resolution and recommends adoption.

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 05-05**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PARKS RECREATION AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD REQUESTING THE ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT THE STATE DESIGNATING LAND IN THE KNIK RIVER WATERSHED AS A STATE RECREATION AREA AND TO PROVIDE FUNDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP A MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE AREA.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough are the primary landholders of public land in the Knik River Watershed (KRW) and recognize the need to address management issues in the Jim Creek-Swan Lake-Knik River area; and

WHEREAS, the area includes over 250,000 acres of public land, the majority of which is owned and managed by the state DNR, and

WHEREAS, the draft Asset Management Plan for Borough Owned Land in the Butte Area (2004) recognizes that "use impacts [on state land] are so significant to warrant a special study area that should be established under cooperative management; the Knik Arm Wetlands Study (1981) and the Susitna Area Plan (1985) recognized important wildlife value, current and potential future impacts of unmanaged use, and recommended special designation for areas within the KRW; and the South Central Recreation Action Plan (1984) recommended a master plan for the Jim-Swan Lakes area of the KRW to more effectively serve diverse recreational interests; and

WHEREAS, this area consists of uplands, wetlands, anadromous streams and other water bodies, unique geologic features, waterfowl staging and nesting areas, and wildlife to include resident moose, black and grizzly bear; and

WHEREAS, citizens and users have expressed repeated concern about significant increases in unmanaged uses, vandalism and other unlawful violations, safety, pollution, littering, impacts to fish and wildlife resources, impacts on nearby residents and users, and have committed significant volunteer resources in attempts to educate local residents and visitors in order to improve the situation; and

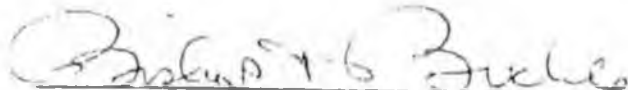
WHEREAS, DNR has statewide experience in developing sustainable multiple-use plans that recognize and provide for a wide variety of users of state land, yet in a way that protects important areas; and

WHEREAS, a planning team led by DNR would include public and private land owners and managers, scientists, a wide variety of user groups that currently use the area, citizens, and adjoining private landholder representation, and would be developed using an open public process; and

WHEREAS, a management planning effort would enhance the opportunity for multiple-use management that would include partnering, collaboration and volunteerism for agencies, landholders, diverse users, residents and citizen groups.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board urges the Assembly to support the State designating a portion of the Knik River Watershed as a multiple-use State Recreation Area and to provide state funding to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to develop and implement a management plan for public land in the area.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Parks Recreation and Trails Advisory Board this 25th day of April, 2005.


BISHOP T. BUCKLE, Chairman

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE KNIK RIVER WATERSHED
GROUP MANAGEMENT EFFORTS**

Mat-Su CVB Resolution FY05-06

WHEREAS, majority of public lands in the Knik River Watershed (KRW) are owned and managed by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water (DNR).

WHEREAS, this area is popular for a wide variety of motorized and nonmotorized activity and offers exceptional hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, birdwatching and photography; and

WHEREAS, the KRW consists of uplands, wetlands, anadromous streams and other water bodies, unique geologic features, glaciers, swan and other waterfowl staging and nesting areas, and wildlife to include moose, black and grizzly bear; and

WHEREAS, recreation in the area has significantly increased and is expected to continue to increase, and the area is located in the most populated region in Alaska.

WHEREAS, the Knik Arm Wetlands Study (1981) and the Susitna Area Plan (1985) recognized important wildlife value, current and potential future impacts of unmanaged use, and recommended special designation for areas within the watershed; the SouthCentral Recreation Action Plan (1984) recommended a master plan for the Jim-Swan Lakes area of the watershed to more effectively serve diverse recreational interests; and a portion of the Jim-Swan area is located within the Lake George National Natural Landmark; and

WHEREAS, citizens and users have expressed repeated concerns about personal safety, vandalism, game and nongame violations, pollution and lack of sanitation, littering, impacts to fish and wildlife resources, impacts on resident's quality of life, impacts on responsible users, and impacts on hydrology and area aquifers; and

WHEREAS, a sustainable management plan is needed to protect fish and wildlife resources and that will accommodate motorized, nonmotorized, consumptive and nonconsumptive uses; and

WHEREAS, the planning effort shall include a full public process, scientific expertise and trail design expertise, and

WHEREAS, planning, sustainable management, and enforcement on public lands in the KRW will enhance opportunity to develop tourism destinations by offering safe, exceptional recreational opportunity for a multitude of user groups and visitors.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau Board of Directors fully supports efforts to develop a management plan, in a full public process, for the Knik River Watershed that will protect natural resources and accommodate motorized and nonmotorized recreation.

Adopted by the Mat-Su CVB Board of Directors on May 19, 2005.

Sandra White
President

Steve Mahay
Secretary



MINUTES
Thursday, May 12, 2005
Lazy Mountain Community Council
General Meeting

Meeting started with President Will Peabody calling meeting to order at 7:35pm.
Attended by Board Members; Will, Doug, Dan, Michael, Ken & Helen,
In addition, 8 general members.

Pledge

Minutes from the March 10, 2005 meeting read by Dan Linden. Motion to approve by Lucy, second by Helen.

Ken Klunder gave an update on the Comprehensive Plan. Eileen Probasco is getting a survey together to be mailed to every land owner. The survey asks owners what is important to them. This information will be used for the 1st workshop, called "Vision Building". Ken stressed the importance of getting as many people as possible involved with the comprehensive plan by attending the 1st workshop and the meetings that are the last Thursday of every month.

Road Report by the RSA's Lucy Klebesadel, Ken Klunder, and Pat Larrabee. Lucy reports that there is \$20,000 left in the road budget. Mike Garner says that \$14,000 will be spent within the next 2 weeks. Most roads in Rancho subdivision will be worked on. Robin Lane will have a new chip seal product applied but the resurfacing will only cost the community \$10,000. Koperund requests residents to clean out culverts so that they may assess which ones need replaced. Koperunds will be brush cutting and request that residents mark trees and/or shrubs that they do not want destroyed. Lucy reported that our CIP list had been changed without approval or notification to the Lazy Mountain Community Council. It appears that Lynn Woods and Jim Culver are paving Robin Lane, at a cost of \$110,000 to the list. Lucy concluded by reminding the council that the new fiscal year for road funds starts June 30.

Cecily Fritz and Robert Howard gave a presentation on the Knik watershed area. They are spearheading a group called The Knik Watershed Group in which their mission is to sustain the Knik River Watershed to insure use and enjoyment for current and future generation. After the presentation, Will Peabody made a motion to approve a resolution for support of a state DNR management plan. The full resolution is as follows:

This resolution was prepared by the Knik River Watershed Group for consideration by the Lazy Mountain Community Council and was presented at the council general meeting on May 12, 2005.

Whereas, the majority of public lands in the Knik River Watershed (KRW) are owned and managed by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water (DNR).

Whereas, this area is popular for a wide variety of motorized and nonmotorized activity and offers exceptional hunting, fishing, trapping and nonconsumptive uses; and

Whereas, the KRW consists of uplands, wetlands, anadromous streams and other water bodies, unique geologic features, glaciers, waterfowl staging and nesting areas, and wildlife to include moose, black and grizzly bear; and

Whereas, recreation in the area has significantly increased and is expected to continue to increase, and the area is located in the most populated region in Alaska.

Whereas, citizens and users have expressed concerns about personal safety, vandalism, game and nongame violations, pollution and lack of sanitation, littering, impacts to fish and wildlife resources, impacts on resident's quality of life, impacts on responsible users, and impacts on hydrology and area aquifers; and

Whereas, the Knik Arm Wetlands Study (1981) and the Susitna Area Plan (1985) recognized important wildlife value, current and potential future impacts of unmanaged use, and recommended special designation for areas within the watershed; and the SouthCentral Recreation Action Plan (1984) recommended a master plan for the Jim-Swan Lakes area of the watershed to more effectively serve diverse recreational interests; and

Whereas, DNR has the experience and expertise to develop a management plan that shall involve a full public process, include scientific expertise, trail design expertise and invite the participation of all user groups, citizens and adjoining landholders; and

Whereas, DNR has statewide experience in developing sustainable multiple-use plans that protect important fish and wildlife resources; and

Whereas, a management planning effort would enhance opportunity for partnering, collaboration and volunteerism for agencies, landholders, diverse user groups, residents, and citizen groups.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Lazy Mountain Community Council supports state DNR efforts to develop a sustainable management plan, in a full public process, for the Knik River Watershed that will protect natural resources and accommodate motorized and nonmotorized recreation.

Adopted by Resolution of the Lazy Mountain Community Council on May 12, 2005.

The motion was 2nd by Micheal Miller.

Vote taken. Vote was unanimous for acceptance of the resolution.

9:15 meeting adjourned by the president.

Mat-Su State Parks Citizens Advisory Board

Resolution #05-03

A resolution supporting state funding to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for development of a management plan for Public Lands in the Knik River Watershed.

Whereas, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the primary landholder of public lands in the Knik River Watershed (KRW) and the land is classified as generally managed state land;

Whereas, the draft Asset Management Plan for Borough Owned Land in the Eutte Area (2004) recognizes that "use impacts [on state land] are so significant to warrant a special study area that should be established under cooperative management;

Whereas, the Knik Arm Wetlands Study (1981) and the Susitna Area Plan (1985) recognized important wildlife value, current and potential future impacts of unmanaged use, and recommended special designation for areas within the KRW;

Whereas, the SouthCentral Recreation Action Plan (1984) recommended a master plan for the Jim-Swan Lakes area of the KRW to address severe erosion from four-wheel drive vehicles and fire hazards from unmanaged camping, and to more effectively serve diverse recreational interests;

Whereas, the area includes over 7600 acres of wetlands, anadromous streams, unique geologic features, waterfowl staging and nesting, and wildlife to include resident moose, black and grizzly bear;

Whereas, citizens and users have expressed repeated concern for the increase in unmanaged uses, vandalism, safety, pollution, littering, impacts to wildlife resources, and impacts on residents and users, and have committed significant volunteer resources notifying agencies and troopers, organizing clean-ups, and educating residents and visitors in attempts to improve the situation;

Whereas, DNR has statewide experience in developing sustainable multiple-use plans for state land;


Whereas, a DNR led planning team would include land managers, scientists, user groups, citizens, and adjoining private landholder representation, and would be developed using an open public process;

Whereas, a management planning effort would enhance opportunity for multiple use management that would include partnering, collaboration and volunteerism for agencies, landholders, diverse users, residents and citizen groups.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Citizens Advisory Board of the Mat-Su district of Alaska State Parks supports state funding to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to fulfill a management planning process for public lands in the Knik River Watershed.

This RESOLUTION #~~0503~~ was passed by the Mat-Su Citizens Advisory Board at its regular meeting held April 12, 2005.



Roy Wahl, Chair

Distribution:

Cecily Fritz, Chair, Knik River Watershed Group

AMENDMENTS FOR HB 307/SB 197

"An Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area"

Existing statutes are good models for resolving problems with these bills

41.23.180. Purpose

- **We need an inclusive plan that will unite user groups:** Amend items (1) and (3) (pg 1 lines 7-8) to: "Provide a public use area for off road motorized vehicle and nonmotorized recreation."; and
- (pg 1 lines 12-14) to: "Perpetuate and enhance public enjoyment of fish and wildlife and their habitat including fishing, hunting, trapping, viewing, and photography." (See A.S. 41.23.010.)

41.23.190. Management

- **We need a public planning effort:**
Add: "The commissioner shall develop and adopt a management plan and regulations implementing the plan, shall give public notice, conduct meetings and receive public comments on the draft plan and regulations." (See A.S. 41.23.020 and A.S. 41.23.110)
- **We need daily (seasonal), on-the-ground enforcement.** Add language to this legislation that will authorize and require the Commissioner to enforce a ballable schedule of violations in the area defined in 41.23.210. The legislation should also authorize the commissioner to enforce a ballable offense schedule for regulations adopted under the Knik River Public Use Area Management Plan.
- Add: "Provisions of AS 41.23.180—41.23.210 do not restrict enforcement authority within the Knik River Public Use Area of the Commissioner of Fish and Game, the Board of Fisheries, the Board of Game, the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation, or the Commissioner of Public Safety."

41.23.200 Incompatible Uses:

- **We need management of incompatible uses to protect wildlife resources; item d list exceptions [41.23.200(a)] to that management provision.** Amend item d (pg 2 line 31-pg 3 line 4) to: "The commissioner shall allow access to the Knik River Public Use Area by motorized and nonmotorized means of transportation to private land, interests in private land, and for lawful sport and subsistence hunting, fishing, trapping, and recreational purposes in a manner that is compatible with purposes." (See A.S. 41.23.030 and A.S. 41.23.120).
- **A planning effort must involve evaluation of trails for resource and resident impacts; improvement, reroute or closure as appropriate.** Delete Item e (pg 3 lines 5-8). (See A.S. 41.23.030, A.S. 41.23.120 and A.S. 41.23.070.)
- **Managers need flexibility to manage shooting:** Amend Item f (pg 3 lines 9-12) to: "The commissioner may restrict the use of weapons, including firearms, when the commissioner determines that the use of weapons constitutes a threat to public safety."

APPENDIX XIV.

HATCHER PASS PUBLIC USE AREA

LEGISLATION
AN ACT

Relating to Hatcher Pass Public Use Area

*Section 1. AS 41.23 is amended by adding new sections to read:

ARTICLE 2. HATCHER PASS PUBLIC USE AREA.

Sec. 41.23.100. PURPOSE. (a) The purpose of AS 41.23.100 - 41.23.130 is to establish the area described in AS 41.23.130 as the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area.

(b) The Hatcher Pass Public Use Area is established to

- (1) provide for public recreation activities;
- (2) protect and enhance the fishery, waterfowl, and wildlife resources and habitat and provide for public use of the fishery and wildlife resources, including fishing, grazing, hunting, and trapping;
- (3) protect the water quality and scenic resources within the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area.

Sec. 41.23.110. MANAGEMENT. (a) The Commissioner of natural resources is responsible for the management of the surface and subsurface estate within the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area consistent with the purposes of AS 41.23.100.

(b) The Commissioner of fish and game, the Board of Fisheries, and the Board of Game are responsible for the management of fish and game resources and public use of fish and wildlife in the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area consistent with the purposes of AS 41.23.100.

(c) After adequate public hearings and in consultation with the Commissioner of fish and game, the Commissioner shall adopt and may revise a management plan for the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area in consultation with local governments and other affected state agencies. The management plan adopted under this section must be consistent with the purposes stated in AS 41.23.100. A management plan adopted or revised by the Commissioner under this section shall be submitted to the legislature within the first 10 days of the first regular session of the legislature to convene after its adoption or revision by the commissioner.

(d) The provisions of AS 41.23.100 - 41.23.130 do not restrict a responsibility within the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area of the Commissioner of fish and game, the Board of Fisheries, the Board of Game, the Commissioner of environmental conservation, or the Commissioner of public safety.

(e) The Hatcher Pass Public Use Area is closed to mineral entry under AS 38.05.185 - 38.05.275 from the effective date of this Act.

(f) Each valid existing mining claim on the effective date of this Act remains valid and shall continue in full force and effect according to its terms.

(g) Except for road construction, the state may not acquire by eminent domain privately owned land within or abutting state-owned land described in AS 41.23.130 but may acquire privately owned land by purchase, exchange, or otherwise for inclusion in the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area from willing landowners.

(h) Except for valid existing rights on the effective date of this Act, the Commissioner of natural resources may not sell state land within the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area.

Sec. 41.23.120. COMPATIBILITY OF USES. (a) Except as provided in this section, the Commissioner may prohibit or restrict incompatible uses under the management plan adopted under AS 41.23.110 within the state-owned land and water described in AS 41.23.130.

(b) Nothing in AS 41.23.100 - 41.23.130 prohibits the Department of Fish and Game from engaging in rehabilitation, enhancement, and development of fish and wildlife habitat within an area described in AS 41.23.130 that is consistent with the purposes stated in AS 41.23.100.

(c) The Commissioner may not restrict lawful fishing, hunting, or trapping rights allowed under a regulation of the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game within the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area.

(d) The Commissioner shall designate routes for motorized and nonmotorized access within or across the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area.

(e) The Commissioner of public safety and the Commissioner of fish and game shall have necessary access for fish and game management, research, and enforcement purposes.

(f) If the Commissioner determines that a use is incompatible with one or more other uses in a portion of the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area, the Commissioner shall state in the management plan adopted or revised under AS 41.23.110.

- (1) each determination of incompatibility;
- (2) the specific area where the incompatibility is determined to exist;
- (3) the time within which the incompatibility is determined to exist; and
- (4) the reasons for each determination of incompatibility.

Sec. 41.23.130. HATCHER PASS PUBLIC USE AREA. The vacant and unappropriated state-owned land and water and the state land and water acquired in the future that lie within the boundaries described in this section are designated as the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area, are reserved for all uses compatible with their primary function as public use land, and are assigned to the Department of Natural Resources for control and management:

Approved by the Governor: June 3, 1986
Actual Effective Date: September 1, 1986

NELCHINA PUBLIC USE AREA. Sec. 41.23.010. Purpose of AS 41.23.010 - 41.23.040.

The purpose of AS 41.23.010 - 41.23.040 is to establish the area described in AS 41.23.040 as the Nelchina Public Use Area. The Nelchina Public Use Area is established to

- (1) protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat, particularly caribou calving areas, trumpeter swan nesting areas, and other important habitats for moose, Dall sheep, and brown bear so that traditional public uses of fish and wildlife populations may continue;
- (2) perpetuate and enhance public enjoyment of fish and wildlife and their habitat including fishing, hunting, trapping, viewing, and photography;
- (3) perpetuate and enhance general public recreation in a quality environment;
- (4) perpetuate and enhance additional public uses described in the Susitna Area Plan;
- (5) allow additional public uses of the area in a manner compatible with the purposes specified in (1)-(4) of this section.

Sec. 41.23.020. Management.

(a) Management of the surface and subsurface estate of the Nelchina Public Use Area is the responsibility of the department. After adequate public hearings the commissioner may designate incompatible uses and shall adopt and may revise a management plan for the Nelchina Public Use Area. With regard to the management of land within the central caribou calving area described in AS 41.23.040 (b), the commissioner shall obtain the concurrence of the Department of Fish and Game in the adoption and revision of the management plan. With regard to the management of land within the public use area described in AS 41.23.040(c), the commissioner shall consult with the Department of Fish and Game in the adoption and revision of the management plan.

(b) The Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the management of fish and game resources and public use of fish and wildlife in the Nelchina Public Use Area consistent with the purposes of AS 41.23.010.

(c) The Nelchina Public Use Area shall be open to mineral entry under AS 38.05.185 - 38.05.275, and the commissioner may adopt regulations to achieve the purposes specified in AS 41.23.010. Each valid existing right or permit shall remain valid and continue in full force and effect according to its terms. Exploration, development, and extraction of subsurface resources shall be allowed in a manner that is compatible with the purposes specified in AS 41.23.010(1-4)

(d) The state may not acquire by eminent domain privately owned land within or abutting state-owned land described in AS 41.23.040 but may acquire privately owned land by purchase, exchange, or otherwise for inclusion in the Nelchina Public Use Area.

(e) The commissioner may not manage the Nelchina Public Use Area as a unit of the state park system.

Sec. 41.23.030. Incompatible uses.

(a) Except as provided in this section, the commissioner may prohibit or restrict incompatible uses under the management plan adopted under AS 41.23.020 within the state-owned land and water described in AS 41.23.040.

(b) Nothing in AS 41.23.010 - 41.23.040 prohibits the Department of Fish and Game from engaging in rehabilitation, enhancement, and development of fish and wildlife habitat within an area described in AS 41.23.040.

(c) The commissioner may not restrict lawful sport and subsistence fishing, hunting, or trapping rights allowed under a regulation of the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game within the Nelchina Public Use Area.

(d) The commissioner shall allow traditional access to the Nelchina Public Use Area by motorized or nonmotorized means of transportation to private land, interests in private land, and for lawful sport and subsistence hunting, fishing, trapping, and recreational purposes in a manner that is compatible with purposes specified in AS 41.23.010 (1) - (4).

(e) The Department of Public Safety and the Department of Fish and Game shall have necessary access for fish and game management, research, and enforcement purposes.

(f) If the commissioner determines that a use is incompatible with one or more other uses in a portion of the Nelchina Public Use Area, the commissioner shall state in the management plan adopted or revised under AS 41.23.020

(1) each determination of incompatibility; (2) the specific area where the incompatibility is determined to exist; (3) the time within which the incompatibility is determined to exist; and (4) the reasons for each determination of incompatibility.



A multiuser, all volunteer group from the local area

Goals:

- Realize sustainable management on public lands to protect natural resources and accommodate motorized and nonmotorized recreation.
- Mitigate, restore and improve as appropriate to protect watershed resources.
- Enhance public understanding of watershed values.

Steering Committee:

- Nancy Moore 745-1540 nmoore@mtaonline.net
- Gregory Nilsson 745-7526 snowstar@arcticvalley.com
- Royce Qualis 745-1767 royceq@mtaonline.net
- Steve Rowland 746-3630 srpe@mtaonline.net
- Charlotte Surtor 745-4565 tobchar@mtaonline.net
- Cecily Fritz, Chair 746-0558 info@knikriver.org

Accomplishments:

- "The Knik River Watershed: PowerPoint program presented at 21 community, user, agency forums
- On the ground volunteerism: Clean-ups, outdoor events, lake monitoring
- Recipient: USFWS 2005 Coastal Management Grant in coordination with the Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District
- Workshop attendance "Project WET: Water Education for Teachers"

"To sustain the Knik River Watershed to ensure use and enjoyment for current and future generations"

Established September 2004



March 24, 2006

To: Representative Jay Ramras, Co-chair, House Resources Committee

Re: House Bill CS 307 "An Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area"

Dear Representative Ramras:

Representative Bill Stoltze released committee substitute legislation on March 15, 2006.

We believe the legislation should be further improved and submit the following comments for your consideration during the scheduled hearing on Monday, March 27, 2006. Our proposed changes are underlined and in bold. I hope you also have the opportunity to review the contents of the material packet we mailed you earlier in the session related to HB 307.

A: Include nonmotorized use: Page 1 Line 14: "Provide for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses including off-road vehicle and nonmotorized recreation determined to be compatible with (1) and (2) of this section."

B: Expand the public process page 2 line 7: Include workshops and public hearings, or establishment of a citizen's advisory board. This is the best means to ensure that resident safety and quality of life concerns are addressed.

C: Fix the wording on incompatible use: Page 3 line 8: "allow the Knik River Public Use Area to be used for activities, as compatible with purposes, to include all-terrain vehicles..."

D: Provide for wise use of ORVs: Delete item (2) page lines 11-16 In Incompatible Uses. This section circumvents the required public planning process. ORV use is ensured in Section 41.23.180 (Purposes page 1 line 14).

E: Ensure timely enforcement prior to adoption of a bailable offense schedule: Add intent language directing the commissioner of Public Safety, the commissioner of Fish and Game and other regulatory agencies to enforce existing laws in the area described in 41.23.230.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Since

Cerily Fritz, Chair

To sustain the Knik River Watershed and to ensure use and enjoyment for current and future generations

<http://knikriver.org>

info@knikriver.org

Group and Individual Letters

STATE OF ALASKA

Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Frank H. Murkowski, Governor

Wayne Kubat, Chair
PO Box 874867
Wasilla, Alaska 99687
ph. & fax: 376-9568
email: args@mtaonline.net

November 23rd, 2005

Senator Huggins and Representative Stoltze,

The Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee unanimously supports House Bill 307 and Senate Bill 197, the bills to create the Knik River Public Use Area as written and introduced by yourselves.

The Knik River has historically been a destination for many visitors. With Anchorage, Palmer, and Wasilla home to over 50% of Alaska's population, this recreational area will provide access for many diverse users of the area. Adjacent to this area is Chugach State Park that restricts those Alaskans looking for an off-road vehicle experience.

Along with the specific management the legislation will create, we believe that additional education and enforcement will create an enjoyable destination for all recreational users and this legislation is a step in that direction. Thank you for your efforts!

Sincerely,

Wayne Kubat
Chairman - Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Alaska Frontier Trappers Association
PO Box 3208
Palmer, Alaska 99645

January 30, 2006

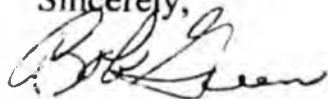
Dear Representative Stoltze and Senator Huggins,

The Alaska Frontier Trappers Association fully support House Bill 307 and Senate Bill 197.

The Knik River has been a favorite destination for all outdoor recreational users. Trappers have a history of trapping on the Knik River since the territorial days. One of the most talked about trappers was Tex Cobb. He trapped all over the South Central area and has been written about in such magazines as "Outdoor Life". Trappers are possibly the first to utilize the area as a means of support and are the first trail blazers.

With the passage of these bills as written, we will be assured of continued use without the threat of closure in the form of a State Park.

Sincerely,



Bob Green
President, Alaska Frontier Trappers Association

Butte Community Council RESOLUTION NO. 2005-5

A resolution of the Butte Community Council supporting a bill, for an act entitled, "AN ACT CREATING THE KNIK RIVER PUBLIC USE AREA." State of Alaska, House Bill No. HB 307, and Senate Bill No. SB 197, introduced May 7, 2005.

Whereas: Recent actions by individuals, groups, and state agencies contained in the "Asset Management Plan for Borough Owned Land in the Butte Area" to propose and solicit new unreasonable restrictions on access and use of public lands in the Butte-Knik River Watershed area, and threaten to eliminate many of the assumed freedoms, lifestyles, and traditional uses of the Butte area residents and others, and

Whereas: Due to the unknown status of the above mentioned action, and the unknown outcome thereof, this legislation is deemed necessary in order to preserve the traditional uses of the above mentioned public lands, and

Whereas: There are approximately 90 million acres of essentially non-motorized areas already set aside in Alaska in the form of National Parks, Wilderness Areas, Wildlife Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, State Parks, etc. and

Whereas: We intend that the main purpose of this Knik River Public Use Area is to be for multiple use, including motorized (land, water, and air) vehicle recreation, and including non-motorized use, and

Whereas: There are provisions contained within the Public Use Area legislation regulations to adequately provide for wildlife and habitat protection, and

Whereas: We intend this Knik River Public Use Area to be similar in scope and purpose to the Nelchina Public Use Area with its allowed uses such as off road motor vehicles, trapping, hunting, mineral exploration, mining and other legally allowed uses, and

Whereas: The users of these public Lands have previously expressed their desires for continued public access by their approvals of past BCC resolutions, public petitions, and their publicly expressed disagreement with many of the proposed restrictions in the draft "Asset Management Plan for Borough Owned Land in the Butte Area."

Now Therefore, we, the people present here tonight, June 8, 2005 being members of the Butte Community Council, by majority vote, approve of this BCC resolution supporting the formation of a Knik River Public Use Area, by the Alaska State Legislature.

Signed by: A Quorum of the Board of the Butte Community Council

Dick Coats
Darryl Duher
Jamine Erickson
Jeff McGehee
Kville F. Frey

From: Butte Area Residents

To: Rep. Bill Stoltze ; aklynn@alaska.net ; Cecily at KRWG ; brit@alaskadreamer.com ; John Duffy

Cc: Senator Huggins

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2006 12:46 PM

Subject: Re: Work Draft for Knik River PUA Legislation
Mr. Stoltze, Mr. Huggins,

Thank you for submitting the draft for CS HB307/SB197 to us.

Late February, when Brit was in Juneau, she dropped off a packet at Rep. Gatto's office from Butte Area Residents Civic Organization, which included our request from legislators to substitute HB 307/SB 197 Public Use Area legislation under AS 41.23 with the Knik River Valley State Recreation Area under AS 41.21.

Since we were under the impression that you chose not to have any contact with us, we asked Mr. Gatto to give the packet to you. If you would like to have additional packets, please let us know and we shall send them to you. The packet also includes a legal analysis on the statutory shortcomings of legislation under AS 41.23** public use area.

Please, consider our alternate legislation for a Knik River State Recreation Area. By statute, it would allow an open public process to accommodate all user groups and would have built-in tools for immediate and effective on-the-ground-around-the-clock law enforcement. It may be of interest to you that the Mat-Su Borough's Code Compliance office has been trying to approximate the "Peace Officer" status. They have to go to court for every citation which is challenged. This is a very expensive process for the Borough. In addition, their personnel are too afraid to give citations to people when they see infractions, such as shootings or fireworks. Their presence does nothing to deter unlawful activities.

Because of the little snow cover this year, most of the area was accessible to 4x4s, ORVs and accompanying shooting, dumping and reckless partying. This accelerated mayhem has been very hard on those of us who live here. We can't rest on weekends because of explosions and gun fire at night. We can't go about our chores, nor can we enjoy the trails behind our house, during the weekend days because of ongoing shooting and us having to go to "educate" the shooters in person to protect ourselves and our properties. One of the frequent mud boggers even told us that it was no longer "safe" for them to take their rigs across the "beaver pond" because of all the metal and wrecks on the bottom. An abandoned car has been contaminating the Bodenburg Creek Overflow since late fall; vandals have shot up and tried to ram down more signs and have blacked out the no-shooting signs.

We appreciate you giving your consideration to our request.

Best regards,

Brit Lively and Gregory Nilsson
Co-Chairs
Butte Area Residents Civic Organization

Emily Stancliff

From: Butte Area Residents [resource@buttealaska.org]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2006 12:53 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: HB307 Knik River Public Use Area
Attachments: ButteAreaResidentsFlier.jpg

Dear Representative Ramras,

HB307/SB197 for the creation of a Knik River Public Use Area (AS 41.23) was referred to your Resources committee after it was introduced last year by Representative Bill Stoltze on behalf Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance/Alaska Outdoors Council (AOAA/AOC).

As long-time residents of Butte in the Knik River Valley, we fear that this legislation, particularly under AS 41.23, will continue the degradation of our quality of life and prohibit economic development opportunities which other communities enjoy, who live in similar spectacular world-class environments close to major population centers as we do.

The reason for this email is to let you know of our hope that you will consider alternative legislation to HB307 rather than passing or amending the bill as introduced. We believe that the creation of a Knik River Valley State Recreation Area under AS 41.21 will work to everyone's benefit and will be the most practical and cost-effective solution. I shall bring a briefing packet to your office and the other members of the Resource Committees of both houses early this week when I shall be in Juneau for a legislative fly-in with a trade association I belong to.

Our packet will include a legal analysis of the deficiencies of HB307, draft legislation for the creation of a "Knik River Valley State Recreation Area," and exhibits which, of course, are intended to convince you how we have increasingly suffered under an admittedly sacrificial management regime. A Public Use Area under 41.23, even with amendments, just does not have the statutory teeth to give us an open public process for multiple use planning, nor give us good resource management or most important of all, effective law enforcement. AS 41.21 does. A State Recreation Area designation would also follow the mandate of the Susitna Area Plan.

You may ask, "why don't you go to your own legislators?" Please be assured: "we did." After meetings with DNR and the Mat-Su Borough, we had asked Rep. Stoltze and Sen. Huggins to try and appropriate \$250,000 to DNR so they could prepare an open, public management plan with no preconceived idea of any preferred legislation, but based on past studies, realistic science and user input. Mr. Stoltze was aware of our several years' futile efforts to educate the public and towards a cooperative management agreement among the public land owners.

Instead, Sen Huggins and Rep Stoltze introduced, on behalf of and written by AOC/AOAA, the HB307/SB197 legislation. Several of us have tried to contact Rep. Stoltze since repeatedly with no results. Sen. Huggins has publicly declared war on us at a AOAA/AOC rally in favor of unlimited, free-for-all motorized access.

There are so many issues and problems where 3-minute per person testimony during committee hearings can not even come close to convey the problems. May we therefore suggest that as part of your hearings and deliberations on SB197 you invite representatives from Alaska State Troopers, AST Fish & Wildlife Enforcement, Mat-Su Borough Code Compliance, Mat-Su Borough Land Management, Mat-Su Borough Emergency Services, including Butte Fire Chief, those DNR land manager representatives who have at one time solicited incident reports, such as Mr. Adam Smith and Dave Kelly, DEC representatives, DNR Habitat representatives and Alaska State Forestry. These are the people who are able to convey the extent of the problems here and their associated costs to the State of Alaska and to the public.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Please call or write if we can be of assistance.

Best regards,

2/21/2006

Brit Lively Co-Chair
Gregory Nilsson Co-Chair

Butte Area Residents Civic Organization

Mail: 259 South Alaska Street
Palmer AK 99645
907-745-7526, 907-227-1028

Hello Jim,

I spoke with you before Christmas about House Bill 307 "An Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area".

The enclosed material is for consideration for inclusion in the Resource Committee members' legislative packets, assuming the bill gets scheduled for a hearing. At your convenience I would like your guidance on which of the documents should be included in the packets. I can send most of the substantive documents via e-mail but thought rather than overload your computer at the outset, I would send the entire packet by snail mail for your initial review. I'll give a call to your office in a day or two.

Thanks very much for your time and expertise.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. J. [unclear]".



January 21, 2006

Representative Jay Ramras
State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Ramras:

I am writing to request your help on House Bill 307 "An Act Creating the Knik River Public Area". HB 307 was introduced last session by Representative Bill Stoltze. Companion bill SB197 was introduced by Senator Charlie Huggins. The bills were referred to the Resource and Finance committees.

With several key amendments, this legislation can be an appropriate means to resolve problems currently occurring on state lands in the Knik River basin. **Without amendments, HB 307 should not pass.** Alternate legislation should also be considered, with the focus on securing daily (seasonal) enforcement under a bailable offense system, and directing DNR to establish a collaborative planning group of citizens, users and agencies. Enclosed please find the following:

- Map of proposed Knik River Public Use Area
- Photographic documentation of values, problems and solutions
- History of research and public process for the Knik River Area
- Amendments for House Bill 307, if deliberated
- Comparative PUA statutes
- About the Knik River Watershed Group
- Comments, letters and resolutions

As Co-Chair of the House Resources Committee, we are confident that your leadership will result in a good outcome for users and residents of the Knik River area. We support action that will ensure desperately needed enforcement, healthy wildlife and scenic resources for our children's children to enjoy, peace of mind for nearby residents, and inclusion of all users. Residents and users stand ready to volunteer!

Thank you very much for your time.

Respectfully,

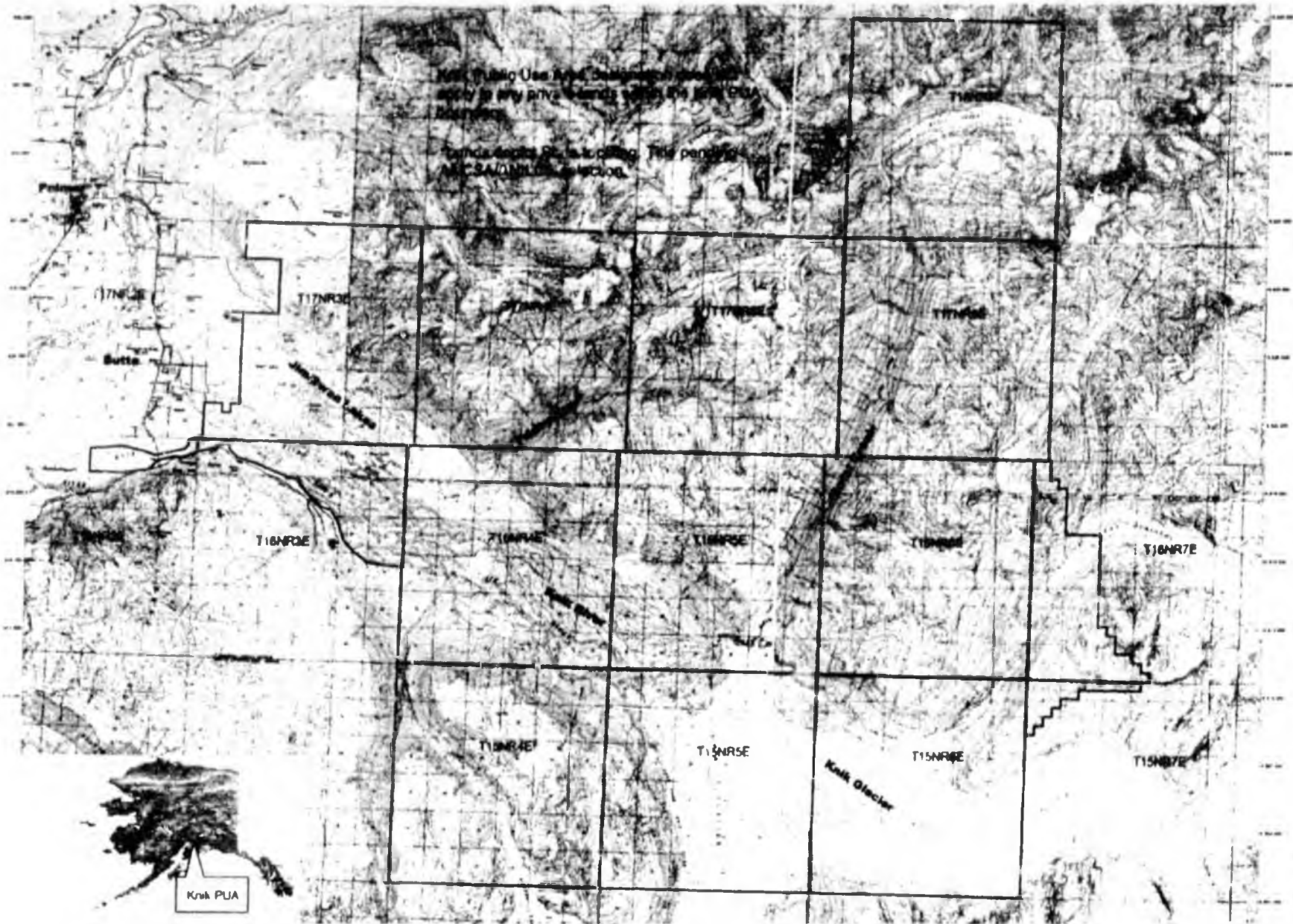

Cecily Fritz, Chair
Knik River Watershed Group

Enclosures

To sustain the Knik River Watershed to ensure use and enjoyment for current and future generations

<http://knikriver.org> ♦ info@knikriver.org ♦ (907) 746-0558 ♦ P.O. Box 195 Palmer, Alaska 99645

Proposed Knik Public Use Area



0 2.5 5 10
Miles

42

FUN IN THE KNIK RIVER WATERSHED

R Howard



S. Rowland



W Quirk



R Howard



R Howard

LIFE IN THE KNIK RIVER WATERSHED

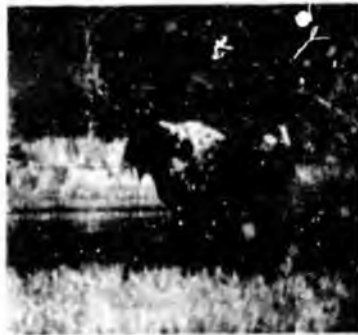


Doug Lloyd

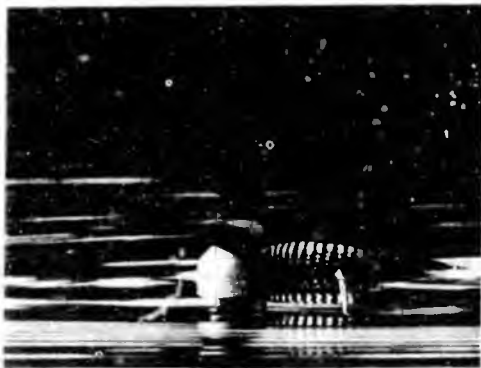
R Howard



R Howard



Doug Lloyd



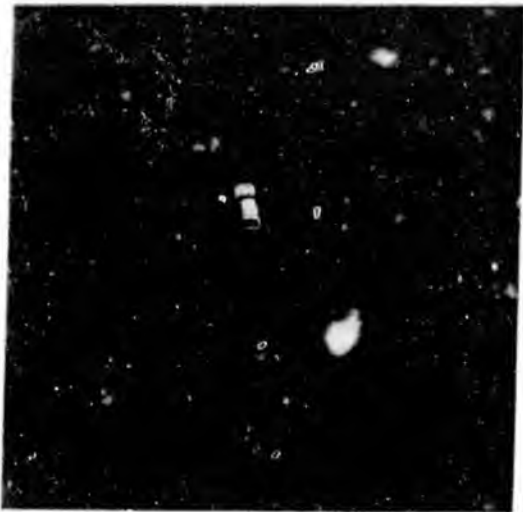
Doug Lloyd



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PROBLEMS IN THE KNIK RIVER WATERSHED



Vandalism

Pollution

Littering

Unsafe shooting

User/Resident conflicts

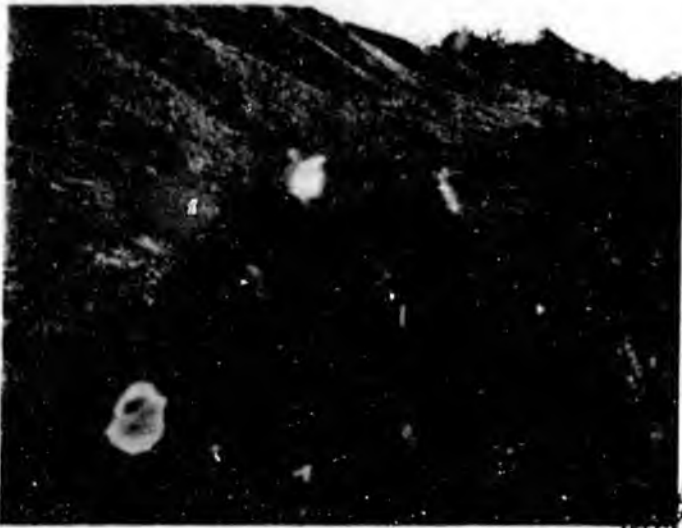
Resource Impairment

Wildlife Violations

No outhouses in high use areas

Significant increase in use

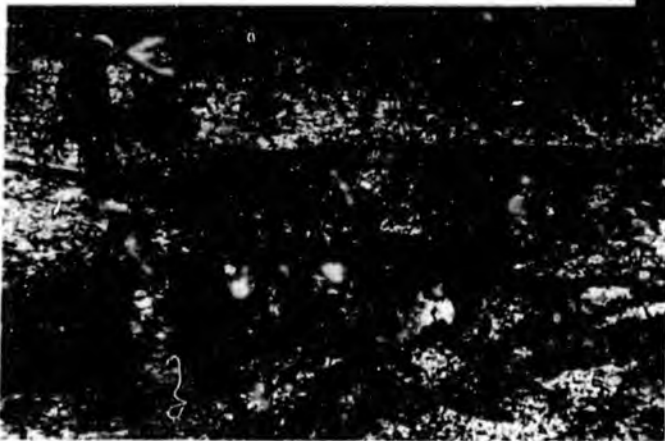
PROBLEMS IN THE KNIK RIVER WATERSHED



Ted Cox



R Howard



R Howard



N Moore



N Moore

HB 307 and SB 197 (page 3 line 5) preserve all existing motorized trails before planning and evaluation for impacts on residents and resources.

With the amendments suggested by the Knik River Watershed Group, ORV use is ensured in Purposes Item (1) and Incompatible Uses Item (d).

SOLUTIONS



Denali Highway, Cantwell

Funding

Enforcement

Collaborative Planning

Education



Glacier Bay



Chena State Rec Area, Fairbanks

Help residents, users and agencies get a great start with...

GREAT LEGISLATION

KNIK RIVER WATERSHED

Twenty-five years of research and public process - Let's act now

Knik Arm Wetlands Study - 1981. (Alaska Biological Research for USF&W) Proposed the Jim-Swan area be an Area Meriting Special Attention noting high density use by ducks, year-round moose concentrations and intensive black bear use. "Long term plans, however, will have to include temporal and spatial zoning practices which will reduce conflicts between recreational user groups as well as between recreational users and wildlife."

SouthCentral Recreation Action Plan - 1984. (Alaska Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Game for Governor Bill Sheffield). Identified Jim/Swan wetlands as "critical importance for hacket" and wrote a senate bill establishing Jim/Swan Lakes State Recreation Area.

Susitna Area Plan - 1985. (DNR, F&G) "The Jim-Swan lakes area will be managed to provide a variety of recreation, including hunting and fishing. Because of its high value for these uses, its proximity to large population centers and its vulnerability to overuse and environmental degradation, the Jim-Swan area should be designated by the legislature as a State Recreation Area."

Resource Assessment of the Knik Glacier Area - 1993. (USDA/SCS, Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District, Mat-Su Resource Conservation & Development, Inc). "The area supports healthy populations of moose, Dall sheep and black bear. Other large animals inhabiting the Knik River drainage include mountain goats, wolves, coyotes, and brown bears. Wetlands in the Jim-Swan Lake area are important habitat for spawning salmon, winter forage for moose, and as a staging and breeding area for waterfowl. The south facing slopes on the northern side of the valley are important lambing areas for Dall sheep."

Ecological Review of the Lake George National Natural Landmark - 1996 [The Landmark contains sections of Knik River/Jim-Swan region] (Alaska Natural Heritage Program, US Dept of Interior, NPS, Alaska Natural Landmark Program). The program was established to identify, recognize and encourage the preservation of the best remaining examples of the geological and biological features composing the Nation's natural history. "Human use levels need to be evaluated if the NNL's ecological stability is to be maintained".

Cook Inlet mapping - 2002. (Coast Guard, Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc, Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council, NOAA, DNR, F&G) Jim-Swan is sensitive as a waterfowl concentration area and receives priority protection during oil spill planning and response.

Aerial Swan Survey Data 1998-2004. (William A. Quirk, Biologist) "For the early arriving and late migrating trumpeter swans, the lakes in the Jim Creek area have a significant advantage over other lakes in the Upper Cook Inlet Region." [Refers to comparative earliest ice out/latest freeze up.]

Cooperative Management Agreement - 2003 draft. (Requested by Butte and South Knik River Community Councils). "For the Purpose of Managing Public Lands for Multiple Uses in the Jim Creek - Swan Lake - Knik River Area"

Asset Management Plan for Borough Owned Land in the Elite Area-2004 Draft. (Lund Design North) Designate 'Jim and Mud Lake Primitive Area...work with DNR to designate the area as a Special Use Area for summer nonmotorized use..."

BLM Draft Ring of Fire RMP/EIS - 2005. Proposes the Knik River Special Recreation Management Area to provide additional "protection of resources, specifically wildlife and fisheries".

April 4, 2005

Honorable Lyda Green, Senator
Alaska Legislature, Juneau Alaska

Dear Senator Green,

My name is Kurt Marshall, my family has been in Alaska since 1934, when my grandparents settled in the Butte area of Palmer, as colonists.

Our family is out doors and recreationally oriented and while we would like to continue using the Jim creek, Knik glacier area as a family retreat, the increase of family danger due to vandalism, gunfire and chaotic behavior prevents our continuing to do that. Because my family still owns a 171-acre farm near the Butte, I am very concerned about the continued degradation of the area. We have watched in frustration and horror as the uncaring individuals have claimed the area as their own to systematically destroy.

We urge you as our representative to act quickly to enable the Department of Natural Resources (DNK) to develop a short term education and enforcement plan to head off a situation which is rapidly deteriorating as the days warm and summer recreation increases.

I am aware of numerous environmental studies and land use plans for the area, among them the Susitna Watershed Plan; there are numerous solutions offered therein.

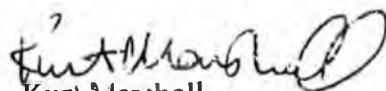
High among my family's concerns is the reckless abandon of many ATV riders tearing up the beautiful countryside with apparent disregard for those who enjoy an unspoiled trail and quiet time.

It saddens me to see what has happened to this beautiful valley. Clearly, as the Valley population grows and more Anchorage residents find the Valley as a recreational area, the impact and pressure on the remaining wilderness area will continue to grow as will the abuse.

Please, I urge you to help.

You have my family's strong support in resolving this enormous issue.

Sincerely,



Kurt Marshall

(907) 351-2722

kmarshall@harrisak.com

March 30, 2005

Dear Senators and Representatives and Planners,

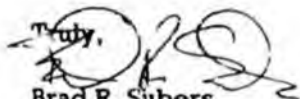
As one of your constituents and a concerned resident, I ask you to support funding for a DNT/Mat-Su Borough plan for the Knik Watershed area.

I believe it is time to focus our attention on this before we come to regret it by allowing these abuses to continue virtually unchecked. I know the State Troopers have been on increase in the area and have begun to make more arrests. We have a long way to go though towards enforcement of the area and we should support the troopers who risk their life by forming a plan, getting the community together and backing them up, so that the impact will be swifter, we can catch more criminals in the act and possibly save a life. The life could be of someone's kid of a neighbor or friend. Please think about that.

As a hunter and fisherman, I am concerned and enraged that my rights are being infringed upon by people that have no responsibility when it comes to guns and tearing up the habitat of the resources that my family and I depend on for food. It looks bad for hunters, gun owners and outdoorsmen, when these irresponsible people shoot in any and all directions whenever they feel like it. When I hear people talk about the Jim Creek (people that don't live in the area or depend on it for resources and unrivaled beauty) area it is viewed as a place to do whatever you want, whenever you want because no one cares or stops you!

This is my backyard and the consequences of that "do whatever you want" thinking results in mass shooting of automatic weapons night and day, vehicles stolen and vandalized all the way from Anchorage and even from the residents in the area nearby to Jim Creek, during the dry months drunk visitors set campfires when there is a ban on any fires period and sometimes take gasoline spill it on the ground, connecting the campfires, very close to the forest, vehicles set on fire and dumped in the creek, shot up with lead and this is where some of the prime fishing areas are! I wonder how much lead is in the water? I think we should be better stewards of the land in this area so that our resources will continue to be healthy and abundant for hunting and fishing and all the outdoor activities people enjoy. At least if we had a planning process all the people could weigh in from the area and we can send a message out the public that this kind of idiotic abuses won't be tolerated and that we are serious about putting an end to this recklessness. Maybe there would be a way to form a combined user group patrol to scout the area and report to the troopers.

I am looking forward to getting your feedback. I appreciate your attention to this matter. Thank you very much.

Truly,

Brad R. Subers
17495 E. Sullivan Ave.
P.O. box 4709
Palmer, AK 99645
subers@pobox.mtaonline.net

April 8, 2005

To: All Legislators for this area

Copy:

Cecily Fritz, Chair
Knik River Watershed Group
P.O. Box 195
Palmer, AK. 99645

I implore you to support state legislative funding of a DNR/Mat-Su Borough planning process for public lands in the Knik River watershed.

I write to you because I feel an urgent need to act in regards to the Jim Creek-Swan Lake and Pavillion areas. I live almost directly across the Pavillion area. I fear for my safety and the safety of my family many nights during the week and especially on the weekend I lay awake full of adrenalin from hearing loud explosions, high-powered rifle shots going in all directions, illegal and careless drag racing shouting and more shots into the early morning hours.

I am aware that that the Butte area has a bad reputation and comes off as an embarrassment for the Mat-Su valley to bear. I just don't understand why it has to stay this way? I worry that Anchorage and Juneau doesn't take the valley folks as seriously as they should because of these type of activities (naming us valley trash leaves little doubt).

Yet, there are many folks who live here, that take pride in where they live (I am one of them), keep their place neat and clean, work hard everyday and pay property taxes. We expect to have a safe place to live, where we don't have to worry about getting shot from a stray bullet or getting killed by driving too close to a meth drug deal.

We must devise a way to STOP the reckless shooting, stolen vehicles, vandalism, pollution of vibrant hunting and fishing resources and endangerment of residents that live in an area who worry about inebriated folks starting fires that could potentially destroy their homes.

Approving funding for a plan will start a long overdue step in working to find solutions to this problem. I am willing, as a resident of this area, to volunteer my time to help clean up, patrol---whatever it takes to help out in this matter.

Finally, I appreciate the work that you do, I am sure it is not easy...thank you for your time and for your efforts regarding this matter.

Sincerely, *Margaret A. Wanke*
Margaret A. Wanke
P.O. Box 4709
Palmer, AK. 99645

Subject: KRWG

From: "Helen Woodings" <helenw@mtaonline.net>

Date: Mon, 11 Apr 2005 12:25:29 -0800

To: <info@knikriver.org>

As a fifty one year resident of this area, I often used this area for picnics, dog walking, skiing and hiking.

Now that it is a dump, a hideout, gun siting area, I fear for my safety to go to that lovely area.

I support the action of this groip who wishes to promote planning for motorized and non-motorized use, and to save this beautiful area for its wildlife and recreational purposes.

Helen Woodings

4/9/2005

Cecily Fritz, Chair
Knik River Watershed Group
P. O. Box 195
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Cecily:

I live on the south side of Knik River, directly across (~3 km) from Jim Creek Flats, and am writing to express my insistence for state funding of a planning process for lands in the Knik River watershed. Management plans and law enforcement are long overdue for this area.

Current management and law enforcement, or lack thereof, are far beyond being acceptable and are totally inappropriate for any part of the United States, especially in such a unique area of Alaska. The watershed and surrounding areas are incredible ecosystems with a diversity of wildlife and fishery habitats, other natural resources, and aesthetic scenery. Easy access for people to the area provides exceptional opportunity for recreational users, which results in both positive and negative effects. Positive effects to people include the pure enjoyment of nature, hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, and motorized use. Negative effects to people, especially residents such as myself, include noise pollution, vandalism, annoyance, diminished quality of life, and increased risk of damage to property, pets, and life. Simply put, many residents no longer feel safe to hike, hunt, fish, or even leave vehicles anywhere because of the legitimate fear of being harassed, shot, or returning to a vandalized vehicle.

Increased recreational use has resulted in prominent damage to the natural environment, which ironically, is what makes this area so incredibly unique. Littering, pollution, vandalism, poaching, unsafe and uncontrolled shooting, joyriding, vehicle abandonment, erosion, uncontrolled ATV and airboat usage, intentional and unintentional destruction of wildlife nests and habitats, and abandoned fires are becoming the "normal" activities, which are all unacceptable especially in such a unique and wonderful area. Something needs to be done now, before everything gets completely out of control in this "land of the lawless".

Because of exponential growth of the adjacent human population, this watershed is in dire need of long-term management plans to conserve the natural resources inherent to the area, including the unique and abundant wildlife populations and habitats. In the last decade, recreational use by people of this watershed has increased dramatically. Within the next decade, human population within the Mat-Su Borough is projected to grow to 100,000. Continued lack of management and consideration of public input will result in higher risks of impacts from human activities to wildlife distribution, populations, habitats, and ecosystems.

As a local resident, I insist on a management plan for this area IMMEDIATELY, as it is long overdue.

Scott A. Wolfe
Wildlife Biologist

To: Cecily Fritz, Chair Knik River Watershed Group

4/04/05

We support state legislative funding of a DNR/Mat-Su Borough planning process for public lands in the Knik River watershed. Currently there is no active management of the area. As the population of the Mat-Su and Anchorage area has increased so has use of the area with negative impacts on wildlife resources, watershed integrity, user enjoyment of the area, and local resident's quality of life. The rivers, lakes, wetlands & mountains sides support a tremendous variety of wildlife and recreational opportunities. A co-operative management plan is much needed and long overdue. It is an area of mixed land ownership and multiple users, who all need to be included in the planning process. We support the goals of Knik River Watershed Group

During the 30+ years we have lived in the Butte, we have enjoyed many days of canoeing, hiking, & birding in Mud/Jim/Swan lake areas and mountain biking along the Knik River. We have also helped organize and participated in many Spring Clean ups in the area. It is a truly beautiful area with relatively easy access for a variety of recreational users. We frequently take our out of town guests canoeing there, and they are always impressed with the scenery & wildlife in our "backyard".

Here are some of the problems we have personally seen:

-Trash & litter has increased

A bear bait station & other trash left at campsites by String Lake last fall.

-Vandalism

It is a frequent party spot, and place to burn old cars.

-Unsafe shooting

We have been canoeing on Mud Lake & had people begin shooting across the water.

We came around a bend in the road one day, to find someone shooting across the road.

-Destruction of terrain & wildlife -

We've seen the erosion caused by ATVs along streams and their tracks across wetlands,

We've seen motor boats running in circles at high speed in Swan Lake,

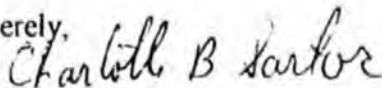
We've seen airboats creating large wakes as they speed up the channels

-Access points - Increased use puts pressure on nearby residents

The solution should include: Planning & on site management with, Increased enforcement of the rules, Education as to proper use of ATVs to prevent damage to the environment & wildlife, Education about safe shooting, Self policing by user groups, Increased user presence by those aware of problems, and Consideration by each user group of their impact on other groups.

We strongly support the idea of community groups, citizen users, the Mat-Su Borough and the DNR working together to plan for cooperative use in the area.

Sincerely,



Charlotte & Robert R Sartor

HC02 Box 7635

Palmer, AK 99645

March 11, 2005

Cecily Fritz, Chair
Knik River Watershed Group
P. O. Box 195
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Cecily:

I live in the Butte area, and am writing to express my support for state legislative funding of a DNR/Mat-Su Borough planning process for public lands in the Knik River watershed.

The Knik River Valley is a beautiful, accessible area that provides exceptional opportunity for all kinds of recreation and has a rich diversity of wildlife resources. Each year, the area receives a significant increase in unrestricted use over the previous year without benefit of management. The list and degree of resultant problems is growing and includes littering, pollution, vandalism, wildlife violations, life-threatening target shooting and damage to the natural environment.

The two major access points/parking areas are within a mile of our home (Old Knik River Bridge and Pavilion) and are in close proximity to many other hundred homes. Residents have taken the brunt of these illegal and reckless activities at their back door. Our quality of life has been severely compromised due to the lack of management. These ongoing problems keep the legitimate user away. It is well known that our public lands have become the badlands. The resources, the residents and the multitude of responsible users deserve much better.

I strongly support your efforts, and those of other community groups, user groups, citizens, the Mat-Su Borough, Department of Natural Resources, and our legislators in working toward a management plan for the area which protects our property values, our quality of life, the natural resources, and the legitimate uses on our public lands.

Sincerely,

Brit Lively
Res: 5505 South Old Glenn Highway
Palmer
Mail: 259 South Alaska Street
Palmer AK 99645
907-745-7526

GREGORY S. NILSSON

259 South Alaska Street, Palmer AK 99645
Res: 5505 South Old Glenn Highway, Palmer
907-745-7526 / 907-227-1628

April 3, 2005

Senator Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

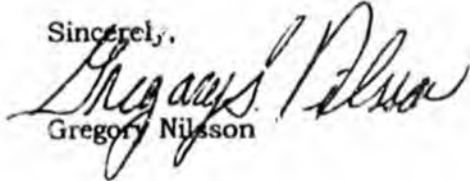
Dear Senator Huggins,

Please accept this letter as my endorsement of your efforts toward the momentum needed to generate a comprehensive management plan for the Knik River watershed area.

With the advent of spring the numbers of recreationists and the attendant problems are clearly already growing. The sooner we have education and enforcement presence here to help guide the public's use of this area, the sooner we will see fewer of the problems visited on this beautiful place.

A cooperative management plan involving the various landowners in the Knik watershed is what I see as the most effective means of developing recreational and environmental balance. The state and borough, as public entities, should take the lead in making this happen.

Sincerely,



Gregory Nilsson

March 25, 2005

Cecily Fritz, Chair
Knik river Watershed Group
P.O. Box 195
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Ms. Fritz,

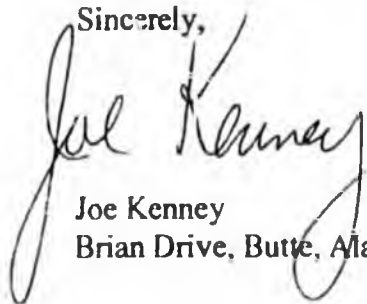
I am a resident of the Circle View Estates area and I am writing to express my support for legislative funding of a DNR/Mat-Su Borough Planning process for public lands in the Knik River area.

I have often used the area for fishing, canoeing, or hiking, and would love to see the negative types of activities (illegal dumping, shooting, vandalism, poaching, etc.) be controlled, and an increase in funds for management, planning, and enforcement.

I believe that we can make a positive contribution to the future of the area, preserving this beautiful, wild, natural land for generations to come.

Please count me in as a supporter for the future of the Jim Creek/ Knik River area.

Sincerely,



Joe Kenney
Brian Drive, Butte, Alaska

Hi Charley

I just had a conversation with your aide with regards to your SB 197. When I expressed my disapproval of the bill, she stated that I need to write a letter to you. So Charley, I am e-mailing you this to tell you that I disapprove of the SB 197 and am asking you to not support it. I would like to further add that in the course of my conversation with your aide, she became quite rude and I have doubts if this e-mail will ever get to you.

I don't know if you remember back when you were on the School Board and we had a problem out here with School Busing and you were the only member of the School Board who took any interest in our problem. At that time you visited our house and were able to see our view and what we can see. I would like to invite you to once again come out on say a Saturday evening, when the weather is nice and watch the clouds of dust rising from all the ATV's tearing up the land. It doesn't work to come out on a weekday when very few people are here, it must be done on a nice weekend day.

I have an ATV and enjoy riding it. At the same time I respect the land, stay on trails and ride it in a way which is not damaging to the land. On the other hand, I have watched people ride their ATV's and snow machines up and down (Salmon, streams, tear up vegetation and do general destruction to what ever they can. I have watches bullets bouncing across the river (water and sand) in my direction from target shooters.

I have also watched out my front window as rescues are made to save stupid people who do not respect the unforgiving land which you want to make into an "ATV Park". I would suggest that a review be made of the rescues that the National Guard and Forestry have made over the past several years in the Knik River Valley.

I also stated to your aid that the Butte Community Council had been taken over by a group of less then desirable people who had driven all the decant folks away from the Community Council meetings. Her answer was that this was the community response and this was what you had to listen to.

I do not oppose the formation of this land as a Knik River Public use area. What I do oppose is making it a free for all. There needs to be strict rules governing the activities which take place. As many of the people using this area are not residents and many of the ones who are residents are renters, there is little respect for what they do. The end result is mayhem, nothing less. We are now living in 2005, not 1960. The number of people now living in Alaska are putting a strain on the land today that was not here, even a few years ago.

Thank you.

Marty Quaas
746-6414

My name is Carrie Wolfe. I am a resident of the Knik River Watershed.

The current 'Knik River Public Use Area' legislation proposal needs to be amended!

The legislation **(1.) is completely biased towards motorized vehicle use at the expense of most other user groups.**

As the legislation is now written, it is only maintaining the *status quo*, which is unacceptable. Otherwise, why would we be here tonight?

How does legislation **(2.) hope to "perpetuate and enhance" general public recreational use the way it is now written? Increasing trails and access will not solve the conflicts between user groups. We should be thinking of restricting access not increasing access. Increasing access will only cause further damage to critical wildlife habitats.**

The legislation **(3.) does not allow the DNR the ability to adequately manage non-hunting shooting. To restrict target shooting only in high use areas is not enough.**

This past weekend, I felt like I was living in a war zone. People were shooting automatic & semi-automatic weapons and something that sounded like a canon. This went on all day and all night. The noise pollution was sometimes deafening, especially combined with the ORVs, airboats, & snowmachine noise. Noise pollution has greatly detracted from my quality of life in the Knik River area.

The legislation **(4.) does not mention the need for or provide the means for law enforcement or managers. Laws written on a piece of paper or on a sign have been, and will continue to be, disregarded.**

For example, 60-some residents reported unlawful activities in July alone. How many warnings, tickets and arrests were cited due to those phone calls? And, how many other citizens decided not to bother reporting an incident because past history has shown that law enforcement is unable to arrive in time? Funding and support must be provided for on-the-ground law enforcement and managers to uphold the law. And, by the legislation maintaining the *status quo*, managers will be unable to maintain and protect critical wildlife habitat in the future.

The legislation **(5.) states that the commissioner will be responsible for management of the recreation area. Do the current & future commissioners have the knowledge, skills, and capability to make wise land use decisions?**

Professionals such as biologists, land planners, engineers, and hydrologists are needed to make sound land management plans.

Solutions are needed and a few ideas include:

- **Providing adequate funding for law enforcement and land managers.**
- **Creating a telephone hotline to report crimes.**
- **Restricting access to critical wildlife habitat areas from motorized use.**
- **To lessen conflicts between all user groups, we could adopt a time share plan with ORVs allowed every other weekend or perhaps 2-3 weekdays and 1 weekend day.**
- **Airboats should not be allowed access into the critical wetland habitats, restricting use to the Knik River & other designated areas not only to preserve critical waterfowl nesting areas and salmon spawning areas but also to ensure the safety of humans in small watercraft.**
- **Horse power-limits or electric motorized watercrafts could be allowed access in wetlands along with all types of non-motorized watercraft.**
- **Snowmachines should only be allowed when there is 12-inches of snow or more.**
- **Restricting non-hunting shooting not just in high use areas.**

Restricting or limiting access is not popular. But if we want to ensure the future enjoyment for all user groups and local residents... we cannot allow to let activities continue, as they are now, especially with the estimated future increase in human population of the Mat-Su Valley.

Cecily Fritz, Chair
Knik River Watershed Group
P. O. Box 195
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Cecily:

I live in the Chugiak, Eagle River area and am writing to express my support for state legislative funding of a DNR/Mat-Su Borough planning process for public lands in the Knik River watershed.

Jim Creek is a very special place for my family especially my two daughters. Over the past decade we have had huge fun there, mostly involving the water and dunes. When a nice hot summer day comes along, we drop everything and load up the truck with tubes, umbrellas, a cooler and sun screen. From our house in Chugiak, it takes 40 minutes with the last 20 minutes on a very rough 4 wheel drive road, some water crossings and then we are in an Alaskan heaven. The sand dunes at Jim Creek are a great spot for kids and their parents. Here you have warm water in the form of a gently flowing and shallow stream with a nice sand beach. You also have sand dunes steep enough to roll down into the water. On occasion, the sand will be so hot you have to run across it or burn your feet because the dunes face directly south. At this location, you are surrounded by beautiful mountains and looking way upriver you can see a wall of ice, which is the Knik Glacier. How very amazing, this may be a one of a kind place in the world. Come late summer, the fishing heats up. For all these reasons and many more, access to Jim Creek should be guaranteed forever. This place belongs to the people of Alaska. I am tempted to say we should improve the road in the hope of attracting more good people and possibly less hoodlums. A huge concern is safety since certain people sense there are no rules at Jim Creek. Vandalism, dangerous shooters and environmental destruction are occurring more and more frequently. These behaviors scare off the people who love and respect the area, leaving only the irresponsible users. The wrecked and burned cars certainly detract from the pleasant surroundings. I would love to see that problem solved but never at the cost of shutting it all down. Education and enforcement are key issues to take back Jim Creek.

I strongly support your efforts, and those of other community groups, user groups, citizens, and Mat-Su Borough and Department of Natural Resource planners, in working toward realization of a management plan for the area.

Sincerely,



Michael Hansen

January 12, 2006

Representative Gatto,

I'm writing about the proposed legislation to create a Knik River Public Use Area. As a wildlife ecologist and former management biologist for ADF&G in Palmer, I know the area, and the concerns of various users, very well. I have traveled in this area by foot, snowmachine, 4-wheeler, bike, canoe and airplane, and I support our ability to continue trapping, hunting, fishing and recreating in the area.

It appears the proposed bill lacks a few key elements, without which it may serve to divide the various user groups, not unite them to best protect this great area.

I would like to see the PUA legislation include provisions to:

1. Establish a thorough planning process that includes all user groups and evaluates all trails and activities/uses (i.e. does NOT automatically grandfather all trails and uses);
2. Allow for continued access by motorized vehicles, but only in areas where their use does not degrade wetland habitats or disturb wildlife during critical seasons;
3. Establish areas for non-motorized use;
4. Increase enforcement efforts to enhance human safety and protect sensitive habitats;
5. Establish a way to manage target shooting to protect users and area residents; and
6. Prohibit air boat use of important waterfowl, salmon-rearing and moose foraging areas.

This is a fantastic area, but it is currently being degraded by the actions of inconsiderate users. And unfortunately, conflicts between user groups, and between users and residents, continue to escalate. The wildlife and habitat values in the Knik River are such that this area should really be a state game refuge. Given that it has not received that consideration, I urge you to strengthen the PUA bill with the aforementioned items.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Masteller, M. Sc.

P. O. Box 965
Palmer, AK 99645

Ralph Hulbert

PO Box 1846, Palmer, AK 99645 phone (907)745-4586; fax (907)746-4586; email hulbert@alaska.net

January 2, 2006

Via email

Rep. Carl Gatto

Rep_Carl_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us

Re: **House Bill 307 "Creating the Knik River Public Use Area"**

While I applaud the efforts of the diverse groups working towards an inclusive management plan for the upper Knik River, I feel Rep. Stoltze's current bill needs modification. It appears to enshrine specific uses without regard for their needed evolution in the face of increased use. Some historical perspective may help.

The only permanent residence in the area was the Ezi site at Swan Lake, a great subsistence location where a fish trap or net across the creek easily captured all the salmon desired, moose were available year round, with sheep and swans right there in the spring. In the late 1960's, a classmate on a BLM fire crew ran into Chief Billy Ezi near Burnt Butte and tried to explain that setting fires to enhance moose browse was no longer permitted. Now, none of those subsistence activities are allowed.

The first time I fished on Jim Creek was in the mid 1950's. Loggers put a bridge across in the woods to access the eastern forest. I don't think permits were needed then. The bridge and road were soon washed out by a larger than normal Lake George breakup. We need permits now to log, mine, or build roads and bridges to get there.

It's been over 40 years since Lake George taught us the vagaries of "normal high water". We might not live long enough to again see annual flooding over the Old Glenn or boating in what are now the Plant Material Center's fields. We can't count on the river washing our trash away off the bar, but the notion might temper how we plan and build.

The early 1960's were lean times when the mines closed. On the last week of moose season, the Elks club would collect unfilled moose tags from needy families, find a supercub and 6x6, and head up the Knik. Dick was the pilot and dad was the designated shooter; nobody went hungry. We can't do that anymore, and luckily, don't have to. We can't build recreational or trapline cabins wherever we want, either. Our winter scout camp could be revisited, but we're too soft.

For the past 30 years, we hike up there in early April to see the swans. Sometimes, we could sneak up on a flock near the mountain - their trumpeting echoing off the rock amphitheater is



Chief Ezi's place, '82:
"Please Do Not Burn the Boards Thats Around Here. Bill Ezi"

unforgettable. Since roads and trails have increased access, the swans are more skitterish. We'll probably have to keep our distance or use blinds if we want to preserve close encounters.

We try to take several canoe trips up Jim Creek each summer for fishing, birding, or hunting. The stabilized portage is nice. It's sometimes dangerous when a big airboat tries to pass in the narrow creek. Most travelers are considerate, but lack of etiquette will lead to increased conflicts.

Yes, I've yahooped all over and up to the glacier in ATVs, trucks, boats, and planes. There are problems. It's hard to keep out of the water, either because it's in the way or just because. Playing in the water makes a mess. Those ruts and mud kicked up on the silty bar might be gone next summer, and all we did was add dust to the air and noise pollution. Our tracks in the marsh, however, are long lasting scars and will drive away critters we love. Playing in the clear water stirs up silt and kills fish. Clearly, we shouldn't mess up the sensitive habitats.



My bad. Pull it out by hand, drive it home before it freezes

Decades ago, off-road vehicles were less common and conflicts between them rare. Now, on a single day a river trail may see hikers, skiers, snow machines, bicycles, horses, motorcycles, four stroke ATVs, two stroke racers, tracked rigs, dune buggies, pickups, and monster trucks. Compatible trail use may be prolonged with good manners and slow speed, but fatal conflicts are inevitable. Off-trail racing and motocross activities on the river bar have no established etiquette; the monster truck rodeo might not safely share space with the family 4 wheeler picnic.

Remote gravel pits and river bars foment teenage anarchy, fueled by booze, guns, and gasoline. Prohibition didn't work for us then, either, and we buried the unlucky. What worked best was the landowner, whether pit owner, neighbor, local cop, or even road foreman, would simply explain the rules of ownership – respect others, and don't trash the place. When that didn't work the owner blocked access. It seems like we're close to that now with the Knik River.

What's missing is the sense of neighborhood ownership, understandable when the Knik is now the closest uncontrolled free fire zone to Anchorage. Consequently, a public use area management plan is appropriate. All of us are the owners, and our grandkids too.

Over the past half century we've drastically curtailed our "traditional public use" rights and privileges in using the river area; the resources have largely been preserved with more people enjoying them as a result. Looking towards the next few decades, it's clear we can't keep all of our current favorite uses and current trends without continuous modifications.

A trail may need to be abandoned or moved to protect a stream, and additional trails restricted in some areas but encouraged in others. Certain vehicles may need to be restricted at different times from sensitive areas, and other areas may be reserved for them. Roads, bridges, picnic

sites, and campgrounds will be built. Future management requirements can hardly be guessed at now. Certainly, enforcement will be needed – a responsibility of ownership.

I've studied information and positions taken by the various interest groups, reviewed legislation for similar areas, and suggest the following revisions for this bill:

- Keep the area multi-use; do not favor one current use over another. Use the Nelchina legislation as a model.
- Do not limit the state's ability to manage its resources by any appropriate means, including management as a state park or with park rangers and managers.
- Recognize critical, unique, and sensitive habitats for preservation, including natural and scenic resources. This might mean limiting access and time for vehicles, boats, and hikers.
- Also, recognize less sensitive areas such as the river bars where off-trail riding and racing may occur, but only if consistent with other uses, such as other users' safety and nearby residents' rights to peace and safety.
- Encourage compromise between user groups. None will be shut out, all have much to lose and gain; cooperation will maximize benefits to all. Various groups have done much to repair damage, remove trash, haul out burned vehicles, enhance habitat – thank them all and encourage their continued involvement, because without them we won't succeed.
- Most importantly, take control. The real outrage is not about responsible use, but about activities that are now illegal or obviously rude. These threaten all users and nearby residents. Once the lawless free fire mentality is reigned in, sane management begins.

Thanks, and good luck in this session.

Rafh

With respect to HB307/SB 197 An Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area.

I support Public Use or Recreational Area legislation if the current legislation is amended or new legislation is created to include the following:

Any legislation must mention multiple use: nonmotorized as well as motorized use.

Commitment to fund on ground enforcement of existing laws for safe and lawful use of the area. This is imperative not only for the safety of the nearby residents but also for the enforcement of existing regulations.

A planning process is needed that deals with the special problems confronting the different ecosystems within the Knik River Watershed. For example, shooting and car burning on the Knik River floodplain, the increasing trails and damages to the wetlands, new driveways (on Eklutna Land) to get trucks and trailers out of Mud Lake are a few examples. Some issues overlap different areas within the watershed but their solutions may differ. The public planning process would help sort that out.

Sanitation issues must be dealt with. I am tired of going to Jim Lake and finding piles of feces and toilet paper right out in the open. No attempt to dig a cathole. No respect for other users. During the spring cleanup of the area we will find diapers and more toilet paper, not to mention the tons of other garbage. Somehow this needs to be dealt with.

The language that eliminates any future establishment of State Park must be removed. The time may not be right now to establish a State Park for even part of the area. However the time may come that Park status will be the only way to maintain the viability of the area. We do not have a crystal ball that tells us how the population growth and increased use in this area will affect these lands.

Please refer to language used in other Public Use Legislation such as the Nelchina Public Use legislation to obtain wording that is more inclusive of all users and better describes the management of incompatible uses.

In order to ensure the continued viability of this area all users must be drawn into the development of a plan. The more the public is involved, the more investment we will all have to ensure the area is treated respectfully and will remain for recreational use in the future. **Please put the public into the PUBLIC USE legislation by including them in a planning process**

Testimony at the Knik River Public Use Area public hearing on Thursday October 20, 2005 by Nancy Moore.

Lynne Woods
P.O. Box 37
Sutton, Alaska 99674

March 28, 2005

Subject: Matanuska-Susitna Borough Resolution 05-22: Requesting State Funding for a Management Plan in the Knik River Watershed

Dear Ms. Woods,

Thank you very much for your support in introducing Resolution 05-22 at the upcoming April 19, 2005 Matanuska-Susitna Borough Meeting. The Knik River Watershed has been a popular recreation area for many years. With the large expanding human population during the past 10 years in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley and in Anchorage, the area continues to receive significant increases of use without the benefit of a management plan. With so many people using the area, littering, pollution, vandalism, wildlife violations, unsafe shooting, and damage to the natural environment is taking its toll. Local residents are seeing a diminished quality of life from such large numbers of uncontrollable recreational users. A number of traditional users are becoming disenfranchised and no longer use the area due to serious conflicts with other user groups. A new management plan for the Knik River Watershed is well over due.

Senator Charlie Huggins and Representative Bill Stoltze conducted a Town Meeting at the Butte Elementary School Gymnasium on February 12, 2005 for area residents of Lazy Mountain, Butte, and Knik River Road. The agenda was an open discussion of area concerns. The Town Hall Meeting was well attended with approximately 100 people present. The concern that raised the most interest was that of recreational use in the Knik River Watershed. Numerous citizens brought up the many problems of recreational users and damage to important wildlife habitat. Several citizens spoke in support of an Alaska Department of Natural Resources Plan to manage the watershed. There was very little, if any, opposition to the plan expressed by citizens who spoke on the subject.

I often fly into the Knik River Watershed from Anchorage as it is only a 30 minute flight from Merrill Field. Visitors that fly with me enjoy the mountain scenery, wildlife and the many landing places on the gravel bars. I have noticed widespread changes in the past few years with larger numbers of users, increased wildlife disturbances, and increased damage to sensitive areas, especially the wetlands and sand dunes in the Jim Creek area.

I strongly support your effort along with all users groups, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and our legislators in working together to introduce and pass legislation that will provide the funding for a new management plan for the Knik River Watershed.

Wm. A. Quirk, III
William A. Quirk, III Pilot / Biologist
P.O. Box 212545
Anchorage, Alaska 99521

PO Box 788
Taikheetna, AK 99676
August 17, 2005.

Senator Charlie Huggins
Alaska State Senate

via e-mail: [Senator Charlie Huggins@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Charlie_Huggins@legis.state.ak.us)

Dear Senator Huggins:

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the meeting tomorrow (Thursday) regarding the Knik Watershed. Here is what I had prepared to say at the meeting/hearing.

To put it bluntly, the proposed legislation, SB 197, is not in the broad public interest, and it is poorly crafted

Basically, SB 197, and its companion HB 307, give *carte blanche* to ORV use. It subordinates not only all other uses, but also resource integrity, to that mandate. It is apparent to me that the writers of this legislation did not look at the problems that are occurring in the area today, they did not seek to address those problems, they did not identify the important resource and recreation values that this area offers, they did not establish a vision of what the public would like to see this place look like in the future, and they did not consider how to achieve that vision. Instead, they wrote special interest legislation governing use of lands that are owned by all of us.

So, what is going to suffer? The fish and wildlife resources and the use of the area by anybody who isn't on an ORV or out hunting or target shooting. I don't see anything in the draft that sets aside areas for quiet or non-motorized recreation, for wildlife protection (even wetland areas aren't protected), that provides for public safety, or that seriously considers sustainability.

And, I believe that the bill is poorly crafted not only because it lacks a vision that reflects the broad public interest, but because it contains incompatible stipulations. For example, it is impossible to mandate unlimited ORV use while at the same time protecting and maintaining "migratory waterfowl nesting areas, habitats for moose..." It is likewise, in my view, impossible for the Department of Fish and Game to engage in "rehabilitation, enhancement, and development of fish and wildlife habitat" under a mandate to accommodate unlimited ORV use and not restrict (even to a limited or temporary degree) "lawful fishing, hunting, or trapping rights."

To properly serve the public interest and to preserve the resource and recreational opportunities for future generations, it is necessary to provide a balance among fish and wildlife protection, public safety, segregated non-motorized use areas, and motorized and hunting areas. I urge you, Senator, and Representative Stoltze, to look at the problems that are occurring today, to look at the existing and potential resource and recreational values, to establish a future vision, to determine how to achieve that vision, and to write legislation that accommodates and protects a broad variety of public uses, protects wildlife resources, provides for management and public safety and, most important, makes the management of this watershed sustainable so that it can be enjoyed by all in the future.

Sincerely,
[signed]
John Strassenburgh



Palmer Soil & Water Conservation District

259 S. Alaska Street, Palmer Alaska 99645

Phone: (907) 745-1441 • Fax: (907) 745-1443

CONSERVATION • DEVELOPMENT • SELF-GOVERNMENT

April 1, 2005

Cecily Fritz, Chair
Knik River Watershed Group
P. O. Box 195
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Cecily:

The Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District (PSWCD) supports development of an area-wide Alaska Department of Natural Resources/Mat-Su Borough management plan for public lands in the Knik River watershed.

Public lands in the watershed include coastal habitat, dunes, wetlands, several anadromous streams and upland habitat, and support a tremendous variety of wildlife resources and recreational opportunities. The area is just over a half hour drive from Anchorage, is easily accessible off the Glenn Highway and receives heavy recreational use from Mat-Su and Anchorage residents. Significantly increasing unmanaged use impacts watershed integrity, quality of life for nearby residents, wildlife resources, and user enjoyment of the area. We believe DNR and MSB planners have the experience and resources to conduct a public planning process that will accommodate a broad array of motorized and nonmotorized users, protect wildlife resources, and mitigate impacts on nearby residents.

We support your efforts, and those of other community groups, user groups, citizens, the Mat-Su Borough, Department of Natural Resources, and our legislators in working toward a management plan for the area. In addition, the PSWCD is very pleased with our successful application (in conjunction with the Knik River Watershed Group) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Management Grant Program to conduct waterfowl surveys and wetlands inventory in the watershed this year. We look forward to this joint effort in providing current scientific data on the area to assist in the planning effort and to enhance KRWG development of educational tools.

Sincerely,

Bruce Bush, District Chair



PO Box 140264
Anchorage, AK
99514-0264
907-333-4442
www.alaska-trails.org

April 28, 2005

Cecily Fritz, Chair
Knik River Watershed Group
P. O. Box 195
Palmer, AK 99645

Dear Cecily:

Alaska Trails is very aware of the valuable habitat and the multitude of exceptional recreational opportunity on public lands in the Knik River watershed. We, too, are concerned about ongoing resource damage, the potential for long term impairment, and the diminished experiences for all users due to a marked upsurge in unmanaged use in recent years.

We support your efforts to call attention to the problems and to gain legislative support for an Alaska Department of Natural Resources planning process for the area especially if it involves on-site management presence. We believe the Knik River area should be managed for motorized and nonmotorized users, and that important wildlife and fishery resources should be protected.

We endorse your outreach efforts about the area values to the public and user groups. User education is important in achieving compatible, sustainable recreational uses as well as for developing support for a watershed management plan and, more importantly, its implementation.

Let us know how we can help in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jack", written in dark ink.

Jack Mosby, President
Board of Directors

community planning



community building

Friends of Mat-Su

April 4, 2005

Knik River Watershed Group
Cecily Fritz
Palmer, AK

Dear Cecily:

Friends of Mat-Su (FoMS) supports a comprehensive planning effort between the Department of Natural Resources and the Mat-Su Borough for public lands in the Knik River Watershed.

Due to the rapid population growth and increased use by a wide variety of users from the Mat-Su Borough and Anchorage the lands within the Knik River Watershed are being negatively impacted. Nearby residents have diminished quality of life, responsible users have diminished experience, and natural resources are beginning to show damage from unmanaged use.

Comprehensive public planning can address issues such as: appropriate dedicated access points that are well marked and provide sanitation facilities to reduce impacts on residents and habitat; sustainable recreation/trails to reduce impacts of heavy use; assessment of wetland hydrology and value to area aquifer to protect water quality for everyone; assess importance of intact dunes as a water, wind and noise barrier for residents; identify areas requiring restoration; and provide better enforcement of game and all regulations that pertain to this area.

We strongly advocate that when funding is secured that it includes the support necessary for implementation and enforcement of the plan. Too often plans are created without this.

FoMS supports the efforts of the Knik River Watershed Group, and those of community groups, user groups, residents, the Mat-Su Borough, Department of Natural Resources, and our legislators in working toward realization of a management plan for the area and we look forward to participating in the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kathy Wells'.

Kathy Wells
Executive Director

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Palmer Field Office
1700 East Bogard Road, Suite 203
Wasilla, AK 99654-6563
(907) 373-6482 Ext. 111
(907) 373-7182 FAX
www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov

Cecily Fritz, Chair
Knik River Watershed Group
P. O. Box 195
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Cecily:

I work for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as the District Conservationist Matanuska Susitna Service Center representing the Palmer District.

Our agency is aware of the valuable wetlands, coastal and upland habitats on public lands in the Knik River watershed and is concerned about resource damage and the potential for long term impairment due to a marked upsurge in recreation in recent years.

I have recently learned about your group's efforts to call attention to the problems through public and user group outreach, and to gain legislative support for a DNR management plan for the area. We agree that the Knik River area needs better management and commend the efforts of the Knik River Watershed Group to make this happen. Through my work I have been involved with several watershed planning efforts and may be able to offer your group some support and guidance. Please contact me to learn more about our work. Thank you again for your efforts, it is encouraging to see volunteers so motivated to keep our watersheds healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Schuman".

Michelle Schuman
Palmer District Conservationist

Butte Area Residents

Civic Organization

269 South Alaska Street - Palmer AK 99641 - 907-745-7528 - resource@buttealaska.org

DRAFT KNIK RIVER VALLEY STATE RECREATION AREA AS 41.21.***

Proposed legislation

Estimate of Cost (Fiscal Note).

Ideally, first year enforcement should be funded for a minimum of 1, but preferably 1-1/2 or 2 Rangers with SUV, ORV and dirt bikes.

First Year: Law Enforcement

Minimum: 1 Ranger, full time + vehicle = \$150,000

(if 1 1/2 Rangers, + vehicle + ORV/dirt bikes = \$225,000)

(if preferably 2 Rangers for first year for officer safety and Effectiveness + 1 vehicle + ORV/dirt bikes= \$250,000)

(Area Enforcement to be assisted by occasional AST support at current level for Butte area.)

Planning: \$ 25,000

First Year Total **\$175,000 - \$250,000**

Funding Source: State of Alaska 100%

Second Year: Law Enforcement **\$175,000 - \$250,000**

Infrastructure \$ 30,000

Planning: \$ 30,000

Second Year Total **\$235,000 - \$310,000**

Funding Source: State of Alaska 80%
Grants 20%

Third Year: Law Enforcement **\$175,000 - \$250,000**

Infrastructure \$ 50,000

Planning/Education: \$ 10,000

Third Year Total **\$235,000 - \$310,000**

Funding Source: State of Alaska 60%
Grants 30%
User Fees 10%

Grants include Department of Fish & Game, USFWS, and private foundations

This is an estimate of costs and will have to be verified by experienced DNR personnel.

Butte Community - Incident List

ID	MapID	X-ID	What	Details	Where	Month	Year	Date
1	1	1	Unauthorized Construction	by MatSu Borough, see DNR letter '92	Jim Lake	September	1988	198809
2	1	2	Illegal Dumping	Sanitation issues, no responses	Jim Lake	September	1988	198809
3	1	2	Shooting	personally almost shoot	Jim Lake	September	1988	198809
4	1	3	ORV Traffic in Anadromous E	DNR posted trailhead - no longer anadromous	Jim Creek	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
5	1	3	Wildlife Harassment	family clubbing fish - 1993 fish incident	Jim Creek		1993	199300
6	1	4	ORV Traffic in Wetlands	see comparison photos	Rippy Trail	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
7	1	5	ORV Traffic in Anadromous E	see photos of crossing	Rippy Trail	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
8	1	6	ORV Traffic in Wetlands	destruction of vegetative mat, see photos	Rippy Trail	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
9	1	7	Illegal Camps	bait station, docks, garbage, fuel barrels, posted by DNR and partially cleaned up	Chain Lakes	October	2004	200410
10	1	7	Illegal Bait Station	posted by DNR, partially cleaned up	Chain Lakes	October	2004	200410
11	1	7	Illegal Docks	posted by DNR, partially cleaned up	Chain Lakes	October	2004	200410
12	1	7	Illegal Fuel Barrels	posted by DNR, partially cleaned up	Chain Lakes	October	2004	200410
13	1	8	Illegal Bait Station	reported but was not followed up on by authority	Chain Lakes	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
14	1	9	Illegal Fuel Barrels	fuel barrels on wetlands, not cleaned up	Chain Lakes	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
15	1	10	Illegal Fuel Barrels	pending still	Chain Lakes	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
16	1	10	Illegal Drcks	pending still	Chain Lakes	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
17	1	11	New ORV Trail	initial observation of new trail in wetlands, AKQuirk aerial photo	Rippy Trail	April	2005	200504
18	1	12	New ORV Trail	see photos	Jim Lake	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
19	1	12	New ORV Trail	see photos	Swan Lake	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
20	1	13	Wildlife Harassment	very good beaver dam destroyed by motor traffic, see photos	Wolf Point		1988	198800
21	1	13	Illegal Kill	poached sheep, see article				
22	1	14	ORV Traffic in Wetlands	on vegetative mat, see photo	Swan Lake	April	2005	200504
23	1	14	ORV Traffic in Wetlands	on vegetative mat	Swan Lake	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
24	1	15	Abandoned Vehicle	overturned with fluids spilling, reported & after hassle got results from F&G, Palmer	Jim Lake		1993	199300
25	1	16	Illegal Kill	cow moose, reported - no response - short handed	Rippy Trail		1994	199400
26	1	17	Illegal Kill	swan, not reported	Jim Lake		1994	199400
27	1	18	Illegal Dumping	trash	Sand Dunes	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
28	1	18	Vegetation Destruction	live tree cutting	Sand Dunes	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
29	1	18	Shooting	fully automatic weapons	Sand Dunes	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
30	1	18	Vegetation Destruction	live tree destruction	Sand Dunes	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
31	1	19	Illegal Fishing	fish snagging, observed several times over the years	Jim Creek			
32	1	20	Shooting	dodged bullets, left bicycles on ground, hid son behind tree, confronted perpetrator	Knik River		1993	199300
33	1	21	Shooting	Joe Blaostien dodged high power rifle fire while musing	Mud Lake		1997	199700
34	1	22	Property Destruction	destruction of "No Shooting" sign	Maud Road	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
35	1	23	Illegal Kill	owl	Rippy Trail		1994	199400
36	1	24	Illegal Dumping	some response	Pavilion Lot	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
37	1	25	Shooting	some response	Pavilion Lot	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
38	1	26	Wildlife Harassment	airboat chasing swans	Knik River	October	2004	200410
39	1	27	Unattended Fire	unattended fire spreading	Friday Creek		1997	199700
40	1	28	Illegal Dumping		Mud Lake	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
41	1	28	Vegetation Destruction	live tree cutting	Mud Lake	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
42	1	28	Illegal Dumping	sanitation issues	Mud Lake	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
43	1	29	Motor Traffic on River	Assisted woman with broken hip, took to ambulance at trail head	Knik River		1997	199700
44	2	1	Burned Vehicle	jeep cherokee set on fire, observed occupants of a black pickup set fire, called 911 arrived to late to get perps	Bodenburg Creek	July	2005	200507
45	2	2	Abandoned Vehicle	abandoned van near bridge	Knik River	October	2005	200510
46	2	3	Property Destruction	junk cars and trash in trees	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
47	2	3	Illegal Camps	squatters living on river bar	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
48	2	4	Property Destruction	burned out car on sand bar	Knik River	May	2001	200105
49	2	5	Illegal Dumping	trash dumped in brush and bridge base	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
50	2	6	Burned Vehicle	shot-up burned cars on river bar	Sexton Trail	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
51	2	7	Vegetation Destruction	shot-up trees, initial observation	Knik River Road	May	1997	199705
52	2	7	Vegetation Destruction	shot-up trees	Knik River Road	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
53	2	7	Burned Vehicle	burned car, initial observation	Knik River Road	May	1997	199705
54	2	7	Burned Vehicle	burned car	Knik River Road	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
55	2	8	Illegal Dumping	trash and cars	Maud Road Ext	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
56	2	8	Vegetation Destruction	shot-up trees	Maud Road Ext	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING

Butte Community - Incident List

ID	Map/C	X-ID	What	Details	Where	Month	Year	Date
57	2	8	Abandoned Vehicle	wrecked cars	Maud Road Ext	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
58	2	9	Illegal Dumping	huge trash pile at waters edge	Mud Lake	July	2002	200207
59	2	9	Illegal Camps	abandoned camp at waters edge	Mud Lake	July	2002	200207
60	2	10	Illegal Dumping	trash	Maud Road Ext	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
61	2	10	Vegetation Destruction	shot-up trees	Maud Road Ext	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
62	2	11	Illegal Dumping	trash left in brush	Jim Lake	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
63	2	12	Illegal Kill	rotting moose carcass floating in creek	Jim Creek	June	2001	200106
64	2	13	Property Destruction	abandoned duck blinds, initial observation	Swan Lake		1998	199800
65	2	13	Property Destruction	abandoned duck blinds	Swan Lake	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
66	2	14	Illegal Dumping	trash left on ridge	Jim Creek	June	2003	200306
67	2	14	Illegal Dumping	trash left on ridge, cleaned up	Jim Creek	June	2004	200406
68	2	15	Illegal Dumping	trash on sandbar, from jim creek outlet to friday creek outlet	Jim Creek	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
69	2	15	Burned Vehicle	burned car on sandbar	Jim Creek	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
70	2	16	Illegal Dumping	trash	Jim Creek Forks	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
71	2	16	Vegetation Destruction	shot-up cottonwoods	Jim Creek Forks	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
72	2	17	Illegal Dumping	trash	Manmade Lake	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
73	2	17	Abandoned Vehicle	cars	Manmade Lake	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
74	2	17	Illegal Camps	squatters	Manmade Lake	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
75	2	17	Shooting		Manmade Lake	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
76	2	18	Shooting	automatic & semi-automatic weapons fire after dark, into water by headlights	Bodeburg Creek	October	2005	200510
77	7		NON-USER	b/c of junk, parties, and concern for personal safety	Butte Area	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
78	3	1	Burned Vehicle	burning vehicles, 20-30+ per year, seen from home	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
79	3	2	Property Destruction	transformer feeding Knik River Rd shot out, leaving ~200 residents w/o power 8 hrs, temp in teens	Knik River Road	January	2003	200301
80	3	3	Illegal Dumping	used motor oil, used diapers, etc.	Knik River Road		1998	199800
81	3	4	Illegal Dumping	trash dumped, perpetrators id'd and contacted, mess was removed	Knik River Road	April	1999	199904
82	3	5	Illegal Fireworks	plane landed and set-off fireworks during statewide ban, July 6th	Knik River	July	2004	200407
83	3	6	Illegal Fireworks	fireworks observed on Swan Lake, driving off adult nesting swans, leaving cygnets behind, July 4	Swan Lake	July	2003	200307
84	3	7	Illegal Dumping	dirty diapers, requiring Borough HazMat team for clean up	Caudill Road			
85	3	8	Unattended Fire	abandoned camp fires, often requiring Mat-Su and Forestry intervention to put out	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
86	3	9	Dangerous Vehicle Operation	two ~10 yr old boys on 4-wheelers crossed the road in front of vehicle w/o looking, required evasive action	Old Glenn Hwy	July	2005	200507
87	3	10	Dangerous Vehicle Operation	three girls (ages 11-14) traveling W on a 4-wheeler, straddling center line, required serious evasive action by driver going E, blind curve 8/13	Knik River Road	August	2005	200508
88	3	10	Dangerous Vehicle Operation	~10 yr old boy riding 4-wheeler straddling center line, on blind curve, required serious evasive action by driver, 8/20	Knik River Road	August	2005	200508
89	3	11	Illegal Motorized Vehicle Operation	snowmachine operated like jet skis on swimming hole, sometimes sinking, area posted "Swimming Only, No Motorized Vehicles"	Knik River Road	ONGOING	2003	200300
90	3	11	Dangerous Vehicle Operation	jet boats operated in "Swimming Only..." posted swimming hole, while children swam	Knik River Road	July	2005	200507
91	3	11	Dangerous Vehicle Operation	jet boats operated in "Swimming Only..." posted swimming hole, while children swam	Knik River Road	August	2005	200508
92	3	12	Illegal Kill	moose shot by headlights at 2am, after butchering guts left at a school bus stop	Knik River Road	September	2002	200209
93	3	13	Wildlife Harassment	air boat harassing swans, causing swans to move to non-traditional areas	Swan Lake	October	2005	200510
94	3	14	Unattended Fire	forest fire due to abandoned camp fire, required Forest Service intervention mtn side above swan lake	Mtn Side	August	2004	200408
95	4	1	Irresponsible Trapping	dog caught in snare for 3 or 4 days, dog OK	Republican Road	November	1977	197711
96	4	2	Irresponsible Trapping	dog caught in conibear trap, dog killed instantly	Plant Materials Center	December	2000	200012
97	4	3	Shooting	while canoeing on mud lake shots fired over the water from shore	Mud Lake		2001	
98	4	5	Shooting	bullets come through our property often, bullets have hit, building, swing sets, and parking areas	Knik River Road	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
99	4	8	Dangerous Vehicle Operation	2 kids on 4-wheeler die due to trespassing issues originating at Manmade Lake	Knik River Road		1996	
##	4	10	Shooting	popular shooting area, shots fired out across knik river	Saxton Trail	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
##	4	11	Shooting	popular shooting area, shots fired out across knik river	Knik River Road	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
##	4	12	Shooting	popular shooting area, shots fired out across knik river	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
##	4	13	Shooting	popular shooting area, shots fired out across knik river	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
##	4	14	Abandoned Vehicle	ford?, still by side of road	Knik River Road		1970	
##	4	15	Abandoned Vehicle	car left on bank	Knik River Road		1985	
##	4	16	Abandoned Vehicle	car left on bank	Knik River Road	April	2005	200504
##	4	17	Shooting	popular shooting area, shots fired west along river bank	Knik River Road	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
##	5	1	Vegetation Destruction	indiscriminate tree cutting, living trees on private property, and downed trees left to rot, accessed by snowmachine	Drismae Road	January	2004	200401
##	5	2	ORV Traffic in Stream	an easily forded creek crossing (pedestrian & equine, which once had a foot bridge) turned to mucky mire, no longer crossable	17N02E Sec 24	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
##	5	3	ORV Traffic in Wetlands	former horse/ski trail ruined by motorized traffic, no longer usable for non-motorized users	17N03E Sec 19		2003	
##	5	3	ORV Traffic in Wetlands	former horse/ski trail ruined by motorized traffic, no longer usable for non-motorized users	17N03E Sec 19	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
##	5	4	Unattended Fire	campfire smoldering in a stump at the creek crossing area was dry lots of fuel available	17N03E Sec 18	September	2005	200509

BuKa Community - Incident List

ID	MapID	X-ID	What	Details	Where	Month	Year	Date
##	5	5	Dangerous Vehicle Operation	horse was spooked by dirt bike rider who never stopped, horse broke leg from incident and had to be put down, teenage rider OK	Old Glenn Hwy	August	2005	200508
##	5	6	Dangerous Vehicle Operation	horse spooked by passing 4-wheeler who sped up while passing, and was aware that rider was in trouble but did not look back	Plumley Road	September	2005	200509
##	5	7	Vegetation Destruction	indiscriminate tree cutting by hunters and campers	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
##	5	8	Vegetation Destruction	indiscriminate tree cutting by hunters and campers	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
##	5	9	Vegetation Destruction	trails deeply rutted around tree roots	Knik River		2003	
##	5	9	Vegetation Destruction	trails deeply rutted around tree roots	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
##	5	9	Dangerous Vehicle Operation	ORV traveling at excessive speeds, area now hazardous to horse and pedestrian travel	Knik River		2003	
##	5	9	Dangerous Vehicle Operation	ORV traveling at excessive speeds, area now hazardous to horse and pedestrian travel	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
##	5	10	Dangerous Vehicle Operation	trail head created by horse users for public use in late '60s now too dangerous for horse/pedestrian users due to excessive speed of ORVs	Sullivan Road		2003	
##	5	10	Dangerous Vehicle Operation	trail head created by horse users for public use in late '80s now too dangerous for horse/pedestrian users due to excessive speed of ORVs	Sullivan Road	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
##	6	1	Shooting	excessive shooting has made this area unsafe for tour operators and their clients	Knik Glacier			
##	6	2	Property Destruction	Hunter Creek Adventures (Glacier Camp), DNR lease, vandalized, equipment damage, everything shot full of holes	Knik Glacier		2000	
##	6	3	Abandoned Vehicle	vehicle submerged and left to rot	Metal Creek			
##	6	4	Illegal Kill	poached moose, illegal bull moose	Knik River			
##	6	5	Shooting	excessive shooting from machine guns and social rifles, often in the middle of the night	Knik River			
##	6	6	Dangerous Vehicle Operation	2 vehicles submerged in river, 5 people swept away, large emergency response, helicopters, etc. no casualties	Knik River			
##	6	7	ORV Traffic in Wetlands	excessive damage to vegetative mat	Knik River			
##	6	8	Illegal Camps	homeless camp set-up in summer, excessive trash and human waste	Knik River			
##	6	9	Abandoned Vehicle	burnt out cars	Knik River			
##	6	9	Illegal Dumping	trash	Knik River			
##	6	10	Illegal Kill	poached dall sheep	Knik River			
##	6	11	Dangerous Vehicle Operation	emergency response to vehicle in river with passengers swept away, 1 casualty	Knik River			
##	3	7	Illegal Dumping	dirty diapers, requiring Borough HazMat team for clean up	Caudill Road			
##	2	6	Burned Vehicle	shot-up burned cars on river bar	Sexton Trail	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING
##	cars		Burned Vehicle	GPS'd for ANG cleanup - locations approximate GPS data available from _____				
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Butte Community - Incident List

ID	MapID	X-ID	What	Details	Where	Month	Year	Date
##	cars		Burned Vehicle	GPS'd for ANG cleanup - locations approximate GPS data available from -----				
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##	cars		Burned Vehicle	GPS'd for ANG cleanup - locations approximate GPS data available from -----				

Butte Community - Incident List

3	A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	J	K
ID	Map ID	X-ID	What	Details	Where	Month	Year	Date	Initials	
195	##	8	1 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
196	##	9	2 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
197	##	8	3 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
198	##	8	4 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
199	##	8	5 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
200	##	8	6 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
201	##	8	7 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
202	##	8	8 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Sexton Trail	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
203	##	8	9 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Sexton Trail	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
204	##	8	10 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Sexton Trail	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
205	##	8	11 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Sexton Trail	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
206	##	8	12 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Sexton Trail	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
207	##	8	13 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Sexton Trail	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
208	##	8	14 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Sexton Trail	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
209	##	8	15 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
210	##	8	16 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
211	##	8	17 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
212	##	8	18 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
213	##	8	19 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
214	##	8	20 Burned Vehicle	Butte FD call to burning car fire	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING	ONGOING	C	
215	##		Tree Shot Next to Residence	Someone shot through woods	Mile 9.8 Old Glenn					BL
216	##		3 GIS shoot towards corrals	From trail off Knik River, 3 GIS were plinking away shooting at a tree toward horses in corrals	Mile 9.8 Old Glenn					BL
217	##		Unoccupied Home vandalized	Vandals broke into unoccupied home during night. And parked. Neighbors observed	Mile 10 Old Glenn					BL
218	##		Car Stolen from Driveway	Car Stolen from Driveway	Mile 9.5 Old Glenn					BL
219	##		ATV would not stop on road	ATV would not stop on non-motorized bike path and chased a young woman in mini-horse cart onto the Old Glenn	Mile 9.7 Old Glenn					BL
220	##		ATV harassed horse/ender	ATV played chicken with horse and nder on Old Glenn non-motorized pathway. Horse yielded	Mile 9.5 Old Glenn					BL
221	##		Dirt Bike crashed into tree	Dirt Bike jumped driveway and crashed into tree. Had to call Butte Ambulance	Mile 9.8 Old Glenn					BL
222	##		Drive-by shooting at night	People kept firing gun from pickup at night.	Mile 9.8 Old Glenn					BL
223	##		Drive-by shooting Sunday	People from beige pickup kept firing from pickup, could hear they started at Knik Bridge and kept firing after going by house	Mile 9.8 Old Glenn					BL
224	##		Explosives thrown into driveway	Explosives (dynamite??) thrown out of car onto driveway. Shook house	Mile 9.8 Old Glenn					BL
225	##		Shooting toward house	Two boys from Anc shot at house through woods hunting rabbits on private property. Said, "This is Mat-Su. There's no law against it."	Mile 9.8 Old Glenn					BL
226	##		Unoccupied Home vandalized	Vandals threw rocks through all windows in unoccupied house	Mile 9.7 Old Glenn					BL
227	##		ATVs and Dirt Bikes on Path	ATVs and Dirt Bikes jump driveways on non-motorized pathway. Sometimes 250-300 on weekend	Mile 9-Mile 11/12	ONGOING	ONGOING			BL
228	##		Beer Bottle thrown at person	Beer Bottle thrown out from pickup hit older man on head	Mile 9.8 Old Glenn					BL
229	##		Moose poached	Moose poached	Off Bodenbug Lp North					
230	##		Moose poached	Moose poached, belly burned	Jim Creek Trail					AncVis
231	##		Found raven shot	Found shot Raven on Knik River Rm	Knik River upstream					BL
232	##		Shooters in woods	Shooters in woods off non-motorized MSB trail	Off Old Glenn	ONGOING	ONGOING			BL
233	##		Vagrants camp in woods	Vagrants camped in woods fired shots after horse/ender went by. Called Troopers						BL
234	##		ATVs and Dirt Bikes on highway	ATVs and Dirt Bikes on Old Glenn		ONGOING	ONGOING			BL
235	##		Heavy Explosions	Heavy Explosions at Knik River, heard at Mile 9.8, sometimes shake house	Knik River	ONGOING	ONGOING			BL
236	##		ATV speeding on woods trail	ATV speeding on woods trail, river on horse had to jump off the trail several times	Woods on MSB lar	ONGOING	ONGOING			BL
237	##		Near Collision with Cars	On Sexton Trail, near-head-on collision with two racing cars	Sexton Trail					BL
238	##		Shooter near Pavilion	Shooter near pavilion shoots toward paper plate targets on stump with rifle	Pavilion Lot					BL
239	##		Plastic bottle targets	Plastic bottle stuck on tree branches. Targets in direction of residence	Knik River Downstream					BL
240	##		Construction Pile with staples	Construction pile with staples was burned at upstream side of Knik River, then disappeared in Bodenbug Creek overflow	Knik/Bodenbug					BL
241	##		ATV chasing salmon	Kids on ATVs were chasing salmon in bodenburg Creek	Bdenburg Creek	ONGOING	ONGOING			BS
242	##		Jetboat in Bodenbug Creek	Jetboat in Bodenbug Creek	Bodenburg Creek	ONGOING	ONGOING			BL
243	##		Salmon Poaching	Salmon poaching in bodenburg Creek	Bodenburg Creek	ONGOING	ONGOING			BS
244	##		Boats and motors getting clogged	Bodenburg Creek - boats, jetboats, boat motors and airboats using creek to wash off mud	Bodenburg Creek					BL
245	##		ATVs tearing up Hwy shoulder	ATVs tearing up Hwy shoulder, cutting patterns	Knik River Bridge					BL
246	##		Moose and baby shot	Moose and baby shot at Mile 5 Old Glenn pond one year	Old Glenn Hwy					Resident
247	##		Moose and baby shot	Moose and baby shot at Mile 5 Old Glenn pond next year	Old Glenn Hwy					Resident
248	##		Shoot at Bottle at Tail Race	Throw up bottles and shoot into Exultna Tail Race	Old Glenn Hwy					Resident
249	##		Oil Drums Dumped	Waste Oil in barrels and bottles dumped on private property	Knik River Access	ONGOING	ONGOING			BL
250	##		Stolen Cars & Trucks dump	Stolen Cars and Trucks burned and dumped on private property	Knik River Access	ONGOING	ONGOING			BL
251	##		Shooting	Shooting into water, into trees, across hwy, toward homes	Knik River Access	ONGOING	ONGOING			BL
252	##		Shooting	Shooting into water, into trees, across hwy, toward homes	Knik River Access	ONGOING	ONGOING			BL
253	##									
254	##									
255	An additional 200 plus incidents by observations of three residents have yet to be mapped									

**Comments to House Resources Committee hearing on HB 307, March 27, 2005, 2:00 pm
In Opposition to HB 307 Knik River Public Use Area
By Brit Lively, long-time resident and property owner in Butte.**

Here are my specific comments to HB 307:

My concerns start with the purpose of this legislation and the ambiguity of language in the rewrite of HB 307 which seems to contradict its purpose/intent. Of course, I'm sure you all are aware that any management plan can only be as good as the stated purpose.

The role per statute and mission of Department of Natural Resources, is to "Develop, conserve and enhance natural resources for present and future Alaskans." Telling DNR in this PUA legislation to perpetuate and enhance 1) general public recreation, and 2) public enjoyment of fish and wildlife, before dealing with habitat is putting the cart in front of the horse.

Items for Purpose should be reversed because only if we perpetuate, mitigate, protect and maintain a healthy habitat, will the public be able to enjoy fish, wildlife and public recreation. *If you put recreation ahead of protection of habitat and wildlife along with the limited and expensive enforcement in this legislation, you may well end up with a gravel pit and a dust bowl extending well beyond the boundaries of this proposed Public Use Area. You may not realize that anywhere from 1,000 to 3,000 people are using this area on every sunny weekend.*

Page 1, line 7-12: Comment:
Therefore, I suggest #1 purpose should read:)

- 1) Perpetuate, mitigate, protect and maintain migratory waterfowl nesting areas and fish and wildlife habitat for sustaining and enhancing
 - a) traditional public use of fish and wildlife populations and
 - b) general public enjoyment and recreation

Line 10: Paragraph 2: Delete, because it is not necessary to name all wildlife species, since they are all included. If we do that, we should also name all the fish and waterfowl species.

Page 1, line 13: Paragraph 3 will then be paragraph 2.

- 2) Provide an area for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses, including maintenance and enhancement of off-road vehicle and quiet recreation opportunities.

Page 2, line 1:

- A) Change "Owners of private property" to "Owners of Inholdings" in Knik River Public Use Area and add "utilizing the existing RS 2477 right-of-way" where possible.

Page 3, Line 2: Change to: The Commissioner may restrict the use of weapons, including firearms, in the Knik River Public Use Area except for the purpose of legal hunting, in order to protect the public and to comply with DEC and federal regulations which prohibit discharging shot into a watershed.

Page 3, Line 11: Delete (d) 2 and either Replace with:

(2) adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) which are necessary to achieve the purposes of HB 307 and shall adopt such additional regulations as may be necessary to implement the plan adopted. The regulations must designate incompatible uses, and prohibit and restrict such uses. ,

Or

change as follows:

The commissioner shall

(2) recognize the existing trails and the access those trails provide to areas in the Knik River Public use area, determine the carrying capability of this area for public use and determine which of these trails are best suited for motorized or non-motorized recreation according to soils, habitat and compatibility with the purposes of HB 307 and accordingly enhance these trail for motorized or non-motorized recreation.

Page 3, Line 20: Enforcement. Use the same language as in Hatcher Pass PUA or in our proposed Draft Legislation for Knik River Valley State Recreation Area.

After this hearing I will have had 6 minutes total (3 minutes at the Stoltze/Huggins hearing at Butte School last fall tell you how our home area has deteriorated over the last twenty-five years. We have spent thousands of dollars in cash and ten times more in lost work and lost sleep defending our homes, our neighborhoods and the quality of life we have every right to enjoy in the beautiful area surrounding us. Land managers and others in authority have writ this area off so that our home area has become a mecca for uncivilized and disrespectful behavior. This afternoon, "counseled" a party of approx 12 people who had been shooting toward homes on Republican Way for 2 hours from the Knik River. They had driven past no-shooting signs which had been blacked out by vandals. So they thought the signs didn't mean anything.

Butte Residents Area Civic Organization has spent several months putting together a packet of facts, reflecting years of documentation and local knowledge to help you plan for multiple use recreation in our area. Knik River Valley of national significance as the northern-most birthplace of the Pacific Ocean, is recognized for its world class scenery and is one of south-central Alaska's most important fish, wildlife and migratory waterfowl habitats

We condensed this into a small packet and delivered it to most members of your committee and the leaders of the House and Senate personally in Juneau. We ran out of time and did not show you photo documentation and explanation of problems with ATVs, 4x4s, the incredible amount of "targets," trees and dogs that were executed erosion and damage of the dunes, shot-up cars, fireworks and spent shells on private property, nor the dead alders

lining Jim Creek whose roots have eroded from the motor boat waves. I told most of your staff people that it would take about one hour of time to view the videos and printed material to show you why we don't think HB 307 Knik River Public Use Area will do the job.

The latter part of last week, I called as many of your offices as my time allowed, and asked if the legislators had a chance to go over our packets and if there were any questions. Everyone told me they were too busy with the oil to look at our material except for two. But - we learned that the House Majority Caucus has already agreed to vote in favor of HB 307! So why would you want to even look at what we sent you or hear what we have to say? And we learned that you have scheduled only one hour for this hearing which is THE opportunity we have prepared for and waited for so many years, to make things better - to protect our homes, families, and outstanding natural resources from the effects and overflow of "recreation gone wild."

Does anyone who has since looked at our material have any questions?

This issue should not be decided along partisan lines. This community and our incredible environment deserve more respect than that. You are our leaders. We are looking for you to enhance our quality of life and our economy and repair and enhance our natural environment long before enhancing the amount of motorized recreation at no cost to the users while our community bears the burden. *I oppose HB 307 because by statute it is like a temporary coat of paint, which will peel off and will not provide a foundation for something lasting but will have to be patched and repaired forever. We'll have to battle forever hoping for a white knight with backbone to come to the rescue of a beleaguered community.*

Instead, please give us the proper tools for high-end visitor experiences and economic development which this borough sorely needs. Give DNR and the advisory committee the authority to accommodate motorized and quiet users equally, but secondary to the responsibility of protecting and enhancing our natural resources. The stated mission of Department of Natural Resources is, "To develop, conserve and enhance natural resources present and future Alaskans."

Let's start on the high side with our draft for Knik River Valley Public Recreation Area under AS 41.21 which will give us these tools. Let its 15-member advisory committee from all user groups develop a management plan which will assure strong management and responsibility by Department of Natural Resources and, guaranteed recreation all kinds where DNR will contract out the enforcement to rangers from Alaska State Parks, and still retain all responsibilities and management. Give DNR, along with the advisory committee, the authority to determine which the trails are better suited for motorized, or horses, or foot traffic. Make it possible to build restrooms at the parking areas. When people arrive there after an hour's drive from Anchorage, they DO need a place to go. Neighbors have kept their children away from these areas for sanitary reasons. At Jim Lake, the shore is littered with human feces along with other garbage and spent cartridges.

Make quiet times in the Valley possible - whether it's along the river for those visitors and residents who want to picnic without the noise and dust from ORVs and "just watch the river go by," or for residents so they know for sure that on a certain day of the week they can have a barbeque in their backyard without choking on the exhaust of airboats and not being able to have a conversation over their noise along with that of snow machines and wave runners on the water and dirt bikes on the shores.

Quiet days provide economic opportunities for those who want to invest in our community and provide high-end visitor services. Butte has horses and facilities where national competitions are held. There are several horse board facilities. Give the Butte horse community and those who travel here with their animals a chance to take guided trips to Knik Glacier. Locals who used to do that have stopped since the motorized traffic interferes too much. Let Butte entrepreneurs cash in on guiding visitors on the canoe trails through the wetlands on quiet days. Visitors wouldn't be interested if they knew they'd be overrun and swamped by airboats. Let visiting hiking enthusiasts be guided by R or Mat Su residents on day trips or overnights to feel the overwhelming silence and grandiose splendor. Make it

possible for me to show off my beautiful back yard to my visiting business clients without embarrassing myself and my community. I know some of them would love to go fishing at Jim Creek, but I would shame myself, my business and my community if they experienced the Mad Maxx scenario being played over and over again. Just as guided ATV tours add to the economy with guided tours for the less physically able and are not being challenged by other motorized, so should mountain bikers have their times to provide guided to the glacier without being screamed at to get out of the way. And, of course, let guided ATV tours provide the less physically able with one of the most unique experiences traveling into our own back country.

Please realize that with a Knik River Valley State Recreation Area, you also give us the tools to apply for grants or matching moneys for in-kind work to help pay for the infrastructure, trail mitigation and even law enforcement. Any of us who want to use the area, when it's safe again, should be willing to pay a user fee to offset the costs of operation and management. Motorized and non-motorized users should be expected to pay for the privilege of using this beautiful area to somewhat offset the cost of running it. Provisions might include reduced or no-fee passes for local persons of limited financial means.

If you haven't yet read our draft legislation, please do so now, and ask us questions of concern.

Our packet consists of a professionally produced video of "*Bodenburg Butte - Knik River Valley - Beauty at our Back Door,*" and a companion DVD titled, "*No Respect in Knik River Valley,*" that shows a small excerpt from our collection of results of destructive activity. It includes maps, photos, a cover letter why we did not think a HB 307 Public Use Area under AS 41.23 would protect us by statute from the devastating effects of recreation gone wild for the last 20 some years, and why we reasoned that legislation for a State Recreation Area under 41.21 would. I am faxing a spreadsheet along with this which goes with these maps, showing over 260 incidents, from dumped trash to burned cars to ducking from flying bullets, which were observed by only 9 residents over several years. Three observers' notes and maps are still missing, including Gregory Nilsson's, Tom Bergey's and some of my own which will add at least 100 more incidents to the list. These incidents are dynamic in that they keep repeating themselves even after the evidence was cleaned up. There's always more trash, more poaching, more shot down and cut down trees, more burned and shot up cars, batteries, paint cans, paper plate and plastic bottle targets, human waste, springs turned into mudholes, exposed roots to document yet another year of more erosion on the dunes, etc etc

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Brit Lively
March 27, 2006

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3000 Area Residents
Civic Organization

Provisions in bills protect those who break law with ATVs, firearms

Having read Sen. Haglund's Senate Bill 107, and Rep. Stoltz's House Bill 307, one wonders if Mike Erickson took his own advice and read these bills himself ("Curbing Knik ATV access is no solution," Feb. 9).

Although Mr. Erickson acknowledges that Rambo-range shooting parties invade the area on a regular basis and agrees we need more effective laws and law enforcement, he apparently supports Sec. 41.23.290 (d) which states "the commissioner may not restrict the use of weapons, including firearms, within Knik River Public Use Area except in sites of high public use." So the reckless endangerment, vandalism, dumping and habitat destruction that accompany these shooting parties as well as the cost of dealing with the mess can continue as long as it happens out in the woods somewhere?

Also, although we have a state statute that permits ATV use on state lands as long as riders avoid destroying the terrain, Mr. Erickson apparently supports (e) of that section: "the commissioner shall allow for the use of existing off-road motor vehicle trails in existence..." So, present trails that have caused the destruction of streambeds, and wetlands with deliberately created mudholes for ATV joyriding should be grandfathered in?

Mr. Erickson's Compass piece makes me wonder why two legislators would write legislation that protects the activities of lawbreakers at the expense of law-abiding citizens, including responsible gun and ATV users?

— Marian Elliott
Wasilla

Knik River area needs some new legislation regarding use

Who are the people in your neighborhood? My "neighborhood" is bombarded with unrestricted gunfire, car explosions, vandalism and theft. Wouldn't you like to live in a war zone? I do live in the Knik River

Mat-Su

Letters from

Valley. Legislation (House Bill 307 and Senate Bill 107) supporting a Knik River Public Use Area fails to adequately address problems faced by local residents. The legislation neglects to address law enforcement planning and funding, public safety issues, incompatible recreational uses, and the protection of critical wildlife habitats. Mike Erickson said in a Compass piece last month that more laws are needed: "Curbing Knik ATV access is no solution," Feb. 9.

What good are more laws without law enforcement? Erickson believes this legislation "preserves equal access to all." Not so. Many local residents avoid the area out of fear and disgust. I resent his implied message that most Alaskans access and enjoy recreation using motorized vehicles. Hiking, canoeing and skiing are a few unmotorized ways Alaskans enjoy outdoor recreation. Local residents have to live daily with the consequences of recreational activities in the Knik River Valley. The adverse effects of unrestricted use affect all outdoor enthusiasts. Let's encourage our legislators to write new legislation and not keep the status quo.

Corrie Gray Wolfe
Palmer

Editor's Note: This writer is an ex-member of the Knik River Watershed Group steering committee. The views here are her own.

D-6

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

*Snake Area Resident
Civic Organization*

State recreation area concept for Knik basin dates back to 1980s

Miss Erickson should have done her homework before writing "Curbing Knik ATV access is no solution" (Feb. 9).

The most vocal of HB 907/SB 197 supporters have based their campaign on fear and misinformation, which seems to work. Sen. Charlie Huggins publicly declared "war" ("Up a creek?" Frontiersman, July 24, 2006) on citizens who approached asking for overdue solutions to the documented problems in the area.

Let's examine Sen. Huggins' claim to "high ground" and the basis used by proponents of the bills.

The concept of a state recreation area did not originate with the Alaska Center for the Environment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Knik Area Wetlands Study of 1981 recognized the area's significance. In 1984, Bill Sheffield introduced legislation to create the Jim/Swan Lake SRA. The Seward Area Plan of 1985 involving more than 40 public hearings, workshops and six full-time inter-agency staff over a 2-plus-year period called for creation of an SRA in the Knik basin.

In 1989, the Met-Su Borough, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Trails Advisory Board voted unanimously for the area to be an SRA with funding to develop and implement a plan.

Agencies from USFWS to NPS are on record regarding the value of the area. Many make specific recommendations ignored by these bills and supporters.

Undeniable damage and easy access to 300,000 population demands awareness.

— Robert Howard
Palmer

Trails belong to everyone, not just ATV users who trash environment

Eagle River resident Miss Erickson's contention that ATV use in the Knik watershed is environmentally benign would be laughable were it not for his trivializing the enormous problems created here by the regular influx of thousands of off-road vehicle recreationalists ("Curbing Knik ATV access is no solution," Feb. 9). Flying at 2,000 feet we observe myriad trails and attendant erosion, dust and trashed "campettes." Walking watershed trails, we are horrified to see waterfowl crushed and dying, wetlands churned to anaerobic goo, trails we have used 30 years impassable because they were "discovered" and destroyed by ATVs.

Knik River Watershed Group advocates sustainable multi-use activities. However, like the reason Mr. Erickson doth protest with, according to ignore damage ATVs cause, if allowing responsible use will preclude ATV use in some areas, he falls back on his right to go there, demanding all trails be grandfathered. Some ATV use is harmless, but as to the economic benefits derived from ATV operations, we have found they leave behind much more trash than treasure.

HB 907/SB 197 demands the area to motorized use, grandfather all trails, and strings effective but unenforced regulations to encourage behavior and promote the gradual dismantlement of traditional user groups. This area belongs to all Alaskans, and designation as a state recreation area under AS 41.21 and inclusion of all user groups in a management plan is a better solution than this study in mediocrity: HB907/SB197.

— Gregory Nelson
Palmer

BY JIMMY'S NOTE: The writer is on the board of directors of the Knik River Watershed Group and a founder of the Alaska Wilderness Civic Organization. The views here are his own.

Mapmakers Alaska

From: "Larabee James" <jlarabee@yahoo.com>
 To: Carrie Wang <carriewang@yahoo.com>
 Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2006 9:14 AM
 Subject: Re: Jim creek area

Carrie,

~~Thanks for the comments you left on my Photo gallery!~~

I'd be glad to help with the Jim Creek campaign.
 Attaching my name is fine with me.

Here goes:

I am a former instructor with UAA's Outdoor Program. We used to take our Winter Survival students to the Jim Lake/Mud Lake areas for overnight outings. But frequently (at least 3 times) our classes would encounter the sounds of late-night hooting and hollering combined with high-powered rifle fire. Usually this activity occurred from the Mud Lake parking lot and often we found discarded beer and hard liquor containers there the next morning. We stopped taking our classes to the Jim Lake area. We were concerned about getting shot and we were concerned about the vehicles we left in the parking lot.

James Larabee

--- Carrie Wang <carriewang@yahoo.com> wrote:

> hi james,
 > i haven't had a chance to look at your photos, but
 > i look forward to it.
 >
 > i'm emailing because i was wondering if you
 > recalled our conversation about the jim creek area,
 > at our last get together. i was also wondering if
 > you would be willing to write (very brief) about
 > what you described to me (how you used to take uaa
 > students out there and the shooting, etc). you can
 > just email me or brit lively at
 > resource@huttealaska.org . if you don't want your
 > name attached please say so. your testimony would be
 > very much appreciated!
 >
 > thanks!
 > carrie
 >
 >
 > Do You Yahoo!?
 > Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam

HR 307

Rep Jay Ramras
 Fax - 907-465-2070

3/27/2006

March 22, 2006

Honorable Jay Ramras - HB 307
Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska
Fax: 907-465-2070

Dear Representative Ramras,

My name is Kurt Marshall, my family has been in Alaska since 1934, when my grandparents settled in the Butte area of Palmer, as colonists.

Our family is outdoors and recreationally oriented and while we would like to continue using the Jim Creek, Knik glacier area as a family retreat, the increase of family danger due to vandalism, gunfire and chaotic behavior prevents our continuing to do that.

Because my family still owns a 171-acre farm near the Butte, I am very concerned about the continued degradation of the area. We have watched in frustration and horror as uncaring individuals have claimed the area as their own to systematically destroy.

We urge you as the chairman of the House Resources Committee to act quickly to enable the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop a short term education and enforcement plan to head off a situation which is rapidly deteriorating as the days warm and summer recreation increases.

I am aware of numerous environmental studies and land use plans for the area, among them the Susitna Watershed Plan; there are numerous solutions offered therein.

High among my family's concerns is the reckless abandon of many ATV riders tearing up the beautiful countryside with apparent disregard for those who enjoy an unspoiled trail and quiet time.

It saddens me to see what has happened to this beautiful valley. Clearly, as the Valley population grows and more Anchorage residents find the Valley as a recreational area, the impact and pressure on the remaining wilderness area will continue to grow as will the abuse.

Our family has hoped that the ongoing destruction would eventually gain the attention of land managers who would act to address the critical problems here. We have asked at public meetings for an area plan that could sustain multiple use with a strong emphasis on law enforcement and public safety. Ideally as a special recreational area under Alaska Statute 41.21. however, a bill introduced on behalf of the motorized community by Rep. Bill Stoltze and Sen. Charlie Huggins essentially hands this area over to ORV recreation.

Sincerely,



Kurt Marshall
(907)351-2722
kmarshall@harrisak.com

cc: Senator Lyda Green

Mapmakers Alaska

From: "Carrie" <carrie@mapmakersalaska.com>
To: "Mapmakers Alaska" <BritLively@mapmakersalaska.com>
Cc: <carriewang@acsalaska.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2005 4:15 PM
Subject: re: public hearing tomorrow (8/18)

T
HB 307
To: Rep. Jay Ramras

If you would like you can print and take the following to the public hearing tomorrow, it can either be read aloud or given as such.

The proposed House Bill No. 307 is a poorly written piece of legislation. It appears to have been hastily put together and is self contradictory (see items (1), (3), (4), & (7) in Sec 41.23.180 - Purpose).

Section 41.23.190 - Management lacks foresight of provisions for planning and sustainable use, which again is contradictory to the stated purposes (Item (2) Section 41.23.180) of the proposed bill.

Section 41.23.200 - Incompatible Uses, is also in contradiction with the stated purpose of the bill. Incompatible uses would be those that prevent all or any users from using the area, which might occur in some areas in order to adhere to the purposes of this proposed bill.

This proposed bill indicates not effort in the area of proper planning, management, or public process, to incorporate ideas from all user groups as well as scientific data. It promotes un-restrained overuse with disregard for public safety and management enforcement. Un-restricted firearm use in a public area (outside standard hunting use) is ludicrous, if someone wants to target shoot there are firing ranges for that purpose. That the authors of this proposed bill would include such provisions shows them to have little regard for human life.

I would hope that this bill is withdrawn and replaced with one that reflects a need for planning and management to be carried out by all user groups in accordance to a management plan created with the help of DNR and other available resources.

Carrie Wang
Anchorage AK
8/17/05

Carrie Wang
MAPMAKERS ALASKA
50 North Alaska Street, Palmer AK, 99645
(907) 244-1198



"Ken-Doll" mercenary wannabe and buddies were observed feeling quite manly - and proud of it - defending themselves against a line of attacking trees across Bodenburg Creek, March 18, 2006. Some of the trees were hit, but all were still standing after a 30-minute assault. (Gregory Nilsson photo).

HB 307

Representative Ray Kawras

Fax: 907-465-2070

Ladies and Gentlemen: Thank you for trying to find a way for safe recreation in our community with HB 307. Have you considered the cost to the public? It is my understanding that the State of Alaska and local residents will pay all the cost, as we have been for the past 25 some years. Users are not expected to pay to go to Knik River Public Use Area.

I belong to Butte Area Residents Civic Organization. Most of us are in favor of Knik River Valley State Recreation area under AS 41.21. Why?

The simplicity of our draft legislation because of its statutory authorities gives strong responsibilities to DNR, Fish & Game, DEC, Dept of Public Safety, and a 15 member advisory committee from multiple user groups. It will start keeping residents and visitors safe as soon as our legislation becomes law, without having to go to the supreme court first to determine bailable offenses. That's all been done. You may be surprised, but this is the least costly option to utilize these public lands for recreation.

Public Use Areas don't charge user fees because such a designation denotes minimal management paid for with public funds. It is not fair for residents nor all Alaskans to keep underwriting emergency response, fire, State Troopers and to pay for the full range of services and management expected by the recreating public in Knik River while residents suffer the slumming down of their community from the overflow of recreation - noise, trash, dust, fecal contamination, vandalism, and ongoing danger from fire, shooting and fireworks. Why should we have to pay all the costs for the fun of a few, be they motorized or quiet users - while the Mat-Su School District doesn't have the funds to pay the decent wage their custodians deserve?

In a State Recreation Area under AS 41.21 users are expected to share in the cost of services in exchange for safe multiple use recreation in a healthy environment, rather than depend on free public services (except maybe for adjoining residents of limited means.) We were told that nationally and state-wide, user fees pay for 30% of the maintenance and operation. If caring residents are happy with the kind of recreation area they deserve to have in their community especially if such a designation gives them new economic opportunities, they are fully prepared to help seek funding from private and federal sources to contribute toward infrastructure, maintenance, restoration, upkeep and policing in the Knik River State Recreation Area.

Isn't the reduced cost a great incentive for you to support the Knik River Valley State Recreation Area rather than a Public Use Area? - Let's talk

Gregory Nilsson, Butte Property Owner and Resident
Co-Founder, Butte Area Residents Civic Organization
Mail: 259 South Alaska Street, Palmer, AK 99645, Phone: W: 907-694-7124, C: 1-907-227-1628

To: Representative Jay Ramras, Co-Chairman
Re: Public Hearing on the Knik River Public Use Area
Date: March 27, 2006

Summary: Statement of Opposition to HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A. Due to time restraints at the hearing, I may be unable to voice my concerns. Below is my statement of record regarding the Knik River Public Use Area legislation.

My name is Carrie Gray Wolfe and I am a south Knik River resident.

I oppose HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A. I cannot fully address my opposition in 3-minutes; therefore I will concentrate on the biases, inadequate restrictions, and the inability to protect our fish and wildlife as the legislation is currently written.

The legislation is heavily biased towards off-road vehicle use. This bias is at the expense of most other user groups. For example, Page 1, Lines 13-14, states: to "Provide an area for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses including maintenance and enhancement of off-road vehicle opportunities." And Page 3, Lines 11-16, is dedicated solely to the protection and rights of off road users. Where is the language that specifically includes the "recognition" of existing areas of non-motorized users, the "accommodations" of areas for non-motorized use, and the "maintenance and enhancement" of non-motorized trails and waterways? Page 2, Lines 7-11, state that "the commissioner may designate incompatible uses" but Page 3, Lines 5-10, state, "The commissioner shall allow the... area to be used for activities that include all-terrain vehicles, etc..." As written, there are no "incompatible uses." What if one or more of the stated activities is determined harmful to the perpetuation and enhancement of general public recreation, the public enjoyment of fish and wildlife, or the protection and maintenance of wildlife habitat? (Page 1, Lines 4-12)

Page 2, Line 29, and Page 3, Lines 2-4, fails to adequately address target shooting. It states, "The commissioner may not restrict the use of weapons... except in locations... that the use of weapons constitutes a threat to public safety." Where is it not a threat? Weapons are being fired into hillsides and across waterways with homes, residents, and recreational users on the opposite sides. Reckless shooting is destroying wildlife and vegetation. The fish and birds may be at greater risk to lead poisoning from excessive, non-hunting shooting practices. Local residents have to listen to weapons being discharged up to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We have no relief from the noise pollution. Many residents and outdoor enthusiasts avoid using the area in fear for their safety.

I ask you to reject this legislation. There are alternative solutions such as writing a new, non-biased bill or creating a Knik River Valley State Recreation Area. A State Recreation Area (SRA) under AS 41.21 will accommodate all user groups, support effective law enforcement, provide for a public planning process, and abide by the Susitna Area Plan. Two groups in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley already exist to help assist with the development of a SRA. This includes a state park Citizen's Advisory Board comprised of multi-users and The Friends of States Parks that provides supplemental park funding.

Thank you.

Carrie A. Gray Wolfe
HC02 Box 7686-J
Palmer, Alaska 99645
Telephone: (907) 746-8008
Email: graywolfe@gci.net

Below is a letter to the editor submitted by Carrie A. Gray Wolfe to the Anchorage Daily News, Wednesday, March 15, 2006. The letter is in reference to the ongoing dispute over HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A.

Letters from

New medical center should remember it is still competing

The new Mat-Su Regional Medical Center is up and running. While some people may have glowing, loving stories to tell of the place, I recently ended up there, and while it is only 10 minutes away from my home, I discovered that it's still run by the administration that ran Valley Hospital. I'll resume driving right past it and into Anchorage for my family's hospital needs unless weather or extreme emergency requires I end up there instead, but I will transfer to Anchorage as soon as possible.

The medical center needs to remember that it's in competition with two hospitals in Anchorage that appear to direct their care to repeat business. The staff at Valley are nice people, but the procedures that govern what they do leave patients who want a choice in their care having to go to Anchorage. Flexibility where it won't harm the patient or significantly run up costs should be their standard. If TriCare truly cares about the Valley, they will find a way to work with their patients and not make us go to Anchorage to be treated like paying customers.

I volunteer for one of Anchorage's hospitals and take my business and very large family to both Anchorage hospitals every year. That's a lot of time and a lot of money that could be more easily spent at home.

— Kellie Coulson Davis
Wasilla

Knik River area needs some new legislation regarding use

Who are the people in your neighborhood? My "neighborhood" is bombarded with unrestricted gunfire, car explosions, vandalism and theft. Wouldn't you like to be my neighbor? It sounds as if I'm living in a war zone. But I live in the Knik River

Valley. Legislation (House Bill 307 and Senate Bill 197) supporting a Knik River Public Use Area fails to adequately address problems faced by local residents. The legislation neglects to address law enforcement planning and funding, public safety issues, incompatible recreational uses, and the protection of critical wildlife habitats. Mike Erickson said in a Compass piece last month that more laws are needed ("Curbing Knik ATV access is no solution," Feb. 9).

What good are more laws without law enforcement? Erickson believes this legislation "preserves equal access to all." Not so. Many local residents avoid the area out of fear and disgust. I resent his implied message that most Alaskans access and enjoy recreation using motorized vehicles. Hiking, canoeing and skiing are a few nonmotorized ways Alaskans enjoy outdoor recreation.

Local residents have to live daily with the consequences of recreational activities in the Knik River Valley. The adverse effects of unrestricted use affect all outdoor enthusiasts. Let's encourage our legislators to write new legislation and not keep the status quo.

— Carrie Gray Wolfe
Palmer

Editor's Note: This writer is an ex-member of the Knik River Watershed Group steering committee. The views here are her own.

Tax exemption bill welcomed as relief for strapped seniors

Thank you to Rep. Vic Kohring for his support of seniors and disabled vets. His House Bill 299, if passed, will increase the current tax exemption from the first \$150,000 of property value to \$250,000 in value. As property values have increased substantially each year, this bill will help alleviate increased hardship from taxation for those in our community who have

SUBJECT: Disturbance to Swans in the Knik River Watershed
Page 2

Nesting Swan Disturbance

Six of the seven pairs of trumpeter swans and their broods in the KRW in 2005 were continually disturbed during the latter part of the summer and fall by numerous encounters from operators of boats and ATCs pursuing recreational activities. The impairment or harm to the swans by the motorized disturbance is, as follows: (1) Swan families that were forced out of their traditional nesting habitat walked one or more miles to an adjoining lake to obtain relief which was not forthcoming; (2) Swans showed up missing and were assumed to be killed as they were never found on succeeding surveys; (3) Frequent disturbance in the summer months interrupts the swans ability to properly feed and rear the cygnets so that they will be fully developed and capable of flight during the fall migration; (4) The swan pairs which had a mate killed is destroying a life-long bond that results in instability in maintaining swan populations; (5) Six of the seven nesting pairs of swans and their broods were being disturbed to a level beyond sustainability for the swans to successfully raise a healthy brood of cygnets in the Knik River Valley in 2005; (6) The trumpeter swan has been placed on Audubon Alaska's Bird Watchlist in December 2005. It is already on the National Audubon Watchlist, as several hundred trumpeters are dying of lead poisoning each year on their wintering grounds in Washington and southern British Columbia. We don't need additional problems affecting the swans in Alaska; and (7) We are educating Alaskans that this irresponsible and misplaced use of motorized recreational vehicles is an acceptable practice as there are no management plans or guidelines for use of ORVs and boats on this State land.

Recommendation

First and foremost a recreational management plan is needed. The plan must address the swan disturbance issues and place in the plan safeguards and protections so that the migrating and nesting swans can use the habitat in the KRW without the overwhelming disturbance from motorized use. Once the plan has been approved, it will be absolutely necessary to have in place conservation officers to ensure that the approved plan is implemented to the fullest.

Memorandum Prepared By

William A. (Bill) Quirk, III Pilot / Biologist
P.O. Box 212545
Anchorage, AK 99521

Tel. (907) 333-7840

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Swan Disturbance in the Knik River Watershed

February 20, 2006

Introduction

Thirty (30) comprehensive aerial surveys were flown in the spring, summer, and fall of 2005 to monitor the trumpeter swans in the Knik River Watershed (KRW). The surveys include the important Jim Creek Basin (JCB) where 22 lakes and numerous ponds are located in a wetland environment. Jim Creek empties into the lower Knik River 2 miles southeast of the Butte community. The aerial survey data was recorded in tables and reports were written to document swan temporal and spatial distribution, nesting success, disturbance to the swans, and other factors. The swans returned to Southcentral Alaska from their wintering grounds on April 7, 2005. Several hundred swans use the lakes in the JCB as a staging area during the spring and fall migration periods in April / May and again in September / October. An aerial survey conducted on October 27, 2004 showed a total of five hundred twenty-eight (528) swans using the JCB. The summer surveys showed a maximum number of nine (9) pairs of swans nesting in the KRW in 2005. Non nesting swans are found in singles, pairs, and / or flocks in the JCB. Non nesting swans averaged approximately fifteen (15) birds in 2005.

Migrating Swan Disturbance

Swans arriving in Southcentral Alaska in early April seek out the JCB as it usually has the only open water at this time of the year. The open water in early spring is due to the thermal effects on the south slopes of the nearby Chugach Mountains that create warm springs that flow into the lakes. The first open water areas show up as small openings in the ice on the northern end of Mud and Jim Lakes. The swans that use these open water areas in early spring are constantly being disturbed by recreational vehicles (usually trucks) driving the Rippy Trail and parking near the shoreline of the lakes. Activities such as target practicing with rifles or pistols and fireworks displays immediately displace the swans by driving them off the open water. They often relocate on the ice of one of the nearby lakes.

The swans are also being disturbed by motorized recreational vehicles during the latter part of the spring migration period, e.g., in May, after the ice on the lakes has melted. The swans on the lakes are disturbed by air and motor boats that approach the swans at too close a range, by making too much noise at close range, or by traveling too fast in close proximity of the swans. All-Terrain Cycles (ATCs) drive through wetlands in the JCB to lakes where swans are present. Large numbers of ATCs highly disturb the swans.

The swans are frequently disturbed in September and October when large numbers of air and motor boats are frequenting the lakes in the JCB. Swans up to a hundred or more that were displaced from the JCB have been observed on naked gravel bars (no food) along the nearby braided Knik River during the fall migration period.

Representative Jay Ramras
House Resources Committee
State of Alaska
Juneau, Alaska

SUBJECT: Kill House Bill 307

March 25, 2006

This refers to HB 307 and the redrafted version CS HB 307A. This introduced Bill including the redrafted version, 307A, will not provide the necessary tools for the State to draft a management plan that will ensure protection of area residents from noise, dust, and dangerous firing of firearms. The plan will not be able to restrict motorized vehicles from cutting and destroying valuable wetlands in the Jim Creek Basin. In addition, the plan will not be sufficient to reduce the high level of motorized disturbance and harassment of wildlife in the Knik River Watershed. The latter is contributing to a deteriorating condition for waterfowl and moose in the rich wetland habitat in the Jim Creek Basin. Attached is a Memorandum (dated February 20, 2006) entitled 'Swan Disturbance in the Knik River Watershed' which clearly shows that nesting trumpeter swans and their cygnets are being disturbed by motorized boats (including air boats and motor boats) and all-terrain cycles (ATCs) to a level that is beyond sustainability for the swans to raise a healthy brood of young in the Knik River Watershed.

Recommendation is to kill HB 307 since it is inadequate to deal with current problems and protection of the wildlife resources in the Knik River Watershed. In lieu of HB 307, I am recommending support of the Knik River Valley State Recreation Area under AS 41.21. This would be a much better way to provide a sufficient management plan for the Knik River Watershed and the conservation officers needed to enforce the plan.

William A. Quirk, III Pilot / Biologist
P.O. Box 212545
Anchorage, Alaska 99521

Tel (907) 333-7840

PO Box 766
Talkeetna, AK 99676
March 25, 2006

Representative Jay Ramras, Co-Chair, House Resources
Alaska State House of Representatives

Dear Representative Ramras:

This letter regards HB 307, an Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area. I am a member of the Mat-Su State Parks Citizen's Advisory Board, but I am commenting as an individual.

In late 2005, the Advisory Board saw presentations by the Knik Watershed Group and by Todd Clark, President of the Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance regarding the future of the Knik River Watershed and draft legislation creating the Public Use Area (PUA). Both presentations were quite informative. Both views were different, but not incompatible. Legislation can and should respect both views.

The current HB 307 is an improvement over earlier versions, but there is further to go if all user groups are to be treated fairly and if the qualities and values of the area are to be preserved over time.

Here are specific changes to HB 307 that I urge you to incorporate into the bill.

Page 1, line 14, after the word *vehicle*, insert "*and non-motorized recreation determined to be compatible with (1) and (2) of this section*" and delete the word *opportunities*. So, starting on line 13, (3) would read "Provide for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses including off-road vehicle and non-motorized recreation determined to be compatible with (1) and (2) of this section." This accommodates all user groups equally and provides for the sustainability of the important fish and wildlife resources of the area.

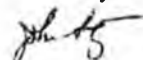
Page 2, line 7: In addition to public hearings, there should be an option for public meetings and/or informational workshops. And, I think the legislation should contemplate the establishment of a citizen's advisory oversight board, representing various perspectives and experience.

Section 200, (d) (1), page 3, line 6 should have a clause that ensures consistency of these activities with the overall purpose of the PUA. Without a compatibility caveat, the use of the area would be unmanageable, to the detriment of the resource, some user groups, or both.

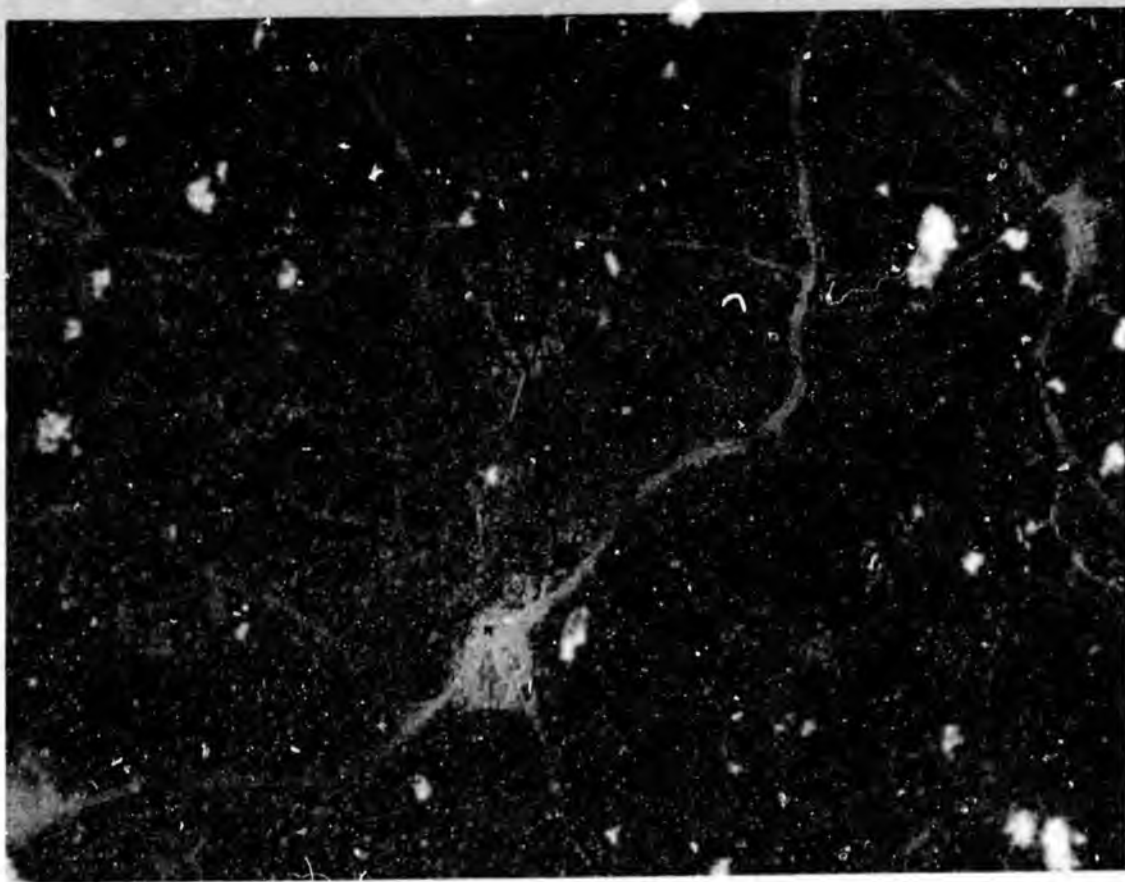
Section 200, (d) (2), page 3, lines 11-16. This is an unclear provision that appears to give motorized use priority over both non-motorized use and the integrity of the natural resource values of the area, and it hampers the planning process. Legislation should be clear in its statements, internally consistent, and not preclude proper planning in the public interest. Hence, (d) (2), lines 11-16 should be deleted.

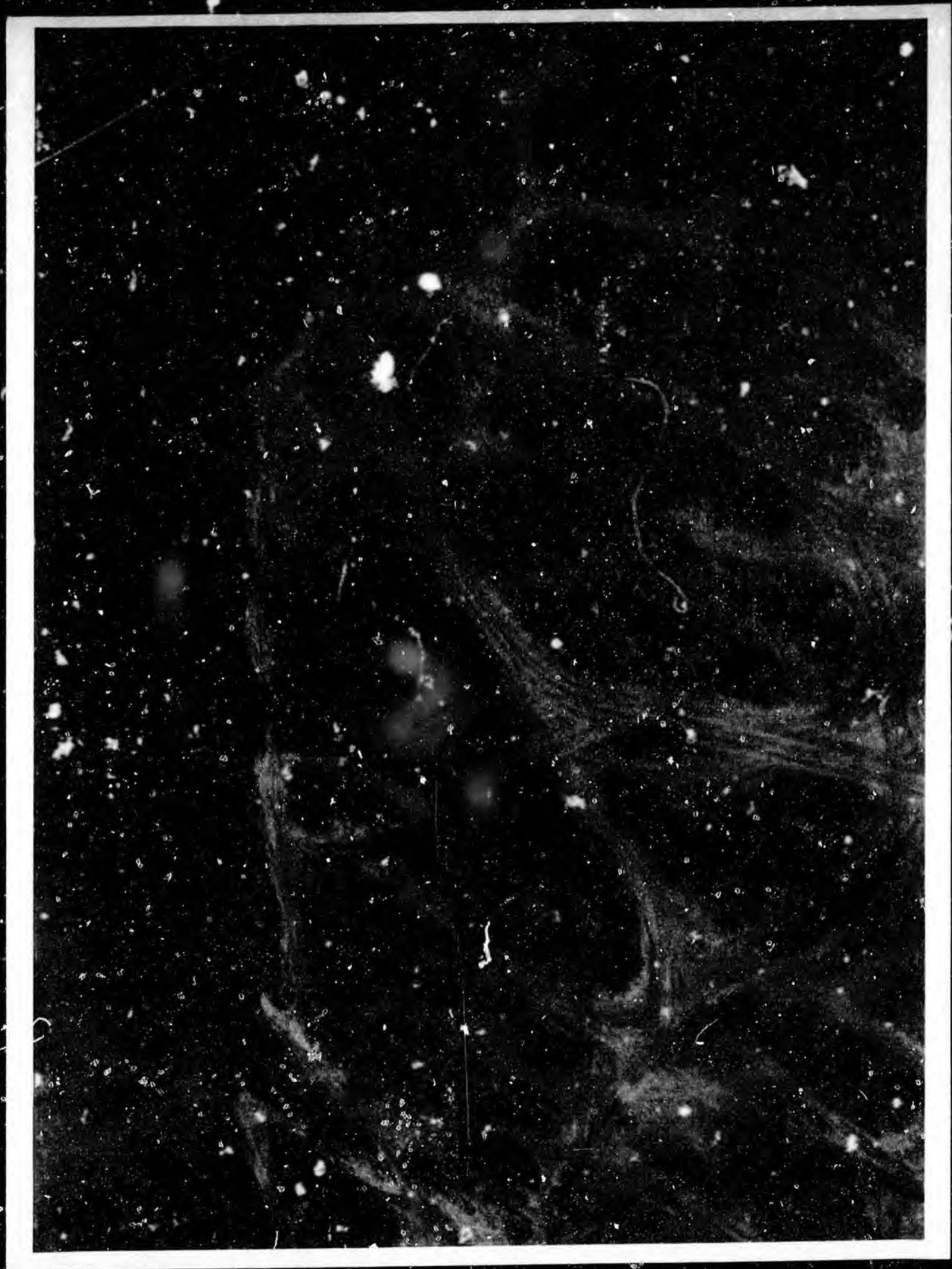
Enforcement is important, and section 210 should include language that directs the commissioners of Public Safety, F&G, and other regulatory agencies to enforce the law in the PUA.

Sincerely,



John Strassenburgh









Yellow = ORV trails

Red = road, Red E. of Mud Lk. (r. square) = Maude Rd. extension

White = Middle of Sec, 22 and extent of old logging trails

Turquoise = What is left of Rippy Trail

Blue = Friday Cr. Trails – so far, singletrack

(note- the turquoise line beyond Chain Lks. Is not a mistake - ATVs have been hauled in by air boat)

This is a rough line drawn graphic representation from my knowledge of these trails and is not a GPS map! Use at your own risk.

The Rippy portion of ad-hoc ORV traffic was single track only from White box to approximately the Friday Creek airstrip prior to the Maude Rd. Extension project.

This, along with other documentation, gives you overview about what is happening to the Jim/Swan Wetlands with no Management or adequate Law Enforcement.

Other documentation and photos available by request.

Emily Stancliff

From: The Halls [dabbhall@gci.net]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2006 9:36 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: HB 307

Representative Ramras,

I understand that there is a teleconference this afternoon regarding the Knik Watershed public land use bill (307) that Rep. Stoltze drafted. Simply put I support his bill in its original draft in that it offers a wide array of public use for all users.

The Jim Creek region of the Knik is unique in that it can accommodate foot traffic, wheeled vehicles and even aircraft for recreation and hunting. Leave this jewel of recreation for all of the people for all of our uses.

William Hall

Emily Stancliff

From: Peter M. Probasco [maryann@mtaonline.net]

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2006 8:19 AM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras

Subject: HB 307-Knik River Public Use Area

Representative Ramras: I would like to express my strongest support for HB 307. This a very good bill of great importance. Please share my E-mail message with all of the members of the House Resourse Committe. Thankyou. Peter M Probasco PO Box 861 Palmer, Alaska 99645. (907)745-3182

3/27/2006

Emily Stancliff

From: Ellis [rgellis@gci.net]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2006 7:18 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: HB 307

Dear Mr. Ramras,

As President of the Alaska Frontier Trappers Association, I have been asked to send you this letter in support of HB 307, Knik River Public Use Area.

I represent over fifty trappers that are strongly in support of this bill before you. We feel that public use areas are extremely critical, especially to trappers and should always include the provision for ORV useage.

Thank you for your time.

Rick C. Eliis
President AFTA

Emily Stancliff

From: Mapmakers Alaska [BritLively@MapmakersAlaska.com]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2006 2:04 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: HB 307 - jim creek area

I'd be glad to help with the Jim Creek campaign.
Attaching my name is fine with me.

Here goes:

I am a former instructor with UAA's Outdoor Program.

We used to take our Winter Survival students to the Jim Lake/Mud Lake areas for overnight outings. But frequently (at least 3 times) our classes would encounter the sounds of late-night hooting and hollering combined with high-powered rifle fire.

Usually this activity occurred from the Mud Lake parking lot and often we found discarded beer and hard liquor containers there the next morning. We stopped taking our classes to the Jim Lake area. We were concerned about getting shot and we were concerned about the vehicles we left in the parking lot.

James Larabee

--- Carrie Wang <carriewang@yahoo.com> wrote:

> hi james,
> i haven't had a chance to look at your photos, but i look forward to
> it.
>
> i'm emailing because i was wondering if you recalled our
> conversation about the jim creek area, at our last get together. i was
> also wondering if you would be willing to write (very brief) about
> what you described to me (how you used to take uaa students out there
> and the shooting, etc). you can just email me or brit lively at
> resource@buttealaska.org . if you don't want your name attached please
> say so. your testimony would be very much appreciated!
>
> thanks!
> carrie
>
>
> _____
> Do You Yahoo!?
> Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
> <http://mail.yahoo.com>

Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around <http://mail.yahoo.com>

Emily Stancliff

From: Cliff Judkins [cjudkins@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2006 12:11 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Ralph Samuels; Rep. Jim Elkins
Subject: HB 307

Dear Co-Chairs Rep Ramras and Samuels and Members House Resources Committee, I am writing to you as the President of the Alaska Boating Association to urge you to pass HB 307 to create the Knik River Public Use Area. The Knik River Drainage has been used for many years by motorized outdoor recreationists. It is not unusual to see several hundred families and groups using the Knik River, the Jim Creek Lake System and the many 4wheeler trails in the valley on any summer week end. Airboaters have used the River to take family, friends and visitors to get an up close look at the Knik Glacier and to fish and hunt in the Jim Creek Lakes System and the Knik River. The earliest documented use by airboats of Jim Creek that I can find was 1943 by the Pudicomb family of Palmer. They used the area for hunting and fishing. This area is ideally located to accommodate the thousands of Anchorage and Valley motorized recreationists looking for a place close by to go for the day or the week end. There is continual use of the gravel and sand bars, 4wheeler trails and water ways by hundreds of people every week end. Where else can they go? There are thousands of motorized recreationists within fifty miles of the Knik River. They need a location that they know they will not be shut out of by groups that do not like their chosen method of recreating. HB 307 will assure the traditional uses of the Knik River drainage will be protected. Cliff Judkins, President, Alaska Boating Association.

3/27/2006

Emily Stancliff

From: Cliff Judkins [cjudkins@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2006 11:38 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Ralph Samuels; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Mary Kapsner;
Rep. Jim Elkins; Rep. Kurt Olson
Subject: HB 307

Reps Jay Ramaras and Ralph Samuels Co-Chairs House Resources Committee and members-- The Alaska Boating Association appreciates your efforts to help outdoor enthusiasts protect their use of the Knik River drainage. This area has a long history of use by motorized outdoor recreationists. It is a great place to take friends and visitors for a close up look at the Knik Glacier. When I first began airboating the Jim Creek lake and slough system is where I learned to operate my boat. I have observed hundreds of families enjoying the river banks gravel and sand bars and the many 4 wheeler trails in the area. The earliest airboat use of the Jim Creek Lakes system that I have been able to document was by the Pudicombe family of Palmer in 1943. They used the area for duck hunting and fishing. I have harvested moose, silver salmon and Dolly Varden from the waters of Jim Creek. There are thousands of 4wheelers in the Anchorage/Mat Valley area and this is the only place that they have close by to use their machines. The area is a good alternative to the use of Highway Row's which produces constant complaints by adjacent residents and highway users due to the dust, noise and safety hazard involved. HB 307 will help to protect the existing uses and hopefully help to curtail the misuse and abuse that goes on along the River.

Again thank you for all of your hard work on this important legislation. Cliff Judkins, President, Alaska Boating Association

Emily Stancliff

From: Kim Bergey [blossoms@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2006 10:57 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Cc: Rep.Bill.Stoltze[Representative_Bill_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us]
Subject: Knik River Public Use Area

Rep Ramras

I was told you are the chairman of the committee conducting hearings on HB 307. I am a resident of the Butte and I live next to one of the heaviest atv traffic areas. I have two concerns with the proposed legislation.

It is very important not to limit law enforcement in the area. We should not limit ourselves to only AST as the only law enforcement agency which can have jurisdiction in the area. It would be tragic if all the work that has gone into the area in terms of law enforcement be undone because AST redeployed and no longer had the manpower to service the area and no other agency is allowed fill the void.

The wording of the bill implies that the state currently has facilities in the area when it mentions picnic areas, boat launches etc. There are no such facilities on state land and very limited in the area in general. I read wording which states the commissioner can limit activities in these areas, but I read nothing about the commissioner being able designate any areas for the above mentioned purposes. The commissioner needs to have the mandate to propose areas for these facilities and seek a means to fund them.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Thomas Bergey
Butte resident

Emily Stancliff

From: robert biehl [akbiehl@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2006 10:53 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: HB 307

I am in full support of HB 307. Robert T Biehl

Emily Stancliff

From: Ben Milam [whiskers@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2006 10:28 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: HB 307, Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Representative Ramras:

It is my understanding that you currently have before you HB 307, Knik River Public Use Area.

I fully support this as a multi-use recreational area, however the bill needs some strong language to prevent the abuse currently going on.

I live fairly close to this area and every year our community hauls approximately 20 burned and abandoned automobiles and countless loads of garbage from this area. All of this is left by those that claim it as an Off Road Vehicle area. The hikers and horse people have an equal right to use this area without being subjected to this kind of abuse.

This is probably one of the best ORV areas in the Valley, but there has to be something done to prevent the abuse.

Ben R Milam

907-746-4411

3/27/2006

Emily Stancliff

From: Cherie Kajdan [crk@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2006 8:55 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: HB 307

Freedom to enjoy the outdoors in Alaska, including a subsistence lifestyle, is a major reason why i have lived in Alaska for 30 years. I believe the State's constitution provides for equal access to public resources, including the land. Use of off-road vehicles can be regulated to protect the resource and so those who enjoy this life-style and may be physically impaired can continue to use this resource.

Thanks for your time.

Cheryl R. Kajdan
4250 Birch Forest Dr.
Palmer, AK 99645

907-745-5075

crk@mtaonline.net

Emily Stancliff

From: Denny Hamann [loriann@mtaonline.net]

Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2006 9:36 AM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Ralph Samuels; Rep. Jim Elkins; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Gabriella LeDoux; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Paul Sealon; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Mary Kapsner

Subject: HB 307

Hello,

My name is Denny Hamann and I am a life long resident of the Palmer area .My grandparents were part of the colonist crowd that came up in 1935.Needless to say I've spent lots of time in the Knik river area enjoying many different activities. I believe that HB 307 is a great bill and should be passed. In these past few years it has been a real disappointment to see the area being used for a dumping ground for stolen cars and the lack of any real enforcement in the area hasn't helped. I feel that the legitimate recreational users need to take this area back so all of us can enjoy it's opportunities. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Denny Hamann
1200 Oat St.
Wasilla,AK. 99654

Emily Stancliff

From: jay [jaynolfi@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2006 8:42 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Cc: Rep. Mark Neuman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Subject: Fw: House Resorce Committee CS HB 307

----- Original Message -----

From: jay
To: Rep. Jay Ramros@legis.state.ak.us
Cc: Rep. Mark Neuman ; Senator Charlie Huggins ; Rep. Bill Stoltze
Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2006 6:15 PM
Subject: House Resorce Committee CS HB 307

A few years ago I was involved in the establishment of a Lake Management Ordinance in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. An attempt was made to place some constraints on the usage of "jet skis" or to prohibit their use entirely, and I can relay to you that the biggest public outcry during all public hearings held, was, "the surface of the lake belongs to everyone." Consequently, the Ordinance was written accordingly.

This same principle should apply to land useage. Public land belongs to everyone, therefore, the Knik River Public Use Area legislation should contain provisions to include all forms of recreation, including the use of off-road vehicles with reasonable safety precautions.

Public interest groups do not serve the public!

Jay Nolfi
P. O. Box 520309
Big Lake, Alaska 99652
907-892-6356
jaynolfi@mtaonline.net

Emily Stancliff

From: Gary Masog [gary.masog@gci.net]

Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2006 1:49 PM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras

Subject: HB 307

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL. THERE ARE TOO FEW AREAS NEAR BY THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR OFF ROAD USE.

GARY MASOG
7610 OLD HARBOR ROAD
ANCH. AK. 99504

3/27/2006

Emily Stanciuff

From: John Davis [johndavis@radiokenai.com]

Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2006 12:40 PM

To: Rep. Jay Ramras

Subject: Support HB307

Jay.... Hope you support those folks in Anch and the Valley who are waiting for passage of HB307. Please let me know you supported this piece of legislation. John C. Davis-Kenai

Emily Stancliff

From: lee.connie@juno.com
Sent: Saturday, March 25, 2006 10:46 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: HB 307, Knik River Public Use Area

I would like to lend my support to the passage of HB 307. This area has been used by ORV enthusiasts, including myself, for many years. I am not aware of any other area reasonably close to the large population centers around southcentral Alaska that is available for large groups of ORV users. The use of this area for this purpose should not be restricted.

Respectfully,

Lee Browning
2907 W. 34th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99517

FAX TO REPRESENTATIVE RAMRAS
REGARDING HB307 (KNIK PUBLIC USE AREA)

March 26, 2006

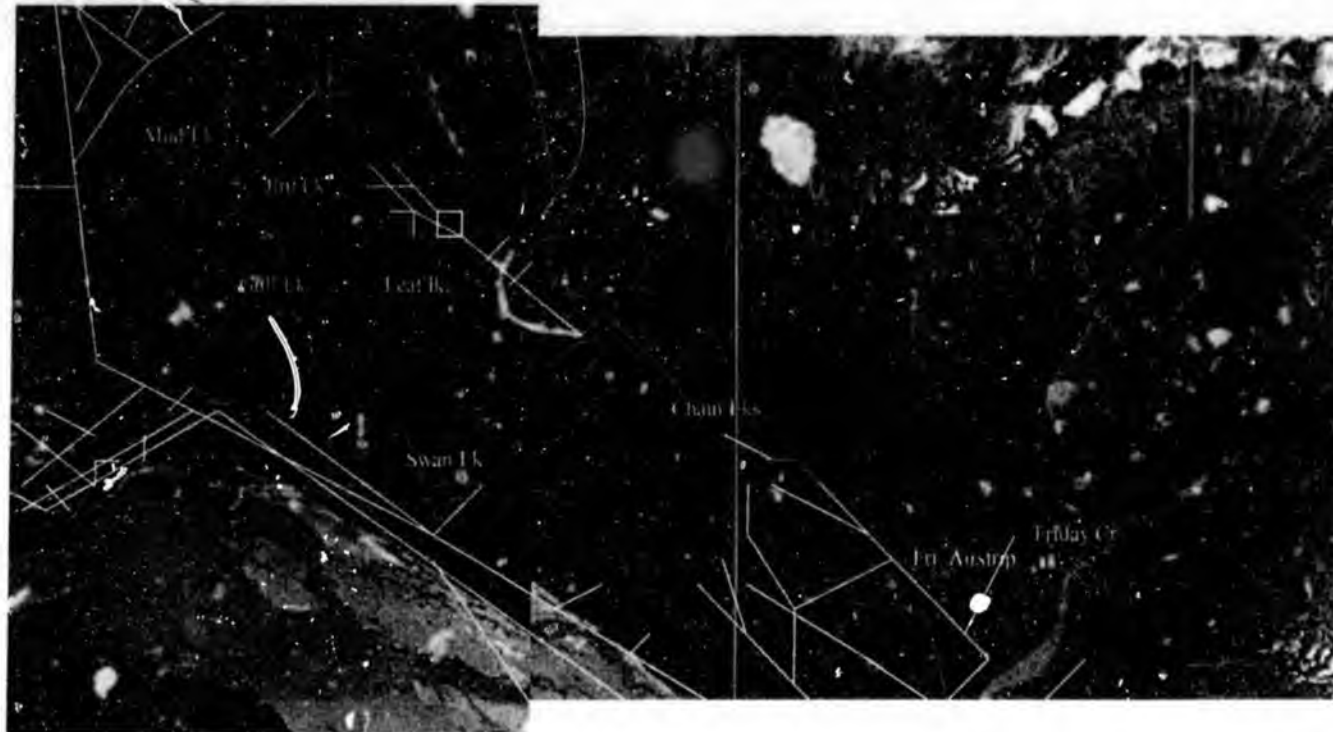
Representative Ramras,

Please consider holding HB307 until it is rewritten to include some regulatory language so that it can be truly a MULTI- USE PUBLIC USE AREA. As things have been written and with a relatively recent (past 5 yr. Trend) Non-motorized users are being pressured out for safety and other practical reasons and those of us who live in this area and are truly multi-use users who are careful with the environment, feel violated and restricted in our use.

My family has lived in, and/or used this area for 40 years. We own and use snow machines, 4-wheelers, horses, we ski, hike and canoe. In the past we have used the river bed and trails as far as the Glacier for horses and 3-wheelers....and have canoed and used small row boats in Jim Lake even going on down the creek to the river....we skied right along with snow machines etc. and would ride our horses year round on the trails...The motorized user of the past was quite considerate and were fewer in number. Now this is becoming dangerous and difficult due to outsiders on motorized vehicles who travel very fast, tear up the trails (often deliberately trying to see how deep they can get in and still get out) the creek crossings have become so muddied and widened as to be dangerous on horses and impossible on foot or with bicycles etc. Skiers, horseback riders and dog teams are no match for a high speed powerful motorized vehicle. Shooting is often in peoples BACKYARDS.... and is excessive and on high frequency trails and may include automatic weapons....MACHINE GUNS DO NOT BELONG IN A PUBLIC USE AREA....THEY HAVE BECOME FREQUENT. NOR DO THEY HAVE A PLACE IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA.

Since the motorized users have not been regulating themselves and are often showing so much inconsideration to residents of the Knik Basin, the environment and to other users, I believe there will need to be some regulation and some form of enforcement acknowledged by the bill. Please consider holding this bill in committee until it can be changed in order to protect the true MULTI- USE INTENT. And also to protect the residents of this area and the environment itself.

Thank you, Margaret Runser (17005 E. Dorismae Cir., Palmer, Ak. 99645)



Yellow = ORV trails

Red = road, Red E. of Mud Lk. (r. square) = Maude Rd. extension

White = Middle of Sec, 22 and extent of old logging trails

Turquoise = What is left of Rippy Trail

Blue = Friday Cr. Trails – so far, singietrack

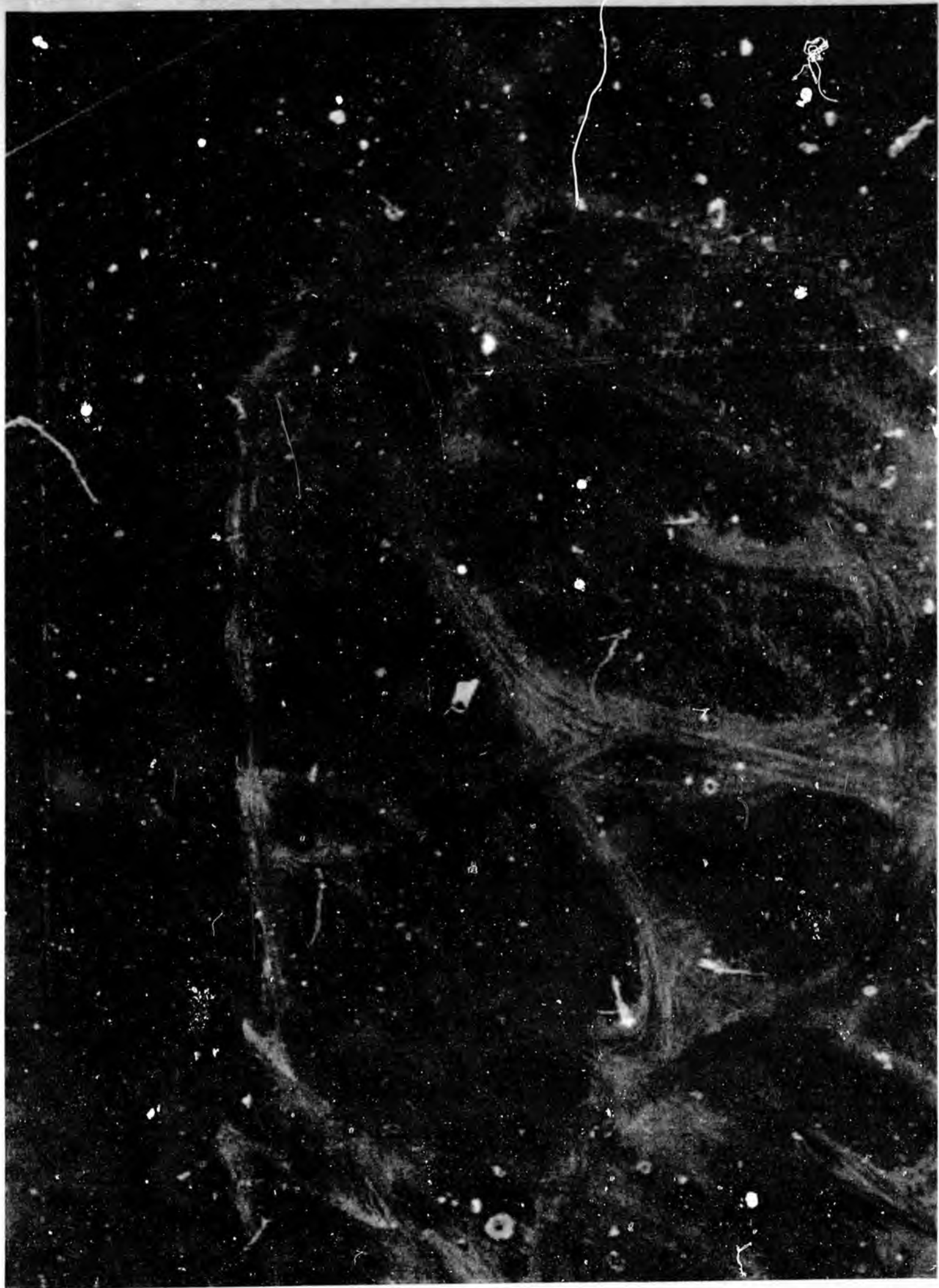
(note- the turquoise line beyond Chain Lks. Is not a mistake - ATVs have been hauled in by air boat)

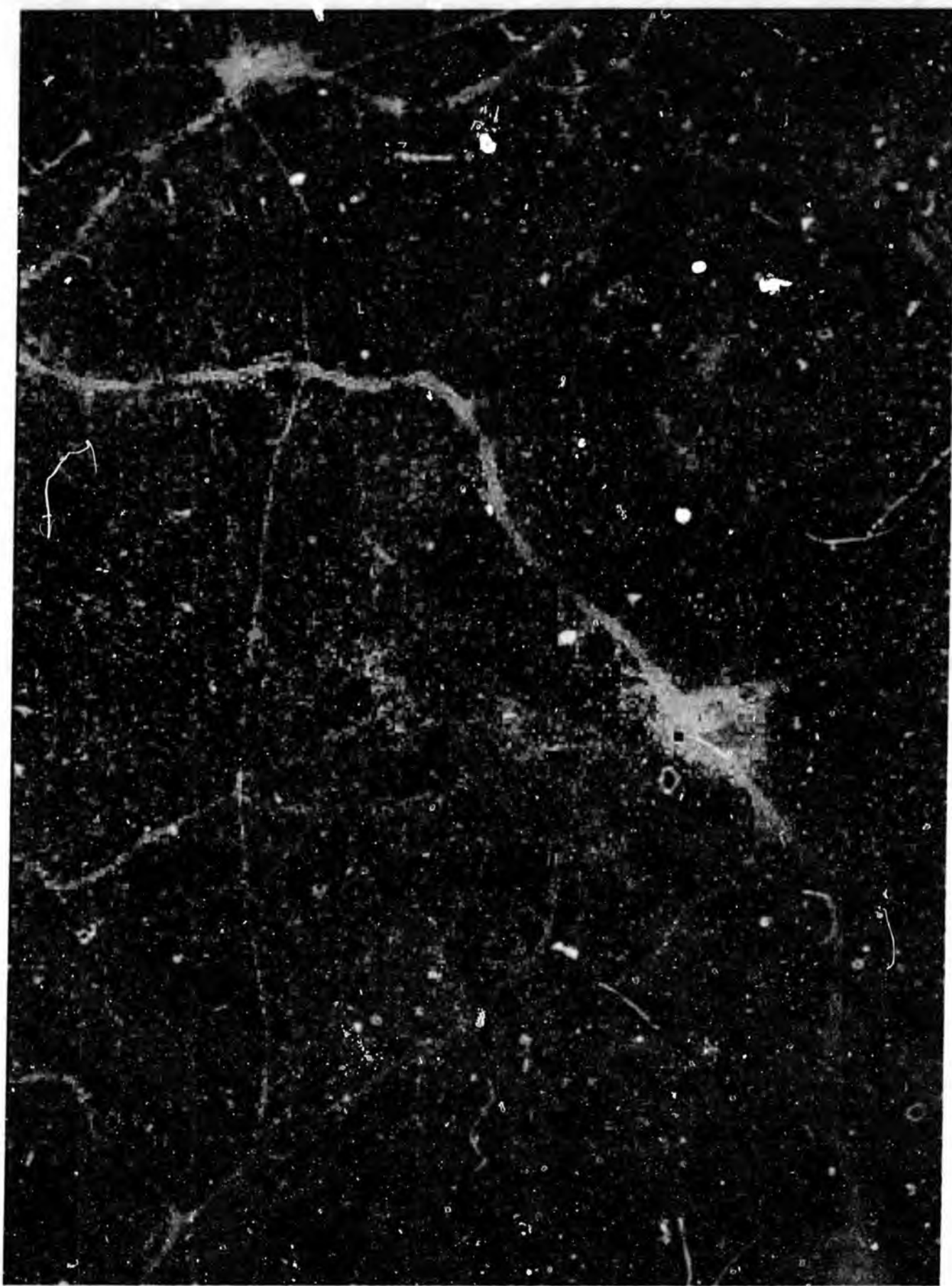
This is a rough line drawn graphic representation from my knowledge of these trails and is not a GPS map! Use at your own risk.

The Rippy portion of ad-hoc ORV traffic was single track only from White box to approximately the Friday Creek airstrip prior to the Maude Rd. Extension project.

This, along with other documentation, gives you overview about what is happening to the Jim/Swan Wetlands with no Management or adequate Law Enforcement.

Other documentation and photos available by request.





To: Representative Jay Ramras, Co-Chairman
Re: Public Hearing on the Knik River Public Use Area
Date: March 27, 2006

Summary: Statement of Opposition to HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A. Due to time restraints at the hearing, I may be unable to voice my concerns. Below is my statement of record regarding the Knik River Public Use Area legislation.

My name is Scott Wolfe and I am a south Knik River resident.

I wish to thank the legislatures and the public for their significant efforts for attempting to develop legislation for addressing concerns and conflicts that have developed because of repeated, irresponsible use of the Knik River area by recreational users. However, HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A sounds as if it were written to perpetuate and enhance the problems instead of develop solutions.

For over 20 years, residents have expressed concerns to government personnel and enforcement officials about the following problems caused by overuse and abuse:

1. Burned and abandoned vehicles
2. Uncontrolled gunfire
3. Uncontrolled motorized use
4. Erosion, dust, and damage caused by ORVs
5. Pollution (Ground, air, water, noise)
6. Abandoned campfires
7. Poaching
8. Wildlife and fish harassment and disturbance
9. Trespassing
10. Alcohol and drug use
11. Incompatible uses (e.g.; airboats on Jim Creek adjacent to Jim Lake while canoes are present, lead shot in waterways)

This area is truly remarkable and provides breeding, summer, and winter habitats for moose, Dall's sheep, mountain goat, black and brown bear, lynx, wolf, wolverine, coyote, fox, weasel, snowshoe hare, American beaver, river otter, Arctic ground squirrel, red squirrel, passerine and upland game birds, shorebirds, raptors, gulls, ravens, over 20 species of ducks, trumpeter and tundra swans, and geese. Jim Creek, the biological heart of the ecosystem, is historically the 2nd largest recreational fishery in Knik Arm for silver salmon and, along with other creeks, lakes, and wetlands in the region, contain good numbers of red salmon, dolly varden, rainbow trout, and whitefish. As a wildlife biologist, it's hard for me to imagine that this place does not have active management, enforcement, and the funding necessary to sustain it for future generations.

Another astonishing thing to me is that target shooters have their rights completely protected in this proposed legislation but legitimate, responsible waterfowl hunters must use steel shot because of widespread research that shows lead toxicity to the entire wetland food chain. Has anyone tested the fish they catch at Jim Creek Flats for lead toxicity? As an avid hunter, I no longer hunt in this area because of noise disturbance, human to animal density, and the fear of being shot by target shooters, joy riders, or partiers. This ruins the hunting experience in this incredible habitat for wildlife and is a prime example of incompatible uses.

So, obviously to everyone involved, something needs to be done to curtail the destructive activities that have existed for far, far, far too long. Nevertheless, I strongly oppose HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A because it seems to perpetuate and build further upon the reckless, irresponsible uses that have caused so much damage and got us to this point of

no return. I presented a full realm of objections, identified inadequacies, and suggested improvements to HB307 during the first public testimony at the Butte Elementary School, so all of that should be readily available on public record. I will not reiterate a step-by-step walk through the shortcomings of the proposed legislation but strongly recommend reviewing everyone's recommendations, making a much better attempt at improving the legislation, and allowing a more extensive public review process before approving any legislation for this critical area.

After the 2 public hearings, it should be very clear that much opposition still exists over what is our "best" alternative for managing the incredible wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities in this area. The redraft, CS HB307A doesn't even come close to addressing concerns expressed by many long-time residents or most speakers at either hearing. Land use decisions and a carefully thought out management plan are integral for developing a sustainable approach at wise-use for dealing with cumulative effects of an exponentially growing population.

Yes, the State must act on this ever-growing problem. However, HB307 isn't the answer. The Knik River area, and its residents deserve much, much better. I've heard ATVer's say, "hey, this is Alaska, where we can do whatever we want whenever we want" - "If you don't like it, just move!" This legislation paves the way for this illogical thinking ... many of our back yards. Because no previous legislation has been developed specifically for the area, this is now the opportunity to pave the way for wise- and sustainable- use, instead of the "take what you can, give nothing back" attitude so prevalent with many current users and in HB307 (and the redraft). So, please reject this current legislative attempt to allow motorized users to continue taking over and affecting everyone else through disrespectful, irresponsible, and destructive use of these incredibly valuable natural resources.

Thank you.

Scott A. Wolfe
HC02 Box 7686-J
Palmer, Alaska 99645
Telephone: (907) 746-8008
Email: graywolfe@gci.net

**Letters of Support for HB 307 and SB 197
Knik River Public Use Area Legislation**

July 19, 2005

Senator Charles Higgins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau AK 99801-1182
300 E Fairway Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

Dear Sir

I Fully support HB307 & SB 197 as they
are written

The Knik River drainage & Jim Creek
should be managed for all forms of
Recreation as long as motorized access
is not restricted.

South Central Ak. needs a place such
as the Knik to be designated for
motorized off-highway vehicles & boats

Thanks for the help
Junior A. Mason

Junior A. Mason
2320 Clements Dr
Richmond AK 99515

MARJORIE CRAIN
6015 E. 43rd Ave.
ANCH. AK. 99504

July 18, 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, Ak. 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, Ak. 99654

Dear Senator Huggins,

I fully support HB 307 and SB 197. My family has used much of this area for twenty years to access Federal & State Lands. I have used ATVs, boats, for pleasure, hunting and to enjoy the beauty of Alaska.

Opposed to any restrictions to motorized use in the planning area greater than the State's "Generally Allowed Uses" and the existing Copper River Basin Plan.

Motorized access to Jim Creek & the Knik River Drainage is really

crucial to those wishing to fish.
We have been limited in many
areas to foot or horse traffic only.
We need a place close to the
mass of people where motorized
off-highway vehicles + boats can
be used - just as they have been.

I truly believe this area
should be designated for motorized
off-highway ATVs + Boats.

Thank you for all your
efforts to preserving open access
to ATVs without restriction.

Sincerely,
Maison C.

1-17-05

CHARGE HULLGANS
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 417
TUNEAU AK, 99801-1182
600 E RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA AK 99654

MR HULLGANS

I TOTALLY SUPPORT HB 307 JSB197
EXACTLY AS WRITTEN,
KUK RIVER DRAINAGE SHOULD NOT
HAVE RESTRICTED METORIZED USE +
BE OPEN FOR ALL USERS, AS THIS
IS A EXCELANT PLACE TO PLAY +
A SAFE PLACE TO TEACH KIDS TO
DRIVE.

LEC KUCH
PO Box 1732
PALMER AK
99645

ATTENTION
CHARLIE HOGGINS
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 417
UNIVERSITY ALASKA 99501 1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE.
WASILLA, AK 99654

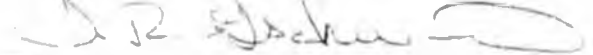
SIR,

PLEASE ACCEPT MY SUPPORT FOR HB507
& SB197, BOTH IN EXACT WORDING AND
INTENT.

MY FAMILY AND I ALONG WITH MANY
FRIENDS AND VISITING OUTDOORSPORTS ENJOY
IMMENSELY THESE AREAS OF MOTORIZED OFF
ROAD RECREATION

I WOULD STRONGLY SUGGEST THE
MINTAINING OF BOTH TIM CREEK & HINK RIVER
AS A WHOLE FOR CONTINUED USE BY ME AND
MY ENTIRE FAMILY & FRIENDS. I'M HAPPY TO
SEE HOW MY GRANDDAD'S WIFE CAME ALONG
AND IT IS A JOY.

THANKS MR HOGGINS IN ADVANCE



TED GESCHWIND

SECC HOLDEN DR

ANCHORAGE ALASKA 99516

907-345-1747

w.rod@q.1.net

James R Langman
3921 Astro Circle
Anchorage, AK 99517

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Rm 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Senator Huggins

I fully support HB 307 + SB 197 as they are written

The Knik River Drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted

South Central Alaska needs a place such as the Knik River to be a designated destination for motorized off highway vehicles and boats

The Knik River is the excepted ~~the~~ recreation area for South central Alaska

James R Langman
J. R. Howard Langman

July 19, 2005

FROM Cheryl A. Eldridge
16239 Division Street
Chugiak, AK 99567

TO: Charlie Huggins
State Capitol
Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

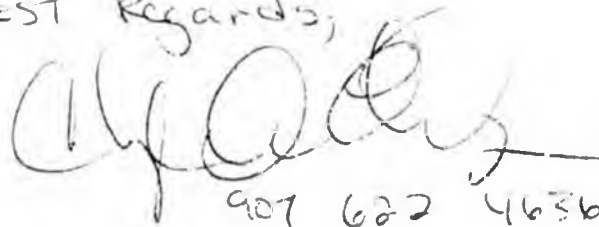
600 E. RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA, AK 99854

Re: Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins,

As a user of the Knik Area, I fully support House Bills # 307 and SB 197 ^{orig} as written. This area must remain open to all users for present and future use. This area is a vital recreation area to folks like me who live 20 minutes from there.

Best regards,


907 622 4656

P.S. People w/ disabilities need motorized access to enjoy our wilderness. Please keep Knik open!
THANKS!

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
500 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

3075 Telegrapha Drive #8
Anchorage, AK 99517
July, 19 2005

RE: Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins,

I have been an Alaskan resident for almost 3 years and have done my very best to get outside and enjoy Alaska's great outdoors. As an owner of 2 personal watercraft and friend of many boat, snowmachine, and aircraft owners, I am very concerned about limited or restricted access to East Alaska. I fully support HB307 and HB194 as they are currently written. The Knik River drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted. I oppose anything more restrictive than the State's "Generally allowed uses" and the existing State's Copper River Basin Plan. I can personally attest to the respect and desire to keep Alaska's areas clean and open by fellow motorized Alaskans.

Sincerely,



Jared T. Friesen

July 19, 2005

Senator Charlie Huggins
602 E Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Senator Huggins:


Thank you for your passion ^{helping to} in keeping the
Knik River Public Use Area open to all forms of
recreation, including motorized access.

I fully support HB307 and SB197 as they are written.

The Alaska lifestyle is continually under attack
by those who pose as well intentioned citizens
that are actually part of a national movement to
close all of Alaska.

South Central Alaska needs a place such
as the Knik River to be a designated
destination for motorized off-highway vehicles
and boats.

Sincerely,



Gary Olson

**SECTION 4. LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO
REPRESENTATIVE BILL STOLTZ FOR SB 301
AND HB 197.**

MARJORIE CRAIN
6018 E. 43rd Ave.
Anch, AK 99524

July 18, 2005

Sen. Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, Ak. 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, Ak 99654

Dear Senator Stoltze,

I fully support HB 307 and SB 197. My family has used much of this area for twenty years to access Federal & State Lands. When we moved here in 1961 just having roads was enough wild, but now we seek deeper into the wilderness. I have used ATVs & boats for pleasure, hunting & to enjoy the beauty of Alaska, and as a way to fish.

I am opposed to ANY restrictions to motorized use in the planning area greater than the State's "Generally

allowed Uses" and the existing
Copper River Basin Plan.

Motorized access to Jim Creek
in the Kwik River Drainage is really
crucial to those wishing to fish. We
have been limited in many areas to foot
or horse or skis only. We need a
place close to the mass of people where
motorized off highway vehicles &
boats can be used - just as they have
been. I truly believe this area
should be designated for motorized
off highway ATV's & Boats.

Thank you for all your efforts
to preserving open access to ATV's
without restriction.

Sincerely,
Shayne O.A.

July 19, 2005

Rep. Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Rm 501
Juneau AK 99801-1182
GOODE RAILROAD AVE
Wasilla AK 99654

Dear Bill

I support HB 3074 SB 197 as standing

The Knik River Drainage & Jim Creek
should be managed for all forms of
recreation as long as motorized access
is not restricted

South Central AK. needs a place such
as the Knik River to be a designated
designated for motorized off-highway
vehicles & boats

Thanks for your help

James A. Chapman

James A. Chapman
9320 Clements DR
Anchorage AK
99515

1-17-05

BILL STOLTZE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 501
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA AK 99654

MR. HIGGINS

I TOTALLY SUPPORT ~~THE~~ A.B 307 & SB 197
EXACTLY AS WRITTEN, THE KNIK RIVER
DRAINAGE SHOULD NOT HAVE RESTRICTED
MOTORIZED USE & BE OPEN FOR ALL
USERS, AS THIS IS AN EXCELLENT PLACE
TO PLAY & A SAFE PLACE TO TEACH
KIDS TO DRIVE

LEC KUCH
PO BOX 1732
PALMER AK 99645

(x)

MR. BILL STOCZE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 501
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE.
WASILLA, ALASKA 99654

DEAR BILL,

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR
HARD WORK AND WOULD FEEL BACK YOU IN
THE EFFORT TO PUSH THROUGH BOTH SB 197
AND HB 307

AS A 40 YEAR ALASKAN, MARRIED HERE
AND RAISED CHILDREN, AND NOW GRAND
CHILDREN, I CAN ASSURE YOU OUR JOY IN
THIS GREAT STATE IS HUNTING, FISHING, CAMPING,
BERRY PICKING AND WILDLIFE VIEWING ON
OUR ATOS & BOAT.

WITHOUT THIS AREA (I THINK A DENALI &
KENAI) WE WOULD LEAVE AND SEEK FOR
THIS JOY OF EXISTENCE.

THANKS MR. STOCZE. KEEP UP THE

GOOD WORK. J.R. Johnson

TED (SCHWIN.)

SECO HOLDEN DR.

ANCHORAGE ALASKA 99516

~~907 304-1905~~ 907 315 1247

wind@g.c.h.net

From: Cheryl A. Eldridge
16234 Division Street
Chugiak, AK 99567

July 19, 2005

To: Bill Stoltze
State Capitol
Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1122

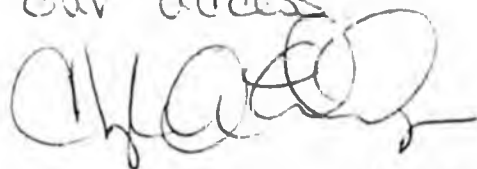
6000 E RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA, AK 99654

Dear Representative Stoltze

House Bill 307 and Senate Bill 197
need to stand as written to protect the
Kuk River Public Use Area for all forms
of recreation.

Kuk & Jim Creek do need to be managed
but not at the expense of motorized access.
This area is very important to me as an atv
rider as it is close to my home (20 minutes)
and allows me to enjoy the outdoors. Motorized
access is very important as I was almost
paralyzed as the result of a horse/bear
accident and the atv allows me to go
places I could never hike to.

Please preserve our access!



907 622 4636

July 19, 2005

Representative Bill Stoltze
600 E. Rural Avenue
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Representative Stoltze,

Thank you for your pass on helping to keep
the Knik River Public Use Area open to all forms
of recreation, including motorized access.

I fully support AB 307 and SB 197 as they are
written.

The Alaska Lifestyle is continually under
attack by those who ~~pass~~ pass as well
intent on citizens that are actually part
of a national movement to close all of Alaska.

South Central Alaska needs a place such as
the Knik River to be a designated destination
for motorized and highway vehicles and loads.

Sincerely,



Gary Olson

Bill Stolze
State Capital, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Ball Road Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

3075 Telceliana Drive #8
Anchorage, AK 99517
July, 17th 2005

RE: Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Representative

I have been an Alaskan resident for almost 3 years and have done my very best to get outside and enjoy our great State of Alaska, many times on motorized vehicles. As an owner of 2 personal watercraft and friend of many boat, snow machine, and aircraft owners, I am very concerned about limited or restricted access to parts of Alaska. I fully support HB 297 and HB 197 as they are currently written. The Knik River drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted. I oppose anything more restrictive than the State's "Generally allowed uses" and the existing State's Copper River Basin Plan. I can personally attest to the desire of motorized Alaskans to respect and help clean all of Alaska's great outdoors.

Sincerely,



Jared T. Friesen

**SECTION 4. LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO BOTH
SENATOR CHARLIE HUGGINS AND
REPRESENTATIVE BILL STOLTZ FOR SB 301
AND HB 197.**

From

Brian L Johnson
13171 Lupine Rd
Anchorage AK 99516

To Charles Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

To Bill Stottz
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

Subject Kink River public Access use Area

Dear Senator Huggins and Representative Stottz

I fully support HB 307 and SB 197 as they are written. The Kink River drainage and Tim Creek should be managed for all forms of Recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted. Alaska needs a place for motorized off highway vehicles and boats.

Thank you for your efforts in preserving our access

Sincerely



7/18/05

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltz
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Subject Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins and Representative Stoltz:

I fully support HB307 and SB197 as they are written. The Knik River drainage and Tim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted. South Central Alaska needs a place such as the Knik River to be a designated destination for motorized off-highway vehicles and boats.

Thank you for your efforts in preserving our access.

Sincerely,
Gene Gerken

Gene Gerken
3820 E 84th
Anchorage, AK 99507

7.19.05
Steve Rizzo
11641 WOODBOURNE DR
Anchorage AK. 99516
E-mail STEVERIZZO@ARCTIC.NET
907-348-0410

To: Charlie Huggins and Bill Stoltze:

Dear Sirs:

1. I fully support HB 307 and SB 197 as they are written.
2. The Knik River DRAINAGE and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is NOT restricted.
3. South Central Alaska needs a place such as the Knik River to be a designated destination for motorized off Highway vehicles and boats

Your assistance with this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely, Steve Rizzo



THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

14 JUL 63

TO:

Mr. Charles Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, Ak 99801-1122
Coast Railroad Ave
Wasilla Ak 99586

Mr. Bill Starzec
State Capitol, Room 451
Juneau, Ak 99801-1122
Coast Railroad Ave
Wasilla Ak. 99586

FROM:

William C. Hall
Juneau, Ak
Juneau, Ak 99801

It is my hope that you will find this letter of July 14, 1963 as written. There are 10 million people, and the state believes that protect our lands for all use. The Kluane River area should be protected from restrictive legislation in progress. This area is an important resource for a better world and should not be completely closed to a type of to a more utilized use in South East Alaska includes hunting, recreation, trapping and a wide variety of other uses that should be our policy. It is important to me, my children & my neighbors children that these lands remain open, well protected & protected from unwise use. Alaska is Alaska because of how we live & what we do. Let us not make Alaska an afterthought or to lower it. Let us and ourselves a world for all.

William C. Hall

JERRY M. HALLIDAY
9725 UNGUYARD DR
#27
ANCHORAGE, AK 99523
19 JULY 2005

CHARLIE HUGGINS
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 117
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE.
WASILLA, AK 99654

BILL STOLTZ
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 501
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE.
WASILLA, AK 99654

SUBJECT KUKA RIVER PUBLIC USE AREA
DEAR SENATOR HUGGINS AND REPRESENTATIVE STOLTZ

I FULLY SUPPORT A0307 AND S0392 AS
WRITTEN. ALSO I FEEL THE AREA SHOULD BE
MANAGED FOR ALL FORMS OF USE AS LONG AS
NATURAL USE IS NOT RESTRICTED.

WE NEED THIS AREA TO PURSUE
OUR PREFERRED METHOD OF RECREATION

SINCERELY



JERRY M. HALLIDAY

17346
Meadow Creek Dr.
Eagle River, AK
99577

July 9 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Tuneau AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Tuneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Subject: Knik River Public Use Area

I fully support HB 327 and SB 197 as they are. The Knik River drainage and Tim Creek area should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted. South Central Alaska needs a place such as the Knik River to be a designated destination for motorized off-highway vehicle and boats. I use this area responsibly and would like to continue to do so in the future.

Thank you for your efforts in preserving our access.

Sincerely,

Sam Dellman
Gary Dellman

Allen Hoffer

Stacey Hoffer
6607 Fairweather Dr
Anchorage, AK 99518

July 19, 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Subject: Kik River Public Use Area

I fully support ^{HB 307 and} SB 197 as it's written. I support the use of our public lands in the Kik Area. I believe the Kik River drainage and Jim Creek area should be "managed" for use by all forms of recreation to include motorized users. Do not restrict the use of Public Lands. I believe ^{only accepts} managing the public lands is the key to allow all users to utilize the Kik River basin.


Stacey Hoffer
Stacey M. Hoffer

Allen Hoffer
Allen Hoffer

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, Ak 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, Ak 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, Ak 99654

I believe that HB 307 and SB 197 as put forward are good for the OHV community. I also believe the Knik River drainage and Tim Creek should be managed for all types of usage "recreation" including motorized access. South Central Alaska needs places such as Knik/Tim Creek to be designated for motorized off-highway vehicles and boats.

Eric Morse


Charlie Higgins
State Capitol Km 417
AND
Bill Stolro
State Capitol Km 501
Juneau Ak 99801
600 Kachemak Ave.
Winnetka 99654

Richard E. Gilson
P.O. Box 232764
Anch Ak 99507

Subject: Kusk. River ~~Publ.~~ Public Use Area.

Dear Senator Higgins and Representative Stolro

I fully support HB 307 and Senate Bill 197
as they are written.

The Kusk. drainage and June Creek area should
be managed for best forms of recreation as long
as motorized access is not limited any more
than it is presently.

South Central Alaska needs a plan such as the
Kusk. area for motorized sports access. Management
of the existing area will help prevent ~~un~~
unauthorized and potentially damaging uses
in other areas. The nature of this valley lends
itself to self-restoration through flooding
and wind covered sand.

Regards

Richard Gilson

1301 West 76th
Anchorage AK 99518

July 19, 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK, 99801 - 1182
600 E. Rail Road Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801 - 1182
600 E. Rail Road Ave
Wasilla, AK, 99654

I am writing this letter to show my support
for HD 307, and SB 197. I use the timber area for
fishing and duck hunting and would like to continue to be
able to go there.

I would like to see the timber area remain open to
all users on the ice, water or land. All season use. I have
used this area since 1983 for ATV and fishing uses.

Thank you for your support on these issues.

Sincerely,
Todd Stoltze

Charles M. Knicht
3600 TRIGG DR
ANCHORAGE, AK 99516

July 18, 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol Rm 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Slotyre
State Capitol, Rm 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Sirs:

I am in support of HB307 & SB197.

The Kupuk River drainage and the Jun Creek Area should be managed for all forms of outdoor recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted.

This area has been a place of outdoor use of all kinds as long as I can remember and myself as well as my family members continue to use the area each year. Motorized & off-road use should continue to be ~~the~~ designated uses.

Sincerely
Charles M. Knicht

SENATOR CHARLIE HUGGINS
STATE CAPITOL, RM 417
JUNEAU AK 99801-1182

600 E. RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA AK 99654

REPRESENTATIVE BILL STOLZE
STATE CAPITOL, RM 501
JUNEAU AK 99801-1182

600 E RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA AK 99654

RE: KNIK RIVER PUBLIC USE AREA

DEAR CHARLIE + BILL,

I FULLY SUPPORT HB 307 AND SB 197 JUST AS YOU INTRODUCED THEM. THIS AREA IS VITALLY IMPORTANT AS A "FULL ACCESS" RECREATIONAL AREA. THE ANCHORAGE/MATSU AREA NEEDS A PLACE FOR ALL ALASKA RESIDENTS TO USE. AS AN ATV ER, HUNTER AND FISHERMAN I HAVE NO PROBLEM SHARING USE OF THIS, OR ANY OTHER AREA, WITH ANY OTHER PERSON, NO MATTER HOW THEY GOT THERE.

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR INTRODUCING THIS LEGISLATION, IF I CAN DO ANYTHING TO SUPPORT PASSAGE, UNCHANGED, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

SINCERELY

Mike Erickson

MIKE ERICKSON
10050 WREN LANE
EAGLE RIVER AK
99577

7-19-05

Karen Lunden
4820 O'Malley Rd.
Anchorage AK 99507

July 19, 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801
600 E. ~~1st~~ Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stutz
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

RE: Kusk River Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins & Representative Stutz

I fully support HB337 and SB197 as they are written. The Kusk River Drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted. South Central needs a place like Kusk River to be open to motorized off road vehicles, boats & planes & snow machines.

As a family we have used the area for motorized recreation for the last 20 years. We treat the area with the same respect. Beautiful areas deserve. Restricting the area will only keep the honest people out not the ones causing the damage. Thank you for your efforts in saving the area for us.

Sincerely, Karen Lunden

To

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, Ak. 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, Ak. 99654

6707 Feathill Circle
Anchorage, Ak 99504
July 19, 2005

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, Ak. 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, Ak. 99654

Re: Knik River Public Use

To restrict or close knik access would ensure the demise of these lands. Folks who use these lands there must are interested in preserving them along with using them. The destruction of knik is by vandalous teens and locals looking for a dumping ground. I fully support HB307 & SB197 just as they are and encourage the lands being managed as long as motorized vehicles are not limited or restricted. ~~The~~ Knik is a wonderful meeting place for folks to enjoy the fruits of Alaska. My family and I frequent knik many times throughout the year and would be very disappointed if it was closed.

Thankyou for securing access for all to use

Sincerely,

L. Angie Freckle
L. Angie Freckle
Life long Alaskan

11034 Buskin Circle
Eagle River, AK 99577
July 19, 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Subject: Knik River Public Use Area;

Being an avid user of this area, I have become concerned with the possibility of the Knik River/Sims Creek area becoming closed to the public. I think that bills HB307 and SB197 will be effective in solving any problems there seems to be in this area.

The major use of this area among my friends and I, is the trip to the Glacier. If this area is closed to motorized vehicles this becomes impossible for us due to the fact that it is a 26 mile trip and we travel with young kids.

Overall, the use of this area provides a place for our age group to get away from our busy lives and have a safe place to camp with families. Thank you for taking the time to consider this option.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Frey *Stephanie Frey*

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol Room 417
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

Michael Oppenauer
9919 Annette Cir
Eagle River AK 99577

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

To Whom it may concern:

I fully believe and support HB307 and SB197 as they are written. The Knik River drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for all types and styles of recreation as long as motorized access is not cut off. South Central Alaska needs more places such as Knik River/Jim's Creek designated destination for motorized off-highway vehicles and boats.

17423 Coronado St #1
Eagle River AK
99577

July 19, 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol Room 417
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

Dear Charlie and Bill,

I would like to say that I fully support HB 307 and SB 497 as they are written.

I believe that the Knik river drainage and Sim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted.

South Central Alaska NEEDS a place such as the Knik ~~river~~ River to be a designated destination for ATVs and other assorted off-road vehicles and boats.

Sincerely,
Jens J. Opregaard

3075 Teleguana Drive Unit 18
Anchorage, AK 99517
July 19, 2005

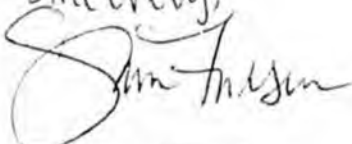
Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltz
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, AK 99654

Re: Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins and Representative Stoltz:

As a responsible motorized user of Alaska's waterways and offroad areas I fully support HB307 and SB197 as they are written. I believe that the Knik River drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted. South Central Alaska needs a place such as the Knik River to be a designated destination for motorized off highway vehicles and boats.

Sincerely,

Sam Friesen

Brian Huey
6001 Azalea Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99516

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Mr. Huggins & Mr. Stoltze,

I'm writing to inform you that I'm fully in support of HB307 & SB197. Management of the Knik River drainage will be alright as long as motorized access is not restricted.

An area is required for motorized offroad use & the Knik River drainage is one area that ~~is~~ is perfect for this.

Cheers,

Brian Huey

Aaron Huey
6001 Azalea Dr
Anchorage, AK 99516

July 14, 2005

To: Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Rm 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltz
State Capitol, Rm 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Charlie & Bill,

I have personally used the Knik River area for many years. I completely support HB 307 and SB 197 as they are written.

I believe that the Knik River drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted.

Southeastern Alaska needs a place such as the Knik River for use by motorized off-highway vehicles and boats.

This area is very valuable to our families and friends. Please protect our responsible motorized access to this area.

Sincerely,

Aaron Huey
Aaron Huey

Joel Barakat

Sincerely,

area many times.

This area should not be closed to motorist
vehicles I have personally used this

I fully support HB307 & SB197.

RE: Kule River Public Access

Bill Stoltz
State Capital
Tucson, AZ 9901-1182

State Capital Building
Tucson, AZ 9901-1182

To: Charlie Huggins

Joel Barakat
4302 Mayfield Ave
Arusha, AZ 99516
7/11/87

Dolores M. Fox
2101 Stanford Dr
Anchorage, AK - 99508

July 19, 2005

Charles J. Jennings Senator
State Capitol
Juneau - AK - 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla - AK - 99654

Representative
Bill Stolze
State Capitol, Rm 301
Juneau - AK - 99801-1182
600 E. R.R. Ave
Wasilla AK -

Re: Knik River Public Use Area

- * I am in support of HB 3077 & SB 197
as written of record
- * Both the Knik River & Inupiauk should
be managed for everyone & all types of
recreation - motorized access ~~is~~ is
not to be restricted
- * The South Central Alaska Area near
the Knik River to be a designated
destination for motorized off-highway
vehicles & boats -

Thank you for considering my
concerns -

Dolores M. Fox
Keeve M. Fox

1751811 JUANITA LP.
EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577
JULY 19, 2005

CHARLIE HUGHINS
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 417
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
COOKE RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA, AK 99654

BILL STOLTZ
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 501
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
COOKE RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA, AK 99654

DEAR SIR:

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO INFORM YOU OF
MY FULL SUPPORT OF HB307 AND SB197 AS THEY
ARE WRITTEN. I FEEL AS THOUGH THE KITIK RIVER
DRAINAGE AND JIM CREEK SHOULD BE MANAGED
FOR ALL FORMS OF RECREATION AS LONG AS
MOTORIZED ACCESS IS NOT RESTRICTED. SOUTH
CENTRAL ALASKA IS ALSO IN NEED OF SUCH A
PLACE AS THE KITIK RIVER TO BE A
DESIGNATED DESTINATION FOR MOTORIZED OFF ~~THE~~
HIGHWAY VEHICLES AND BOATS

AS THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR TIME

Sincerely,
STEPHANIE JASPER

Clifton Tweedy
2101 Stanford Rd
Anch, AK 99508

Sen. Huggins and Rep. Stolte
5th Capital Bldg.
Juneau, AK 99801-1152

Gentlemen:

Thank you for SB 197 and HB 307 which I fully support.

Motorized access should not be restricted. Area should be managed for all uses.

This Area Kwik River and Jim Creek Drainage should be for motorized off-highway vehicles and boats.

Thanks again for your concern and help.

Clifton Tweedy
907-258-6425

4705 A Gray LP
Elmendorf AFB, AK
99506

July 19, 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stolze
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

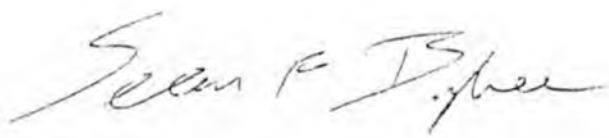
Subject: Kenik River Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins and Representative Stolze

I completely and fully support HB307 and SB197 as they are written. I support the idea that the Kenik River and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted. South Central Alaska needs a place such as the Kenik River area to be set aside/designated for motorized off-highway vehicles and boats.

Thank you for your efforts in preserving our access.

Sincerely,



Sean F Bybee

DANIEL HERTRICH
5309 SAND LAKE RD
ANCHORAGE AK 99502

7/19/05

ATTN

CHARLIE HUGGINS
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 417
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1152
600 E RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA AK 99654

BILL STOLTZE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 501
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1152
600 E RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA AK 99654

AS AN OFF ROAD MOTORIZED VEHICLE (OHV) USER
OF KNIK RIVER AREAS ON A REGULAR BASIS I
FULLY SUPPORT HB 307 AND SB 197.

I, ALONG WITH NUMEROUS FRIENDS, ARE RESPONSIBLE
ATV USERS OF THIS AREA SEVERAL TIMES A MONTH
WE SEE HUNDREDS OF OTHER OHV USERS IN THIS
AREA WHO ENJOY THE OPEN ACCESS - THE ONLY
OPEN ACCESS AREA WITHIN A REASONABLE DRIVING
DISTANCE FROM ANCHORAGE

THIS AREA MUST REMAIN OPEN FOR OHV USERS
OTHERWISE WE WILL HAVE ~~NO~~ LITTLE CHOICE BUT
TO RESTRICT THE AMOUNT OF TIME WE SPEND
ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS OF OUR STATE. WE WOULD
NO LONGER ENJOY THE BASIC RIGHT TO RECREATE
ON STATE LANDS.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ACCESS TO THE KNIK RIVER AREA
IS NOT RESTRICTED IN ANY WAY SO THAT CONTINUED
RESPONSIBLE IS AVAILABLE TO US.

DANIEL HERTRICH

Daniel Hertrich

BILL EASTHAM
12841 BRANDON ST
ANCHORAGE, AK 99515
July 2 2005

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STOLTZ
AND SENATOR HIGGINS

I SUPPORT YOUR BILLS SB 117 AND HB 307
AS YOU AND YOUR STAFF HAVE WRITTEN.

THE KUIK RIVER DRAINAGE SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN
CARE OF A LONG TIME AGO.

MY FAMILY HAS BEEN USING THIS AREA SINCE 1969,
MY FIRST ATV WAS A "AMPHICAT".

I ALSO WAS PRESIDENT OF THE MATSU MOTOR
MUSHER'S CLUB AND WE HAD A CLEAN UP DAY
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE BOROUGH CLEAN UP
DAY, WE HAD FREE USE OF THE DUMPSTER.

SO I REALLY SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS
THANK YOU

Bill Eastham

Ty Newman
3046 E 64th
Anchorage AK 99507
7-19-05

Charles Huggins
State Capital, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capital, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

I Fully support HB 307 and SB 177
- motorized access and The Alaska outdoors is why
I live in this STATE - Remove these rights and I will
lose my desire to live here.

Thanks,

Ty Newman

6707 Foothill Cir
Anchorage AK 99504

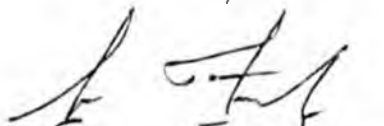
Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla AK 99654

Bill Stoltz
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

Subject Kink River public use Area

My family and I have been using Kink/Jin creek Area since the mid 80's for ATV & OHV use. I am in full support of HB307 and SB197 exactly as they are written. The Kink River drainage and Jin Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized use is not restricted. South Central Alaska needs a place to be a designated destination for motorized off highway vehicles & Boats.

Thanks for your support in these matters.


SAM Freebuc

KURT B. HALL
17516 N. JUANITA LA.
EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577

JULY 19, 2005

CHARLIE HIGGINS
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 417
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA, AK 99654

BILL STOLTZ
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 501
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA, AK 99654

DEAR SIRS,

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER TO SHOW MY
SUPPORT OF HB327 AND SB197, AS THEY ARE
WRITTEN.

THE KNIK RIVER DRAINAGE AND JIM CREEK
SHOULD BE MANAGED FOR EVERY FORM OF
RECREATION. MOTORIZED ACCESS SHOULD NOT BE
RESTRICTED.

SOUTH CENTRAL ALASKA NEEDS A PLACE
SUCH AS THE KNIK RIVER TO BE A DESIGNATED
DESTINATION FOR MOTORIZED VEHICLES, SUCH
AS OHV'S AND ATV'S, AS WELL AS BOATS.

Sincerely,



PO BOX 185
PALMER AK 99645
JULY 19, 2005

CHARLIE HUGGINS
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 417
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E RAILROAD AVE

BILL STOLZE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 501
JUNEAU AK 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA, AK 99654

DON SIR OR MADAM -

I FULLY SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 307 AND SENATE
BILL 197 TO CREATE A KULUK RIVER PUBLIC
USE AREA.

I BELIEVE THAT THIS AREA SHOULD BE FOR
MULTIPLE USE WITH OFF ROAD MOTORIZED USE
A PRIORITY BECAUSE OF THE TRADITIONAL USE
OF THIS AREA AND THE CLOSE PROXIMITY
OF ANCHORAGE (THE MOST HIGHLY POPULATED
CITY IN ALASKA).

UNLIMITED OFF ROAD USE OF THIS AREA
FOR THE LAST 50 YEARS OR MORE HAS
NOT DONE ANY SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO
WATER FOWL, GAME, FISH, OR HABITAT.

SINCERELY,

DICK COURTS

8421 STACY CR
TUCH, AK 99807

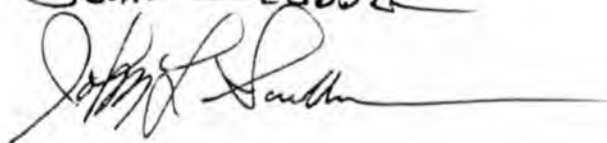
JULY 19TH 2005

CHARLIE HUGGINS
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 417
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE.
WASILLA, AK 99654

BILL STOLTZE
STATE CAPITOL ROOM 501
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA, AK 99654

I fully support HB307 AND SB197 AS THEY ARE WRITTEN. THE KNIE RIVER DRAINAGE AND JING CREEK SHOULD BE MANAGED FOR ALL FORMS OF RECREATION AS LONG AS MOTORIZED ACCESS IS NOT RESTRICTED.

SOUTH CENTRAL ALASKA NEEDS A PLACE SUCH AS THE KNIE RIVER TO BE DESIGNATED DESTINATION FOR MOTORIZED OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES AND BOATS

S.M.C. S. 2005
JOHN SCHOELL


July 19, 2005

Charlie Huggin
State Capitol, Rm 417
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Rm 501
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

Dear Sirs:

I support fully HB307 and SB197 as they are written.

As long as motorized access is not restricted, the Knik River drainage and Jim Creek area should be managed for all forms of recreation.

South Central Alaska needs a place like the Knik River area to be designated for off-road vehicle use.

Thank you for your time

Michael T. Jacquot
Michael Jacquot

200 W 34th Ave #1006
Anchorage AK 99503

243-2581

Chicago
Illinois
Chicago, Illinois

It must be good for the general
user + will only increase the potential
user benefit. Keep Knit Rate and Jam
Rate all relevant uses
of resources should be in place. Permit
change and then a management for all
be restricted in the management of Knit Rate
Material resources should not
for all and should encourage with user
interaction.

HR 37 and 53 197 are fully supported as
users

Box 113287
Chicago, IL 60651
July 19, 2005
Bill Steitz
State Capital, Room 417
Jury, AR 99801-1152
600 E. Railroad Ave
Lhas, IL, AR, 6054

Charles Higgins
State Capital, Room 417
Jury, AR 99801-1152
600 E. Railroad Ave
Lhas, IL, AR, 6054

721 Dickerson Dr
Anchorage, AK 99504
July 20, 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 71
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99754

Bill Stoltz
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99754

Subject: Knik River Public Use Area

Re: Senator Huggins and Representative Stoltz:

I fully support HB 307 and SB 197 as they are written. The Knik River drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted. South Central Alaska needs a place such as the Knik River to be a designated destination for motorized off-highway vehicles and boats.

It is important that all users have access in a central location to the recreational activity of their choice. Alaska is a huge state and there must be room for its inhabitants to enjoy this great state. Please continue to fight for the right of all Alaskans to recreate as they choose.

Sincerely,
Cathy C. Brandt
Cathy C. Brandt

July 19, 2005

P.O. Box 110917
Anchorage, AK 99511

To:

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Rm 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltz
State Capitol, Rm 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Subject: Knik River Public Use Area

- I fully support HB307 and SB197 as they are written
- The Knik River drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted.
- South Central Alaska needs a place such as Knik River to be a designated destination for motorized off-highway vehicles and boats
- Without the Knik River and Jim Creek area to use for recreation, OHV's users would be forced to find new areas, and create new areas and trails that will more than likely be undesirable to the general public. The other thing that will happen is that people will just continue to use these areas illegally at the inconvenience of the already burdened enforcement officials. The people that do these 'create cleanup' type events should be praised and encouraged so that the recreational land can remain intact and clean.

Sincerely,
ROSS BERGMAN

Ross Bergman

7821 Dickerson Dr.
Anchorage, AK. 99504
July 17, 2005

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 50
Juneau, AK. 99801-1102
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK. 99654

Charlie Higgins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Sirs,

I fully support HB 307 and SB 197 as they are written.

The Kusk River drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted. South Central Alaska definitely needs a place such as the Kusk River/Jim Creek area designated for use of off road vehicles and Boats -

Sincerely Brian Brandt
Brian Brandt

**SECTION 3. LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO SENATOR
CHARLIE HUGGINS FOR SB 301 AND HB 197.**

HCO# Box 7459
Palmer, AK 99645

July 20 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Rm 417
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182
650 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Subject: Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Senators Huggins & Representative Claitor,

We have lost more than enough of our lands rights.
Not the least of which under Federal restrictions
is over 10 Million acres in Alaska - Alone!
With that in mind I fully support HR 307 and
SB 197 as they are written. The Knik River
and Jim Creek area should be Multiple Use
with no one restricted - emphasis added.

Sincerely

Mike Mordant

Buffy Meyer
HCOS Box 6930-E
Palmer, AK 99645
7/20/2005

Charlie Huggins,

On the subject of Knik River Public Use Area I fully support HB307 & SB197 as they are written.

The Knik River drainage + the Yon Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted.

The Knik River area is a great ~~place to be~~ designated destination for motorized off-highway vehicles and boats in South Central Alaska

Thank you for your efforts in preserving our access

Buffy Meyer

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad AVE.
Wasilla, AK 99654

John L. Otcheck
P.O. Box 582
Palmer, AK 99645

July 20, 2005

I think South Central Alaska needs a
recreational place. I think Jim Creek
is a grate place for that, I also think
it should not be restricted for motorized
access. I support bills HB 307 + SB 197
John L. Otcheck
John S. Otcheck

July 20, 2005

Bruce W. Edwards

Box 493

Palmer, Alaska 99645

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol

Dear Senator Huggins:

I support HB 307 and SB 197.

I believe in unrestricted access for
motorized and non-motorized
conveyances in the Jim Creek and
Knib River drainages.

With all the parks and restricted
zones in Alaska, we need an
area where unrestricted access and
activities can be enjoyed by
all.

Thank you,

Bruce W. Edwards

Senator Charlie Huggins
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla AK 99654

Jim P. Hitchcock
PO Box ~~876973~~ 876973
Wasilla AK 99657
20 July '85

Subject: Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins:

I fully support HB 307 & SB 197 as they are written. The Knik River drainage and Jim^R should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted. South Central Alaska needs a place such as the Knik River to be a designated destination for motorized off-highway vehicles etc.

Many thanks for your efforts in preserving our access

Most Sincerely

Jim P. Hitchcock
Jim P. Hitchcock

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau AK 99801

July 20, 07

Dear Senator Huggins,

I support both HB307 & SB197. I hope they will not be modified. I think the Kwik River drainage area and Jim Creek areas should be managed for all forms of recreation, INCLUDING motorized access. By this I mean motorized access should be allowed and not restricted.

While on Kwik River Road I have lived in the Kwik River Valley since 1960, long before Kwik River Road was built. As a child and as an adult, I have used this area to ski, snowshoe, camp, dog sled, walk, hike, photograph, bicycle, pick berries, boat, canoe, canoe, formerly 3-wheelers and to jeep. Now we annually take to Kwik River Tractor with our 4-wheelers and 6-wheelers. We responsibly use streams, do not stray or posted or known private property, and do not speed. We bring our trash back with us.

I think we need these bills to protect your rights to continue to use the Kwik River Valley.

Thank you,
Theresa Hicks

Theresa Hicks
HCOA Box 7691B, Palmer AK 99645

CAROLYN KUCH
PO BOX 1732
PALMER AK 99645

7.26.05

CHARLIE HUGGINS
STATE CAPITOL -- ROOM 417
JUNEAU AK 99801-1182

RE: KNIK RIVER PUBLIC USE AREA


DEAR CHARLIE,

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS TO YOU MY OPINION OF SUPPORTING CONTINUED USE OF THE KNIK RIVER AREA. I HAVE USED THE KNIK RIVER AREA FOR MANY TYPES OF RECREATION EVERY YEAR SINCE 1989. OUR FAMILY LIVES ON KNIK RIVER ROAD. WE ENJOY CAMPING, CANOEING, HIKING, HORSEBACK RIDING, 4-WHEELING (ATV & 4x4 VEHICLES), AIRBOATING, FLIGHTSEEING, AND WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY IN THIS AREA REGULARLY. OUR FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM CHRONICLES MANY HAPPY MEMORIES OF KNIK RIVER ADVENTURES.

I FULLY SUPPORT HB307 AND SB197 AS THEY ARE WRITTEN. I FEEL STRONGLY THAT THIS AREA SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL FORMS OF RECREATION... MOTORIZED AND NON-MOTORIZED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND (CONSIDERATION). I APPRECIATE YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SERVE IN JUNEAU, AND I KNOW YOU NOT ONLY LISTEN -- YOU TRULY CARE. THANK AGAIN, AND KEEP UP THE 'GOOD WORK'!

Sincerely,


CAROLYN KUCH
ALASKA RESIDENT

Bill & Michelle Booth
P.O. Box 3782
Palmer, Alaska 99645

July 19, 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
400 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Subject: Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Sir and Madam:

We are writing to you today to let you know we are fully in support of HB307 and SB197 as they are written.

We feel the Knik River drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted.

We have enjoyed the Knik River area for years and we would like our children to have the same opportunities we have had to enjoy this area.

Thank you

Michelle and William Booth

P.O. Box 1585
Palmer, AK 99645
20 July 05

Senator Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Rm 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Senator Huggins:

As a 36-year Alaskan resident and a frequent user of the Knik River drainage area for hunting, fishing, camping, skiing, 4-wheeling, snow machineing, and boating, I believe that SC AK needs a place such as the Knik River to be a designated destination for all users, including motorized off-highway vehicles & boats.

Further, I fully support HB307 and SB197 as written,

Sincerely,

Jeff Jackman



Box 2826
Palmer, AK 99645

July 20, 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Rm 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Subject: Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Sir:

After attending four different meetings concerning these lands, please consider the following ideas -

I fully support HB 307 and SB 197 as they are written -

The Knik River drainage + Tim Creek should be managed for all kinds of recreation including motorized access

The people of South Central Alaska needs this area, Knik River, for designated motorized off-highway vehicles and boats

Sincerely,
Gary K. Jasper

Gary K. Jasper

**SECTION 4. LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO
REPRESENTATIVE BILL STOLTZ FOR SB 301
AND HB 197.**

Buffy Meyer
HC05 Box 8930-E
Palmer, AK 99645
7/20/2005

Bill Stoltz

On the issue of Knik River Public Use Area I fully support HB307 + SB197 as they are written

The Knik River drainage & the Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted

The Knik River area is a great designated destination for motorized off highway vehicles and boats in South Central Alaska.

Thank you for your support & efforts in preserving our access.

Buffy Meyer

July 20, 2005

Bruce W. Edwards
Box 493
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Bill Staltz
State Capitol

Dear Representative Staltz:

Please allow HB 307 to go forward
in the house and support SB
197 in the Senate.

We need the Jim Creek and
Knib River area unrestricted for
recreational users both motorized
and non-motorized, winter and
summer.

Sincerely yours,
Bruce W. Edwards

Bill STOLTZE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 501
JUNEAU, AK. 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE.
WAS: 11A, AK. 99654

John L. Otcheck
PO Box 582
PALMER AK. 99645
July 20, 2005

I fully support bills HB 307 & SB 197
I think South Central need a recreational
area & I think Jim Creek the Knik Public
use area is grate & no! it should
not restrict any form of ~~motor~~
Motorized Vehicle Access

John L. Otcheck
John L. Otcheck

Representative Bill Stoltz
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Jim C. Hitchcock
PO Box 876973
Wasilla AK 99687
20 JULY '05

Dear Representative Stoltz:

I fully support HB 307 as it is written, (also SB 197). The
Kuk River Drainage and Lem Creek should be managed for
all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not
restricted. South Central Alaska needs a place such as the Kuk
River to be designated destination for motorized off-highway
vehicles and boats.

Thank you for your efforts in preserving our access.

Sincerely

Jim Hitchcock
J.C. HITCHCOCK

Bill Stoltz
State Capital, Room 501
Juneau Ak 99801

July 20, 05

Dear Rep Stoltz,

I support both HB301 and SB197. I hope they will not be modified. I think the Knik River drainage and Jim Creek areas should be managed for all forms of recreation, INCLUDING motorized ~~access~~. By this I mean motorized access should be allowed and not restricted.

I have lived in Knik River Valley since 1962, long before Knik River Road was built. As a child and as an adult, I have used this area (I live on Knik River Rd) to ski, skijour, dogsled, walk, hike, bicycle, berry picking, 4-wheeling, 6-wheeling, flying, boating, canoeing, air boat, formerly 3-wheeling and going four-wheeling with belting jeeps. Now we occasionally trek to Knik River ^{with} our 4-wheelers & six-wheelers. We responsibly use helmets, do not stray on posted or known private property, and do not speed. We bring our trash back with us.

I think we need these bills to protect our rights to continue to use the Knik River Valley.

Thank you,
Theresa Hicks
Theresa Hicks ACOD Box 76918 Palmer AK 99645

CAROLYN KUCH
PO BOX 1732
FARMER AK 99645

7.20.05

Bill STOLTZE
STATE CAPITOL -- ROOM 501
JUNEAU AK 99801-1182

RE: KNIK RIVER PUBLIC USE AREA

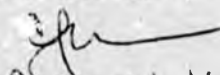
DEAR BILL,

THIS LETTER IS TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I SUPPORT CONTINUED PUBLIC USE OF THE KNIK RIVER AREA. MY FAMILY AND I MOVED TO THE KNIK RIVER AREA IN 1989. WE ENJOY CAMPING, CANOEING, HIKING, HORSEBACK RIDING, 4-WHEELING (ATV & 4X4 VEHICLES), AIRBOATING, FLIGHTSEEING, WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY IN THIS AREA REGULARLY. OUR FAMILY PHOTO ALBUM CHRONICLES MANY HAPPY MEMORIES OF KNIK RIVER ADVENTURES.

I FULLY SUPPORT HB307 AND SB 197 AS THEY ARE WRITTEN. I FEEL STRONGLY THAT THIS AREA SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL FORMS OF RECREATION... MOTORIZED AND NON-MOTORIZED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION. I KNEW YOU REALLY DO CARE -- BECAUSE I HAVE MET YOU PERSONALLY AT THE TOWN MEETINGS AND OUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING. THANK YOU! FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK IN JUNEAU. WE APPRECIATE YOU!

SINCERELY,


CAROLYN KUCH
ALASKA RESIDENT

P.O. Box 1585
Palmer, AK 99645
20 July 05

Rep. Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Dear Rep Stoltz,

As a 36-year Alaskan resident and a frequent user of the Kvik River drainage area for hunting, fishing, camping, skiing, canoeing, 4-wheeling and snow machineing, I believe that S.C. Alaska needs a place such as the Kvik River to be a designated destination for all users, including motorized off-highway vehicles and boats.

Further, I fully support HB 307 and SB 197 as written.

Sincerely
Jeff Jackman

Jeff Jackman

**SECTION 5. LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO BOTH
SENATOR CHARLIE HUGGINS AND
REPRESENTATIVE BILL STOLTZ FOR SB 301
AND HB 197.**

Dary J Lammers
1823 Buccaneer Pl
Anch AK 99501

July 20, 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

Bill Stolze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

Subject: Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins and Representative Stoltze

The Knik River drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for forms of recreation including motorized as long as it is not restricted. Southcentral Alaska needs a place like the Knik River for motorized off-highway vehicles and boats.

I fully support HB 307 and SB 197 as they are written.

Thank you for supporting and preserving our access.

Sincerely

Dary J Lammers

Norman W. Crosby
HC 2 Box 78134
Palmer, AK 99645

July 20, 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Subject: Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins and Representative Stoltze:

After reviewing HB307 and SB197 as they are written, Management of the Knik River Drainage and Sine Creek should be for all forms of recreation. Motorized access MUST NOT be singled out, restricted ~~and~~ or denied to these users. We citizens of Alaska, primary South Central Alaska, needs a place such as the Knik River area to be a designated destination for motorized off-highway vehicles, boats and planes.

If there is abuse by these users, then we must fund Management of the area to control abuses. This can come from recreational taxes, general funds or whatever.

Thank you for your efforts in preserving our access.

Sincerely,
Norman W. Crosby

Norman W. Crosby

HC 2 Box 78134
Palmer AK 99645

LYLE J. NIELSEN
HC 02 Box 7323-H
PALMER, AK. 99645

JULY 20, 2005

CHARLIE HIGGINS
STATE CAPITAL, ROOM 417
JUNEAU, AK. 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE.
WASILLA, AK. 99654

BILL STOLTZE
STATE CAPITAL, ROOM 501
JUNEAU, AK. 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE.

SUBJECT: KINK RIVER PUBLIC USE AREA

Dear Senator Higgins and Representative Stoltze

I fully support HB 307 and SB 197 as they are written. The Kink River drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted. South Central Alaska needs a place such as the Kink River to be a designated destination for motorized off-highway vehicles and boats.

Thank you for your efforts in preserving our access.

Sincerely

Lyle J. Nielsen

July 19, 2005

17023 Kantishna Dr
Easilic River AK 99577

Bill Steltze
State Dep. Rm 501
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Charlie Higgins
State Dep. Rm 417
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Subject Knik River - Public Use Area

Sen. Higgins & Rep Steltze

I strongly support HB307 and SB197 as they
are written. The Knik River drainage and Tim
Greek should be managed for all forms of recreation
as long as motorized access is not restricted.
As well as my own personal family enjoyment
I guide visitors from around the world on
ATV trips in this area. Many have physical
limitations and appreciate motorized access.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim L Cook
Alaska ATV Adventures
17023 Kantishna Dr
Easilic River AK 99577

J. Campbell

January

South Central Alaska parts on area 501
Kille River as a temporary location for
off-shoring activities. This site is an
excellent site for a number of reasons
including access of the bridge, location, and others.

The Kille River site should be investigated
all forms of transportation, but such a need
should not be restricted.

I suggest HB 307 and SB 197 as they are
current.

Continuing to work on Kille River and Tule Creek

Charles Higgins
State Capitol Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1152
600 E. Ketchikan Ave.
Ketchikan, AK 99851

501 State
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1152

Tule Camp
722 W. 1st St. Hwy
Juneau, AK 99801
State Capitol, Room 501

Jeffery M. Nolen
527 N. Bailey
Palmer Alaska 99645
July 20 2005

To Charlie Huggins
State Capital Room 417
Juneau AK 99801-1182

To Bill Stolte
State Capital Room 501
Juneau AK 99801-1182

Dear Mr. Huggins,
Dear Mr. Stolte

To keep this letter brief I believe in
motorized access for all state lands.

I fully support HB307 and SB197 as they are
written.

I believe the Knik River drainage and Jim
Creek should be managed for all forms
of recreation as long as motorized access
is NOT restricted.

South Central Alaska needs a place such
as the Knik River to be designated
for motorized, off highway vehicles and boats
and aircraft.

Sincerely

Jeffery M. Nolen

Jeffery M. Nolen

July 20 2005

PO Box 877307
WASILLA AK 99687

Charlie Huggins
STATE Capitol, Room 417
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA AK 99654

Dill Stoltze
STATE Capitol, Room 501
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA AK 99654

Subject: Kvik River Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins and Representative Stoltze:
I support HB307 and SB 197 as they are written: The Kvik River
and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation
as long as motorized access is not restricted. If we were to
lose this public area where would the people go to do this
type of off highway use with vehicles and boats.

Sincerely Rick, L. Richardson SR

Ricky L Richardson SR

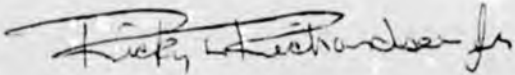
Charlie Huggins
State Capital, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

P.O. Box 877307
Wasilla, AK 99657

Bill Stoltze
State Capital Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 Railroad Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

Subject: Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins and Representative Stoltze
I support HB 307 and SB 197 as they are written.
The Knik River and Jim Creek should be managed
for all forms of recreation as long as motorized
access is not restricted. If we were to lose
this public area where would the people go to deal this
type of off highway use with vehicles + boats

Sincerely 

Ricky L. Richardson JR,

Box 38
Fairway, AK 99645
7-20-65

Charles Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Juneau, AK 99654

Ed & Trudy
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Juneau AK 99654

etc.

July Support HB307 and 8197 agency
is written.

All of Kik River drainage and area which
should be available and managed for all forms
of recreation. Motorized access should not be
permitted.

We in South Central need a place designated
for off-highway vehicles & boats which are
motorized.

LAUREN STEFFES
Lauren Steffes

From: Kevin Robinson

07-20-05

Po Bx 529
Sutton AK 99674

TO: Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

I have been using the same mail
address for 30 years. When I came to Alaska when
I was young I lived at the Butte. Even
then I used motorized vehicles from
the start, don't discriminate against me
Please.

I support HB307 and SB177 as they
are written. The Kupuk River should be
managed for all forms of recreation as
long as motorized access is not restricted.
This populated area as south central
had to have access for off road vehicles
and boats so that myself and my family
I raised off this land hunting, trapping
fishing and just having fun can continue
our life style and our traditions.

Kevin Robinson

THE
FOLLOWING
DOCUMENT(S)
ARE
POOR
ORIGINAL
COPIES

400-400-1000
P.O. BOX 3713
PULLMAN WA
99163

Charlie Huggins
St. Joseph
L. ...
...
9-1-83

Bill Stone
...
99101-1182
...
99101

Subject: ... Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins & Rep Stone:

I am writing to you regarding the ...
...
...
vehicles and boats

Thank you for your ...

Yours truly,
Steve ...
D...

3900 S. Tustin
Palmer, AK 99645

July 19, 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stolze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654


Subject: Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins and Representative Stolze:

I fully support HB307 and SB197 as they are written. The Knik River drainage should be managed for all forms of recreation (as well as Jim Creek) as long as motorized access is not restricted. Southcentral Alaska needs a designated place (Knik River) for motorized off-highway vehicles and boats.

Thank you for your efforts in preserving our access.

Sincerely,


Greg A. Cianque

Lori Cianque
Lori Cianque

FM Carol E. Christensen
P.O. Box 544
Palmer, AK 99645

July 20, 07

To Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, RM 419
Juneau, AK 99801-1199
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

P. H. Stoltz
State Capitol, RM 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1197
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

DEAR SIRS;

First; I support HB307 and SB197 as they are written.

These bills would benefit the most state residence and visitors.

Second; The Knik River drainage and Jim Creek needs to be managed for all/ everybody's use regardless of what forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted.

Another point is south central Alaska needs a place such as Knik River to be a designated destination for motorized off-highway vehicles & boats.

a fourth point is that a river flat restores it self as time passes and the water moves back & forth in the valley.

Ms. Carol E. Christensen

~~Ms. Carol E. Christensen~~
Ms. Carol E. Christensen

July 20th 2005

Senator Charlie Huggins
State 600 East Railroad
Wasilla, AK 99654

Ave.

Rep. Bill Stoltze
600 E Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Subject: Knik River ~~Access~~^{Public} Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins & Representative Stoltze:

I fully support SB 1907 & HB 307
as they are written.

Motorized recreation should not
be displaced from the Knik River/
Tem Creek area, which is ideal.

Sincerely,
Wayne Kubat
P.O. Box 874867
Wasilla, AK 99687

Linnæ Crosby
HC2 Box 7813H
Palmer, AK 99645

July 20, 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

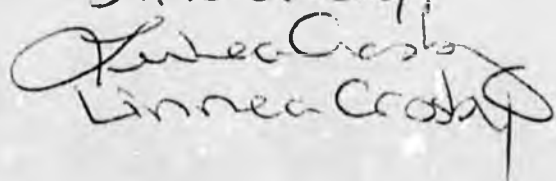
Subject: Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins and Representative Stoltze

I fully support HB307 and SB197 as they are written. The Knik River drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted.

South Central Alaska needs places like the Knik River drainage to be designated for motorized off-highway vehicles and boats. I have been accessing the area for years by ATV and have taught my neeces how to ride there. It is a wonderful area for families to recreate.

Thank-you for your efforts in preserving our access to this area.

Sincerely,

Linnæ Crosby

To Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, Ak. 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, Ak. 99654

To Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, Ak. 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, Ak. 99654

from Jerry L. Davis
PO Box 582
Denet, Ak. 99645

Dear sirs.
I believe alternative "A" is the
best alternative. I have been in the
Valley since 1972. The Trails in S.C.
Alaska are important to the people of
Alaska. They ~~should~~ should not be closed. Alaska
has more land than all other states.
Please keep them open.

Thanks

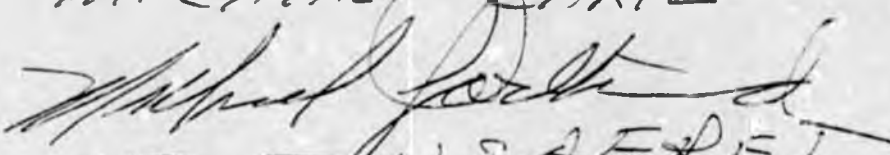
See Davis

MICHAEL GARTLAND
13616 E OCEANVIEW RD
PALMER AK 99645

JULY 20 2008

DEAR MR HUGGINS AND MR STOLIZI:

I WOULD HOPE THAT YOU WOULD SUPPORT
HB 507 - AND SB 197 AS THEY ARE WRITTEN
AND THE KNIK RIVER DRAINAGE AND THE LUMI
CREEK SHOULD BE MANAGE FOR ALL FORM OF REC
REATION AS LONG AS MOTORIZED ACCESS IS NOT
RESTRICTED

MICHAEL GARTLAND

MSGT USAF RET.

Charlie Huggins
State Capital Room 717
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

ERIC Blomskog
Po Box 3502
Palmer AK 99645

July 20, 2005

Bill Stolze
State Capital Room 501
Juneau Ak 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla Ak 99654

SUBJECT: KNIK RIVER Public Use ARBA

Dear Senator Huggins and Representative Stolze:

As a Alaska super voter I fully support HB 307 and SB197 as they are written. The Knik River drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted. South Central Alaska needs a place such as the Knik River to be a designated destination for motorized off-highway vehicles and Boats

Thank's you for your efforts in preserving our access.

Sincerely

Eric A Blomskog

PO 1 Box 6203
Palmer AK 99645

July 20 05

Charles Huggins
State Capital Room 417
Juneau Ak 99801-1152
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla Ak 99654

Bell Stolty
State Capital Room 501
Juneau Ak 99801-1152
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla Ak 99654

Yukon River Public Use Area

Hear Senator Huggins and Representative Stolty

I fully support HB 307 + SB 197 as they are
written for the Yukon River and the
should be for all people and all forms of
recreation and not be restricted for any
motorized access or boats on the creek or
rivers. South Central needs a place for motorized
off highway vehicles and boats.

Thanks for your efforts in preserving our access

Sincerely,
-

William F Barber

Wendy Tattlow
PO Box 3523
Palmer, AK
99645

July 20, 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Bill Stoltze
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK
Room 501, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Sir,

I am writing to voice my support for HB 307 and SB 197 as they are written.

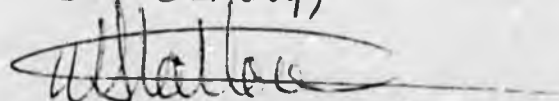
I have recreated in the Knik River Drainage for the last 12 years. The Knik River drainage and Tim Creek must be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is guaranteed.

The Knik River is the only easily accessed area in South Central Alaska. It must be designated as a destination for motorized off-highway vehicles and boats.

I live in this area and use the area in all ways; I hike, bike, air boat, 4-wheel, and snow machine. ~~in this area.~~ My husband grew up in the area and has trapped, fished, and hunted the area since the 1970's. It is imperative that our traditional uses are protected.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Charlie Huggins
State Capitol RM 417
Tuneau WA 99801 1182
600 E Railroad ave
Walla WA 99654

Bill Stoltz
State Capitol RM 501
Tuneau WA 99801-1182
600 E Railroad ave
Walla WA 99654

SUB Knick river public use area

Dear senator Huggins and rep Bill Stoltz

I fully support HB 307 and SP 197 as they
are written

The knick river drainage and gun Creek
should be managed for all forms of recreation as
long as motorized access is not restricted
but motorized access needs a place because
the knick river to be a designated reservoir
for motorized off highway vehicles and boats.

keep our access free

Thank you

B. R. Mayson

Wayne C. Littleton
P.O. Box 43-11
Wallace, NK 99615

7-18-05

Charlie Kerpins
State Capitol, Room 517
Juneau, NK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, NK 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, NK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, NK 99654

As a resident and property owner in the Kwik River Valley, I am concerned with the efforts of non residents and intermittent users of the water, should to impose their will. HB 307 and SB 197 are written to clarify reasonable and sustained use of the Kwik River Valley consistent with population needs, environmental preservation, and local property owners best interests.

As a thirty year resident the drainage and anecdotally drainages in the immediate area should be managed without restriction for most forms of recreation including motorized off-highway vehicles.

The only concern I have concerns the increased noise pollution in recent years. This comes exclusively from air boats. Some form of restriction should be imposed to abate some of this noise pollution.

Sincerely

Wayne C. Littleton

Knik River Public Use Area

July 20 05

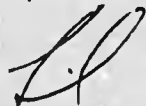
William R Leider
PO BOX 11645
Palmer AK 99645

- Whoever it may concern I frequent the Knik River area many times a year I hunt and four wheel out at the Knik I also camp with family & friends at the Knik area. I have never seen more friendly people than at the Knik I cant believe people want to restrict motorized use. I cant believe I have ever seen people out there hiking. I believe this plan of restricting motorized access is just another ploy of keeping out or kicking out all motorized access in the state. I completely support HB 307 and SB 197 as they are written.

Everyone should be allowed use of the Knik river area. It has been that way since I can remember. Jim creek and the Knik river area should be managed so that 99% of the users (motorized) can still access it they (motorized) are the only people we see out there why should people that never use the land restrict it for others. We dont regulate land in North Dakota from Alaska. Keep motorized use open.

South central Alaska needs a place such as the Knik River to be a designated destination for motorized off-highway vehicles and boats.

William Leider

With 

Satisfied Knik river user

DAVE CRUZ
HC04 Box 9323
PALMER, ALASKA 99645

7-20-05

CHARLIE HUGGINS
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 417
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA, AK 99654

BILL STOLTZE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 501
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 EAST RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA, AK 99654

GENTLEMEN AS A LONG TIME USER OF KNIK RIVER
PUBLIC USE AREA, BOTH MOTORIZED AND HORSEBACK
47 YEARS, I FULLY SUPPORT HB307 AND SB197 AS THEY
ARE WRITTEN.

THE KNIK RIVER DRAINAGE AND JIM CREEK SHOULD
BE MANAGED FOR ALL FORMS OF RECREATION AS LONG
AS MOTORIZED ACCESS IS NOT RESTRICTED.

THIS AREA IN SOUTH CENTRAL ALASKA IS
HIGHLY USED AND NEED TO REMAIN A DESIGNATED
DESTINATION FOR MOTORIZED OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES
AND BOATS.

DAVE CRUZ
Dave Cruz

1471 Aspen Pl.
Wasilla AK
99654

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654

7/20/05

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654

Subject: Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins and Representative Stoltze

I support HB307 and SB197 as they are written. The Jim Creek and Knik River drainage should be managed for all forms of recreation as long there are no restrictions. I have used Knik river and Jim Creek for 21 years (ATV - Duck hunting fish, Boats)

Help preserve our access

Sincerely
Timothy R Evenson
Tim R E

CHARLIE HUGGIN
STATE CAPITOL ROOM 417
JUNEAU AK 99801-1152
600 E. RAILROAD AVE.
WASILLA AK 99645

STANLEY CARTER
HCC 2 BOX 7331
PLUMMER AK 99645

BILL STOLTZE
STATE CAPITOL ROOM 501
JUNEAU AK 99801-1152
600 EAST RAILROAD AVE.
WASILLA AK 99654

I FULLY SUPPORT HB 307 AND SB 197 AS THEY
ARE WRITTEN

THE KNIK RIVER DRAINAGE AND FIN CREEK
SHOULD BE MANAGED FOR ALL FORMS OF
RECREATION AS LONG AS MOTORIZED ACCESS IS
NOT RESTRICTED.

SOUTH CENTRAL ALASKA NEEDS A PLAN SUCH
AS THE KNIK RIVER TO BE A DESIGNATED
DESTINATION FOR MOTORIZED OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES
AND ROUTES

STANLEY CARTER
HCC 2 BOX 7331
PLUMMER AK 99645

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol Room 417
Lansdowne Bldg 99801-1182
6005 Railroad Ave
Wassilla, AK 99654

7/20/08

David Hodgson
HCOS Bx 7123

(Subject North visible areas) Palmer AK 99645

Dear Senator Huggins & Representative Stutz:

I fully support HB 107 and SB 197 as they are a strong
and fair way to manage and provide for the
be managed and not some of the other
motivated areas as not intended to be
A state wide plan such as the North area to be
a designated for highway, which is best.

Thank you for your efforts.

David E. Hodgson

Dale Schendel
1031 E. Muldoon Way
Wauville, AK 99654

Charlie Higgins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wauville, AK 99654

Bill Stultz
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wauville, AK 99654

Dear Sirs

July 20, 2005

I support HB 307 and SB 197 as currently drafted. I believe the Knik River drainage and Juneau Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation which must include motorized access that is not restricted.

The Kachemak + Mat-Su area needs an area designated as a destination for off road motorized recreation. The Knik River area is perfectly situated for this form of recreation.

Dale W. Schendel
Dale Schendel

Dale Fidler
P.O. Box 432
Palmer, AK. 99645

To Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau, AK. 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK. 99654

Dear Senator Huggins & Rep. Stoltze

I full support HB307 & SB197 as they are written.
The Knik River & Jim Creek drainage should be open for all
forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted.
Knik River drainage is needed in south central for
designated motorized off-highway vehicles and boats.

Dale Fidler
Dale Fidler

David Ossison
5507 Raymond Dr.
Anch AK 99507

Charlie Huggins
State Capital, room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1184
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltz
State Capital room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654

I am supporting HB 307 and SB 197, as long
as grounds are protected and motorized
vehicles are allowed access.

David Ossison



Joe Melin
Hco2 Box B23 D
Palmer Alaska
99645

Charlie Huggin
State Capitol Room 117
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

Bill Stolze
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla AK 99654

Sub: Knit River Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggin & Rep Stolze

I Fully Support HB307 & SB57 as they are
written. The Knit River drainage & Jim Creek
should be managed for all forms of recreation
as long as motorized access is not restricted.

South Central Alaska needs a place such
as the Knit River to be a designated destination
for motorized off-highway, vehicle & boats.

Thanks J
Joe Melin

435 Falcon Court
Palmer AK 99645

7/20/05

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Sirs:

I fully support HB307 and SB197
as they are written. The Knik River-
drainage & Jim Creek should be
managed for all forms of recreation as
long as motorized access is not restricted.
South Central Alaska needs a place such
as the Knik River to be a designated
destination for motorized off-highway
vehicles & boats

thank you

Robert J. Janski

Robert J. Janski

PO Box 263
Palmer, AK 99645
July 20, 2005

Charles Higgins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wadsworth, AK 99687

1311 Steitz
State Capitol, Room 521
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wadsworth, AK 99654

SUBJECT: Kirk River public use area

Dear Sirs:

As a 60 year Resident of Alaska
and a frequent user of Kirk River
down-river area

I support HB 307 and SB 197 as
written

Sincerely

Murray La Cour
MFL

07/28/05

RAY HODGES
HC 30 BOX 120219
WASILLA AK 99654

TO

CHARLIE HUGGINS
STATE CAPITAL BLDG 417
TUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E RAILROAD AVB
WASILLA AK 99645

BILL STOLTZ
STATE CAPITAL BLDG 417
TUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
LUCIE, RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA, AK 99645

SUBJECT: KNIK RIVER PUBLIC USE AREA.

I fully support HB 387 and SB 97 as they are written. THE KNIK RIVER Drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation without restriction and specifically with no restriction to motorized access and use.

The location of Jim Creek and Knik river within the Central Populated area of South Central Alaska makes it ideal for an all purpose recreation area.

Ray Hodges.
Paul Nelson.

Wesley Spence
PO Box 5941
Palmer AK 99645
1000 Northalben

July 20th 2005

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E Rail Road Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau AK 99801-1182
600 E. Rail Road Ave
Wasilla, AK 99645

I SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 307 AND SENATE BILL
197 AS THEY ARE WRITTEN.

I BELIEVE THAT THE KNIK RIVER/JIM CREEK
AREA SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN FOR OFF ROAD
VEHICLE USE.

THE KNIK RIVER VALLEY IS A TRADITIONAL
OFF ROAD VEHICLE AREA THAT HAS BEEN
USED FOR MANY YEARS WITH NO
SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE TO WILD LIFE OR
HABITAT. THE 2 GAME REPORTS (ALASKA)
CONFIRM THAT NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE
HAS BEEN DONE BY ORV'S.

SINCERELY, Wesley

July 20, 2005

David K. Sutton
HC 5 Box 9830
Palmer, AK 99645

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

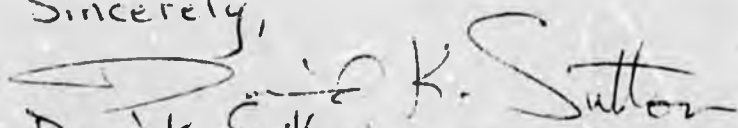
Dear Sirs:

I am a life long Alaskan and a Valley Resident. I have been an active user and enjoyer of the Knik River Drainage since 1967. This Area, the "KNIK RIVER Public Use Area" needs to remain an area for all recreation users.

I fully support HB 307 and SB 197 as they are written.

South Central Alaska needs a place such as the Knik River Area designated for motorized off-road vehicles and boats. Jim Creek and the Knik River drainage should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted.

Sincerely,


David K. Sutton

Craig L. Saunders
PO Box 982
Palmer, AK 99645

July 20, 2005

Charlie Higgins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

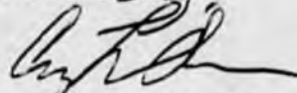
Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654

I would appreciate it if you could do all in your power to support passing HB 307 and SB 197 as they are written. I am a long term user of the Kent River area and Jim Creek area and believe these areas should be managed for all forms of recreation. Motorized access should be protected by these bills and not restricted.

Residents of South Central Alaska needs access to a place such as the Kent River area that is designated for motorized off-highway vehicles - including boats.

Thank you for your support of our motorized access rights to this area.

Sincerely,



Craig L. Saunders

CHARIE HUBBINS
STATE CAPITOL ROOM 417
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E RAILROAD AVE
KASILLA, AK 99654

186 TATLOW
PALMER, AK 99645

20 JULY 2005

BILL STOLTZE
STATE CAPITOL ROOM 501
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E RAILROAD AVE
KASILLA, AK 99654

SUBJECT: KNIK RIVER PUBLIC USE AREA

DEAR SENATOR HUBBINS AND REPRESENTATIVE STOLTZE

I FULLY SUPPORT HB307 AND SB197 AS THEY ARE WRITTEN. THE KNIK RIVER DRAINAGE AND JIM CREEK SHOULD BE MANAGED FOR ALL FORMS OF RECREATION AS LONG AS MOTORIZED ACCESS IS NOT RESTRICTED.

SOUTH CENTRAL NEEDS A PLACE SUCH AS THE KNIK RIVER TO BE A DESIGNATED DESTINATION FOR MOTORIZED OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES AND BOATS AND AIRCRAFT, ETC.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS IN PRESERVING OUR ACCESS

SINCERELY



CARL S. BAKER
P.O. Box 3131
PALMER, AK 99645
907-745-5650

July 20, 2005

Bob HARRIS
PO Box 573555
Wasilla, AK 99657

TO: Charlie Huggins
State Capitol, Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK, 99654

Bill Stolze
State Capitol, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Gentlemen,

I first hunted wolfs from an aircraft near the Knik glacier in the 1950's. There are still wolves in the area. During that time frame members of my family walked to Tex Cobb's cabin ~~to~~ ^{to} visit many times. Most people now never heard of Tex Cobb or Russell Anwebel - how sad! I still occasionally go up the Knik River, but can no longer walk there. I use Aircraft, snowmobile and ATV's. I will continue to use that area by motorized access regardless of any "flower children" rules to the contrary.

I support HB 307 and SB 199 as they are written.

The unlawful activities and destructive actions that have occurred in the Knik river area are a matter for better law enforcement; not new restrictive laws that would prohibit me from continual motorized access to the area.

Thank you.

Bob Harris

Knik River Public Use Area

- Patrick O'Connor -

I feel that the money that been sent on the
vacation would ~~be~~ have educating the public
on taking care of the lands instead of wanting
to kick ~~the~~ most people out

Patrick O'Connor

RANDY LEIDER
119036 WELLS BEACH
FOND DU LAC, WI 54935
JULY 20, 2005

CHARLIE HUGGINS
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 417
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE.
WASILLA, AK 99654

BILL STOLTZE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 501
-JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE.
WASILLA, AK 99654

SUBJECT: KNIK RIVER PUBLIC USE AREA

DEAR SENATOR HUGGINS & REPRESENTATIVE STOLTZE

I FULLY SUPPORT HB307 AND SB197 AS WRITTEN. THE KNIK RIVER DRAINAGE AND JIM CREEK SHOULD BE MANAGED FOR ALL FORMS OF RECREATION, AS LONG AS MOTORIZED ACCESS IS NOT RESTRICTED.

ALTHOUGH I'M FROM WISCONSIN, I FREQUENT THE AREA WITH MY SON & DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, WHO LIVE IN ALASKA. WE LOVE TO ATV & SNOWMOBILE IN ALASKA, AS WELL AS HUNT & FISH. WE ARE RESPONSIBLE IN OUR ACTIONS AND HATE TO SEE RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON OUR RECREATION.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION IN THIS MATTER.

Randy Leider

Joel Wood
Joan H. Wood
P.O. Box 82
Wasilla, AK 99645
July 20, 2005

Charlie Higgins
State Capitol, Room 414
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

B. H. STOLTZ
State Capitol, Rm. 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99645

re: Hunt Area Public Use Area

Dear Charlie & B. H.

I support HB307 and SB197 as they are written. My family and friends are here and frequently all are concerned about access to this area by the people who use it the most. The motorized vehicle users, hunters, trappers, fishermen, and sightseers.

Joel Wood
Joan H. Wood

2200 LAUREL DRIVE
P.O. BOX 3435
PALMER, AK. 99645
JULY 20, 2005

CHARLIE HUGGINS
STATE CAPITOL RM. 417
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE.
WASILLA, AK. 99654

BILL STOLTZE
STATE CAPITOL, RM. 501
JUNEAU, AK. 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE,
WASILLA, AK. 99654

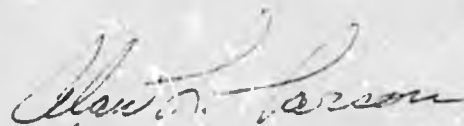
SUBJECTS:

KNIK RIVER PUBLIC USE AREA

I have personally used the KNIK RIVER drainage area 42 years now and for hunting, fishing and recreational purposes. I have accessed the area both on foot & motorized vehicle. I completely support HB 307 and SB 197 the way they are written.

Thank you for your efforts in preserving access.

Sincerely,


ALAN L. LARSON

Jennis W. Hamann
1200 Oct St.
Wzsville, AK. 99654

Charlie Huggins
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wzsville AK. 99654

Bill Stoltze
600 E. Railroad Ave.
Wzsville, AK. 99654

Dear Sirs,

I fully support HB 307 & SB 197 as they are currently written. The Knik River drainage has long been a mecca for OAV use & should remain so. Thank you for being proactive and introducing these bills.

Sincerely,

Jennis W. Hamann

The Honorable senator
Huggins and Rep Stoltze

George D Selim
2571 N Tait dr
Wasilla, AK 99654

Sir's

I whole heartedly support HB 307
and Sen bill 197

I am a life long Alaskan and
as I am an meterized user I oppose
any restrictions placed on meterized
users.

I am disabled and restricting
meterized use would bar me from
any use

George D Selim
2571 N Tait dr
Wasilla AK 99654



Box 7459
PALMER, AK 99645

Charlie Huggins
State Capitol Room 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99645

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Senator Huggins & Representative Stoltze,
We have lost more than enough of our
Land Rights. Not the least of which
under Federal restrictions is over
100 Million Acres in Alaska
With that in mind I fully support
NB 307 And SB 197 as they are written
The Knik River & Tiam Creek Area should
be Multiple Use with no one restricted

Rita Martinek

GRETCHEN NIELSEN
HCC2 Bx 7323 H
PALMER AK 99645

July 20, 2005

CHARLIE HUGBINS
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 417
JUNEAU AK 99801-1182
600 E. RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA AK 99654

BILL STOLTZE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 501
JUNEAU AK 99801-1182
600 E RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA AK 99654

THIS LETTER IS IN REGARDS TO HB307 AND SB197.
I FULLY SUPPORT BOTH OF THESE BILLS. THE
KNIK RIVER DRAINAGE AND JIM CREEK SHOULD
BE MANAGED FOR ALL ~~OFF~~ RECREATIONAL USES
AS LONG AS MOTORIZED ACCESS IS NOT RESTRICTED.
SOUTH CENTRAL ALASKA NEEDS A PLACE SUCH AS
THE KNIK RIVER TO BE A DESIGNATED DESTINATION
FOR MOTORIZED OFF ROAD, OFF HIGHWAY, VEHICLES
AND BOATS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT
IN PRESERVING OUR ACCESS.

SINCERELY,

GRETCHEN NIELSEN



HCO1 Box 6111
PALMER, AK. 99645

July 20, 2005

CHARLIE HIGGINS
STATE CAPITAL, Room 417
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK 99654

BILL STOLTZE
STATE CAPITAL, Room 501
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave.
Wasilla, AK. 99645


Subject: Kenik River Public Use Area

Dear REPRESENTATIVE STOLTZE and SENATOR HIGGINS:

I fully support HB 307 and SB 197 as they are written. The Kenik River drainage and Jim Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation as long as motorized access is not restricted. South Central Alaska needs a place such as Kenik River to be a designated destination for motorized off-highway vehicles & boats.

Thank you for your efforts in preserving our access.

Sincerely

GENE A REED


7-20-05

GARRET L BROWN
8775 E CENTRAL PKWY
PRIMER AK 99645

DEAR SIR OR MADAM,

I FULLY SUPPORT HB 307 AND SB 197 AS WRITTEN.
THE KNIK AND JIM CREEK AREAS SHOULD ALLOW ALL FORMS
OF RECREATION INCLUDING MOTORIZED USE. SOUTH CENTRAL
NEEDS THIS AREA. PLEASE DON'T RESTRICT THIS AREA!
THANK-YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

Garret L Brown

MAIL TO:

CHARLIE HUGGINS + BILL STOLTZE
STATE CAPITAL
JUNEAU AK
93801-1182

JOHN H. ELDREDGE
350 N. GULKANA
PALMER, AK 99755

ATTN: CHARLIE HUGGINS
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 417
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
1000 E. RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA, AK 99754

AND BILL STUZE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 501
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182
1000 E. RAILROAD AVE
WASILLA, AK 99754

RE EAST ALASKA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

DEAR SIR:

I HAVE REVIEWED THE DRAFT EAST ALASKA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT. THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER IS TO PROVIDE MY COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT PLAN.

I BELIEVE ALTERNATIVE 'A' TO BE THE BEST SOLUTION. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE ALTERNATIVE 'A' SHOULD BE REVISED SO THAT IT MATCHES THE STATE OF ALASKA'S "GENERALLY ALLOWED USES ON STATE LAND" PLAN.

I UNDERSTAND THAT 5,500 ACRES IN THE HANNING AREA IS TO BE CONVEYED TO THE STATE OF ALASKA. I BELIEVE THE LANDS SHOULD BE CONVEYED PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF THIS PLAN. THE PLANNING PROCESS FOR LANDS WHICH WILL CHANGE OWNERSHIP IN THE NEAR FUTURE IS NOT A PRODUCTIVE USE OF RESOURCES AND TIME.

I'M ALSO OPPOSED TO ANY RESTRICTIONS TO MOTORIZED USE IN THE PLANNING AREA GREATER THAN THE STATE'S "GENERALLY ALLOWED USES" AND THE EXISTING COPPER RIVER BASIN PLAN.

SINCERELY,



Bruce Knowles
6490 S. TATHMICHAN CIR
WASILLA, AK 99654

Charlie Buggins
State Capital, Room 417
TONGUE RIVER, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
WASILLA, AK 99654

Bill Stalge
State Capital, Room 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E Railroad Ave
WASILLA, AK 99654

Dear Valley Legislators;

I have used the Krib River area since the early 1980's with my children now we are doing it with our grandchildren. Motorized access is essential for me since I am a 100% disabled Veteran.

I support your legislation HB 307 & SB 197 as written. The Krib River & Jim Creek should be managed for all recreational uses as long as motorized is not restricted. South Central must have an area close to population centers for residents to go and enjoy the area.

Bruce Knowles
Bruce Knowles

GLENN D Roberts
HCO, Box 6510
HYER Re Palmer AK
99645. 7-20-05

To Charles Huggins	Bell Skelton
State Capital Room 417	State Capital Room 501
Juneau AK 99801-1152	Juneau Alaska 99801-1152
600 E Railroad Ave	600 E Railroad Ave
Wrangell Alaska 99654	Wrangell Alaska 99654

I fully support House Bill 307, State Bill 197
as they are written, "plain as not clear"

the Knik River Drainage if Jim Creek shall be
managed for all forms of recreation in long
as motorized access is not restricted to
any one or group.

South Central Alaska needs a place such as
Knik River to be a designated destination
for all motorized off road vehicles
of water craft.

GLENN D Roberts
Glenn D Roberts.

PARMER, July 20/65

Har Kristin

POB 1864

PARMER, AK 99645

To

CHARLIE HIGGINS

GATE CAPTION ROOM #17

TUNEAU, AK 99801-1182

602 E. RAILROAD AVE

WIRSIKKA, AK 99654

To

GAIL FORTZEE

GATE CAPTION ROOM 501

TUNEAU, AK 99801-1182

602 E. RAILROAD AVE

WIRSIKKA, AK 99654

of July of 1965 - HB 307 and VB 197

AS THEY ARE WRITTEN.

THE KNIK RIVER DRAINAGE AND THE CREEK AREA
SHOULD BE MANAGED FOR ALL RECREATION PURPOSES
INCLUDING MOTORIZED ACCESS.

WE DO NEED A PLACE IN THE SOUTH CENTRAL AREA

LIKE THE KNIK RIVER AREA FOR OTF ROAD VEHICLES,
AND BOATS.

Har Kristin
~~Har Kristin~~

Case Workers
HCO5 Box 9921
Palmer, AK 99645

July 20, 2005

Charles Huggins
State Capitol, Rm 417
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99654

Bill Stoltze
State Capitol, Rm 501
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
600 E. Railroad Ave
Wasilla, AK 99645

Re: Knik River Public Use Area

I am a resident of the Mat-Su Borough and I fully support HB307 & SB197 as they are written. I firmly believe that the Knik River drainage & John Creek should be managed for all forms of recreation so long as motorized access is not restricted.

South Central Alaska needs a place such as the Knik River Area that can be utilized as a designated destination for motorized off-highway vehicles and boats.

~~Rose A. Waters~~

Rose A. Waters

Emily Stancliff

From: Dot [dot.h@att.net]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2006 12:54 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: House Bill No. 307 comments

Representative Ramras:

Regarding House Bill No. 307, "An Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area".

While substantial improvements have been made to the bill, I feel further changes would make it a better bill to ensure public recreation and safety for all Alaskans while protecting the natural environment, including fish and wildlife.

A: Include nonmotorized use: Page 1 Line 14: "Provide for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses including off-road vehicle and nonmotorized recreation determined to be compatible with (1) and (2) of this section."

B: Expand the public process page 2 line 7: Include workshops and public hearings, or establishment of a citizen's advisory board. This is the best means to ensure that resident safety and quality of life concerns are addressed. Based on concerns I have heard from locals in the area, the safety issues are really important.

C: Fix the wording on incompatible use: Page 3 line 6: "allow the Knik River Public Use Area to be used for activities, as compatible with purposes, to include all-terrain vehicles. . ."

D. Provide for wise use of ORVs: Delete item (2) page lines 11-16 in Incompatible Uses. This section circumvents the required public planning process. ORV use is ensured in Section 41.23.180 (Purposes page 1 line 14). In particular, some existing trails or routes may need to be re-aligned or perhaps seasonably limited to result in sustainable trails where current routes may be contributing to erosion and having negative impacts on wetlands, fish, and wildlife. This is not an attempt to limit access, but rather to ensure that all can access the area in a reasonable way, for decades to come. This is where management and enforcement in the area is extremely important.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Dot (Dorothy) Helm
233 W. Beaver Ave.
Palmer, AK 99645

dot.h@att.net

March 27, 2006

TO: Representative Jay Ramras

FROM: Stan Olsen
6620 e. 11th Ave.
Anchorage, AK 99504

RE: Stolze/Huggins HB 307/SB197

I am writing to oppose the above act on the Knik River Public Use Area. Unfortunately this area is no longer the "pristine" area as it was long ago unofficially turned over for use by motorized, free wheeling and fun loving folks who have relegated it into a area devoid of any possibility of use by families who enjoy the quiet, peaceful nature of the Alaska outdoor environment.

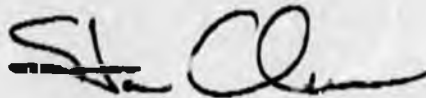
Currently this area is continually trashed (literally), fires are set without any regard to minimizing the effect on the environment. Streams, wetlands and dry lands are torn up by machines driven by people without any demonstrated respect / regard for the environmental degradation they cause. Not to mention the noise pollution which reaches areas distant from the actual physical use boundaries.

This area in general also suffers from the noise pollution of the nearby racetrack every weekend in the summer. There needs to be a place where individuals and families can go in peace and security without having to be subjected to the noise and generally "lawless" attitude of a few. Unfortunately is not a few when they are congregated in this small area. Law enforcement is not enforced.

For the benefit of a majority of the citizens I strongly request that this bill be killed and legislation be implemented to turn this area into the Knik River Valley State Recreation Area (under AS 41.21), for the benefit of all Alaskan's.

I'm sorry for the short notice but I was just made aware of this hearing and wanted to express my feelings. I trust that you will help uphold the use of Alaska lands for the majority of the users and not allow a small group to destroy a potentially wonderful state resource.

Thank you.





Yellow = ORV trails

Red = road, Red E. of Mud Lk. (r. square) = Maude Rd. extension

White = Middle of Sec, 22 and extent of old logging trails

Turquoise = What is left of Rippy Trail

Blue = Friday Cr. Trails – so far, singletrack

(note- the turquoise line beyond Chain Lks. Is not a mistake - ATV's have been hauled in by air boat)

This is a rough line drawn graphic representation from my knowledge of these trails and is not a GPS map! Use at your own risk.

The Rippy portion of ad-hoc CRV traffic was single track only from White box to approximately the Friday Creek airstrip prior to the Maude Rd. Extension project.

This, along with other documentation, gives you overview about what is happening to the Jim/Swan Wetlands with no Management or adequate Law Enforcement.

Other documentation and photos available by request.

Emily Stancliff

From: Robert Howard [rvhoward@mac.com]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2006 9:45 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Harry Crawford
Subject: HB 307 Hearing Materials

Attachments: Trail Graphic.doc; ATT120247.txt; aerial veg survey 10-10-05 003_1.jpg; ATT120248.txt; pastedGraphic1.tiff; ATT120249.txt; IMG1443_1.jpg; ATT120250.txt



Trail Graphic.doc
(695 KB)



ATT120247.txt (72
B)



aerial veg survey
10-10-05 003...



ATT120248.txt
(102 B)



pastedGraphic1.tiff
(405 KE)



ATT120249.txt
(104 B)



IMG1443_1.jpg
(332 KB)



ATT120250.txt (98
B)

Good Day,

For the testimony on HB307 today, it would be helpful to me if the following graphics are available for reference and I am hoping you may accommodate me by making them available to the committee. (I believe they have may have already found the way to Ralph Samuels office via another route.)

Thank You!
R. Howard
Palmer

- >
- > Could you print out the following (open up the '.doc' - it is the most
- > important) and get copies to Resource co-chairs Ramas and Samuels?
- > (I feared faxing would not produce the needed color)
- >
- >

Emily Stancliff

From: Dara Lively [daralive@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2006 12:15 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: HB 307

Dear Representative Ramras,

I am writing to encourage you to reject HB307 and the redrafted version of HB307a. I was born and raised in Palmer, specifically in the Butte area, approximately one mile from the Knik River. While growing up, I enjoyed riding horses, fishing, camping, exploring, playing, running and taking in the overall beauty of the Knik River area. As I got older and moved to Anchorage, I continued to do these things on the weekends, but noticed a rapid decline in the area, which deterred me from doing the things I loved so much growing up. It is disheartening to see the environmental damage, trashed cars and appliances, extensive shooting and unsafe firearm use. The area has become a lawless no-man's land where people believe they can do anything with little regard for the environment or other people. The degeneration of the area has resulted from the lack of enforcement of any laws in the area.

I just gave birth to my first child less than three weeks ago. I have dim hopes that she will be able to enjoy the Knik River area as I did in my youth due to the safety risks if HB307 does pass. It would be wonderful to allow her and other children the opportunity to not only enjoy the beauty and resources but to also teach them how to play responsibly by leaving no trace so everyone can enjoy it for years on end. Please understand that the children are our future, and that the environment that we raise them in and teach them about will effect them, future generations and what happens to this earth long after we are gone.

I appreciate your consideration in not passing HB307 or the redrafted version of HB307a. A better option would be to support a State recreation site for the Knik River area.

Sincerely,

Dara Lively
11100 Magnolia St
Anchorage, AK 99516
(907) 345-9294

New Yahoo! Messenger with Voice. Call regular phones from your PC and save big.

Emily Stancliff

From: Kathy Cross [kacross@pobox.mtaonline.net]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2006 12:12 PM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Mary Kapsner; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Jim Elkins;
Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Harry Crawford
Subject: HB 307

I am writing to express my concerns about HB 307 relating to access to the Knik River area and environs.

When local area residents, those most immediately and directly affected, requested legislation to curb violence and damage to the area, this bill was not what they sought. Of particular concern are:
• Lack of provision for enforcement to protect the safety of residents and others who wish to enjoy this area (e.g. bullets from recreational shooters entering houses in the area, residents and others bullied and threatened);
• Increasing damage to the terrain (vegetation, wetlands, riverbeds in traditional salmon spawning grounds) torn up by thoughtless riders.

Alternate legislation has been suggested by residents of this area that would better provide for their safety and the safety of their families while allowing responsible recreational access to this area by all. I respectfully request that you carefully consider alternatives and not approve the current bill.

Thank you,
Kathy Cross

Emily Stancliff

From: jay cross [jaykat@mtaonline.net]

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2006 11:52 AM

To: Rep. Jim Elkins; 'R. J Carl'; Rep. Mary Kapsner; Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Kurt Olson;
Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Harry Crawford

Subject: *****SPAM***** HB307

I am writing to express my opposition to this bill as it is written. It does nothing to address the area's problems. Without some form of enforcement with funding it will be business as usual for the people that misuse this area. Listen to the people that are affected by the violence, and look at the damage done to the area. I've used the Knik area for years but I won't go there now. The Knik area is no longer a remote area; it could be a beautiful area for people to go to enjoy. Right now it is the wild west out there. Jay Cross

WORTHINGTON FORD

Commercial Sales

431 UNGA, Anchorage, Ak 99501

2ND FLOOR

(5th Avenue, Across from Merrill Field)

(907) 793-8233 Fax# (907) 793-8255

LEE SMITH

Commercial Sales Manager

Exceeding



To: All Representatives
Company: House Resources
Phone:
Fax:

Date: 3 27 06

Pages Including this Page:
2

R.E. HB307 - Knik River Public use Area

The use in this area is needed, I think there needs to be rules & local key-asks for the area. Fuel costs will stop some use of the area, or might increase use! Just because of cost. This next season will tell. With fuel expected to be \$300 or more per gal!

Knik Arm of River have long been sources of many outdoor activities. We need not take it away from the public, but we do need to establish some use rules & enforce them. In the long run I think this will be exceeded, but closure is not an option! Mobility to these some remote areas is needed. But reasonable!!! Controls & rules need to be in place also, & I believe the AK. outdoor Council is a good option in helping plan the Knik River

use Plan.

Anti Motorists & user Groups based on
ECO & Animal Awareness Group Plans. That causes nothing
more than just huge amounts of Grief, need
to see a Plan. & Controls.

Don't Shut It Down! That's what
they want. Are we that lazy! or are
we willing to let users continue to have
Family Fun! or it might be too much of
a problem to ~~to~~ to give a little of help support
these people using an area that has been used
for 30 years as a outdoor enthusiast area.

Please work something out that
can be excepted by all.

I know that's a daunting task! But
this state is so big! & there are
way more areas for the ECO & ANIMAL!
Groups than the motor heads & boaters
of this state. We need not close areas
that have been used for years. & closures
will just move the problem to a new area!!!

Lee Smith

Board Member - AK Boating Assn

March 27, 2006

Representative Jay Ramras;

I am writing as an avid mountaineer and outdoor enthusiast. The Knik land under discussion is a beautiful area of mountains, glaciers, rivers, streams and wetlands.

During the late 1990's, friends and I made numerous trips into the Jim Creek area. On every outing to that area, we were concerned about the safety of our vehicles. At times we even wondered about our own safety. I saw vehicles that had been bullet ridden and others that were burned. Numerous stories filtered from that area of vandalism, destruction, assault and mayhem.

Because of this I have been hesitant to visit this area again. I strongly believe and support steps to protect the land, property and people in this area. I do not believe that HB307/SB197 will provide appropriate protective measures. Therefore I ask you to reject this bill.

Wayne L. Todd

Wayne L. Todd
1921 Ivan Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
(907)522-6354
waynel@gci.net

Carolynne Wang
1921 Ivan Drive
Anchorage AK 99507

Representative Jay Ramras
State Capitol, Room 104
Juneau AK 99801-1182

119 North Cushman, Suite 207
Fairbanks AK 99701

Re: HB 307/SB 197 Public Hearing

27 March 2006

Representative Ramras,

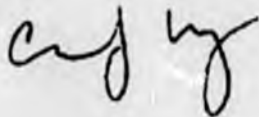
I am unable to attend today's public hearing, but would like to submit the following opinion.

I would like the legislature to reject HB 307/SB 197 and its subsequent re-drafts. The Knik River area deserves better than a continued free-for-all. As a backcountry enthusiast I am unwilling to set foot in the area, for fear of being shot at, or having my parked vehicle vandalized and burned. I am not alone in this sentiment. Two years ago I attempted to ride by horse back from a friends property out to the river and turned around before arriving due to the recklessness of ORV users, which spooked my horse. This area is not open to all users by virtue of its current uses. I do not believe classifying it as a Public Use Area will make the necessary changes.

I am in favor of a State Recreation Area, as regulations and law-enforcement will apply. I do not think a Public Use Area will serve the same purpose. A Public Use Area, will only serve the purposes of those who are currently, inappropriately, using the area. Regulation and planning for sustainable use is paramount to making this area an asset to its community and surrounding areas. Currently the area facilitates an unsafe, reckless attitude that permeates not only the backcountry area, but spills out into the road ways and community.

Please reject HB 307/SB 197 and any re-drafts.

Thank you for your time,



Carolynne Wang

State of Alaska House of Representatives
House Resources Committee

Re: HB 307 An act creating the Knik River Public Use Area

I support the effort to protect this region of Alaska, but feel this legislation falls short of including everyone and everything in the planning process.

The legislation is putting the cart before the horse – so to speak. It does not allow for proper planning. It does not properly address the importance of the area for wildlife. It seems only to care about certain people's right to use it and abuse it.

Don't you see? You are legislating (making the rules) before there is a plan.

There is a simple solution.

1. create the special management area (let the planning process decide what kind)
2. authorize and fund a management plan
3. authorize and fund management of the area once the plan is completed

Don't make the rules before you do any planning. I don't want to insult you guys down there in Juneau, but last I heard there weren't any planners or land managers among you, or your staff.

Don't allow a few people to decide what this area should or shouldn't be.

I think the area should be set aside and managed as a state game refuge. But my little voice won't be heard over the motor heads who want to be free to drive over the wetlands with their ATVs and airboats. Not only damaging the wetlands but the area that supports thousands of birds, fish and mammals. Did you know that the Knik River area has one of the highest concentrations of black bears in the state?

Please let the public have a chance to be involved in the plan. Don't create the rules before you have public input and a plan.



Pat Owens
Chickaloon, Alaska
745-7714

To The House of Representatives,

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that I approve of the house Bill #307 concerning the Knik River Public use Area as it is written.

I have been a resident of the area for 35 plus years and have spent a lot of time on the river bar with family and friends, It is an awesome place for people to go and have fun. I know that there are some problems with laws being broke out there but if we can get Law enforcement out there that would make these issues go away.

I am a Leader over about 100 youth in the palmer area and we go out there quite a few times every year and just have cook outs and go swimming and a lot of different activities and I would sure hate to see this place shut down to these types of activities.

I personally know that there is a group of Individuals that are trying to shut down this area to off road Vehicles because they own Horses and they like to ski and things. I would like to mention that they have already shut down an area that I use to ride my 4-wheeler in so that they could ride there horses and ski on there trails without the presence of these other machines. So I feel that if they have there areas to go and play in, then we should have areas where we can go and ride also. The horse and ski area that I am referring to is the Morgan Horse trail area Off of Huntley road about 3 miles out of Palmer.

It is also a beautiful area that they have already made there own.

Thanks for your time and please support House Bill #307

Michael R Owens

From: Wolf Song of Alaska [wolfson@alaska.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2006 8:26 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: "For HB 307 Hearing - Please distribute to Resources Committee Members."
Importance: High

"For HB 307 Hearing - Please distribute to Resources Committee Members."

Representative Jay Ramras,

We sincerely and emphatically urge you to reject HB 307 and the redrafted version CS HB307A .

As residents of the Eklutna/Thunderbird Falls area, we make frequent recreational and other personal trips to the Knik River Public Use Area. It is a beautiful area, truly representative of the Alaskan experience, but it is an area that constantly requires and demands strong and controlled management, law enforcement and development regulations, and an area that must be preserved in the best interests of all residents, not only those who represent the negative or self-serving aspects of special recreational groups, interests and agendas.

Unfortunately, as a resident of the surrounding area for 30 years, I am appalled by the lawlessness and disrespect for property and common areas demonstrated by many of the special interest users of the Knik River Public Use Area. Simply stated, it can often be "outright scary" to visit the area during certain hours of the day, as well as certain days of the week. These fears, real or imagined, combined with the outright disrespect for nature and the surrounding environment is despicable.

Please reverse the increasing negative reputation of the Knik River Public Use Area, by rejecting HB 307 and the redrafted version CS HB307A, and pursuing only positive and alternative goals and objectives for "all" users.

Please do not make any decisions that will be regretted in the future.

Tom and Maria Talasz
27831 Raven Court
Chugiak AK 99567

(This is a personal response, with no affiliation to Wolf Song of Alaska)

Testimony re CS for House Bill No. 307, Resources Comm.
March 29, 2006

My name is Loren Karro. I live at 8 1/2 mile Knik River Road, within the boundaries of the proposed Public Use Area, and my property lies adjacent to DNR land along the river itself. I am a trapper, hiker, hunter, guide, and a former Alaska Outdoors Council member. I spend up to five days a week along the upper river, accessing it by plane, ATV, snowgo, foot, skies or snowshoes. I appreciate the efforts of the legislature in reviewing the Knik River Public Use Area proposal. I know that something needs to be done to protect the wildlife, habitat and scenic beauty, as well as the peace and safety of the local residents and recreationalists. I no longer feel safe accessing the north side of the river, nor do I enjoy it in light of the trash, noise, illegal activities and severe habitat degradation that I encounter.

I believe that with some changes, the proposed bill can be a start to a better, safer management of the Knik River watershed. The problems that need to be addressed fall into two categories; one of damage to the physical area by over or improper use, with the inherent effects this has on fish, wildlife and flora; and the second problem of safety to users and residents caused by illegal activities such as unsafe firearm use, camp and bonfires during dry and restricted periods, unsafe vehicle operation, and theft and disposal of vehicles. Obviously these problems overlap, with unsafe practices degrading the environment and environmental damage creating unsafe conditions.

This month the South Knik River Community Council voted to oppose this bill as currently written. Obviously, the majority of my neighbors feel as I do that certain changes need to be made so that the resulting Public Use Area is managed for true multiple use while keeping wildlife and residents safe. **First**, I would like to see non-motorized, quiet use specifically included in the purpose of the PUA, such as in 41.23.18 (3). **Second**, the Management section of the bill (41.23.19 (a)) should specifically mandate that workshops be held, that a citizen's advisory board be created, and that DNR be the manager of the area.

Third, section 41.23.30 (d) (1) needs to have the phrase "as deemed compatible with determined purposes and goals" added before the list of included activities.

Fourth, and most important, paragraph (d) (2) of that same section should be eliminated. ATV and off road vehicle use is already guaranteed in two sections of the bill (41.23.18 (3) and section 41.2320 (d) (1). This section ties the hands of every agency and may preclude management of the area to "perpetuate and enhance public enjoyment of fish and wildlife" and "protect and maintain migratory waterfowl nesting area... [and wildlife] habitats....so that traditional public use of fish and wildlife populations may continue" as directed in section 1 of the bill.

Lastly, this bill needs to contain language specifically directing the commissioners of the various agencies having law enforcement powers within the MUA to enforce the existing laws. I hope that some funds would be available to allow increased law enforcement and patrol. I was personally endangered by unsafe target shooting as recently as earlier this week, while checking my trapline.

I appreciate your time and efforts at promoting the best possible bill to deal with these problems. This is a beautiful area, rich in wildlife and flora, which many of us have been quietly enjoying from our windows as well as in more energetic pursuits. While I enjoyed the sight of a dozen extra swans suddenly moving over to "our" side's swamp habitat last summer, I was saddened to realize that they had been driven out of the Jim Creek area during their nesting time.

Loren J Karro
26239 E Buckshot Ln
Palmer, AK 99645
907-745-3712

Representative_Jay_Ramras@legis.state.ak.us, 3/28/06 8:26 PM -0900, "For HB 307 Heari

1

To: Representative_Jay_Ramras@legis.state.ak.us
From: <wolfsong@alaska.com>
Subject: "For HB 307 Hearing - Please distribute to Resources
Committee Members."
Cc:
Bcc:
Attachments:

"For HB 307 Hearing - Please distribute to Resources Committee Members."

Representative Jay Ramras,

We sincerely and emphatically urge you to reject HB 307 and the redrafted version CS HB307A .

As residents of the Eklutna/Thunderbird Falls area, we make frequent recreational and other personal trips to the Knik River Public Use Area. It is a beautiful area, truly representative of the Alaskan experience, but it is an area that constantly requires and demands strong and controlled management, law enforcement and development regulations, and an area that must be preserved in the best interests of all residents, not only those who represent the negative or self-serving aspects of special recreational groups, interests and agendas.

Unfortunately, as a resident of the surrounding area for 30 years, I am appalled by the lawlessness and disrespect for property and common areas demonstrated by many of the special interest users of the Knik River Public Use Area. Simply stated, it can often be "outright scary" to visit the area during certain hours of the day, as well as certain days of the week. These fears, real or imagined, combined with the outright disrespect for nature and the surrounding environment is despicable.

Please reverse the increasing negative reputation of the Knik River Public Use Area, by rejecting HB 307 and the redrafted version CS HB307A, and pursuing only positive and alternative goals and objectives for "all" users.

Please do not make any decisions that will be regretted in the future.

1

Representative_Jay_Ramras@legis.state.ak.us, 3/28/06 8:26 PM -0900, "For HB 307 Heari

2

Tom and Maria Talasz
27831 Raven Court
Chugiak AK 99567

March 28, 2006

TO: House Resources Committee members
FROM: Frankie Barker, Chickaloon, Alaska
RE: **HB 307." An Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area"**

I am in support of efforts to increase the ability of the public to enjoy the Knik River area since the recreational, scenic and wildlife qualities of this area are exceptional. However, I don't believe that HB 307, as written, will improve the public's recreational opportunities or protect the land and water because it will codify the existing uses, some of which have badly damaged the area and have caused serious public safety hazards.

The greatest needs in the Knik River area are for **enforcement** of existing wildlife protection and public safety regulations and a thorough **planning** process to balance recreational uses with the environmental conditions.

HB 307, by creating a Public Use Area, preempts any planning process and establishes uses without any study of the area. It is overly biased towards motorized recreation and does not recognize or suggest enhancements for the special areas that are most suitable for non-motorized activity and wildlife migration, habitat and breeding areas. This bill, as written will restrict future managers from identifying appropriate land uses and protecting areas that are not compatible with the current uses

If HB 307 does go forward from your committee, I hope you will at least amend the language to be more inclusive of all users and to provide better options for future management and enforcement of the area. Why not allow an option for state park management through designation as a State Recreation Area, since state parks has the most experience with multiuse recreational areas?

The Knik River area has the potential to be a world-class recreational destination for all kinds of users, but unless state resources are dedicated soon for planning and enforcement, the opportunity will be lost. The State of Alaska is the dominant landowner in the area and has neglected its duty to protect the resources and provide for safe public enjoyment.

I hope you will act in this legislative session to amend HB307 or create alternative legislation that will correct this situation.

Frankie Barker, P.O. Box 1212, Chickaloon, Alaska 99674, fbarker@ak.net



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, dated 3/28/06
Bill/Subject

Signed: See attached AGNES Quaas
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

Please enter into the record my testimony to the **Resources Committee** on House Bill 307, March 28, 2006.

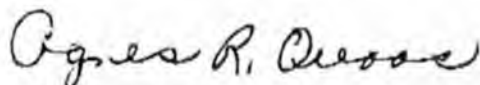
I am opposed to HB 307 the way it is written.

I was not happy that on March 27, 2006 that your committee had no time to listen to the testimony of the local residents, but you had time to listen to the President of the Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance which in my understanding Representative Stoltze is a board member of. The AOAA guy does not even live in the area and all he wants is a place for him and his macho buddies to have a place to play. I am a resident of the surrounding area.

A misrepresentation is being given that this is a complete rural area, which it is not. Much of it is bordered by private residents and this activity spills over into the private property and affects their residence immensely. In order to access this area they are crossing private property. When told that they are on private property they either threaten to shoot the property owner or tell them to move if they don't like it.

This Bill and the revision the way it is written provides only minimal enforcement. Without enough enforcement any words about protecting wildlife and people is nothing but lip service. When we call the troopers about burning cars, irresponsible shooting or other things we are told that they don't have a vehicle to get in there. Nothing is really being done to address the illegal hunting, poaching and people on their ATVs or Trucks riding up and down the creeks and streams and lakes. Nesting and migrating swans have been and are being driven off their nesting area. When the salmon are spawning ATV riders are trying to run them over to see how many they can get. Bodenbug Creek is a salmon protected creek and signs have been put up to show where the designated crossings are and they are destroyed and taken away in less than a week. The bank is so eroded that the water now reaches the Old Glen Highway. The no shooting signs the state put up along the side of the Old Glen and posters presenting safe shooting have been painted over and shot full of holes. If there is no problem as these people claim, why is the National Guard hauling out over a hundred trashed cars every year and why is tons of trash being taken out by clean up groups? Excessive shooting is lead poisoning the land and water. Reckless shooting is endangering residents and visitors. How long before an innocent bystander is shot and killed?

As this is a popular, easy to access location, the increased use has and is seriously overloading the area. The damage being done with the willy-nilly use will take Mother Nature centuries to repair. Mr. Arno stated there is no problem with the salmon runs, but by the time the problem can be seen it will be too late. With what is going on and the habitat being destroyed, there will probably be no hunting or fishing within 20 years. It's not in Rep. Stoltze's backyard as he is from the Municipality of Anchorage where all this has been banned because of the mayhem and destruction that was taking place there. All we are is a playground for the Anchorage area. People from Anchorage often boast that they can go out to the Knik River area and they can do anything and everything they want as there are no rules or regulations or law enforcement. Thank you for reading my testimony



Agnes R. Quaas
(South Knik River Resident)
21550 E. Arnold Cir
Palmer, Alaska 99645
746-6414



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, dated 3/28/06
Bill/Subject

Signed: see attached ARTHUR QUAS
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Resources Committee on House Bill 307, March 28, 2006.

I am opposed to **HB 307** the way it is written

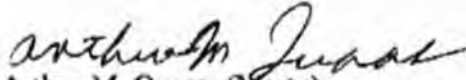
I was greatly disappointed on March 27, 2006 that your committee had no time to listen to the testimony of any of the local residents. I did however have the opportunity to listen to the hearing where you allowed the Alaska Access Alliance President to testify as he was in Juneau.

While there is little private land within the proposed public use area, there is a lot of private land bordering the area, mostly in the Bordenburgh Butte area and along the Knik River Road. At a rough estimate, I would say that 18 miles of residents border this area. Where private land is between roads and public lands, trespassing is rampant. These easy to reach access points is where most of the activities such as camping, ATV riding, partying and shooting take place at all hours of the day or night. Unfortunately these activities do not remain on the public lands, but carry over back onto the private lands. The sounds of shooting can be heard and it carries for several miles not to say anything of the bullets. Tax paying residents are woken out bed often in the wee hours by the sounds of shooting, at times by automatic weapons. Residents who have lived there for 20, 30, 40 years and longer can not get a good nights sleep and when they ask the shooters to please keep it quiet are told "If you don't like it, move". ATV riders do not remain off the public roads, often with little respect for residents or highway vehicles. Trespassers on private land will challenge the property owner to prove they own the land with "show me your deed".

The outdoor people while they say they are willing to compromise, they have not made any compromises or have they made any serious efforts to create any rules to limit their activities. Some simple gestures such as quiet hours, limiting shooting near residential areas, not riding ATV's on roads or private lands would be a start.

The residents simply want this curse to simply go away and their simple solution is to close the area down. Some local residents also feel that this area is in their back yard and that they should have access to it with no compromises, the heck with their neighbors. Residents should also be entitled to the safety, peace and quiet that they enjoyed just a few years in the past, as any resident living anywhere in Alaska is entitled to enjoy.

In it's present form, HB 307 sacrifices the rights of the local residents to favor the out door activities. The rewrite only moved the wording around and in no way changed any meaning. One the first and without a doubt most important items that must be addressed is serious enforcement. Unfortunately, the promoters of this bill are also intimately involved with the Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance and I do not feel that they are really listening to the entire story. Please listen to the residents who are finding themselves crying in the dark while their neighborhood is being over run by jerks


Arthur M. Quaas (Marty)
(South Knik River Resident)
21550 E. Arnold Cir
Palmer, Alaska 99645
746-6414



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 An Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area dated 3/28/2006
Bill/Subject

The Knik River Area is a great recreational Area currently open to all. Creating this as a Public Use area using Bill 307 sponsored by representative Bill Stoltze will keep this area as equal access to all Alaskans and Matanuska Valley Residence while still maintaining its fish and wildlife.

I have seen this area used for years by everyone, hikers, campers, fishermen, hunters, trappers, four wheelers, motorcycles, 4x4 vehicles and auboters. As a fellow female Alaskan I have done almost everyone of these activities. Giving me the opportunity to create stronger bonds with my family. Now that I have kids of my own this area has given us the ability to do more than just sit at home.

In opposition to creating the Knik River Area as a State Park or Controlled Use area it seems like a frivolous and wasteful spending of the Alaska State Parks monies and already limited resources. Our State park have closed and threatened to close Alaskas lands to access due to lack of funds. If Knik River Area is created as a State Park or Controlled Use area, there is no guarantee that this great family destination will ^{not} be targeted for closure.

Signed: Due to lack of State funding. Buffy Meyer (Buffy Meyer)
Testifier

myself and my family
Representing (Optional)

5750 N. Cunningham Rd Palmer AK 99643
Address

907 745-6252
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 Knik River Public Use Area dated 03-27-06
Bill/Subject

I support HB 307 because we have enough parks and restrictions on public land use. I have used this area for many years in different aspects of Recreation and have caused or harmed nothing. There are some that ruin it for all, but because there are a few irresponsible people we the rest should not have to pay or suffer for this. Examples there is garbage and burned vehicles along the highway from Palmer to Seward Lake this means we should shut down the highway. People say airplanes birds subota ect. scare away animals and birds, there are many many noisy planes that leave the anchorage airport area; 1-7 jet gear and swans and other birds and animals do not flee from this nesting area, I agree there is a problem because of a few people with this area but making it a state park is very bad. The state is already closing state parks because of lack of funds which leaves this public land non usable for public use. I do believe that law enforcement of some sort should be used for people that abuse this pristine public use area

Signed: Jim Pettie James S Pettie
Testifier

Mesself and my Family
Representing (Optional)

5750 C. W. WAINWRIGHT RD. PALMER AK 99645
Address

907-745-4170
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 Knik River Public Use dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject Area

HB 307 is a good thing because it keeps public lands open to public use. The public enjoys the land and the wildlife.

Signed: GENE YATES 
Testifier

Myself and my family
Representing (Optional)

General Delivery Willow Ak 99688
Address

907 355 4467
Phone number

From: Ron Johnson [johnsonr@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2006 9:44 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Support HB 307

Rep. Ramaras

I strongly support the passage of HB307 assuring the continued use of ORVs in the Kink River drainage. This is a traditional use ORV area which my family and I have enjoyed for many years and hope to continue to use for years to come.

Ron Johnson
Butte
P.O. Box 249
Palmer, AK 99645

907-746-5217



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource Comm.
Committee name

Committee on 307, dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

I came here in 1935 w/ the colonists and since that time this Knik area has been used for recreation that is mentioned in this 307 bill. I am in favor of this bill. We are rapidly being restricted and I don't believe that making more restrictive is not for the best interest of our community. Yes there has been abuse but please don't restrict the majority because of the abuse of a few.

Thank you
Kent L. Sandvik

Signed: Kent L. Sandvik
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

6006 S. Backenberg, Palmer, AK
Address

907-745-3054
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Brian Winnestaffer Mat-Su
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

The Knit watershed is a beautiful place that can ~~be~~ allow for multi-uses by people. We must make sure we are representing all user groups. Some user groups cannot co-exist with other user groups in and on some trails. These sensitive areas must be addressed. A "Plan" must be made on how we all can use and enjoy our recreational areas. Motorized and non-motorized uses must be considered fairly!

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
Box 1105 Chickaleen AK
Address
745-7452
Phone number

→ I do not support HB 307 until it is written to represent all user groups. However, this bill is a good start.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Jessica Dryden, Mat-Su Borough
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

- 1) I support more Comprehensive Planning with all affected user groups, citizens, agencies, & concerned individuals including facilitated work sessions more than public hearings.
- 2) I support enhancing/improving ORV trails AND non-motorized trails.
- 3) I support Immediate Enforcement of rules/regulations.
- 4) I support Strong Inclusion of area residents and their 'quality of life' concerns into the Planning Process.
- 5) I support the restrictions on weapons in this area.

Signed: Jessica Dryden
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 1105, Chickaloon, AK 99674
Address

745-0737
Phone number

March 27, 2006

Senator Huggins and Representative Stoltz

I am opposed to HB307/SB197. I live in the Knik River area and the bill does not do anything to address the issues we deal with on a daily basis. During the summer months, I hear gunshots at all hours of the night. Some nights I do not fall asleep until 2 AM, and they are still shooting. They shoot across the river toward the residential side, on the south of the river.

There are no restroom facilities and this presents a huge problem. Trash and debris are left everywhere, cans and broken bottles used for target practice, McDonalds sacks and other food containers, not to mention the burned cars. Many of the users of this beautiful area show no respect for the area or the residents. ATVer's make trails anywhere and everywhere, through Salmon streams and vegetation areas that should be protected. The bill does not give us adequate enforcement in this area.

I want the area designated a State Recreation Area. That is the only way we can have the maintenance and control needed, as well as, restroom facilities, trash containers and the protection of Salmon and wetland areas and other wildlife, such as, migrating swans. It would allow for responsible motorized recreation users, with designated trails and designated places for firearms use, with enforcement of the No Shooting areas. Grandfathering of the current trails will not work.

This is a beautiful state and this is one of the most beautiful areas in the state, please don't trash it any further.

Respectfully,

Virginia Blaine

Virginia Blaine
18590 E Knik River Rd
Palmer, Alaska 99645

*Page 2
Blaine*



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____

Committee name

Committer on 307 / King River dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

I support this bill and do not wish to see this put into a park. I have used this for 35 years for recreation and hunting. I haven't seen any damage to birds for bird watchers. There isn't very much of an airplane for people to ride their machines so I support this bill

Signed: William F. Baska
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

1351 S Pioneer Dr Palmer AK 99645
Address

907 745 3051
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource Committee.
Committee name

Committee on H.B. 307, dated 03/27/06
Bill/Subject

This is to state my strongest support for H.B. 307 as drafted. This is a very good Bill that will bring some very important order to an area most important to many Alaskans. This legislation will permit continued use ~~of~~ now and in the future. It is most important that we do not allow more land to be "locked up". I compliment Rep. Stoltze for his good leadership on this Bill.

Signed: Peter M. Probasco [Signature]
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 861 Palmer Alaska 99645
Address

907-1745-3187
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, dated 27 MAR 06
Bill/Subject

I've used this area since 1952. The differences between then and now is the lack of vegetation, the ground cover is disappearing under the indiscriminate use of motorized vehicles. The insuring dust clouds are getting bigger and more frequent. Ask the people in Anchorage about their air quality. Safety is another concern, who likes to be shot at. This bill only ensures more of the same. Don't call it a public use area if all the public can't use it. Listen to the people that live there and have to put up with the misuse of a public resource

Signed: Jay Linn
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

PO Box 520845 Big Lake AK 99652
Address

872-7579
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____ Committee name

Committee on 0166 807 KUPUKA dated 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

I like the AERT and KINK RIVER FOR RECREATION
AND I DON'T THINK IT NEEDS TO BE A PARK
I HAVE USED THIS AREA SINCE 1976, I HAVE
HELP CLEAN IT UP SEVERAL TIMES
I WOULD LIKE SEE IT STAY AS A PUBLIC USE AREA,
THERE IS A LOT OF PEOPLE USING IT.

Signed: Stanley M. Carter
Testifier

SELF
Representing (Optional)

3600 BUTTE RD.
Address

746-4994
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the AK House Resource Committee
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 / CS HB 307A / Knik River dated 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

Name: Carrie A. Gray Wolfe

I am disappointed in the way this public hearing is proceeding. We need the time to express our opinions. Attached is my 3-minute statement. Please read.

Signed: Carrie A. Gray Wolfe, Carrie A. Gray Wolfe
Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

20390 E Birch Hill Drive, Palmer, AK 99645
Address

(907) 746-8008
Phone number

Page 1
Wolfe

To: Representative Jay Ramras, Co-Chairman
Re: Public Hearing on the Knik River Public Use Area
Date: March 27 2006

Summary: Statement of Opposition to HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A. Due to time restraints at the hearing, I may be unable to voice my concerns. Below is my statement of record regarding the Knik River Public Use Area legislation.

My name is Carrie Gray Wolfe and I am a south Knik River resident.

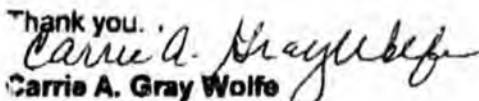
I oppose HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A. I cannot fully address my opposition in 3-minutes; therefore I will concentrate on the biases, inadequate restrictions, and the inability to protect our fish and wildlife as the legislation is currently written.

The legislation is heavily biased towards off-road vehicle use. This bias is at the expense of most other user groups. For example, Page 1, Lines 13-14, states: to "Provide an area for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses including maintenance and enhancement of off-road vehicle opportunities." And Page 3, Lines 11-16, is dedicated solely to the protection and rights of off road users. Where is the language that specifically includes the "recognition" of existing areas of non-motorized users, the "accommodations" of areas for non-motorized use, and the "maintenance and enhancement" of non-motorized trails and waterways? Page 2, Lines 7-11, state that "the commissioner may designate incompatible uses" but Page 3, Lines 5-10, state, "The commissioner shall allow the...area to be used for activities that include all-terrain vehicles, etc..." As written, there are no "incompatible uses." What if one or more of the stated activities is determined harmful to the perpetuation and enhancement of general public recreation, the public enjoyment of fish and wildlife, or the protection and maintenance of wildlife habitat? (Page 1, Lines 4-12)

Page 2, Line 29, and Page 3, Lines 2-4, fails to adequately address target shooting. It states, "The commissioner may not restrict the use of weapons...except in locations...that the use of weapons constitutes a threat to public safety." Where is it not a threat? Weapons are being fired into hillsides and across waterways with homes, residents, and recreational users on the opposite sides. Reckless shooting is destroying wildlife and vegetation. The fish and birds may be at greater risk to lead poisoning from excessive, non-hunting shooting practices. Local residents have to listen to weapons being discharged up to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We have no relief from the noise pollution. Many residents and outdoor enthusiasts avoid using the area in fear for their safety.

I ask you to reject this legislation. There are alternative solutions such as writing a new, non-biased bill or creating a Knik River Valley State Recreation Area. (A State Recreation Area (SRA) under AS 41.21 will accommodate all user groups, support effective law enforcement, provide for a public planning process, and abide by the Susitna Area Plan. Two groups in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley already exist to help assist with the development of a SRA. This includes a state park Citizen's Advisory Board comprised of multi-users and The Friends of State Parks that provides supplemental park funding.

Thank you.


Carrie A. Gray Wolfe

HC02 Box 7686-J
Palmer, Alaska 99645
Telephone: (907) 746-8606
Email: graywolfe@gci.net

Page 2
Wolfe



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the AK House Resource Committee
Committee name

Committee on HB307 and CS HB307A, dated 3/27/05
Bill/Subject

The way in which this public hearing is proceeding is entirely unprofessional, disorganized, irresponsible, and unacceptable. Many of us local residents, who strongly oppose this bill, have given considerable effort in preparing for this last chance at making our voices and concerns heard. After 2 public hearings, our representatives should have realized the split, opposing sides and concerns over this specific issue. It is disheartening to realize that these same representatives did not set aside enough time to fully address all people through this public process. Attached is my short-version for my "speech

Signed: Scott A. Wolfe
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

20390 E. Birch Hill Dr., Palmer AK 99645
Address

746-8008

Phone number

Page 1
Wolfe

My name is Scott Wolfe and I am a south Knik River resident.

I wish to thank the legislatures and the public for their significant efforts for attempting to develop legislation for addressing concerns and conflicts that have developed because of repeated, irresponsible use of the Knik River area by recreational users. However, HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A sounds as if it were written to perpetuate and enhance the problems instead of develop solutions.

For over 20 years, residents have expressed concerns to government personnel and enforcement officials about the following problems caused by overuse and abuse:

1. Burned and abandoned vehicles
2. Uncontrolled gunfire
3. Uncontrolled motorized use
4. Erosion, dust, and damage caused by ORVs
5. Pollution (Ground, air, water, noise)
6. Abandoned campfires
7. Poaching
8. Wildlife and fish harassment and disturbance
9. Trespassing
10. Alcohol and drug use while driving motorized vehicles
11. Incompatible uses (e.g.; airboats on Jim Creek adjacent to Jim Lake while canoes are present, lead shot in waterways)

So, obviously to everyone involved, something needs to be done to curtail the destructive activities that have existed for far, far too long. Nevertheless, this legislation does not provide mechanisms for perpetuating and enhancing ~~non-motorized~~ use. After the 2 public hearings, it should be very clear that much opposition still exists over what is our "best" alternative for managing the incredible wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities in this area. All testimonies are available on public record.

Due to time constraints, I will not reiterate a step-by-step walk through the shortcomings of the proposed legislation but strongly recommend for the legislators to review everyone's recommendations, make a much better attempt at improving the legislation, and allow a more extensive public review process before approving any legislation for this critical area.

The Knik River area and its residents deserve much, much better than a Public Use Area. I've heard ~~some~~ say, "hey, this is Alaska, where we can do whatever we want when we want" - "If you don't like it, just move!" This legislation paves the way for this illogical thinking. Because no legislation has been previously developed specifically for the area, this is now the opportunity to pave the way for wise- and sustainable- use, instead of the "take what you can, give nothing back" attitude so prevalent with many current users and in HB307.

Yes, the State must act on this ever-growing problem. However, HB307 and the redraft are not the answer.

Perhaps a State Rec. Area or Game Refuge is a more reasonable alternative for sustainable use.

Page 2
Wolfe



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Resources
Committee name

Committee on H.B. 307 Knik River, dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

I wish to complement the author of this Bill that allows multiple users to continue enjoying their personal method of useage. I personally first used the Knik valley with the scout troop that Mr. hawalters loaded on his 1 1/2 ton truck and drove us to the glacier at the head of the Knik in 1946. Since then I have enjoyed the valley every year, hunting, fishing, picnics, with boats and off road vehicles. I support this bill as it does not discriminate against any type of recreation and supports management oversight.

Signed: Macl Inboden
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 827 Palmer, ALASKA 99645
Address
245-3027
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the AK House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 , dated 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

I ask that the committee reject HB 307 and its revisions. The Knik River area needs and deserves a better measure, one that makes this a safe area for residents and recreational use and that will make it truly accessible. As it is presently, I cannot take my grandchildren into the area without concern for their safety.

I am in favor of designating the area a State Recreation area in which regulations and law enforcement will better address the needs of the area. I do not believe that a Public Use Area designation meets those needs. A Public Use Designation only serves the interests of those who are currently using the area inappropriately - most of whom do not live in the affected area!

Signed: Katherine Cross
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

14725 W. Ryans Creek Dr, Wasilla
Address

892-7579
Phone number

PAGE 1 OF 3
Page 1 of 3

Hello, My name is Dick Coult, I am a 42 year resident of the Knik River Valley. I am speaking today for myself, as a present Board Member of the **Butte Community Council**, as the Secretary of the **Butte Community Council Trails Committee**, and as a representative of the **thousands of people** who signed our petition. I am in favor of creating a **Knik River Public Use Area** as described in **House Bill 307** and **Senate Bill 197**. The land described in the bills is presently open to off-road motorized transportation as well as other multiple uses as described in the State of Alaska statutes under "generally allowed uses" 11AAC 96.020.

I have been using this area for off-road motorized travel to the Knik Glacier area for recreation, hunting, mineral exploration, mining and trapping for 42 years. This area has been used relatively unrestricted for motorized access for over 50 years without any significant damage to the environment or habitat.

Proof of this in the hunting, fishing, and waterfowl regulations currently in place and by statements of the Alaska Fish and game department that show healthy populations of mouse, sheep, bears and other animals. A chart from the Fish and game shows that the salmon populations for the Knik River area are at an all time high, and after 50 or more years of unrestricted crossings of salmon streams in our area, there is no significant damage to the salmon habitat and no resulting drop in salmon populations due to the stream crossings.

We think that a designated area for Off Road vehicle use is entirely appropriate located here close to the most populated area of Alaska. We need a designated Off-Road Vehicle, Public Use Area here in close proximity to Anchorage and the Matanuska valley for the thousands of hunters, all-terrain vehicles enthusiasts and others with valid reasons for motorized travel in the Knik River Valley, such as miners for access to their mining claims and private property owners for their access to their property. There are several parcels of private property in the Off-Road areas of the Knik River valley and several mining claims located near the Knik Glacier.

We wish to retain our **traditional methods of transportation** and our **traditional lifestyles** here in the Knik River valley!

The State of Alaska Statutes define "traditional uses and traditional methods of transportation. **Sec 38.04.200 (2)** traditional means of access means those types of transportation for which a popular pattern of use has developed.

There are several non-motorized **National Parks** here in Alaska constituting millions of acres. There are also millions of acres of designated "**wilderness**" areas, and additional millions of acres of State Parks, Wildlife Refuges and

PAGE 2 OF 3
Page 2 of 3

various other land areas already set aside for people who desire a "Quiet wilderness experience"

Located right here between Anchorage and the Knik River Valley is the **Chugach State Park**, 1/2 million acre's (one of the largest state parks in the United States) with several access points from the Old Glen Highway and the Seward Highway. The eastern part of the Chugach State park is a designated "wilderness" area.

The proposed Knik River Public Use Area is **relatively small** in comparison to the huge areas already set aside to satisfy the requirements of non-motorized users. The area presently used for Off-Road recreation is approximately 1 mile wide by 18 miles long in the main valley of the Knik River. The sand and gravel bar area along the north edge of the Knik River is the main corridor used by motorized vehicles, along with some trails in the foothills and highlands along the mountains.

Regulation that apply to these lands

There are approx. 20 "agency's" that have plans and / or regulations that apply to all or part of the Borough, State, and federal lands in the vicinity of the proposed Knik River Public Use Area.

Wetlands are adequately protected by provisions in this bill that state: With the assistance of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the commissioner shall identify wetland areas within the Knik River Public Use Area and provide for the protection of the wetland areas in the **management plan**.

Support for a public use area

There is a lot of **support** for this bill by local residents. Two **petitions** with over 3,000 names has been collected over the past 2 years. 5 **resolutions** by the Butte Community Council over the last 13 years support the House and Senate Bills and support keeping traditional trails open in our valley.

The Mat-Su Trails Council has voted to support the Knik River Public Use Area, as amended and has also voted to retain the existing trails provision that is included in the draft of House Bill 307.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly has voted to support state designation of land in the Knik River Watershed as a Public Use Area. Matanuska-Susitna Borough **Resolution Serial No. 05-068 (AM)**

Trails in the area. There are Mat-Su Borough easements, Federal section 17b easements, a certified State of Alaska (DNR) RS 2477 Right-of-Way corridor, many other trails constructed under the DNR "generally allowed uses" with a

long history of public use that constitute a basic infrastructure for a public use area.

The main trail corridor in the Knik River valley is the **RS2477** trail that has been certified by the state of Alaska (DNR) as a public trail. This trail corridor extends from near the Old Glen Highway to the Knik Glacier area and 4 miles up Metal Creek canyon.

There is an **easement** from the BLM through the native land grant that coincides with the RS 2477 trail corridor. This easement from the BLM allows access to public lands beyond the native lands.

Easements by the Mat-Su Borough designate public access corridors in the Jim Creek trailhead area.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the AK House Resources Committee
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, dated 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

I am apalled that time is apparently not allotted for testimony For the many people who prepared to do so & took time out of their schedules to come

I oppose HB 307 as originally written. Support the recent changes with further changes to make this a good compromise bill. Without the recommended changes the bill should not be passed

Page 1 - line 14 Add wording to read "Provide for the public to enjoy the full spec and non-motorized recreation determined to be compatible with (1) & (2) of this section

Incompatible User Section has big problem Contradictory & ineffective By allowing commissioner to regulate except as provided in the section, then listing all uses & existing trails - the result is the commissioner cannot regulate any use or any trail even if it is detrimental to the purpose

line 5 - Add the phrase AS COMPATIBLE WITH PURPOSES

line 11-16 Delete - This circumvents good trail planning

Importance of Enforcement cannot be overstated Correct wording is necessary to ensure enforcement of existing laws

Complete Prepared testimony attached

Agree completely with stoltze the behavior & access are two different things

Signed: Charlotte Sartor
Testifier

30 year Butte resident, User of area Also on Board of KRWG
Representing (Optional) but testifying for self

5900 S. OUR RD
Address

907-745-4565 bobchar@mtaonline.net
Phone number

Page 1 Sartor

Monday 3/27/06

As a Butte area resident and user of the Knik River, Swan/Jim/Mud Lake area for more than 30 years I think we need to work for the best possible bill to address problems, and to allow all users to continue to use this area in the years to come. HB307/SB197 as originally written does not do this. Proposed changes to HB307 introduced 3/15/06 have some improvements - calling for a management plan that includes provisions for enforcement & is established after public hearings; managing shooting on the basis of safety; and introducing important enforcement authority. But further changes are needed.

Purposes Section (41.23.180) Page 1.

The wording needs to include non-motorized use and compatibility with purposes.

Line 14 should be changed to read "Provide for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses including off-road and non-motorized recreation determined to be compatible with (1) and (2) of this section"

Management section (41.23.190) Page 2.

I would like to see this expanded to include workshops and/or establishing a citizen's advisory board to address residents concerns about quality of life & safety

Incompatible Uses section (41.23.200) Page 2 & 3.

This is a big problem area. It is still contradictory and it is ineffective as written

Page 2 lines 21 & 22 states "except as provided in this section, the commissioner may prohibit or restrict uses..."

Page 3 of this section, Lines 5 -16 (d) (1) & (2) list a variety of uses and recognition of all existing off road trails. The result of this wording would seem to be that the commissioner cannot regulate any use or any existing trail even if it is detrimental to the purposes.

Page 3 Line 6, needs to be reworded to read: allow the Knik River Public Use Area to be used for activities, as compatible with purposes in AS 41.23.180. It is not necessary to try to list every activity. All of the uses and trails do need to be compatible with the purposes section to have an effective bill, and this needs to be clearly stated in the bill

Page 3 Lines 11-16 try to circumvent good public process trail planning and should be deleted.

Page 3 & 4 Enforcement authority 41.23.210 & 41.23.220 *Importance of Enforcement cannot be oversta*
The majority of users agree enforcement is badly needed. It is important that the wording is such to ensure timely and adequate enforcement of existing laws *Correct wording is necessary to ensure enforcement of existing laws*

Thank you for proposing some changes to this bill as written and for allowing testimony today. I have heard that special recreation areas allow for more enforcement power than public use areas. But I hope, further changes will allow for good enforcement, and this bill can be a good compromise, rather than starting all over. However, if these further changes cannot be made, the bill should not be passed.

Charlotte Sartor
5900 S Our Rd
Palmer, AK 99645

Page 2 Sartor

Good Day!

I am Robert Howard, Alaskan resident since 1961 – past member of the MSB Trails Committee, Mat Su Trails Council, and Knik River Watershed Group.

Among many activities, my family uses the Knik R. area for motorized recreation. We have recognized the need and advocated two decades for stewardship.

Our primary concern is that HB 307 fails to recognize forgone, costly, public processes aimed at solutions for the area – all of which go well beyond a Public Use Area.

The Susitna Plan mandates a State Recreation Area for the Jim/Swan Wetlands. Among the many documents available to you is this January's draft of the MSB Butte Asset Management Plan, which states "The Butte has several areas that warrant consideration as regional parks including the Knik R. Jim Cr. Area as well as the Mud and Jim Lk. Area currently owned by the State and should be managed by DNR to be consistent with the above".

HB307 limits management options and specifically excludes that possibility.

The bill mentions 'enhancing off- road opportunities' twice. Knowledge of the area and aerial photos reveal thorough saturation of motor trails. (Please refer to my graphic and photos provided).

ORV use is devastating the dunes channeling the outlet of Jim Cr. and potential course of the river. Ruts are 9 feet deep with full growth cottonwoods tumbling into them.

ORV trails extend into wetland areas holding thousands of waterfowl spring and fall.

ATV's have extended far beyond and claim as 'traditional' logging trails past Jim Lk. churning up springs open all year around, turning out onto wetlands, and imperiling anadromous streams – some of which I have personally made DNR aware.

HB307 attempts to 'recognize' trails that are not viable.

Wetlands are assaulted from all sides in an area already utilizing National Guard cleanups.

6 fuel barrels I reported along with a now removed illegal camp and helped DNR post, remain in the wetlands 1 ½ yrs. later.

The enforcement proposal in HB307 is too cumbersome compared to solutions available under AS41.21 A State Recreation Area is a better choice.

Gov. Murkowski was recently in the news advocating improving Alaska's image. . Truly a jewel accessible to over 300K people, home to prolific wildlife, deserving of all options, Knik River Watershed is a fine place to start.

Please do not disregard the legitimate processes preceding HB307!
Toss out the petition signatures from the Huggins/Stoltze soldiers – they were observed fraudulently using KRWG's cover letter at the State Fair – and give special attention to the residents concerns.

Thank You!



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, Knik River, dated 3-27-07
Bill/Subject

The work draft dated 3-15-06 does have some improvements, and comes closer to what most people spoke up for during public testimony. Most people seemed to want sustainable use for several groups, and enforcement. I speak as a member of a hiking group and the Valley Mtn Bikers and Hikers Association. I didn't notice any mention in the work draft about restoration of areas that have been eroded or trampled or mud bogged, and that is one detail I'd urge you to consider.

The second consideration is in Section 1, Item 4-B - a phrase about "additional uses that are compatible with motorized uses" - it implies that non-compatible uses would be not so welcome. Sometimes, in order to let non and motorized groups be compatible, some extra effort needs to be made - maybe some specified trails, or schedules for certain uses on certain days - but I'd like that section to be revised to be more inclusive. Hiking was mentioned only once I think, and I'd like more consideration for more uses.

My third consideration is regarding sustainability - there is a phrase about "minimizes damage" but that seems weak when the idea of keeping an area usable and healthy for future generations is concerned. I suggest a stronger mention of protecting the area for the future.

Enforcement is my last big issue and I just urge you to pass a final bill that allows people to use the area safely and comfortably. Good luck with this process, and I appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Signed: Op Clark
Testifier

Happy Hikers, Valley Wanderers, Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers Assoc
Representing (Optional)

PO Box 876395, Napili, HI. 96887
Address

(907) 376-9576
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 , dated 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

Thank you for the work that has already been done. I still feel that the best management tool for the Knik River Area is to become a Special Recreation Area.

See testimony attached

I will be out of town on Weds

I do not believe Parks should be mentioned in this bill. Management by State Parks should be an option at another time.

Signed Nancy Moore
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

PO Box 399
Address

907 745-1540
Phone number

Page | Moore

Testimony for HB 307
March 27, 2006

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. Also thank you for the work that has already been done amending this legislation.

I still feel that the best management tool for the Knik River Area is creating a Special Recreation Area which was recommended in the 1985 Susitna Area Plan. Division of Parks manages SRAs and already has the organizational structure to provide enforcement, interpretive signs and facilities such as outhouses, pavilions and the like.

However today we are addressing HB 307 creating the Knik River Public Use Area. I have commented on this legislation in the past, am pleased to see the changes that have been made thus far and would like to provide additional comments.

Step
*Please ensure adequate funding is attached to this bill so that more than one enforcement personnel can provide round the clock presence during peak periods of activity. (In 1995 I was involved in a project that repaired the portage between Jim Lake and Jim Creek. The Troopers at that time were conducting evening patrols. We would see them about 11:00 pm as we were wrapping up our work. Shortly after they cruised through, people would start showing up. Sometimes the next morning there would be litter, broken glass, empty shotgun shells and fire pits full of nails.) In addition I have found 3 campfires left smoldering and or burning.

Safety of the residents of the area and lawful users of the area cannot be overemphasized.

Funding also needs to be able to address human and solid waste management by establishing and maintaining outhouses and garbage cans/dumpsters.

To refer specifically to the legislation

*On page 1 line 14 - please add "and non motorized recreation, compatible with section (1) and (2) of this section" to the end of this line.

*On page 2 line 7 - include workshops with the public hearings.

page 1 of 2 Nancy Moore

Page 2 Moore

Also recommend that a citizen's advisory board be established with a balanced representation. This would help ensure that quality of life and safety issues for the local residents would be addressed.

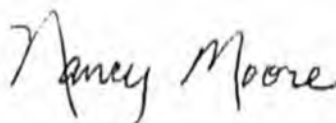
*page 3 line 6 please insert 'compatible with purposes' after activities. ^{the word}

*page 3 lines 11-16 This section should be deleted. ORV use has already been established and the points addressed in this section can be resolved in the public hearing/workshop process.

Please consider these comments and adequately fund this legislation so that the Knik River Area can be lawfully managed for the benefit and safety of local residents, diverse user groups and the rich natural resources found in this valley.

Thank you for your time and effort on this legislation

Nancy Moore
PO Box 399
Palmer, Alaska 99645



907-745-1540



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307A, dated 3/15/06, to 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

As attached - Brit Lively

Opposed to HB307A - reasons previously faxed.

Additional information as attached.

Signed: Brit (Brigitte) Lively
Testifier

Butte Area Residents Civic Organization & self
Representing (Optional)

Res: 5505 South Old Glenn Palmer
Mail: 259 S. Alaska St, Palmer, AK 99645
Address

907-745-7126
Phone number

Brit Lively

Mr. Chairman and members of the Alaska State House Resources Committee

I am Brit Lively, long-time Butte resident I support responsible multiple use. I also represent Butte Area Residents Civic Organization

Because none of you can imagine life in Butte unless you spend a weekend with us to see the beauty and the beast. We have done the next best thing and taken a packet of documentation including 2 videos showing the sunny side and the dark side of Butte to you in Juneau most of Juneau offices. Before deciding the fate of this community, please, assure us that you spend a couple of hours studying the material and the faxed testimony from those who could not come today.

You are the governing stewards of our lands and our waters which we are so richly blessed with in the Knik River Valley. We understand that you are under much pressure to do right by everyone and fortunately you have statutes and a mission statement to guide you, to: "Develop, conserve and enhance natural resources for present and future Alaskans."

With this in mind I emphasized the major deficiencies of HB 307 re-write with suggested changes in my faxed material. The major change is based on DNR's mission which the "Purpose of HB307" should have the paragraphs reversed. If you put recreation ahead of protection of habitat and wildlife along with the limited enforcement in this legislation, you may well end up with a gravel pit and a dust bowl extending beyond the boundaries of this proposed Public Use Area. You may not realize that anywhere from 1,000 to 3,000 people are using this area on most weekends.

Therefore change
Page 1, line 7-12: change to read:

1) Perpetuate, mitigate, protect and maintain migratory waterfowl nesting areas and fish and wildlife habitat for sustaining and enhancing

- a) traditional public use of fish and wildlife populations and
- b) general public enjoyment and recreation

But I primarily advocate for a Knik River Valley State Recreation Area under AS 41.21 to provide strong and immediate law enforcement, a management plan with multi-user advisory, infrastructure including sanitary facilities, allowing users to share the cost for their services and giving Butte residents economic opportunities based on our high-value recreational area.

Our small community should not have to suffer the entire burden of every conceivable kind of motorized recreation for south-central Alaska, where we already endure the race track noise most every day of every weekend and mid-week events all summer long even while the owners are still trying to mitigate the noise. But, add to that all the detrimental activities described by others during this hearing, it is just too much.

Please, help our community discard the prevalent perception of, "who cares, it's the Butte," and provide a strong framework of a legislative designation which will give us the respect we deserve and the wings we need to soar to new heights in a

structured multi-use environment.



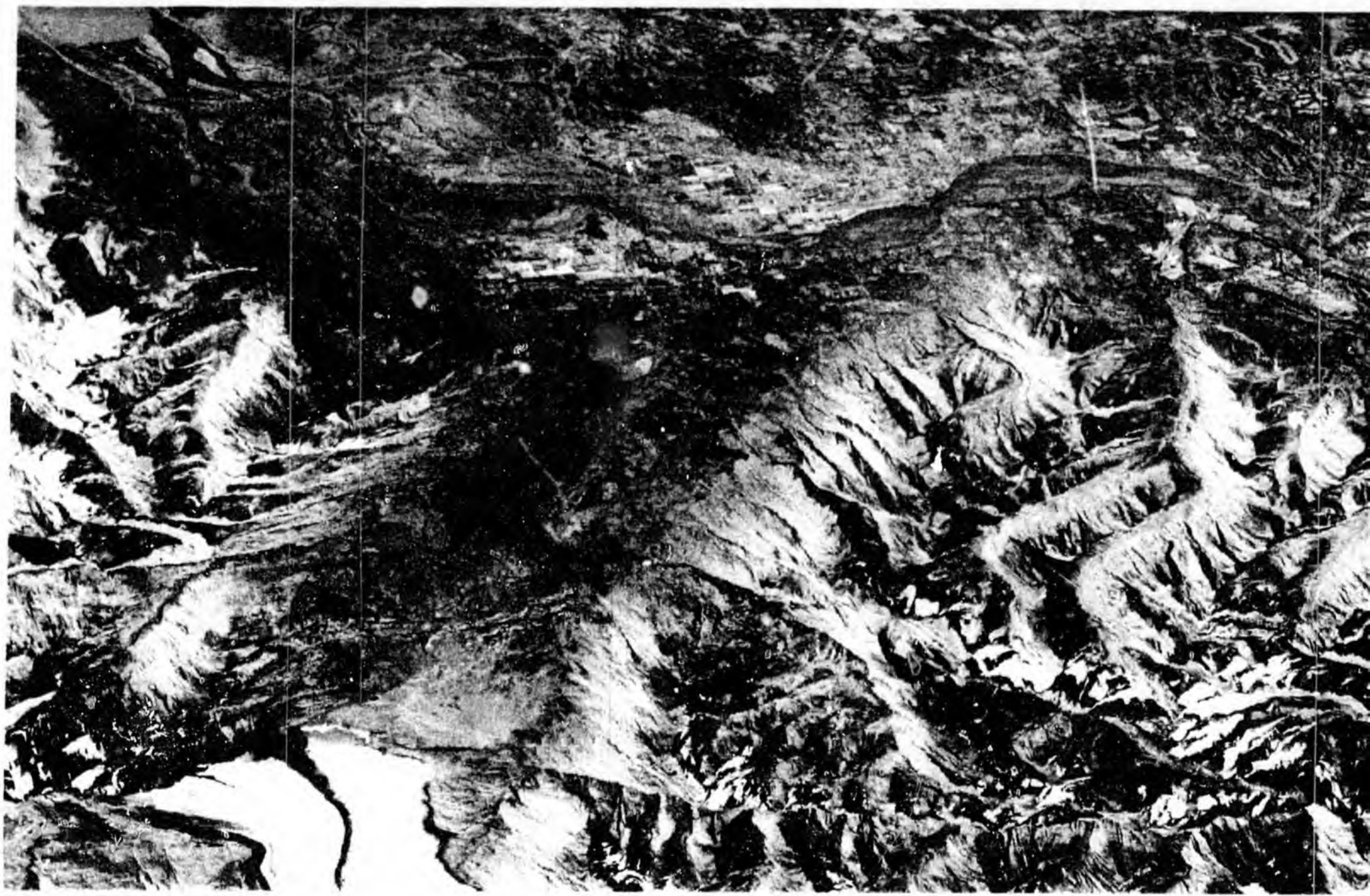
Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HRES Committee name
 Committee on HB 307 dated 3-27-06
 Bill/Subject

I object to the Jim Creek and Jim Lake Area becoming a STATE PARK, I and many others use this area a lot for hunting, hiking, and fishing. I believe it would depress the use of this area and I personally would probably look for another area for recreational purposes. I believe fewer people would use the area if it were turned into a state park.

Signed: *Clayton J. Martin*
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 4636, Palmer, Ak. 99645 siting 5651A N. Maverick Dr.
 Address
(907) 745-6447
 Phone number





Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource Committee
Committee name

Committee on House Bill 307 Knick River dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

I am in support of H.B. 307
and wish to continue to have public
Access and motorized usage. As
a senior citizen I wish to
continue access.

Signed: Mae J. Dungebl
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
925 Goldendale Dr. Wasilla 99654
Address
907-376-8989
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Bureau of Land Management
Committee name

Committee on HB307 and SB197 , dated 3-8-06
Bill/Subject

I support HB307 and SB197 to keep
Knik river drainage open to motorized vehicles and
boats.

Signed: Arthur Stevens
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

3555 Sams Dr. Wasilla AK. 99654
Address

907-357-3370
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Resource Committee

Committee name

Committee on

HB 307

Bill/Subject

dated

3-27-06

With the price of gas we can't afford to haul
our 4 wheelers up the highway.

Let us ride in our own valley.

Signed:

Amy Seguada

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

1026 E Delwood St #1 Wasilla, AK 99654

Address

(907) 357-0856

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 - Jim Cook, dated 3/27/06
Bill/subject

My family has been using the area since the 1940's, the Sexton Trail-head in the area is named after my grandfather

I am in support of HB307

Signed: Michael K. Sexton
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1574 Melanie Wasilla, AK. 99654
Address

357-1732
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource

Committee name

Committee on HB 307 dated 3-27-06

Bill/Subject

I am in favor of HB 307 for the following reasons. First of all, when you look at a map of this state you see nothing more than extremely vast areas of land already designated as either state or national parks. Due to these designations on these large areas they have been set aside as a means of keeping them as pristine environments. If people do not want to see 4 wheelers and swamp buggies while out hiking they should visit these pristine lands that are going to stay that way. Second of all as a frequent visitor of the Knik River and its surrounding, I feel that motorized vehicles are not causing any more harm to the environment than the river does on its own course of erosion, as most trails and places that citizens of Alaska play on are in the river bed. If we were to simply enforce the current laws & codes already in existence the area would naturally be a cleaner place. And on a last note, ATVs, Hunting, fishing, swamp buggies, Airboats, River Boats, and air planes are all part of living the Alaska dream. We have these technologies we just need a place to be ALASKA.

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
mi 45.5 Parks Hwy Wasilla
 Address
(907) 376-9117
 Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource Committee

Committee on HB 307 Knik River / Jim Creek Committee name House Resource Committee
Bill/Subject dated 3-27-06

Not all Alaskans and our visitors
can walk into experience the
beauty of Jim Creek.
Let us ride in
putting the boat in at the
Knik River Access
Don't shut down access because of
a few delinquents. Enforce current laws
don't punish us all I support HB 307

Signed: Bernard J. [Signature]
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
2200 Wasilla Fishhook Rd
Address
376-3958
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource
 Committee name
 Committee on HB 307 dated 3-27-06
 Bill/Subject

Stop closing places we can ride with our friends
 We need Jim Creek and Knik River areas
 to ride our dirt bikes.

Signed: Andrew Behn
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1807 N. meadow LKS Dr. Wasilla, AK 99654
 Address
(907) 376-9117
 Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 , dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

*I drive to Twin Creek to fish
Don't shut me out*

Signed: *[Signature]*
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1026 F Delwood St. #1 Wasilla AK 99654

Address
(907) 3520856
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource
 Committee name
 Committee on HB 307 dated 3-27-06
 Bill/Subject

We put the boat in at the Kuk River access, I
 cant imagine why shutting this access down
 is even considered. Where is the regular
 guy supposed to put in?

We cant afford a fly out trip, dont
 make our valley into a no-use area.

Signed: Shonda Dargatzis
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
2201 Wasilla Fishhook Rd. Wasilla, AK 99654
 Address
907-376-0603
 Phone number

Mat-Su State Parks Citizens Advisory Board

11C 32 Box 6706, Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 745-3975 Fax (907) 745-0978

Resolution #: 06-01

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CHANGES TO HOUSE BILL 307 and SENATE BILL 197

"An act creating the Knik River Public Use Area"

WHEREAS, residents and users have concerns about safety, vandalism, game and nongame violations, pollution and lack of sanitation, user conflicts, littering, impacts on fish and wildlife resources and resident's quality of life; and

WHEREAS, wildlife values in the Knik River Basin are well recognized in the "Knik Arm Wetlands Study-1981"; the "South Central Recreation Action Plan-1985"; and the "Resource Assessment of the Knik Glacier Area-1993";

WHEREAS, the House Bill 307 and Senate Bill 197 can be easily improved, and existing Public Use Area statutes are good models to resolve many of the weaknesses in this legislation as noted below.

41.23.180 Purpose:

- We need an inclusive plan that will unite user groups: Amend items (1), (3), and (4) (pg 1 lines 7-8) to: "provide a public use area for off road motorized vehicle and nonmotorized recreation."
- (pg 1 lines 12-14) to: "Perpetuate and enhance public enjoyment of fish and wildlife and their habitat including fishing, hunting, trapping, viewing, and photography."
- (pg 1 line 15, pg 2 line 1) to: "Perpetuate and enhance motorized and non-motorized general public recreation in a quality environment."

41.23.190. Management:

- We need an established public planning effort:
Add: "The commissioner shall develop and adopt a management plan and regulations implementing the plan. The commissioner shall give public notice, hold public meetings and receive public comments on the draft plan and regulations."

Board Members

Mary Anderson, Chair

Roy Wahl

William Royce

Glean Goodham, Vice-Chair

Ralph Baldwin

Linnea Crosby

Shelis Joergensen

John Strascaburgh, Vice-Chair

William Fitzgerald

Charles Leet

T. Nelson Stegall, Jr.

Howard Carlone

Mat-Su State Parks Citizens Advisory Board

2

- **Item c (pg 2 lines 15-16) We need designated on-the-ground enforcement.** Contracting with DPOR for enforcement personnel (such as Hatcher's Pass PUA) should not be excluded as a timely, cost-efficient option.

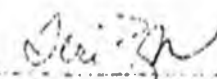
Replace Item c with: "The commissioner shall enforce existing regulations and provisions of the Knik River Public Use Area Plan and may contract with Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Alaska State Troopers, or other agencies for enforcement purposes."

41.23.200 Incompatible Uses:

- **Item d (pg 2 line 31 - pg 3 line 4) To maintain and enhance resource health,** amend to: "The commissioner shall allow access to the Knik River Public Use Area by motorized and non-motorized means of transportation to private land, interests in private land, and for lawful sport and subsistence hunting, fishing, trapping, and recreational purposes in a manner that is compatible with purposes."
- **Delete Item e (pg 2 lines 5-8). A planning effort must involve evaluation of trails for resource and resident impacts; improvement, reroute or closure as appropriate.**
- **Amend Item f (pg 3 lines 9-12) Managers need flexibility to manage shooting:** "The commissioner may restrict the use of weapons, including firearms, when the commissioner determines that the use of weapons constitutes a threat to public safety."

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mat-Su State Parks Citizen's Advisory Board supports the above eight amendments to HB 307/SB 197 "An Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area" to promote comprehensive and inclusive planning, enforcement, public safety, and protection of wildlife resources.

ADOPTED by the Mat-Su State Parks Citizens Advisory Board this 10th day of January, 2006.

Signed: /s/ 

Mary Anderson, Chair

Mat-Su State Parks Citizens Advisory Board