

**HB**

**113**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 113</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
113</SUBJECT><COMM>HRES27</COMM></TARGET>

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SESSION:  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 418  
Juneau, AK 99801  
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## Representative David Guttenberg

### House Bill 113: Stampede Recreation Area Sponsor Statement

House Bill 113 seeks to establish a state recreation area in the Stampede Road corridor, northwest of Healy and flanked on three sides by the Denali National Park. This area is a place where many Alaskans go to hunt, fish, trap, drive ATVs, mush and pursue other recreational opportunities. Playground for a growing number of Denali Borough residents, this is a wild and beautiful place that Alaskans from across the state can easily access.

HB113 will preserve the traditional uses of this area by creating the Stampede Recreation Area within the Stampede corridor. The Denali Borough Assembly has passed several resolutions calling on the Alaska Legislature to designate the corridor as the Stampede State Recreation Area, with a strong emphasis on self-determination by the residents and users of the area.

The intent of this bill is to ensure that the numerous traditional uses this area has seen over the last few decades (recreation, hunting, trapping, fishing) remain available to all Alaskans. The result of input from public meetings around the Denali Borough, the Stampede Recreation Area proposal is a user-defined management plan. I believe this is the best way to protect and preserve the many uses of this wild and scenic area.

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Version HB 113  
( ) Publish Date \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier (file name): HB113-DNR-PM-04-07-11  
Title Creating Stampede State Recreation Area  
Sponsor Rep. Guttenberg  
Requester HRES  
Dept. Affected Natural Resources  
Appropriation Parks Recreation and Management  
Allocation Parks Management  
OMB Component Number 452

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

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

	Appropriation Required		Information				
	FY 2012	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>							
Personal Services	105.4		105.4	105.4	105.4	105.4	105.4
Travel	6.2		6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2
Services	62.0		62.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0
Commodities	13.5		13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5
Capital Outlay	25.0		1.0				
Grants							
Miscellaneous(law enf. Academy)	9.0						
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>221.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>188.1</b>	<b>157.1</b>	<b>157.1</b>	<b>157.1</b>	<b>157.1</b>

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>							
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES</b>							
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF	221.1		188.1	157.1	157.1	157.1	157.1
1005 GF/Program Receipts							
1037 GF/Mental Health							
Other (please identify)							
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>221.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>188.1</b>	<b>157.1</b>	<b>157.1</b>	<b>157.1</b>	<b>157.1</b>

Estimate of any current year (FY2011) cost \_\_\_\_\_

**POSITIONS**

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

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared by Ben Ellis, Director  
Division Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
Approved by Daniel S. Sullivan  
Department of Natural Resources

Phone (907)269-8701  
Date/Time 4/7/11 12:00 AM  
Date 4/7/2011

**FISCAL NOTE**

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO.** HB 113

**Analysis**

HB113 creates the Stampede State Recreation Area (SRA). The costs associated with management of this new SRA include funding for a two year public planning process which would require the Division of Parks and Recreation to enter into an RSA with the Division of Mining Land and Water to cover the planner position and develop a management plan during FY12 and FY13. The division would also need a full-time Park Ranger I and one six-month Alaska Conservation Corps employee to provide field management. Start-up costs include one new vehicle, office supplies, tuition to the Sitka Law Enforcement Academy to train the Park Ranger, and law enforcement gear. Additional costs include office rental, vehicle costs, utilities, phones, and equipment services.



## **Senate Bill 60, House Bill 113 Stampede State Recreation Area**

***The Friends of Stampede urge you support the Stampede State Recreation Area.  
It will offer tremendous benefits to residents, visitors, the Denali Borough and the  
State of Alaska at very little cost.***

Outdoor recreation is an Alaskan way of life. Fishing, hunting, boating, dog mushing, skiing, snowmachining, skijoring, hiking, bicycling, bird-watching, wildlife viewing, berry picking and other outdoor activities are an important part of daily life for most Alaskans. The Friends of Stampede want to ensure that the opportunities for these traditional Alaskan activities are protected

### **The Stampede State Recreation Area will:**

#### **Meet Alaskans' desire for more outdoor recreation opportunities.**

According to a 2009 survey (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, SCORP, 2009-2014), 70% of participants supported creating new parks from existing state lands, 96% of participants considered parks and outdoor recreation to be important or very important to their lifestyle. Alaskans living in the railbelt communities, which contain 73% of the state's population, strongly support more trailheads. There are no state parks or recreation areas in the Denali Borough, which sits on the Parks Highway amidst some of Alaska's most beautiful scenery. The Stampede SRA is a perfect match of need and state resource.

#### **Support the Denali Borough government and local businesses.**

The Denali Borough government is funded primarily by accommodation tax revenues, and is thus largely dependent on tourism. The local government would benefit from state actions that encourage visitors to extend their stays or that attract new visitors with outdoor interests apart from the national park. Small businesses already are interested in providing activities and services for tourists in and near this area. Giving them a named destination will help with marketing and attracting additional customers.

#### **Showcase important wildlife habitat.**

The area encompassed in the proposal contains critical winter habitat for wildlife including caribou, moose and furbearers.. Birdwatchers seek out the migratory stopover and tundra habitat around Eightmile Lake. Wildlife habitat is valued both by in-state and out-of-state recreation area users and is one of the features visitors to Alaska seek.

#### **Provide essential management.**

The amount of use in the area has grown over the past two decades, reflected by the volume of litter, human waste, trail deterioration, and emergency calls. Designation of the Stampede SRA will bring with it a management plan that can address safety issues, rehabilitate trails and camping areas (or construct new ones), enhance access, and provide interpretation.

#### **Receive strong support from a variety of Alaskans.**

A petition in support of the SSRA in 2009 collected over 100 signatures. Ninety percent of the signers were Alaskan and 50% were from Denali Borough. Numerous other individuals and groups have attended Denali Borough Assembly and town hall style meetings to show their support for this legislation. At a Senate Resources Committee hearing in 2009, not a single person testified against the recreation area while support was strong and enthusiastic.

**Denali Borough, Alaska  
Planning Commission**

**Resolution No. PC 11-03**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE REINTRODUCTION AND PASSAGE  
OF A BILL TO CREATE THE STAMPEDE STATE RECREATION AREA  
DURING THE 27TH LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS.**

WHEREAS, all formal acts by the Planning Commission must be by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough's local government is well suited to make recommendations for land use within the Denali Borough; and

WHEREAS, there are no State Parks, Recreation Sites or Areas located within the Denali Borough; and

WHEREAS, the designation of a Stampede State Recreation Area provides an opportunity to maintain traditional uses on public lands adjacent to settlement lands; and

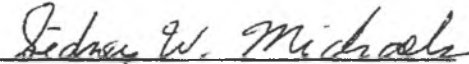
WHEREAS, the designation of a Stampede State Recreation Area would provide recreational opportunities for residents within the Borough and throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, the lands included in the proposed Stampede State Recreation Area are recognized by the state as unique and important for wildlife habitat and recreation.

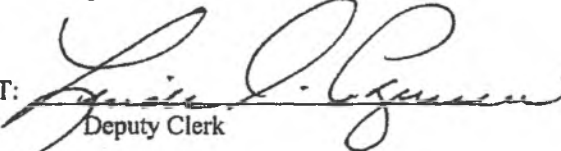
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Denali Borough Planning Commission requests that the Alaska Legislature reintroduce and pass a bill to create a Stampede State Recreation Area in a timely manner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Denali Borough Planning Commission supports the designation of State Recreation Area lands including: Fairbanks Meridian, Healy Quadrangle, Township 12S8W sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30, 31; Townships 12S9W, 12S10W, 12S11W; Township 13S9W sections 1-6 and 7-12, excluding National Park lands; Township 13S10W sections 1-6 and 7-12 excluding National Park lands; Township 13S11W sections 1-6 and 7-12 excluding National Park lands.

PASSED and APPROVED by the DENALI BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January 2011.

  
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

  
Deputy Clerk

VOTE: YEA: Capistrant, Chatfield, Griggs, Jones, Michaels, Mitchell, Potter  
NAY: 0  
ABSENT: Weibel



DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION NO. 07-01

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE DESIGNATING MANAGEMENT OF THE STAMPEDE ROAD AREA WEST OF EIGHT MILE LAKE TO THE STATE OF ALASKA, DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION, TO CREATE THE STAMPEDE STATE RECREATION AREA.

WHEREAS, there are many issues related to the Stampede Trail and surrounding area west of Eight Mile Lake, many of which have brought into question the ability to continue traditional use dating back prior to statehood; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough has openly and repeatedly expressed a desire to have recreational opportunities and uses continued in this area; and

WHEREAS, the current use of the area includes motor vehicle access, horseback riding, dog mushing, cross-country skiing, skijoring, hiking, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, and other outdoor activities; and

WHEREAS, there are no designated Alaska State Parks or Recreation Sites within the Denali Borough; and

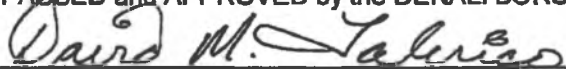
WHEREAS, the Stampede Trail and surrounding area are well known critical habitat for caribou, moose and other wildlife; and

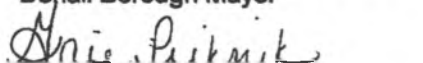
WHEREAS, this area is of current and future importance for providing a land base to support Alaska-owned outdoor recreation enterprises at Denali National Park and Preserve and other existing tourism destinations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Denali Borough Assembly strongly encourages the state of Alaska Legislature to pass legislation designating management of the following area to the state of Alaska, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation the following area: Fairbanks Meridian, Healy Quadrangle, the western half of Township 12S9W, the western half of Township 13S9W, Township 12S10W, Township 12S11W, Township 13S10W, Township 13S11W.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Denali Borough specifically requests that the aforementioned current uses be included in the management of the area and the Denali Borough Assembly be designated as the Local Advisory Management Council for the Stampede Recreation area.

PASSED and APPROVED by the DENALI BOROUGH ASSEMBLY this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2007.

  
Denali Borough Mayor

ATTEST:   
Borough Clerk



DENALI BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION NO. 08-27

A RESOLUTION OF THE DENALI BOROUGH ASSEMBLY RESPONDING TO THE TANANA  
BASIN AREA PLAN AMENDMENTS.

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough Assembly has not had sufficient time to deliberate the TBAP amendments; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough Assembly is best suited to conducting appropriate deliberations by local residents for proper use of regional lands; and

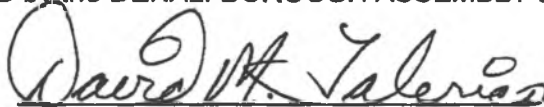
WHEREAS, the local government is best suited to communicate and designate land use for the benefit of long term impacts; and

WHEREAS, the local government has initiated the development of the Denali Borough Comprehensive Land Use Plan; and

WHEREAS, the local government has ideas for specific uses for some of these areas such as Yanert B for a future school site, and designating the canyon corridor and the Eight Mile Lake area as public recreation areas; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the Denali Borough Assembly opposes the TBAP amendments as it has been presented and declares our constitutional right for maximum local self-government.

PASSED and APPROVED by the DENALI BOROUGH ASSEMBLY this 10th day of  
DECEMBER, 2008



Mayor David M Talerico

ATTEST:



Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk

AYES: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY



Denali Borough

Resolution 08-27

DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION NO. 10-04

A RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE EIGHT MILE LAKE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF  
THE STAMPEDE STATE RECREATION AREA

WHEREAS, the legislature of the State of Alaska is considering a bill to establish a Stampede State Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the proposed State Recreation Area is to protect traditional recreational activities in the area; and

WHEREAS, the boundaries of the proposed recreation area begin ½ mile west of the trailhead and camping area near Eight Mile Lake; and

WHEREAS, the land around Eight Mile Lake is undesignated state land presently managed for the same purposes as the land within the boundaries of the proposed recreation area; and

WHEREAS, the portion of Stampede Road that can be driven by ordinary vehicles terminates near Eight Mile Lake, thus making this area the de facto parking lot and trailhead for recreational activities that would occur within the boundaries of the proposed recreation area; and

WHEREAS, the area around Eight Mile Lake has the densest camping use of anywhere in the vicinity of the proposed recreation area; and

WHEREAS, the tundra landscape, the accessible lake, and the views of Mount McKinley make the area around Eight Mile Lake one of the most scenic areas in the vicinity of the proposed state recreation area; and

WHEREAS, Eight Mile Lake itself is a recreational resource, and is used for canoeing, ice skating, berry picking, bird watching, and other activities; and

WHEREAS, the density of use around Eight Mile Lake means that it is the state land most in need of immediate planning to provide services and avoid negative impacts; and


WHEREAS, inclusion of this area within the proposed recreation area will best serve the visiting public and simplify management of the area.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the Denali Borough Assembly encourages the State of Alaska Legislature to amend the boundaries of the proposed Stampede State Recreation Area, Senate Bill 108, to include 3 land sections around Eight Mile Lake, which include Township 12W9S sections 2, 11, 14.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Denali Borough Assembly on this 10<sup>TH</sup> day of February, 2010.



David M. Talerico, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:   
Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk



**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY:**

**Ayes:** BULARD, LAUSEN, KOHLSDORF, WINKLMANN, WALKER, MUELLER and USIBELLI

**Absent:** HOLMES and COOPER

**DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA  
RESOLUTION NO. 11-02**

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INTRODUCTION AND PASSAGE OF A BILL  
CREATING THE STAMPEDE STATE RECREATION AREA AND TO INCLUDE  
ADJACENT LANDS DIRECTLY EAST OF PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED BOUNDARY AND  
WEST OF PANGUINGUE SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough Assembly has previously passed Resolution #07-01 in support of designating lands along the Stampede Road corridor as a State Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough Assembly has previously passed Resolution #10-04 in support of including lands around 8-Mile Lake in the proposed State Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, these resolutions outline important reasons that a Stampede State Recreation Area would be valuable to residents of the Denali Borough and the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, a bill to establish the Stampede State Recreation Area has been introduced to either the House or Senate in the past two legislatures and received little criticism but much support; and

WHEREAS, designated inclusion of lands adjacent to recognized settlement lands would preserve and maintain traditional recreation opportunities and provide for continuous state management of the Stampede Townships west of settlement lands; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Stampede State Recreation Area lands have been recognized by the State of Alaska as unique and important for public recreation and wildlife habitat.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Denali Borough Assembly requests that the Alaska State Legislature move expeditiously to reintroduce and pass a bill to establish the Stampede State Recreation Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Denali Borough Assembly supports the designation of State Recreation Area lands to include: Fairbanks Meridian, Healy Quadrangle, Township 12S8W sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30, 31; Townships 12S9W, 12S10W, 12S11W; Township 13S9W sections 1-6 and 7-12, excluding National Park lands; Township 13S10W sections 1-6 and 7-12 excluding National Park lands; Township 13S11W sections 1-6 and 7-12 excluding National Park lands.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Denali Borough Assembly on this 12<sup>TH</sup> day of JANUARY, 2011.



David M. Talerico, Borough Mayor



Attest: Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk



*AYES: PASSED UNANIMOUSLY*  
*ABSENT: HOLMES and COOPER*

Denali Borough, Alaska  
Planning Commission

Resolution No. PC 11-03

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE REINTRODUCTION AND PASSAGE  
OF A BILL TO CREATE THE STAMPEDE STATE RECREATION AREA  
DURING THE 27TH LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS.**

WHEREAS, all formal acts by the Planning Commission must be by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough's local government is well suited to make recommendations for land use within the Denali Borough; and

WHEREAS, there are no State Parks, Recreation Sites or Areas located within the Denali Borough; and

WHEREAS, the designation of a Stampede State Recreation Area provides an opportunity to maintain traditional uses on public lands adjacent to settlement lands; and

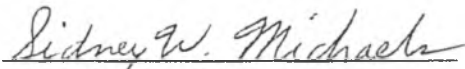
WHEREAS, the designation of a Stampede State Recreation Area would provide recreational opportunities for residents within the Borough and throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, the lands included in the proposed Stampede State Recreation Area are recognized by the state as unique and important for wildlife habitat and recreation.

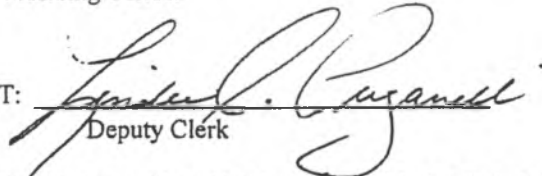
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Denali Borough Planning Commission requests that the Alaska Legislature reintroduce and pass a bill to create a Stampede State Recreation Area in a timely manner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Denali Borough Planning Commission supports the designation of State Recreation Area lands including: Fairbanks Meridian, Healy Quadrangle, Township 12S8W sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30, 31; Townships 12S9W, 12S10W, 12S11W; Township 13S9W sections 1-6 and 7-12, excluding National Park lands; Township 13S10W sections 1-6 and 7-12 excluding National Park lands; Township 13S11W sections 1-6 and 7-12 excluding National Park lands. **Refer to attached map.**

PASSED and APPROVED by the DENALI BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January 2011.

  
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

  
Deputy Clerk

VOTE: YEA: Capistrant, Chatfield, Griggs, Jones, Michaels, Mitchell, Potter  
NAY: 0  
ABSENT: Weibel





# ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

3305 Arctic Blvd., #105, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 • 907) 563-9229 • FAX: (907) 563-9225 • [www.alaskaminers.org](http://www.alaskaminers.org)

April 8, 2011

Honorable Paul Seaton  
Honorable Eric Feige  
Co-Chairs House Resources Committee  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: House Bill 113, Establish Stampede State Recreation Area

Dear Representatives Seaton and Feige,

The Alaska Miners Association opposes House Bill 113 that would establish the Stampede State Recreation Area on approximately 120 square miles of State-owned multiple-use lands. All of the activities identified and the justification given for establishment of this recreation area are already allowed on the lands in question.

Although the bill does not specifically close the lands to oil & gas or hard mineral exploration and development, the bill would none-the-less have that impact. Companies simply will not spend their money in a place that is called a recreation area. Furthermore, the restriction on structures would on its face appear to make it impossible to build any oil & gas or mining facilities. And it is our understanding that there is active gas exploration in the area. If a major gas field is found, that gas could greatly reduce the cost of heating for Healy and other parts of the Interior. The Stampede Recreation Area would forever eliminate that possibility.

Also, under the bill the Commissioner would almost be forced to declare oil & gas and hard minerals development as incompatible due to the stated purposes in Section 1 of the bill. It would be very difficult for the Commissioner to not make such a determination. We note that there is no fiscal note to cover the cost of the required management plan.

Just under half of Alaska is already restricted from multiple-use activities due to federal parks, preserves, refuges, wilderness, etc. The State already has approximately 8.5 million acres designated as parks, refuges, or other closures to multiple-use. It is important that the State not block any additional lands. If the State makes additional closures it is essential that lands be given a geological evaluation, to include geophysical survey, to ensure an informed decision can be made as to the resources that would be lost. Additionally, the State should ensure that there is no net loss of multiple-use lands and whenever one area is closed an equal area of the same designation should be opened.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Borell, P.E.  
Executive Director

Cc: House Committee Members

Linda Hay

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**From:** Rep. Paul Seaton  
**Sent:** Friday, March 11, 2011 9:15 AM  
**To:** House Resources  
**Subject:** FW: support for HB 113 Stampede Recreation Area

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [tparagi@alaska.net](mailto:tparagi@alaska.net) [<mailto:tparagi@alaska.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 09, 2011 12:51 PM  
**To:** Rep. Peggy Wilson; Rep. Eric Feige; Rep. Paul Seaton  
**Subject:** support for HB 113 Stampede Recreation Area

Dear Representatives,

I encourage a hearing in the House Resources Committee for HB 113 to create the Stampede State Recreation Area.

I served on the Citizen Advisory Board for the Northern Area State Parks during 2004-10. Healy area residents began discussing protection and oversight of stand lands beyond 8 Mile lake along Stampede Road in 2006, but they wanted to retain local input into the process of creating an area managed by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The present bill has provision to create an advisory board specific to the proposed recreation area, which would serve as the main source of information when writing the management plan. My experience is that the Director of State Parks generally accepts recommendations from advisory boards.

Tom Paragi  
1271 Lowbush Lane  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-6039

PS--I apologize if this is a duplicate email. I tried sending it yesterday but was having email problems.



## Denali Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 437  
Healy, AK 99743  
907-683-INFO (4636)

website: <http://denalichamber.com>  
email: [denali.chamber@gmail.com](mailto:denali.chamber@gmail.com)

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March 16, 2009

Senator Joe Thomas  
State Capitol, Room 510  
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Senate Bill 108, Creation of a Stampede State Recreation Area

Dear Senator Thomas,

The Denali Chamber of Commerce was created for the purpose of cooperating in matters of interest to the public and professional people of the community; to promote and perpetuate the business, commercial, manufacturing and civic interests of the members and the community; to promote and perpetuate the general welfare and prosperity of the Denali area, and to stimulate public interest to these ends; and to develop a uniform public spirit whereby we may put forth the maximum effort in the aid of our area and to make it more prosperous, beautiful and a better place in which to live.

Therefore, in fulfilling the purpose of the Denali Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Directors on behalf of the members of the chamber support the proposed legislation you have introduced in the State of Alaska Senate, for the Creation of the Stampede State Recreation Area.

Our community residents use this area for many recreational purposes such as hiking, bird watching, motor vehicle travel (ATV's and snowmobiling), dog mushing, skiing, skijoring, photography, berry picking, hunting and trapping. Several chamber members own business enterprises on the Stampede Road which provide recreational services to users of the area which include horseback riding, jeep safari tours and sled dog tours along the Stampede Trail, as well as lodging facilities for tourists visiting the area.

The chamber members also support inclusion of lands around the 8-Mile Lake area in the legislation. These lands provide a natural gateway to a recreation area and are most in need of management. Most locals and visitors use this as a parking and/or staging area for access to the Stampede Trail and state lands on which they recreate.



## Denali Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 437  
Healy, AK 99743  
907-683-INFO (4636)

website: <http://denalichamber.com>  
email : [denali.chamber@gmail.com](mailto:denali.chamber@gmail.com)

We are most appreciative of your efforts to introduce this important legislation which will provide a means of management to encourage stewardship and continued recreation opportunities for all Alaskans and visitors alike. We also appreciate you making the wishes of your constituents known to the legislature.

Best regards,

Denali Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Josh Wilhour, President

Heidi DeCoeur, Vice President

Julia Potter, Treasurer

Cathey Peterson-Hall, Correspondence Secretary

Teresa Loegering, Recording Secretary



*INTERIOR TRAILS PRESERVATION COALITION*

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*ITPC*

Monday, March 7, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Our group supports HB 113 and SB 60, both of which would create the Stampede State Recreation Area in the Stampede Trail area west of Healy.

This area is bounded on three sides by Denali National Park and is used extensively year-round by dog mushers, snowmachiners, ATV enthusiasts, skiers, hikers, bikers, hunters, berry pickers, and many more. Stampede Trail provides important access to the backcountry, and the area has even more recreation potential.

A state Stampede Recreation Area would have many benefits including

- Protection of quality of life for people who regularly use the area.
- Protection of an area near Denali National Park for recreation that does not have the restrictions of a national park.
- Continued use of the area's natural resources by the public.
- A destination for tourists who want to experience the wild nature of the area without the crowds of Denali National Park

For all these reasons the Interior Trails Preservation Coalition supports the establishment of Stampede State Recreation Area.

Sincerely,

Eric Troyer  
Vice President

*ITPC*

*P.O. Box 74263, Fairbanks, AK 99707*

*Phone: (907) 458-7968*



## Northern Area Alaska State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

3700 Airport Way Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4613 (907) 451-2695

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February 10, 2011

To: Members of the 27<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session:

The Northern Area Alaska State Parks Citizens Advisory Board consists of ten members appointed by the Director of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The purpose of the board is to ensure representation of public interest and to make recommendations concerning outdoor recreation.

The Northern Area Alaska State Parks Citizens Advisory Board unanimously supports "**An Act creating the Stampede State Recreation Area**", outside of Healy, Alaska under Senate Bill 60 and House Bill 113.

The Northern Area Board recognizes the importance of protecting traditional uses as well as promoting the protection and enhancement of the State's recreational resources.

We recommend establishment of the state recreation area along with funding a master plan to identify the diverse public recreation uses, mitigate conflicts among those user groups, and promote orderly and consistent planning development and management programs for the area.

The board recognizes the need for fiscally responsible budgets. We feel the Stampede State Recreation Area warrants the state's investment and in the long run will help support Alaska's economy through tourism.

The Northern Area Citizens Advisory Board urges lawmakers to establish the Stampede State Recreation Area.

Sincerely,

Jim Williams

Northern Area State Park Advisory Board Chairman

## Senate Bill 60, House Bill 113, Stampede State Recreation Area

The Middle Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee along with the Denali Borough supports Senator Joe Thomas' and Representative David Guttenberg's SSRA bills in the state legislature during this session (SB 60 and HB 113, introduced January 21st).

The area encompasses critical winter habitat for wildlife including caribou, moose and furbearers. The Stampede State Recreation Area will protect traditional uses of hunting, trapping, fishing, boating, snowmachining, dog mushing, skiing, birding, wildlife viewing, berry picking and other outdoor activities that most Alaskans value as a way of life. The lands identified for this designation are mostly state lands identified by the Tanana Basin Area Plan as prime wildlife habitat and public recreation lands. Designation as a State Recreation Area will emphasize uses and values that the State of Alaska has already prioritized for many years.

The Middle Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee supported the original proposal by the Denali Borough Assembly in 2009.

## Grier Hopkins

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**From:** Jared Zimmerman [jared\_zimmerman@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 21, 2011 4:49 PM  
**To:** Sen. Joe Thomas; Rep. David Guttenberg  
**Cc:** Joe Hardenbrook; Grier Hopkins; Jay Hardenbrook; friendsofstampede@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Support for Stampede State Recreation Area

Dear Senator Thomas and Representative Guttenberg,

The Panguingue Creek Homeowner's Association would like to thank you for sponsoring bills SB 60 and HB 113 to create the Stampede State Recreation Area and for your work toward its passage. The Panguingue Creek Subdivision is located along the first few miles of the Stampede Road, so all of our members are very interested in the future of the lands proposed to be a part of the new recreation area.

Many of us who own property in this area and choose to live here do so because of the area's beautiful setting and access to Alaska's wilderness. We live here because we enjoy hiking, camping, berry picking, bird watching, skiing, skijoring, dog mushing, snowmobiling, riding ATV's, hunting, trapping, and fishing, and just about everything you can do to enjoy Alaska's beauty. Indeed, we have given up easy access to groceries and services we travel for over 100 miles to obtain, in order to have easy access to all the Stampede area has to offer.

Already, people from across the state, the country, and the world pass through here to use the state's land for recreation. Creating the Stampede State Recreation Area will help ensure that future generations of Alaskans and visitors will be able to enjoy this area, as well. As homeowners closest to the proposed area, we know of the need that already exists for some type of management and improvement of this area.

Stampede Road travels through our subdivision and offers seasonal vehicle access as far as Eight-mile Lake, one of the area's biggest draws. This area sees the highest use in the summer months, and without any improvements, its quality as a destination will continue to deteriorate as users leave trash and impact the area. The area around Eight-mile Lake already serves as a trail head for the area and its inclusion improves the State Recreation Area Proposal .

The Stampede State Recreation Area is the best way to ensure that we will always have access to these lands so near to our homes, and we thank you for taking this issue to Juneau for us.

Sincerely,

Panguingue Creek Homeowners' Association

Jared Zimmerman,	Chairperson
Andrea Blakesley,	Vice-Chair
Alex Lindeman,	Secretary
Susan Braun,	Board Member
Kurt Reeves,	Board Member

December 26, 2010  
EarthSong Lodge  
P.O. Box 89, Mile 4 Stampede Road  
Healy, AK 99743

To: Representative David Guttenberg, Senator Joe Thomas, Assemblymen John Winklmann and Cyrus Cooper

Re: Stampede Recreation Area Proposal

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter as both a landowner in the Panguingue Creek Subdivision and landowner on lands west and adjacent to the Subdivision (within the proposed additions to the Stampede Recreation Area), and as a business owner that utilizes all the land in the Wolf Townships. I have followed the proposal of the SRA since its conception, and was one of the original individuals that proposed that project many years back with Will Forsberg. While I have been disappointed with the slow development of the SRA, I am encouraged that it still has momentum, and look forward to its creation soon.

I have lived along the Stampede Road/Trail since 1983. I homesteaded some property west of the subdivision, two miles north of the road, and lived there and raised a family for 13 years. I purchased land in the subdivision in 1995, with the purpose of creating a tourism-based business for my family. I already had a dog sledding guiding business since 1985, guiding guests from all over the globe on dog tours lasting from one hour to ten days. I had, and still have, a concession guiding permit that allows me to operate inside Denali National Park and Preserve. The dog sled guiding business focuses mostly on the Stampede Corridor and Northern Additions to Denali Park, and most of the business would be in the proposed SRA. Our summer business, EarthSong Lodge and Henry's Coffeehouse, caters to guests visiting the park in the summer months. We will at times have up to 40 overnight guests, and have been operating that business since 1997. My summer guests not only participate in activities inside Denali Park, but also along the Stampede Road/Trail, west of the lodge.

Creation of a Stampede State Recreation Area would directly impact my businesses. And the impact would be strongly positive. As a business owner, it is important to protect interests that impact my operation. Tourism is a renewable resource and widely recognized by residents of Stampede Road as the best and most sustainable industry for our area. One completely compatible with neighbor Denali National Park and most residents. And one that would barely impact current use patterns by locals. The best way to protect my business interests and personal values is a creation of this SRA. While other possible development in our area, like Shallow Gas Exploration and Development, likely would have an immediate detrimental impact to my business, preserving existing uses and promoting tourism and conservation just enhances everyone's stake. For this reason, as a representative of my businesses, I fully support the proposed SRA.

On a personal note, I have been a resident of the area nearly thirty years. I live here not only to make a living, but mostly because I love the area. In all my travels in and out of Alaska, the Stampede Corridor is the place I'd most like to live in. And one I have invested my life in. A SRA guaranteeing a preservation of certain values would not only be favored by me, but would make the most sense, and be a legacy that all future local residents would be proud of.

Please consider these words, from a landowner, long-time resident, outdoor enthusiast, family man, and business owner, when considering the proposed Stampede State Recreation Area. I speak for myself, but I know my views are shared by a vast number of people in our area and throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Jon M. Nierenberg  
Owner, EarthSong Lodge, Henry's Coffeehouse, Denali Dog Sled Expeditions  
Mile 4 Stampede Road  
[www.earthsonglodge.com](http://www.earthsonglodge.com)



*Friends of  
Stampede*

Purpose:

**“To protect the natural resources and recreational opportunities on public lands in the townships along the Stampede Trail corridor.”**

Formative meeting held  
October 30<sup>th</sup> at the  
Panguingue Creek Fire Hall



## Who we are...

- Our members
- Our work
- History and Evolution of the Stampede State Recreation Area (SRA) idea
- Our support of the Stampede SRA



## Who we are...

### Our members

- Over 30 people have attended meetings over the last two months
- Nearly 50 people have requested to be included on our email list
- At this point, many are residents of the Denali Borough, including property owners in the Panguingue Subdivision and business owners in the area.



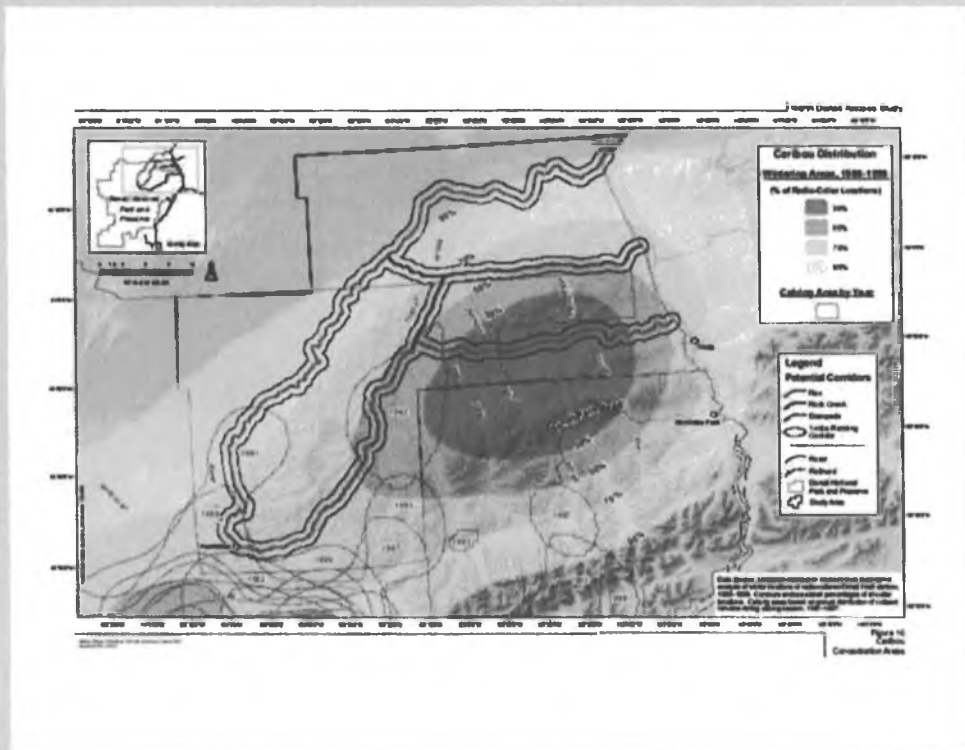
## Who we are...

## Our work

- Collected input regarding current concerns along the Stampede Trail corridor



- Collected input regarding values and uses along the Stampede Trail corridor





## Who we are...

### Our work

- Developed a statement of purpose and group mission
- Developed a logo
- Established an email account



## Who we are...

### Our work

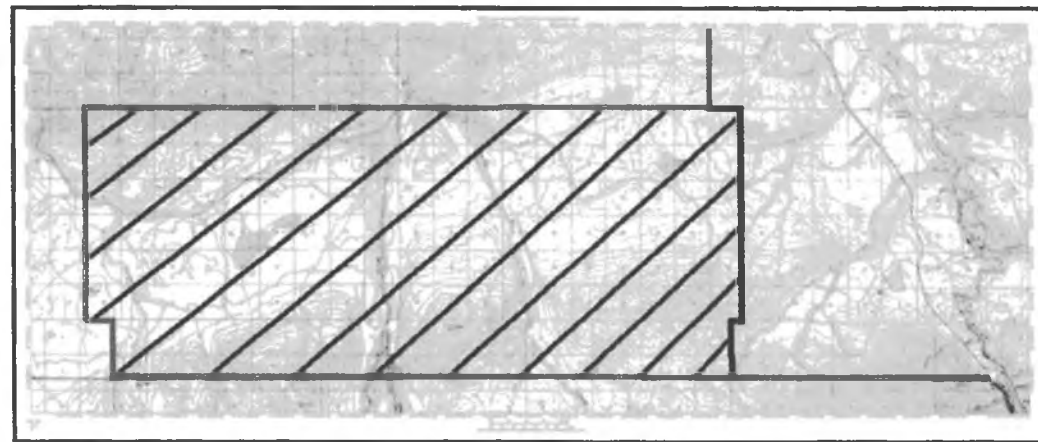
- Developed contacts with state agencies to introduce our group and find out how we can support the area in its current status
  - Department of Transportation, Adopt-a-Highway
  - Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation
  - Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water



# Who we are...

## Our work

- Developed contacts with Denali Borough government and state legislators to support the Stampede State Recreation Area idea



Stampede State Recreation Area

Boundary of Denali National Park

Lands in proposed MA

Boundary of proposed MA (DCC)



# History of the Stampede State Recreation Area

- Denali Borough Assembly passes a resolution to encourage the formation of a Stampede State Recreation Area in January, 2007 (07-01)
- Bill introduced by Representative David Guttenberg and Senator Joe Thomas during the 2007-08 session (HB 241, SB 173)





# History of the Stampede State Recreation Area

- Bill reintroduced by Senator Joe Thomas during the 2009-10 session (SB 108)
- Denali Borough Assembly passes a resolution to support the inclusion of lands around 8-Mile Lake in February, 2010 (10-04)





# Support for the Stampede State Recreation Area

- Denali Borough Assembly
- Healy Chamber of Commerce
- Panguingue Creek Homeowners Association
- Denali Citizens Council
- Arctic Off Road
- Tread Lightly 4X4



## Evolution of the Stampede State Recreation Area

- Changes recommended to the state for inclusion in the reintroduced bill:
  - Uses: Added berry picking





# Evolution of the Stampede State Recreation Area

- Changes recommended to the state for inclusion in the reintroduced bill:
  - Strengthen language on the importance of wildlife habitat





# Evolution of the Stampede State Recreation Area

- Changes recommended to the state for inclusion in the reintroduced bill:
  - Strengthen local voices in Management Plan development and implementation



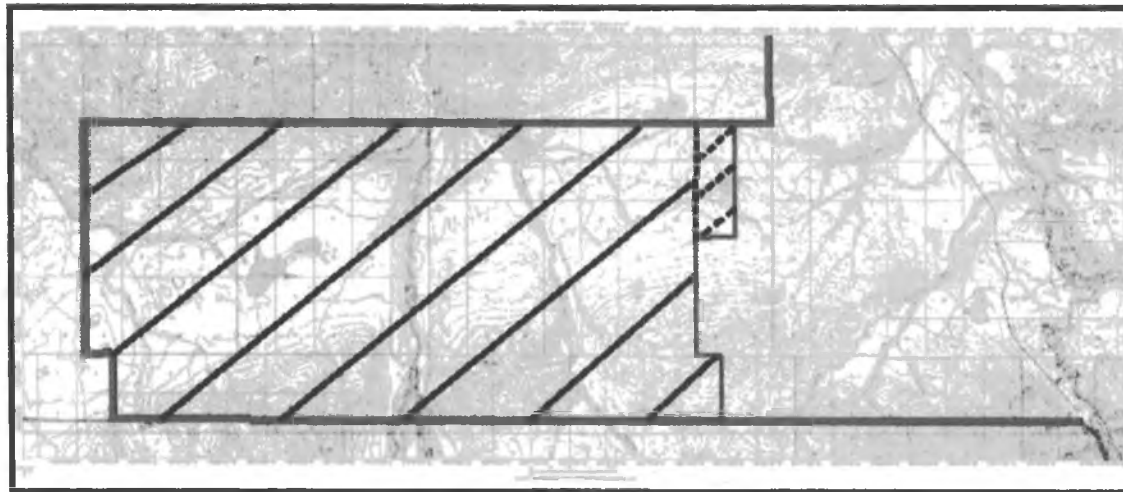


## Evolution of the Stampede State Recreation Area

- Changes recommended to the state for inclusion in the reintroduced bill:
  - Encourage development that represents local desire to see the area “unchanged” (i.e. minimal infrastructure and primitive opportunities)



# Evolution of the Stampede State Recreation Area



Proposed Stampede State Recreation Area - With addition of three sections around 8 Mile Lake  
Add sections 2, 11, 14

Boundary of Denali National Park



Lands in proposed SRA - SB 108

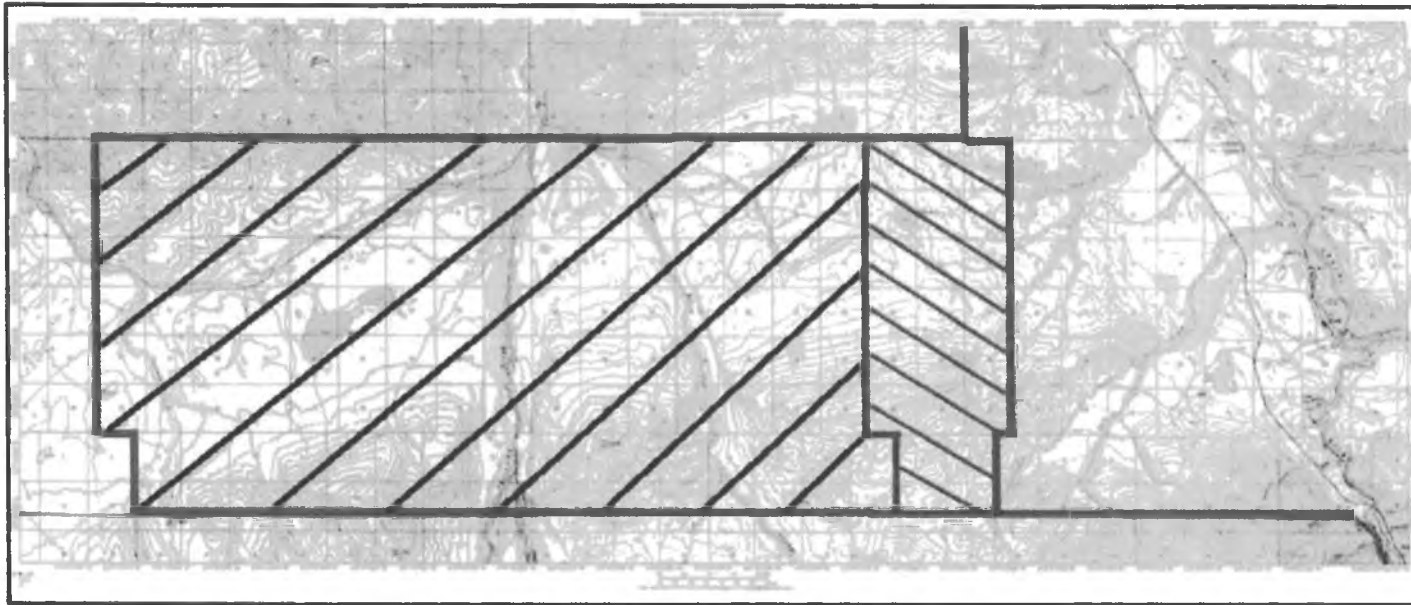


Proposed additions around 8 Mile

Eastern boundary of SRA with additions



# Evolution of the Stampede State Recreation Area



Stampede State Recreation Area

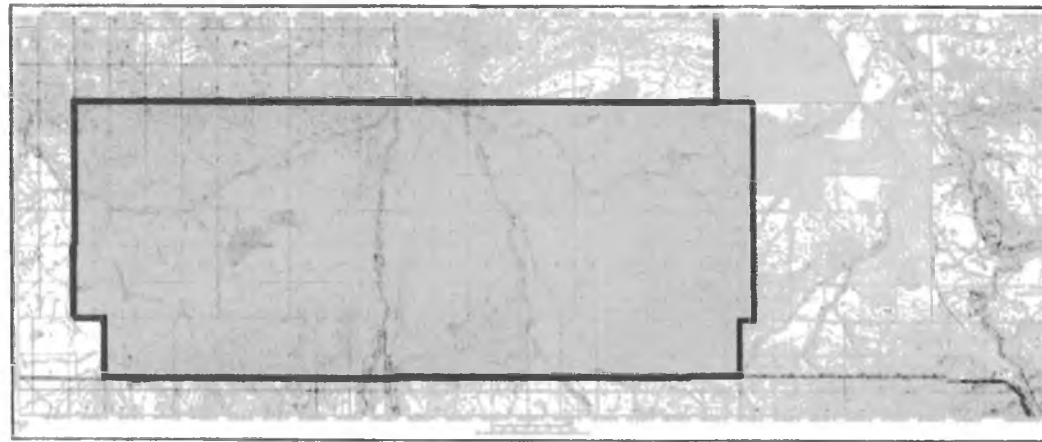
Boundary of Denali National Park

Extent of SRA - SB 108


Suggested additions to SRA - Fall 2010





# Reasoning for the areas included in the Stampede State Recreation Area



Stampede State Recreation Area proposal

 Stampede State Recreation Area

 Borough/Private lands  
(between Rec Area and Nenana River; not including AK RR lands and some small parcels)

 Boundary with Denali National Park



## Ways we intend to support the Stampede State Recreation Area Proposal

- Continue outreach to local citizens and potential partners (i.e. businesses, groups and individuals that utilize or have interest in the Stampede Trail corridor and property owners in the Stampede/Wolf Townships)



# Ways we intend to support the Stampede State Recreation Area Proposal

- Continue coordination with:
  - Denali Borough government
  - Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
  - State Legislators





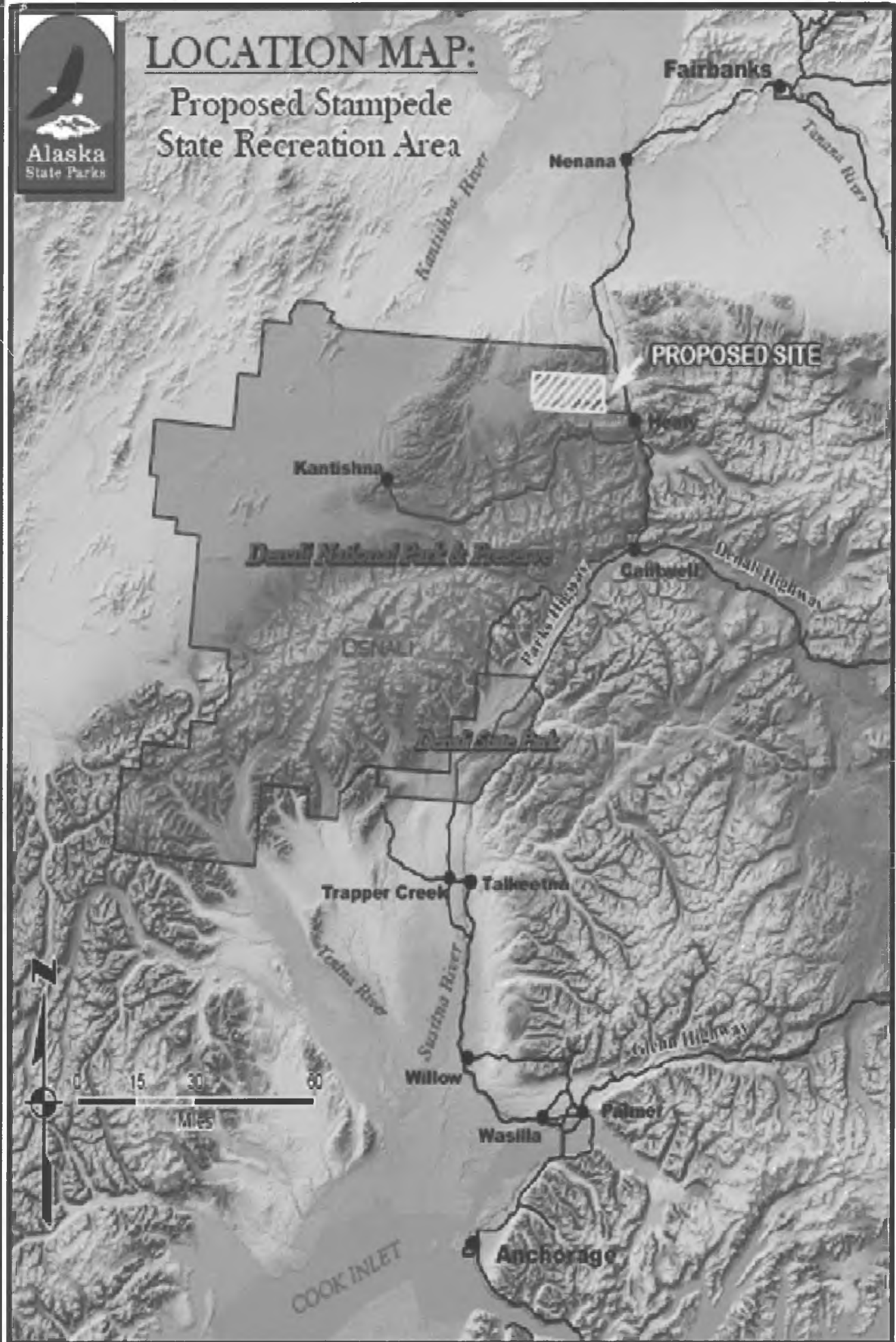
*Friends of  
Stampede*

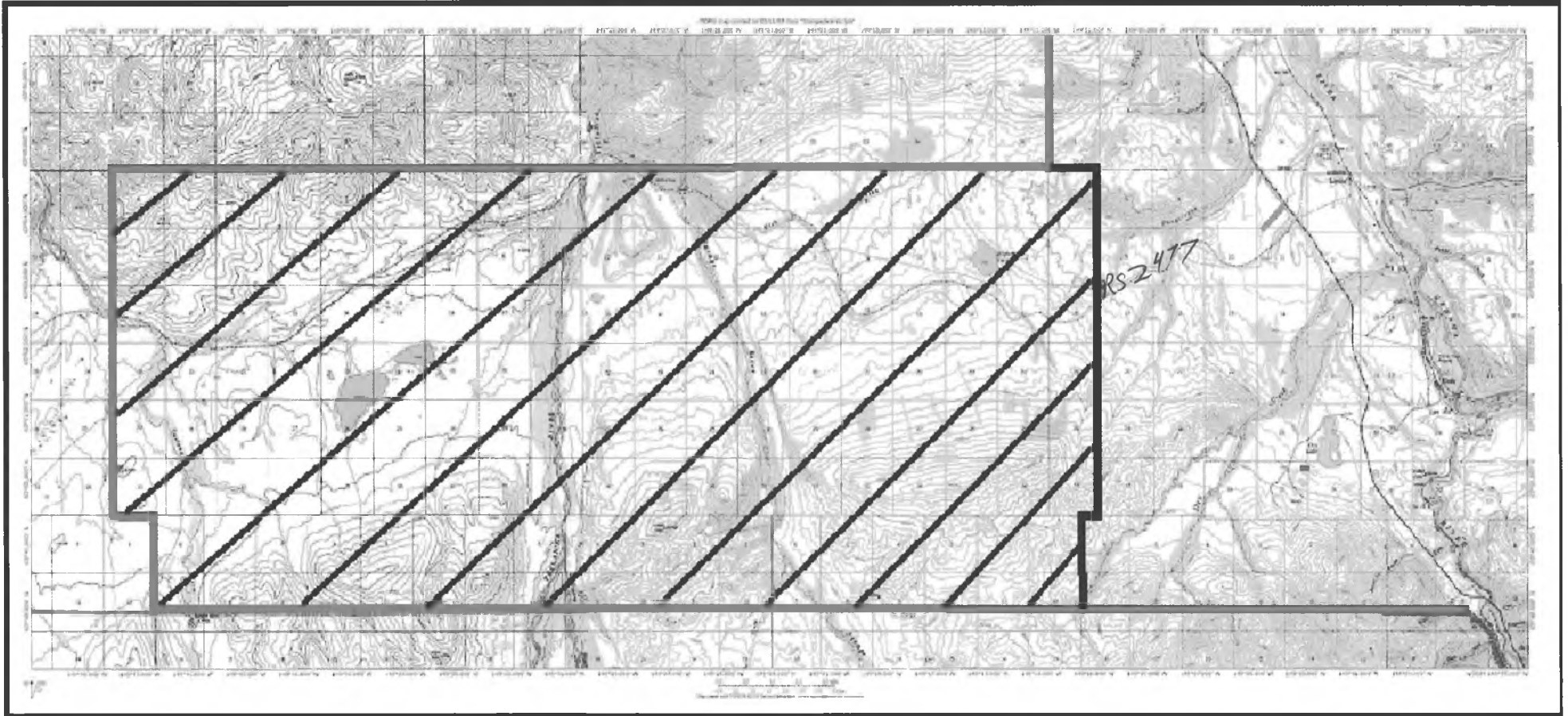
On behalf of Friends of Stampede, THANKS for your consideration of a resolution supporting the reintroduction and timely passage of a bill to create a Stampede State Recreation Area.



# LOCATION MAP:

## Proposed Stampede State Recreation Area





### Stampede State Recreation Area

Boundary of Denali National Park

Lands in proposed SRA

Boundary of proposed SRA (DCC)



### **Stampede State Recreation Area Map**

The lands within this map are mostly state lands identified by the Tanana Basin Area Plan as prime wildlife habitat/public recreation lands. Designation as a State Recreation Area will emphasize uses and values that the State of Alaska itself has recognized as primary over many years.



**Visit our website or email Friends of Stampede for more information:**

**Email: [friendsofstampede@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstampede@gmail.com)**

**Website: <http://stampedefriends.wordpress.com/>**