

**HB**

**246**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 246</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
246</SUBJECT><COMM>HRES28</COMM></TARGET>

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(9)

Date Referred to Committee: January 21, 2014

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 2/24/14

The RESOURCES Committee considered:

HB 246

**HOUSE BILL NO. 246**

"An Act adding additional land and water to the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge."

**HB 246 CREAMER'S FIELD WATERFOWL REFUGE**

Recommends it be replaced with  HCS or  CS for \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)

For Senate Bills with new title:  Technical Title  New Title: HCR \_\_\_\_\_ |  Same Title |  New Title

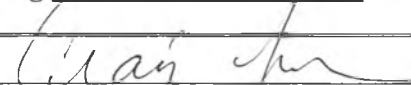
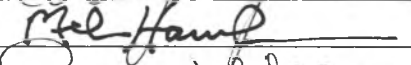
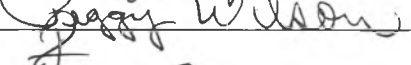
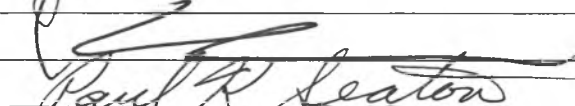
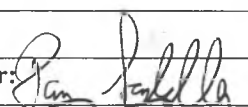

- attach amendments
- add new referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- Letter of Intent \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

List of Abbrev for Depts.:

- ADM
- CED
- COR
- CRT
- EED
- DEC
- DFG
- GOV
- DHS
- LWF
- LAW
- LEG
- MVA
- DNR
- DPS
- REV
- DOT
- UA

<u>NEW FISCAL NOTES</u>				
*FN# is assigned by Chief Clerk's Office				
*FN#	List by Dept(s):	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
	DFG			X

<u>PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES</u>				
FN#	List by Dept(s):	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

<u>Signing with recommendations</u>	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
	JOHNSON			>	
	HAWKER	*			
	WILSON	X			
	SEATON	X			
Chair: 	SPADOLA	X			
Chair: 	FEIBE	X			

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
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## REPRESENTATIVE PETE HIGGINS

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

**HB 246 "An Act adding additional land and water to the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge."**

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HB 246 repeals and reenacts AS 16.20.039 to add additional lands to Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.

The boundary change in HB 246 proposes to incorporate a total of four parcels of land adjacent to Creamer's Migratory Waterfowl Refuge purchased by the State of Alaska, some dating back to 2001. These acquired parcels, although not officially part of the refuge, have been managed as refuge land since management authority was delegated to the Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Alaska Department of Fish & Games, Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge Interim Management Plan strives to achieve balance between a variety of user groups including bird watchers, skijors, dog mushers, cross country skiers, hunters, trappers, snowmachiners, a variety of dog training groups, school groups, etc. The ADF&G staff at Creamer's Refuge takes great pride in the fact that they are truly a multi-user refuge.

ADF&G currently see no reason to alter the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge Interim Management Plan to restrict, deny, or otherwise impinge on any of the recognized activities that were addressed in this plan.

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2014 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 246  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: HB246-DFG-WCD-02-24-14  
Title: CREAMER'S FIELD WATERFOWL REFUGE  
Sponsor: HIGGINS  
Requester: House Resources Committee

Department: Department of Fish and Game  
Appropriation: Wildlife Conservation  
Allocation: Wildlife Conservation  
OMB Component Number: 473

**Expenditures/Revenues**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2015 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2015 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2016</b>	<b>FY 2017</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

None							
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

<b>Change in Revenues</b>							
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**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2014) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2015) cost:** 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS**

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No  
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:**

Initial version
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Prepared By:	Doug Vincent-Lang, Director	Phone:	(907)267-2339
Division:	Wildlife Conservation	Date:	01/30/2014 07:30 PM
Approved By:	Kevin Brooks, Deputy Commissioner	Date:	02/20/14
Agency:	Commissioner's Office		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 246

**Analysis**

House Bill 246 will amend the legal boundary description for Creamer's Field Waterfowl Refuge to include lands that have either deed restrictions or management rights directing that they be managed as a part of the Refuge until such a time as they can be included in the Refuge's statutory boundary language. The addition of these parcels of land to the Refuge's statutes will not require any additional funding.

# **Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge**

## **Interim Management Plan March 1993**

Prepared by:

### **Alaska Department of Fish and Game Divisions of Wildlife Conservation and Habitat and Restoration**

Carl Rosier, Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

David Kelleyhouse, Director  
Division of Wildlife Conservation

Frank Rue, Director  
Habitat and Restoration Division

## Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge Interim Management Plan

### PREFACE

Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge encompasses approximately 1,790 acres of state-owned land in the heart of the Fairbanks community. It is known best for the fields adjacent to College Road that attract large numbers of migrating waterfowl each spring, and provide open, pastoral views of the old Creamer's Dairy site. Thousands of people stop to view waterfowl and other wildlife from the roadside parking/viewing area off College Road each spring. After the waterfowl have left Creamer's for nesting grounds, many Fairbanksans and visitors continue to use the refuge for a variety of outdoor activities, or to simply enjoy the peaceful scenery.

Activities on the refuge include agriculture, research, wildlife watching, photography, walking, working-dog training, hunting, trapping, cross-country skiing, dog mushing, skijoring, and snowmachining. As tourism increases in Fairbanks, Creamer's is seeing more use by visitors from other areas, both individuals and tour groups. The regional headquarters for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (the department or ADF&G) is located on the refuge, next to College Road (see Map One).

Historically, waterfowl viewing at Creamer's Field began when dairy activities first started to attract migrating birds about 1910. The cleared fields with their residual grain and forage crops, and with manure spread on them, melted out early in the spring, providing shallow ponds and feed for waterfowl. Fairbanksans soon learned that excellent spring viewing of these birds was available from Ester Road (what College Road was first called) where it passed Creamer's Dairy. Local news media always featured (and still does) pictures and stories about this wondrous spring migration event along with news about the breakup of interior rivers.

When the dairy fields were put up for sale in 1966, Fairbanks residents who recognized their value for wildlife habitat and open space for the growing community came together to find a way to acquire the property for the public. In 1967 these people, operating through the Alaska Conservation Society, started a fund drive and collected enough money to buy an "option to purchase." This option held the land open until the state obtained federal Pittman-Robertson funds and state funds appropriated by the legislature to purchase the fields (about 250 acres). The Creamer family was anxious to see the dairy fields go to public ownership, and supported this effort by keeping the land off the open real estate market. The fund drive occurred just after the devastating 1967 flood, and its success at this difficult time shows the dedication of Fairbanksans to the concept of keeping Creamer's for wildlife.

Following the purchase, ADF&G worked with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to get 1,500 acres of adjacent state land, together with the dairy fields, administratively designated as the Fairbanks Wildlife Management Area, in order to protect the wildlife habitat values of the entire area. In 1979 the Alaska Legislature

Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge Interim Management Plan

**STATUTORY PURPOSES OF THE REFUGE**

(see Appendix A for full text)

1. To provide protection and enhancement of habitat for migratory birds with special emphasis on waterfowl (Alaska Statutes (AS) 16.20.039(c)(1)).
2. To provide opportunity to view, photograph and study various species of plants, wildlife and geological features typical to Interior Alaska (AS 16.20.039(c)(2)).
3. To promote the above purposes by the development of a management plan for the refuge (AS 16.20.039(d)).

AS 16.29.039(d) further directs that recreational and agricultural activity is expressly permitted within the refuge if consistent with the management plan.

**MANAGEMENT GOALS**




(Mission Statement)

The Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge is managed to protect and enhance wildlife habitat, with special emphasis on waterfowl and other migratory birds, to promote conservation of wildlife, and to provide for compatible public uses. The management goals for the refuge are:

1. To protect and enhance the quality and diversity of habitat for wildlife with special emphasis on waterfowl and other migratory birds.
2. To protect and enhance the opportunity to view, photograph and gain an understanding of ecosystems, including wildlife species, plant species, geological and other features typical of Interior Alaska.
3. To encourage opportunities for public education about terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, wildlife, habitat, historical resources and other related topics.
4. To allow other public uses that are consistent with the above statutory purposes and management goals.

# Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge

## Legend

-  Creamer's Field Existing Boundary
-  Proposed Boundary
-  Affected Lands

## Landstatus



### Federal Lands

-  BLM

### State Lands

-  State of Alaska
-  University of Alaska

### Other Lands

-  Private
-  City of Fairbanks
-  Fairbanks North Star Borough

-  Landing Strip
-  Trail

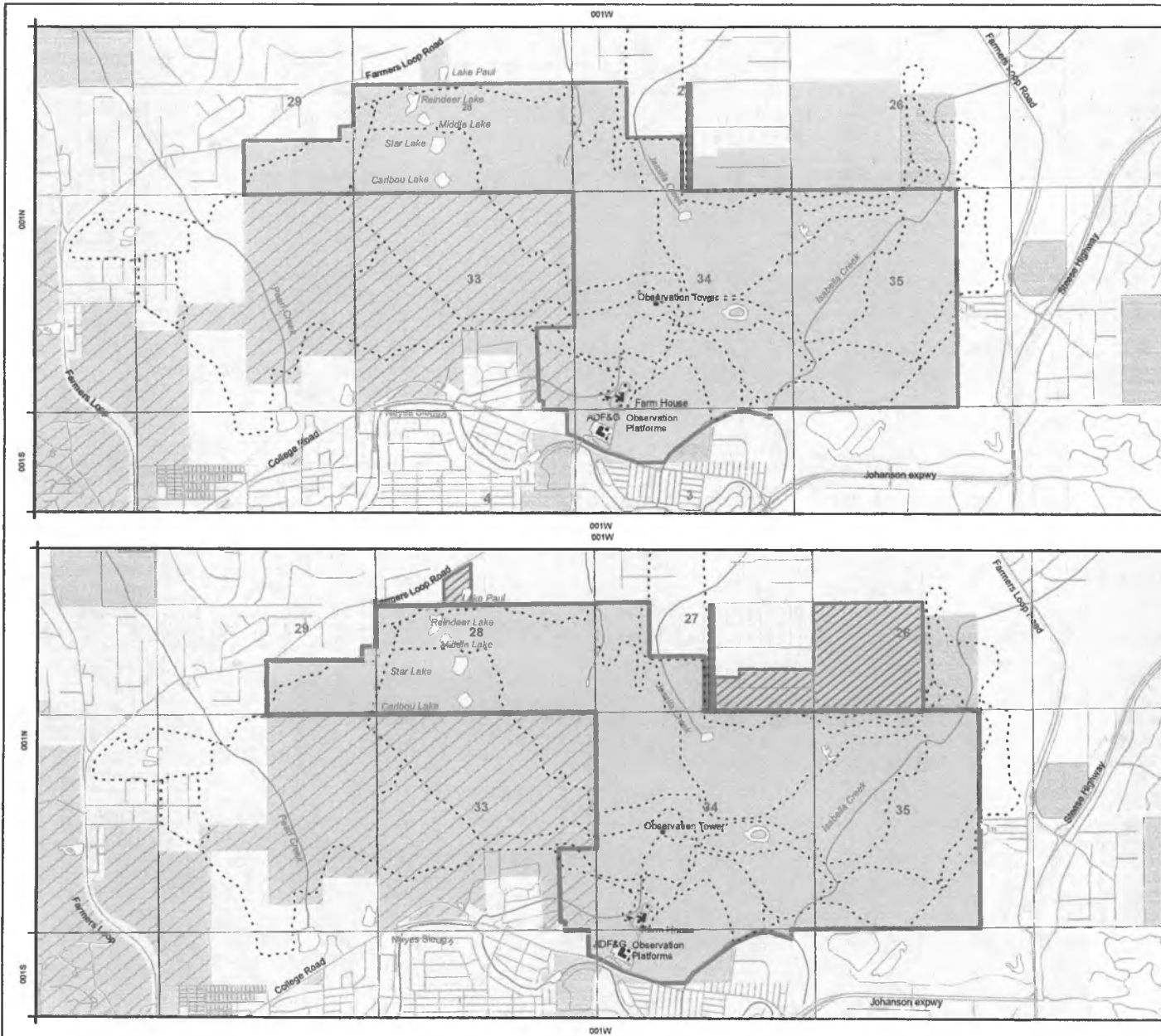


Map Produced by  
State of Alaska  
Dept. of Fish and Game  
Date: 6/21/2012



0 0.475 0.95 Miles

Location Map







## THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ALASKA CHAPTER

2627 Ingra Street  
Anchorage, AK 99508

13 February 2014

*The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a professional society founded in 1971. With over 200 members, the Alaska Chapter is one of the largest chapters of The Wildlife Society, an international organization representing wildlife biologists and managers employed by state, federal, and borough resource agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental conservation organizations, and private industry. Our mission is to enhance the ability of wildlife professionals to conserve biological diversity, sustain productivity, and ensure responsible use of wildlife resources in Alaska for the benefit of society.*

The Honorable Dan Saddler  
House Resources Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Saddler,

I am writing in support of HB 246, "An act adding additional land and water to the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge." This bill adds land that is already owned by the state to the Creamer's Field Refuge. It does not increase land ownership by the state, nor does it impose an additional financial burden on the state.

These lands border the refuge and were conveyed by private entities to the state with the intent that they be included within the refuge boundaries. Although the state now owns the land, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has no management authority over them without legislative action. Thus, ADF&G cannot undertake habitat improvements or manage public access.

Creamer's Field is a valued refuge. Thousands of Alaskans and out-of-state visitors come to the refuge each year to view migratory birds and experience the outdoors. Your efforts will help ensure that the quality of the refuge remains undiminished.

I hope that you and others on the Resources Committee will support this legislation and forward it for consideration by other members of the House.

Sincerely,

Jerry Hupp  
President, Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## REPRESENTATIVE PETE HIGGINS Memorandum

**TO:** Representative Feige, Chairman; House Resources Committee

**FROM:** Representative Pete Higgins

**DATE:** February 18, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Hearing Request HB 246, *"An Act adding additional land and water to the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge."*

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I respectfully request that the House Resources Committee hear HB 246.

The following documents are provided and will be sent via email.

- HB 246/A
- HB 246 Sponsors Statement
- ADF&G Creamer's Field Management Plan

Thank you,