

HB

272

<TARGET><BILL>HB 272</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
272</SUBJECT><COMM>HFSH30</COMM></TARGET>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 272: *"An Act establishing the Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge; and providing for an effective date."*

House Bill 272 will establish a game refuge on approximately 156,000 acres of state land in the Tangle Lakes region, north of the Denali Highway and west of the Richardson Highway. This area is of great importance for recreational, hunting and fishing, subsistence, and tourism purposes, and we would like to ensure the preservation of this area and its resources for our fellow Alaskans.

Although most activities within the proposed refuge pertain to renewable resources, there is potential for non-renewable activities, which could irreparably damage both the ecosystem and the wildlife that depend on it. Any damage to this ecosystem may dramatically affect Alaskans who rely on subsistence hunting and who enjoy recreating in undeveloped and unpolluted wild spaces. The more expansive mining claims to the north of the proposed refuge will not be affected by this bill.

Part of what makes this wilderness area so popular is that access is relatively easy. Gently sloping terrain alongside the Denali Highway invites thousands of hunters, birders, wilderness enthusiasts, and tourists into the proposed refuge area each year. Sport and subsistence hunters flock to this region for the Nelchina caribou herd, though moose, ptarmigan, and waterfowl are also abundant. These resources rely on a healthy local ecosystem.

The presence of an archeological district and a federally-protected corridor further underscore the Tangle Lakes region's importance.

I invite you to discuss this issue with me further and urge you to support this legislation.

Please contact my staff Lisa Delaney with any questions: 465-4967, lisa.delaney@akleg.gov

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

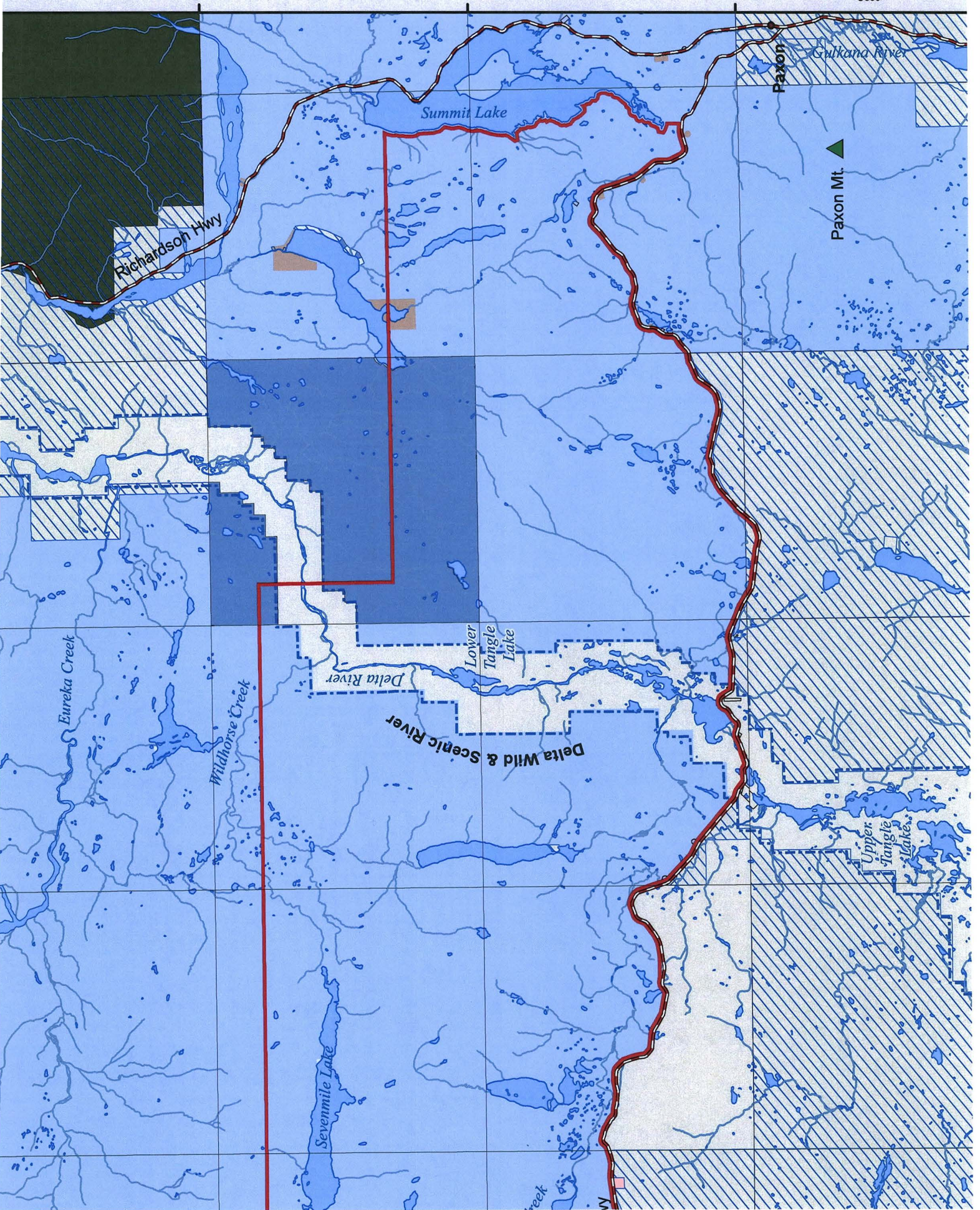
Sectional Analysis

HB 272 - *"An Act establishing the Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge; and providing for an effective date."*

Section 1: Defines the boundaries of the proposed Tangle Lakes Game Refuge and outlines the compatible uses of this area. This bill will serve to protect renewable resources for hunting and fishing, recreation, and subsistence activities. The protection of wildlife and environmental health are central to this bill.

Mining will be prohibited as of the effective date, though existing claims will run their course. Oil exploration will be at the discretion of the commissioner, provided it does not impede the use of renewable resources.

Section 2: Adds an effective date of January 1, 2019.



From: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
To: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: FW: HB272
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 4:44:47 PM

From: Janelle Eklund [mailto:jeklund@cvinternet.net]
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 10:32 AM
To: Sen. Click Bishop <Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB272

Dear Senator Bishop,

I support HB 272 introduced by Representative Andy Josephson, to establish a Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. This area has been near and dear to my heart the 43 years I've lived in Alaska. Tangle Lakes is the place I go for solitude, berry picking, hunting, canoeing, wildlife viewing, hiking, and camping. The beauty and grandeur of this special place needs to be protected from mining and any other degradation. This is truly a sacred place that heals the spirit. Every year the environmental organization I am involved with helps sponsor the Project Healing Waters program for wounded veterans and soldiers at Tangle Lakes. It is so heartwarming to see the transformation of these special people when they interact with nature. Nature is a great healer and the Tangle Lakes area is the perfect place to go for this therapy. Please support this Bill that will help keep this sacred place alive and well.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Janelle Eklund
Kenny Lake, Alaska

From: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
To: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: FW: HB272
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 4:45:10 PM

From: Frank Keim [mailto:frankkeim@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 6:54 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: HB272

Rep. Andy Josephson
Re (HB) 272 Tangle Lakes Game Refuge

Thanks, Andy, for sponsoring the Tangle Lakes Game Refuge. I hope this time we're successful in getting it through both houses.

Frank Keim

From: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
To: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: FW: Please support HB 272 - Tangle Lakes protection
Date: Friday, January 12, 2018 9:25:26 AM

From: Alison Carter [mailto:alisoncarter2@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 9:06 AM

To: Rep. Bryce Edgmon <Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chris Tuck <Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov>; Rep. Charisse Millett <Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov>

Cc: Rep. Chris Birch <Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov>; Rep. Mike Chenault <Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov>; Rep. Matt Claman <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Eastman <Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov>; Rep. Les Gara <Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jason Grenn <Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov>; Rep. David Guttenberg <Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov>; Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov>

Subject: Please support HB 272 - Tangle Lakes protection

Thank you for your hard work on Alaskan's behalf. This is a quick note to express how important the Tangle Lakes area is to my well-being. I hope you have spent time there. I make at least 2 trips there each year from Fairbanks and spend 10-14 days. I wish I could explain how that time recharges my spiritual battery and enhances the quality of my life. I always meet people from Anchorage and Mat-Su there.

Please help protect it from mining and other development that will spoil the pristine and peaceful nature of the area.

Sincerely,
Alison Carter
Fairbanks, AK

From: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
To: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: FW: Tangle lakes region
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 5:00:27 PM

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

From: delmarjohnson2000@yahoo.com [<mailto:delmarjohnson2000@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 9:19 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Tangle lakes region

Sent from my iPad. Thank you for all your efforts to preserve this area!! I have fished, hiked, photographed this area for more than 40 years. My children were raised camping 4th of July week at Landmark Gap Lake since they were babies. I never want this area to change. No trail or road improvements. To love this area, you have to earn it. If it was easy, it would be changed by those that would flood it, leaving traces of disregard. Protect it!!!!!!!!!!!!
Delmar Johnson.

From: [Thomas Atkinson](#)
To: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: FW: Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge
Date: Sunday, January 21, 2018 6:36:55 PM

From: Steve Shannon [mailto:stvnshnn@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 3:37 PM
To: Thomas Atkinson <Thomas.Atkinson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

To Representative Josephson,

Thank you for pre-filing House Bill 272. As an Alaskan resident, I have fallen in love with the Tangle Lakes area and brought my younger brother up from Florida this past fall to chase caribou around that area to try and fill my Unit 13 tag (DC 485). It's an incredible area and filled with opportunity for all sorts of renewable resource usage from hunting and fishing, to berry picking and hiking.

I plan to write a comment piece thanking you for your support and I thought in the meantime you could read the article I wrote on my hunt in the Tangle Lakes area.

My only request is that if you recognize the peaks, don't tell anyone where we were at. ;)

<https://journalofmountainhunting.com/brotherly-love/>

Sincerely,

Steve Shannon
Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

From: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
To: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: FW: Thank you for introducing HB 272.
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2018 10:27:57 AM

From: Patrick Endres [mailto:patrick@alaskaphotographics.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2018 10:08 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you for introducing HB 272.

Dear Representative Josephson,

Thank you so much for introducing HB 272 advocating for Tangle Lakes. And thanks to the work of your staff as well!

Sincerely,
Patrick Endres

--

Patrick J Endres
<http://AlaskaPhotoGraphics.com>
<http://Patrickendres.com>
2923 Moose Mountain Road, Fairbanks AK, 99709
907-750-4065
Your source for wild Alaska images: [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#)

From: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
To: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: FW: Thank You HB 272
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 4:44:25 PM

From: Janelle Eklund [mailto:jeklund@cvinternet.net]
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 10:43 AM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank You HB 272

Dear Representative Josephson,

Thank you so much for introducing HB 272 that would establish Tangle Lakes as a State Game Refuge. This is great news and I hope it passes. I appreciate all your work, and that of your staff to get this bill introduced. I love the Tangle Lakes area and go there every year for the solitude and to pick blueberries, hunt, canoe, hike, camp, view wildlife, and take photographs. This is a very special and sacred place. It gives my spirit peace to go there. I belong to an environmental non-profit organization that helps sponsor the Project Healing Waters program at Tangle Lakes every year. It is amazing and hearwarming to see how the veterans and soldiers are transformed by interacting with nature. It is very healing to them. It would be a shame if mining companies or other entities came in and destroyed the healthy integrity of this special area.

Thank you again for taking the step to make Tangle Lakes a State Game Refuge so this area will be protected.

Sincerely,

Janelle Eklund
Kenny Lake, Alaska

From: Cliff Eames
To: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: Re: release of bill
Date: Wednesday, January 17, 2018 4:50:47 PM

Again, a huge thanks to you and Rep. Josephson for introducing this bill. It's been a lot of work for you, we're well aware.

From: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
To: ["Kate Sandberg"](#)
Subject: RE: Thank you
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 7:56:54 AM

From: Kate Sandberg [mailto:kesandberg@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2018 5:11 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you

Dear Rep. Josephson,
Thank you for introducing HB 272. What a relief to have a representative doing something constructive and that will add to the quality of life and to preserve habitat. Thank you. What a gem the Tangle Lakes area is.

Kate Sandberg
Girdwood, AK

From: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
To: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: FW: Thank you for bill to establish Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge
Date: Monday, January 22, 2018 2:45:08 PM

From: Kendra Zamzow [mailto:kzamzow@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 1:06 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Thank you for bill to establish Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Dear Representative Josephson:

Thank you for introducing HB 272. I strongly support creating a game refuge in this area. It is also important bird habitat and a great area for biking and camping.

As a long time Alaskan, I recognize our natural renewable resources -- game, fish, millions of migratory birds, wilderness, quiet lakes -- to be critical to our economy, and a legacy to pass on. So many other states have not learned how important these are until they have paved, mined, drilled, and developed over most of them. Let's not make that mistake.

Thank you,

*Kendra
Zamzow, PhD*

Chickaloon, AK

907.354.3886

"We are drowning in information, while starving for wisdom." EO Wilson



HB 272

TANGLE LAKES GAME REFUGE

Motivations

The Tangle Lakes area is important to Alaskans across the state.

HUNTING, FISHING, & TRAPPING

- Game Management Unit 13
- Nelchina caribou herd
- Birds & small game

TOURISM

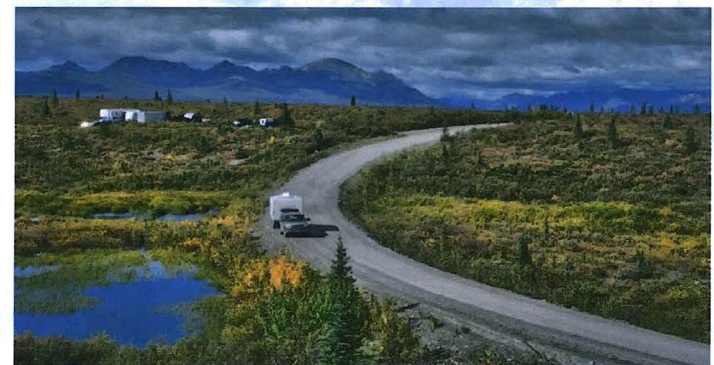
- Lodges
- Photography
- Scenic highway
- Camping

SUBSISTENCE

- Hunting
- Foraging/berry-picking

SPORTS

- Canoeing
- Hiking
- Mountaineering
- Birding



Places of Note

There are 4 main categories:

1. State Range Areas

- Provide habitat protection for wildlife, primarily moose & bison
- 2 statewide, 220,051 acres

2. Anadromous Waters Catalog

- Important for Alaska's economy, lifestyle & environment
- Receive special protections to ensure they continue to support abundant runs of fish
- Thousands of miles of rivers, lakes, streams statewide

3. Controlled Use Areas

- Restricts certain methods/means of harvest for some game species
- 26 statewide



Places of Note

4. State Refuges, Sanctuaries, & Critical Habitat Areas

- Protect rich fish & wildlife habitats
- Possess outstanding fish & wildlife-related recreational opportunities
- 32 statewide, 3.2 million acres

REFUGES ▲

- Sizeable concentrations of important species
- Ensure wildlife continues to populate area
- Ensure people have continued access to resources therein

SANCTUARIES ■

- Land is used in exclusive ways by wildlife (e.g., breeding grounds)
- Recreation controlled via permit

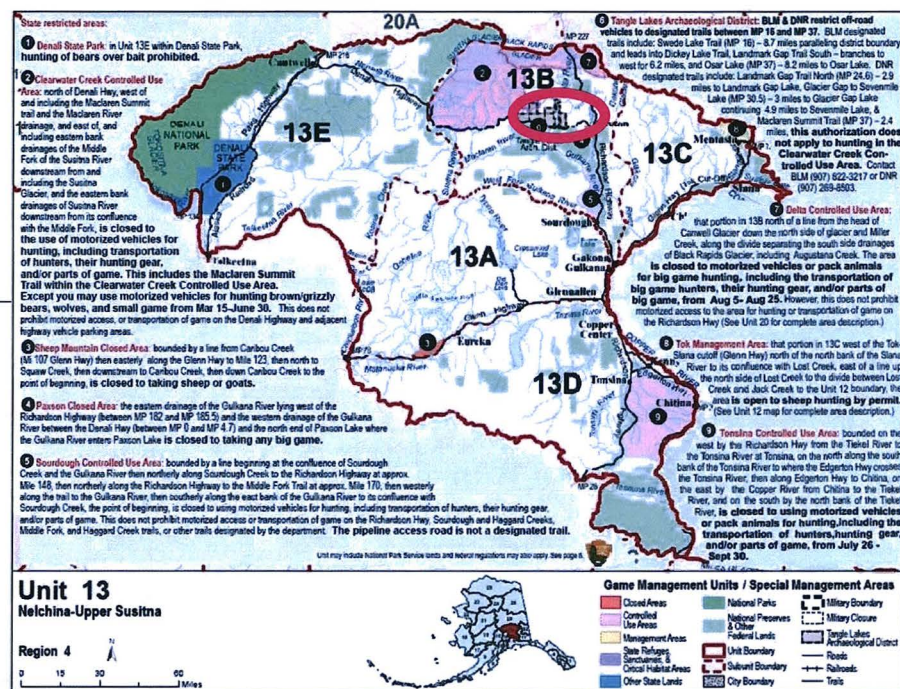
CRITICAL HABITAT AREAS ▲

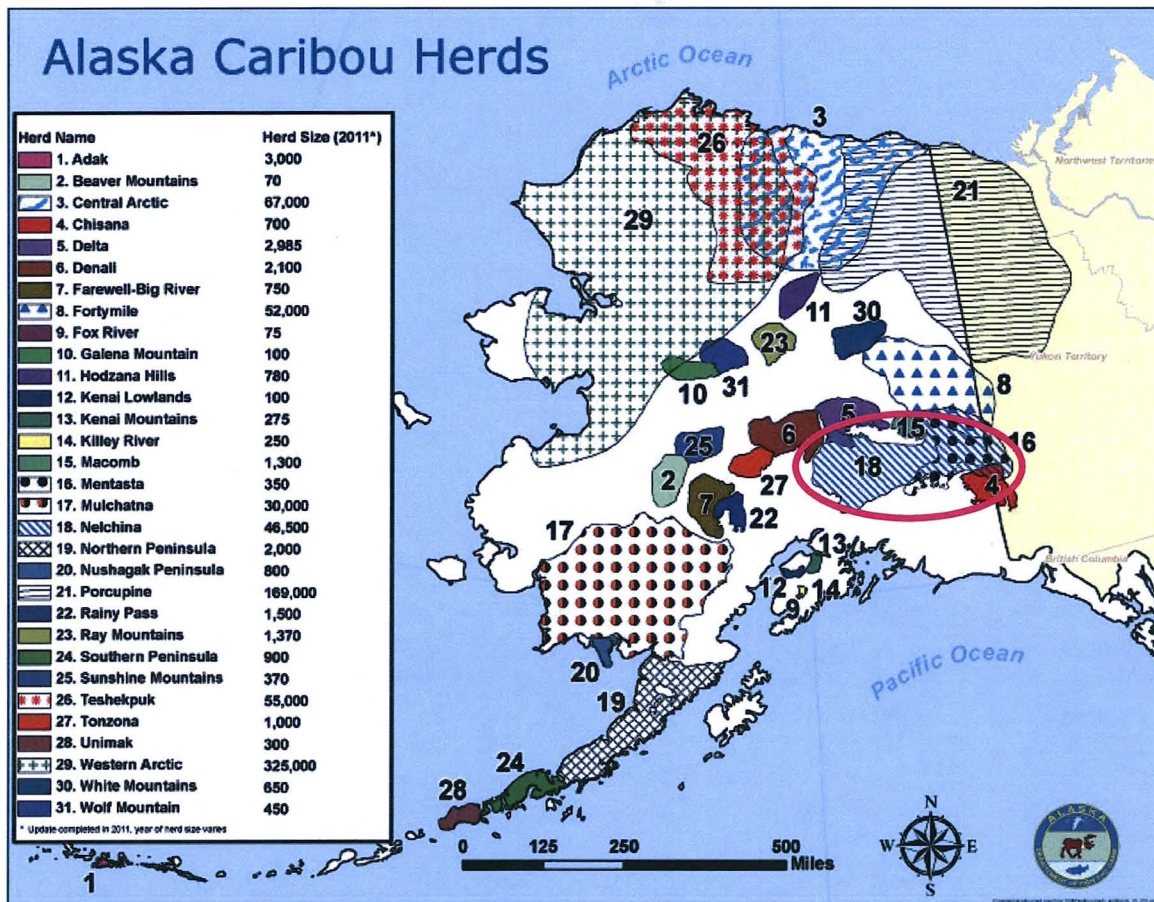
- Emphasis on environment/habitat important for essential life functions



What Else?

- GMU 13B
- Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area (ADF&G)
 - Closed to motorized vehicles (1971)
 - Many moose in this portion of the Alaska Range
 - Nelchina caribou in area during summer & early fall
 - Popular for walk-in hunters
- Delta National Wild & Scenic River Corridor (BLM)
 - Habitat for 100+ species of migrating birds/waterfowl & various fish species
- Tangle Lakes Archaeological District (DNR)
 - Resulted from demonstrated valuable cultural resources
 - Land is managed to maintain range of recreational, scenic, educational, archeological & unique natural resource opportunities





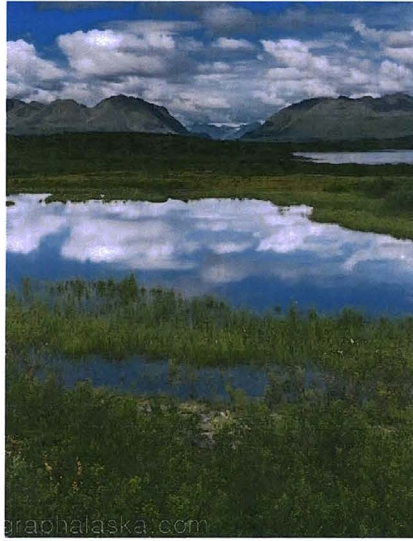
Note: GMU 13 subsistence hunt = Nelchina herd

Key	Herd	Size
29	Western Arctic	325,000
21	Porcupine	169,000
3	Central Arctic	67,000
26	Teshekpuk	55,000
8	Fortymile	52,000
18	Nelchina	46,500
17	Mulchatna	30,000
1	Adak	3,000
5	Delta	2,985
6	Denali	2,100
19	N. Peninsula	2,000
22	Rainy Pass	1,500
23	Ray Mtns	1,370
15	Macomb	1,300
27	Tonzona	1,000
24	S. Peninsula	900
20	Nushagak Peninsula	800
11	Hodzana Hills	780
7	Farewell-Big River	750
4	Chisana	700
30	White Mtns	650
31	Wolf Mtn	450
25	Sunshine Mtns	370
16	Mentasta	350
28	Unimak	300
13	Kenai Mtns	275
14	Killey River	250
10	Galena Mtn	100
12	Kenai Lowlands	100
9	Fox River	75
2	Beaver Mtns	70

A topographic map showing contour lines and a vertical section line. The map is oriented vertically on the page. The section line is a thin black vertical line that runs through the center of the map. The contour lines are blue and represent elevation. The section line is labeled 'HB 272' and 'A SECTION-BY-SECTION'.

HB 272

A SECTION-BY-SECTION



Section 1 (a)

- 7 pages describing refuge boundaries

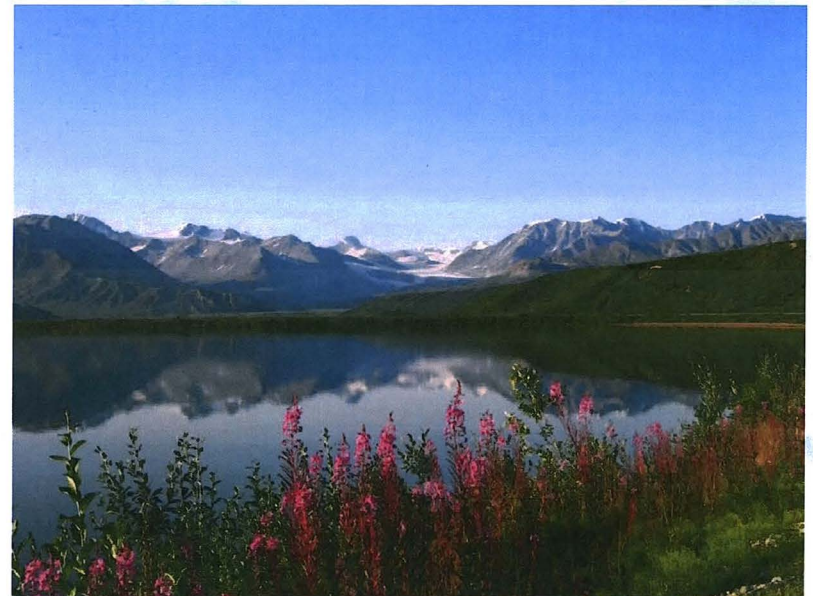
Section 1 (b)

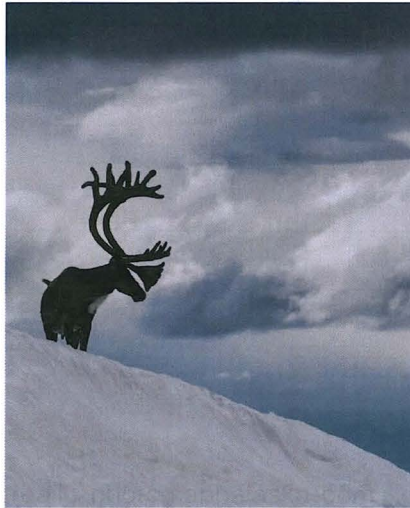
- Why a game refuge?
 - Provide permanent protection for fish, wildlife & habitats
 - Preserved for:
 - Subsistence uses, hunting & fishing
 - Recreational, scientific, aesthetic & educational purposes
- How?
 - Manage human use & activities in a way compatible with preserving the above



Section 1 (c-f)

- Provides land use restrictions on:
 - Mining
 - Except for existing claims
 - Oil & gas development
 - Unless commissioner deems it compatible with refuge
- Addresses access corridors
 - DNR, ADF&G, private landowners to establish
- Gives DNR & ADF&G authority to enter leases
 - Provided use is compatible with refuge
- Prohibits sale of state land within refuge boundary

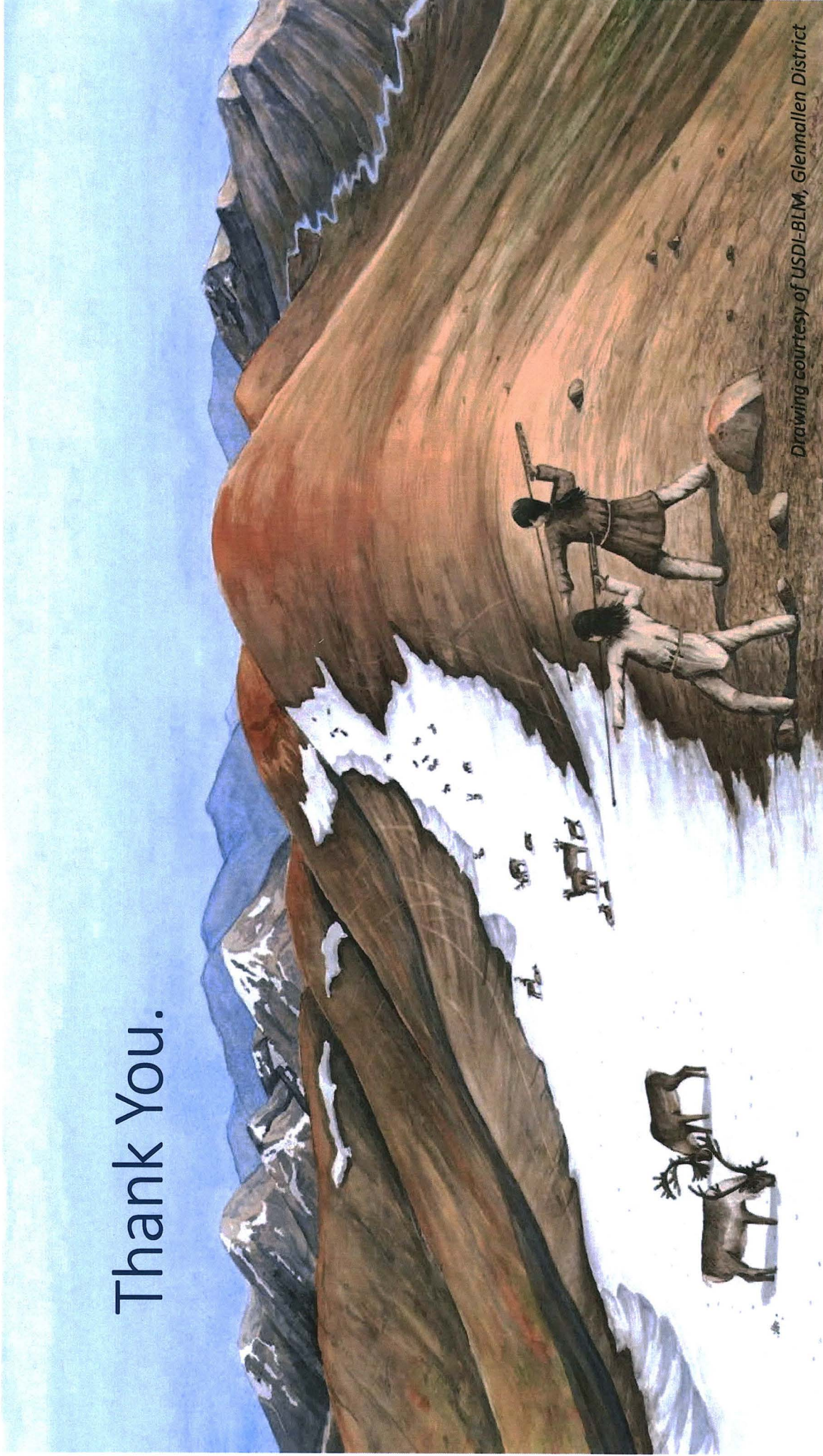




Section 3

- Provides an effective date of January 1, 2019

Thank You.



Drawing courtesy of USDI-BLM, Glennallen District

A topographic map of a region with various elevation contours and water bodies. The map is rendered in shades of blue and white. A vertical black line runs through the center of the map, passing behind the text.

HB 272

TANGLE LAKES GAME REFUGE

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TOURISM

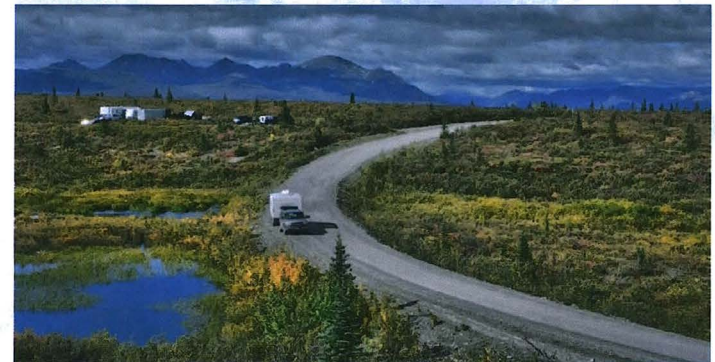
- Lodges
- Photography
- Scenic highway
- Camping

SUBSISTENCE

- Hunting
- Foraging/berry-picking

SPORTS

- Canoeing
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- Birding



Places of Note

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Places of Note

4. State Refuges, Sanctuaries, & Critical Habitat Areas

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REFUGES ▲

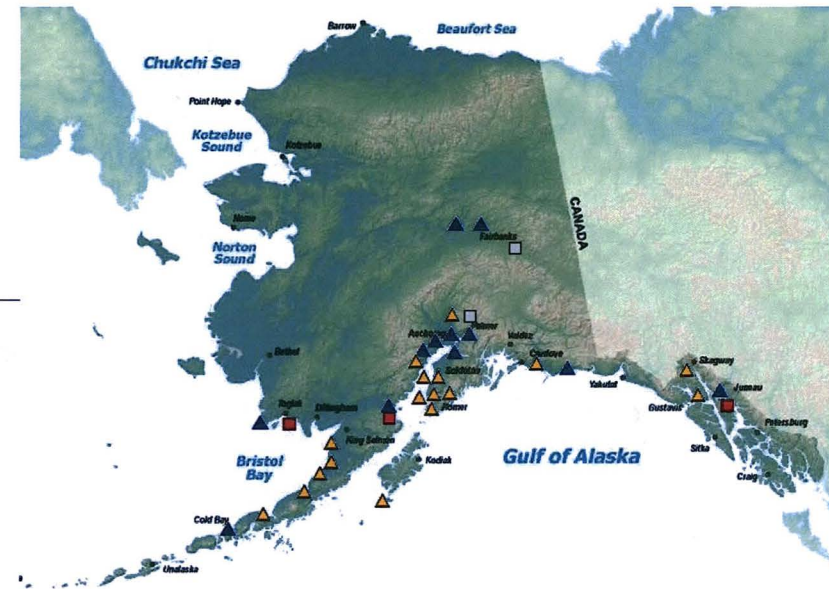
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SANCTUARIES ■

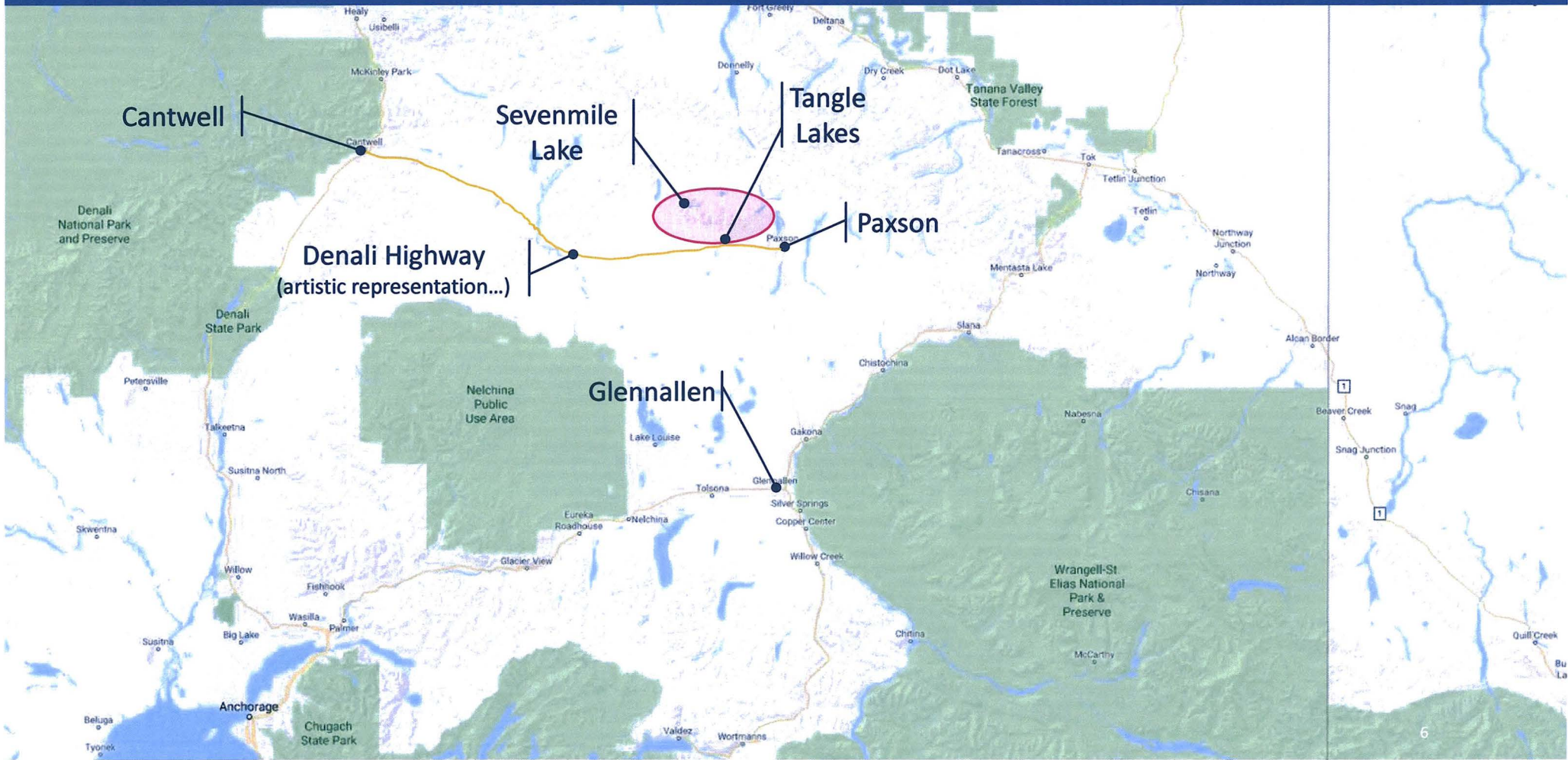
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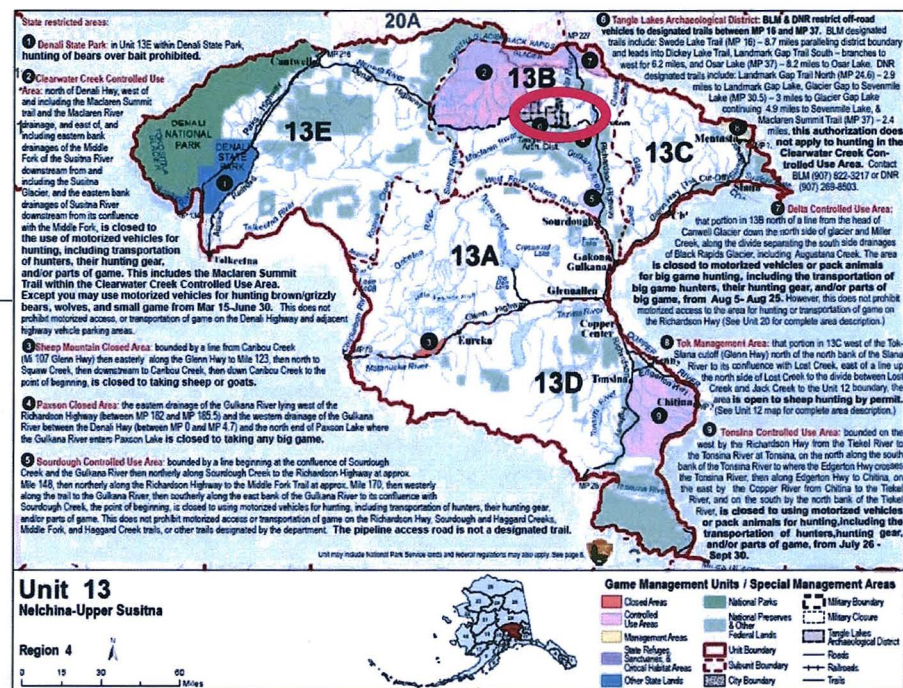


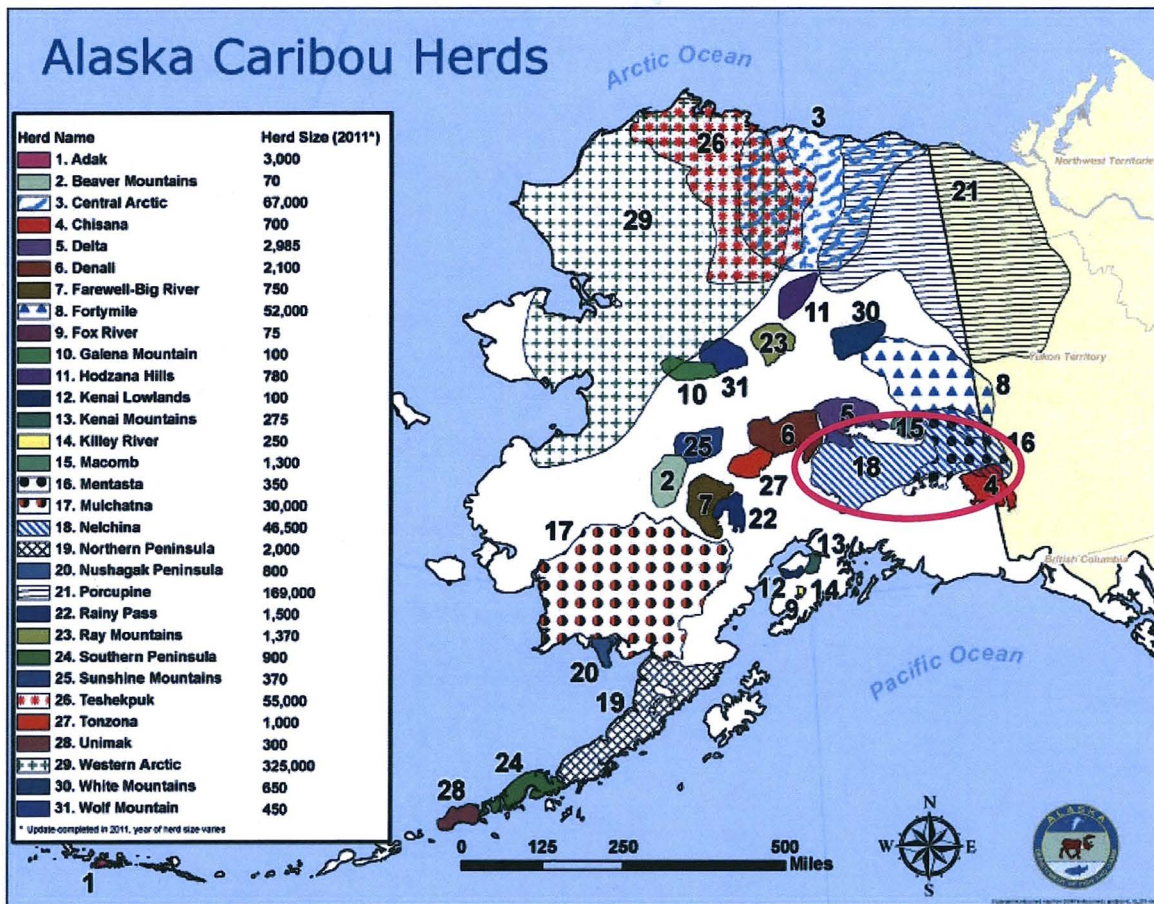
Wait, where?



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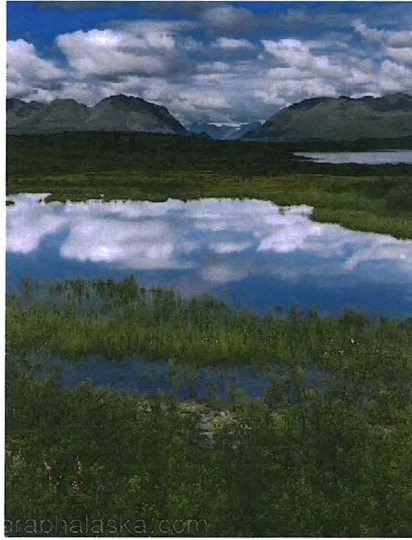
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Note: GMU 13 subsistence hunt = Nelchina herd

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HB 272

A SECTION-BY-SECTION



Section 1 (a)

- 7 pages describing refuge boundaries

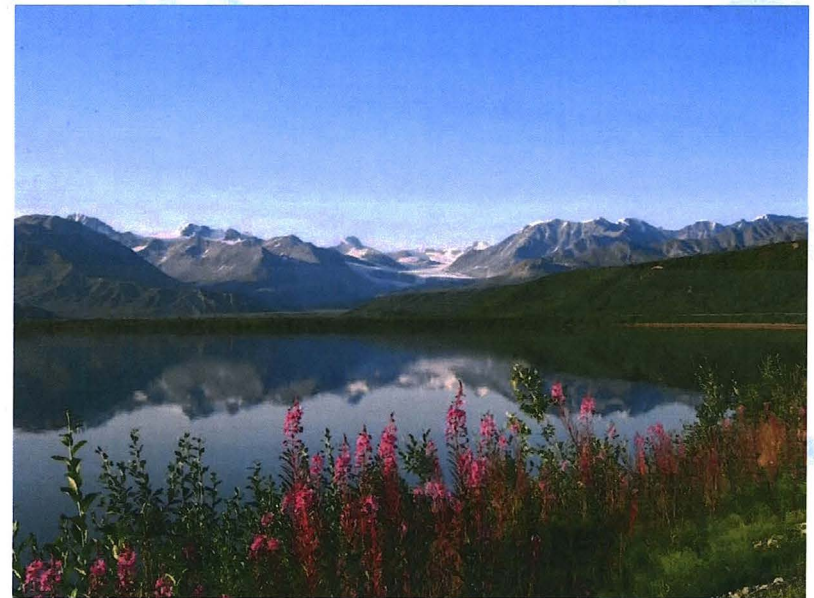
Section 1 (b)

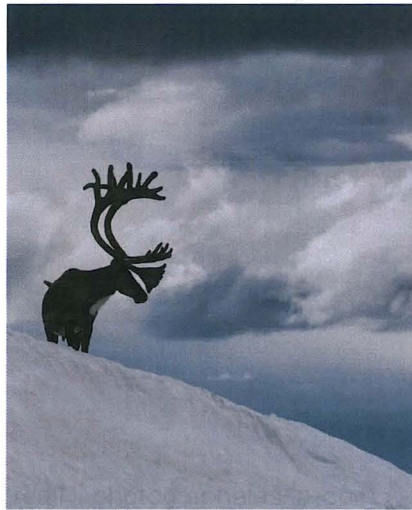
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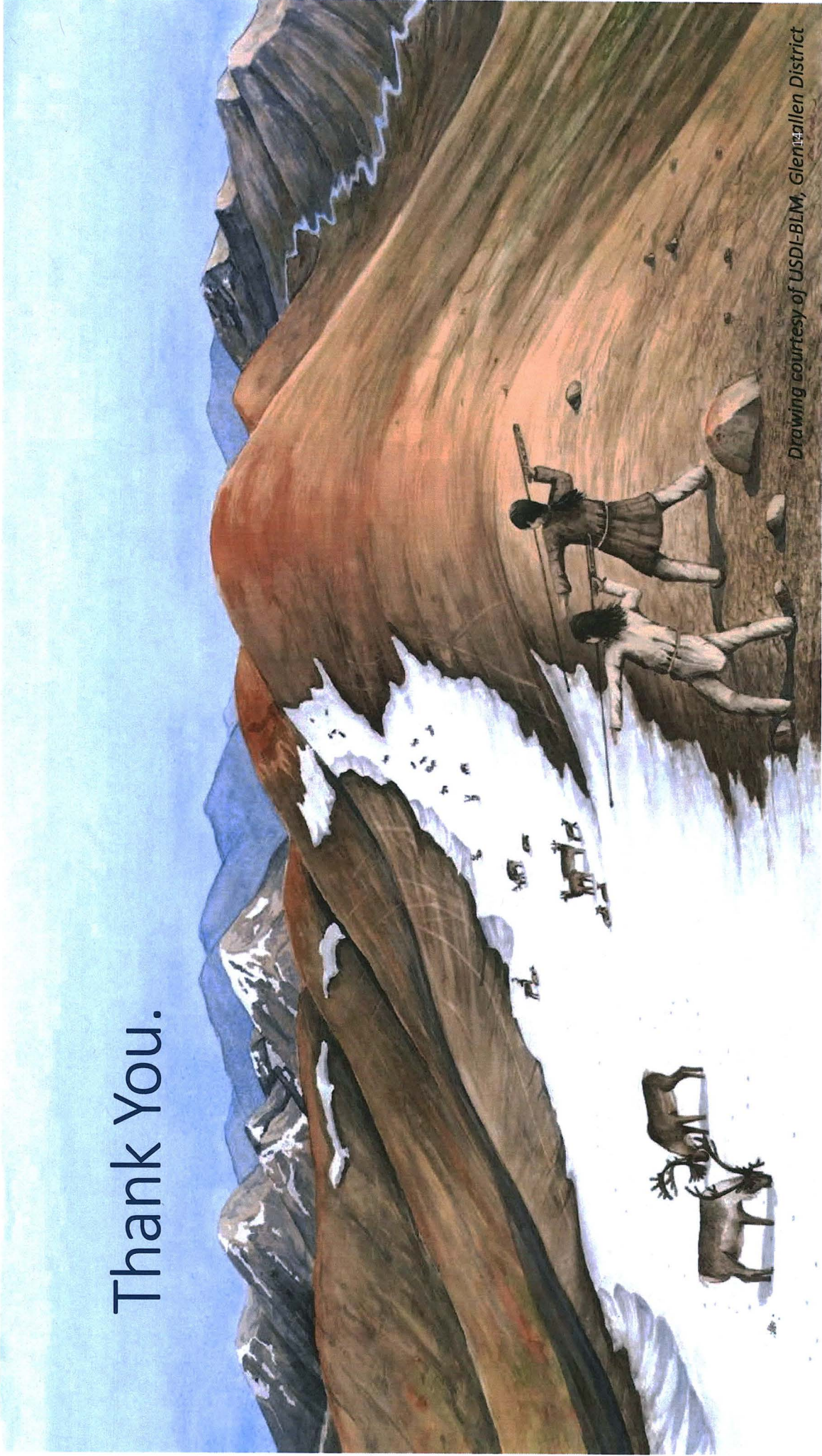




Section 3

- Provides an effective date of January 1, 2019

Thank You.



Drawing courtesy of USDI-BLM, Glenavallen District

From: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
To: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: FW: H.B. 272
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 7:54:42 AM

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

From: Judith Donegan [<mailto:jdoneganak@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 5:35 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Cc: Rep. George Rauscher <Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov>
Subject: H.B. 272

Dear Representative Josephson:

I enthusiastically support House Bill 272 to establish a Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. This is an area that deserves protection for the benefit of both the animals that depend on it and the people who experience the unique beauty of the area. One important consideration is that the area is easily accessible to a large portion of the population of the state and so provides important wilderness experiences for large numbers of people. It is the favorite place of my grandchildren, who have learned to appreciate the importance of wilderness areas from their experiences camping, fishing, and hunting in the area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Judy Donegan
13603 E. Oceanview Rd.
Palmer
AK 99645

From: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
To: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: FW: HB 272 Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge
Date: Monday, February 12, 2018 9:08:47 AM

From: Linda Rutledge [mailto:potledge@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 10, 2018 2:32 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Re: HB 272 Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

On Saturday, February 10, 2018, 2:27:42 PM AKST, Linda Rutledge <potledge@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear Committee Members,

As residents of Alaska for 42 years, we have valued the region for the proposed Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. We have hunted, fished, picked berries, camped and hiked through the area. This has been our breadbasket of food and recreation throughout our homesteading life. We value the area not only for what it provides for us, but also for the wonderful habitat it provides for other animals. The wildlife thrives in this homeland, and we should respect their need for healthy habitat and do everything possible to allow continued success for all. HB 272 would advance that goal and should be moved on with your approval.

Sincerely,
Linda and Charlie Rutledge
PO Box 91
Copper Center, AK 99573

From: [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)
To: [Lisa Delaney](#)
Subject: FW: HB 272
Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 7:55:17 AM

From: Ceal [mailto:ceal@theriver.com]
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 5:20 PM
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>
Cc: Kendra Zamzow <kzamzow@gmail.com>; Ceal Smith <ceal@theriver.com>
Subject: HB 272

Dear Representative Josephson,

I support House Bill 272 to establish a Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. The Tangle Lakes area has been the Nelchina Caribou Herd's most-used wintering habitat in Unit 13. Because lichens, the primary winter food of caribou, regrow slowly, caribou must move around and use different areas in different years. Caribou survival thus depends on making sure that favored habitats are not impacted. Caribou also use the area for the fall rut. The area is important for other wildlife as well—from moose to fox, from trumpeter swan to arctic warbler, from burbot to grayling. With climate change bearing down on our vulnerable wildlife, protected areas are vital.

Thank you for your work in protecting Tangle Lakes!

Sincerely,

Ceal Smith

~~~~~  
Ceal Smith, MSci  
Eagle River, AK  
907.952.7472

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB272  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 17, 2018 4:44:47 PM

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**From:** Janelle Eklund [mailto:[jeklund@cvinternet.net](mailto:jeklund@cvinternet.net)]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 12, 2018 10:32 AM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop <[Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Click.Bishop@akleg.gov)>  
**Cc:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** HB272

Dear Senator Bishop,

I support HB 272 introduced by Representative Andy Josephson, to establish a Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. This area has been near and dear to my heart the 43 years I've lived in Alaska. Tangle Lakes is the place I go for solitude, berry picking, hunting, canoeing, wildlife viewing, hiking, and camping. The beauty and grandeur of this special place needs to be protected from mining and any other degradation. This is truly a sacred place that heals the spirit. Every year the environmental organization I am involved with helps sponsor the Project Healing Waters program for wounded veterans and soldiers at Tangle Lakes. It is so heartwarming to see the transformation of these special people when they interact with nature. Nature is a great healer and the Tangle Lakes area is the perfect place to go for this therapy. Please support this Bill that will help keep this sacred place alive and well.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Janelle Eklund  
Kenny Lake, Alaska

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB272  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 17, 2018 4:45:10 PM

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**From:** Frank Keim [mailto:frankkeim@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2018 6:54 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** HB272

Rep. Andy Josephson  
Re (HB) 272 Tangle Lakes Game Refuge

Thanks, Andy, for sponsoring the Tangle Lakes Game Refuge. I hope this time we're successful in getting it through both houses.

Frank Keim

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: House Bill 272  
**Date:** Thursday, February 01, 2018 2:14:23 PM

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**From:** Melissa Heuer [mailto:heuer.melissa@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 01, 2018 11:44 AM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** House Bill 272

Representative Josephson,

I am writing in strong support and appreciation for your bill to turn Tangle Lakes into a State Game Refuge. As an annual recreational user of this area, my family has spent a lot of time canoeing, camping, and berry picking in this beautiful and important area. I encourage you to keep moving forward with this important bill.

Thank you!

Cheers,  
Melissa Heuer

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**Melissa Heuer, MBA**  
e: [Heuer.Melissa@gmail.com](mailto:Heuer.Melissa@gmail.com)  
c: 907.242.4779  
w: [www.SporkAK.com](http://www.SporkAK.com)

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: House Bill 272  
**Date:** Thursday, January 25, 2018 3:31:13 PM

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**From:** Chelsea Lindquist [mailto:chelserin@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2018 10:54 AM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** House Bill 272

I am writing to show my support for House Bill 272, to establish a Tangle Lakes game refuge. The Tangle Lakes area has been the Nelchina Caribou Herd's most-used wintering habitat in Unit 13. Because lichens, the primary winter food of caribou, regrow slowly, caribou must move around and use different areas in different years. Caribou survival thus depends on making sure that favored habitats are not impacted. Caribou also use the area for the fall rut. The area is important for other wildlife as well—from moose to fox, from trumpeter swan to arctic warbler, from burbot to grayling. With climate change bearing down on our vulnerable wildlife, increasing habitat protection is vital.

Thank you,  
Chelsea Vukovich  
Anchorage, AK

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please support HB 272 - Tangle Lakes protection  
**Date:** Friday, January 12, 2018 9:25:26 AM

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**From:** Alison Carter [mailto:[alisoncarter2@yahoo.com](mailto:alisoncarter2@yahoo.com)]

**Sent:** Friday, January 12, 2018 9:06 AM

**To:** Rep. Bryce Edgmon <[Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Chris Tuck <[Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Charisse Millett <[Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov)>

**Cc:** Rep. Chris Birch <[Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Mike Chenault <[Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Matt Claman <[Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <[Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov)>; Rep. David Eastman <[Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Les Gara <[Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Jason Grenn <[Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov)>; Rep. David Guttenberg <[Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov)>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <[Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <[Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <[Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <[Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <[Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov)>

**Subject:** Please support HB 272 - Tangle Lakes protection

Thank you for your hard work on Alaskan's behalf. This is a quick note to express how important the Tangle Lakes area is to my well-being. I hope you have spent time there. I make at least 2 trips there each year from Fairbanks and spend 10-14 days. I wish I could explain how that time recharges my spiritual battery and enhances the quality of my life. I always meet people from Anchorage and Mat-Su there.

Please help protect it from mining and other development that will spoil the pristine and peaceful nature of the area.

Sincerely,  
Alison Carter  
Fairbanks, AK

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please withdraw HB272  
**Date:** Monday, February 05, 2018 9:36:42 AM

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**From:** Bruce Cain [mailto:bcain@ahna.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 02, 2018 1:04 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** David Talerico <davetalerico@outlook.com>  
**Subject:** Please withdraw HB272

Representative Josephson.

With all due respects, please withdraw HB272. This isn't your district. Many members of the Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce will be adversely affected by this bill. Please consult with Representative Talerico and he will be able to work on a bill that will benefit our area. Right now the Tangle Lakes area is being managed fine. We need multiple use that allows mineral exploration, land development, land disposal, hunting, fishing, trapping and other uses. We are doing just fine thank you. Please withdraw the bill and we will ask Representative Talerico to address any issues we have.

Thank you.

Bruce Cain, President  
Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Box 469  
Glennallen, Alaska 99588  
Chamber Phone 907-822-5555 (message)  
Bruce Phone at Work (Ahtna, Incorporated) 907-822-3476 Cell 907-952-2798

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Tangle Lakes Game Refuge bill  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2018 4:34:04 PM

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**From:** [Frankie Barker](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2018 4:10 PM  
**To:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**Subject:** Tangle Lakes Game Refuge bill

Rep. Josephson,

Thank you for sponsoring the Tangle Lakes Game Refuge bill. Tangle Lakes is a special area which is enjoyed by many people in our community. It is an important bird migration area as well as an enjoyable recreation site. Good luck with sheparding this through the legislature.

*Frankie Barker*  
Chickaloon

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Tangle lakes region  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2018 5:00:27 PM

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

From: delmarjohnson2000@yahoo.com [<mailto:delmarjohnson2000@yahoo.com>]  
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 9:19 PM  
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: Tangle lakes region

Sent from my iPad. Thank you for all your efforts to preserve this area!! I have fished, hiked, photographed this area for more than 40 years. My children were raised camping 4th of July week at Landmark Gap Lake since they were babies. I never want this area to change. No trail or road improvements. To love this area, you have to earn it. If it was easy, it would be changed by those that would flood it, leaving traces of disregard. Protect it!!!!!!!!!!  
Delmar Johnson.

**From:** [Thomas Atkinson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge  
**Date:** Sunday, January 21, 2018 6:36:55 PM

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**From:** Steve Shannon [mailto:stvnshnn@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2018 3:37 PM  
**To:** Thomas Atkinson <Thomas.Atkinson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

To Representative Josephson,

Thank you for pre-filing House Bill 272. As an Alaskan resident, I have fallen in love with the Tangle Lakes area and brought my younger brother up from Florida this past fall to chase caribou around that area to try and fill my Unit 13 tag (DC 485). It's an incredible area and filled with opportunity for all sorts of renewable resource usage from hunting and fishing, to berry picking and hiking.

I plan to write a comment piece thanking you for your support and I thought in the meantime you could read the article I wrote on my hunt in the Tangle Lakes area.

My only request is that if you recognize the peaks, don't tell anyone where we were at. ;)

<https://journalofmountainhunting.com/brotherly-love/>

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Sincerely,

Steve Shannon  
Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Tangle lakes  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 23, 2018 7:51:57 AM

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

From: chugachfarm@gmail.com [<mailto:chugachfarm@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2018 6:21 PM  
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: Tangle lakes

Please make wildlife and subsistence hunting and foraging a priority over mineral extraction in the Tangle Lakes area. We have used this area for many years as a source for our food. We value the Nelchina Caribou herd and we do NOT believe resource extraction can co-exist without damaging the herd's health. We value the public land as a priority for public use, NOT special interests. This is a very special place that has a long history of subsistence. Resource extraction is a short sighted, damaging use of this public land.

Jed Workman  
Pob 1223  
Chickaloon, AK 99674

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Thank you for bill to establish Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2018 2:45:08 PM

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**From:** Kendra Zamzow [mailto:kzamzow@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2018 1:06 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Thank you for bill to establish Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Dear Representative Josephson:

Thank you for introducing HB 272. I strongly support creating a game refuge in this area. It is also important bird habitat and a great area for biking and camping.

As a long time Alaskan, I recognize our natural renewable resources -- game, fish, millions of migratory birds, wilderness, quiet lakes -- to be critical to our economy, and a legacy to pass on. So many other states have not learned how important these are until they have paved, mined, drilled, and developed over most of them. Let's not make that mistake.

Thank you,

*Kendra  
Zamzow, PhD*

*Chickaloon, AK*

907.354.3886

*"We are drowning in information, while starving for wisdom." EO Wilson*

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Thank you for introducing HB 272.  
**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2018 10:27:57 AM

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**From:** Patrick Endres [mailto:patrick@alaskaphotographics.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2018 10:08 AM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Thank you for introducing HB 272.

Dear Representative Josephson,

Thank you so much for introducing HB 272 advocating for Tangle Lakes. And thanks to the work of your staff as well!

Sincerely,  
Patrick Endres

--

Patrick J Endres  
<http://AlaskaPhotoGraphics.com>  
<http://Patrickendres.com>  
2923 Moose Mountain Road, Fairbanks AK, 99709  
907-750-4065  
Your source for wild Alaska images: [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#)

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Thank you for protecting Tangle Lakes!  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 23, 2018 7:52:16 AM

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**From:** Francis Adams [mailto:smada101@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2018 6:12 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Thank you for protecting Tangle Lakes!

Jeff Adams  
2125 Yankovich Road  
Fairbanks. 99709  
907 978-1861

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Thank You HB 272  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 17, 2018 4:44:25 PM

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**From:** Janelle Eklund [mailto:[jeklund@cvinternet.net](mailto:jeklund@cvinternet.net)]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 12, 2018 10:43 AM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Thank You HB 272

Dear Representative Josephson,  
Thank you so much for introducing HB 272 that would establish Tangle Lakes as a State Game Refuge. This is great news and I hope it passes. I appreciate all your work, and that of your staff to get this bill introduced. I love the Tangle Lakes area and go there every year for the solitude and to pick blueberries, hunt, canoe, hike, camp, view wildlife, and take photographs. This is a very special and sacred place. It gives my spirit peace to go there. I belong to an environmental non-profit organization that helps sponsor the Project Healing Waters program at Tangle Lakes every year. It is amazing and hearwarming to see how the veterans and soldiers are transformed by interacting with nature. It is very healing to them. It would be a shame if mining companies or other entities came in and destroyed the healthy integrity of this special area.

Thank you again for taking the step to make Tangle Lakes a State Game Refuge so this area will be protected.

Sincerely,

Janelle Eklund  
Kenny Lake, Alaska

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Thank you!  
**Date:** Friday, February 02, 2018 8:50:56 AM

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

From: Hugh Rose [<mailto:hughrose64@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 3:17 AM  
To: Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
Subject: Thank you!

Dear Andy,

Thank you for your work on the bill to designate Tangle Lakes a state game preserve!  
I am a photographer and guide who has lived in Alaska for the past 26 years including the last 19 years in Fairbanks. I run a small guiding business taking people from all over the world to Prince William Sound, the Interior and the arctic (Dalton Highway). I am a one person operation, but occasionally hire a guide to assist me.

I am out in the field all the time and I am appalled by what I see in the way of management of state fish and game resources and state land and it has gotten much worse. In particular along the Dalton Highway. This is no longer 1948 and Alaska is no longer "The Last Frontier" Game regulations need to change to reflect the fact we are in the 21st century and there are now 700,000+ people living in the state! At this time when oil revenues are dwindling tourism is a bright spot on the economic horizon for the state. I just finished my 2017 book keeping and just my little business put \$300,000+ dollars into the local Alaska economy in the way of hotels, meals, flights, supplies, etc.

I would love to talk with you about the future and meaningful changes in game regulations to reflect the overwhelming majority of NON-CONSUMPTIVE game users. In turn ecotourism should be taxed, but only if game refuges are set aside where non-consumptive users can observe and photograph wildlife and birds while NOT being harassed by overly aggressive hunters! I am not suggesting banning hunting, in fact I am pro hunting and have hinted in the past myself. I am merely suggesting that certain areas are set aside for non-consumptive use, as this reflects what the majority of Alaskans want.

I am presently in Chile on my way to guiding a group in the Falkland Islands and then in to Antarctica for a 2 week work trip. I will be back in my office in Fairbanks in early March and would love to dialogue about this.

Thank you for your time to read this!

Regards

Hugh Rose

Please excuse spelling and grammar errors this email was Sent from my iPhone, and my fingers are too big for the keys!

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** ["Kate Sandberg"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Thank you  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2018 7:56:54 AM

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**From:** Kate Sandberg [mailto:kesandberg@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 13, 2018 5:11 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Thank you

Dear Rep. Josephson,  
Thank you for introducing HB 272. What a relief to have a representative doing something constructive and that will add to the quality of life and to preserve habitat. Thank you. What a gem the Tangle Lakes area is.  
Kate Sandberg  
Girdwood, AK

**From:** Linda Rutledge <potledge@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 10, 2018 2:28 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272 Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Dear Committee Members,

As residents of Alaska for 42 years, we have valued the region for the proposed Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. We have hunted, fished, picked berries, camped and hiked through the area. This has been our breadbasket of food and recreation throughout our homesteading life. We value the area not only for what it provides for us, but also for the wonderful habitat it provides for other animals. The wildlife thrives in this homeland, and we should respect their need for healthy habitat and do everything possible to allow continued success for all. HB 272 would advance that goal and should be moved on with your approval.

Sincerely,  
Linda and Charlie Rutledge  
PO Box 91  
Copper Center, AK 99573

**From:** Robin Mayo <willawaw@coppervalleyak.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 10, 2018 6:00 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** In favor of HB 272

Greetings, I'd like to express my support for HB 272 for the Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. This area is vitally important habitat for the Nelchina Caribou herd and many other critters, a fantastic berry picking area used by many people from across the state, and an awesome recreation site for boating, fishing, and hiking. Protection as a Game Refuge would ensure that we can all keep up these subsistence activities.

Thank you for your service to this state  
Robin Mayo  
Copper Center, Alaska

**From:** Gay <g@wel.m.us>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 11, 2018 7:44 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** support for HB272

Please support HB 272. Our family spends time every year enjoying the beauty of the Tangle Lakes, fishing, hiking, berry picking. Please do whatever you can to protect this area from being spoiled.

Gay Wellman,  
HC60 Box 227,  
Copper Center, AK 99573  
907-822-3418

**From:** Joe Donohue <donjr081@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 11, 2018 3:52 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272 February 13, 2018 Hearing

Dear Members of the House Fisheries Committee,

As a rural Alaskan, hunting is a integral part of my lifestyle. Access to world class hunting areas is one of the main benefits of living in rural Alaska. That is why I am writing you today in support of House Bill 272 Tangle Lakes Game Refuge. By protecting this piece of land for the Nelchina caribou herd, we will protect our ability to hunt here for generations to come.

This beautiful area draws hundreds of hunters from Anchorage, Fairbanks, and surrounding communities to harvest caribou every year. I am lucky enough to have hunted caribou and been berry picking in Tangle Lakes. HB272 would allow hunters to continue harvesting caribou here every year, while limiting mining, which would negatively impact caribou populations. Whether you go to Tangle Lakes for hunting, berry picking, or just canoeing and camping, HB272 would benefit all Alaskans by protecting a place essential to the Nelchina caribou herd.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joe Donohue  
Kenny Lake, Alaska

**From:** matt obermiller <mattobermiller@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 12:41 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** Tangle Lakes

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Matt Obermiller. I'm a 25 year resident of the Copper Basin near Kenny Lake.

I hike and sight see in the Tangle Lakes area and strongly support protecting the wilderness and biological integrity of the Tangle Lakes area and strongly support HB 272.

Most of my subsistence meat harvest takes place close by where I live but many of my friends and acquaintances, residents of Kenny Lake and the Copper Basin fish, subsistence hunt and camp in the Tangle Lakes area and depend on the access it provides to healthy populations of harvestable animals.

Mining in the Tangle Lakes area is quite incompatible with the values and uses many of us in the nearby communities hold for this area so we would like to have the Tangle Lakes area protected from this destruction.

Thank you, Matt

Mile 56 Richardson Hwy.



**From:** Felicia Riedel <f\_riedel@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 1:01 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272 Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Dear Representatives,

As you listen to this bill tomorrow, I want you to have the perspectives of a couple who live where the impact of HB 272 will be felt. My husband and I have lived and raised a family in the Copper River Basin since 1977, having come here from Fairbanks where my mother homesteaded. I love this land and the lifestyle it affords! But I also am a mom and understand wanting jobs and a future for my kids.

I think HB 272 supports my desires to continue to be able to rely on game meat and enjoy the fascinating landscape and geology of the Tangle Lakes area. The bill's main purpose is to protect wildlife and their habitat, but that will double the purpose by also preserving the land.

My husband is an avid, fair-chase hunter, so game and salmon are what we eat for meat. I supply the non-meat side for the table, from the garden to the bread –but also berries, and the area is a good source for those. I relish going on hunts, even though I pick berries or take photos or facilitate kids, because hunters get out into the best places, like Tangle Lakes. My husband was also a recreational miner, and he made sure this bill didn't exclude that.

So when I think that there is a bill that will safeguard the caribou herd and be good for local businesses and protect the land for berry pickers, photographers, tourists, archaeologists, and others while not ruining anyone's jobs or future, I think it shows farsightedness and needs to be supported.

Thank you,  
Felicia Riedel  
Kenny Lake, AK

**From:** Mary Odden <fiddletunes@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 1:04 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272 Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Dear Alaska Legislature House Fisheries Committee,

We are long-time Copper Basin Residents and business owners. We hunt and fish in the Tangle Lakes area. We are not opposed to mining exploration and development in general, but with most other people in our region we recognize this area along the Denali Highway as a critical caribou habitat, long identified as such by state biologists. Please support the creation and funding of this refuge, important for the future of the Nelchina herd and all those who depend upon and enjoy its healthy population.

Respectfully,

Jim and Mary Odden

HC 1 Box 2520

Glennallen, Alaska 99588

**From:** Mark Luttrell <prufrock@arctic.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 1:16 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** Support for HB 272 - Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

The protection offered by a state game refuge is long overdue in the Tangle Lakes area. I fully support this bill and thank Representative Josephson for introducing it and the fisheries committee for discussing it.

My wife and I have enjoyed the Denali Highway and Tangle Lakes area for decades. We hike, pick berries and photograph wildlife. In the 80s, as an archaeologist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, I surveyed much of the area near Tangle Lakes and Dickey Lake. We confirmed that the area is rich in cultural resources.

Its foolish to leave this area unprotected from damaging resource extraction.

Thanks

Mark Luttrell and  
Ann Ghicadus  
Box 511  
Seward AK 99664

**From:** Diane Ellsworth <farmzoo@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 2:17 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272

**Please support HB 272. We need to keep our wild lands wild and protect our caribou, fish and environment. It is time to use other sources of energy and time to realize that wealth is not only measured in dollars--the earth is our most valuable resource.**

**Thank you,  
Diane Ellsworth  
HC 60 Box 109N  
Copper Center, Alaska 99573**

**From:** Rebekah Donohue <beck.donohue@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 2:50 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. George Rauscher  
**Subject:** HB 272 - Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

I am writing to ask that you support HB 272, the bill to form a Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. This region is simply too valuable to allow mining to impact it. With the Nelchina Caribou herd roaming over much of the land, it is an area rich in beauty and subsistence resources. I have many wonderful childhood memories from the area: quietly canoeing around the lakes, picking blueberries with my Mom, and my first caribou hunt with my Dad. I have continued these activities into adulthood, and look forward every year to an autumn trip to Tangle Lakes. I just had my first child this winter, and I look forward to sharing these same experiences with her in the years to come. Please do your part to protect this beautiful region for the wildlife that inhabit it, and for the rich experiences it offers for future generations.

Thank you,  
Rebekah Donohue  
Kenny Lake, Alaska  
907-244-6623

**From:** frankkeim@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 3:01 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** Tangle lakes refuge

I have used the tangle lakes recreation area for more than 50 years in more ways than I can count. It is one of my favorite road accessible areas in Alaska, bar none, and the best way I think it should be protected is as a refuge. Please support the idea of a tangle lakes wildlife refuge. Thank you very much.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Don Kiely <don@donkiely.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 5:10 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272 - Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

**Members of the House Fisheries Committee:**

I am writing to thank you for considering HB 272 to establish the Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. I urge you to support this bill, both to protect this incredible area to provide permanent protection for fish and wildlife populations and their habitats, as well as to protect the area for its incredible recreation opportunities, including fishing and hunting.

I often visit the Tangle Lakes area, mostly to paddle the Delta River and for tundra hiking and berry picking. It is an incredible resource, well worth giving our highest levels of protection.

Thank you!  
Don Kiely  
Fairbanks, AK

**From:** Bob Hadaway <hadaway.bob@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 5:26 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** House Bill 272

I strongly support HB 272 as a measure to protect the Tangle Lakes region. I've spent many years, camping, canoeing, fishing and hiking in this beautiful area and hope to see it protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Bob Hadaway  
([hadaway.bob@gmail.com](mailto:hadaway.bob@gmail.com))

**From:** dianalingle@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 5:50 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** Tangle lakes state game refuge

I wish to voice my support for HB 272. Tangle Lakes is a wonderful area for hiking, canoeing, kayaking, and camping and should be protected from mining or other industrial uses which would adversely impact its value for both humans and wildlife.

Thank you,  
Diana Lingle,  
P. O. Box 395, Ester, Ak 99725

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Peggy Raybeck <paycheck39@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 5:52 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** Support for HB 272

I strongly support the bill to create a refuge to protect the Tangle Lakes and Upper Delta R area.

I've spent many days in this fabulous area hunting, fishing, picking blueberries and canoe trips for pleasure and hunting down the river. First trip in the late 1960s was really exciting from the lake into (literally) the river. Also enjoyed a few snowmachine and ski trips in the Spring. It's a true wonderland.

**From:** Zak Penwell <zak.penwell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 5:55 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** In support of HB 272

Hello,

I wanted to ask for your support of HB 272. My kids and I use the Tangle Lakes area to fish, canoe, and hike. This bill would be great for the long time protection of this area.

Thank you.

Zak Penwell  
1659 Wolverine Lane  
Fairbanks AK 99709

**From:** Larry Rundquist <rundquist@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 9:18 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Cc:** Representative\_Geran\_Tarr@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Tom Begich  
**Subject:** Please support HB 272

House Fisheries Committee Members...

I am in full support of HB 272 - Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. Tangle Lakes are well known for great grayling fishing and the upper Delta Wild and Scenic River was one of the best paddle trips that I have taken. These waterbodies and their entire watershed should be protected with the creation of the Game Refuge. Development threats in recent years makes it imperative that this bill move forward to the legislature for passage this session.

Thank you for moving this bill to the legislature...

Larry Rundquist  
2912 Alder Dr  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
907-279-7395

**From:** Frank Maxwell <maxwellafrank@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 10:38 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272- Tangle Lakes Refuge

I have been visiting Tangle Lakes since the 1990s which is before I became an Alaska resident. It is a place where I take out-of-state visitors because it is such a vibrant, beautiful stop on the Denali Highway. I've used it for birding, camping, fishing and canoeing. The thought of the area being desecrated by large-scale mining has disturbed me for many years. I strongly support HB 272 to protect the irreplaceable, habitat, scenic and recreational values there.

Thank you Frank Maxwell, POB 84862, Fairbanks, AK 99708

**From:** Brad Snow <svaldonza@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 7:37 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272 - Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing you in support of HB 272 because I have had considerable experience canoeing, berry picking and hiking in the Tangle Lakes area over the last twenty-eight years, and feel it is one of the most beautiful and accessible areas we as Alaskans possess.

As founder in 1994 with a group of like-minded Alaskans, and later its president for ten years, I helped build Fairbanks Paddlers, a club for non-motorized water craft paddlers, from its inception into an organization of over 400 members. Its goals, "to promote the non-motoried recreational use of Alaskan rivers through conservation, training, safety, exchange of information; and to have fun in the process"(from the club charter), included the protection of areas like the Tangle Lakes. Many of our members have paddled this waterway multiple times, as its unique qualities, including its rare road-to-road access, are worth experiencing and cherishing over and over again.

And so I urge you to carefully consider the proposal before you, and vote to protect this most valuable Alaskan resource from encroachment.

Brad Snow  
2650 Home Run  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

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Brad Snow  
[svaldonza@gmail.com](mailto:svaldonza@gmail.com)

**From:** karen jensen <klijensen64@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 7:54 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** Tangle Lakes Game Refuge - yes!

Dear Legislators:

My family and I have been going to Tangle Lakes area every summer, to birdwatch, canoe and camp. And pick berries! And get a few bug bites. The Tangle Lakes area and Delta river are a special Alaskan treasure, used by many but never feel overcrowded. I have just heard about legislation to make the area a state game refuge, and if that allows multiple uses without abuse and destruction, I'm all for it. Hunting and fishing, paddlers of all types, and lots of campers and wildlife watchers. Leave it that way; that's why we live here.

Thank you,

Karen Jensen  
[klijensen64@gmail.com](mailto:klijensen64@gmail.com)  
Fairbanks, AK

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jenna Jonas <jenna.e.jonas@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:07 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272

Dear committee members,

My name is Jenna Jonas and I live at 2240 Railroad drive in Fairbanks. I just wanted to send you a brief note and express my support for HB 272. I have worked as a canoe guide in the Tangle Lakes region and have been there on recreation, fishing, hunting, and berry picking trips. It is an incredible area, rich and diverse and I think that a State Game Refuge would be an appropriate designation and protect the most valuable resource there, the ecosystem which supports the Nelchina caribou herd. Thank you for considering this important bill.

Jenna Jonas

[jenna.e.jonas@gmail.com](mailto:jenna.e.jonas@gmail.com)

**From:** Ann Biddle <annbiddle@cvinternet.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:29 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272

House Fisheries Committee Members,

I support the passage of HB 272, the establishment of the Tangle Lakes Game Refuge, put forth by Representative Andy Josephson. My family and I live and subsist in the Copper River Valley. We annually hunt and forage in the area under consideration.

Please consider passing this bill to ensure that the Nelchina caribou herd has land to roam and remains strong.

Thank you,  
Ann Biddle  
HC 01 Box 112  
Gakona, AK 99586

**From:** Ruth McHenry <cca@coppervalleyak.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:36 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272 Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge  
**Attachments:** TangleLksLetterToLegis.docx; TangleLksLetterToLegis.Signers.xlsx

Dear Fisheries Committee Members,

An impressive number of Alaskans, and some Outside visitors as well, have cared enough about the Tangle Lakes region to sign the attached Letter to the Legislature. This was not a quick, press-the-button sign-on. Many signed paper petitions at booths and events, and took the time to include how they use the area. They hunt, fish, pick berries, etc. (Please see "how recreate" column in attached spreadsheet.) Some of the signers are business owners. (See first column of spread sheet.) To make it easier for you to see which are from your districts, the list is arranged alphabetically by city.

Copper Country Alliance is a small non-profit conservation organization that has served the Copper River Basin for over 25 years. Our organization, partner organizations, and concerned individuals have sought spent years seeking ways to ensure that the Tangle Lakes region remains a place where wildlife flourishes and humans hunt, fish, and recreate.

We hope this information will help you understand the value of creating a Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge for the benefit of current and future Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Ruth McHenry

--

Ruth McHenry, Executive Director  
Copper Country Alliance  
HC60 Box 306T  
Copper Center, AK 99573  
907-822-3644

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This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.  
<http://www.avg.com>

**From:** Ronald Yarnell <ronaldyarnell@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 9:58 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272

To whom it concerns,

This is a no brainer. The Tangle Lakes Area is one of the most popular recreational areas in interior. We should be doing everything in our power to protect this valuable recreational area. Stop large scale mining in this area.

Please include my comments in the record.

Sincerely, Ron Yarnell( Fairbanks)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Judi Thurmond <madbluebird4444@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 10:51 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272

I support HB 272 - we use this area for canoeing, hiking and berry picking. Keep the pristine look of this area. Sincerely,  
Judi Thurmond

**From:** Daniel Failoni <jkddfai@olympen.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 2:21 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** Tangle Lakes

I support the bill re:Tangle Lakes Refuge especially if hunting is allowed to continue. Thank you. Dan Failoni  
360 582 9687

**From:** gcarr64 <gcarr64@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:37 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** Hb272 bill

I Richard Carr 44 year resident supports the HB272 bill . It has been an important part of my life .

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

**From:** Frank Keim <frankkeim@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 17, 2018 10:45 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** addendum

To members of the Fisheries committee:

I am back to my computer again, and wish to add the ways I have recreated in the proposed Tangle Lakes Refuge area since the early 1960's. Once upon a time, in the 1960's and 1970's, there used to be a LOT of caribou in the area, and I hunted them there. I also hunted moose there. For each of these species I was successful and, when a student, fed myself, and later, after I had a family, fed them too. From the 1960's to the present, I have canoed the area more than 40 times. I have also fished in the area, as well as hiked, mountain climbed, bird watched and cross-country skied. So, you see that I, along with my two wives, children, grandchildren, and so many friends and relatives, have used this area extensively many many times. And it is for these reasons that I/we feel the area should be set aside permanently as a State Refuge. Please help make it so. Thanks.

Frank Keim  
2220 Penrose Lane  
Fairbanks 99709

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**Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed...We simply need that wild country, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in.**

*Wallace Stegner*

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### BOARD of GAME

**SARAH PALIN,  
GOVERNOR**

P.O. BOX 115526  
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526  
PHONE: (907) 485-4110  
FAX: (907) 485-8094

March 26, 2008

The Honorable Sarah Palin  
Governor for the State of Alaska  
3rd Floor, State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Governor Palin:

At our spring Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks, we considered a proposal from the public to create a wildlife refuge to protect the Tangle Lakes area from possible mining activity and the habitat destruction that might result. We heard compelling testimony from the public and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) about the area's significant value to wildlife. We were impressed by the extent of public support for protecting the Tangle Lakes area in the long term primarily as wildlife habitat and as an important source of long-term opportunities for hunting, fishing, and recreation.

The Alaska Board of Game shares the public's concern for the future of wildlife habitat in the Tangle Lakes area, but we recognize the limitations on the Alaska Board of Game regarding proactive measures to protect and enhance wildlife habitat. In the absence of a clear and present danger to wildlife, we haven't the authority to act preemptively to create a habitat reserve or a wildlife refuge.

While our legal charter does not allow us to create a wildlife refuge as the proposal requested, we can work proactively with ADF&G and land management agencies, notably the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR). We seek your support for immediate discussions between these and any other appropriate state agencies to thoroughly catalog wildlife-related values, identify important habitat, affirm the extent of hunting, fishing, and recreation activities, document potential threats to those values and activities, and discuss possible courses of action designed to protect wildlife resources and uses in the area. We recognize the potential for mineral extraction in this area and in associated mineral leases, but remain convinced the long-term value of maintaining wildlife habitat far outweighs the potential benefits of possible development projects known at this time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cliff Judkins, Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game

**cc: Commissioner Denby Lloyd, Department of Fish and Game  
Commissioner Tom Irwin, Department of Natural Resources  
Representative John Harris, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Representative John Coghill  
Representative Woodie Salmon  
Representative David Guttenberg  
Senator Lyda Green, Senate President  
Senator Gene Therriault  
Senator Albert Kookesh  
Representative Craig Johnson, Co-Chair, House Resources Committee  
Representative Carl Gatto, Co-Chair, House Resources Committee  
Senator Huggins, Chairman, Senate Resources Committee**

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# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,  
GOVERNOR

333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, AK 99518-1260  
PHONE: (907) 267-2182  
FAX: (907) 267-2433

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Copper Country Alliance

FROM: Robert Tobey

DATE: 19 December 2002

SUBJECT: Wildlife Resources in the Denali Block

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Thank you for the opportunity to present Wildlife Conservation's perspective on the resource value of the Denali Block. The Denali Block is important both as wildlife habitat utilized by a variety of species and public use land. This area falls within Game Management Unit (GMU) 13 with wildlife management responsibility that of the Glennallen office. The area also has dual federal management on federal lands for subsistence hunting. Land management authority is under the Department of Natural Resources. Land management guidelines were established with public input in the Copper River Basin and Delta Management plans. Both plans call for primary use of the land in question as wildlife habitat and public recreation with only incidental mining activity.

The range around Tangle Lakes is particularly critical to caribou. The Nelchina Caribou Herd is the largest, most important road-accessible caribou herd in Southcentral Alaska, and many caribou from the herd utilize the Denali Block. As many as 5000 caribou have wintered around the Tangle Lakes in recent years. Caribou behavior usually results in caribou selecting different winter ranges every year to take advantage of forage availability on ungrazed range. The fact that caribou have wintered in the Tangle Lakes area on an almost every other year basis shows this range is important. The area is also an important fall staging and rutting area used by up to 20,000 caribou in recent years. The loss of the Denali Block could have a substantial negative impact on the Nelchina Caribou Herd.

The Tangle Lakes is also one of the most heavily hunted areas in GMU 13. Because of the proximity to the Denali Highway and mild terrain, access to caribou in the fall and winter is good, drawing thousands of hunters every year.

The Denali Block also contains good moose habitat. Unlike the majority of GMU 13 where moose numbers are low, moose density in this area is high, making it an important moose hunting area. The Block is especially important to resident subsistence hunters trying to optimize opportunity by subsistence hunting for both moose and caribou at the same time.

The Denali Block also provides the most important small game hunting area in GMU 13. The Tangle Lakes region has been written up in a number of national sporting magazines, and even the subject of a television show, as a major Alaskan ptarmigan hunting destination. I have personally interviewed

numerous small game hunters traveling to the Denali Block just to hunt ptarmigan. This area has been promoted widely to non-resident bird hunters as well as residents because it offers exceptional hunting access.

The other important big game animal in the area is the grizzly bear. Because of the good fall berry crop in the area, and the importance of this dietary component, the Denali Block is important fall grizzly habitat.

Additional species in the area of importance are the wolf and fox. This is some of the best wolf and fox habitat because of the large prey base available to support these carnivores. Extensive hunting and trapping of these furbearers occurs in this area. Trapping is an important yearly source of income for many local residents, and sport hunters converge on the area to try for wolves.

Waterfowl use of the Tangle Lakes is also heavy. The lake system provides a staging area for migrating trumpeter swans, ducks, loons and other water birds. Nesting habitat for waterfowl is abundant and the area is an important waterfowl breeding area. Local waterfowl hunters are drawn to the Tangle Lakes seeking widgeon, mallards, and the less common long-tailed ducks. Since waterfowl are federally managed, I don't have specific survey numbers. Fish & Wildlife Service does swan surveys in the Copper River Basin, and perhaps they could provide some population estimates.

Finally, non-consumptive recreation is also extremely important in the Denali Block for Alaska residents and tourists alike. The upland habitat types and abundance of wildlife has made this area the number one recommended viewing area for those wanting to see both moose and caribou. The Glennallen Fish & Game office recommends this destination for those seeking a high quality wildlife viewing trip. During the winter season, many snowmachiners from across the state are also drawn to the Tangle Lakes area for recreational activities in addition to ptarmigan, caribou and moose hunting. The loss of this habitat as a wildlife viewing and recreational destination could greatly compromise the aesthetics of the Copper River Basin.

It is my position that the importance of the Denali Block as wildlife habitat, tourist destination, sport fishing, subsistence and sport hunting, subsistence food gathering and trapping area exceeds all mining value. All these uses except mining have minimal impact on the land and are renewable yearly. Certainly an impact study and cost benefit analyses are warranted in view of the high value of current uses compared to an unknown mining value.

Sincerely



Robert Tobey



## **COPPER COUNTRY ALLIANCE**

HC 60 Box 306T  
Copper Center, Alaska 99573  
Phone (907) 822-3644  
cca@coppervalleyak.net

*a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation*

*"Protecting the rural and wild natural environment of the  
Copper Basin/Wrangell Mountains region."*

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**February 12, 2018**

**For immediate release**

**Contact: Cliff Eames, 907-822-3644; cca@coppervalleyak.net**

### **BILL WOULD GIVE NELCHINA HERD, TANGLES LAKES A BIG BOOST**

One of Alaska's favorite areas for subsistence and recreation may have additional protection in the future thanks to Representative Andy Josephson. House Bill 272 "To Establish a Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge" was pre-filed by Rep. Josephson this January.

For the Nelchina Caribou Herd the Tangle Lakes area is essential habitat, especially for fall rut and winter grazing. Archaeological evidence shows that the Tangle Lakes region has been a magnet for human activities for many centuries, and ever since the Denali Highway opened sixty years ago, the region has drawn hunters, fishers, paddlers, berry pickers, photographers and many other admirers. Periodically, Outside and foreign mineral exploration companies have raised Alaskans' worries about the threat of hardrock mining.

As the state Board of Game wrote in 2008 to then-Governor Palin, "We recognize the potential for mineral extraction in this area and in associated mineral leases, but remain convinced the long-term value of maintaining wildlife habitat far outweighs the potential benefits of possible development projects known at this time." John Schandelmeier, who probably has spent more time in the region than anyone, has asked, "Are the minerals more valuable than what we already have here?"

HB 272 would not void existing mining claims, but it would preclude new hardrock claims and give the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) increased control over any development. The primary purpose of the designation is to protect wildlife populations so they remain available for hunters to harvest, and other visitors to see and photograph. In a state game refuge, ADF&G takes on the lead management role for fish and wildlife, human uses, and surface uses.

With or without any mining threat, the Tangle Lakes region stands on its own as a natural choice for a refuge. "[T]he importance of [these lands] as wildlife habitat, tourist destination, sport fishing, subsistence and sport hunting, subsistence food gathering and trapping area exceeds all mining value. All these uses except mining have minimal impact on the land and are renewable yearly," wrote ADF&G Game Biologist Bob Tobey (now retired).

Supporters of HB 272, including Copper Country Alliance, other organizations, and business owners, urge hunters, fishers, and other fans of Tangle Lakes and the Nelchina herd to ask their legislators to pass this bill. More information is at <https://www.savetanglelakes.org/>.

###



# **BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS ALASKA CHAPTER**



[www.alaskabackcountryhunters.org](http://www.alaskabackcountryhunters.org)

AK BHA

## **Position Statement Proposed Tangle Lakes State Wildlife Refuge**

The Tangle Lakes region off the Denali Highway is a unique area that is important to a wide array of Alaskans and nonresidents who hunt and fish and recreate there. Home to the wandering Nelchina caribou herd, abundant fishery resources, encompassing the Delta Wild and Scenic River, this area is the breadbasket of subsistence and recreational hunting and fishing and gathering for south central Alaska. It is also a growing and highly popular tourism destination.

Amidst the spectacular alpine scenery and abundant fish and wildlife resources, below the ground are platinum group metal deposits now being explored with the potential for large scale hardrock mining.

The potential for large scale hardrock mining concerns hunters, anglers and subsistence users of the Tangle Lakes region who depend on the renewable resources this area offers. They want some assurances that adequate protections are in place should any hardrock mining take place, that the Nelchina caribou herd and other resources won't be negatively affected, and that their traditional activities will continue unabated.

And so there has been a proposal to create a Tangle Lakes State Wildlife Refuge. Under Refuge status, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADFG) would have a lead role with DNR in any mine permitting process, and more adequate protections will be ensured for fish and wildlife and the habitat they depend upon. Hunting, fishing, trapping and other subsistence activities would also be protected.

For these reasons, AK BHA supports a Tangle Lakes Refuge. We believe more rigorous protection of our fish and wildlife habitat is necessary to ensure future productivity of the resources in the Tangles, and a refuge is a reasonable way to provide that protection. However, hard rock mining would not be precluded within the refuge. Areas with convincing mineral potential could still be developed as long as strong protections for fish and wildlife habitat were in force. Jobs associated with mining could still be created, while those associated with hunting, fishing, trapping, tourism and subsistence would be recognized, protected, and enhanced by refuge designation.



# **BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS ALASKA CHAPTER**



3/15/10

To: Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Mining, Land, and Water  
3700 Airport Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699

Attn: Jack Kerin: "<mailto:jack.kerin@alaska.gov>" [jack.kerin@alaska.gov](mailto:jack.kerin@alaska.gov)  
Brent Martellaro: "<mailto:brent.martellaro@alaska.gov>" [brent.martellaro@alaska.gov](mailto:brent.martellaro@alaska.gov)

Re: APMA F109742—Pure Nickel 2010-2015 Exploration Permit Application

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Pure Nickel's 2010-2015 exploration permit. We understand and appreciate the need to permit hard rock mining exploration in areas likely to hold good mineral resources. However, the area being proposed for large scale hard rock mining is in this case, critically important to the Nelchina caribou herd, one of the most accessible, extensively studied and heavily utilized caribou herds in Alaska. The Nelchina herd has provided food for Alaskans since time immemorial, and is managed to provide thousands of families with food to this day. We believe this property of the land, it's ability to provide a basic need for so many, is more important than the mineral resources that may be found. For this reason, AK BHA opposes granting Pure Nickel the exploration permit that could lead to large scale mineral exploitation.

We believe that mining exploration itself will cause significant negative impacts to the Nelchina herd and the people who utilize it. In all likelihood, the most disruptive result of exploration will be the numerous low elevation helicopter flights and landings, which have been shown to be highly disruptive to caribou, and certainly create an untenable situation for hunters attempting to fill their freezers. Noise from drilling camps, the prolonged presence of workers at these camps, and visual disturbances will also contribute to caribou stress, and will likely cause negative changes to migration habits and foraging behavior.

The Nelchina herd has recently shown signs of nutritional stress. Fires, in particular, have altered summer foraging patterns with the result that many caribou going into the rut are in poor condition, and calves are born small. It is particularly important therefore, that preferred winter foraging and rutting areas within the Tangle Lakes region, be free from disruption that could cause further harm to the herd. **The areas used by the herd in the fall and winter should receive special scrutiny and consideration from DNR during their permit deliberations. This includes the "Beta Complex" which abuts the Denali Highway and the Tangle Lakes/Delta River Wild and Scenic River System.** These areas are too important to numerous Alaskans to be valued only for their mineral potential.

DNR has a serious responsibility to safeguard the public trust they hold; they must without fail manage the land under their care to respect this trust, and consider the results of their actions not only on current citizens, but on those following. This ethic should be at the forefront of all decisions regarding mineral development in the Tangle Lakes region. The loss of our renewable wildlife resources due to a lack of concern for the same, would be an unforgivable breach of said trust.

Thank you again for your hard work, patience and consideration,

Dave Lyon  
Co-Chair Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers



February 16, 2007

ATTN: BOG COMMENTS  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
Fax: 907-465-6094

RECEIVED  
FEB 16 2007  
BOARDS

RE: Comment on Proposal 204, March 2007 BOG Meeting, Anchorage

Proposal 204 asks the Board of Game to use its authority to ask the legislature to establish a state wildlife refuge in Unit 13 between the general vicinity of Paxson to the Maclaren River and north of the Denali Highway. The exact boundaries of the proposed refuge are outlined in the proposal and the objective is to protect an area with high wildlife values from development and surface mining.

In the mid-1970s, I spent three summers studying nesting behavior of gyrfalcons in the much of the area defined by this proposal and I know there are excellent wildlife resources, especially for birds, as described in the proposal. Cliff-nesting raptors (including golden eagle and gyrfalcons), tree-nesting or ground nesting species (bald eagle and merlin) are numerous and widely distributed in the area. Game birds and waterfowl are abundant especially in the Tangle Lakes, Glacier Lake, and Landmark Gap Lake areas. And, there are exceptional populations of other bird species including a large colony of long-tailed jaegers nesting in the flatland between the Denali Highway and Landmark Gap, and high numbers of arctic warblers along the Denali Highway.

After learning first hand about the outstanding wildlife resources in the area, I returned periodically for the next 15-20 years to pick berries, hunt ptarmigan, caribou, moose, and fish and canoe in the Tangle Lakes area. Others do the same, and this area is a great place for people, residents or nonresidents, to have exceptional wildlife and recreational experiences.

I am also aware of several archeological sites within the proposed refuge. One was named for stone points that I reported in 1975. They should be protected.

Even 30 years ago, I could see the value of protecting the wildlife values in this area because of its high use for recreation, hunting, fishing and wildlife observation. I support the proposal and encourage the Board to take a proactive step to protect wildlife resources now and into the future. I dream of returning and it is my hope I do not have to look a surface mining developments that rob the area of its unique scenic and wildlife resources.

Please act and pass Proposal 204. Thank you for your consideration.

Peter Bente  
PO Box 1611,  
Nome, Alaska 99762

*Peter Bente  
02-16-2007  
Nome, Alaska*

COMMENT# 219

Corporate Headquarters  
PO Box 649  
Glennallen, Alaska 99588  
Office: (907) 822-3476  
Fax: (907) 822-3495



Anchorage Office  
110 W 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Office: (907) 868-8250  
Fax: (907) 868-8285

*Our Culture Unites Us; Our Land Sustains Us; Our People are Prosperous*

February 13, 2018

The Honorable Representative Louise Stutes, Chair  
State of Alaska Legislature  
House Fisheries Committee

Dear Chairwoman Stutes,

Ahtna, Inc. would like to express opposition to House Bill 272 that proposes to create a state park in the Tangle Lakes Area.

We are very concerned about the Alaska economy and feel that yet another new park in our state would be detrimental to the economic development opportunities in the Ahtna region and the overall state of Alaska.

It will restrict land use, will prevent mineral development, hinder tourism and interfere with our customary and traditional hunting practices. While the bill sponsor and supporters have good intentions, our experience has shown that this type of legislation only serves to further restrict land use and resource development so essential to a healthy society. Alaska has so little land that is not currently locked up in parks, preserves and critical habitat, we need to be very cognizant of the need to maintain the small multiple use areas remaining in the state. In addition, this type of restriction would hinder the formation of a borough as it takes a significant land base out of the borough land selection pool.

We do not recommend that this bill be forwarded out of committee.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

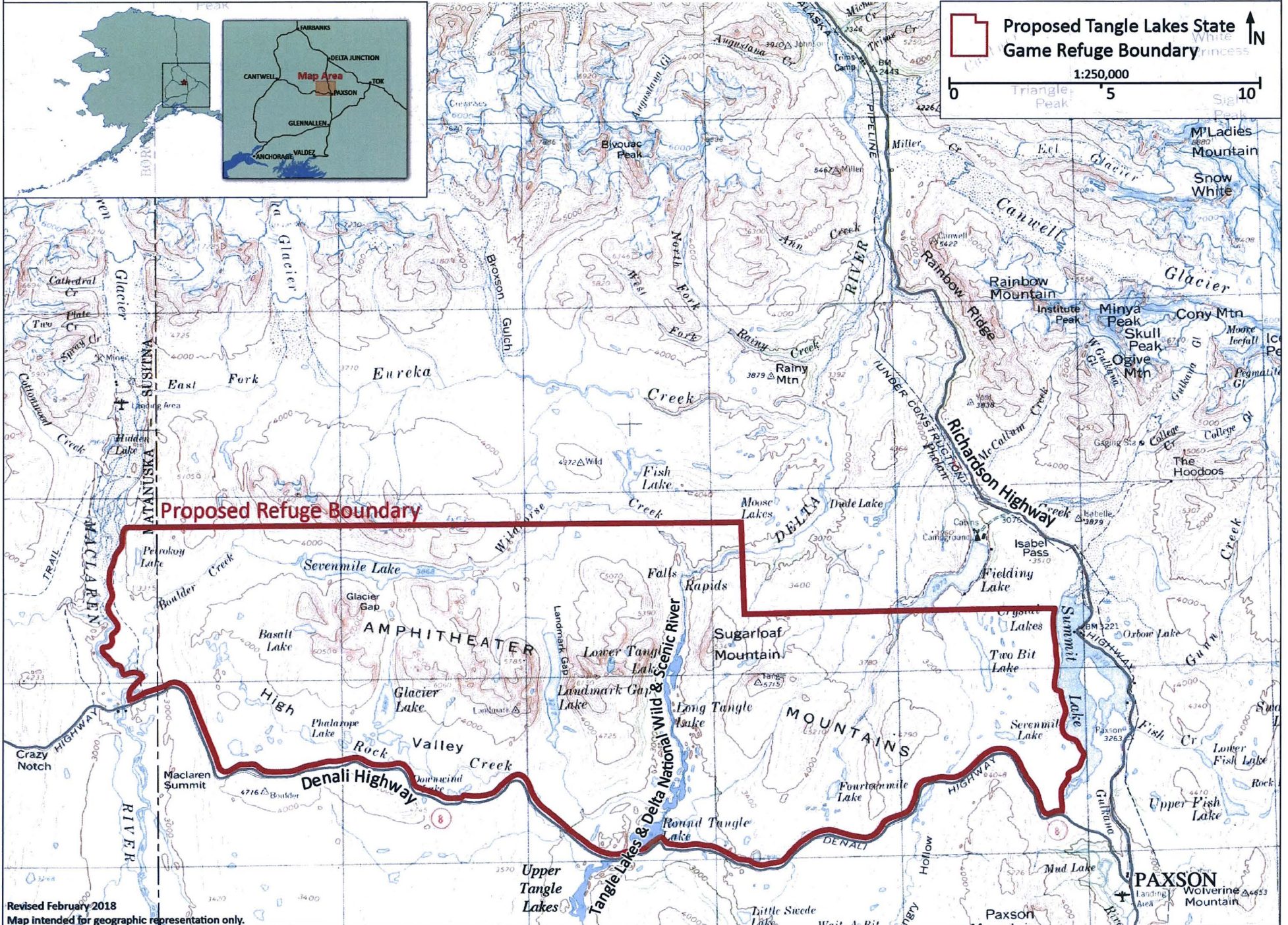
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Anderson".

Michelle Anderson, President

cc: Senator Click Bishop  
Representative David Talerico  
Representative George Rauscher

# Proposed Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge



**Proposed Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge Boundary**

1:250,000

0 5 10

Triangle Peak

Sig Peak

White Princess

↑ N

Revised February 2018  
Map intended for geographic representation only.

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2018 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 272  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: HB272-DFG-CO-02-09-18  
Title: TANGLE LAKES STATE GAME REFUGE  
Sponsor: JOSEPHSON  
Requester: House Fisheries Committee

Department: Department of Fish and Game  
Appropriation: Statewide Support Services  
Allocation: Commissioner's Office  
OMB Component Number: 2175

**Expenditures/Revenues**

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

|                               | FY2019<br>Appropriation<br>Requested | Included in<br>Governor's<br>FY2019<br>Request | Out-Year Cost Estimates |            |            |            |            |            |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                               |                                      |                                                | FY 2019                 | FY 2020    | FY 2021    | FY 2022    | FY 2023    | FY 2024    |
| <b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</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> | <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> | <b>0.0</b> |

**Positions**

|           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Full-time |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Part-time |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Temporary |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Change in Revenues**

|              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 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> | <b>0.0</b> |

**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2018) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2019) 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? Yes  
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 07/01/23

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

Initial version.

|                                                    |                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Prepared By: <u>Bruce Dale, Director</u>           | Phone: <u>(907)861-2101</u>      |
| Division: <u>Wildlife Conservation</u>             | Date: <u>02/09/2018 04:00 PM</u> |
| Approved By: <u>Carol Petraborg, Director</u>      | Date: <u>02/09/18</u>            |
| Agency: <u>Division of Administrative Services</u> |                                  |

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 272

**Analysis**

There are no additional costs associated with the creation of this new game refuge. The development of a refuge management plan, review and issuance of Special Area Permits, and refuge field operations will be absorbed into existing programs and their respective budgets, with no additional funds necessary. These functions are performed by the Division of Wildlife Conservation and the Division of Habitat. Special Area program priorities within both divisions will be reevaluated and shifted to accommodate the needs, as appropriate, for a new refuge.

Once a refuge management plan is created through a collaborative public process, regulations to implement the management plan goals and policies will be proposed through Administrative Procedures Act process. The timeline for adopting regulations will be determined through the process of developing the management plan. The adoption of regulations is not statutorily required, but the department estimates that this process will take place within the next five years.

There will be zero fiscal impact to the department.

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2018 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 272  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: HB272-DNR-MLW-02-09-18  
Title: TANGLE LAKES STATE GAME REFUGE  
Sponsor: JOSEPHSON  
Requester: House Fisheries

Department: Department of Natural Resources  
Appropriation: Fire Suppression, Land & Water Resources  
Allocation: Mining, Land & Water  
OMB Component Number: 3002

**Expenditures/Revenues**

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

|                               | FY2019                  | Included in               | Out-Year Cost Estimates |                |                |                |                |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                               | Appropriation Requested | Governor's FY2019 Request | FY 2020                 | FY 2021        | FY 2022        | FY 2023        | FY 2024        |
| <b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b> | <b>FY 2019</b>          | <b>FY 2019</b>            | <b>FY 2020</b>          | <b>FY 2021</b> | <b>FY 2022</b> | <b>FY 2023</b> | <b>FY 2024</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 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Change in Revenues**

|              |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 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> |

**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2018) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2019) 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? Yes  
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 09/01/19

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

Initial version.

|                                                  |                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Prepared By: <u>Brent Goodrum, Director</u>      | Phone: <u>(907)269-8625</u>      |
| Division: <u>Mining, Land and Water</u>          | Date: <u>02/09/2018 12:00 AM</u> |
| Approved By: <u>Andrew T. Mack, Commissioner</u> | Date: <u>02/09/18</u>            |
| Agency: <u>Department of Natural Resources</u>   |                                  |

**FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS**

**STATE OF ALASKA  
2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**BILL NO.** HB 272

**Analysis**

This bill would have a zero fiscal impact on the department.

Regulations would be required to align current regulations with the changes in this bill. Those regulations can be completed within the current budget.

*Corporate Headquarters*  
PO Box 649  
Glennallen, Alaska 99588  
Office: (907) 822-3476  
Fax: (907) 822-3495



*Anchorage Office*  
110 W 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Office: (907) 868-8250  
Fax: (907) 868-8285

*Our Culture Unites Us; Our Land Sustains Us; Our People Are Prosperous*

February 13, 2018

The Honorable Representative Louise Stutes, Chair  
State of Alaska Legislature  
House Fisheries Committee

Dear Chairwoman Stutes,

Ahtna, Inc. would like to express opposition to House Bill 272 that proposes to create a state park in the Tangle Lakes Area.

We are very concerned about the Alaska economy and feel that yet another new park in our state would be detrimental to the economic development opportunities in the Ahtna region and the overall state of Alaska.

It will restrict land use, will prevent mineral development, hinder tourism and interfere with our customary and traditional hunting practices. While the bill sponsor and supporters have good intentions, our experience has shown that this type of legislation only serves to further restrict land use and resource development so essential to a healthy society. Alaska has so little land that is not currently locked up in parks, preserves and critical habitat, we need to be very cognizant of the need to maintain the small multiple use areas remaining in the state. In addition, this type of restriction would hinder the formation of a borough as it takes a significant land base out of the borough land selection pool.

We do not recommend that this bill be forwarded out of committee.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Anderson, President

cc: Senator Click Bishop  
Representative David Talerico  
Representative George Rauscher

[www.ahtna-inc.com](http://www.ahtna-inc.com)



**ALASKA MINERS  
ASSOCIATION**

121 W. FIREWEED SUITE 120 | ANCHORAGE, ALASKA | 99503 | 907.563.9229 | ALASKAMINERS.ORG

February 22, 2018

Representative Louise Stutes, Chair  
House Fisheries Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
*Submitted via email*

Re: HB272, Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Dear Representative Stutes:

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) writes to oppose HB272, An Act Establishing the Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. This proposal eliminates jobs and income for Alaskans on the mistaken premise that mineral jobs and income are incompatible with public use and habitat. Decades of history in this area shows this to be a false choice. I would like to take this opportunity to explain.

AMA is a professional membership trade organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,400 members that come from eight statewide branches: Anchorage, Denali, Fairbanks, Haines, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan/Prince of Wales, and Nome. Our members include individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies, Alaska Native Corporations, and the contracting sector that supports Alaska's mining industry.

**A Century of Mining: A Legacy of Minimal Impact.** The Sponsor's Statement for HB272 states: "Although most activities within the proposed refuge pertain to renewable resources, there is potential for non-renewable activities, which could irreparably damage both the ecosystem and the wildlife that depend on it." A century of experience shows this premise – that one must choose between renewable and nonrenewable resources – to be false.

The Denali Highway Region around the proposed refuge has been the subject of mineral exploration since the turn of the century. The large Valdez Creek Mine, just east of the Susitna River, was discovered in the early part of this century and reclaimed in the early 1990s. Beginning in the early 1990s, modern mining exploration increased in this region. The proposed refuge area and lands to the north, where access would be impeded by the refuge, was explored for over 20 years by American Copper and Nickel Company (ACNC), Anglo American, Fort Knox Gold (a different company than the one mining near Fairbanks), Nevada Star Resource Corporation, Pure Nickel, and a few others. Since 2000, DNR has granted approximately 20 exploration permits and the same number of permits for placer mining in the region. While most are outside the proposed Refuge area, a number have included work within the Refuge area as well.

Exploration has included most of the techniques used to find hard-rock minerals including field mapping, aerial and ground geophysical exploration, soil samples, water samples, rock sampling, and exploration drilling. Almost all of the recent exploration has been helicopter supported. It has left little ground



disturbance or long-term visual affect. Neither Department of Natural Resources (DNR) nor Department of Fish and Game (DF&G) have suggested to the companies involved that the exploration has caused significant effects on recreation or wildlife. According to DNR field personnel questioned at the time of the previous refuge proposal, very few people using Tangle Lakes or the Delta Wild and Scenic River even know that mineral exploration has been occurring.

The region's history shows that nearby large mines such as Valdez Creek Mine have not created the long-term impacts asserted by the sponsor, and years of recent exploration have avoided the predicted impacts. In addition, BLM analyzed a modern mining scenario in a 2011 Environmental Assessment for the Delta Wild and Scenic River. It concluded, "If exploration leads to the discovery of an economically viable deposit, the deposit will likely be developed only through underground mining (not open-pit) techniques. If so, a mine could be developed in a similar manner as the Pogo Mine (about 38 miles northeast of Delta Junction). Surface disturbance will vary depending on mine design, construction of roads, power line corridors, selection of tailing disposal method, and other factors. The Pogo Mine has a permitted disturbance of 425 acres."<sup>1</sup> Four hundred and twenty-five acres is roughly 0.3% of the proposed refuge's area. This modern mining scenario hardly makes the case that Alaska must choose between habitat and our jobs or income.

**Depriving Alaskans of Jobs, State Revenue, and Permanent Fund Income.** We cannot give you the full economic value that mineral exploration has created in this region. Expenditures and employment has varied from year to year and decade to decade. However, recently some companies have published expenditures that may give a sense of the economic value this proposal would be eliminating.

Most recently Pure, Nickel explored the area – both within the refuge and in the area to the north, in an area where the refuge would discourage additional exploration. Their camp varied from 15 people to 30 people, and most of which are Alaskans. In 2004, Nevada Star, the predecessor company, spent almost \$1.4 million on the project. The level of exploration gradually increased and in 2010 and for a few years thereafter, Pure Nickel spent approximately \$7.5 million annually. In each of those years, the company paid an additional amount, up to more than \$180,000 to the state of which a significant amount has gone to the Alaska Permanent Fund and increased dividends for all Alaskans.

While the proposed refuge is not presently being explored, it is likely to be explored again. The Tangle Lakes region is known to be a highly mineralized area, in the Nikolai Greenstone geologic terrane that is host to the incredibly rich Kennecott copper deposits. The recent exploration showed showed significant potential of nickel, platinum metals and elements, and other minerals. These minerals are included in a recently published list by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) of minerals that are critical to national defense and the economy.<sup>2</sup> A secure supply of domestic sources of minerals is a priority for the United States, and it should be for Alaska as well.

**A Refuge With Only Average Habitat?** DNR's land use plan, written with DF&G's help and endorsement, indicates that the vast majority of the refuge has only moderate habitat. The proposed refuge is split

<sup>1</sup> BLM Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Delta River Special Recreation Management Area Plan and East Alaska Resource Management Plan Amendment August 1, 2011. Pg 88. In addition to the acres, the management plan referenced Pogo's 40-mile road (491 acres). A road in this area would be much shorter with much less acreage but is not included in the 425-acre estimate.

<sup>2</sup> This list may be viewed at: <https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2018/1021/ofr20181021.pdf>



between two DNR Area Plans: Tanana Basin Area Plan, Subunit 5C2; and Copper River Basin Area Plan, Subunit 28.

DF&G provides the fish and wildlife expertise for these plans. As part of these plans, the agencies rated habitat in each area into one of 5 categories. As part of the plans' public process, the habitat ratings were published for public comment. The plans concluded that the vast majority of what is proposed for the Refuge is in the middle habitat category (which the plans termed "Prime" habitat).

**The Refuge Proposal Ignores the Real Management Problems.** The refuge proposal ignores the real management problem in the area and neglects the protection from existing management. Most of the proposed Refuge area is within DNR's Tangle Lakes Archaeological District Special Use Area. The Special Use Area was enacted in 2003. At that time, DNR assessed the area and determined that the area needed protection, not because of its habitat, but because of the many cultural and heritage sites in the area. During the assessment, DNR concluded that mining and mineral exploration impacts were easily controlled through mining's extensive permitting and inspection process. DNR, like BLM before it, concluded that unrestricted motorized recreation had the greatest potential to cause significant impacts to these resources. For that reason, DNR enacted rules for recreation and received additional legislative funding for field personnel to manage recreation this area. This Special Use Area provides already a vehicle for special rules should those rules become necessary.

**Conclusion.** A century of exploration and active mining in and near the proposed refuge shows that Alaska does not have to make a choice between renewable and non-renewable resources. It is possible to maintain quality habitat and allow Alaskans to have the jobs and income that sustains us. It is possible and desirable to maintain the fish and wildlife we depend on and still provide the state with general fund and permanent fund income. The sponsor's assertion that we must choose is false, and in the long run is deadly for Alaska's economy and people. Alaska's miners strongly oppose the proposed Refuge and the false choice that prompts it. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deantha Crockett", written in a cursive style.

Deantha Crockett  
Executive Director

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please withdraw HB272  
**Date:** Monday, February 05, 2018 9:36:42 AM

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**From:** Bruce Cain [mailto:[bcain@ahtna.net](mailto:bcain@ahtna.net)]  
**Sent:** Friday, February 02, 2018 1:04 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Cc:** David Talerico <[davetalerico@outlook.com](mailto:davetalerico@outlook.com)>  
**Subject:** Please withdraw HB272

Representative Josephson.

With all due respects, please withdraw HB272. This isn't your district. Many members of the Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce will be adversely affected by this bill. Please consult with Representative Talerico and he will be able to work on a bill that will benefit our area. Right now the Tangle Lakes area is being managed fine. We need multiple use that allows mineral exploration, land development, land disposal, hunting, fishing, trapping and other uses. We are doing just fine thank you. Please withdraw the bill and we will ask Representative Talerico to address any issues we have.

Thank you.

Bruce Cain, President  
Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce  
Box 469  
Glennallen, Alaska 99588  
Chamber Phone 907-822-5555 (message)  
Bruce Phone at Work (Ahtna, Incorporated) 907-822-3476 Cell 907-952-2798

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Linda Rutledge <potledge@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 10, 2018 2:28 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272 Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Dear Committee Members,

As residents of Alaska for 42 years, we have valued the region for the proposed Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. We have hunted, fished, picked berries, camped and hiked through the area. This has been our breadbasket of food and recreation throughout our homesteading life. We value the area not only for what it provides for us, but also for the wonderful habitat it provides for other animals. The wildlife thrives in this homeland, and we should respect their need for healthy habitat and do everything possible to allow continued success for all. HB 272 would advance that goal and should be moved on with your approval.

Sincerely,  
Linda and Charlie Rutledge  
PO Box 91  
Copper Center, AK 99573

**From:** Robin Mayo <willawaw@coppervalleyak.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 10, 2018 6:00 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** In favor of HB 272

Greetings, I'd like to express my support for HB 272 for the Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. This area is vitally important habitat for the Nelchina Caribou herd and many other critters, a fantastic berry picking area used by many people from across the state, and an awesome recreation site for boating, fishing, and hiking. Protection as a Game Refuge would ensure that we can all keep up these subsistence activities.

Thank you for your service to this state  
Robin Mayo  
Copper Center, Alaska

**From:** Gay <g@welms.us>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 11, 2018 7:44 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** support for HB272

Please support HB 272. Our family spends time every year enjoying the beauty of the Tangle Lakes, fishing, hiking, berry picking. Please do whatever you can to protect this area from being spoiled.

Gay Wellman,  
HC60 Box 227,  
Copper Center, AK 99573  
907-822-3418

**From:** Joe Donohue <donjr081@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 11, 2018 3:52 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272 February 13, 2018 Hearing

Dear Members of the House Fisheries Committee,

As a rural Alaskan, hunting is a integral part of my lifestyle. Access to world class hunting areas is one of the main benefits of living in rural Alaska. That is why I am writing you today in support of House Bill 272 Tangle Lakes Game Refuge. By protecting this piece of land for the Nelchina caribou herd, we will protect our ability to hunt here for generations to come.

This beautiful area draws hundreds of hunters from Anchorage, Fairbanks, and surrounding communities to harvest caribou every year. I am lucky enough to have hunted caribou and been berry picking in Tangle Lakes. HB272 would allow hunters to continue harvesting caribou here every year, while limiting mining, which would negatively impact caribou populations. Whether you go to Tangle Lakes for hunting, berry picking, or just canoeing and camping, HB272 would benefit all Alaskans by protecting a place essential to the Nelchina caribou herd.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joe Donohue  
Kenny Lake, Alaska

**From:** matt obermiller <mattobermiller@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 12:41 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** Tangle Lakes

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Matt Obermiller. I'm a 25 year resident of the Copper Basin near Kenny Lake.

I hike and sight see in the Tangle Lakes area and strongly support protecting the wilderness and biological integrity of the Tangle Lakes area and strongly support HB 272.

Most of my subsistence meat harvest takes place close by where I live but many of my friends and acquaintances, residents of Kenny Lake and the Copper Basin fish, subsistence hunt and camp in the Tangle Lakes area and depend on the access it provides to healthy populations of harvestable animals.

Mining in the Tangle Lakes area is quite incompatible with the values and uses many of us in the nearby communities hold for this area so we would like to have the Tangle Lakes area protected from this destruction.

Thank you, Matt

Mile 56 Richardson Hwy.



**From:** Felicia Riedel <f\_riedel@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 1:01 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272 Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Dear Representatives,

As you listen to this bill tomorrow, I want you to have the perspectives of a couple who live where the impact of HB 272 will be felt. My husband and I have lived and raised a family in the Copper River Basin since 1977, having come here from Fairbanks where my mother homesteaded. I love this land and the lifestyle it affords! But I also am a mom and understand wanting jobs and a future for my kids.

I think HB 272 supports my desires to continue to be able to rely on game meat and enjoy the fascinating landscape and geology of the Tangle Lakes area. The bill's main purpose is to protect wildlife and their habitat, but that will double the purpose by also preserving the land.

My husband is an avid, fair-chase hunter, so game and salmon are what we eat for meat. I supply the non-meat side for the table, from the garden to the bread –but also berries, and the area is a good source for those. I relish going on hunts, even though I pick berries or take photos or facilitate kids, because hunters get out into the best places, like Tangle Lakes. My husband was also a recreational miner, and he made sure this bill didn't exclude that.

So when I think that there is a bill that will safeguard the caribou herd and be good for local businesses and protect the land for berry pickers, photographers, tourists, archaeologists, and others while not ruining anyone's jobs or future, I think it shows farsightedness and needs to be supported.

Thank you,  
Felicia Riedel  
Kenny Lake, AK

**From:** Mary Odden <fiddletunes@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 1:04 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272 Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Dear Alaska Legislature House Fisheries Committee,  
We are long-time Copper Basin Residents and business owners. We hunt and fish in the Tangle Lakes area. We are not opposed to mining exploration and development in general, but with most other people in our region we recognize this area along the Denali Highway as a critical caribou habitat, long identified as such by state biologists. Please support the creation and funding of this refuge, important for the future of the Nelchina herd and all those who depend upon and enjoy its healthy population.

Respectfully,  
Jim and Mary Odden  
HC 1 Box 2520  
Glennallen, Alaska 99588

**From:** Mark Luttrell <prufrock@arctic.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 1:16 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** Support for HB 272 - Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

The protection offered by a state game refuge is long overdue in the Tangle Lakes area. I fully support this bill and thank Representative Josephson for introducing it and the fisheries committee for discussing it.

My wife and I have enjoyed the Denali Highway and Tangle Lakes area for decades. We hike, pick berries and photograph wildlife. In the 80s, as an archaeologist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, I surveyed much of the area near Tangle Lakes and Dickey Lake. We confirmed that the area is rich in cultural resources.

Its foolish to leave this area unprotected from damaging resource extraction.

Thanks

Mark Luttrell and  
Ann Ghicadus  
Box 511  
Seward AK 99664

**From:** Diane Ellsworth <farmzoo@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 2:17 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272

**Please support HB 272. We need to keep our wild lands wild and protect our caribou, fish and environment. It is time to use other sources of energy and time to realize that wealth is not only measured in dollars--the earth is our most valuable resource.**

**Thank you,  
Diane Ellsworth  
HC 60 Box 109N  
Copper Center, Alaska 99573**

**From:** Rebekah Donohue <beck.donohue@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 2:50 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. George Rauscher  
**Subject:** HB 272 - Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

I am writing to ask that you support HB 272, the bill to form a Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. This region is simply too valuable to allow mining to impact it. With the Nelchina Caribou herd roaming over much of the land, it is an area rich in beauty and subsistence resources. I have many wonderful childhood memories from the area: quietly canoeing around the lakes, picking blueberries with my Mom, and my first caribou hunt with my Dad. I have continued these activities into adulthood, and look forward every year to an autumn trip to Tangle Lakes. I just had my first child this winter, and I look forward to sharing these same experiences with her in the years to come. Please do your part to protect this beautiful region for the wildlife that inhabit it, and for the rich experiences it offers for future generations.

Thank you,  
Rebekah Donohue  
Kenny Lake, Alaska  
907-244-6623

**From:** Frank Keim <frankkeim@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 17, 2018 10:45 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** addendum

To members of the Fisheries committee:

I am back to my computer again, and wish to add the ways I have recreated in the proposed Tangle Lakes Refuge area since the early 1960's. Once upon a time, in the 1960's and 1970's, there used to be a LOT of caribou in the area, and I hunted them there. I also hunted moose there. For each of these species I was successful and, when a student, fed myself, and later, after I had a family, fed them too. From the 1960's to the present, I have canoed the area more than 40 times. I have also fished in the area, as well as hiked, mountain climbed, bird watched and cross-country skied. So, you see that I, along with my two wives, children, grandchildren, and so many friends and relatives, have used this area extensively many many times. And it is for these reasons that I/we feel the area should be set aside permanently as a State Refuge. Please help make it so. Thanks.

Frank Keim  
2220 Penrose Lane  
Fairbanks 99709

—  
**Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed...We simply need that wild country, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in.**

*Wallace Stegner*

**From:** Don Kiely <don@donkiely.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 5:10 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272 - Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

**Members of the House Fisheries Committee:**

I am writing to thank you for considering HB 272 to establish the Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. I urge you to support this bill, both to protect this incredible area to provide permanent protection for fish and wildlife populations and their habitats, as well as to protect the area for its incredible recreation opportunities, including fishing and hunting.

I often visit the Tangle Lakes area, mostly to paddle the Delta River and for tundra hiking and berry picking. It is an incredible resource, well worth giving our highest levels of protection.

Thank you!  
Don Kiely  
Fairbanks, AK

**From:** Bob Hadaway <hadaway.bob@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 5:26 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** House Bill 272

I strongly support HB 272 as a measure to protect the Tangle Lakes region. I've spent many years, camping, canoeing, fishing and hiking in this beautiful area and hope to see it protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Bob Hadaway  
([hadaway.bob@gmail.com](mailto:hadaway.bob@gmail.com))

**From:** dianalingle@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 5:50 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** Tangle lakes state game refuge

I wish to voice my support for HB 272. Tangle Lakes is a wonderful area for hiking, canoeing, kayaking, and camping and should be protected from mining or other industrial uses which would adversely impact its value for both humans and wildlife.

Thank you,  
Diana Lingle,  
P. O. Box 395, Ester, Ak 99725

Sent from my iPad

**From:** Peggy Raybeck <paycheck39@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 5:52 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** Support for HB 272

I strongly support the bill to create a refuge to protect the Tangle Lakes and Upper Delta R area.

I've spent many days in this fabulous area hunting, fishing, picking blueberries and canoe trips for pleasure and hunting down the river. First trip in the late 1960s was really exciting from the lake into (literally) the river. Also enjoyed a few snowmachine and ski trips in the Spring. It's a true wonderland.

**From:** Zak Penwell <zak.penwell@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 5:55 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** In support of HB 272

Hello,

I wanted to ask for your support of HB 272. My kids and I use the Tangle Lakes area to fish, canoe, and hike. This bill would be great for the long time protection of this area.

Thank you.

Zak Penwell  
1659 Wolverine Lane  
Fairbanks AK 99709

**From:** Larry Rundquist <rundquist@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 9:18 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Cc:** Representative\_Geran\_Tarr@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Tom Begich  
**Subject:** Please support HB 272

House Fisheries Committee Members...

I am in full support of HB 272 - Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. Tangle Lakes are well known for great grayling fishing and the upper Delta Wild and Scenic River was one of the best paddle trips that I have taken. These waterbodies and their entire watershed should be protected with the creation of the Game Refuge. Development threats in recent years makes it imperative that this bill move forward to the legislature for passage this session.

Thank you for moving this bill to the legislature...

Larry Rundquist  
2912 Alder Dr  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
907-279-7395

**From:** Frank Maxwell <maxwellasfrank@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2018 10:38 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272- Tangle Lakes Refuge

I have been visiting Tangle Lakes since the 1990s which is before I became an Alaska resident. It is a place where I take out-of-state visitors because it is such a vibrant, beautiful stop on the Denali Highway. I've used it for birding, camping, fishing and canoeing. The thought of the area being desecrated by large-scale mining has disturbed me for many years. I strongly support HB 272 to protect the irreplaceable, habitat, scenic and recreational values there.

Thank you Frank Maxwell, POB 84862, Fairbanks, AK 99708

**From:** Brad Snow <svaldonza@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 7:37 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272 - Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing you in support of HB 272 because I have had considerable experience canoeing, berry picking and hiking in the Tangle Lakes area over the last twenty-eight years, and feel it is one of the most beautiful and accessible areas we as Alaskans possess.

As founder in 1994 with a group of like-minded Alaskans, and later its president for ten years, I helped build Fairbanks Paddlers, a club for non-motorized water craft paddlers, from its inception into an organization of over 400 members. Its goals, "to promote the non-motoried recreational use of Alaskan rivers through conservation, training, safety, exchange of information; and to have fun in the process"(from the club charter), included the protection of areas like the Tangle Lakes. Many of our members have paddled this waterway multiple times, as its unique qualities, including its rare road-to-road access, are worth experiencing and cherishing over and over again.

And so I urge you to carefully consider the proposal before you, and vote to protect this most valuable Alaskan resource from encroachment.

Brad Snow  
2650 Home Run  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

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Brad Snow  
[svaldonza@gmail.com](mailto:svaldonza@gmail.com)

**From:** karen jensen <kljensen64@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 7:54 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** Tangle Lakes Game Refuge - yes!

Dear Legislators:

My family and I have been going to Tangle Lakes area every summer, to birdwatch, canoe and camp. And pick berries! And get a few bug bites. The Tangle Lakes area and Delta river are a special Alaskan treasure, used by many but never feel overcrowded. I have just heard about legislation to make the area a state game refuge, and if that allows multiple uses without abuse and destruction, I'm all for it. Hunting and fishing, paddlers of all types, and lots of campers and wildlife watchers. Leave it that way; that's why we live here.

Thank you,

Karen Jensen  
[kljensen64@gmail.com](mailto:kljensen64@gmail.com)  
Fairbanks, AK

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Jenna Jonas <jenna.e.jonas@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:07 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272

Dear committee members,

My name is Jenna Jonas and I live at 2240 Railroad drive in Fairbanks. I just wanted to send you a brief note and express my support for HB 272. I have worked as a canoe guide in the Tangle Lakes region and have been there on recreation, fishing, hunting, and berry picking trips. It is an incredible area, rich and diverse and I think that a State Game Refuge would be an appropriate designation and protect the most valuable resource there, the ecosystem which supports the Nelchina caribou herd. Thank you for considering this important bill.

Jenna Jonas

[Jenna.e.jonas@gmail.com](mailto:jenna.e.jonas@gmail.com)

**From:** Ann Biddle <annbiddle@cvinternet.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:29 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272

**House Fisheries Committee Members,**

**I support the passage of HB 272, the establishment of the Tangle Lakes Game Refuge, put forth by Representative Andy Josephson. My family and I live and subsist in the Copper River Valley. We annually hunt and forage in the area under consideration.**

**Please consider passing this bill to ensure that the Nelchina caribou herd has land to roam and remains strong.**

**Thank you,  
Ann Biddle  
HC 01 Box 112  
Gakona, AK 99586**

**From:** Ruth McHenry <cca@coppervalleyak.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:36 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272 Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge  
**Attachments:** TangleLksLetterToLegis.docx; TangleLksLetterToLegis.Signers.xlsx

Dear Fisheries Committee Members,

An impressive number of Alaskans, and some Outside visitors as well, have cared enough about the Tangle Lakes region to sign the attached Letter to the Legislature. This was not a quick, press-the-button sign-on. Many signed paper petitions at booths and events, and took the time to include how they use the area. They hunt, fish, pick berries, etc. (Please see "how recreate" column in attached spreadsheet.) Some of the signers are business owners. (See first column of spread sheet.) To make it easier for you to see which are from your districts, the list is arranged alphabetically by city.

Copper Country Alliance is a small non-profit conservation organization that has served the Copper River Basin for over 25 years. Our organization, partner organizations, and concerned individuals have sought spent years seeking ways to ensure that the Tangle Lakes region remains a place where wildlife flourishes and humans hunt, fish, and recreate.


We hope this information will help you understand the value of creating a Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge for the benefit of current and future Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Ruth McHenry

--  
Ruth McHenry, Executive Director  
Copper Country Alliance  
HC60 Box 306T  
Copper Center, AK 99573  
907-822-3644

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This email has been checked for viruses by AVG.  
<http://www.avg.com>



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**From:** Ronald Yarnell <ronaldyarnell@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 9:58 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272

To whom it concerns,

This is a no brainer. The Tangle Lakes Area is one of the most popular recreational areas in interior. We should be doing everything in our power to protect this valuable recreational area. Stop large scale mining in this area.

Please include my comments in the record.

Sincerely, Ron Yarnell( Fairbanks)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Judi Thurmond <madbluebird4444@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 10:51 AM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** HB 272

I support HB 272 - we use this area for canoeing, hiking and berry picking. Keep the pristine look of this area. Sincerely,  
Judi Thurmond

**From:** Daniel Failoni <jkddfaioli@olympen.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 2:21 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** Tangle Lakes

I support the bill re:Tangle Lakes Refuge especially if hunting is allowed to continue. Thank you. Dan Failoni  
360 582 9687

**From:** gcarr64 <gcarr64@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:37 PM  
**To:** House Fisheries  
**Subject:** Hb272 bill

I Richard Carr 44 year resident supports the HB272 bill . It has been an important part of my life .

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

**From:** Rep. Andy Josephson  
**To:** Lisa Delaney  
**Subject:** FW: Tangle Lakes Game Refuge bill  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2018 4:34:04 PM

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**From:** Frankie Barker  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2018 4:10 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson  
**Subject:** Tangle Lakes Game Refuge bill

Rep. Josephson,

Thank you for sponsoring the Tangle Lakes Game Refuge bill. Tangle Lakes is a special area which is enjoyed by many people in our community. It is an important bird migration area as well as an enjoyable recreation site. Good luck with sheparding this through the legislature.

*Frankie Barker*  
Chickaloon

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](mailto:Lisa.Delaney)  
**Subject:** FW: H.B. 272  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 23, 2018 7:54:42 AM

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

**From:** Judith Donegan [<mailto:jdoneganak@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2018 5:35 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Cc:** Rep. George Rauscher <[Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.George.Rauscher@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** H.B. 272

Dear Representative Josephson:

I enthusiastically support House Bill 272 to establish a Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. This is an area that deserves protection for the benefit of both the animals that depend on it and the people who experience the unique beauty of the area. One important consideration is that the area is easily accessible to a large portion of the population of the state and so provides important wilderness experiences for large numbers of people. It is the favorite place of my grandchildren, who have learned to appreciate the importance of wilderness areas from their experiences camping, fishing, and hunting in the area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Judy Donegan  
13603 E. Oceanview Rd.  
Palmer  
AK 99645

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** ["Kate Sandberg"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Thank you  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2018 7:56:54 AM

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**From:** Kate Sandberg [mailto:[kesandberg@gmail.com](mailto:kesandberg@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 13, 2018 5:11 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Thank you

Dear Rep. Josephson,

Thank you for introducing HB 272. What a relief to have a representative doing something constructive and that will add to the quality of life and to preserve habitat. Thank you. What a gem the Tangle Lakes area is.

Kate Sandberg  
Girdwood, AK

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: House Bill 272  
**Date:** Thursday, February 01, 2018 2:14:23 PM

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**From:** Melissa Heuer [mailto:[heuer.melissa@gmail.com](mailto:heuer.melissa@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 01, 2018 11:44 AM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** House Bill 272

Representative Josephson,

I am writing in strong support and appreciation for your bill to turn Tangle Lakes into a State Game Refuge. As an annual recreational user of this area, my family has spent a lot of time canoeing, camping, and berry picking in this beautiful and important area. I encourage you to keep moving forward with this important bill.

Thank you!

Cheers,  
Melissa Heuer

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**Melissa Heuer, MBA**  
e: [Heuer.Melissa@gmail.com](mailto:Heuer.Melissa@gmail.com)  
c: 907.242.4779  
w: [www.SporkAK.com](http://www.SporkAK.com)

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](mailto:Lisa.Delaney)  
**Subject:** FW: Thank You HB 272  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 17, 2018 4:44:25 PM

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**From:** Janelle Eklund [<mailto:jeklund@cvinternet.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 12, 2018 10:43 AM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Thank You HB 272

Dear Representative Josephson,  
Thank you so much for introducing HB 272 that would establish Tangle Lakes as a State Game Refuge. This is great news and I hope it passes. I appreciate all your work, and that of your staff to get this bill introduced. I love the Tangle Lakes area and go there every year for the solitude and to pick blueberries, hunt, canoe, hike, camp, view wildlife, and take photographs. This is a very special and sacred place. It gives my spirit peace to go there. I belong to an environmental non-profit organization that helps sponsor the Project Healing Waters program at Tangle Lakes every year. It is amazing and heartwarming to see how the veterans and soldiers are transformed by interacting with nature. It is very healing to them. It would be a shame if mining companies or other entities came in and destroyed the healthy integrity of this special area.

Thank you again for taking the step to make Tangle Lakes a State Game Refuge so this area will be protected.

Sincerely,

Janelle Eklund  
Kenny Lake, Alaska

**From:** Rep. Andy Josephson  
**To:** Lisa Delaney  
**Subject:** FW: Thank you!  
**Date:** Friday, February 02, 2018 8:50:56 AM

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

**From:** Hugh Rose (<mailto:hughrose64@gmail.com>)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 02, 2018 3:17 AM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Thank you!

Dear Andy,

Thank you for your work on the bill to designate Tangle Lakes a state game preserve!  
I am a photographer and guide who has lived in Alaska for the past 26 years including the last 19 years in Fairbanks. I run a small guiding business taking people from all over the world to Prince William Sound, the Interior and the arctic (Dalton Highway). I am a one person operation, but occasionally hire a guide to assist me.

I am out in the field all the time and I am appalled by what I see in the way of management of state fish and game resources and state land and it has gotten much worse. In particular along the Dalton Highway. This is no longer 1948 and Alaska is no longer "The Last Frontier" Game regulations need to change to reflect the fact we are in the 21st century and there are now 700,000+ people living in the state! At this time when oil revenues are dwindling tourism is a bright spot on the economic horizon for the state. I just finished my 2017 book keeping and just my little business put \$300,000+ dollars into the local Alaska economy in the way of hotels, meals, flights, supplies, etc.

I would love to talk with you about the future and meaningful changes in game regulations to reflect the overwhelming majority of NON-CONSUMPTIVE game users. In turn ecotourism should be taxed, but only if game refuges are set aside where non-consumptive users can observe and photograph wildlife and birds while NOT being harassed by overly aggressive hunters! I am not suggesting banning hunting, in fact I am pro hunting and have hinted in the past myself. I am merely suggesting that certain areas are set aside for non-consumptive use, as this reflects what the majority of Alaskans want.

I am presently in Chile on my way to guiding a group in the Falkland Islands and then in to Antarctica for a 2 week work trip. I will be back in my office in Fairbanks in early March and would love to dialogue about this.

Thank you for your time to read this!

Regards

Hugh Rose

Please excuse spelling and grammar errors this email was Sent from my iPhone, and my fingers are too big for the keys!

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Thank you for protecting Tangle Lakes!  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 23, 2018 7:52:16 AM

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**From:** Francis Adams (<mailto:smada101@gmail.com>)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2018 6:12 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Thank you for protecting Tangle Lakes!

Jeff Adams  
2125 Yankovich Road  
Fairbanks. 99709  
907 978-1861

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Thank you for introducing HB 272.  
**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2018 10:27:57 AM

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**From:** Patrick Endres [mailto:patrick@alaskaphotographics.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2018 10:08 AM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Thank you for introducing HB 272.

Dear Representative Josephson,

Thank you so much for introducing HB 272 advocating for Tangle Lakes. And thanks to the work of your staff as well!

Sincerely,  
Patrick Endres

--

Patrick J Endres  
<http://AlaskaPhotoGraphics.com>  
<http://Patrickendres.com>  
2923 Moose Mountain Road, Fairbanks AK, 99709  
907-750-4065  
Your source for wild Alaska images: [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#)

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Thank you for bill to establish Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2018 2:45:08 PM

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**From:** Kendra Zamzow [mailto:kzamzow@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2018 1:06 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Thank you for bill to establish Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Dear Representative Josephson:

Thank you for introducing HB 272. I strongly support creating a game refuge in this area. It is also important bird habitat and a great area for biking and camping.

As a long time Alaskan, I recognize our natural renewable resources -- game, fish, millions of migratory birds, wilderness, quiet lakes -- to be critical to our economy, and a legacy to pass on. So many other states have not learned how important these are until they have paved, mined, drilled, and developed over most of them. Let's not make that mistake.

Thank you,

*Kendra  
Zamzow, PhD*

*Chickaloon, AK*

*907.354.3886*

*"We are drowning in information, while starving for wisdom." EO Wilson*

**From:** Rep. Andy Josephson  
**To:** Lisa Delaney  
**Subject:** FW: Tangle lakes  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 23, 2018 7:51:57 AM

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

**From:** chugachfarm@gmail.com [<mailto:chugachfarm@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 22, 2018 6:21 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Tangle lakes

Please make wildlife and subsistence hunting and foraging a priority over mineral extraction in the Tangle Lakes area. We have used this area for many years as a source for our food. We value the Nelchina Caribou heard and we do NOT believe resource extraction can co-exist without damaging the heard's health. We value the public land as a priority for public use, NOT special interests. This is a very special place that has a long history of subsistence. Resource extraction is a short sighted, damaging use of this public land.

Jed Workman  
Pob 1223  
Chickaloon, AK 99674

**From:** Thomas Atkinson  
**To:** Lisa Delaney  
**Subject:** FW: Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge  
**Date:** Sunday, January 21, 2018 6:36:55 PM

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**From:** Steve Shannon [mailto:stvnshnn@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 16, 2018 3:37 PM  
**To:** Thomas Atkinson <Thomas.Atkinson@akleg.gov>  
**Subject:** Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

To Representative Josephson,

Thank you for pre-filing House Bill 272. As an Alaskan resident, I have fallen in love with the Tangle Lakes area and brought my younger brother up from Florida this past fall to chase caribou around that area to try and fill my Unit 13 tag (DC 485). It's an incredible area and filled with opportunity for all sorts of renewable resource usage from hunting and fishing, to berry picking and hiking. I plan to write a comment piece thanking you for your support and I thought in the meantime you could read the article I wrote on my hunt in the Tangle Lakes area. My only request is that if you recognize the peaks, don't tell anyone where we were at. ;)

<https://journalofmountainhunting.com/brotherly-love/>

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Sincerely,

Steve Shannon  
Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: House Bill 272  
**Date:** Thursday, January 25, 2018 3:31:13 PM

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**From:** Chelsea Lindquist [mailto:[chelserin@gmail.com](mailto:chelserin@gmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2018 10:54 AM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** House Bill 272

I am writing to show my support for House Bill 272, to establish a Tangle Lakes game refuge. The Tangle Lakes area has been the Nelchina Caribou Herd's most-used wintering habitat in Unit 13. Because lichens, the primary winter food of caribou, regrow slowly, caribou must move around and use different areas in different years. Caribou survival thus depends on making sure that favored habitats are not impacted. Caribou also use the area for the fall rut. The area is important for other wildlife as well—from moose to fox, from trumpeter swan to arctic warbler, from burbot to graying. With climate change bearing down on our vulnerable wildlife, increasing habitat protection is vital.

Thank you,  
Chelsea Vukovich  
Anchorage, AK

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa DeJaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please support HB 272 - Tangle Lakes protection  
**Date:** Friday, January 12, 2018 9:25:26 AM

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**From:** Alison Carter [mailto:[alisoncarter2@yahoo.com](mailto:alisoncarter2@yahoo.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 12, 2018 9:06 AM  
**To:** Rep. Bryce Edgmon <[Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Bryce.Edgmon@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Chris Tuck <[Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Charisse Millett <[Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Charisse.Millett@akleg.gov)>  
**Cc:** Rep. Chris Birch <[Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Chris.Birch@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Mike Chenault <[Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Mike.Chenault@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Matt Claman <[Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Harriet Drummond <[Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Harriet.Drummond@akleg.gov)>; Rep. David Eastman <[Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.David.Eastman@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Les Gara <[Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Les.Gara@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Jason Grenn <[Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Jason.Grenn@akleg.gov)>; Rep. David Guttenberg <[Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.David.Guttenberg@akleg.gov)>; Rep. DeLena Johnson <[Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.DeLena.Johnson@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Jennifer Johnston <[Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Jennifer.Johnston@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Scott Kawasaki <[Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Scott.Kawasaki@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Chuck Kopp <[Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Chuck.Kopp@akleg.gov)>; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux <[Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Gabrielle.LeDoux@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please support HB 272 - Tangle Lakes protection

Thank you for your hard work on Alaskan's behalf. This is a quick note to express how important the Tangle Lakes area is to my well-being. I hope you have spent time there. I make at least 2 trips there each year from Fairbanks and spend 10-14 days. I wish I could explain how that time recharges my spiritual battery and enhances the quality of my life. I always meet people from Anchorage and Mat-Su there.

Please help protect it from mining and other development that will spoil the pristine and peaceful nature of the area.

Sincerely,  
Alison Carter  
Fairbanks, AK

**From:** [Rep. Andy Josephson](#)  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Tangle lakes region  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 16, 2018 5:00:27 PM

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

**From:** [delmarjohnson2000@yahoo.com](mailto:delmarjohnson2000@yahoo.com) [<mailto:delmarjohnson2000@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 12, 2018 9:19 PM  
**To:** Rep. Andy Josephson <[Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Andy.Josephson@akleg.gov)>  
**Subject:** Tangle lakes region

Sent from my iPad. Thank you for all your efforts to preserve this area!! I have fished, hiked, photographed this area for more than 40 years. My children were raised camping 4th of July week at Landmark Gap Lake since they were babies. I never want this area to change. No trail or road improvements. To love this area, you have to earn it. If it was easy, it would be changed by those that would flood it, leaving traces of disregard. Protect it!!!!!!!!!!  
Delmar Johnson.

**From:** Cliff Eames  
**To:** [Lisa Delaney](#)  
**Subject:** Re: release of bill  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 17, 2018 4:50:47 PM

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Again, a huge thanks to you and Rep. Josephson for introducing this bill. It's been a lot of work for you, we're well aware.



2/16/2007 FRI 14:53 FAX 463 7894

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February 16, 2007

ATTN: BOG COMMENTS  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526  
Fax: 907-465-6094

RECEIVED

FEB 16 2007

BOARDS

RE: Comment on Proposal 204, March 2007 BOG Meeting, Anchorage

Proposal 204 asks the Board of Game to use its authority to ask the legislature to establish a state wildlife refuge in Unit 13 between the general vicinity of Paxson to the Machatan River and north of the Denali Highway. The exact boundaries of the proposed refuge are outlined in the proposal and the objective is to protect an area with high wildlife values from development and surface mining.

In the mid-1970s, I spent three summers studying nesting behavior of gyrfalcons in the much of the area defined by this proposal and I know there are excellent wildlife resources, especially for birds, as described in the proposal. Cliff-nesting raptors (including golden eagle and gyrfalcons), tree-nesting or ground nesting species (bald eagle and merlin) are numerous and widely distributed in the area. Game birds and waterfowl are abundant especially in the Tangle Lakes, Glacier Lake, and Landmark Gap Lake areas. And, there are exceptional populations of other bird species including a large colony of long-tailed jaegers nesting in the flatland between the Denali Highway and Landmark Gap, and high numbers of arctic warblers along the Denali Highway.

After learning first hand about the outstanding wildlife resources in the area, I returned periodically for the next 15-20 years to pick berries, hunt ptarmigan, caribou, moose, and fish and canoe in the Tangle Lakes area. Others do the same, and this area is a great place for people, residents or nonresidents, to have exceptional wildlife and recreational experiences.

I am also aware of several archeological sites within the proposed refuge. One was named for stone points that I reported in 1975. They should be protected.

Even 30 years ago, I could see the value of protecting the wildlife values in this area because of its high use for recreation, hunting, fishing and wildlife observation. I support the proposal and encourage the Board to take a proactive step to protect wildlife resources now and into the future. I dream of returning and it is my hope I do not have to look a surface mining developments that rob the area of its unique scenic and wildlife resources.

Please act and pass Proposal 204. Thank you for your consideration.

Peter Beate  
PO Box 1611,  
Nome, Alaska 99762

Peter Beate

02-16-2007

Nome, Alaska

COMMENT# 219

RECEIVED TIME FEB. 16. 2:55PM



# **BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS ALASKA CHAPTER**



[www.alaskabackcountryhunters.org](http://www.alaskabackcountryhunters.org)  
AK BHA

## **Position Statement Proposed Tangle Lakes State Wildlife Refuge**

The Tangle Lakes region off the Denali Highway is a unique area that is important to a wide array of Alaskans and nonresidents who hunt and fish and recreate there. Home to the wandering Nelchina caribou herd, abundant fishery resources, encompassing the Delta Wild and Scenic River, this area is the breadbasket of subsistence and recreational hunting and fishing and gathering for south central Alaska. It is also a growing and highly popular tourism destination.

Amidst the spectacular alpine scenery and abundant fish and wildlife resources, below the ground are platinum group metal deposits now being explored with the potential for large scale hardrock mining.

The potential for large scale hardrock mining concerns hunters, anglers and subsistence users of the Tangle Lakes region who depend on the renewable resources this area offers. They want some assurances that adequate protections are in place should any hardrock mining take place, that the Nelchina caribou herd and other resources won't be negatively affected, and that their traditional activities will continue unabated.

And so there has been a proposal to create a Tangle Lakes State Wildlife Refuge. Under Refuge status, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADFG) would have a lead role with DNR in any mine permitting process, and more adequate protections will be ensured for fish and wildlife and the habitat they depend upon. Hunting, fishing, trapping and other subsistence activities would also be protected.

For these reasons, AK BHA supports a Tangle Lakes Refuge. We believe more rigorous protection of our fish and wildlife habitat is necessary to ensure future productivity of the resources in the Tangles, and a refuge is a reasonable way to provide that protection. However, hard rock mining would not be precluded within the refuge. Areas with convincing mineral potential could still be developed as long as strong protections for fish and wildlife habitat were in force. Jobs associated with mining could still be created, while those associated with hunting, fishing, trapping, tourism and subsistence would be recognized, protected, and enhanced by refuge designation.



# **BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS ALASKA CHAPTER**



3/15/10

To: Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Mining, Land, and Water  
3700 Airport Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699

Attn: Jack Kerin: "<mailto:jack.kerin@alaska.gov>" [jack.kerin@alaska.gov](mailto:jack.kerin@alaska.gov)  
Brent Martellaro: "<mailto:brent.martellaro@alaska.gov>" [brent.martellaro@alaska.gov](mailto:brent.martellaro@alaska.gov)

Re: APMA F109742—Pure Nickel 2010-2015 Exploration Permit Application

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on Pure Nickel's 2010-2015 exploration permit. We understand and appreciate the need to permit hard rock mining exploration in areas likely to hold good mineral resources. However, the area being proposed for large scale hard rock mining is in this case, critically important to the Nelchina caribou herd, one of the most accessible, extensively studied and heavily utilized caribou herds in Alaska. The Nelchina herd has provided food for Alaskans since time immemorial, and is managed to provide thousands of families with food to this day. We believe this property of the land, it's ability to provide a basic need for so many, is more important than the mineral resources that may be found. For this reason, AK BHA opposes granting Pure Nickel the exploration permit that could lead to large scale mineral exploitation.

We believe that mining exploration itself will cause significant negative impacts to the Nelchina herd and the people who utilize it. In all likelihood, the most disruptive result of exploration will be the numerous low elevation helicopter flights and landings, which have been shown to be highly disruptive to caribou, and certainly create an untenable situation for hunters attempting to fill their freezers. Noise from drilling camps, the prolonged presence of workers at these camps, and visual disturbances will also contribute to caribou stress, and will likely cause negative changes to migration habits and foraging behavior.

**The Nelchina herd has recently shown signs of nutritional stress. Fires, in particular, have altered summer foraging patterns with the result that many caribou going into the rut are in poor condition, and calves are born small. It is particularly important therefore, that preferred winter foraging and rutting areas within the Tangle Lakes region, be free from disruption that could cause further harm to the herd. The areas used by the herd in the fall and winter should receive special scrutiny and consideration from DNR during their permit deliberations. This includes the "Beta Complex" which abuts the Denali Highway and the Tangle Lakes/Delta River Wild and Scenic River System. These areas are too important to numerous Alaskans to be valued only for their mineral potential.**

DNR has a serious responsibility to safeguard the public trust they hold; they must without fail manage the land under their care to respect this trust, and consider the results of their actions not only on current citizens, but on those following. This ethic should be at the forefront of all decisions regarding mineral development in the Tangle Lakes region. The loss of our renewable wildlife resources due to a lack of concern for the same, would be an unforgivable breach of said trust.

Thank you again for your hard work, patience and consideration,

Dave Lyon  
Co-Chair Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers



## **COPPER COUNTRY ALLIANCE**

HC 60 Box 306T  
Copper Center, Alaska 99573  
Phone (907) 822-3644  
cca@coppervalleyak.net

*a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation*

*"Protecting the rural and wild natural environment of the  
Copper Basin/Wrangell Mountains region."*

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**February 12, 2018**

**For immediate release**

**Contact: Cliff Eames, 907-822-3644; cca@coppervalleyak.net**

### **BILL WOULD GIVE NELCHINA HERD, TANGLES LAKES A BIG BOOST**

One of Alaska's favorite areas for subsistence and recreation may have additional protection in the future thanks to Representative Andy Josephson. House Bill 272 "To Establish a Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge" was pre-filed by Rep. Josephson this January.

For the Nelchina Caribou Herd the Tangle Lakes area is essential habitat, especially for fall rut and winter grazing. Archaeological evidence shows that the Tangle Lakes region has been a magnet for human activities for many centuries, and ever since the Denali Highway opened sixty years ago, the region has drawn hunters, fishers, paddlers, berry pickers, photographers and many other admirers. Periodically, Outside and foreign mineral exploration companies have raised Alaskans' worries about the threat of hardrock mining.

As the state Board of Game wrote in 2008 to then-Governor Palin, "We recognize the potential for mineral extraction in this area and in associated mineral leases, but remain convinced the long-term value of maintaining wildlife habitat far outweighs the potential benefits of possible development projects known at this time." John Schandelmeier, who probably has spent more time in the region than anyone, has asked, "Are the minerals more valuable than what we already have here?"

HB 272 would not void existing mining claims, but it would preclude new hardrock claims and give the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) increased control over any development. The primary purpose of the designation is to protect wildlife populations so they remain available for hunters to harvest, and other visitors to see and photograph. In a state game refuge, ADF&G takes on the lead management role for fish and wildlife, human uses, and surface uses.

With or without any mining threat, the Tangle Lakes region stands on its own as a natural choice for a refuge. "[T]he importance of [these lands] as wildlife habitat, tourist destination, sport fishing, subsistence and sport hunting, subsistence food gathering and trapping area exceeds all mining value. All these uses except mining have minimal impact on the land and are renewable yearly," wrote ADF&G Game Biologist Bob Tobey (now retired).

Supporters of HB 272, including Copper Country Alliance, other organizations, and business owners, urge hunters, fishers, and other fans of Tangle Lakes and the Nelchina herd to ask their legislators to pass this bill. More information is at <https://www.savetanglelakes.org/>.

###



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS  
AND  
ANGLERS  
ALASKA CHAPTER**



**PO Box 47 Homer, AK 99603**

To: Governor Sarah Palin  
State of Alaska  
3rd Floor, State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

July 10, 2008

Cc: DNR Commissioner Tom Irwin  
ADF&G Commissioner Denby Lloyd

Re: Tangle Lakes Refuge Proposal

Dear Governor Palin,

Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (AK BHA) is a grassroots organization of Alaskans dedicated to working for the protection of fish and wildlife resources for present and future generations. We are residents of the state who hunt, fish, trap, and depend on the living, renewable resources of this great state to sustain us. We believe the future of our hunting and fishing heritage depends on prudent management of intact ecosystems, and habitat protection.

You have heard from the Board of Game, former and current ADF&G biologists, citizens groups such as the Copper County Alliance, and other individuals about the pressing need to protect the Tangle Lakes area. This region has been recognized for years as vital hunting grounds for area residents pursuing Nelchina caribou, and is known to support important, if not critical, caribou winter habitat. Many resident moose hunters, and both resident and nonresident bear and small game hunters also utilize this region. This is a unique area of the state that we believe has its highest value in the renewable fish and wildlife resources, rather than the recoverable minerals. The hunting and fishing residents we represent, and our children and their children, deserve to have this area protected from the long-term damage large scale industrial mining inevitably causes. Because the recreational and subsistence value of this area is so important to current and future Alaskans, we support creating a Refuge in the "Denali block" area of the Tangle Lakes.

Prioritizing the protection of fish and wildlife here makes sense to a diverse group of Alaskan outdoors enthusiasts, from hunters and anglers and trappers, to wildlife viewers, hikers, and snowmachiners.

We respectfully request your support for the protection of this area for subsistence and recreational use by the people, via Refuge status.

Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

Louise Seguela – Secretary AK BHA

<http://www.alaskabackcountryhunters.org>