

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1985-1986 86/2

3654 HSTA HB 37 - HB 46

53



RECORDS CERTIFICATION



I, the undersigned, an employee of the State of Alaska, do hereby certify that the microfilm images on this microform are accurate reproductions of the original records of the State of Alaska as accumulated during the regular course of business, and that it is the established policy and practice of this State to microfilm its records and to dispose of the original records after microfilm reproductions have been made.


Signature of Camera Operator


Date

H B

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COMMITTEE REPORT
HOUSE

(7)

FURTHER: Finance

1/16/85

(Referral to Resource waived
State Affairs added 1/16/85) Date: 1-31-85

The Committee on State Affairs has had HB 37

"An Act making a special appropriation for payment as a grant to the City of Palmer for the 50th Colony Anniversary Celebration of the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation; and providing for an effective date."

under consideration and recommends:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for _____ same title
- and recommends _____ new title
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation Zero Fiscal Note Attached
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Handwritten signatures]

[Handwritten signature]
CHAIRMAN

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE:

By: ~~HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS~~

To: _____ HOUSE BILL No. 37 _____

SENATE BILL No. _____

PAGE: 1 _____

LINE: 12 _____

DELETE: \$60,250

ADD: \$48,600

NOV. 26, 1934

A.R.R.C. 50th COLONY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

JUNE

8th - 9th, 1935

PROPOSED BUDGET -- INCOME & EXPENSES

BASED ON AN ATTENDANCE OF 400

PARADE	FLOAT	BAND	FAVORS	(SATURDAY 8th)	\$ 500.00
PARADE RECEPTION	BOROUGH GYMNASIUM	CR	400 @ \$5.00		2,000.00
	FINGER FOOD--COFFEE -- ROLLS -- SNACKS	(GET ACQUAINTED GATHERING ET AL)			
BANQUET	TABLES	CHAIRS	LINEN	DINNERWARE (AT)	
	JANITORIAL	TRUCK/TRANSPORTATION		(8th)	
	FOOD	ET AL	400 @ \$30.00		12,000.00
PICNIC	FAIRGROUNDS	TABLES	CHAIRS	PAPER GOODS	
	TRUCK?TRANSPORTATION	FOOD	ET AL	(SUNDAY)	
		400 @ \$10.00		(9th)	4,000.00
BUS TRANSPORTATION	FAIRGROUNDS	TO AND FROM PALMER		(SUNDAY)	
		CHARTER -- 12:00 to 6:00 P.M.			500.00
HALL/FACILITIES	RENTAL	UTILITIES	SET-UPS		
		BANQUET	FAIRGROUNDS	2 DAYS	500.00
LABOR TRUCKING	VEHICLE EXPENSE				
	TRANSPORTING	TABLES	CHAIRS	SUPPLIES	
	SET*UPS	JANITORIAL			
	200 HRS LABOR @ \$15.00				3,000.00
	VEHICLE RENTAL	2 DAYS PLUS EXTRA		BEFORE AND AFTER	400.00
OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	TYPING	MAILING	COPYING	COMPUTERIZATION	
	PARCEL POST	TELEPHONE	TELEGRAMS	DAILY MILEAGE	
	LUNCHEONS	(400 PIECES OF COMMUNICATION EACH OF)		(SEVERAL, OR MANY TIMES.)	1,500.00
REGISTRATION EXPENSE	RIBBONS	BADGES	PINS		
	PRE-REGISTRATION LABOR & EXPENSE				
	REGISTRATION DAY AT BOOTH LABOR	400 @ \$2.50			1,000.00
SNACKS	MUG-UP	DURING REGISTRATION DAY	400 @ 1.50		600.00
SCRAP BOOK COVERS	ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIRS	300 @ 2.50			1,000.00
COLONY BOOKLET	50 YEARS OF PROGRESS	400 @ 5.00			2,000.00
	BY "MAP MAKERS"				
CASSETTE VIDEO TAPE/RECORDINGS	PERSONAL INTERVIEWS	200 @ 10.00			2,000.00

BINGLES PURCHASE	1,000 SETS	SALE ITEM	
	(FROM A.R.R.J. AT COST)		
	1,000 SETS	@ \$ 2.75	\$2750.00
	1,000 PLASTIC	@ 1.50	<u>1500.00</u>
			\$ 4,250.00
SUB TOTAL	_____		<u>\$35,250.00</u>

CONSIDER SPECIAL DIGNITARIES

FEDERAL _____ STATESIDE _____ STATE _____
 BOROUGH _____ MUNICIPALITY _____
 SENATORS _____ REPRESENTATIVES _____

STEVENS-YOUNG-MURKOWSKI - ROOSEVELT - GOVERNORS
 FROM MICHIGAN WISCONSIN MINNESOTA
 TRANSPORTATION-LODGING- ETC. _____

10,000.00

MEMORIAL TO COLONY PROJECT OF 1935

TOWN SQUARE _____ LIBRARY AREA _____
 BRONZE PLAQUES -- FOUR SIDED MONUMENT _____
 NAMES OF EACH FAMILY COLONIST OF
 MICHIGAN WISCONSIN MINNESOTA
 AND
 FOURTH SIDE -- VALLEY HOMESTEADERS
 ARTISTICALLY DONE _____ ROCK-WORK _____
 DEDICATION INSCRIBED _____
 (\$25,000.00 to \$50,000.00)

50,000.00

FINAL SUB TOTAL \$95,250.00

LESS SALE INCOME OF BINGLES
 1,000 SETS @ \$15.00 15,000.00

TOTAL \$80,250.00

(POSSIBLE ADDED BINGLE INCOME)
 (FROM A.R.R.J. BINGLE STOCK)
 (SHOULD SALES GO OVER 1,000.00)

80,000

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS. (cont'd)

Appropriation HOUSE BILL NO. 37, by Reps. Larson and Hurley. Makes a
(special) special appropriation in the amount of \$80,250 for payment as a
(Palmer 50th grant to the City of Palmer for the 50th Colony Anniversary
Colony Anniv. Celebration of the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation.
celebration) Appropriation shall be disbursed in accordance with law govern-
ing grants to municipalities. Takes effect immediately. Ident. to SB 54.

Introduced January 14 and referred to Resources, then Finance.

Appropriation HOUSE BILL NO. 38, by Reps. Larson and Hurley. Makes a
(special) special appropriation in the amount of \$250,000 to the Dept.
(Parks Hwy.) of Transportation and Public Facilities for planning, engineer-
ing, design, and route selection of the Parks Highway widening mile
35 north. Appropriation is for a capital project and does not
lapse. Takes effect July 1, 1985.

Introduced January 14 and referred to Transportation, then Finance.

Agricultural HOUSE BILL NO. 39, by Rep. Larson. Would make it possible
Preservation for the Director of the Division of Lands to purchase an
agricultural easement in privately owned agricultural land to
preserve that land for agricultural purposes (note: purchasing an
easement allows the state to purchase only the right to keep the
land for agricultural purposes, not the land itself). The Director
could also buy privately owned agricultural land by exchanging
state land of an equal value, or the Director could exchange state
land for the agricultural preservation easement. Disposal of state
land would be regulated by current law relating to land swaps.

The Director may establish a system of farmland preservation
priority districts for lands threatened by early conversion to
subdivisions, commercial or industrial uses as well as for farmland
that is of recognized value for tourism or has a history of high
productivity, is close to market and that is within an established
agricultural area. Sets out criteria for selection within priority
districts.

Land that is privately owned and with soil that meets certain U.S.
Soil Conservation Service criteria would be eligible for
preservation. Sale, exchange or donation of agricultural
preservation easement is voluntary, and the offer to sell or
exchange must include the sales price, a legal description, and an
appraisal in support of the price. After the sale, exchange or
donation of preservation rights an owner is not required to farm
the land, as long as the land is not subdivided for residential,
commercial or industrial purposes or non-agricultural activities.

The Director would be required to consider municipal comprehensive
plans or ordinances before buying preservation easements within a
municipality, and to consider municipal recommendations regarding
priorities for farmland preservation. Prior to acquiring
agricultural preservation easements the Director would be required
to notify the governing body of the municipality within 30 days of
the sale. If a municipality requests the Director to reconsider
the acquisition a public hearing must be held, and if a conflict
still exists after the hearing the municipality would be able to

The Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation -- 1935 - 1985

1. February 4, 1935, Executive Order No. 6957, by President Roosevelt set aside 8,000 acres of land in the Matanuska Valley from Homestead entry.
2. Funds appropriated under the federal Emergency Relief Act of 1935 would be used for financing a colonization project for the Matanuska Valley, Alaska.
3. Early February of 1935, articles of incorporation for the Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation were drawn up in Washington, D.C. and rushed to the Governor of Alaska in Juneau for adoption by the 1935 Legislative Session.
4. So, was born the Matanuska Valley Colonization Project.
5. The project marked the beginning of a new era for Alaska.
6. Mr. Don L. Irwin of the Matanuska Valley Agricultural Experiment Station at Matanuska became the first General Manager of the Project.
7. 20 families for the colony were selected from the states of Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.
8. The families arrived to a tent city in Palmer, Alaska, during mid and late May of 1935.
9. By November of 1935 most of the new families were established in newly constructed homes and outbuildings.
10. The A.R.R.C. is administered by a nine member Board of Directors.
11. The ARRC is, and functions as a lending institution for agricultural developers in the state of Alaska.
12. The ARRC represents the Federal Land Bank of Spokane, and acts as an agent for the Department of Revenue for the State of Alaska for Agricultural development loans.
13. As of today the ARRC has assets of some two million dollars and no liabilities.
14. The ARRC has a lifetime into perpetuity, but, if conditions change, or warrants, our first offer for "take-over" goes to the State of Alaska.
15. 1985 marks the 50th year of the ARRC. The ARRC is one of-- if not the only entity of it's kind--created under the Federal Emergency Relief Act of 1933--actively engaged in it's original mission.
16. The ARRC plans a two day anniversary celebration slated for June 8 and 9, 1985.

17. Saturday, June 8th -- Parade, City of Palmer
Parade Reception following

Banquet that evening

Sunday, June 9th -- Grand picnic -- Alaska State Fair Grounds

18. City of Palmer, Mat-Su Borough, Palmer Chamber of Commerce --
Churches -- Organizations -- All preparing something extra--
something special.

19. The "sale" of "re-coined" anniversary bingles -- used in the
Trading Post

As a medium of "exchange" for purchasing commodities.

A finder's dream -- 50 years of searching -- and, last
Spring, 1984 -- located the remains of the bingle "dies"
in a Seattle warehouse -- what a find!!

20. ARRC manager - George Crowther -- wife Betty
ARRC secretary - Marjorie Matlock -- husband Bob

The staff

21. As for myself -- Louis Odsather -- I have been associated with
the project from its infancy -- arriving on the scene from
Anchorage, Alaska in late May of 1935.

I started as an employee of the commissary, and in a short
period of time became the store's department manager for the
entire project.

I have served on the Board of Directors from February of 1949.
And hold the seniority listing amongst the Board Members.

I turned aside last October, the Presidency of the ARRC which
I had held for many years -- in order that I might fulfill my
duties as Chairman of the 50th anniversary celebration committee.

To date we have our planned agenda under control...the results
of which will be dependent upon the outcome of monies to fulfill
the programming agenda.

Our efforts are directed to those 202 families that came to,
and pioneered a new Alaska...their endeavors, their tenacity...
their sacrifices...have contributed to making Alaska great.

Let's wish them a glorious 50th....

The ALASKA RURAL REHABILITATION CORP.

/s/ Louis Odsather
A member of the Board

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

POUCH Y - STATE CAPITOL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
907-465-3800

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY

May, 1988

Copies of minutes listed below were originally included in this file. The minutes are available on the STAIRS database CMPR. In order to save space copies of minutes have not been left in the files.

Mary Van Nimwegen

*Senate C & R Affairs 1-24-85
4:12pm*



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Signature of Camera Operator

9/11/89
Date

H B

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HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Bill Number 45 Title Compensation of Legislators Date Rec'd _____

Fiscal Note	Position Paper	Date requested	From	Amount	Date Rec'd	
					Note	Paper
DOA			RETIREMENT			✓
LAA			Admin.			✓

CONTACTS

BACKUP LIST

MARROW & PETTYJOHN

DOA F.note
MARROW LETTER
LAA F.note

HEARING INFORMATION scheduled for 2/28/85

NOTES:

KH contacting Marrow & Pettyjohn
repeats pay to 1978 step 10A

FINAL ACTION

✓
passed out 48
WS



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

JAN 22 1985

REPRESENTATIVE ANDRE MARROU

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

January 19, 1985

Rep. Kate Hurley
Ch. H. State Affairs Comm.
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Kate,

Regarding HB45 and HB48, I would like to explain the minor differences between these two bills.

HB45 reflects the language found on the initiative petition to repeal the pay raise which was signed by some 25,000 or more registered voters. The petition was originally drafted by the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce with the intent of slightly modifying the language that existed before the pay raise (which is reflected in your bill, HB48) to correct some of the abuses that were taking place with the short term per diem rates. Before the pay raise was enacted, it was possible for a legislator to claim a full day(s) of short term per diem for doing a half hour of interim committee work when he/she was not in a place of his/her permanent residence.

It is not certain at this time that the Chamber was successful in their attempt. Specifically, we are talking about HB45, lines 19 through 23. The current language of this bill/petition is, "actual expenses incurred while on committee business for an interim committee...". Actual expenses incurred might include penthouse accommodations, dining at the best restaurants or limousine service. This is clearly not what the Chamber, nor the Libertarian Party, which took over the petition and got it on the ballot, had in mind.

I would like to suggest language to combine our two bills which would say "actual expenses incurred up to the maximum amount allowed by the short-term rate while on interim committee business". The other modification the Chamber made on the pre-existing language was to require a record of "incurred expenses" for obvious reasons.

Thank you for your consideration. If I can be of service please let me know.

Cordially Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andre Marrou".

Rep. Andre Marrou

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____
Page 1 of 2

REQUEST
 Bill/Resolution No.: HB 45
 Title: "An Act Relating to Compensation for Legislators"
 Sponsor: Marrou
 Requestor: _____
 Date of Request: _____

FISCAL DETAIL
 Agency Affected: Administration
 Program Category Affected: EPORS
 BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

Operating	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
100 Personal Svcs						
100 Rtmnt & Bnfts	-0-	[298.2]	[322.1]	[347.8]	[375.6]	[405.7]
200 Travel						
300 Contractual						
400 Supplies						
500 Equipment						
600 Land & Struct						
700 Grants, Claims						
700 TRS Match						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	[298.2]	[322.1]	[347.8]	[375.6]	[405.7]
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		[298.2]	[322.1]	[347.8]	[375.6]	[405.7]
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		[298.2]	[322.1]	[347.8]	[375.6]	[405.7]

POSITIONS: -0- -0- -0- -0- -0- -0-

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

J.K. Humphreys

Prepared By: J.K. Humphreys, Director Phone: 465-4470
 Division: Retirement & Benefits Date: 1/31/85

Approved by Commissioner: Lisa Rudd Date: 2/3/85
 Agency: Department of Administration

- Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):
- Legislative Finance
 - Legislative Sponsor
 - Requestor
 - Office of Management and Budget
 - Impacted Agency(ies)

House Bill 45
Fiscal Note Analysis
Prepared by Division of Retirement & Benefits
Department of Administration

January 31, 1985

Analysis:

Passage of this bill would decrease the current monthly salary for legislators and would consequently reduce monthly benefit payments to some members of the Elected Public Officers Retirement System (EPORS). We estimate that 17 current EPORS retirees would receive reduced benefits and that six future retirees would also be affected.

The projected FY 86 savings would be \$298.2 and is estimated to increase by 8% each year thereafter.



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

JAN 22 1985

REPRESENTATIVE ANDRE MARROU

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

January 19, 1985

Rep. Kate Hurley
Ch. H. State Affairs Comm.
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

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It is not certain at this time that the Chamber was successful in their attempt. Specifically, we are talking about HB45, lines 19 through 23. The current language of this bill/petition is, "actual expenses incurred while on committee business for an interim committee...". Actual expenses incurred might include penthouse accommodations, dining at the best restaurants or limousine service. This is clearly not what the Chamber, nor the Libertarian Party, which took over the petition and got it on the ballot, had in mind.

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Thank you for your consideration. If I can be of service please let me know.

Cordially Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Andre Marrou".

Rep. Andre Marrou

STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: HB No. 45
 Title: An Act relating to compensation of legislators
 Sponsor: Representative Andre Marrou
 Requestor: Representative Katie Hurley
 Date of Request: _____

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Legislative Affairs
 Program Category Affected: General Government
 BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: Legislators' Salaries & Allowances
Session Expenses

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES	-9-	<1,108.7>				
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
500 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
300 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	-0-	<1,108.7>				

CAPITAL						
----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

REVENUE						
----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		<1,108.7>				
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

Repealing the legislators' pay raise of 1983 would be a cost savings of \$1,108.7. This includes:

- 1) reducing their monthly salary from \$3,900 a month (Range 22A) to \$1,757 a month (Range 10A) (Continued -- See attached)

Prepared By: Pamela A. Calhoun, Manager *Pamela A. Calhoun* Phone: 465-3850
 Division: Division of Administrative Services Date: 1/28/85
 Approved by: Don Fisher, Deputy Executive Director *Don Fisher* Date: 1/29/85
 Agency: Legislative Affairs Agency

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

7/1/84

HOUSE BILL NO. 45 - An Act relating to compensation for legislators

ANALYSIS: (Continued)

2) reinstating per diem during session as follows:

\$80 a day per diem x 120 days x 57 legislators, and
\$60 a day per diem x 120 days for 3 legislators.

Sec. 24.15.040. Method of Payment has a new section added:

The Legislative fiscal officer shall, by January 31 of each year, file with the Office of Management & Budget a report of all vouchers approved for payment under this section during the preceding calendar year. The report shall list for each legislator the date of each voucher, the amount paid, and the basis for approving the payment.

The legislative fiscal officer already provides the Department of Administration, Division of Finance, with totals for allowances, moving expenses, lodging, meals, per diem, other, etc., by January 15th of each year. This information is needed by the Department of Administration for W-2 purposes. In checking with the Office of Management & Budget, they are not aware of any need for the information and would transmit it to the Department of Administration.

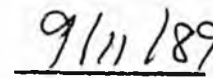


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Signature of Camera Operator


Date

H B

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STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 46
 Title: "An Act relating to an
 Avalanche Warning System..."
 Sponsor: Rep. M.M. Miller
 Requestor: House State Affairs
 Date of Request: 1-22-85

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Department of Public Safety
 Program Category Affected: Crime ID & Apprehension
 BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: Alaska State Troopers

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL		(275.0)				
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		(275.0)				
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	(275.0)				
FEDERAL FUNDS					
OTHER					
TOTAL	(275.0)				

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME					
PART-TIME					
TEMPORARY					

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

Funding is transferred from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Natural Resources.

Prepared By: Marcia Lynn McKenzie Phone: 465-4349
 Division: Administrative Services Date: 10/15/84

Approved by Commissioner: [Signature] Date: 10/16/84
 Agency: Department of Public Safety

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):
 Legislative Finance
 Legislative Sponsor
 Requestor
 Office of Management and Budget
 Impacted Agency(ies)

7/1/84

TITLE OF INCREMENT/DECREMENT: FN - Avalanche Warning System	AGENCY CONTACT/PHONE NUMBER: Col. M. Kolivosky/269-5641	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width:5%;">CODE</th> <th style="width:65%;">EXPENDITURE BY OBJECT</th> <th style="width:10%;">AGENCY REQ.</th> <th style="width:20%;">GOV'S REQ.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>100</td><td>Personal Services</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>200</td><td>Travel</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>300</td><td>Contractual Services</td><td>(275.0)</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>400</td><td>Supplies</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>500</td><td>Equipment</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>600</td><td>Lands, Buildings, Etc.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>700</td><td>Grants, Claims, Etc.</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>800</td><td>Miscellaneous</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">TOTAL</td><td>(275.0)</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="4" style="text-align: center;">I-A Transfer (NON-ADD)</td></tr> <tr><td>1002</td><td>Federal Receipts</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1003</td><td>General Fund Match</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1004</td><td>General Fund</td><td>(275.0)</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1005</td><td>I-A Receipts</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1028</td><td>Program Receipts</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Other</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td colspan="2" rowspan="4" style="vertical-align: top;">POSITION INFORMATION</td><td>PFT</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>PPT</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Non Permanent</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Staff Months</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	CODE	EXPENDITURE BY OBJECT	AGENCY REQ.	GOV'S REQ.	100	Personal Services			200	Travel			300	Contractual Services	(275.0)		400	Supplies			500	Equipment			600	Lands, Buildings, Etc.			700	Grants, Claims, Etc.			800	Miscellaneous			TOTAL		(275.0)		I-A Transfer (NON-ADD)				1002	Federal Receipts			1003	General Fund Match			1004	General Fund	(275.0)		1005	I-A Receipts			1028	Program Receipts				Other			POSITION INFORMATION		PFT		PPT		Non Permanent		Staff Months	
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700	Grants, Claims, Etc.																																																																															
800	Miscellaneous																																																																															
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I-A Transfer (NON-ADD)																																																																																
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1004	General Fund	(275.0)																																																																														
1005	I-A Receipts																																																																															
1028	Program Receipts																																																																															
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		Staff Months																																																																														
DESCRIBE WHY THIS INCREMENT/DECREMENT IS NEEDED AND WHAT IT PURCHASES: Funding for the Alaska Avalanche Warning System is transferred from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Natural Resources. The Alaska Avalanche Warning System was established with Public Safety as the lead agency which is no longer appropriate. Although funds are included in Public Safety's budget, all funds are transferred via RSA to other State agencies. The Department of Natural Resources has a large programmatic interest and this statutory change to AS 18.76.010 would merely substitute Natural Resources for Public Safety.		<input type="checkbox"/> Enhance Existing Service Compared to FY 85 <input type="checkbox"/> New Service Compared to FY 85 <input type="checkbox"/> Continuation of FY 85 Service Level	<input type="checkbox"/> Formula Program																																																																													
IMPACT FROM CAPITAL PROJECT (NAME) Chapter _____ SLA _____ Page/Line _____																																																																																

C5	INCREMENT/DECREMENT REQUEST
Agency Priority	35 of 35

AGENCY Department of Public Safety
 PROGRAM Crime ID & Apprehension
 BRU Alaska State Troopers
 COMPONENT Detachments & CIB
 PROJECT _____

FY 86

PAGE	OF
REVISED DATE	

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

POSITION PAPER - HB 46

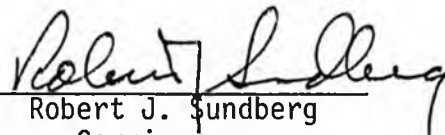
SUPPORT

January 21, 1985

"An Act relating to an Avalanche and Fire Weather Forecasting System..."

This bill transfers responsibility for the Avalanche and Fire Weather Warning System from the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska State Troopers to the Department of Natural Resources.

Since creation of the system the Alaska State Troopers have acted only as a pass through agency for these funds due to a lack of expertise in these specialized areas. The Department of Natural Resources is staffed by individuals more familiar with the needs of a program of this type.


Robert J. Sundberg
Commissioner

STATE OF ALASKA

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

POUCH M
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE:

January 4, 1983

Mr. Doug Buchanan
Executive Director
Alaskan Alpine Club
3641 Sandvik
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Buchanan:

I appreciate receiving your thoughts on the avalanche education and safety program in the Division of Parks. I have studied your concerns and do not believe that there is any basis for your allegations of impropriety in management of the program, nor do I believe that the program provides undue public competition with private business.

The Division of Parks has already responded to some of your specific points, but please allow me to address them generally.

The avalanche program, administered by the Department in response to statute (AS 18.75.010) and public need, serves an important public function. Many interested groups and citizens participate in the program; your organization is certainly invited to participate as well. The Department recognizes the contributions of participants and donors in its public advertisements.

The accounts for the State program are kept separately from those of the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group, whom you should contact for information on AMRG programs. The Department synchronized its programs with those of the AMRG to improve public awareness, and public preparedness, in avalanche safety. There is no need for a formal agreement for this cooperation, which is handled at the staff level. I understand that an employee of the Division of Parks has been on the Board of the AMRG, an arrangement which has improved the overall avalanche program rather than presented any conflict of interest.

January 4, 1984

I was disappointed that your remarks about the need for avalanche safety programs reflected such antagonism toward State involvement. The State is a reliable source for public information and programs of many types. Government exists in part to serve such functions as protecting and educating members of the public who need certain services. This does not, in my opinion, qualify as "empire-building," as you allege.

Please feel free to contact the Division of Parks with further specific comments. I assure you that the Department is not "hiding or ignoring" impropriety in its programs, and that we are continuing the avalanche program on the basis of proven public need.

Sincerely,

Bill Arnold, Deputy

for Esther C. Wunnicke
Commissioner

cc: The Honorable Bill Sheffield
Governor
Neil Johannsen, Director,
Division of Parks

13 December 1983

DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

DEC 15 1983

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
JUNEAU

Esther Wunnicke, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
Pouch M
Juneau, Alaska 99811

SUBJECT: ALASKA STATE PARKS AVALANCHE SCHOOL

Dear Commissioner Wunnicke,

The enclosed response from Division of Parks reveals improprieties that must be rectified, either by DNR, the State Legislature, or the public.

Please note the shortcomings and improprieties by the numbers listed on the Parks Division response.

2. (a) What are the workshop expenses? (b) To whom are they paid? (c) Of these, who are Division of Parks employees and/or Alaska Mountain Rescue Group members? (d) How many people, and whom, are both Division of Parks employees and Alaska Mountain Rescue Group members? (e) What are their current and past positions in A.M.R.G.?

3. The Division of Parks is using public funds to enter into a financial/service agreement with a private entity; without any written agreement for public monitoring or scrutiny. Division of Parks thus demonstrates contempt for public accountability. This contempt might very well pervade the Division of Parks.

(a) What did the agreement entail, by detailed item?

4. There is literally no end of perceived public and special interest "needs" that exist in a perceived "vacuum" that self-serving government bureuacracies could "fill" with the use of public funds. Accountability and limiting criteria are absolutely imperative. These criteria and accountability are apparently absent in the Division of Parks.

(a) "It is determined...": How? (b) "...it was decided...": By whom (names)? (c) With three civilian volunteer mountain rescue groups in Alaska, why was no contract or agreement offered to the non-Anchorage groups for this public service? (d) *WHY WERE THEY NOT EVEN CONTACTED?!*

continued



13 December 1983
Commissioner Wunnicke
page two

(e) If, as stated, the need was in Southcentral, how was it determined that it was not equally needed in Southeast and Northcentral? (f) Is not the Alaska State Division of Parks a statewide agency? (g) What is the relationship of the Applied Mountain Rescue Technology class to the co-advertised Avalanche classes?

Either this statement of need is false (an attempt to appeal to some "strong" specific need that remains factually nebulous/questionable) or the public money was involved in self-serving Parks Division waste, corruption.

Using the same illusions and lack of standards the same vacuum exists throughout the United States. The alluded-to "reason" is without any foundation. (h) What factors made the Division decide to fill the "vacuum" in one area only, with preselected personnel?

(d) What caliber of mountain rescue training capabilities must be present in the private/volunteer sector to preclude your initiating a public funded State Parks program to fill that "vacuum"? It is clear by the Division of Parks statements that this had to be determined, elst the statements constitute lying to camoflaue either an arbitrary dicion or self-serving corruption. The validity of this point is underscored by the regional application of this favored status, among other conficts. Certainly the Division anticipates applying these standards in other regions if this program is more than a scam arrangement with local pro-parkies seeking public money for their hobby.

5. But people are being paid public funds for services that are not necessary. I would like to be paid for the considerable mountaineering and mountain rescue expertise I have acquired through my avocation. (a) Rather than compete in the private market for a need proven genuine by the private market, why don't you and I get together and run us a little plausible-sounding mountaineering safety scam with public funds, through the Division of Parks? That is a question I would like an answer to so we can relate it to the facts of the current issue.

We needn't tell any of the other mountaineers in the state about this scam. We'll just determine that no one else could provide a better service, more efficiently or less expensive. We'll work this between the Division of Parks and the Mountain Rescue Fund of the Alaska Alpine Rescue Group. This group is a non-profit, tax exempt (501c3) independent association (articles of association filed with IRS). I just happen to be the Chairman of this Group. Among other mountain rescue programs, two years ago AARG established the Mountain Rescue Fund, earmarked to encourage private, long range solutions to mountain rescue expenses. The object is to relieve the public burden of funding mountain rescues through the National and State Parks entities, among other public entities.

continued

13 December 1983
Commissioner Wunnicke
page three

How coincidental it is that certain government agencies and their environmentalist allies have worked to subvert this fund.

I'm sure you will readily facilitate my proposed scam since your Department has now engaged in an almost identical, but less credible scam.

6. (a) Is this answer to imply that the Division of Parks entered into an agreement involving public funds, with a non-person entity that has no articles of incorporation, articles of association, company charter, business license, constitution, by-laws, or statement of purpose? If so, the Director of the Parks Division must be replaced, and the Division audited.

8. The use of public funds and resources by a government agency to lobby the public for additional funding support, jurisdiction, and/or power can no longer be tolerated. This practice has become too common and significantly contributes to public disrespect for government. Your Department's self-serving lobbying has rendered elected officials nothing more than mindless rubber stamps to fund the special interest support you use the funds to generate. (a) Why should we pay for legislators? They are superfluous to the Governor and his Commissioners.

Rather than being impartial, serving the public interest at the direction of elected officials, appointed bureaucrats are constantly using their authority and funding to advocate the growth of their own tax funded empire: An empire now so powerful that it is above public or legislative accountability. It pays its public support leaders with mountain rescue scams and the like.

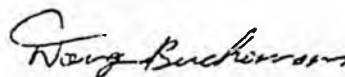
Consider all the by-line statements appropriate for a public land managing agency. Then consider the one chosen by the Alaska State Division of Parks. This statement clearly demonstrates that, above all else, the Alaska State Division of Parks is self-serving!

And it is confident that it need not be accountable.

I stress that I would like answers to each of the questions I presented. I will follow up on this matter.

Thank you for your cooperation in not hiding or ignoring not fully considered programs within your department.

Sincerely,



Doug Buchanan
Executive Director

cc: Governor Sheffield
several state Legislators
file for news media distribution

ALASKA STATE PARKS' ALASKA AVALANCHE SCHOOL

NOV. 18 7-9 PM

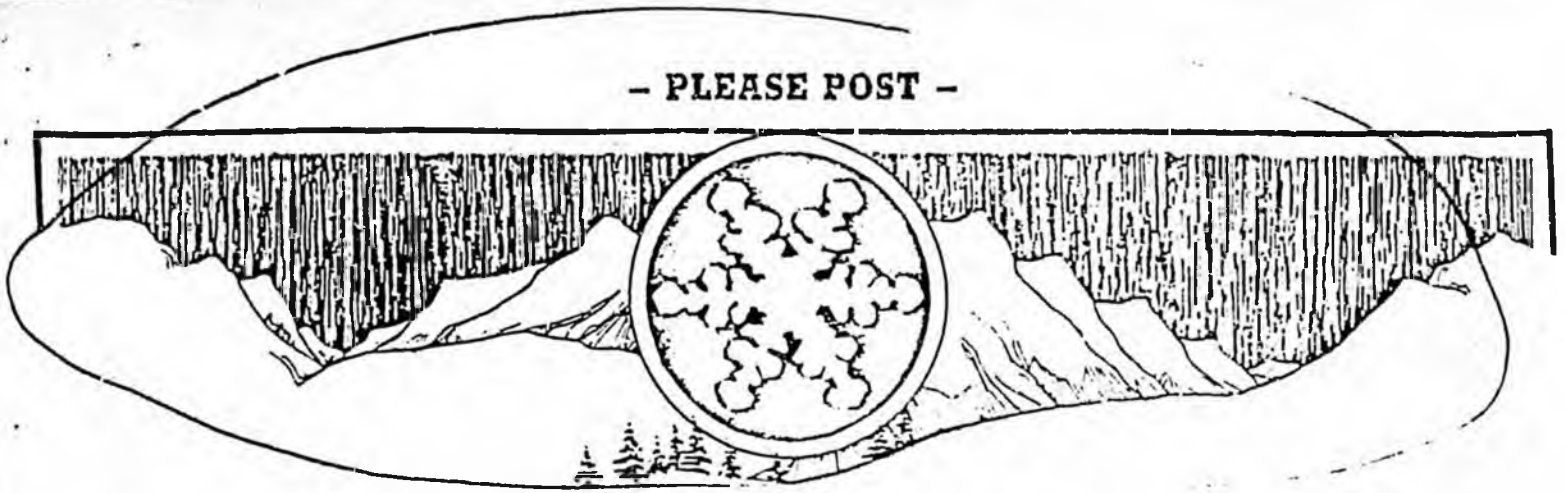
INTRODUCTORY AVALANCHE AWARENESS:
Designed for the recreational public, this evening program will focus on recognition of avalanche hazard and safe travel procedures for backcountry travelers. Limit: 150 participants.

DUCKERING RM 317
U OF A FAIRBANKS

AVALANCHE CONSIDERATIONS IN MOUNTAINEERING: Oriented toward experienced mountaineers, the mini-workshop will look at who is getting caught in avalanches and why. It will review key concepts associated with terrain analysis, snow stability, and weather factors affecting avalanche hazard and focus on a decision making process designed to reduce avalanche accidents. Group participation is encouraged.

NOV. 19 1-5 PM

- PLEASE POST -



ALASKA STATE PARKS ALASKA AVALANCHE SCHOOL WINTER 1983-84 SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF WORKSHOP	*PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS	COST
Nov. 18, 7-9 pm	U of A/FBKS, Duckering Bldg, 317	Introduction to Avalanche Awareness	AF	Free
Nov. 19, 1-5 pm	U of A/FBKS, Duckering Bldg, 317	Avalanche Considerations in Mountaineering	AF	Free
Jan. 6-9	Independence Mine, Talkeetna Mts.	Backcountry Avalanche Hazard Evaluation and Rescue Techniques, Level I	ABCD	\$75
Jan. 20-23	Thompson Pass, Chugach Mts.	Same as Jan. 6-9 (Level I)	ABCD	\$75
Feb. 3-6	Juneau/Eaglecrest, Coast Mts.	Same as Jan. 6-9 (Level I)	ABCD	\$75
Feb. 17-20	Girdwood, Chugach/Kenai Mts.	Same as Jan. 6-9 (Level I)	ABCD	\$75
Mar. 2-5	Kenai Lake, Kenai Mts.	Avalanche Forecasting & Hazard Evaluation Techniques for Mountaineers, Level II	ABCDE	\$75
Mar. 16-19	Haines, Coast Mts.	Same as Jan. 6-9 (Level I)	ABCD	\$75
Mar. 30-Apr. 2	Thompson Pass, Chugach Mts.	Same as Mar. 2-5 (Level II)	ABCDE	\$75
Apr. 11-15	Turnagain Arm, Chugach Mts.	Applied Mountain Rescue Technology	AG	\$125

***PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS:** (A) Must have an eagerness to learn, the ability to think and the desire to participate. (B) Be in good physical condition, able to ski uphill and down in variable terrain and changing snow conditions and be prepared to remain outdoors in foul weather all day. (C) At least intermediate level of winter mountaineering or ski experience. (D) Pre-registration and pre-payment of tuition fee required to register. (E) Previous attendance at the Alaska Avalanche School's Backcountry Avalanche Hazard Evaluation and Rescue Techniques Workshop. (F) Register at the door, no cost. (G) Must have skills and equipment appropriate to intermediate level mountaineering, rock climbing or mountain rescue capability.

December 19, 1983

Re: Letter of November 26, 1983

Doug Buchanan
Alaskan Alpine Club
3641 Sandvik
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Doug:

The commissioner has asked me to respond to your letter of November 26, 1983. The Alaska Avalanche School fulfills the statutory requirements of the Alaska Avalanche and Fire Weather Forecasting System through an Reimbursable Services Agreement (RSA) with the Department of Public Safety.

Our goal is to provide the opportunity for the best possible avalanche training of Alaska's citizens in the hope that the number of avalanche incidents, injuries, and fatalities can be reduced. This reduction in accidents can be directly correlated to a reduction in tax funded rescue expenses. The helicopter expenses alone from one Taylor Creek or one Matanuska Glacier rescue are enough to pay for an entire year's schedule of workshops for 200-300 people.

The concerns you have expressed in your letters have no basis in fact. There is no "self-serving corruption," nor "incompetence," nor "empire building," nor "tax waste" as you have alledged. Quite to the contrary, we are endeavoring to serve the public with maximum services on a limited budget.

I'm always willing to listen to helpful suggestions or criticisms which have a factual basis.

Sincerely,

Neil C. Johannsen
Director

By: Doug Fesler, Coordinator
Alaska Avalanche School

DF:clk

ALASKA STATE PARKS --
Lets' Put Them on the Map!

4, E1, 2 RE



26 November 1983

DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

DEC -6 1983

Ester Wunnicke, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
Pouch M, M/S 1000
Juneau, Alaska 99811

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
JUNEAU

SUBJECT: ALASKA STATE PARK'S AVALANCHE SCHOOL
THE NEED FOR ACCOUNTABILITY
SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

DIVISION OF PARKS

DEC 12 1983

Dear Commissioner Wunnicke,

More widespread expressions of concern among mountaineers have prompted this follow-up to our 10 November 83 letter.

ISSUE

1. The State Park Avalanche School's association with non-state entities has apparently become politically oriented.

A State Park Avalanche School workshop, held in conjunction with the Alaska (no "n") Alpine Club, was openly used by that club to enhance its own credibility and status. That club is an environmental activist organization having only peripheral association with mountaineers. It is widely known to be politically pro-park without regard for park program accountability or impacts on mountaineers.

2. Advertisement of State Park Avalanche School support for private groups is unaccountable and inappropriate.

While the Avalanche School director stated he has made his availability for workshops known to many people, no record of that claim exists. No such notice was received at the office of the Alaskan Alpine Club or Alaska Alpine Rescue Group.

The free State Park's Avalanche School workshop recently given in Fairbanks was given at the University of Alaska and could have been directly scheduled through the University. Instead, an activist environmental group was allowed to "sponsor" the Avalanche program to enhance its own status while offering nothing more than University facilities. Total expenses were borne by the State. That organization used both days of the workshops to advertise its activities and programs. Both the State and that organization's advertisements of the workshops

one, continued

26 November 1983
Ester Wunnicke
page two

were used to effectively enhance that organization's credibility and status. The State participation attracted a much larger and broader attendance than than club could otherwise attract.

3. There are gross contradictions involved with the State Park Avalanche School's association with this environmentalist organization.

The Avalanche School workshop directly appealed to mountaineers. The School director, knowing of the existence of the Alaskan Alpine Club and the Alaska Alpine Rescue Group (organizations of active mountaineers), and of the existence of a controversy over representation of mountaineers in Alaska, chose to work with a non-mountaineering environmentalist organization known to be politically pro-park. The School workshop was scheduled to directly conflict with the pre-scheduled, annual mountaineering class of the Alaskan Alpine Club. The workshop specifically conflicted with the field class on mountain rescue techniques. To accommodate the desire of some of the local mountaineers to attend the avalanche workshop, the mountain rescue field class was cut from two days to one, seriously detracting from its effectiveness.

Further irony was demonstrated by the environmentalists using the State Park's Avalanche School workshop to advertise a (commercially available) mountaineering slide show which is part of their ongoing program to undercut the Alaskan Alpine Club's formal program of using mountaineering slide shows to raise money for mountain rescue responsibilities.

THROUGH EITHER INCOMPETENCE OR SELF-SERVING CORRUPTION, A NON-MOUNTAINEERING STATE BUREAUCRACY CHOSE TO WORK WITH A NON-MOUNTAINEERING ENVIRONMENTALIST ORGANIZATION TO PRESENT MOUNTAINEERING SAFETY INFORMATION THAT DIRECTLY UNDERCUT NON-PROFIT PRIVATE MOUNTAINEERS' EFFORTS TO TEACH MOUNTAINEERING SAFETY AND PROVIDE FOR MOUNTAINEERING FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

THIS EXAMPLE DEMONSTRATES THE REASON UNACCOUNTABLE BUREAUCRACY CAN GROW AT THE TAX EXPENSE OF THE PUBLIC, AND AT THE SAME TIME DESTROY THE PUBLIC'S ABILITY TO MEET CITIZEN RESPONSIBILITIES THROUGH THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THIS STATE PARK EXAMPLE PARALLELS THE NATIONAL PARK EXAMPLE OF OUTLAWING ALASKAN NON-PROFIT MOUNTAINEERING SAFETY EDUCATION CLASSES IN DENALI NATIONAL PARK WHILE GIVING EXCLUSIVE MOUNTAINEERING CONCESSION PERMITS TO POLITICALLY PRO-PARK NON-ALASKANS.

THE ALASKA STATE GOVERNMENT'S LACK OF REACTION IS AN INDICTMENT OF THE SELF-SERVING CORRUPTION OF GOVERNMENT ITSELF. CITIZEN DISREPECT FOR GOVERNMENT IS JUSTIFIED.

4. Other State Park Avalanche School actions need investigation.

The State Park Avalanche School's sale of certain Avalanche books through the Alaska (no "n") Alpine Club offered further State recognition/support for this political environmentalist group. This action should be investigated and redressed.

continued

26 November 1983
Ester Wunnicke
page three

FUTURE OF THE ALASKA STATE PARK'S AVALANCHE SCHOOL

Isolated, an avalanche warning system/education system has merit, within accountable limits, in Alaska.

The fact that the State Parks Division could build an unrelated empire to the unaccountable and counterproductive extent it did indicates the need to investigate Parks Division policies and programs.

Avalanche education has no pertinent relationship to the State Parks Division.

It is fully appropriate to ask, as a result of this incident: Will next the various other land/resource managing divisions get into the business of publicly teaching unrelated or periferally related courses of information? Division of Lands might teach real estate selling techniques or earthquake detection. Division of Forestry might teach log cabin building or land-slide detection/avoidance. Division of mines might teach minerals marketing or basic geology. Fish and Game might teach cold water swimming classes or taxidermy.

As both the National and State Parks agencies continue their budgetary flights into unrelated programs, tax waste and public controversy will increase. The National Park policies unavoidably taint the public image of the State Parks, especially while State Parks are attempting to emulate National Park programs/policies.

SOLUTIONS

1. Establish a more effective system to monitor and reprimand bureaucrats misusing their authority for budgetary support.
2. Investigate the Alaska State Parks Division for further bureaucratic empires unrelated to its basic mandate.
3. Establish a better system of financial accountability to insure review of program relevance/priority to agency mandates.
4. Shift the Alaska Avalanche School to the University of Alaska.

* * *

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

two enclosures
cc: Governor
Interior Legislators

Sincerely,



Doug Buchanan
Executive Director

26 November 1983

Mr. Neil Johannsen, Director
DNR, Division of Parks
619 Warehouse Ave., Suite 210
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Mr. Johannsen,

1 As noted on the enclosed flier of the Alaska State Parks Division; what is the Alaska Mountain Rescue Fund?

2 Who owns this Fund?

3 Please send a copy of the contract under which the State Parks Division collects checks for this entity.

4 Please send an account of the actions that led to an agreement between that entity and the Alaska State Parks Division.

5 Does this entity operate under a profit or non-profit status?

6 Please send a copy of their charter.

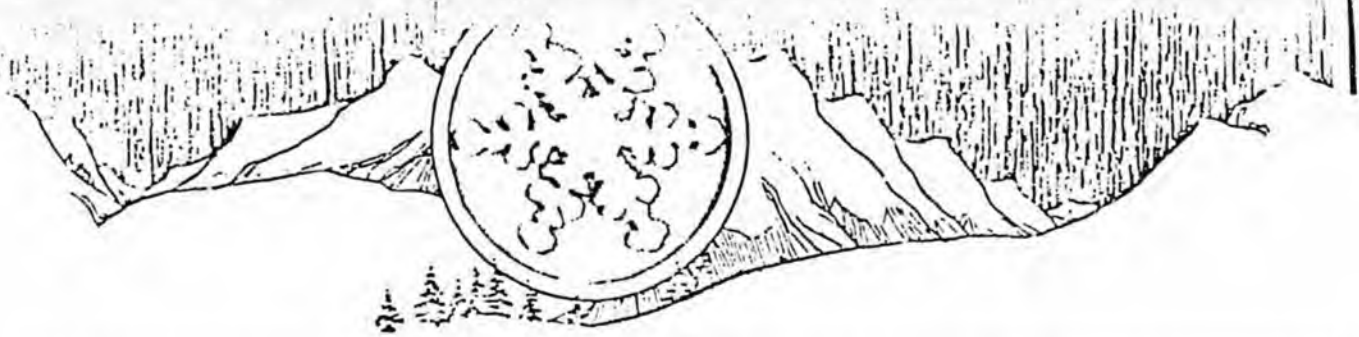
7 Thank you for assisting us with this matter.

Sincerely,



Doug Buchanan
Executive Director

cc: file for possible later distribution



ALASKA STATE PARKS

ALASKA AVALANCHE SCHOOL

WINTER 1983-84 SCHEDULE

DATE	LOCATION	TYPE OF WORKSHOP	*PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS	COST
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***PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS:** (A) Must have an eagerness to learn, the ability to think and the desire to participate. (B) Be in good physical condition, able to ski uphill and down in variable terrain and changing snow conditions and be prepared to remain outdoors in foul weather all day. (C) At least intermediate level of winter mountaineering or ski experience. (D) Pre-registration and pre-payment of tuition fee required to register. (E) Previous attendance at the Alaska Avalanche School's Backcountry Avalanche Hazard Evaluation and Rescue Techniques Workshop. (F) Register at the door, no cost. (G) Must have skills and equipment appropriate to intermediate level mountaineering, rock climbing or mountain rescue capability.

INSTRUCTORS: Workshops are staffed by professionals who are specialists in their fields and familiar with Alaskan conditions. By providing 6 instructors at each workshop we are able to keep the level of training high and the ratio of students to instructor low. One guest instructor (an outside expert) is invited to attend each workshop from somewhere in North America. Collectively, our staff represents one of the highest levels of expertise available.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Food and lodging are the responsibility of the individual participants and are available at/or near each of the workshop locations. At certain workshops sleeping bag space is provided at no cost or at minimal cost. (Lodging is free at Independence Mine and Kenai Lake and \$5 per night at Thompson Pass. A limited number of free sleeping spaces will be available with local residents during the workshops at Juneau, Girdwood and Haines.)

REGISTRATION: Fill out the attached registration form, enclose the appropriate tuition fee and mail to:

Alaska Avalanche School
619 Warehouse Ave., Suite 210
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

For the Applied Mountain Rescue Technology Workshop, make checks payable to the Alaska Mountain Rescue Fund. For all Avalanche Workshops, make checks payable to the State of Alaska. Upon receipt, we will send you further detailed information. NOTE: Tuition fees are **NON-REFUNDABLE** unless we receive your cancellation at least 20 days prior to the date of the workshop.

CURRICULUM: The goal of the Alaska Avalanche School is to provide quality avalanche safety training to Alaskan residents at affordable prices. For a look at detailed

December 8, 1983

Re: Your Letter of November 26, 1983

Doug Buchanan, Executive Director
Alaskan Alpine Club
3641 Sandvik
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Dear Mr. Buchanan:

The answers to your questions are listed in the order in which you asked them:

1. The Alaska Mountain Rescue Fund is the name of a bank account used to deposition tuition fees for the Applied Mt. Rescue Technology Workshop.
2. The fund is a trustee bank account administered by the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group. The funds are used to pay for workshop expenses.
3. There is no contract.
4. It has been determined over the last several years by individuals within the Alaska Mountain Rescue Group and the State Division of Parks that there is (a) a strong need for mountain safety training in Southcentral Alaska, and that (b) no training capabilities of the caliber proposed presently exist. To fill this vacuum it was decided that Alaska Mountain Rescue Group and the State Division of Parks would enter into a joint venture to provide a quality state-of-the-art workshop in Applied Mountain Rescue Technology.
5. No profit is being made.
6. There is no charter.
7. Your welcome.

Sincerely,

Neil C. Johannsen
Director

By: Doug Fesler, Coordinator
Alaska Avalanche School

DF:clk

LEADERS IN PROTECTING THE HERITAGE OF AMERICAN MOUNTAINEERING FREEDOM

10 November 1983

DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Ester Wunnicke, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
Pouch M, M/S 1000
Juneau, Alaska 99811

NOV 14 1983

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
JUNEAU

REF: ALASKA STATE PARK'S AVALANCHE SCHOOL

Dear Commissioner Wunnicke,

I notice that the State Park's Avalanche School schedule lists the Alaska (no "n") Alpine Club as providing support and assistance for the Alaska State Park's Avalanche School.

Could you inform us as to what that support and assistance is?

Why have you not approached the Alaskan Alpine Club or Alaska Alpine Rescue Group for that type assistance?

Why have we not been credited for endorsing this particular program within limits in our publication ALASKAN MOUNTAIN?

The Parks Department is keenly aware of the existence of our organizations (formed in 1979 and 1975), and of the controversy surrounding the other so called "alpine" club.

The Alaska (no "n") Alpine Club can be accurately described as a non-climber, environmentalist club. It has in the past and continues to directly thwart mountain safety and mountain rescue efforts being conducted by the volunteer, non-government sector. It is on record as supporting federal government restrictions on Alaskan mountain climbers, which are strenuously opposed by the active climbers (except the select climbers who are "coincidentally" benefiting from highly inappropriate grants from the National Park Service). It has supported the expanded role of State and Federal Parks at the exclusion of concern for specific policies detrimentally affecting active mountaineers.

We are wondering if that organization's pro-park political philosophy that supports the expanded government control of mountaineering responsibilities and freedoms, is the reason your Department is using your public resources to selectively work with and credit that organization. Certainly that organization tends to support your expanded budgets without regard for appropriate limits.

cont.

DELIVER TO _____
FROM: _____
TELEPHONE/TELEX _____
TRANSMITTING ON/SPEED _____
PHONE FOR PROBLEMS/NAME/NUMBER _____
COMMENTS _____
LOCATION _____
LOCATION _____
TOTAL NUMBER OF _____
DATE _____

10 November 1983
Ester Wunnicke
page two

It is hard to otherwise explain your relatively poor communication with the statewide Alaskan Alpine Club and the interior Alaska Alpine Rescue Group.

This is important because we have watched the growth of your avalanche program to a point where it is precluding any opportunity for private enterprise, volunteer organizations or the more appropriate approach through established educational institutions. It is taking on the functions of a bureaucratic empire that can readily impinge upon citizen rights and freedoms. Certainly your selective choice of favored political allies is indicative of an unaccountable future.

The use of tax financed, manipulated public support to justify a non-priority tax funded program in a periferally related department demands investigation.

Sincerely,



Doug Buchanan
Executive Director, Alaskan Alpine Club
Chairman, Alaska Alpine Rescue Group

cc: Governor Bill Sheffield
Interior Legislative Delegation
other Legislators

Notes to Representative Mike Miller:

Dear Mike:

This proposed legislative amendment incorporates wordage from the enclosed two other drafts on the same subject:

- (1) 13-0033 Hein 10/25/82
- (2) One developed recently by the State Troopers, Department of Public Safety.

The changes needed are essentially housekeeping ones. Some of the key points to keep in mind are:

1. The original statute, Chapter 119, HCS CSSB301, effective July 1, 1980, provided only for an avalanche warning and control system. Current operations include a fire weather forecast system, to enable a stable year-long organization of professional meteorologists and forecasters.

2. Rather than referring to the system as a warning operation, it is preferred to recognize it as a forecasting service. Hence, the name Alaska Avalanche and Fire Weather Forecast System (AA/FWFS).

This nomenclature is specified in cooperative agreements, program planning and budgetary data, etc. The acronym AA/FWFS is also used throughout documents.

3. The lead state responsibility for operation of the system has been formally agreed to and shifted from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Natural Resources.

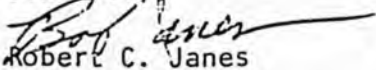
4. Private enterprise cooperation and participation in the system already exists.

5. The term snow avalanche is preferred over just avalanche, in order to specify only snow slides; it does not include mud slides or rock debris avalanches.

6. The control plan features of the Act, Section 2, (7) have been expanded to include direct control measures on certain heavy-use designated recreation areas, such as developed ski areas, etc; previously, the control measures related only to state highways.

We would appreciate your sponsoring this amendment as soon as possible in the forthcoming Session. Should there be any questions by your legislative counsel, I would be happy to discuss them. My phone number is 586-7152.

Sincerely,


Robert C. Janes

Director, State and Private Forestry

Enclosures

P.O. Box 432
Douglas, Alaska 99824

May 6, 1983

Representative Mitch Abood, Chairman
House State Affairs Committee
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V (MS 3100)
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Representative Albert P. Adams, Chairman
House Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature

Dear Representative _____

This letter is in support of the enclosed House Bill No. 110, sponsored and introduced in the present session on 1/24/83 by Representative Mike Miller. It has been referred to State Affairs and Finance, where it now sits.

This bill is an amendment to legislation passed in 1979 pertaining to an avalanche warning system for Alaska. It is primarily a housekeeping measure, with word changes that recognize the scientific forecasting value of the system rather than implying scare tactics through emphasizing warnings. However, should extreme avalanche danger develop, then of course appropriate warnings would be disseminated to the public. It also recognizes the associated value of the fire weather forecasting part of the overall system, and the nomenclature of the project therefore becomes the Alaska Avalanche and Fire Weather Forecasting System (AA/FWFS).

Probably the most significant change in the statute is a proposed shifting of responsibility from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Natural Resources, in representing the state for operation of the system. Experience to date has shown this to be a more practical approach, since DNR now plays the major role in conducting the public education and prevention aspects of the program. Technical avalanche awareness workshops are offered throughout the state by DNR. In other words, DNR is closer to an on-the-ground application in a working mode than is DPS. By prior agreement between the two Departments, this change appeared to be needed. The change should therefore not meet with any opposition, from the standpoint of the Departments involved.

While employed by the U.S. Forest Service, I was personally helping to formulate the original legislation which was sponsored by Representative Mike Miller to get the system going on a statewide basis. Although I have recently retired from that agency, I still maintain a personal interest in the AA/FWFS for its most effective operation.

I urge you to schedule this bill on the calendar at the earliest possible time, to enable possible passage during the current session. In this way, DNR would be in a position to followup with regular program planning and a budgetary request for Fiscal Year 1985. DPS has already submitted a budget request for Fiscal Year 1984 which is presently under routine review. This bill therefore does not

involve any new fiscal impacts from the standpoint of any needed special supplemental appropriations.

Sincerely,


Robert C. Jones

Enclosure

cc: Representative Mike Miller
House State Affairs Committee

Representative Jim Duncan
House Finance Committee

Wallace Watts, USFS Anchorage
Program Director AA/FWFS

Gary Morrison, USFS Juneau
Division of Recreation

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY M.M.MILLER

2

HOUSE BILL NO. 110

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to an avalanche and fire weather forecasting system; and providing for an effective date."

7

8

9

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

10

* Section 1. AS 18.76.010 is amended to read:

11

CHAPTER 76. ALASKA AVALANCHE

12

AND FIRE WEATHER FORECASTING [WARNING] SYSTEM.

13

Sec. 18.76.010. PARTICIPATION IN ALASKA [STATEWIDE] AVALANCHE

14

AND FIRE WEATHER FORECASTING [WARNING] SYSTEM. The Department of

15

Natural Resources [PUBLIC SAFETY], acting in cooperation with a munic-

16

ipality, [OR WITH] an agency of the federal government, or with a

17

private entity, shall participate in the development and implementa-

18

tion of a statewide avalanche and fire weather forecasting [WARNING]

19

system, and shall represent the state in the operation of that system.

20

The [STATEWIDE] system shall

21

(1) establish and maintain a service center and primary and supplementary field stations to gather information and data concerning

22

(A) [GROUND] weather conditions indicating avalanche danger and wild land fire danger; [,]

23

24

(B) snow pack; [,] and

25

(C) avalanche activity;

26

27

(2) forecast [SNOW] avalanche conditions throughout the state;

28

29

(3) coordinate a public awareness program on avalanche

1 danger;

2 (4) catalog a comprehensive atlas of avalanche paths and
3 slide occurrences; [AND]

4 (5) assist local governments and state agencies in identi-
5 fying hazardous avalanche zones and in developing [SNOW] avalanche
6 zoning regulations; and

7 (6) forecast fire weather conditions throughout the state.

8 * Sec. 2. AS 18.76 is amended by adding a new section to read:

9 Sec. 18.76.100. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "avalanche" means
10 a snow avalanche, and does not include a rockslide or a mud slide.

11 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
12 10.070(c).

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

BILL SHEFFIELD, GOVERNOR

POUCH M
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE: 907-465-2400

February 14, 1984

The Honorable Vic Fischer
Alaska State Senate
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Fischer:

In response to questions posed about HB 110 (Avalanche and Fire Weather Forecasting) by Senator Ray at last week's State Affairs Committee hearing, I am providing information on the Department's avalanche education and safety programs.

The avalanche education program that is sponsored by the Division of Parks is highly popular and professionally managed. The Alaskan Alpine Club has written me several times in past months to object to the program, criticizing both its mission and its management. I have reviewed the Club's concern and do not believe that there is any basis for the allegations of mismanagement. Nor has there been any effort to exclude this group from participating in planning and conducting the Fairbanks workshop, which was scheduled in response to a request from another Fairbanks group. Above all, I believe that the program has proven its public significance by the public support it has received and by the number of backcountry accidents it has prevented or mitigated.

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation is an appropriate manager for this program partly because it has trained staff who are skilled in avalanche prevention and safety techniques, but also because the Division is in fact responsible for recreation management in avalanche-prone areas around the state. Since 1980 the Division has organized and conducted 58 avalanche workshops for hundreds of Alaskans. I have attached some representative comments from workshop participants. The program has become one of the best in North America, providing (as government should) an important educational experience to interested Alaskans.

In its letter to legislators, the Alaskan Alpine Club raises a number of questions about the avalanche program. My staff will be available to answer any questions that you may have at your next hearing. I also draw your attention to the fact that the proposed statutory change affects fire weather forecasting -- another important function of government -- and removes the avalanche function from what has been basically a pass-through arrangement at the Department of Public Safety.

Senator Vic Fischer

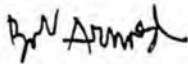
-2-

February 14, 1984

In closing, please allow me to reiterate that this is an educational program of proven worth, and one that is appropriately performed by government as a public service.

Please contact me or with any further questions. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you to resolve any problems that may arise in the passage of HB 110.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Arnold
Deputy Commissioner

Attachments.

April 18, 1983

Mr. Neil C. Johansen
Director, Division of Parks
Department of Natural Resources
619 Warehouse Drive, Suite 210
Anchorage, AK 99501

* Fessler
out answer for me,
d

Dear Sir:

Representative Mike Miller has before the Alaska House of Representatives an Alaska avalanche bill. It proposes continued funding for the avalanche education program and the avalanche forecast system. The avalanche education program is conducted by the Division of Parks, DNR. I have attended four of their multiday schools offered during this winter and found them of high caliber. They provide practical learning on backcountry travel, avalanche meteorology, and land-use as affected by avalanches. North American experts have been instructors in the courses and add a depth of knowledge rarely found in such workshops. These courses fill a serious need in Alaska and are offered at a very low fee to allow easy access.

The avalanche forecast center operated by the University of Alaska's Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center in Anchorage for the Department of Public Safety provides mountain weather and avalanche forecasts for southcentral Alaska during the fall, winter, and spring. It provides forecasts for the public and for special users such as the Alaska Railroad, State DOT&PF, and State Troopers. The forecast system permits low-cost avalanche mitigation and acts as a logical center from which to intelligently cope with this natural hazard.

Both of these activities in the avalanche program bill begin to meet Alaska's safety and prevention requirements. I urge your support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Philip S. Marshall

Philip S. Marshall
Periglacial Geologist

PSM/slc



R&M CONSULTANTS, INC. 5024 CORDOVA • BOX 6087 • ANCHORAGE ALASKA 99502 • PH 907 279 0483 • FAX 090 25280

ENGINEERS
GEOLOGISTS
PLANNERS
SURVEYORS

April 25, 1983

Alaska Division of Parks
619 Warehouse Avenue, Suite 210
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

R&M No. 350001

Attention: Mr. Neil Johannsen, Director

Re: Alaska Avalanche School

Dear Mr. Johannsen:

Having just attended the 3-day workshop last week on Avalanche Hazard Evaluation in Land-use Planning presented by the Alaska Avalanche School, I wish to commend the efforts made by all the instructors and especially by Doug Fesler and his staff at Chugach State Park in arranging and coordinating the workshop. I feel that a forum of this type is of invaluable benefit in advancing the engineering and planning professions in Anchorage and Alaska with respect to avalanche design considerations.

Another activity of the Alaska Avalanche School which I feel is of great benefit to Alaska is presentation of the Back-Country Avalanche Hazard Evaluation workshops throughout the winter. I was fortunate enough to attend one of the Level I workshops this year and found the presentations professional, informative, and recommendable for all individuals involved in work or recreation in back-country areas. Here again, I feel that Mr. Fesler and his staff have performed a very valuable service in public safety and awareness for Alaska as a whole.

Quite a number of my engineering colleagues and fellow cross-country skiers were unable to participate in this year's workshops but have had their interests heightened about the need for avalanche hazard considerations. I hope that both of these programs are available again next year and in the future to continue the cooperative efforts of all of us for rational evaluation of avalanche safety.

Very truly yours,

R&M CONSULTANTS, INC.

Jeffrey H. Coffin, P.E.
Senior Civil Engineer/Hydrologist

JHC/rma



A Christian school in spectacular Southeast Alaska

NE
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Jackson
College

P.O. Box 479 • Sitka, Alaska 99835
Telephone (907) 747-5220

5 May 83

Ester Wunnicke
Commissioner of Natural Resources
Pouch M
Juneau, AK 99811

Neil please
respond direct

Thx
NE

Sandy
att 7es

Dear Ms. Wunnicke:

I attended the Alaska Avalanche School in Juneau this February. As an instructor in Outdoor Education here in Sitka, I found the School very valuable in preparing me to teach better and better care for the safety of my classes in the field. I hope these workshops will continue

Sincerely,
Buck Tilton

RECEIVED
MAY 9 1983
Department of
Natural Resources

FOGGY MOUNTAIN SHOP

Scott Fischer • Betsy Flood

171 SHATTUCK WAY

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

PHONE (907) 586-6780

9-30-82

Doug Fesler
Alaska Avalanche School Director
Alaska State Parks
619 Warehouse Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Division of Parks

OCT 04 1982

Dear Doug,

The enclosed list of signatures ^{is} of members of a recently organized Juneau Mountain Search and Rescue Group, interested in having an avalanche workshop in Juneau this winter. We feel that, due to a growing awareness of potential avalanche hazards in our area, a workshop dealing not only with avalanche mechanics and snow evaluation but also avalanche rescue techniques, would be well attended. A number of members of the Juneau Mountain Search and Rescue Group attended your course here in 1981 and found it to be most valuable. We hope to see the program re-instituted in S. S. Alaska this winter and encourage you to consider Juneau for a workshop in light of this area's unique avalanche hazard potential.

Sincerely Yours,
Scott Fischer
Juneau Mountain Search and Rescue Group

cc: Doug Fesler - Anchorage, Ak.
Cindy Jones - Haines, Ak.
Bob Jones - Juneau, Ak.
Pamela Lindh - Juneau Ak.

Sandy R
at 7es

March 21, 1983

Representative Mike Miller
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Miller:

We were fortunate enough to be able to attend the Alaska Avalanche School, Juneau Workshop in February 17-20. I don't believe we are alone in stating that the workshop was very well organized, instructed and very, very valuable in terms of public education.

We have both been involved in backcountry recreational guiding for the past two years in Alaska and have seen, even in that short time, a significant increase in wintertime backcountry use. With sophisticated modern equipment and techniques, this trend is sure to continue. With this in mind, public avalanche education is imperative. Also, with the lack of zoning restrictions at either the state or local level, knowledge of potential avalanche hazards to housing developments and individual homesites could avoid major losses of life and property.

We are taking the point of view that prevention is the best cure. Not only are avalanche accidents often tragic, and organized rescue efforts (often merely body recoveries) very expensive, but they are in most cases, avoidable if people possess the proper knowledge for basic evaluation of avalanche hazards.

True, public education in this area is expensive, but the returns are high in terms of public safety and avoidance of expensive rescue efforts. In the past, the State of Alaska has been able to offer avalanche education to the public at a cost affordable to most people. We strongly support the continuance of public avalanche education through the Alaska Avalanche School workshops.

It is encouraging to see more and more people enjoying Alaska's wintertime backcountry, but they should have the opportunity to approach backcountry activities armed with the necessary knowledge to avoid potential hazards or, if they are involved in an avalanche incident, to effect rescue efforts for those caught in a slide (buried victims' best chances for survival are the members of the party who were not caught in the slide).

The Alaska Avalanche School workshops are well managed, instructed, and provide an essential public service. They deserve to be continued. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

William Ross Hardwick

Gloria Griffith Hardwick

William Ross Hardwick
Gloria Griffith Hardwick
Box 534
Douglas, AK 99824

cc: Neil Johannsen

FOGGY MOUNTAIN SHOP *Scott Fischer • Betsy Flood*

171 SHATTUCK WAY

JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801

PHONE (907) 586-6780

March 4, 1983

Neil Johannsen, Director
Alaska Division of Parks
619 Warehouse Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

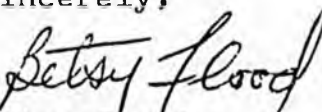
Dear Mr. Johannsen,

I recently completed a four day avalanche workshop in Juneau given by the Alaska Avalanche School. As a backcountry skier and climber of over ten years experience in Alaska, I was very impressed with many aspects of this citizen education program subsidized in part by our state government.

All the instructors at the workshop were experienced, knowledgeable and professional in their efforts to educate a varied group of over thirty students in avalanche evaluation, safety and rescue. The workshop schedule was well arranged for maximum classroom instruction and field work and very proficiently run by coordinator Doug Fesler.

I strongly support continued use of state money for programs such as these. Many Alaskans are involved, or have friends and family involved, in winter backcountry travel. The Alaska Avalanche School is a rare opportunity to educate these citizens in safe winter travel and thus help avoid the comparatively high costs of state funded rescue efforts in the backcountry. Doug Fesler should be commended for his tremendous efforts in this direction.

Sincerely,


Betsy Flood

 **Anchorage Community College** *A Unit of the University of Alaska System*

March 28, 1983

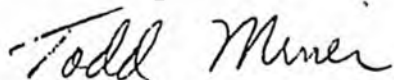
Doug Fesler, Director
Alaska Avalanche School
Division of Parks
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Doug,

I didn't get a chance to thank you Friday night for your fine presentation. The students gained a new insight into the realities of avalanche danger, especially as seen from the field. I can harp and harp but there is nothing like photographs and personal testimony.

I noticed on this weekend's climb students actively commenting on and questioning route selection and snow conditions, a skill that will be valuable when they start climbing on their own. Once again thank you very much for taking the time to come out on a Friday night and provide us with such a professional presentation.

Sincerely,



Todd Miner

for Fred H. Muhs, Director
Division of Community Campus

ac

361 Distin Ave. #4
Juneau, Alaska 99301

03/27/83

The Honorable Ester Wunnicke
Commissioner of Natural Resources
Pcuch M
Juneau, Alaska 99811

*Sandy
att Doug*

Dear Ms. Wunnicke:

This past February 17-20, 1983, I attended the Alaska Avalanche School's Backcountry Avalanche Hazard Evaluation workshop held in Juneau. I was extremely satisfied with the workshop - the instructors were top notch, the workshop was well-organized, and a wealth of information was very thoroughly disseminated.

The School, the Division of Parks, and yourself are to be commended for seeing that this type of pertinent, quality public education is and continues to be provided. The knowledge taught in the workshop is relevant in a large part of the state - the more people that become knowledgeable about avalanche hazard evaluation, snow stability, and rescue techniques; the less the state will need to spend on expensive rescues (of uninformed victims).

Authrizations and allccations to the Alaska Avalanche School have, are, and will continue to be well spent. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Joe Loay

cc: Judith Marquez, Director Alaska Avalanche School
Neil Johannsen, Director Division of Parks
Rep. Mike Miller - I understand you introduced funding legislation for the Alaska Avalanche School. Thanks. It's an important program.

Boston

March 23, 1983

Bob Bell
S.R. 30462
FAIRBANKS, AK. 99701

RE: Alaska Avalanche School
DIVISION OF PARKS

Dear Governor Sheffield,

I attended the Level II avalanche workshop offered by Alaska's Division of Parks this past weekend. This course is quite well run. The study of snow and avalanche is fascinating, and the knowledge obtained from these classes is of a good deal of benefit to anyone living or traveling in the mountainous regions of our state. This program is highly recommended and I would like to see more funding funneled its way. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bob Bell

RECEIVED
MAR 29 1983

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

130 In 2-3-83

REC-70

Dear Governor Sheffield:

I recently attended a Level I Backcountry Avalanche Hazard Evaluation Course, presented by the Alaska Division of Parks. Commendation of this course and its organizers and supporters is definitely in order. It was the best organized and most thorough exercise of its type that I have been exposed to. My five years of recreational skiing and mountaineering and my five years of participation with volunteer Mountain Rescue Groups have lead me to believe that this type of training is essential to the safe use of our wilderness areas in winter. This enhanced safety level results in lives saved, greater value of our recreational areas, and reduced costs to society for rescue efforts of avalanche victims. Training is also essential for all people involved in rescue efforts. This need has been demonstrated at Alyeska Ski Area and on avalanche incidents along Alaskan Highways.

I urge you, as the leader of state directions in spending to support an adequate level of funding to maintain and enhance this program. A permanent line item in the State's budget would certainly be warranted. Hunters, snowmobilers and most other users of our snow covered wilderness need the availability of this program. The benefits will surely outweigh the costs.

Sincerely,
 Riordan J. Daugherty

Riordan Daugherty
 1412 Richardson Driv
 Anchorage, Ak.
 99504



Official Business

Alaska State Legislature

Senate

Office of the President

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Vic Fischer
Chairman, State Affairs

From: Senator Jay Kerttula
Senate President

Date: February 27, 1984

Subject: HB 110

Attached is a proposal I have received which may relate to HB 110 (avalanche and fire weather forecasting) which is pending before the Senate Finance Committee.

The proposal calls for production of an avalanche awareness film through the University of Alaska's Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center (AEIDC) with cooperation with the DNR, Division of Parks.

I would be interested in discussing a finance letter of intent which would encourage production of a safety film of this kind and possibly participate in funding a grant to the AEIDC for this purpose.

cc: Rep. M.M. Miller

January 1984

PROPOSAL FOR PRODUCTION OF
AN AVALANCHE AWARENESS FILM

PURPOSE AND NEED

We propose to produce and distribute a high quality educational film that will help mountain travelers acquire the knowledge and tools necessary to recognize, evaluate, and avoid avalanche hazards. Presently there are no avalanche films available that teach backcountry users what clues to look for, where and how to look for them, and how to interpret and assimilate the information gathered. Our purpose is to produce a film that fills this void.

The statistics support the need for such an educational film. In the past thirty years, there have been approximately 250 avalanche fatalities in the United States with nearly ten times this number of people caught, buried, or injured. Approximately 75 percent of the victims were engaged in some form of recreation at the time of the accident and 80 percent triggered the avalanche which buried them. On an international scale, the numbers indicate an even more serious problem. Lack of knowledge is the primary reason for these accidents.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The film will be designed to meet the needs of an audience with a wide spectrum of experience in the backcountry. With the rise in popularity of backcountry activities, there are many enthusiastic yet inexperienced travelers with little or no awareness of avalanche hazards. There is also a large experienced group looking for information to expand their avalanche awareness. The target audience will be all backcountry users including skiers, snowshoers, climbers, trekkers, dog mushers, snowmobilers, and search and rescue personnel. It is our objective that the final product be of broadcast quality, thus providing education to a larger more general audience.

PRODUCTION PARTICIPATION

The film will be created by the University of Alaska's Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center (AEIDC) in cooperation with the Alaska Avalanche School operated by Alaska State Parks, Department of Natural Resources.

AEIDC will be the lead agency for the project and as such, will be responsible for producing the film. The organization, a multidisciplinary applied research and referral center for Alaska resource and science information, is well suited to such a role. It is divided into four complementary divisions, two of which will be closely involved with the film. The Production and Communications Division specializes in presenting scientific and educational material in clear, innovative formats. It has recently completed eight films on Alaska fisheries and is currently producing a series on Alaska's history. This division will provide script writers, graphic artists, and a producer for the avalanche film project. The other division, the Alaska Climate Center, operates the Alaska Avalanche Forecast Center and will provide technical content consultation.

The Alaska Avalanche School will be responsible primarily for preparing the film content as well as for providing assistance in film production. Under Alaska State Parks management, the school has educated hundreds of people through a variety of programs ranging from short presentations to four

day intensive backcountry avalanche hazard evaluation workshops. The school has also compiled a record of over 2700 avalanche events affecting man in Alaska, a research project which has led to documentation of the circumstances and mistakes leading to avalanche accidents. This research, coupled with extensive teaching experience, will prove invaluable in focusing the film's content on key information and understanding the most effective ways in which to communicate this information.

Two other groups will play critical roles in the project. A technical production house will be subcontracted to do the visual design, filming, technical editing, and dubbing for marketing. Finally, an advisory board comprised of the foremost avalanche specialists from the United States and Canada has been established. The board members will review the film's script and make suggestions concerning content and format.

CONTENT

INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Avalanches occur primarily as a result of interaction between three basic variables: the snowpack, terrain, and mountain weather. Man's ability to evaluate each of these variables and their interrelationship in a given situation is a critical determinant of his safety in the backcountry. The objective of the proposed film is to provide the backcountry traveler with the means of making such an evaluation. The film will be designed to teach the viewer the key concepts and factors outlined below so that he or she can learn to address the following bottomline questions.

Snowpack:

- * Does a slab exist?
- * How well is it bonded?
- * Could the snow fail?

(Key concepts/factors: layering and bonding; snow metamorphism; stress/strength relationship; modes of failure; methods of testing snow stability)

Terrain:

- * Is the slope capable of producing avalanches?

(Key concepts/factors: slope angle; aspect; terrain roughness; configuration; elevation; latitude; vegetation; path history)

Weather:

- * Is the weather contributing to greater snow instability?

(Key concepts/factors: rate/amount of snow, rain or wind loading; temperature effects)

Decision-making:

- * What is the overall picture--how are these variables together influencing snow stability?
- * What key information are you basing your decision on?
- * What are your alternatives and their possible consequences?

(Key concepts/factors: data integration; evaluation and communication skills; assumptions; objectives; risk acceptance)

CONTENT TREATMENT

The film will open with a historical montage of avalanches which have claimed many lives including those of gold rush stamperders, alpine villagers, early pioneers, and even train passengers. Moving quickly into modern times, it will focus on teaching the user group that has contributed the highest percentage of recent victims--recreational backcountry travelers--how to evaluate avalanche conditions.

Through dramatization of a backcountry user group caught by an avalanche, the film will provide the opportunity to go back and analyze the clues that were available to the group and demonstrate how the accident was preventable. Emphasis will be placed upon recognition and interpretation of available snowpack, terrain, and weather data. A wide spectrum of visual techniques including exciting moving footage, interviews with avalanche experts, animated graphics, and freeze-framing will be employed.

The film will be divided into four sections which reflect the content described under the heading "Instructional Objectives." At the end of each section, the key information learned will be reviewed and several questions or scenarios posed before the screen goes blank for a few seconds. This will allow instructors to stop the film if they want to stimulate more in-depth discussion. However, even a continuous showing of the film will expose viewers to the major concepts and hazard evaluation techniques. Thus, the segmented design allows for multi-purpose uses, from in-class instruction to "movie-night" at more socially-oriented group meetings.

MARKETING POTENTIAL

This film will be distributed nationally and abroad with potential marketing targets including nordic and alpine ski clubs; search and rescue organizations; ski resorts; climbing organizations; snowmobile groups; local and regional public safety programs; military training programs; educational institutions (secondary, post-secondary, and outdoor education and avalanche schools); and local, state, and national parks.

PROJECT COSTS

Based on films currently in production, we anticipate the cost of this film to run approximately \$2,500-\$3,000 per finished minute. The film will run 30-40 minutes with costs totalling between \$75,000 and \$120,000. It will be distributed at duplication cost plus postage.

CREDIT TO SPONSORS

Sponsors' names will appear in all promotional advertising as well as in the credits preceding and following the film. Sponsorship of the project is tax-deductible.

CONTACTS

Jill A. Fredston
Avalanche Forecaster
Arctic Environmental Information
& Data Center
University of Alaska
707 A Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 279-4523

Doug Fesler
Avalanche Education Specialist
Alaska State Parks
Department of Natural Resources
Olympic Building, 6th & Cordova
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 265-4108