

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1987-1988 8672

4890 HRES CHUGACH STATE PARK SKI AREA

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landings, I am adamantly opposed to them. I don't see any advantage to the state park from an economic standpoint and I see lots of disadvantages. They've offered us nothing in public hearings that they are going to do anything for the park, it's all gimme, gimme, gimme, plus all of the other things you've already heard about, so I'm adamantly opposed to helicopter landings in the park.

Al Meiners. Thanks, Dave. John Peck.

John Peck: I used to talk a lot, too, but I don't know whether I can outdo you tonight. My name is John Peck. I'm a 17 year resident of the Eagle River area. I'd like to talk on two things, primarily the resort development and the greenbelt, and if I have time left I'll make one short comment on helicopters. In regards to the ski resort, it appears to me that both from an economic and an environmental standpoint, it seems to be very compatible with the Eagle River Valley and the master plan of the park. All the maps that I've seen, and again, this map on the wall tonight, shows that it doesn't appear to be infringing or even coming close to any of the wilderness area of the park where there might be a problem. And like the other gentleman said earlier tonight, most of the ski areas in North America or any of them that I've been to in North America, are almost all in state or national parks or forests. Very few of them, in fact I don't know any that I've ever been to, is on private land. So, I feel developing something like this in our state park, on the fringes where it's already up against the edge of one of our communities, and it's not really infringing upon wilderness, it's something that we can and should be doing. As far as an economic viewpoint, I think the Rogner development company has really done their homework. Every hearing that I've been to that they've made any proposals, it seems to be really up and above board and well thought out, much more thought out than a lot of plans I've seen from a lot of other people at different hearings and trying to develop different things. Their particular plan I am for. I understand that the state would issue a notice asking for people to more or less submit their proposals for a lease of ski resorts so there is a possibility of other companies wanting to make a last minute pitch and before I would say I'd want another company in there I'd like to see their proposals in a public hearing, too, and go through the same thing that the Rogner people are going through and show us what they would plan to do if there was somebody that wanted to go through that process. I also feel like the state should not be dragging their feet and muddying up the waters by changing the rules. This man has gone through a lot and has spent a lot of his own money to develop his master plan according to the rules that he was given and if you go and change the rules in the middle of the road I wouldn't blame him if he just picked up the rest of his chips and said, "Hey, enough's enough." I think he would be totally justified. That's about all I got to say about the ski resort. About the greenbelt, we should have done it 20 years ago. I would have been riding my bike on it a long time ago. I think we need bike paths in it, I'd like to see bike paths the full length of it on both sides. I would like to see parking in it, but rather than two or three large parking areas, I would rather see a lot of access points up and down both sides where you have less parking and it would make less impact on each individual little isolated neighborhood. Instead of one end of town taking all the abuse of having hundreds of cars on a busy...coming into their neighborhood, let's scatter it out if we can where there is maybe six, eight or ten access points up and down the sides where you can get in and out of the greenbelt and I think that should be done on both

sides, especially on this side of the river. Okay, I'll make it short on the helicopters. Death on the helicopters; I think its a real safety problem. I would not be opposed to helicopter landings in an area away from residents so we don't have the noise problem and if a set of rules that would be developed for the people running the helicopter flights in regards to safety. If safety personnel, training of the skiers, not going in during high avalanche times, etc., etc., etc. I think it should be very strict, very rigid and no second chances.

Al Meiners: Thanks, John. R. C. Johnson.

R. C. Johnson: [unintelligible] wildlife would be practically nil. Also, there seems to be no negative environmental problems. The overriding purpose of a park should be for the enjoyment and recreational use of the people. This ski resort will greatly enhance the public use of this park. And I'll make mine short and make up for the overruns.

Al Meiners: Thank you. Rosemary Johnson.

Rosemary Johnson: My name is Rosemary Johnson. I live on the north, sunny side of Eagle River. I'm speaking for myself and family members. I feel Eagle River is the perfect location for the proposed ski resort which includes using a portion of the state park for the ski runs. The developer should be totally free to choose the area where he wants to develop. He must look at an area with the most chance of being the profitable development. No one can spend \$170 million just for the fun of it. My family has lived in Eagle River 36 years. We've watched the area of about 40 dwellings gradually grow into a town. I feel an area has two choices -- either continue to grow or die. Our town must continue its growth to remain vibrant and alive. This proposal appears to be just what the doctor ordered. I feel the biggest advantage of Eagle River is it's weather. We don't have the winds that Anchorage and the Matanuska Valley have. Our seven Alaska-born children and seven Alaska-born grandchildren all like to ski. It will be wonderful to have a local resort area where they have easy access to this sport. It also has easy access for Anchorage tourists and residents to utilize. Many people, especially those who work for a living, do not have enough spare time to drive to Hatcher Pass or Girdwood to ski. We have not found anyone locally who opposes the resort. Even if the economy was excellent, I'd still be positive about the proposed resort being a most desirable local undertaking. As for animals, we live within one-half mile of downtown Eagle River. Moose demolish our garden and trees annually. The moose calf is still in our garden and flower beds. We find moose droppings on our concrete porch. The moose and other animals have a 500,000+ acre state park to wander in plus everyone's private property if they are so inclined. It's high time we spent some time considering the human population and how to keep the humans well, happy and in topnotch physical shape. According to the local TV news, even our youngsters are too fat. In regards to the greenbelt, the 3,500 acre greenbelt, already legislative approved, adjoins this development. With the development in the Lion's Park, Eagle River has already become the playground for the whole Anchorage area. If Hatcher Pass finds a developer who wants to develop that area, that's fine. The competition would be good and that would also give the Mat Valley a good place for recreation closer to their homes. But if Dr. Rogner wants to develop in Eagle River, we certainly stand behind his choice. That's it.

Al Meiners: Thank you, Rosemary. Michael King.

Michael King: My name is Mike King. I just represent myself. I see a majority of folks saying things pertaining to how this puzzle fits together with compatibility and various other things on the map. I'm a fairly active climber, and you have to go through that area to get to some of the peaks back there and the snow conditions where they want to put the ski lifts are not very good. You have to make a lot of manmade snow and I'm not sure that people would be willing to make that resort as successful an operation as it might be applied from having the pieces of the puzzle put together. As far as helicopter landings for the same reason as everyone else is opposed to them so am I. And as far as the greenbelt, I think a trail would be nice but I wouldn't want to see it opened into something that would have the expectations for thousands of people that have no more cars in any parking lot as the visitor center down there already has. That's it.

Al Meiners: Thank you. Lotti McCubbin.

Lotti McCubbin: I'm Lotti McCubbin. I live in the upper Fire Lake area. I am a resident in this area for 25 years. I think that provided the developer takes care of all the environmental hazards that could arise, provided he comes up and makes a good, sound development and provided the people in South Fork have no objections and as much as stay out...to it, I think it would be an excellent development. I think it would be great for the economy of this entire area and I agree that most large ski resorts are either on state or federal property. So I don't see why we should be any different. I'm opposed to closing and locking up that park for just a few hardy souls. I'm a cross-country skier and I would like to see the greenbelt developed and I hope that the Peters Creek greenbelt will be soon developed as well. I am with that community council out there but I'm not speaking for the council here tonight. I also would like to congratulate you that you have finally come forward and said the outside edges of the park should be opened up more and I hope you will go ahead and do that. My husband and I quite frequently enjoy hiking up at Upper Huffman, DeArmoun and that area there and we feel that this area certainly needs trailheads of that magnitude. As far as helicopters are concerned, I am opposed to them regarding skiing with helicopters because I think the avalanche danger is too great. I could see it on a very limited and experimental basis for sightseeing into scenic areas. That would have to be very strictly controlled out there. Thank you.

Al Meiners: Vince Vitale.

Vince Vitale: Thank you. I am a 15 year resident of Eagle River and I'm here tonight on behalf of the Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber wholeheartedly endorses the proposed change relating to the ski resort. We feel that it's important for several reasons. First, it is compatible with the long-term use of the park and will not impair either wildlife or the more adventuresome peoples' use of the park. Second, the kinds of jobs that are created are important to the community in that once the plan is operating, you'll have everything from entry-level jobs which would be good for those kids just leaving school, to long-term career-type positions that will enable local residents to stay close to home which is one of our long-term goals for the community, to have enough jobs and enough activities recreational and otherwise so the people can stay based here, not have to commute into

Anchorage. We also are real clear that there is overwhelming support in the community for the proposal. One of our committees, the Economic Development Committee, has been undergoing a survey. Of the 400 households that are being questioned, although not all the numbers are in yet, something close to 86% have answered yes to the following question, which was, "Do you favor the development of the recreation resort facility in Eagle River?" And although the question doesn't specify this plan, the plan has such widespread support and knowledge in the community that it's clear that most of the people are saying yes to this development. We also think that the development of the park will enhance the business community during the typically slower winter months for all the obvious reasons. While making other parts of the area more accessible to people during the summer. Obviously it won't be used for ski activities but will be usable for other activities, much like portions of Alyeska are now used even in the off-season. That's good because this is a family community, we've lots of youngsters, it's going to make it less expensive for those families to stay together on family-related activities and in that sense will enhance family life which is something we're very concerned about. It appears that there is a strong effort to make an orderly development of the area and we feel that that effort ought to be supported wholeheartedly. We join with those who have expressed the concern that the developer needs to be given one set of rules on which he can depend now, next year and 10 years from now. Finally, on the economic argument, it's been suggested that the jobs are really necessary because the economy's in bad shape. That's true, but it's also irrelevant because this plan makes sense if the economy was in great shape. And I'm not being dependent on whether we need the money or not, this plan just makes sense under any scenario. Thank you.

Al Meiners: Dick Brown.

Dick Brown: I'm Dick Brown. I'm a 20 year Alaskan resident and a 13 year Eagle River resident. I would like to preface my remarks by saying that I presume that the watersheds will be protected and obviously there is adequate existence within the master plan to insure that that is accomplished. I'd also to preface my remarks that this is not just a ski resort that we are talking about, but a year-round facility. I would encourage the private funding of recreational uses for Chugach State Park but I would also caution they should be tightly managed. The initial drawings of the boundaries of the park appear to be somewhat arbitrary in that there were recognitions of the fact that native land claim settlements were going to impact, as far as providing in-roads into the park system itself and all, but not a lot of comprehensive planning went into determining how the public was going to gain access as far as the general utilization of the park. We have seen things occur over the years where tax dollars have been used in both actual purchases in order to gain access into the park, not only in this park but in other areas. I know homeowners that have been approached relative to giving up a parcel of land for sums of money just to get parking areas in order to access a facility that is supposed to be there for the general use of the public. And that seems to be somewhat capricious use of public funds when it really isn't necessary. It really doesn't make a lot of difference where that park boundary is drawn, their topographic features that should have and could have been taken into consideration but by the same token it's only as good as the use that can be made of it. I would like to point up the fact I have the advantage of having visited resort facilities and used resort facilities for several years in Italy, Cortedenapazo, where the pristine wilderness was

protected. At the same time that resort facilities, to include even Olympic class facilities, were developed. It can be done. Also in Europe, West Germany and in Southern France. There you don't see the trashing that you see in the state. Maintained facilities here in the Russian River Campground or in the private access lands that border Crooked Creek. It doesn't have to be that way. The only thing that I would suggest is that some companion legislation needs to be introduced along with this to insure some enforceable laws and then who's going to pay for that enforcement? Is this something that's going to be charged to the developer or is it something the Department of Natural Resources lost half of its strength already either through a forced attrition or people are just absolutely quitting believing that they're not going to have a job next month or next year. So how is the enforcement supposed to take place? Who's going to handle it? Alaskans don't seem to police themselves very well when it comes to trash and refuse and junked everything. That's an important aspect of it as far as that facility being in this community or any other community. Helicopters, forget them.

Al Meiners: Thanks, Dick. Richard Rodriguez.

Richard Rodriguez: My name is Richard Rodriguez. I'm a 10 year resident and three years in the valley. I live on the sunny side. One of the people perched back in a rock that would like to see nothing ever change so you'll understand my comments. As an Eagle River resident, I want to see Eagle River prosper as a community and I'm concerned as a business owner but I'm not sure that the effect of the project and the appearance are worth the tradeoff. I think that the public opinion is very important in this case because the area that we're talking about is so unspoiled. There are certain areas in Eagle River, as in other cities, are given to residential development, some to business development, another for other recreational uses. The area that we're talking about is breaking ground in some completely untouched lands and that's why I have reservations and can't give my yes vote to the project. I have many concerns, one of them that just for the sake of time I'll mention just one tonight, is that if you're in Anchorage and you turn toward Arctic Valley at any one night from dusk on you can see Arctic Valley is in operation. I consider the space that hangs between the proposed ski slope and the side of the valley that I am, that area in between, very much the environment and I'm very concerned about the lighting of that area and the glare that it gives off. I feel as a resident I wouldn't care to live in a valley where I'd feel like I was perched in supermarket parking lot and I'd like to see the developer make comment on the lights and I urge you to read page 11 as far as the operation concerning the lights and it's a concern I'd like to see answered by the developer and I'd also like to say that should the community and should the residents of Eagle River decide as a group and in total that they support this project then I'd certainly be for it but I do have that concern. Thank you.

Pete Panarese: Mr. Rodriguez, I'll share this little bit of information with you. The Rogner Touristik people presented Chugach State Park Citizen's Advisory Board with the presentation on the development. That was also an issue for some of the members of the Advisory Board and their response was there will be no night skiing.

Al Meiners: R. Mack Arrington.

Mack Arrington: I'm Mack Arrington. I'm a newcomer to the area. I didn't move here until '62. But it makes me real proud that someone has shown enough interest in our community and wants to put something that size for the people in the local area as well as the surrounding area. So I am for the project. As far as the greenbelt is concerned, there has been quite a few people discussed on that trails which is also more recreation. Helicopters. As far as sightseeing is concerned, I'm opposed to it. As was mentioned earlier about having specified viewpoints I'm in favor of that.

Al Meiners: Henry Warren.

Henry Warren: My name is Hank Warren. I'm a 13 year resident of Eagle River. To me the park, just a notation park means recreation and I think that you folks who are setting these policies have a tremendous responsibility. I think there are peripheral areas of that park that ought to be okay for snowmobiles, for dog teams, for hikers and backpackers, hunters, fishermen, picnic areas, horseback riding, all types of recreation, certainly ought to be possible in an area of 495,000 acres. That park should be for use by individuals. We sent a representative over to Europe to look over some of Dr. Rogner's areas and they came back and gave him a complete, clean bill of health; his operations over there are good. His reputation is good. If Dr. Rogner thinks he can manufacture snow up there, if that becomes necessary, then he should be the one that should say that. It shouldn't be for us to cast a doubt as to whether or not that could be done. He already thinks that it can be done. He is the one who's putting the money out to do this and if he thinks it can be done, surely it can. Thirty-eight years ago I was a private in the army in Germany. I went to a little place called Gomish. They have a ski area there. They also have a restaurant up on top of a mountain. This is 38 years ago. That kind of technology's been in existence for years. You ride up this train that runs on a cog and you get up there and there's a beautiful hotel, beautiful restaurant and you see wild game all over the place and you see people recreating and enjoying themselves and they're not hurting the environment. If people think they are going to chase away the wildlife by putting a ski resort over here they're crazy. We haven't been able to chase the moose away from Eagle River with all of these housing developments, these cars, these trucks, this whatever. So that's not going to bother the wildlife. It's going to be there. As far as the greenbelt, it's already been said. They should have done it a long time ago. It should have trails, it should have water sports, I don't know about the bike trails that John talked about. Bike trails and coastal trails are a sore point for me. It should be non-labor intensive. It should be something that will sort of run itself and not require a bunch of cops out there making sure that people pick up the beer bottles. It shouldn't be allowed in there to start out with. As far as the helicopters go, I think there are a certain class of people that would like to get in a helicopter and go see some of these sites that some of us, when you get as old as I am you can't walk in there and see these sites. Maybe there should be some zones that are away from the populated areas where a person, a tourist, or an invalid or some elderly person that can't walk in there, can get in a helicopter and go sightseeing. I think I agree with the person that said the downhill skiing going in by helicopter is too dangerous, its too remote, the liabilities are too great. Thank you.

Al Meiners: Thank you. Elaine Robinson.

Elaine Robinson: My name is Elaine Robinson and I'm speaking as an individual. I live in Peters Creek and I don't want to speak for my neighbors in South Fork or intrude on their territory but I have spoken to many South Fork residents and I agree with them with their support of the ski resort development. This development would enhance the entire area of Eagle River and Chugiak. No one likes their lifestyle changed. I've lived in Peters Creek for 20 years and didn't like it too much when the subdivisions build around my 12 acres. I have learned that growth is inevitable and growth is necessary to the economic well-being of the community. Development in the Chugach State Park must be looked at on an individual basis. Eklutna, Inc., and Rogner enterprises have been very open with their plans to the public and they have hosted several public meetings. They are bringing in outside money to fund this project and I feel that this project will benefit Chugiak, Eagle River and its people. I foresee the empty office and shop spaces filled, unemployed local people hired, and that Eagle River will be removed from the bedroom community status of Anchorage and to one of prominence. I also feel the Eagle River greenbelt should be implemented as part of the concept even though no monies are currently available for greenbelt development. I feel a task force should be implemented to address future greenbelt development. As far as the helicopter landings, I'm opposed to landings in the park. Have you ever been in bed on a Saturday morning when a helicopter was going over? The noise is irritating and offensive. I feel that the handicapped or elderly can be satisfactorily accommodated by ski lifts to attain their hilltop views. This would not adversely affect the ski resort neighbors as would noisy helicopters and I also feel that helicopters would disturb the lambing sheep in the area. Thank you.

Al Meiners: Mark Eidem.

Mark Eidem: My name is Mark Eidem. I am strongly in favor of the proposed development by Rogner Touristik for two main reasons. One, I feel it makes economic common sense for reasons that have already been amplified upon and I'll certainly not be redundant tonight. The recent survey other than the one mentioned by the Chamber conducted by the Tourism Committee of the Chamber showed 87% of the community in favor of tourism development. Tourism is a clean industry. Especially when done by a firm of the Rogner Touristik's calibre. Their partnership would include and incorporate and would only amplify the quality of the final product. Also to amplify comments by Hank Warren and a few others. Some of the most beautiful natural alpine settings in the world happen to be ski resorts. Cortina, Garmish, Grenoble, France, Innsbruck, Austria, to mention a few in Europe, and then also some in America, Stowe, Vermont, Killington, Vermont, in particular, where they make hundreds of inches of snow a year. One does not grow to the size and breadth of the firm that Rogner Touristik has without a firm commitment to excellence and a genuine concern for the natural setting as well as for the guests involved. I think it makes environmental common sense for some of the reasons I've already mentioned. It's already been done, the technology has been there. Arctic Valley is just on the other side of the ridge and it's been here longer than I have, which is 20 years. In conjunction with the greenbelt, I think that the proposal of the Anchorage Municipality should be implemented and expanded upon. I would like to see no motorized use within the greenbelt. I think that in conjunction with the greenbelt, the ski resort could be a very strong environmental plus. I've heard some other ideas to possibly include a multi-lingual visitor center adjacent to the resort for foreign guests. If done

to the standard that have been established by the state park system at the Eagle River Visitor Center, this would be a tremendous plus for our area and a tremendous plus for understanding the environment in which we live. In summary, I strongly support the resort development and the development of the greenbelt. It makes economic sense, it makes environmental sense, it's supported by our community, it could make Eagle River a world class attraction. Thanks very much.

Al Meiners: Thank you, Mark. Ray Gardner.

Ray Gardner: My name is Ray Gardner and I'm speaking on my own behalf. I've already had an opportunity to comment on the resort plan so I'll keep my comments short. The first thing I'd like to say is that if the legislation that was mentioned earlier in the meeting is a threat to the resort or will require lengthy protractive public comment period that isn't really necessary, then I would urge the people that are at this meeting today given the proclivities that have been expressed to write the Governor or call the Governor and ask him to veto that bill. Governor Cowper has given us plenty of assurances that he supports a diversified economy and the expenditure of private investment in the State of Alaska and legislation is pending before him that would be counterproductive to that goal I'm sure he would veto it. The other item I would like to mention is that it was suggested that at another public hearing that the Division of Parks require the developer to submit a financial plan that would show to the State of Alaska that he wasn't going to lose his money and I think that idea is absurd and I hope that the Division of Parks isn't seriously considering doing something like that. He's probably a better judge of whether or not this is a good investment and fortunately he's decided that it is. I'm opposed to helicopter landings in the park and I favor the limited non-motorized development of the greenbelt. Thank you.

Al Meiners: Thank you. Rod Hansen.

Rod Hansen: My name is Rod Hansen. I'm a South Fork resident. Last week we heard comments on five grizzly bear and three black bear on the South Fork. These are pictures I'd like to just pass around. This is the South Fork where the development is going to be. I would say that it would be a great thing to have the development go in there and clean-up a lot of this, which they're going to if they're going to have a world class resort. There are five grizzly bears in our neighborhood and I'm just going to keep my comment real short. Our Riverhood Estates right next to the resort, we're tickled pink and we can't wait....

Ann Riley: We're not talking about the development of on private land, we're talking about development on public lands. We're talking about setting a precedent and I think we should be careful. Some of the slopes which the developer would like to develop are probably appropriate for downhill skiing. I used to downhill ski but I can't afford it so you're not opening the park for everyone when you put ski runs in it. There are some of us who cannot afford downhill skiing and would prefer to do things that don't cost quite so much money like cross-country skiing or sledding. It's no accident that I live in a place where it is dark from November to March, where the sun doesn't shine on my back door. Where I have to have a four-wheel drive to get up my driveway. I live there because I choose to live in a place where the view

will blow your mind and where there's a state park in my backyard because I knew that nobody in his right mind would try to develop on a mountain and now imagine my surprise. I am specifically opposed to the placing of the ski slope on Hiland Mountain or Mount Gordon Lyon. In the Harp area I think it's up to the feasibility studies as outlined in the ski slope area evaluation to determine whether those are appropriate but Hiland Mountain and Mount Gordon Lyon would not meet the qualifications on this ski slope area evaluation. I hope that you will look at approving slope-by-slope rather than by giving the developer carte blanche to develop as he chooses and I hope that you will have some concern not just for the wildlife but for the human inhabitants who already use the state park or the area next to the state park and whose homes and lifestyle would be severely curtailed by having skiers in their backyard. Thank you.

Al Meiners: Thank you. L. G. Tate.

L. G. Tate: My name is L. G. Tate. I am a seven year resident of Eagle River. I live in the Hiland Road area. I, like most of you, have already had an opportunity to express my opinion about this. I've done so and I do favor the development of the ski resort. I think that the master plan clearly indicates that there is an opportunity for this area to be developed appropriately. I think if you people are taking notes and understand what's going on here you're hearing by far the vast majority of the people who will be most seriously impacted by this express the fact that they're in favor of this development. I think it behooves the Commissioner, if he's the one who's going to make this final decision, to go ahead and do so and let this project get underway otherwise time is money and Mr. Rogner's going to go somewhere else and I think that you're doing a disservice to the people who are in favor of this development because I think it's fairly obvious that most of us are for it. As far as the greenbelt, I would like to see limited access with that, no motorized vehicles, although I enjoy riding mine down there now, and also I am opposed to the helicopter landing in the park.

Al Meiners: Thank you. Kim Hearn. She left? Dennis Brinkerhoff.

Dennis Brinkerhoff: My name is Dennis Brinkerhoff. I'm a 28 year resident of Alaska. I currently am a local businessman in the Eagle River area. I do not live in Eagle River at the present time but have intentions of moving into this area. One of the desirable traits that I feel Eagle River has is not only the community welcoming but also the proposed ski resort. I am a recreational skier and I feel that many Alaskans are in Alaska not only for the recreational activities but to have an enjoyable lifestyle. I feel that the proposed ski resort will enable more Alaskans to have access to the ski park and enjoy the state parks more. I feel that it's consistent with the state parks plan and I know that it will be a boost to the economic community of Eagle River but also feel it would be a big boost to the economic situation in Alaska as a whole. Careful plan and development I feel will benefit not only all of Alaskans but primarily the Eagle River community which, at this time, if you're in business here, you're very well aware of the slow situation and I definitely it will boost that and maybe give some stability to this area. Thank you.

Al Meiners: Wayne Marshall.

Wayne Marshall: My name is Wayne Marshall and I'm a resident of Hiland Valley. ...I moved to the area about 2½ years ago after living in downtown Anchorage and before that having lived in Kodiak for many years. The main reason I moved there is because I like the kind of opportunities that the area presented by the different types of land use that occurred there. Generally it is a low level land use. Almost all the houses are located on one acre and somewhat much larger tracts of land. That's something that really isn't available in most areas of the Anchorage bowl. Similarly when I looked around at the other type of land uses that may occur in the area I looked out and generally surrounded by park land which I interpret to mean a fairly low level of use. Well, since I've moved in the area just two short years ago, I now find that most of those values probably will not be able to continue. Number one, the Municipality of Anchorage is changing the zoning after looking at the zoning maps to move in to allow a large scale development. They'll be bringing in not just more people but different types of uses. They'll be bringing in commercial use, they'll be bringing in high level recreational use and this is high level recreational use when you talk about roughly 2,000 Europeans a day skiing down the mountain slopes. What I look at that there is a change going on in the area quite rapidly. I'd like the Department of Natural Resources to take a close look at how this change is impacting the residents who live in the area. That's my main concern on use of the park land and you have a difficult job as how to meld the park uses with the residential uses that occur side-by-side. That' my main concern is that how does the park and the uses that are proposed affect the residents who live there. Some concerns I'd like to bring out: 1) I'd like to see a potential alternative to what's being proposed. Right now the Rogner proposal talks about developing a roughly five mile area of Hiland Mountain. Why do we need to go all the way from one highway with a tramway five miles back into the valley? Could you perhaps have a lesser size development and still accommodate most of the skiers that will be in the area or do you need all the area that is being talked about? I'd like to see that considered as an alternative to what's being proposed. Similarly I'd like to ensure that there is very limited access to the area and I'm very encouraged by Mr. Rogner's proposals, is that there will be limited access. I don't want to see access coming out private areas or Hiland Road itself into the ski area. I like the ideas of where there's a new road going into th hotel and I think that's one of the great alternatives that he's proposed. Similarly, I've also heard Mr. Rogner go on record as stating that he will not need night skiing to support his economic development. Six months ago he told us that the only thing he needed to support his economic development was the trails on the greenbelt. This is a new idea. He talked about horseback riding. People come here to hike, six months later we are now hearing about skiing. I would like to take him up on his proposal that there be no night skiing and suggest that DNR roll that in to a set of conditions is that there not be any night skiing in the area. As one resident of Hiland Road put it about two years ago when I first moved in, "I don't want my neighbor's light shining at me because it ruins my view of the northern lights." I can imagine what the whole hillside will do if it's lit up. Another thing I'd really like to ask DNR to strongly consider with the number of concerns that have occurred all around the Anchorage bowl area on hillside, Peters Creek, Eagle River, with deterioration of water quality, please ensure that the development does not affect residential water quality. My water pump's roughly 400 feet above my house. It's right in the bowl area where the ski development is going to occur. I want to insure that I can still drink my water and not have to take bottled water home. The other thing

I mentioned earlier I just strongly suggest that DNR strongly consider attaching a set of conditions with the development. It is not to be done gungho. And as kind of an off-the-wall comment, is that if this is such great land for public development, private development and perhaps everyone says that the public is getting in the way, let's let the State of Alaska be entrepreneurs. Let's use this land, sell it to the developer, or lease it out at a high rate or trade it for some other valuable consideration within the state of Alaska. Let's get the show moving. Give him the land and let's get the public out of the way. And finally concern on the helicopter landings, at least one of the proposed landing sites will be moot if the ski resort proposal goes forward because where the helicopter is proposed to land will now be a tramway. Thank you.

Al Meiners: Dwight Neill.

Dwight Neill: My name is Dwight Neill and I live approximately 2½ miles up the valley road right directly across from where the development is going to occur. I'd like to say that this is an excellent use of state park land. I've been told that Chugach State Park is roughly the size of the entire state of Connecticut and if this is true, there certainly is room in this park for uses by many of the varied activities that have been mentioned already tonight. And this resort I think is an excellent use for it. I've been told also and you people from parks can correct me if I'm wrong, that 98.5% of the people in Alaska have never had a backpack on their back and never will. This will provide them with some use of the state park other than backpacking. Access has been mentioned numerous times here tonight and we do definitely need more access points in Chugach State Park. I would like the backpackers are here and they need some additional area just up the road from where I live is what used to be a road to the top of Blueberry Ridge and some years ago a local landowner took a backhoe and cut this road off and you can no longer get up there but this road opens up into the upper Meadow Creek drainage area and I've backpacked myself back in there for days and never seen a soul. This is an excellent area and the road should be reopened with an established parking lot and this would provide a great deal more area for backpacking and recreational area than the proposed resort area and its all there and not being used now because you can't get to it. As far as the helicopter landing in the park, I'm not totally against it. Huey-type helicopters have a terrible blade thock to them and I don't think that commercial interests are going to use those but they are noisy and so forth and if there was a very limited helicopter activity on a strictly trial basis we might want to take a look at it and by very strict I would say the route that the helicopter was going to take, for example you would be restricted to going up Arctic Valley Road, approaching the landing area from the Anchorage side and departing back toward the Anchorage side. It possibly might be possible but for just sightseeing around in a majority of the park I'm opposed to it. Also, in the Eagle River Valley itself because of the mountains it tends to reverberate the sound from side-to-side so I would be strictly opposed to any helicopter landings in the valley itself. That's all I have.

Al Meiners: Thank you, Dwight. Lynn Catlin.

Lynn Catlin: My name is Lynn Catlin and I'm opposed to the resort development anywhere in the park. I think it's inappropriate use of public land to have a private concessionaire come in and make a development for his personal

financial gain. If Rogner wants to make a development I think he should do it on private land and contain his development on Eklutna. That would be fine. Another thing that I think is important is the people in the Anchorage area didn't ask for the ski resort. Rogner came up and proposed it to the Parks and what I've been hearing tonight is mainly economic reasons for supporting the resort. I'd like to caution state parks and DNR to not base their decision because the people who stand to gain financially from this resort. South Fork residents stand to have their land value go up; it could sky rocket. Eklutna, Inc., of course stands to gain a good profit. Eagle River residents are hoping for jobs and I can't blame you; I'm unemployed myself. Yet I looked into this a bit and the going rate for a shop manager in a resort is about \$5.25 an hour so I don't think we're going to get rich off of a resort. And the last thing I'd like to say about the resort is I feel that Rogner's statement of no night skiing is highly unlikely. Many of you have mentioned you live on the sunny side of South Fork. It's a dark valley, the days are very short in winter and I think there will be lights up if the resort does go in. As for helicopter landings in the park, I'm opposed to them, they're noisy, they disturb wildlife and they'll disturb park users. Thank you.

Al Meiners: Dave Blanchet.

Dave Blanchet: I'm Dave Blanchet. I'm representing Knik Kanoers and Kayakers. We're an organization of some 300 families. We sponsor and advocate paddle sports in Alaska, teaching and organizing trips for paddle sports, including whitewater and flatwater paddle sports and ocean paddle sports. We also are actively involved in advocating river conservancy and water quality in Alaska. First I'd like to congratulate State Parks on their apparent attaining of the greenbelt. We've certainly been a strong advocate of the greenbelt and have gone on record repeatedly in favor of it so I'm pleased it's gotten this far along. On the ski area topic, I'd have to say the club takes generally a neutral view. We were rather distressed when the director, Neil Johannsen, came out strongly in favor of the ski area before anybody knew anything about it. The club feels that this is sort of an arrogant effort by the director and goes against the public process. If the public is under the impression that the park wants it and the public be damned, it's sort of a poor way to approach the public and say now we want to hear your comments. What our concerns are with the ski area are in the area of air, water and noise pollution. The proposed ski area for those of you who don't know is in one of the most snow-droughted areas in Alaska and will require massive amounts of snowmaking in order to be successful. Not many of you have to go too far back to remember last year when Arctic Valley was closed virtually all season long, it opened up in the spring time late and this snowmaking will apparently resolve that but there's going to be high water needs. The techniques that have been proposed are wells, maybe none of this stuff that we know. We feel that before we can adequately comment we need information about this. As far as noise pollution, this hasn't been made clear. There is going to have to be massive amounts of snowmaking done. Is it going to be done during the day? Probably not, that's going to really conflict with skiers so it's probably going to be done at night. How do Eagle River residents feel about having snowblowers going all night. Are they going to be able to run the snowblowers without lights? Not any ski area I've seen. Perhaps yes; I don't know. It's not apparent. None of these facts have been brought out. The winter days in Alaska are 5½ hours long, the winter sun is at a 5° angle above the horizon, it's dark in the winter. Are they going to be able to

operate without lights? Probably not, they're going to have to have some lighting. How long are those lights going to be on? Sewer system. What's going to go on with the sewer system? Is Eagle River going to be kept with its high level of water quality? Will Anchorage residents, Eagle River residents have to be pay hookup fees for the development? There is no sewer facilities, as you know, between the proposed area and wherever they're planning to hookup. We feel like there's not enough information to comment on here and we'd like to see more information made available before we can particularly comment on this. Thank you.

Al Meiners: Thanks. Lynn Tate.

Lynn Tate: My name is Lynn Tate. I am a resident of Hiland Road. The other night at the other hearing I mentioned that I drive by the new dump, the old dump, a prison and a halfway house and I'm ecstatic that anybody would consider building a resort in that area. And the reasons that I've come to that conclusion which I didn't mention the other night other than the economic benefit I would love to see my house value skyrocket. That would be fun. But the other reason is Eklutna can do what they want to with their property, basically, I mean within reason, they can do what they want to with their property. The ski resort is clean industry. That's great for us. The only way they can do that is with those ski runs and they need that from the park. I love to ski, I think it's a good use for a border area of the state park lands. Thank you.

Al Meiners: Thanks. Gary Tate.

Gary Tate: [not intelligible]

Al Meiners: Vern Ungerecht.

Vern Ungerecht: Thank you. I'm Vern Ungerecht. I'm on the Borough Assembly in the Mat-Su Borough. I've come here tonight with some mixed emotions about this project and as you probably all can guess. I was a resident here on the South Fork Eagle River before most of you were probably up here. I moved there in 1959 and that was a long muddy trail up there. I have some real concern about the lack of planning and the way this project is being ramrodded through. As you all know we've been working on the Hatcher Pass development for quite a while now and we've gone through a lot of studies, we've done all the work necessary to make sure that there was a feasible project. Now you just don't do this overnight. It takes some time to develop all this. It seems to me that for some reason Mr. Johannsen seems to want to push this through real fast. Maybe they don't want to compete against the Hatcher Pass project or they want to get it out before the Hatcher Pass project. The Hatcher Pass project, as you probably know, is already in the bid stage for proposals and moving along real well. I can sure sympathize with everybody's opinions, the Chamber of Commerce and the community councils. We all need jobs. Not just Eagle River, not just the Valley, but the whole state needs lots of jobs. We need an economic base. We need a place for cottage industries. In fact, my own business that I own and operate out of Wasilla does a lot of work in Eagle River here. I got a service business and I'm sure it would help my business, too. But I think it deserves a proper, longer look at the whole project. It seems to me that I haven't seen anything real concrete on a lot of different portions of this proposal for this ski resort. There's

a lot of questions. Like it's been said several times, it's absolutely ridiculous to think you can operate a ski area without lights. These projects are not notably high moneymakers to start with. I just would like to caution everybody to look at it. I won't be able to testify at the meeting Thursday night at Wasilla. We have an assembly meeting that night and so there will be a lot of people involved with that that night. We're going to be setting the budget the same as you people have just gone through Thursday night. What you're going to hear is just the opposite of what you heard here. I mean it's going to be no to Eagle River and yes to up there. I hate to see the two areas in a battle. If you think you've got a bedroom community here, you ought to see it up there. Please look at it real closely. I'm concerned for the quality of lifestyle here as I am up there. I'm concerned about the beauty of the area. South Fork of Eagle River is one of the most gorgeous places in the world. You can go up there, the view is incomparable. So please review it real closely and ask all the right questions and make sure it's a proper project before one superduper developer comes in here and thinks he's got all the answers. Thank you.

Al Meiners: Thank you. Steve Cypra.

Steve Cypra: My name is Steve Cypra and I live in Palmer and I'm a private citizen. I probably would have testified in Wasilla except by the time I made the decision to come here there hadn't been a hearing established yet in Wasilla. There are probably a lot of issues on this particular project that I shouldn't even begin to try to comment on. Some of those pertain to the lifestyle impact that takes place. Others pertain to the changes in the master plan and precedents and ramifications that would need. What I would like to ask you to consider tonight is what I think is probably a regional problem or issue and one that would probably also go beyond parks to an extent and that is while I may endorse the idea of economic development certainly the idea being pressed upon the Eagle River area and I think a resort is something that everyone can appreciate and be willing to accept. It's very predictable people would. The ski development aspect of the resort project I have a couple of questions about. Primarily from the standpoint that I see this as a resource that is very limited. There is very few quality areas in this region that have the potential to attract not only international but the local market is going to be successful. If we take an area and develop it based upon one individual's interest or particular financial plan without looking at it with our overall assets are for this area we could be precluding in the long run some of our greater ski areas and I think this is even more important from the standpoint that we don't have the markets in-state particularly to support more than one ski area. While on one hand I may with my very limited knowledge say that the people of Eagle River are enthusiastic about a resort I can understand it and perhaps it should be done if some of the other issues can be accommodated. But on the other hand, the issue about the skiing in itself is another [unintelligible]

Al Meiners: Ed Hooper.

Ed Hooper: I'm Ed Hooper and I live up in Hiland. I am totally in favor of this project. Everything that we've seen at every meeting has answered the questions that I think we're all concerned about. One, economics, two, what's the social impact, and what the future holds for ourselves in the valley as well as the ripple effect it will have in the state of Alaska. And perhaps

competition is good. If a man that has an organization as international, is willing to come up to our valley and invest the amount of money and time that undoubtedly he has, then I think we should be behind him. I mean bureaucrat-ically, I mean the people living in this area. I feel that we should get off the dime and push this project through. Yes, there are questions that have to be answered and I know within his organization that should we come up with questions that are pertinent, he has answers for them. Now, it doesn't make any sense to be selfish about our valley. We're all going to have to bear some inconveniences but in order to make this project go, and I mean for Alaska, I think it is nothing but an A+ project for the information I've seen. It's good for myself, it's good for my kids, it's good for the schools. There is nothing that I can see that will make me vote no on a project like this. As far as with the information that I've seen so far. Perhaps down the road there might be some additional things that may crop up that certainly we have to be on top of. As far as the greenbelt is concerned, yes I'm in favor of it. I'm not enthused about motorized traffic in the area. I think there are so many other things the valley can offer. And finally with regards to the helicopter I'm totally against it. Thank you.

Al Meiners: Thank you, Ed. Betsy Gardner?

Betsy Gardner: I'm Betsy Gardner and I've lived in Eagle River for six years. I'm speaking for myself. I am in favor of the ski resort. I don't think that since this ski resort and Mr. Rogner has studied, that people will mostly come from the outside to ski, I don't think that having this ski resort would necessarily preclude having another ski resort, say in Hatcher Pass. I think that it's possible that there could be more than one ski resort in our area and it would be good for the economy as well as our community to support development such as this. I also think that Mr. Rogner shouldn't be ridden through a lot of red tape in this. I think that we should do everything we can to assist him. I do feel that the state has quite a few qualified people to study his plan and we should rely on the state to help to make those decisions. I do have a great deal of concern about the water and how much water it would take to make the snow up there and I would like to urge the state, after they take a look at his plan, to do their own study of the water to make sure that it won't detrimentally affect the Eagle River water system and what we have. I don't think that it will and I think that he can do it but I would like to not bring that back before the public for a lot of hearings on every aspect. I'd like the state to be able to do that. As far as the greenbelt, I would like to see a trail on the north side of the river and I would also like to see some very clear signs and some easy places to get out of the river before the water gets too rough. There's been a lot of accidents there. I just went on it recently for the first time and got out where it said novice exit and just about died hauling my canoe up that hill. I am opposed to the helicopter landing.

Al Meiners: Cecelia, I'm sorry I missed you.

Cecelia Dittrick: I'm Cecelia Dittrick and I am a 19 year local resident. My knowledge about the proposed ski resort is limited to what I have read in the paper. I would like to comment on an article here from the Times, May 19, Conservation Organizations Oppose Chugach Ski Resort and I quote, "The ski proposal didn't start with a man locally, it started with the developers, said Rick Maron, Acting President of Friends of Chugach State Park". I feel that

local demand is subject to definition in this case. Let me tell you in my own experience what I mean. The Chuglax-Eagle River Elementary and Junior High Ski Program at Alyeska is well known in the community and I have participated as a volunteer. What that means is going in the morning with five, six, seven school buses jam packed with kids to Alyeska. Several hundred kids. You are on the road half of the day coming and going to and from the ski resort and the same goes for the evening. It means that you have to spend half of your day and half of your energy coming and going to and from the ski resort. I think it's very unfair to make distance an added risk factor requirement for young and not so very young skiers and I think it's our turn in Eagle River to have a ski resort if that is possible and can be developed. And perhaps it is appropriate for me to say that I was born and raised in Austria and I have affiliations with the business community there and I know of Dr. Rogner's reputation which is very, very excellent. He's particularly well known for carrying through in details on his projects. Thank you.

Al Meiners: Thank you. Lynne Burkwist.

Lynne Burkwist: My name is Lynne Burkwist and I am a resident of Eagle River as well as work here. I'm in favor of granting a lease for the use of the state park land for the proposed downhill ski area. I'm from the state of Washington and they have a lot of ski areas in Washington and they're all on state land, many of them privately run and I don't see why that concept can't work just as easily here as it does in the lower 48. The development being proposed by Dr. Rogner and Eklutna is going to bring in millions to the state. The project alone is scheduled to cost something like \$170 million to build. I can't imagine them not going over the feasibility of doing the project and the impact on the community as well as Department of Natural Resources and the Division of Parks studying this just as well. It's going to create about 2,000 jobs for us, bolster the tourism in Alaska which is an industry that we definitely need more of, it will be a heavy impact on our community right here as well as the Anchorage area and outreaching areas. Fairbanks -- I can't imagine that tourists coming to Alaska will strictly come to this resort and not see what Fairbanks is like or Kenai or some of the other areas. I don't feel that this project will diminish the business from existing facilities or other facilities being planned for the future. Major ski areas, as I said, in the lower 48, you go there and in the community you have a number of choices as to where you want to ski and I think it's time that we start to cultivate the freedom of where we can ski, too. As far as not having night skiing and it being very dark in the winter, I do agree, however not to have the whole place opened up for night skiing I would personally like to see some night skiing as I am a working mother and I would love to be able to ski in the evening time close to my home with my children. Again, I also grew up in the Seattle area ski schools as the woman just testified is something that I grew up from grade school on and I would love to see that be something that my son can have and grow up with. Trying to get him down to Alyeska for some good skiing is just difficult when you're both working and take Saturdays and Sundays to get some quality good skiing and there just isn't enough time on weekends only to get good skiing and to cultivate good little skiers. That's all I have to say.

Al Meiners: Thank you. Craig Campbell.

Craig Campbell: Thank you. I am Craig Campbell, one of the two assemblymen that does represent this area. For the last year I have been involved with watching the development of this project and what I want to talk about tonight is strictly the allowing of skiing and recreational uses by the Rogner development in the Chugach State Park. Tonight you have seen residents from the Hiland area, South Fork, Eagle River, Chugiak come out and say they are in favor of this development. We're talking economic development for not only Anchorage, not only Alaska, but our backyard, our neighborhood. We are the ones who will have to endure the economic, the environmental and the social impacts of this development. And clearly it's been seen that this community endorses that but what I would also like to talk about is a bigger issue that transcends just the local involvement here. Economic development is the buzz word of the late '80s. Governor Cowper has "Trade Alaska". The Anchorage Assembly is going to be asked to endorse the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation. We're going to be asked to put in \$500,000 along with private business putting in \$500,000, along with the state putting in \$500,000 for a grand total of \$1.5 million to develop economic businesses in the Anchorage area. This is one of the major projects that can contribute to that. Not only does it provide jobs, not only does it provide security for our area and help make Eagle River/Chugiak an independent community; it also brings in additional money, money from outside the area. And my limited economic understanding is that money brought in multiples far faster and far further than money internally spent. This is good for us. Our neighbors are saying it's good for us. It's desired and I recommend that your master plan endorse the concept of recreational use by skiing in the state park on the Hiland and South Fork areas. As a planner, I want to compliment you on your work effort here because I also deal with this as a profession. Your task is difficult and we'll be awaiting your coming back to us with the alternatives because they are going to be most interesting. I appreciate your effort, the people here appreciate the testimony they've been able to give to you tonight and encourage you to press on.

Al Meiners: Thank you. Doug Dowden.

Doug Dowden: My name is Doug Dowden. I'm a resident of the area. I strongly favor the resort development but also wanted to state that I was personally quite surprised that some of the public testimony which occurred at Service High School last week and then to some extent again tonight I certainly anticipated there would be concern expressed over the impact of the proposed ski concession on the other users of the park, the wildlife, and most of all I expected there be a comment, some concern, expressed over the lifestyle of the surrounding community. All those are very natural concerns which should be addressed. What I didn't anticipate, perhaps I should have, was that some of the loudest and best organized opposition would come from a group who had no particular concern for the park itself or the community or the wildlife or any of the auxiliary concerns. That they were primarily deadset to halt this project because it would provide competition with their own planned project in Hatcher Pass. There have been several comments made here tonight. The urging the Division of Parks not to just listen to those people with the bucks and that just have dollar signs in anything they do. My comment on that would be you've got to give some consideration to the economic impact any project would have. And certainly I would be less than honest if I was to say I was unconcerned with the economics of this project. I'm quite concerned with it, the impact it will have on the area. But I will state that if you want to ignore

the people who are trying to kill the park because of bucks you're welcome to ignore them. Last week, there hasn't been too much here tonight because most of the people here I think know better, but there was quite a lot last week stated, really strong questioning of the viability of the project. That Rogner was a fraud, didn't have the money, the whole thing's a sham and anyone's an idiot who thinks that someone would come from around the world to a resort facility that had horseback riding in the summer and cross-country skiing in the winter and canoeing and hiking and backpacking all set in the most beautiful river valley in North America or possibly the world, and it was located close to hundreds of shopping attractions in downtown Anchorage and Eagle River. It was just impossible that anyone would be drawn to that. Now we all know better. We know the allure that area has, and would not think to question something like that or we're dumb enough to swallow it when somebody comes and tries to tell us that our valley is beautiful and I plead guilty on that, I've swallowed that. I was told the valley had tourist attraction and I admit I believe it. They also expressed some concern, there was actually a public statement made last week that if this valley had any attraction, then maybe they'd a done it but they didn't. I think they were also a little bit baffled why a foreign developer would come in and decide to team up with the largest private landowner in this area rather than team up with them and develop Hatcher Pass. They were quite offended that Rogner did not come to them as well. Then of course they demanded that there would be hearings in the Mat Valley to determine the best use of the park land in the Eagle River Valley. There were comments made, apparently that was grand of the panel, there's going to be a meeting at Wasilla and there will be a massive turnout of people from Wasilla to say why you ought...you will hear more that Rogner's a phony and everything...attract tourists would be viable...a bunch of idiots. Go ahead. I think its a waste of time but go ahead and do it. In summary, I'll just simply say that the folks who have come here tonight to express concerns for the impact the ski slope will have on your park, on the state's economy, on the lifestyle of the South Fork and Eagle River community, of the wildlife, or any related issue, I just simply say these are very valid concerns. And I think that we all need to work together to make sure that they are all addressed appropriately. But to those who were only trying to kill the project to avoid competition with their own, I'd say hey guys, welcome to the free enterprise system, and then invite you to take a flying leap off of Pioneer Peak.

Al Mainers: The next person is Todd Miner.

Todd Miner: Thanks. My name is Todd Miner. I'm a private citizen. Guess I oppose helicopter landings and approve of the greenbelt and I've just got some basic questions about a ski resort. I'm a wilderness guide and could, I guess potentially, make big bucks off a ski resort with its folks but I don't think it's the purpose of the park to be an economic boost to the state. I think it's great if its on private land. We can all share in the benefits. But I'm not sure if the park should have anything to do with it. That's not why the park was set aside. It was set aside for recreation not economic means. I hope the ski resort could go in staying off park lands. I think the bottom line is if you want to be realistic, South Fork is going to change. All the people that own property back there are going to reap benefits, the businessmen here in Eagle River will, but they're probably going to move out. They're going to make their money and go to some place else that's nice and quiet. They rest of us may not be able to do that. The valley's going to change.

The wilderness aspect would be much more crowded and I think DNR needs to recognize that and put it in the equation. It's hard to put a dollar sign on wilderness. It doesn't equate as much as jobs and jobs are real important and we're all hungry right now. It's going to be a difficult equation to make there but I just want to make sure that the non-financial end of the equation gets sufficient weight.

Al Meiners: Dave George.

Dave George: Dave George speaking as a Hiland resident. I'm opposed to helicopter landings because of the wildlife habitat. I'd like to make a few comments on the ski lodge. As of the added speculation there's no impact statements on the environment. My big concern is the artificial snow. Where will they get the water? Will that effect the residents' well water table? And then in the spring, will that effect our drainage systems into Eagle River Valley. That's it.

Al Meiners: Thank you. Fred Dyson.

Fred Dyson: My name is Fred Dyson. I'm here both as a private citizen and I also represent this area on the Anchorage Assembly. I served for a year or two on the Chugach State Park Citizen's Advisory Committee and I did that cheerfully because I consider this park to be a very significant asset to the Anchorage community. It is one of the second or third largest state parks in the world and to have that park adjacent to our largest center of population to me is a very significant asset for the city. I also realized while I was on the Citizen's Advisory Committee that those who had gone before me had developed, what I consider to be a very rational concept. And as I remember, it was that the park was set-up in three zones. The zone furthest back to the east was in fact to be the area where there was to be virtually no impact as a result of use by people. No facilities built, no campsites established and no trails. I've been a backpacker all my life and my own propensity is for the quiet sports and I've enjoyed that portion of the park and I suspect I've spent now several thousand hours there. The next region in was to have only trails and no permanent facilities, not structures, and the concept was that in the nearest portion of the park would have developed trails, parking areas, guided visitor facilities, more access for handicapped people and obviously more impact from the use of people and it seemed to me that was a very well thought out development plan and what we are seeing here with the ski area fits into that concept of keeping the maximum impact area on the area nearest where the people live and making it available for people who are perhaps not wilderness tourists like myself or may not enjoy the vigor of health that I do or have my own particular tastes and I think that's a very rational concept and I suspect that where those lines were drawn will have to be modified some to accommodate this but I think that that's altogether proper. I also think that life will change for all of us here in the Eagle River area and South Fork and a part of that I lament and I think for those of us who moved here hoping to preserve some kind of a very rural or almost semi-wilderness life-style, the increasing population density is going to change that. I wish it wasn't so. The land beyond my own home which is at the end of a dead end road, an almost unbuildable lot, is zoned for apartments and someday it will be economical to build apartments there and the privacy that I enjoy will be changed and what I moved there for will be different and I think this is going to be the same for the folks in South Fork. I want you to know that I'm

sympathetic about that but I think its inevitable and I suspect that the increased property values that we all enjoy will help to cushion that blow but the family homestead is going to be different. But I think that it's inevitable for all of us. I also think that I know that the state park due to my years I was involved and now suffers from lack...hoping that the increased tax base and revenues from projects like this, not necessarily this particular one, but will help to give us the revenues that we need in the future to maintain the park that we have. I think that's an altogether reasonable thing. I have always come out of the bush in the park with more weight on my back from picking up other people's garbage. I still have some marks on my hand from a rather heated discussion with motorcyclists who were tearing up part of alpine country that I didn't think needed to be torn up. So, all that is to say that I think life is changing for us all. I think that what this ski area will do in the aggregate will be greatly to the benefit both to the park and the citizens in the Anchorage bowl as well as the citizens here, but life will be different. I'm confident that with the expertise that we have in the community and on the park staff that it can be done reasonably, never perfectly, and that we'll be glad to look back and say that we did it pretty well and I commend you guys for taking the time and putting up with whatever abuse there has been but also for your patience and I've got a lot of confidence that you'll do well.

Al Meiners: Thank you.

Al Omozuski: My name is Al Omozuski. I have lived in Alaska since '69. I've lived in Eagle River for the last 10 years. I live on the sunny side of the river and my view out of my home is the area that's proposed for the ski slope. I don't have any problem with slopes going up there. I'm fully in favor of it. I don't think it's going to hinder my view at all or denigrate it in any way. I agree with some of the people here about putting ski slopes into the wilderness area. The area we're talking about is not wilderness area. It's park area yes, but it's also got inholdings, people live there. I don't see any problem with some further development. I don't think we should let anybody go in...but the developer that's trying to put a project in here right now is looking for that. From everything I've heard from the different discussions I've heard he's working with the people here, trying to do a good job, trying to make us proud of the development. He's going to be spending a lot of money here. People have been checking up on him, to whatever degree I don't know, but they have been checking into him. He seems to be 100%. What can we say? I don't think we need any more legislation. I know one individual here that says we need some more legislation. I don't think so. I think we've got too much legislation. What I think we should do is go ahead with the project, with some stipulations, give him some guidance, give him some parameters to live with, he's the expert. Some of the people from Hatcher Pass have worked on their project for years but maybe they never developed one. Maybe that's the problem. This guy's already got a history of doing successful projects. He doesn't have to take as long. He's got the money to back it up. Let him go for it and give him some help. That's all I've got to say.

Al Meiners. Thank you.

Lee Jordan: My name is Lee Jordan. As long as you've still got a few minutes before you have to get out of here I will go ahead and say "me, too" to a lot

of the things that have been said. I support the ski resort development, the use of park lands for ski slopes. The question that you're looking at tonight is should.... We agree with that. The question is how those things should be developed. Some questions have been raised by various speakers and I think these can be addressed in the proposal guidelines that you issued and I am sure you will be putting those concerns into that. You've heard that people generally like the Rogner proposal and even though there may be others I think that what you're hearing is that those are the conditions the people like. They have not heard anything in the Rogner proposal that they don't like. A couple of other things, first of all, I haven't heard anybody say that the state should benefit financially from this concession and I believe that there should be a very sound and hefty realization to the state to help offset some of the costs that are involved here. You're going to get increased economic support, increased tax base, increased taxes and other things, but there still should be some concession.... Also I'd like to say that we have to take a look at the impact on the park if the resort does not go in. We're looking at a very substantial size, a substantial area that is under private development, that's going to be developed at some point in time in some way. I happen to feel that the ski resort proposal is a very good use of that land and there probably would be a lot less negative impact on the park than if it were developed for other type uses, commercial, industrial, not so clean type uses. You already have in the area highway proposal could go through which is going to have lights with it. You have two prisons in the area, all nearby. We're not talking about a substantial impact on wilderness-type areas. We're talking about a good use in a periphery of the park that is already subject to use. Also I'd like to make note that we've seen recently that Alaska, and I use Alaska rather than Anchorage, presently in second place for the Olympic bid and the main thing seems to be the fact that the ski facilities...in the European place which has the lead at this point, it has all these things downtown in close proximity to the airport, to most people in downtown. This particular resort and this particular development will offset that position. That also ties in a little bit to the argument for Hatcher Pass. As I understand it from my talk with the Rogner people, they're not counting on Alaskans to use that facility. They're going to bring people from overseas, people from foreign countries and they will be the main users, the main tenants of the village and the main users. Anybody from this area who uses that it will be a benefit and a plus but not a necessary part of that. But that does not preclude the other uses. And also I'd just like to say that the use of private land for this development for a ski slope is just a smoke screen. There is none that can be developed for that. Thank you.

Al Meiners: Thank you. Is there anyone else?

Don Follows: I wasn't going to do this. I did this the other night at Service High School. My name is Don Follows. I've lived in Anchorage for 12 years. I made my living as a professional park planner, interpretive geologist and outdoor recreation specialist. I also was raised in Colorado and Utah long before there were mountain climbing people, long before there were canoe and kayakers, long before there were many backpackers. As a small boy there was downhill skiing in Utah. I don't have to tell you how many resorts are in Utah and Colorado doing some very wonderful things, first class resorts, and as I look at this proposal, as little as I know about it, I can say that this is a classy proposal. It's exciting. I think it's a wonderful thing for Alaska and especially for the people in Eagle River. In Colorado in

would like to get up there and enjoy the view. As long as it was done carefully, I think that it would be a good thing.

Al Meiners. Thank you. Steve.

Steve: Yea, I've got some comments to make, starting with the greenbelt. I'm a kayaker and I have spent in the past quite a few hours on the river. I'm pretty familiar with that country. I think it's really good that the park establishes that as a greenbelt area. I'd like to see a low development type of activities there. Paved trails, I never really anticipated that. I think that the paved trail down at the coastal trails is really a wonderful place and a lot of people use it, but as a boater on the river, if we had that kind of bicycle activity visible at a lot of points it would really change the whole character of that experience. So, if there was to be that type of development, which I'm not in favor of, I would want to see it away from the river so that you don't have that visual impact. I would want to be sure that there was a non-motorized designation for that whole area. No horses because of what they do to the trails and the messes they leave behind. Also, if there were any concessions, I would imagine it's a real popular place for people who don't know anything about canoeing at all, they can go there and learn. I wouldn't want to see a boat livery at one of your little entry points in the river. I think river access...it would be really good to have a few different points along the river to get in and out of. The bridges, I'm not real keen on that, but in the upper reaches of the park there it would be necessary to get to the other side of the river unless you wanted to ford, which could be quite hazardous, so perhaps that is an appropriate use for the public safety, I expect, but it took me a few... As far as the helicopter landings, I'm adamantly opposed to any landings in the park anywhere. I think that the peripheral areas of the park would be affected by the day-users that go in there to get away from town, to get away from the noise and the hustle and bustle of the city. They can drive up to one of the trailheads and go for a hike and in an hour they are in the wilderness. And then you get a helicopter coming in there and they go right back in the city again, so I don't feel that's an appropriate use. I think that helicopters could be used in any other part of the state, but Chugach State Park is a gem and I don't think that we should start chipping away at it to accommodate these uses. You can have just as scenic a flight in some of the other mountain ranges -- the Kenai Mountains or the Talkeetna Mountains. The proximity to Anchorage is a very convenient thing for these helicopter operators but I don't think we should bend to their needs at all on that count. I mean the access...I think it would be better somewhere else. It's just an intrusion into the park that's not acceptable in my opinion. As far as rescue landings that would be done by Park personnel or others I think it's good, I think it's an appropriate thing. I've hiked in there before, went across the Crow Pass Trail about four years ago on Memorial weekend and there was a helicopter that buzzed through and it ruined it. We were there for, we had been in there for a day and a half and were starting to feel really comfortable with the environment and then this chopper comes in and it was terrible. There were a lot of people in there and we all talked amongst us, you know, that it was a bad scene. So, that's the way I feel about helicopters. The ski development, once again I'm opposed to the ski development. I think it's a bad place to develop a ski resort. It's very obvious that they are going to work really hard and spend a lot of money to turn that into a good skiing location. They don't get snow, it's dark there in the winter, they're not in the sunny area. Everything's

against the ski area from the start. I mean, they're starting out in a bad place and I don't think that they've thought it through well enough. The only thing that they like about it is the location. The mountain is, I don't think it's a good place to develop a ski resort and I'm sure that through their statistics they realize that it's an expensive place to develop one. All their things like doing the snowmaking and all that other stuff that goes along with it. I don't think it's going to be that big of a boom for the locals. We've got Alyeska here and it sounds to me from reading some of the articles in the paper there's just pretty limited exposure but it sounded like a lot of people there are anticipating using this place are the jet setters, folks from out-of-state, not so much the local people. It is going to be more of an exclusive development and I think all these people in town that we've just been talking about certainly aren't going to be able to use it. I think we're just chipping away at the park again. I don't think that's a good thing to do. It'll affect the wildlife, the birds back in that South Fork area, there's some pretty critical habitat back there. I think they'll undoubtedly need four season use to make a go of that area. It's just going to be a lot more pressure than I think the valley can handle. That's about it.

Al Meiners: Thank you. Bob Doogan. That's it. Is there anybody else that...yes.

Jane Meyer: Yea. I've been listening to what everybody's said. My name is Jane Meyer and I'm a resident of Girdwood. After listening to what all has been said I'd say I have to agree in terms of the Eagle River plan on pretty much everything that Steve has said. I haven't thought about the resort and I don't know the area to comment on it but I have a very strong feeling about helicopter skiing, the helicopters going into the wilderness. I haven't experienced it here in Alaska but I was recently in the Waimea Valley in Hawaii and I was going around a real narrow path, had no idea there was a helicopter in the valley and it just appeared, this disruption roar, and I almost fell off the trail and it was awful. And there was not just one helicopter. I probably experienced in two days' hiking in, 25 helicopters and it was just horrendous. I'm not sure who's controlling it there but it feels like it's totally out of control. If it's the Park Service controlling it there, I don't really trust the people here to control it.

Pete Panarese: I don't believe it is.

Jane Meyer: It's just awful there. I don't feel like being on a trail back somewhere in a good place to experience helicopters. There must be better places. I feel there's other places for them to land.

Bryan Selis: I might as well go on the record and back both of this people up in terms of...I think...what the future generations, what people would want us to do with this gem, this park and that is not to allow runaway growth. I think what we'll need is an aggressive management, an active management policy and program to make sure that it's not desecrated by helicopters. I do live next to the park, I have old property next to the park and plan on living on it and the helicopter flyovers from the Army you can hear them and it seems obtrusive to me. As far as the Eagle River greenbelt, that seems like Eklutna would seem like a particularly bad deal on their part. Two lots for that much property in Eagle River? Now I would hate to think that the Rogner resort is something similar, it's not a giveaway and something that we as users of the

park will regret in the future. I'd hate to see the area to be cleared and...it would be damage to the park will take another hundred years to resolve it then. Even South Fork right now is definitely not pristine. But there's something driving this so that's why I think we need control, I think we need active and...managing. Now let's open up the master plan and make revisions, otherwise if you leave it the way it is someone's going to run you over and runaway development in a park is not what you want.

Al Meiners: Is there anyone else who wants to make any statements or modify your statements?

_____ : I'd like to comment more detailed now on the regulations particularly of commercial development.... Let me take the helicopter thing first. I haven't changed my mind in some uses which would be good for visitor development. When I said appropriate uses in appropriate places, some of these folks....in detail. An inappropriate use would be, among other things, not only the rivers and wildlife but the disturbance of human uses that's well established.... I've had the same experience. The noise is horrible. It totally degrades the experience. So.... The master plan, your management system needs to go into detail...becomes popular...system. And I think the plan needs specific criteria and you said that's why you're here today, as to what's acceptable in the way of impact and what's unacceptable. Helicopter landings in effect take away an area that's people recreate in the area now. Just as an example I'd say...there are probably a few landing sites...very few landings a year is probably a possibility but I think that's what it's going to take. Let me carry that thought a little bit further on the greenbelt. I strongly recommend.... To be quite candid I have not read the Municipal plan so I can't comment on any specifics in there. I would suggest that you take a completely new look at it, recognizing that since it is now in public ownership where it was formerly in Eklutna, Inc., ownership and access was very highly restricted, and start from the top. What's the experience we want people to have out there and the level of access, the intensity of development, has to follow from that I would say through a public hearing process. I would recommend that you go back way into detail in the public planning process. I want to comment on one thing specifically and that's commercial boating livery access. I've had a lot of experience with that. The Youghieny River in Pennsylvania which is a whitewater river and ..canoeing rivers in Michigan. Regulatory systems have had to come. Commercial livery is grossly overused there. The final result was that public land agencies like you who own put in and take out sites finally were the only one to control it. There was a permit system. Private owners like those of us in the...Club. Actually we've never had any difficulty getting permits. But the liveries were fairly heavily regulated...and I think that that needs to be improved. If it's owned by the public, I think you need to get a handle on it right from the beginning. Finally, on the ski resort, from a regulatory standpoint, if you don't already have a site planning approval process which includes as parts of the process all of the other approvals that they'll need to have and storm water disposal was critical to water quality in Eagle River, sanitary sewage disposal is critical, bedrock was very shallow, the snow mantle is to be real thin. That needs to be part of the process. I don't think it's the business of public agencies to get into the economic question of whether the guy is going to make it or not but you do need to be protected against the possibility that somebody gets property through one's capital and

this doesn't make it and here you are with a whole lot of facilities somebody else put up. I've seen lots of ski areas that failed.... That's enough.

Al Meiners: Thank you. Anyone else? Yes.

_____ : My idea hasn't changed a bit. I still think that public parks are for the public and that the attitude of the people that manage the parks ought to be to let as many people in and variety and encourage means of access consistent with good management for as many persons as could possibly use the park because that's exactly what it's for. It's a beautiful area but I think that what I've seen in the past that all these things are possible within the realm of good management and I also fail to see that having a resort there is planned on land that's private...somebody else but I don't see that as runaway development. What is there 100,000 acres there or more and I don't see how by any stretch of the imagination that that should be called runaway development if we have one ski resort here and another 60 miles away there's another one. I don't know if you are familiar with the Colorado area but this is hardly a proliferation of ski areas. You know about what you'd find in Colorado and that's a beautiful area.

Al Meiners: That you. Anyone else. Could we get your name?

Larry Daniels: Larry Daniels. I'd like to ask one question and then make one comment. The question is in regards to the ski facility. I presume that this is an information gathering position in that there will be a public hearing on a specific proposal, is that correct?

Dave Stephens: Yea. This might be a good time to summarize some legislation that was passed during the last day of the session.

Larry Daniels: And then my one comment will be that the United States Forest Service governs some, I think, almost 400 ski areas, has developed a fairly detailed process by which they require master plans for ski areas to be put together and then by which they are to be judged. And I would highly recommend to the State Parks who will have this be, I think, their second ski area that they have something to do with if Arctic Valley is somewhat part of your jurisdiction, that you not try to re-invent the wheel and use the Forest Service's plan. And that's my idea.

Dave Stephens: To respond to that, we've been in contact with the Forest Service and already have quite a bunch of material from them. In fact, as part of the agenda packet tonight, there are about 10 or 12 pages of material that we got from the Forest Service that discuss how to evaluate ski areas and what kinds of design considerations ought to go into it

_____ : You were starting to talk about legislation....

Dave Stephens: Yes. In the last hours of the session the Legislature passed House Bill 16. It was extensively modified but it covers two major areas in the state parks, one being park user fees, campground fees. The Alaska State Park System is the only state system in the country that does not charge for campground fees. Some overnight fee of some sort for campgrounds. That is because we have not had the legal authority to do so. We've been asking for that authority for the last several years and this bill gives us that

authority within certain limits and it talks about the types of facilities that we are authorized to charge for and the types of facilities that we are not, that ought to remain open and available free of charge to people. That turned out not to be the controversial part of the bill. There's a handout that summarizes this over on the desk. Get a look at that. The other major part of the bill governs how we will write concession contracts inside the state parks. And concession contracts are the route that we would go for both helicopter landings or resort developments and so it's really quite germane of what we are talking about here tonight. And, again, the intent here is really a kind of a conservation motivated piece of legislation. It governs the kinds of steps, the kinds of things we have to look at prior to going forward with the concession contract. It requires us to do parkwide analysis. It requires us to look to see if non-park lands are available outside of the parks. There's quite a long list of findings that the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources must make and it also adds another public review step to the contracting process. The way it worked before, we would look to the plan, the plan ought to address these things in general, we would then go directly into concession contracting. The new legislation requires the Commissioner, once the decision is made that, yes, we ought to go out with the concession contracts, number one to issue a very lengthy statement of findings and number two if facilities are to be developed or a long-term interest in the park is to be created, to hold a public hearing. And during the public hearing there would be a lot of information provided about the specifics of the contract and that would really be the best opportunity for the public to review the details. The planning meeting we're at tonight we'll follow-up with a second round of plan meetings later on this summer. They're really never going to get into a lot of detail about concession contracts. The plan really is going to talk in general terms about what we ought to safeguard, what we ought to look at in issuing contracts. The contract is the legally binding document that does that and commits both parties. And so that's the key document. And there would be another round of public hearings.

_____ : That be specific to the Chugach State Park or....

Dave Stephens: All state parks. All state parks. Not all state land but just the park units.

_____ : That being a state law, would that also apply to the Municipal lands?

Al Meiners: No.

Dave Stephens: It's just state parks.

Al Meiners: It could possibly apply to municipal lands if we had some kind of cooperative agreement where we manage the land for the Municipality. Legally it's a little fuzzy but I think it probably would....

Dave Stephens: And so where we go from here -- we will have one more public meeting tomorrow night in Wasilla. We've already had them in Anchorage and Eagle River. We will summarize all the public comments and analyze that as best we can and try and pull out all the points that have been made. We will look at a number of different alternatives on how to handle each of these issues ranging from no development of the greenbelt to very intensive

development of the greenbelt, different approaches for separating user groups. On the resort issue the same, a range of alternatives that somehow addresses this. We will continue to consult the park advisory board. They've set up a planning committee that is working with us fairly regularly. We will select a preferred alternative. We will draft plan language, amendments to the 1980 master plan. We will publish that and that would begin a 30- or 45-day public review period. This should be happening in July, maybe August. We'll have a second round of public meetings, analyze the results of those, modify that language as best we can and in September we hope to have adopted revisions to the park master plan. Then begins the contracting process. Assuming the plan says that resort development is compatible (that's basically what the plan says) and we decide to proceed with that, we begin the contracting process and that is now governed by the legislation that is summarized in the back of the table and we're also involved with public hearings. We would write a Request for Proposals, solicit proposals from private parties, and select the best. The selection is typically done by a committee. We would try and get a Forest Service expert in. We would have somebody probably representing the park advisory board. There would be contracting officers with the state. We'd try and select a group of people, maybe half a dozen, that would go through all the proposals we've received and select the best. The selection is not based solely on what they are offering to give us as far as a percentage of their gross receipts, but we are looking for the best quality proposal as meeting the public interest. Certainly we are going to look for some benefits to the park. We might try and get a developer to build trail or to fund campgrounds, build campgrounds. We might just get cash that would then be plowed back into the park system and pay rangers' salaries, to be there to manage the site. The contracting process would begin, at the earliest, probably October of this year and it is a several month process in itself. And so we're looking at 1988 at the earliest, prior to having any kind of a concession contract for either helicopter landings or resort development. So that's the process. Any questions, comments?

_____ : I have a question...and again to clarify a specific development proposal, would that ever be available or put before the community for questioning or comment as to the specifics of the proposal? In other words, about how the runs may be developed, how, you know, just all those particulars, or would that only be a part of the request for proposals that the contracting committee, review committee, would be questioning?

Al Meiners: As I understand it, we ask for proposals, those proposals are brought in. During the time the contract and review committee are reviewing the proposals they are not made public and that is to avoid, I believe the purpose is to avoid tampering with the bidding process. I may be wrong on that but I know that the financial statements would not be, those would be kept confidential. Once the committee has made a selection, then the material would be made public but I believe during that point where the committee is reviewing it is kept confidential.

Dave Stephens: Prior to us getting into the RFPs and evaluating proposals, though, the Commissioner is required to issue this statement of findings. A rigorous set of findings.

Al Meiners: You would know what the guidelines were for the proposals. The location, the number of lifts, the things that would not be allowed. The way

it would work is we would try to set up a base level where the state is asking for proposals to do thus and such and we would spell out what that is and those are mandatory performance requirements. You must do this, this, this, and this. Then we would allow the bidders to go beyond that and we might even encourage and suggest certain areas where they may want to have other services or do other things. But we are also giving them guidelines on what we don't want to them do and what kinds of studies would be necessary prior to any conclusion. Arctic Valley was an existing ski area when Chugach State Park was created so State Parks has not done any concession contracts for ski areas. So we're sort of feeling our way through this process cautiously. But as I understand it at one point where the proposals come in then those would not be available for that period and that would probably be a couple of weeks. But you know what was going in and....

Dave Stephens: You know what the RFP says but a lot of the information that we are going to ask these proponents to provide is only going to come at great expense to them and they will no doubt consider that proprietary information that would be valuable to their competitors. So we'll have access to it once a selection is made, a contract is signed, all the various appeals have been worked out, which takes some time. I think at that point, then the information would be available to the public.

Al Meiners: Once the committee doesn't actually cut the deal. They would make the recommendation to the Director and the Commissioner of Parks, then the contractor has to go to the Department of Law and the Department of Administration before it is legal. So there's a couple of steps in there.

_____ : What...detail are you talking about on the contract? Would it include a detailed site plan? Including all the utilities? You're suggesting that it wouldn't be public until that's signed?

Al Meiners: No, no. The request for proposals would spell out as much detail as we can.

Pete Panarese: Perhaps I could point out something. The request for proposals is public information, in its entirety. We get the proposals back, those are closeted because of proprietary information. The contract we formulate is 100% public information.

Al Meiners: Because actually a sample contract would go out with the RFP. The actual site plan, no. Probably the site plan would be submitted by each proponent in their package.

Pete Panarese: We would require in the contract of the magnitude we are talking about just about every detail you could imagine and the developer is going to be in a position to supply that information -- water, sewage, where the lifts are going exactly, communications, avalanche control, state-of-the-art for that type of development. Where he's buying his power from, where's he's getting his water from, the entirety of the information will be coming to us as some component of that contract.

_____ : But the RFP is very strict with the improvements within the state park or would that be beyond improvements within the state park?

Al Meiners: I believe we would require them to show us how their total package. Interestingly enough this site that Rogner Touristik is talking about has a tremendous amount of private land involved. We obviously don't want to grant a contract for a ski lift where the first half is on somebody else's private land so the proponents would have to come forth with agreements from those landowners. They'd have to show us how their total facility is going to work. But it would be at a conceptual level. I would envision that once we know that they've got the money, they've got the landownership figured out and some interesting enough to make the thing work, we would then require detailed work to be done to address the specifics and that the approval of construction would require them to argue and approve...water quality.

_____ : Is there a publicly exposed, if that's the right word, site plan review process?

Al Meiners: Yea, what the concept plan and selection of the contract or for the concessionaire, their submission to us of detailed design work would be public information. It would be reviewed by the, well certainly we would take it to our park advisory board, we haven't decided yet whether we would have separate public meetings, we might well do that.

_____ : I would like to suggest that there may be some duplication of work here. The Municipal Planning and Zoning Commission will review the site plan and there will be a public hearing of the resort. That type of information that you specify is the type of information that the Municipality required. So, yea, there will be a public hearing and all those things would come forth and hopefully there will be no duplication.

Dave Stephens: In that case what we would ask for is copies of the information that's been developed as part of the Municipality's Planning and Zoning.

Al Meiners: We're even on joint hearings. If something happens we would like to get real close to the Municipal planning and focus and just work through the whole thing with them so that we're not doing a lot of duplication because what we do affects them and what they do affects us and so if something happens in the South Fork of Eagle River obviously the land development pattern is going to change alot and rezoning and all that kind of thing so it needs to be close in coordinating with them.

_____ : Municipal zoning does not affect state-owned land, am I correct?

Dave Stephens: Yes.

Al Meiners: Yea, there's some different use. Generally we are required to follow Municipal zoning. There are situations where the state can declare an overriding state interest. It's sort of the big fish, little fish thing goes on. We would say no, forget it. But at least the normal...we do follow and focus on. But I'm under the impression...we've had some legal opinions on that and it's a little fuzzy. The attorneys have told us that there are situations where the state could override local zoning but for political reasons it's usually not done.

Dave Stephens: Other comments, questions?

_____ : It's been very informative and thank you very much.

Dave Stephens: We thank you for turning out and giving us your evening on the first sunny night.

Pete Panarese: I've got a couple of questions I'd like to ask but that's not necessary for everybody to hang around. I got a couple of questions from Larry. One of the things that we were hoping to get some input on coming to Girdwood is some of the characteristics of the actual operation of ski areas such as are...necessary for making snow? How much noise comes from making snow or the vehicles that are necessary to move the snow around on the mountain to get an adequate ski cover? We're knowledgeable enough to know that it's not a silent activity and that the public comment that we've heard in all the other hearings, what about the noise? And we have no basis from which to respond. What is your input on that? I believe you work for the resort? Correct? Or have been a long-term resident?

Larry Daniels: I might not be a very unbiased commenter on that. However, once in a while we get comments from people on the lights, that they bother them as far as sleeping. But it's fairly rare. It is necessary to have lights for snowmaking because the safety of the personnel is absolutely paramount. It's a very dangerous job and without lights it would be almost suicide. Eventually you would maim somebody if they couldn't see what they were doing. As to the noise of snowmaking, it depends on the type of snowmaking you have. I think that the particular type that we use is fairly innocuous. I don't believe that too many people...I've not really received any adverse comments about snowmaking. However there is a type of snowmaking called air water that is like a jet engine going off in your backyard and so it can be extremely, that type of snowmaking can be very annoying, especially for people close by.

Pete Panarese: What type of vehicles did you use to move the snowmaking equipment or move around the snow, snow cats and what not?

Larry Daniels: As long as it's not going through...we used to have a shop that was out actually in part of the residential area and we used to get complaints about the equipment going back and forth through the neighborhood but other than that I think for the most part the snow cats are reasonably well muffled as to not cause people too much concern. I think though you know that too there may be a difference in this community in that...at least up there, I mean, the Girdwood community was from actually it didn't even exist here at the time the resort started. It was down basically at the mouth of the valley and along Crow Creek Road and then there was no development until the ski area came that basically went to the east side of the valley and then subsequent to that. So, I guess that the ski area was here and then the community formed around it and so I think we've all kind of grown up together. There is either a higher level of understanding and awareness in this community than there might be in a community that already exists and then the new ski area comes to it. I'd like to think that a ski area can be a fairly good neighbor to a community. I would hope that a ski area could be developed in an area like this and not be an adverse impact. But certainly depending on what people move to a particular place for it may not be what they had in mind and so that's where I think over time people tend to get used to a lot of

things whereas they might have been initially opposed to it. So I don't know. Those are my complaints.

[unintelligible] it's not the same set-up as they have here at Alyeska. All the nozzles that disperse the snow were fixed and they don't have fans. They don't even have lights in the area. You can't hear it at all. So I'd say it'd probably depend on what type, you know there's more than one type, and I don't know there may be more than two types of snowmaking processes so it all depends on what type of system they expect to use whether it made any noise at all.

_____ : The fan types that they use here right outside our bedroom here at Alyeska and at first when they first came in you noticed them and then we got used to it. The only thing we still haven't got used to is the cannon.

_____ : You might want to ask about using explosives for avalanches.

[unintelligible conversation]

Dave Stephens: Well, we'll adjourn the meeting. Thank you, again.

Wasilla, May 28, 15 people attending, 10 offering testimony

[Transcripts of the Wasilla meeting are unavailable because of a tape recorder failure. General notes and summaries of testimony are given in the following pages.]

John Stein -- Mat-Su Borough

- valley is competing for resorts;
- questions whether resort is appropriate;
- DPOR should do site evaluation;
- site has been designated in Hatcher Pass - good site;
- Hatcher Pass shouldn't be overlooked in the regional context.

Sarah Horner -- interested in Hatcher Pass

- DPOR should thoroughly study Eagle River site and ensure its feasibility.

Jan Affinito

- large-scale resort may be inappropriate in state park;
- Eagle River is based in park, dependent on park;
- DPOR should follow sound planning practices, being even more careful because of park status;
- development of Government Peak is inevitable;
- state should be protected if South Fork fails;
- concerned that political pressures are driving the planning process;
- ski area should be examined on its technical merits;
- Eagle River resort could sustain itself without skiing.

Jim Turner -- Independence Ski Resort Company

- resorts are not necessarily incompatible with park status, provided feasibility and capability;
- cursory evaluation of Eagle River site suggests that it's marginal;
- DPOR shouldn't allow project if not feasible;
- state should take regional view of potential ski sites;
- permitting of unfeasible site could kill more feasible sites;
- look at mountain's ability to hold snow in place;
- helicopter skiing shouldn't be prohibited; should be allowed with careful controls.

Mike Downs

- consider noise impacts of ski lifts, other resort activities;
- Eagle River site is primarily north facing, with little sunshine;
- resort site is important for watershed;
- snow making equipment creates a widespread fog, coating roads and houses with ice;
- South Fork has frequent temperature inversions, causing fog from snowmaking to cover whole valley;
- light industry of resort may not be compatible with the bedroom community of Eagle River;
- South Fork resort could preclude a better site from being developed.

Robert Wells

- current economic downturn should not influence decision to open state park to commercial activities;
- supports helicopter landings in peripheral areas of park;
- helicopters can be managed to minimize impacts;
- helicopters probably ought to be excluded from wilderness areas;
- parkwide ski site suitability study should be done.

Peter Diedrich

- examine wind scouring of ski slopes;
- Government Peak is superior site to Eagle River;
- DPOR should do appropriate studies.

Karen Siry

- local need for ski resort;
- involved with youth ski program;
- school buses cannot negotiate icy, steep roads;
- Eagle River planning process is too fast;
- concerned with Eagle River site suitability;

Mike Perryham -- Alaska Frontier Trappers Association

- EIS or other environmental study ought to occur for both resort proposals;
- ski areas are not multiple use, and prevent other user groups;
- ski areas are single use areas;
- already three ski areas, and more are unnecessary;
- how many sheep would be eliminated by ski slopes?
- proponents should pay for state's expenses in planning, responding to request.

Mike Sorensen -- experienced ski coach

- supports alpine skiing;
- caution against development of marginal ski slopes, terrains;
- area ought to be evaluated for its long-term benefits.

the last couple of years, commercial tourism has now taken the number one spot in terms of their leading economic industry. For at least 10 or 15 years in the state of Utah commercial tourism has been the number one industry. When I came to Alaska 12 years ago to plan outdoor recreation experiences in new parks in Alaska I came here with the understanding that someday Alaska would be in the same position whereby their tourism industry would outrank their natural resource industries just as it did in my home states of Colorado and Utah many years ago. I believe in a proposal like this. I support it and I really hope that something like this will take place.

Al Meiners: Thank you, Don. Yes.

Becky Hansen: My name is Becky Hansen and my husband has these pictures. I live in Riverview Estates which is the nearest subdivision to where the resort project itself will be. We've been really excited about this from the very beginning. I think about things, like my child is going to be able to go skiing, you know, and things like that. It's probably on the lighter side, you know, maybe on the dumb side, too. But I also have asthma and when I think about going up to the top of a mountain it stops and that's about as far as it gets. I think about riding a chairlift to the top of the mountain that I live on would be really something pretty special. It's probably on the stupid side or something but I'm excited about it.

Al Meiners: Thank you, Becky. Anybody else?

Scott Martinez: Wouldn't it be better just to use it and just leave it as it is. I mean look at in the lower 48. Look at it, it's all being chopped away slowly and slowly, you know. It's just disappearing, you know. What you've got up here, you know, I come from the East, I've only been up here for a year but hey what do I know, you know. But all I know is back in that valley there's something that's really special. More powerful than a ski resort and that's just what it is, just wilderness, just to be left alone, you know, it's just like why do people want to cut constantly, just tear it apart, just, I mean what are we going to be like in the next 100 years just a world of plastic and cement. I mean, let's just put it and just leave. It's already been considered as a park, it has wilderness areas, it has just park values. Why can't he just leave it as what it is. I mean, you know, I really don't know as of state and economic, I'm only 20 years old, I'm just getting out in this world, but I love that valley, man. I go back there and I enjoy just what it is and just as a peace of mind, that's what it gives me, you know. I've done skiing before, I've skied in the east coast where they have the worst ski resorts there could possibly be, you know, just hills, no mountains, just rolling hills, you know, and you know, like that guy just said, Colorado, Utah there you got this big resorts that people could go to do it, you know. You got Alyeska. What if the snow you'd have to get machines to go in this new resort, I mean new ski thing. Say they don't work and people don't want to go there because the conditions ain't good and they still just go to Alyeska, you know. Then you would have the thing already built up there on the hill, you know, and it just, you know. I don't know. I just think it should be left alone, is what my opinion is.

[The meeting was adjourned after several minutes of informal discussion among Parks staff and the public.]

Girdwood, May 27, 12 people attending, 9 offering testimony

Al Meiners: We didn't ask you on the list here who wanted to speak but I'll just run down and if you don't want to say anything just let us know. Bryan Sells.

Bryan Sells: I'll pass.

Al Meiners: Okay. Paul Todd.

Paul Todd: Am I the only other person who signed?

Al Meiners: No.

Paul Todd: I'll just tell you who I am. I live in Anchorage. ...helicopter sightseeing. As long as they are not excessively in conflict, don't become a public nuisance or degrade the wildlife environment, are important. The reduction in oil prices, the use, the appropriate use, careful use of public lands in a non-degrading way, provide more things for visitors to see and do, and bring in more visitors. No great economic need in the community. I think I'll just leave it at that, generally talking about helicopters sightseeing and.... Let somebody else talk.

Al Meiners: Thanks, Paul. Bob Miller or JoAnne.

Bob Miller: I am Bob Miller. I'm a landowner adjoining the park in the Potter Creek area of Anchorage. My feeling is that it's customary now in the cities and in public buildings, in fact it's provided by law, that you flatten out the curbs so even handicapped people can cross the street and provide an absolutely...so that handicapped people can have access to public buildings and most of the areas in the city. I think it should be our attitude that everybody that possibly can gets an opportunity to use the parks to the extent that they can. If they are healthy and hardy and can backpack 50 miles in, well that's great. If they're not quite so hardy, then I would support the helicopter access. The management of the parks, of course, is entirely up to the Park people. They're the experts. But I think that that should be their attitude, is to allow as many uses as they can see fit to allow and as much access as they can provide so as many people as possibly can get an opportunity to use these things 'cause that's what you call them, you call them public parks. I have a superficial understanding of the resort development and I think that's a real.... It is a typical that should be encouraged for the perimeter of the park. It is done virtually in all the western states that the Rocky Mountains pass through which is a typical way to make use of the parks. You just have to look for a developer. I've heard a little bit about Rogner. I understand that has some professional credentials so I think this type of thing should be encouraged. We certainly need the economic boost and it would be an asset to the community and an economic asset to the community. I actually feel strong enough about this that I think a day will probably come when you will probably come to me and want access to my place near your park and I would support that. So I've just...supports. See fit....

Al Meiners: Thank you, Bob. JoAnne?

JoAnne Miller: Well my husband said just about everything except I would say with the exception of just a couple of little items. I believe this resort development gives us a wonderful opportunity for additional tourism for our state and I have every confidence in our parks people to follow this master plan to where it will not be non-compatible with this large an area. We're talking about 97 acres this humongously big area of wilderness and I think it would be wonderful for us to be able to share this park and get people in it. I think access is definitely needed. Thirty years ago when I came to Alaska I could hike all over these mountains up and down and all day long and then some. But I can't do that anymore. I go out...I can't even ski that well anymore. So these accesses into these parks are very important to me. I would also support a helicopter landing in the area in which you are talking about. If you are talking about one landing site. I disagree that we want several landing sites in there. If we are talking about one that would overlook Anchorage and Eagle River where the older people can get out of the helicopter and look around and take their pictures in one designated spot and we're not chopping, making noise completely throughout the valley, then I would support that. We've landed helicopters on our property for years and years and it doesn't disturb the wildlife. You can land up there two or three times a day and then turn around the next day and the animals are back. So we're talking about one designated area so if the animals don't like that area can still have enough wilderness to go to that they will not be disturbed by the choppers. The other thing is with the Eagle River Greenbelt area, I think this is a very visionary thing that the Municipality has done. I think in time this is a very visionary thing. That's wonderful to preserve that area for us and our children and our grandchildren this close to Anchorage and again I would like to support the Municipality's master plan for that with the present access that they are talking about now. I'd like to even see them perhaps expand that just a little bit in this master plan to address the different user groups. I think that there is a way to make different user groups compatible but you don't want the hiking trails used for horse trails or snowmachines. But I think it's a large enough area that certainly over a period of time maybe you don't have the money to do it all at one time but you should be able to share. Most hikers that come in or horseriders are going to be in the summer, the snowmachiners are going to be winter. Here again let's don't open up our entire wilderness area to the noise, but let's have some consideration. I don't think that parks are for any one group. I think we should try to reach a compromise so that all groups are accommodated to use public lands. Basically that's it.

Al Meiners: Thank you, JoAnne. Jose Vicente?

Jose Vicente: I also want to show my support for the resort development. I share the comments that were made before me. I believe that the resort is perfectly compatible with the area so long as it...the environment into consideration. Simply that I feel comfortable that supporting.... I am sure the resort is very much needed for the residents not only in Anchorage but also the entire state. I feel that the state has to open itself to economic diversity. We've too much to depend on the oil industry and tourism can be really one activity that can be really beneficial to the state. Apparently there is a developer that is willing to commit several million dollars in the infrastructure and construction resort typically in other states and other nations that infrastructure is financed and constructed by the government very willingly and I am really surprised that a developer is willing to spend

millions of dollars of his native country. As far as the Eagle River Greenbelt I know a little bit about the greenbelt and about the trails. I encourage you not to not to adopt, for the state not to adopt, the trail plan as it is. I feel that revisions should be made before the state were to adopt it. I believe the study when it was completed did not take into consideration events that are occurring now, specifically the resort. Also subdivision has received ordinary approval for Eklutna. Several things are occurring there that should be...the trail should be revised taken as it's consideration. I also do not particularly agree with the Municipality's decision on the location of those trails, mainly the areas that have development. I think location of the trails should be revised. It is also the Municipality's philosophy that all the trails should be paved. Why be paved? I do not share that view with the Municipality. Some trails should be gravel and others just ...for the parks as they are. Should not necessarily go there and chop trees and pave it. So I would say look at it carefully, revise it and have public hearings for someone who didn't talk. As far as the commercial helicopter operations I have no objections to landings in a state park. I think that you should not have them all over but I think you could have a few spots where they could occur. Particularly on the one that was mentioned that has the view of the Eagle River and Anchorage. We caution that they may be, I don't know, there may be a conflict between that particular site and the ski slopes for the resort. I would ask that that be reviewed carefully and probably common use for it. That's it.

Al Meiners: Thank you. George Brown.

George Brown: I'm not a resident of Anchorage and I don't wish to sound like Merle Candy or Sandy Crawford but I have to agree with what's been said thus far tonight. I feel that the master plan for the park provides for the particular activity that is being requested. I think that a resort is an appropriate use and in addition to that I concur with what's been said about the economy. We all recognize that it's not what it was and certainly in the valley when developing the tourism and certainly the fact that there will be a number of people employed during the construction phase is pertinent and I think there was in the first meeting a statistic of something like 2,000 permanent employees would result once the resort was operational. That struck a real note with me. Not to digress, but a short time ago we had a position open for a warehouse. I put the ad in the paper. It was almost a mistake. In two days' time I had about 80 people calling and they were in various trades, people that, it really hurt to talk to them because they were trying to feed their families and I see a value in that. I'd like to see Dr. Rogner's resort. And I too think the state will do a good job of regulating the development. And of course I believe that would be an absolute necessity. I really don't have much to say about the greenbelt.... I feel that the development of that would be a good thing as well. Helicopter landings I feel that as long that was regulated and maintained on the periphery of the park that there's particularly no harm in that. I would not want to see that activity carried into the wilderness part of the park. You'd have someone that has hiked in there and their 30 miles in and they feel that they're one with nature and all of a sudden here comes the chopper. I wouldn't want to see that happen but I can certainly see an advantage of providing the service that would be there for the tourists and for those of us that live there that may not be ambitious enough to climb the mountain but

May 28, 1987

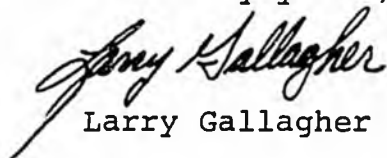
Dave Stephens
Alaska State Parks
Box 107001
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-7001

Dear Mr. Stephens,

This letter is one of support for the proposed Ski Resort Development near Eagle River. Such a development makes sense to me from the standpoint that it will enable more people to have access to and utilize the Chugach State Park. We know of similar resorts in other states and countries that have provided wonderful recreational opportunities for millions of people while at the same time doing minimal environmental damage.

I hope that your hearing board will continue the exercise of common sense by recommending approval of the Rogner Development. Projects like the one in question should be encouraged as a good way to open up areas in the public domain to the general population. It is no sin if someone makes a financial gain either. The profits to be made are far greater than monetary. Everyone can be enriched.

Sincerely yours,


Larry Gallagher

R. Craig Hesser
509 West Third Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 274-7522

May 28, 1987

Mr. Dave Stevens
State of Alaska
DNR - Chugach Park Division
P.O. Box 107001
Anchorage, AK 99510

Re: Chugach State Park Master Plan Revisions

Dear Mr. Stevens:

This is to express my objections to any revision of the Chugach State Park Master Plan to allow for the proposed ski resort development in the Eagle River Valley. The present master plan, as I understand it, does not permit the development of the Austrian ski resort in the Eagle River Valley. The purposes behind drafting of the original master plan still exist. There can be no justification for making any changes solely for purposes of allowing an Austrian developer an opportunity to come into a natural area and change it forever. This is particularly true when there have been no studies on the effects such a development would have on the wildlife, the vegetation, and the environment in general in the subject area.

I am most concerned that the negative effects of this development would be substantial and irreversible. These risks certainly are not outweighed by any benefits the proposed development would provide for residents of the State of Alaska. In fact, the plan proposed by the Austrian developer is designed primarily for use by European and Japanese tourists. It was made quite clear that local residents would be discouraged from using the facilities by the policies that would be implemented by the developer. That is not consistent with any concept expressed by the current master plan for the Chugach State Park.


Mr. Dave Stevens

May 28, 1987

Page 2

Finally, revisions to the Park's master plan should not be undertaken to benefit one particular individual who, for personal reasons, elected to pursue a development in the Eagle River Valley. There are many other areas of the Chugach State Park which must be considered for such a development. Perhaps, upon reasonable inquiry these additional sites would prove substantially more suitable for the type of development proposed for Eagle River even if they do not suit the whims of the present applicant. In the same vein, it is clear to me that the master plan should not be revised solely for the purposes of benefiting one foreign developer at the expense of all others; particularly those who live and do business in Alaska.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Craig Hesser". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

R. Craig Hesser

RCH/jgh

5-19-87

Gentlemen. —

I am quite distressed over the possibility of a major downhill ski resort being developed on the South Fork of the Eagle River Valley within Chugach State Park!

The Park was established to protect the area just from this type of development and feel that making an exception sets a bad precedent.

I am a heavy user of Chugach State Park and do not want the eye-sore of such a development but, more importantly, do not like the impact it will have on my wilderness experience in the area and the impact it will have on the wonderful wildlife - wolves, Dall sheep, + raptors. I feel other state lands that are not specifically designated as a state park should be looked at more closely.

In short, I oppose all development in Chugach state park!

Don Curtis
726 W. 20th
Anch. ak 99503

5-19-87

Gentlemen —

I am so pleased to hear you have rejected an application by a local helicopter company to make lands in the park available to helitourism.

I urge the Div of Parks + Outdoor Recreation to incorporate into the Master Plan a policy that would prohibit commercial helicopter landings anywhere in Chugach State Park.

Thank you,
Doris Curtis
726 W. 20th
Anch, Ak. 99503

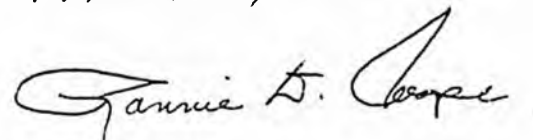
TO: DAVE STEPHENS
ALASKA STATE PARKS
BOX 107001
ANCHORAGE, AK. 99510-7001

JULIE 12, 1987

DEAR DAVE,

I FAVOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE CHUGACH
STATE PARK OF A SKI RESORT. THIS DEVELOP-
MENT USING PROPER GUIDE LINES CAN BENEFIT
ANCHORAGE AND EAGLE RIVER. HELICOPTER LANDING
MAY ALSO BE PERMITTED AS LONG AS THEY
ARE MONITORED

THANKS,


RONNIE D. COOPER

RONNIE D. COOPER
12812 OLD GLENN HWY
SUITE A-3
EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577



Our Ref.:

Your Ref.:

(907) 243-3404

HELICOPTERS, inc.

P.O. BOX 190283

ANCHORAGE, AK 99519-0283

TELEX: 25372

Subsidiary of COLUMBIA HELICOPTERS, INC. • P.O. BOX 3500, PORTLAND, OREGON 97208 • (503) 678-1222

DATE: May 20, 1987
TO: Director of Chugach State Park
FROM: Alaska Helicopters, Inc.
REGARDING: State Park Master Plan

Alaska Helicopters supports Chugach State Park in the development of a Master Plan which will include designated landing areas for helicopters within park boundaries. We believe landings in the park are compatible with other land uses and hope our 37 years of experience with landing in environmentally sensitive areas can be of assistance in the design of such a plan.

Sincerely,

ALASKA HELICOPTERS, INC.

Steven R. Smith
Director of Operations

SRS/ah

Enclosures



HELICOPTER ACCESS
IN REGULATED PUBLIC LANDS
IN ALASKA

FIXED WING ALSO *Dimension*

TO: ALL FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED.

The undersigned support reasonable helicopter access and use in all Regulated Public Lands in Alaska. Historically, helicopters have made valuable contributions throughout Alaska supporting resource exploration, inventory, development and management, as well as a variety of public safety and recreational endeavors. Properly managed, helicopters are entirely compatible with all environmental concerns. We disagree with those that would lock helicopters out of Public Lands, and we believe that responsible management of these lands for the benefit of the public should allow for reasonable helicopter access and use. The Regulated Public Lands we refer to include State Parks, State Forest Resource Management Areas, State Recreation areas, State Public Use Areas, National Parks, National Monuments, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, National Conservation Areas, National Recreation Areas, National Preserves, and similar public lands.

Printed Name Signature

Address

David Reed / *David Reed*

4616 Spennard, Anch 99517

John Payne / *John Payne*

4616 Spennard Rd - Anch 99507

John McElain / *John McElain*

" "

Tracy Piland / *Tracy Piland*

4616 Spennard Rd Anch 99517

RICHARD HILDEBRAND / *Richard Hildebrand*

4616 Spennard Rd Anch 99517

Kobie Stickland / *Kobie Stickland*

" "

Jo-Leah Espiritu / *Jo-Leah Espiritu*

5216 Chena Ave Anchorage 99507

Jordan Kiper / *Jordan Kiper*

4616 Spennard Rd Anch AK 99517

[Signature]

4616 Spennard Rd Anch AK 99517

[Signature]

" " "

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Printed Name/Signature	Address
IRENE AMADOR	5824 DISTOL DR ANCHORAGE AK 99511
BRIAN A. BEAUBIEN	3018 DODD DR Anch 99508
D. Frankford	11441 Dave Anch. 99515
Roy Robinson	9600 Victor Rd anch. 99515
Jodi Seals	11391 Ridgecrest 99576
Walter Thacker	7014 Fox 99575 Anchorage 99571
DEBORAH L. STURMFIELD	7222 Foxridge C#H Anch. 99515
Michael Elverson	10900 Kamusink Range Anch AK 99515
Jill A. [unclear]	200 W 34TH ST Anch 99508

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Printed Name/Signature	Address
Robert Cecchiell / Robert Cecchiell	GRANDWOOD AK Box 100701
Barrie Swanberg / Barrie Swanberg	ANCHORAGE, AK 99501 344 E 15th St
Jerry M. Swanson / Jerry M. Swanson	ANCHORAGE, AK 99501 3630 O'MALLEY
Sylvia A. Mollers / Sylvia Mollers	ANCHORAGE, AK 99504 4244 KINGSTON DR.
Marleen K. Hoffman / Marleen K. Hoffman	ANCHORAGE, AK 99504 7520 Timothy #3
Linda D. Siebert / Linda D. Siebert	ANCHORAGE, AK 99502 1813 E 26th
Diane A. McDaniel / Diane McDaniel	ANCHORAGE, AK 99508 ANCHORAGE, AK 99516
Evelyn Hansen / Evelyn Hansen	5630 E 9th AVE PO. Box 871843
Barbara J. Jeros / Barbara J. Jeros	Wasilla, AK 99687 3310 Ambler Bay Loop
Tant Crauakes / Tant Crauakes	ANCHORAGE, AK 99575
Laurel Olney / Laurel Olney	7360 Clairborne Cir anch ak 99502
Doreen R. Graham / Doreen R. Graham	2444 Julian Anchorage Ak 99504
Jolie E. Marr / Jolie E. Marr	5547 PENN Cir. Anchorage AK 99501
Stephen Cochran / Stephen Cochran	1210 E. 12th #9 Anchorage, AK 99501
Kitsi M. Baltzo / Kitsi M. Baltzo	5311 Mockingbird Dr. #312 Anchorage, AK 99507
Kathy Swerland / Kathy Swerland	2041 E. 31st B Anchorage AK 99509

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Printed Name/Signature

Address

<i>Frank J. Keller</i>	21970 S. Farm Road W. 97233
<i>John R. Smith</i>	4112 S. Knott Canby OR
<i>Jack R. Smith</i>	36451 S. SW 2nd, Medford, Oregon
<i>Harold A. New</i>	9209 NE 30th Ave Vancouver Washington
FRANK F. THOMAS	1217 UCELU, BEAVERTON, ORE.
<i>Robert J. Thomas</i>	1420 SE TOWNSHIP RD. CANBY, ORE.
<i>Robert J. Thomas</i>	30 S.W. 131st AV. BEAV. OR. 97005
LARRY DAHLKE	19121 SE YAMHILL APT D PORTLAND OR 97233
Matt Exner	410 S Knott Canby OR 97015
<i>Jim Neal James Neal</i>	10938 Quaker Valley Rd CA 96032 ^{By Jones}
<i>Elizabeth J. Jones</i>	1315 S. Knott Canby, OR 97015

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Printed Name/Signature

Address

STEVEN R. SMITH *Steve R. Smith* PO Box 91895 Anch 99509

Jay Lamb *Jay Lamb* 9625 Independence Dr Anch 99507

WILLIAM E. BELTNE *W.E. Beltne* 7126 LINDEN DR ANCH AK 99502

Richard Covert *Richard Covert* 213 Green Ct 99515

William S Woollett *William S Woollett* 5410 W Diamond #4 Anchorage AK 99502

Charles Dameron *Charles Dameron* 663 E. 78 #41 Anchorage, AK 99508

Ronald L Meek *Ronald L Meek* 109 Sweetgale ct Anch. AK 99518

Geordie Rod *Geordie Rod* 5930 Cosmos Dr Anch. AK 99517

Andy Storer *Andy Storer* 4631 Jureau #31 Anch. AK 99503

GERALD J. RACER *Gerald J. Racer* 3605 Arctic #146, 99503

PAUL E LARSON *Paul E Larson* Box 203 Palmer AK 99645

DONALD E. TEFER *Donald E. Tefer* 702 874784 Wasilla AK, 99687

TERO MERRIK *Tero Merrik* 8711 FURNACE DR Anch AK 99502

Gary Blade *Gary Blade* 3100 Wiley Post Anch AK 99517

KOLNEV W SPENCER *Kolnev W Spencer* 2141 W. 1st Anchorage AK 99501

RON KILIAN *Ron Kilian* 16445 Elmora ST. Anchorage AK 99577

Pete Smith *Pete Smith* 3061 EDWARDS CR ANCH 99507


HELICOPTER ACCESS
IN REGULATED PUBLIC LANDS
IN ALASKA

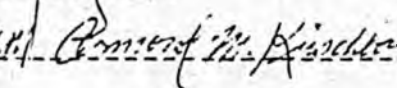
TO: ALL FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED.

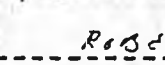
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Printed Name Signature

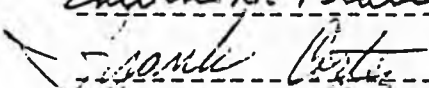
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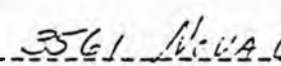
Timothy Kirschbaum  642 BEAVER DR ANCH AK 99507

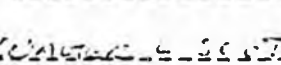
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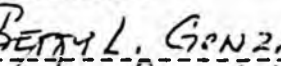
ROBERT E. BENNETT  ROBERT BENNETT 1225 S ST 99501


Edwin D. Blair EDWIN D. BLAIR 334 EAST 9TH AVE 99501

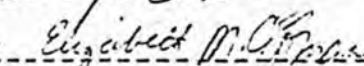
Frank Curtis  P.O. BOX 140007 ANCHORAGE AK 99508

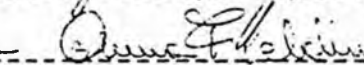
Dorinda J. Cook  3561 NAVA CIRCLE ANCHORAGE AK 99517

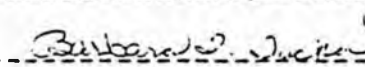
LOTTIE  1171 BEAVER DR ANCH 99516

BETTY GONZALES  BETTY L. GONZALES 1324 "H" ST ANCH AK 99505

AMELIA V. GOOD  3111 SLEEPING LADY LN ANCH 99515

ELIZABETH D. COFFMAN  ELIZABETH D. COFFMAN 3761 EUREKA #25A ANCH 99506

ANNE FIELDING  ANNE FIELDING 5316 W 13th Ave Anch 99501

Barbara Tucker  BARBARA D. TUCKER 24353A CIRCULAR CT, EPPA AK 99505

HELICOPTER ACCESS
IN REGULATED PUBLIC LANDS
IN ALASKA

TO: ALL FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED.

The undersigned support reasonable helicopter access and use in all Regulated Public Lands in Alaska. Historically, helicopters have made valuable contributions throughout Alaska supporting resource exploration, inventory, development and management, as well as a variety of public safety and recreational endeavors. Properly managed, helicopters are entirely compatible with all environmental concerns. We disagree with those that would lock helicopters out of Public Lands, and we believe that responsible management of these Lands for the benefit of the public should allow for reasonable helicopter access and use. The Regulated Public Lands we refer to include State Parks, State Forest Resource Management Areas, State Recreation areas, State Public Use Areas, National Parks, National Monuments, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, National Conservation Areas, National Recreation Areas, National Preserves, and similar public lands.

Printed Name/Signature

Address

SHELLY L. CHANCELLOR *Shelly L. Chancellor* 1114 W. 4th St. Anchorage, AK 99501
 KATHLEEN BRYANT *Kathleen Bryant* 4252 Ross Ct Anch. 99505
 SNICKS, A. LAWRENCE *A. Lawrence Snicks* P.O. Box 72995, Eagle River, AK 99577
 PAULINE A. DUNN *Pauline A. Dunn* 10111 E. 12th St. Anchorage, AK 99507
 ANNIE CARROLL *Annie Carroll* 10111 E. 12th St. Eagle River, AK 99577
 SUSAN BERNER *Susan Berner* 17345 Meade Cr. D., Eagle River, AK 99577
 LAVELLE WOOD *Lavelle Wood* 18719-2nd St., Eagle River, AK
 MICHELE SHASBY *Michele Shasby* 18928-2nd St Eagle River AK
 THOMPSON, KESLIE E. *Keslie E. Thompson* P.O. Box 873055 Healy, AK 99741
 RONALD McDONALD *Ronald McDonald* P.O. Box 6525-214 Wasilla AK 99757
 ROSEMARIE McDONALD *Rosemarie McDonald* P.O. Box 77169 Eagle River, AK
 THOMAS J. BALANSIEFER *Thomas J. Balansiefer* 1604 Nunatak De Anch 99504

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IN ALASKA

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Printed Name/Signature

Address

Bruce D Webster

4784 Mills DR / ANCHORAGE

Bruce D Webster

99508

IRENE GREEN

1 LAUREL CIRCLE, EAGLE RIVER

Irene Green

99779

CLARENCE S. MILLER

P.O. Box 140491

Clarence S. Miller

Anchorage, AK 99514

HELICOPTER ACCESS
IN REGULATED PUBLIC LANDS
IN ALASKA

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<u>Printed Name/Signature</u>	<u>Address</u>
Roger S. Boyman	Roger S. Boyman 2107 East 3rd Anch. AK
Bill Dankwitz	Bill Dankwitz 2611 W 69th Anchorage AK 995
James Dankwitz	James Dankwitz 2815 W 7th Anchorage AK 995
Joyce Murdock	Joyce Murdock 4232 James St. Anchorage AK

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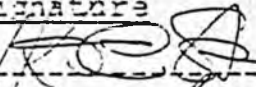
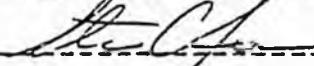
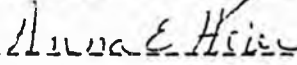
Address

Mark W. Lovgreen Mark W. Lovgreen 705 W. 13th, Anchorage 99501
Jackie Williams Jackie Williams 1115 Gray Way, Anchorage, AK
Richard A. Arney Richard A. Arney 3044 Westmonte Anchorage AK
Cathy Deiber Cathy Deiber 743 Town Ct. Anchorage, 99502

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<u>Printed Name/Signature</u>	<u>Address</u>
KEN STRAIN 	Box 222209 Anchorage AK 99522
Steve Jones 	2052 East Ridge St. Anch. Ak 99506
Anna E. Heier 	4121 Talbot Dr. Anch Ak 99571
Gary W. Osborne	P.O. Box 216128 Anch Ak 99521

HELICOPTER ACCESS
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Printed Name/Signature _____
Address _____

Dr. K. Sullivan, 511 Hogan Bay, Circle, ALC 99515

Alutians Ferry, Kulusuk Ferry, 2174 Arcadia, ALC 99517

McLennan McDevine/Wildlife, Wildlife, P.O. Box 100522, ANC 99510

May and DeVet/Myrtle, 4401 Lowell, #431, ANC 99507

Chas Burchett/Chris Burchett, 3631 Central, ANC 99517

Mr. Wheeler, 5025 W 42nd, Anchorage AK 99517

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Printed Name Signature

Address

Ava Moon / Ava E Moon P.O. Box 100034, Anch. AK 99510

JACQUE ECHOLA / Jacquelin E. Echola Po Box 92712, Anch. AK 99509

Kathy McVinn / Kathy McVinn

Kathy Seville / Kathy Seville 9499 Brighton Dr. #156 Anch. AK 99507

Michael A. Kent / Michael A. Kent 3911 E 7th Apt #2 Anch. AK 99508

GLADYS L. PEPPER Gladys L. Pepper SR Box 7045 WAILUA, AK 99687

Andrea L. Donald / Andrea L. Donald 2100 Arctic Bl Anch 99503

Deborah England / Deborah England 2414 Foster Dr Anch 99513

May 15, 1987

Re: Development of Ski Resort
in Eagle River

Dear Mr. Stephens:

Please accept this letter as written testimony that I am very much in favor of development in our State Parks system especially the proposed Ski Resort in Eagle River. Utilization as a Resort will allow access to areas that many of the citizens of our State are currently unable to visit. In addition it will open up new areas of revenue generation that will provide many jobs over a long term period that are currently needed.

I feel that if you do any research to see what a positive influence such developments have had in other parts of the world you will find that the environmental impact has been a positive one.

Again, I am in favor of opening up State Lands for the purpose of this development. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Richard G. Rodriguez
200 W. 34th Ave. Suite 611
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

alaskan survival

Box 311
Talkeetna, Ak. 99676

May 11, 1987

Neil Johannsen
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
P.O. Box 7001
Anchorage, Ak. 99510

Wally

*Jack, Pete
Abe
Dave
Fred*

Dear Neil Johannsen,

This regards commercial development and helicopter use in Chugach State Park.

We do not want to see large commercial development in the state park that your division is sponsoring in the media. You advocated the same type development a year ago at Curry Ridge.

Such development will ruin the state park. We believe that Alaskans do not want to see this happen. They want the wilderness qualities of the park and not development. Especially near the southcentral urban areas there are very little undeveloped state lands left for Alaskans to enjoy. And now you are proposing to ruin this.

What you are proposing is inappropriate for these public lands and more appropriate for private lands of which there is alot of. It is incredible that you want to take public lands in order for large corporations to make money off of. We are against this. Your division has Hatcher Pass to play with. Leave Chugach State Park alone.

We also continue to be opposed to your agency issuing helicopter permits for helicopter tourism in the park. You seem to not be satisfied unless this happens. The public has spoken out against this and will continue to do so. There are only negative impacts and no positive impacts besides corporate profits. It will impact the game and destroy the wilderness qualities that people want. It is also a huge threat to public safety. If you are not up on that issue, check out what happened at the Grand Canyon. The Helicopter concessions there are totally out of control and not regulated adequately. This is what you are inviting at Chugach State Park if you issue one permit. The next year there will be triple the amount of helicopter concessionaires who want in. We are opposed to all helicopter tourism.

Becky Long

Becky Long
Information Co-Ordinator
Alaska Survival

THE ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE

P.O. BOX 190953
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519
907-277-0897

May 15, 1987

Department of Natural Resources
400 Willoughby Avenue
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Commissioner Brady:

The following comments are the official testimony of The Alaska Wildlife Alliance on the Chugach State Park Master Plan regarding downhill ski area development, commercial helicopter activity, and the Eagle River Greenbelt.

The Alliance opposes any commercial ski development on Chugach State Park lands, including the proposed ski resort in the South Fork of Eagle River. Naturally, we are concerned about the inevitable impacts on state park wildlife from such a development—particularly on the wolves and Dall sheep in the vicinity. We are also concerned about the impacts a ski area would have on adjacent wilderness lands in South Fork and Ship Creek Valleys. Why not use undesignated state lands for a ski development instead of using designated park land? Park status is the most protective designation we can provide for our state lands; and at a time when irreplaceable habitat is fast disappearing for our wildlife, such lands should not be unnecessarily sacrificed for development.

As we have previously testified, we are against helicopter landings in Chugach State Park. The extreme noise of such landings would devastate wilderness and wildlife values that parks are supposed to preserve.

We have heard from our members about the impossible noise that helicopters are causing local hikers and tourists when they take off from the cruise ships and fly up the glacier in Juneau. We should not be destroying park values to cater to visitors who are unwilling to seek more than the most superficial experience of the park. Chugach State Park has accommodated and will continue to accommodate compatible recreational development. Several campgrounds, a visitors center with a handicapped accessible nature trail, developed trailheads, unimproved roads and a system of trails already provide opportunities for a wide variety of users.

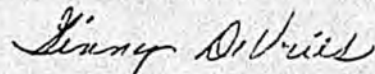
Park overflights are already a substantial problem: to exacerbate it makes no sense. Helicopter and airplane overflights are a serious problem in parks in the lower 48. Please keep commercial helicopter landings out of our state parks.

Jim If the legislature ratified the exchange that would add the 3,500 -acre greenbelt on both banks of Eagle River, The Alliance would like to see the area managed for maximum enjoyment of nonconsumptive users such as hikers, cross-country

skiers, and photographers.

Spectacular scenery and wildlife resources cannot be replaced; and our first obligation within the park system is to protect those values. We have a chance to make the right decisions for our parks in Alaska now. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ginny De Vries".

Ginny De Vries
Staff Representative



Alaska Center for the Environment
Suite 1A
411 West 4th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99501 274-3621

February 9, 1987

Bill Garry
Superintendent
Chugach State Park
PO Box 107001
Anchorage, AK 99501-7001

Dear Bill:

We are very strongly opposed to the granting of a guide/out-fitter permit, or concession contract, to Alaska Helicopter, Inc. for helicopter landings within Chugach State Park.

Military and commercial fly-overs of the park are already a problem, creating use conflicts and perhaps adversely affecting wildlife. Apparently illegal landings are a problem. In the lower 48, fixed-wing and helicopter overflights are a very substantial issue in national parks and other recreation areas. The March/April 1986 issue of National Parks magazine reported that in a 1983 study "resource managers at more than 50 national park areas throughout the country said they had significant overflight problems." The Grand Canyon situation is only the most serious and most highly publicized example.

Under these circumstances, exacerbating the present situation by allowing commercial helicopter landings where none are currently allowed would be a very serious mistake. From a tactical standpoint, a good proposed landing point has been chosen, since it should in fact "minimize, if not completely rule out, any impact of 'fly-over' of the park." From a precedential standpoint, however, the landing site is largely irrelevant. The Division of Parks should do nothing to encourage this very high impact use, and nothing which will make it easier for future proposals to be approved by building a constituency for helicopter tours which presently does not exist. The division has enough on its hands trying to deal with existing problems.

Nor are we at all persuaded that approving this proposal will help solve those problems. An Alaska Helicopter pilot landing on the edge of the park is going to be in no position to detect violations generally occurring much deeper into the park.

We are not persuaded by the argument that this proposal will "enhance public recreation for a broader range of people who cannot physically access a similar area or have the time in their vacation schedule to drive to a similar area." We should not be destroying park values to cater to people who are unwilling to drive up the Arctic Valley Road for a similar if not better view of the surrounding area, and a chance to briefly experience the tundra environment.

Whether or not there is any degradation to the environment is also largely irrelevant. There is in any case a very

substantial adverse impact on virtually all other users of the park who are within hearing range (generally a very long distance) of the helicopters. Those impacts are just as real and important as more tangible ones.

The existing Chugach State Park Master Plan does not require the approval of requests for helicopter landings in non-wilderness areas of the park; it gives the division the discretion to approve them or not. We now have several years of experience with substantial overflight problems in the Chugach and elsewhere. The earlier proposal for helicopter skiing in a wilderness zone was very controversial, and not just because of the location. We think granting this present request would be an improper exercise of your discretion. When the plan is revised, we will push very strongly for a prohibition against all helicopter use in the park except for essential administrative and research purposes.

It has been very discouraging in recent years to see the division open the park to new uses, that is ones that were not then allowed, when the experience in parks in the lower 48 has shown that substantial problems would be created as a result. We have an opportunity here to learn from both our local experience and that of park managers elsewhere.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Cliff Eames

Cliff Eames
Issues Director



Alaska Center for the Environment
Suite 1A
411 West 4th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska 99501 274-3621

February 11, 1987

Bill Garry
Superintendent
Chugach State Park
PO Box 107001
Anchorage, AK 99501-7001

RE: Helicopter Landings in
Chugach State Park

Dear Bill:

Having subsequently received and read the Division's 2/5/87 background memorandum on helicopter landings in Chugach State Park, we would like to briefly supplement the February 9 written comments that we submitted to you at the advisory board meeting.

We don't believe that it's quibbling to note that the memo impliedly and unnecessarily narrows the class of users that will be disturbed by the noise and mechanized intrusion of helicopters when it refers to people who "hike into" areas (p.2). This implies a substantial effort by folks who hike or backpack deep into the park. In fact, even most visitors who "walk" or "stroll" a short distance from the Glen Alps parking lot or the Eagle River Visitors Center, or who get no farther than the patio of the latter, are likely to be disturbed by helicopter over-flights.

We find a number of the arguments put forward in favor of allowing helicopter landings unpersuasive. We'll address them by referring to the numbers assigned in the memo.

1. Adequate access to the edge of the park (or deeper into it in the case of the Visitors Center) for the handicapped and the elderly can be provided by commercial bus or van with virtually no adverse impact on most other users. The access point most analogous to the Tri-Station River proposed landing site is the Arctic Valley Road, where views can be obtained of both the inlet and the interior of the park that are equally as good as those at Tri-Station, and where the tundra environment can be experienced. Other park access sites that would be suitable are the Visitors Center, Eklutna Lake, and if the impacts are acceptable and can be managed, perhaps Glen Alps, or Upper Huffman (where a virtually unused picnic site could be utilized). This being the case, there's no need for alternatives.
2. Yes, some revenues could be generated, but at what cost to the quality of the park experience for the vast majority of its users. Why not let a private landholder provide a landing site, as was suggested with a different intent at the advisory board meeting, and let public parks server purposes that can't be accomplished on private land?

3. As we said earlier, it is highly unlikely that legal operators landing on the fringe of the park will be able to provide information on illegal landings deeper into the park, where most of the latter occur. We're concerned by the second half of the Division's arguments, that it will be able to control altitudes and flightpaths over the park. We would have expected that if landings were to be allowed, they would occur only on the edge of the park, and that altitude and flightpaths "over the park" would therefore be irrelevant.
4. It's true that operators could be required to provide air time for park management activities. However, helicopters, because of their obtrusiveness, should in any case be used for administrative activities only when absolutely essential.
5. Yes, operators could assist in park rescues. But see #3 when it comes to reporting problems in the park and taking wildlife counts. Any helicopters that can provide this assistance are intruding too far into the park.
6. Yes, the park can contribute to the growth of the tourism industry, but not any type of tourism regardless of the impacts to the park. Tourists visiting by car or with friends should, through signing, brochures, etc., be able to easily locate areas like the Visitors Center, trailheads along Turnagain Arm and elsewhere, and campgrounds. Commercial buses or vans should be able to visit the Visitors Center, Arctic Valley, Eklutna Lake, and if the impacts are acceptable and can be managed, perhaps Glen Alps or Upper Huffman. The impacts of helicopter landings and overflights, however, are too great. Constituencies and political support should not be sought blindly for their own sake, but should be sought to foster the types of uses that only units of the state park system can provide. Would you build an Eagle River to Girdwood Road to gain constituents and support in the construction industry?

Private lands and multiple use state lands will be required to accommodate certain high impact activities. Units of the state park system are not multiple use lands, and are the only refuge and hope for the low impact and quiet user, and a less superficial interpretation and appreciation of Alaska's natural history. We will undoubtedly come to regret any failure to protect these important values.

Sincerely,

Cliff Eames

Cliff Eames
Issues Director

2136 E. 37th St., #C
Anchorage, AK 99508
May 21, 1987

Mr. Dave Stevens
Alaska DNR
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
Box 10-7001
Anchorage, AK 99510-7001

Dear Mr. Stevens,

I unfortunately could not attend the recent hearing on revising the Chugach State Park master plan. I therefore am writing you this letter to express my views on the long-range policy decisions you are considering.

When I first came to Anchorage, one of the first places I visited was Chugach State Park. I have visited the park many times since then to hike, climb, camp, and cross-country ski. Indeed, I use the park more often than any other recreational area in Alaska. I have always been impressed by the quality of this wilderness park, so close to over half of Alaska's population. In only 20 minutes I could be out my door and in a wilderness setting. Few cities in the U.S. have a resource like Chugach State Park. I feel very fortunate to be able to use this area. I therefore am concerned when proposals are made that threaten the qualities that make this park so special. Over the years I have written letters on several management issues for the park, including the park trail plan, snowmachine use, and helicopter landings most recently.

Now more proposals are being made to change the master plan, to open the park to new commercial uses. This greatly concerns me. Chugach State Park is already facing significant resource/user problems which require more time, money, and staff than the DNR can provide. The DNR cannot adequately police all of its campgrounds and backcountry use; it cannot monitor the level of use occurring in the park. Trails receiving heavy use are deteriorating due to lack of maintenance. As more and more people discover this park, resource impacts will increase. Developments on adjacent lands are closing off access to the park. Now, at a time of declining budgets, when the park staff cannot adequately address existing needs of park users and resource problems, the DNR is considering proposals to expand use of the park. These uses would benefit only a few groups--primarily nonlocal tourists and businesses. They would pose additional resource problems for the park staff. And I believe local residents who use the park year-round, would pay the costs of seeing their recreational experience degraded. I believe the park master plan is in need of updating, but I urge you to restrict additional commercial uses, such as downhill ski resorts and helicopter trips, and maintain the existing values of the park--do not permit additional developments and commercial uses in Chugach State Park.

Downhill Ski Resorts

I do not believe it is appropriate to amend the master plan to permit downhill skiing in Chugach State Park. In particular, I oppose the proposed ski resort in the South Fork of Eagle River. Southcentral Alaska currently has 3 downhill ski areas, with additional proposals being considered by the DNR for Hatcher Pass, the Forest Service in Chugach National Forest, and Alyeska in Birdwood. The DNR has not demonstrated the need for yet another downhill ski area in the region. The agency has little to no information on the potential impacts such a development would have on the natural resource values of the park (and the South Fork in particular). I am concerned about the impacts such a facility would have on the park's wildlife, including its wolves, Dall sheep and raptors. I am concerned about the impacts a ski area would have on adjacent wilderness lands in the South Fork and Ship Creek valleys. I question whether the DNR has considered the effect of a downhill ski area on existing park users. I know that I would tend to stay away from such a concentrated use area. And I wonder how many other valleys I use in the wilderness area would be indirectly affected by this development. I strongly

oppose changing the park's wilderness boundaries to accommodate any ski development. Finally, I question whether permitting a downhill ski resort would violate the DNR's management responsibilities for Chugach State Park. The agency's brochure states that the the Division of State Park's responsibility "is providing for the recreational needs of the public, while maintaining the wilderness values that make Chugach valuable as a park." I submit that the DNR has failed to clearly show that providing for downhill ski areas would meet the recreational needs of the public. I further submit that permitting a ski resort would run counter to protecting the wilderness values of the park. I therefore urge you to revise the master plan to prohibit downhill ski area developments in Chugach State Park.

Commercial Helicopter Use

I already have expressed my views on this question in a letter to Mr. Neil Johnson, dated 3/11/87. I believe this noisy form of motorized use is not appropriate for Chugach State Park; I again urge you not to permit helicopter landings in the park. The park master plan should be revised to prohibit commercial helicopter landings.

The Eagle River Greenbelt

Assuming the greenbelt is added to the park, I urge the DNR to carefully plan how this valuable area is developed. The natural resource values of the greenbelt, first and foremost, should be protected. If funds become available (and other resource problems in the park are addressed), I believe carefully sited trails and access points to Eagle River can be developed. This would permit additional recreational use, increasing the value of this area. Again, I urge the DNR not to overextend itself, to seek out new projects while existing problems go unattended.

In closing, I believe Chugach State Park is one of Southcentral Alaska's jewels a wilderness resource that will only increase in value with time. The park already provides opportunities for a variety of recreational users (hunters, fishermen, hikers, climbers, cross-country skiers, picnickers, mountain bikers, equestrians, campers, snowmobilers, etc.). Many Alaskans and tourists enjoy the park as it presently exists. But Chugach State Park cannot be all things to all people. Bit by bit I see the park's wilderness values being eroded with increasing use. At some point the DNR must say "no" to additional development. If the DNR continues to provide for more developments, more use, we will lose many of the qualities that make this park so special. I once again urge you to protect and maintain the park's wilderness values--values that I and many of the citizens of this state, the primary owners and users of Chugach State Park, want to enjoy today and the future. I urge the DNR to live up to its own words in its Chugach State Park brochure: "Caring for the park now will insure that many generations in the future will be able to enjoy a wilderness of today's quality." I agree that the park master plan should be modified--modified to protect the park's existing wilderness qualities.

Thank you for your time. Please keep me informed on future issues concerning the management of Chugach State Park.

Sincerely,


Michael Rees

c.c. Commissioner Judy Brady
Governor Steve Cooper

5-13-87

Dear Mr. Stephens,

It WAS my idea to circulate this little sheet.

At the time I thought I might get 5 or 6 people to sign, however since then I have received quite a few requests for copies to be circulated in other neighborhoods. I hope they all get mailed to you in time to do some good as I would love to see all that money be spent here in Eagle River & it would be AN ENORMOUS help to me personally to have a place so close for my family and visitors & visitors & visitors & tourist & friends (over)

WJG
Jack
AK
Dave
to Peter P.

505 W. Second Ave. #1
Anchorage, AK 99501
May 20, 1987

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Box 10-7001
Anchorage, AK 99510-7001

Re: Chugach State Park Master Plan

Dear Director:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Chugach State Park Master Plan. I understand that the state is considering whether to allow the development of downhill ski resorts inside the park. I have the following comments about such a proposal:

1. The park has been specially set aside for specific purposes and protection. Commercial development, such as a ski resort, is not consistent with that special designation. If the state is going to support a ski resort, undesignated state land is a more appropriate location than park land. I oppose the ski resort proposed for the South Fork of Eagle River and any other commercial ski development inside Chugach State Park.

2. In addition to that philosophical/legal issue, I am concerned about the very real impacts on the park and its users if DNR persists in its Chamber of Commerce charade. A ski resort anywhere in the park would inevitably disturb wildlife, but the South Fork of Eagle River is particularly important and sensitive because of heavy use by one of the park's few wolf packs, sheep and raptors. In addition to disturbing the wildlife, the noise and visual impact of a ski resort would diminish the value of the entire area for other recreational users.

3. I oppose any changes to the wilderness boundaries of the park to accommodate ski areas. It makes little sense to designate something wilderness, only to change the designation whenever an investor flashes some money in the state's face. I prefer the green of vegetation to the green of dollar bills in our parks. Further, I am concerned that a ski area in the South Fork of Eagle River would have negative impacts on nearby wilderness areas.

I urge you to amend the Master Plan to prohibit commercial ski development inside the park, while continuing to provide for compatible recreational development that allows everyone to enjoy the park's existing natural resources.

I would also like to take this opportunity to support adoption of a ban on helicopter landings inside the park. Having attended and testified at the recent hearing on this issue, I believe such an addition to the Master Plan would accurately reflect the wishes of the park's users, as so eloquently expressed at that hearing.

Very truly yours,

Patti J. Saunders

Patti J. Saunders

cc: Judy Brady
Steve Cowper

Jack
A/B
Dave
Pete P.

646 West 21st Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
May 19, 1987

Division of Parks and
Outdoor Recreation
Box 10-7001
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-7001

Dear Division of Parks:

I am writing in regard to several issues affecting Chugach State Park. First, I do not believe that it is appropriate to devote park land to a major ski resort in the South Fork of Eagle River. I believe this area is naturally ill-suited for a ski resort. Also, more appropriate areas that would not require the dedication of park lands are available, including Hatcher Pass. Second, I am opposed to helicopter landings or, other mechanized and motorized commercial uses of the park. The sound of helicopters would reverberate through the hills and detract from the natural qualities of the park.

Finally, I am in favor of park user fees so long as the revenues are dedicated to park maintenance and enforcement of park regulations.

I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

ATKINSON, CONWAY & GAGNON

By

Neil T. O'Donnell

NTO:jm

cc: Commissioner Judith M. Brady
Honorable Steve Cowper

to go skiing without
had to drive all the
way to Girdwood.

Marguerite Calhoun
19545 High Bluff Dr
Eagle River, AK 99577

ACTION ALERT!!!!!!

STATE OF ALASKA, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES HAS SET THE TIME AND PLACE FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS REGARDING THE USE OF CHUGACH STATE PARK FOR SKI RESORT DEVELOPMENTS.

These are hearings on the Master Plan For the State Park, and the findings will be incorporated in the Master Plan and will become State Park official policy for how to use the Chugach State Park in the future. THIS IS THE TIME TO SPEAK UP IF YOU WISH TO HAVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA OF THE KIND PROPOSED BY ROGNER TOURISTIK.

If the public input at these hearings are overwhelmingly against such developments, then they may be barred from happening forever hereafter.

If you favor developments along this line, do not be deceived to believe that it will happen without your expressed support.

This is also the time to voice concerns that you may have and want addressed in the Master plan. The Park is also asking for input about how to manage and develop the Eagle River Greenbelt and how to handle helicopter landings in the park.

There will be public hearings in the following locations and times:

May 20th : Service High School theater, Anchorage 7pm

May 25th: Eagle River Library, Eagle River 7 pm.

May 27th, Girdwood Community Hall 7 pm.

**BE THERE, OR SEND YOUR WRITTEN COMMENTS TO:
Dave Stephens, Alaska State Parks,
Box 107001, Anchorage, Ak. 99510-7001**

**REMEMBER,
ONLY THE PEOPLE THAT SPEAK UP WILL BE HEARD**

DAVE STEPHENS
ALASKA STATE PARKS
BOX 107001
ANCHORAGE, AK 99510-7001

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

WE THE UNDERSIGNED WOULD LIKE IT TO KNOWN THAT WE ARE IN
FAVOR OF USING THE CHUGACH STATE PARK FOR SKI DEVELOPMENTS.

Ronald Row P.O. Box 671728 Chugiak AK 99567

John P. Culhane 3609 Bonifacio Rd Anchorage, AK 99504

Jillison Utter 3031 Bennett Ave Anchorage AK 99517

Mina L. Hall 948 W. 58th Ave Anchorage AK 99518

Jan Ford 14140 Oxford Dr Anchorage AK 99503

Josh Gussner 16845 Mercy Dr Eagle River AK 99577

Lynn Jellen Box 873971 Wasilla AK 99687

Clare 10207 100th St Anchorage AK 99504

Bombardier 1134 Irene St Anchorage AK 99504

Tim K... ..

John

Steven W. J... .. SED Box 9077 Palmer AK 99645

Alph 1300 AK 99637

RK K... .. 3031 BRIDEL W. ANCH. AK 99509

... .. POP 67543 Chugiak AK 99567

... .. Anchorage AK 99518

Bill SRP Box 2484 Chugiak AK 99567

... .. 9000 Noble Cir. Anchorage 99508

Lee 6301

Robert 3230

John Miller 2009 West 46th Anchorage AK 99507