

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1987-1988 8672  
4916 HRES HB 93 (FILE 1)

88

# Public sentiment benefits river-use bill

By John Quinley  
Times Writer

A bill to establish recreation as the priority use on six Susitna Valley rivers is benefitting from a surge of public interest sparked by a state proposal to sell timber from the area.

The recreational rivers bill has been considered by the legislature in each of the last four years. In 1987, the bill, sponsored by Rep. Sam Cotten, D-Eagle River, passed the House on a 30-9 vote but stalled in the Senate.

After two major amendments — calling for the establishment of a citizens advisory board and increased cooperation with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough — the bill is finding new life in the Senate.

A public hearing in the Community and Regional Affairs Committee is planned Tuesday afternoon, and the chairman of the Resources Committee has indicated the bill should go to the floor for a vote by the full Senate, Cotten said.

The bill would set aside 260,000 acres of state land along the Talachullitna, Talkeetna and Little Susitna rivers and Kroto-Moose, Alexander and Lake creeks. Recreation would be the highest priority use in the river corridors, which would generally extend one-half mile on either side of the water.

Other uses, including oil and gas exploration and mining, could take place in the corridors, but only if they were found to be compatible with recreation, Cot-

ten said. The legislation has also been amended to prohibit any timber harvesting in the corridors until management plans for the rivers have been completed.

The "compatibility test hasn't been terribly helpful in the Lower 48" in excluding development activities, such as grazing, said Cliff Eames, issues director for the Alaska Center for the Environment. The organization has pushed for a full ban on commercial timber harvest inside the

See Rivers, page B-3

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## Rivers: Recreation

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river corridors.

Environmental groups opposed the bill last year, saying it allowed too many non-recreational uses in the river corridors.

Cotten said the bill enjoys strong support among his constituents. "There's been an overwhelming surge of interest in the bill. The timber sale said what might happen if we don't legislatively designate the areas."

Cotten said a survey taken by Rep. Randy Phillips, R-Eagle River, showed that those responding favored the bill by a 7-1 margin.

The timber sale proposed by the state Division of Forestry proposed to allow cutting on about 100,000 acres of Susitna Valley land. The sale has been

postponed because of heavy opposition to the loosely defined plan, which sought to provide a long-term supply of timber to a manufacturer in exchange for the construction of an industrial plant.

The bill would also establish an advisory board to assist with the drafting of management plans for the river corridors. The board would represent a cross-section of users, such as hunters, fishermen, government officials and property owners.

"I can't say we answered all the questions people raised," said Sen. Arliss Sturgulewski, R-Anchorage, who heads the Community and Regional Affairs Committee.

Sturgulewski said legislators have received a tremendous number of comments about the timber sale and land use issues in the Susitna Valley.

# Sportsmen tout economic gains from recreation

By CRAIG MEDRED  
Daily News reporter

Wilderness recreation is a multimillion-dollar bonanza for Alaska's economy, but it could easily be destroyed by a rush to exploit resources, representatives of several recreation groups warned on Thursday.

In a 45-page report prepared for presentation to the legislature, the Alaska Sportfishing Association, the Alaska Professional Sportfishing Association and the Alaska Hotel & Motel Association urged the state to protect and promote wild lands — particularly undeveloped rivers with good fishing. Tourism income would grow as a result, the report said.

It noted a 1985 study that showed fishing and hunting on the Nushagak River in Bristol Bay generated \$25 million in business for the region.

"That's just one river," said Tom Elias, president of the Alaska Sportfishing Association. "Sportfishing is a viable industry in this state. We can make a lot of money. Unfortunately, those guys in Juneau (Alaska's legislators) are not bright enough to see it."

His comments came as state lawmakers once again debated legislation to protect six recreational rivers in southcentral Alaska — a bill that has languished in the legislature since 1986 — and another bill that would permit private firms to log timber on state land.

The sportfishing groups have pushed for the recreational rivers bill and opposed the timber bill. They said the study, prepared primarily by Anchorage attorney and fishing guide Jeff Parker, buttresses their view.

"If the conclusions of this study are correct, it is a direct challenge to many so-called resource development advocates," said a cover letter attached to the study. "This study

## STUDY: State benefits economically from recreation

Continued from Page B-1

appears to put them on the wrong side of jobs, commerce, economic development and sensible state policy."

Parker said the study is imperfect and needs further analysis. But he said its conclusion is valid.

"I think there's a premise there that's probably good," added Tom Hawkins, director of the Division of Land and Water Management in the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

Hawkins and the various fishermen's groups lately have been at odds over state plans for 100,000 acres of logging in the Susitna Valley north of Anchorage.

Despite that, Hawkins said

compromise is possible.

"You've got 1.7 million acres of forested land up there," he said. "I would not endorse a viewpoint that it's all or none."

The recreational rivers bill calls for development-free corridors along the most important salmon streams in the area. Logging would not have to undermine sportfishing and tourism, Hawkins said.

His agency has joined anglers in backing the recreational rivers bill.

"I think (the study) will help draw attention to the problem," said Ned Farquhar, an aide to Rep. Sam Cotten, D-Eagle River, a main sponsor of the recreational rivers bill. "These are good ideas. (Parker's) right on with a lot

of his comments."

Among the study's conclusions:

- Wilderness-dependent recreation stimulates jobs more efficiently than any industry but oil.

- Wilderness recreation is highly marketable in a world quickly running out of wilderness.

- There is a limit to the number of people who can participate in wilderness recreation in a given area without causing overcrowding, and when that happens the "price structure within the industry erodes and total commerce declines substantially."

The study notes that 14,000 visitors to the wild Nushagak River spent \$25 million in

1985, while a 1986 study done for the state showed 333,000 visitors to the congested Kenai paid out only \$18 million more.

- Alaska has a near monopoly on marketable wilderness fisheries, and that monopoly will only grow in value as wilderness fisheries disappear elsewhere. Parker, however, noted that other governments have already noted the demand in wilderness fishing and moved to market themselves better than Alaska.

- "Where wilderness cannot be used to promote quality sport fisheries ... the market requires a price reduction of one-third to two-thirds for otherwise comparable recreation and services," the study said.

# Anchorage Daily News



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(To) Ned Farguhar  
Rep. Cottonwood-CMD  
465-3711

FROM: S. Piper  
Cagle River  
694-6683

## A bill too weak to bother with

Here's one that falls under the heading of "Why bother?" Spurred on by the proposed Sualtina Valley timber sale, the Alaska Legislature has renewed work on a bill that supposedly protects six popular Sualtina Valley fishing rivers from the hazards of development. But this "recreation rivers" bill is so weak the waterways would almost be better off without it.

The problem: Legislators just can't bring themselves to say no to such intensive activities as mining or logging. Those uses would be allowed along the river corridors as long as they're "compatible" with the rivers and authorized by a management plan.

Supporters say those provisions are strong enough to preclude damage from mining or logging. But there's good cause to wonder. The bill asks Alaskans to have faith that fearless bureaucrats will make the tough choices necessary to protect the rivers. After the way the state forestry crew ran amok with the Sualtina timber sale, no wonder some folks are worried.

The bill does have one advantage: It would stop any timber sales along the rivers until a management plan is done. In the meantime, though, the bill would actually weaken other protections. River corridors are now closed to new mining claims by administrative order; the bill would open them up again.

These narrow corridors of protection — a half mile on either side — just don't have enough room to tolerate development without harming the rivers. People from around the world come to the Sualtina Valley to sample the wilderness and pursue Alaska's legendary fish. They aren't coming to rub elbows with bulldozers and timber trucks.

A multimillion-dollar economy depends on these rivers. They deserve better protection than the legislature appears ready to give them.

one page only

Sam -  
misquote + I thought  
she wasn't going to use  
my name - anyway Ned

# Environment

## Recreation rivers bill sailing toward House vote

By CONNIE BRANDEL

Frontiersman staff

**MAT-SU**—The latest draft of a bill to establish six recreation rivers in the Susitna Valley for public use is floating forward in the Legislature on a current of favorable public opinion.

HB 93, sponsored by Rep. Sam Cotten of Eagle River, moved out of the House Resources Committee Wednesday and was expected to come to a quick vote in the Finance Committee. It could come to vote on the floor of the House by next week.

The bill would establish a corridor for public use along six waterways in Southcentral Alaska: the Talkeetna, Little Su and Talachullina rivers, and Lake, Alexander and Krotomoose creeks. Under a management plan developed for each area, the Department of Natural Resources can regulate "compatible activities" such as use of motorized vehicles, logging and mining.

The bill has a yearly price tag of \$134,000 attached, primarily for the development of management plans, Rep. Curt Menard said. The fiscal note is for a three year period.

Menard said he is backing the bill in its present form, which contains provision for mining that he said he was waiting...

Comments supporting the

latest draft of the bill outnumbered those opposing it at a statewide teleconference Tuesday. Borough residents tried to sink earlier versions of the bill, claiming it would "lock up" lands in public ownership.

The Borough Assembly passed a resolution opposing the original draft of the bill. Following Tuesday's meeting, Mayor Dorothy Jones said the assembly probably would reconsider its position in light of the recent revisions.

Following the testimony, Rep. Curt Menard of Wasilla said his position changed from undecided to support of the proposal.

Ned Farquhar, a member of Cotten's staff, said the outlook for this bill is better than last year's proposal, which was killed in the Senate.

A lot of user groups, like boaters who fear too much regulation, are opposing it at present, and the Valley seems not concerned about it this year, Farquhar said.

Speaking against the proposal at the teleconference were several private citizens from the Mat-Su Borough. Testifying in favor of the bill were representatives of statewide conservation groups, user groups such as sport fishermen, and persons with tourism-related businesses

located on the rivers.

Beverly Frost of Palmer said she was concerned about the limitations the bill would place on private enterprise.

"I'm totally opposed to the land classifications," she said. "There's too much socialistic classification of land. With the federal, state and borough lands, there is more than enough land for recreational activities."

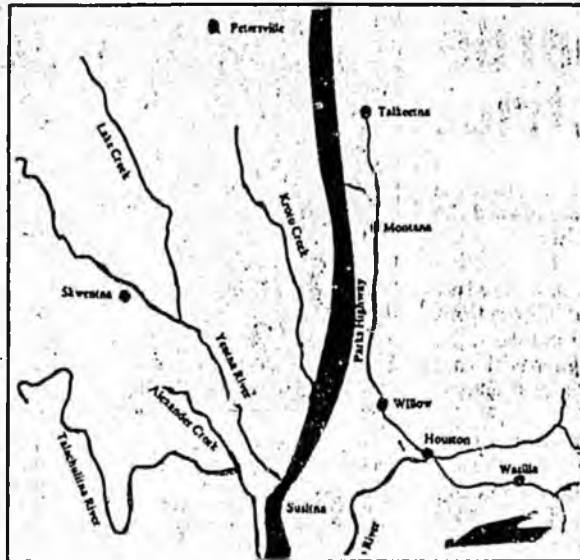
She said the argument of preserving the rivers for tourism is a "smokescreen to lock up the land so there's no potential for economic development. Tourism is only one way to promote development, and that's very seasonal."

Clarence Furbush of Palmer pointed out that most of the land set aside in the corridors is inaccessible by road.

"It's available only to those with expensive boats or planes or by charters," he said.

About a dozen people testified in favor of the bill, hedging their remarks with suggested changes in the language covering mining and mineral exploration near the rivers.

Most of the speakers supporting the bill suggested changing the phrase "the (DNR) commissioner shall allow" compatible activities to "the commissioner may allow"



"If there's going to be mining, we'd like to see rules that water will come out of the operation as clean as it was taken out of the river," Stickle said.

Steve Mahay, operator of a Talkeetna riverboat service, said some people are concerned the regulations may be similar to those on the Kenai River, where all power boats were banned. He asked that a cross-section of user groups have input to the management plan.

Mahay also pointed out that planned cuts in the state fish and game personnel would leave any new rules unenforced. "Rather than cutting fish and game people, they should be doubled," he said.

"Look at the cost to the state and federal government to help them out. That's a very significant investment, and the money could have been used for something else in these hard economic times," Mahay said.

Carl Dixon, a guide from the Lake Creek area, termed it "extremely important" to maintain the closure to new mining operations that are "completely incompatible" with recreation rivers.

"We need to sell aesthetic value, not the murky water, survey flags, Blazo cans and visqueen that we see now," he said.

those activities.

Jeff Parker, representing the Alaska Wildlife Federation, pointed out that the word "may" gives the department discretion as to whether certain activities are compatible on specific rivers.

Bob Stickle, a guide on the Talkeetna River, said "most

people up here support a management plan... the rivers are getting more use and parameters need to be set."

He and several others who testified cited a mining operation several years ago on Clear Creek which muddied the water and spoiled a season of sport fishing.

### Budget reserve funds, staff cuts at borough to keep mill levy low



### Palmer has difficulty collecting

ADN 5-1-87

## Cotten withdraws river bills

The Associated Press

A bill aimed at setting aside 260,000 acres of state land along six rivers near Anchorage for recreational use and activities such as mining and oil exploration was withdrawn Thursday by Rep. Sam Cotten.

The Eagle River Democrat, who sponsored the legislation, said he requested it be left in a Senate committee until January. "In the interim, we need to clear up misconceptions about the bill. There's a lot of misinformation that's gotten around," Cotten said.

The bill, opposed by environmental and development groups, would set the land aside along the Talachulitna, Talkeetna and Little Susitna rivers, and Kroto-Moose, Alexander and Lake creeks.

The legislation passed the House earlier this month. It would require the Department of Natural Resources to

manage the land for recreation. But it also would allow a variety of non-recreational uses, such as mining, oil and gas development, gravel mining, timber harvest and other commercial activities.



Cotten said, "I'm disappointed, but not discouraged," Cotten said. "Recreational use of those rivers remains my highest priority. We need to avoid a situation like the one that developed on the Kenai, where a crisis occurred because no action took place until it was too late."

Cotten aide Ned Farquhar said the twin goals of accommodating recreation and development made the bill difficult to sell. "The sticking points keep changing. The bill

is one that different interest groups are becoming aware of, then we address their concerns, then another comes along," Farquhar said.

"A lot of people with powerboats are under the misimpression that the purpose of the bill is to restrict their activities," Cotten said. "The owners of large boats saw what happened on the Kenai River and don't want that to happen" on the Susitna Valley streams.

Cotten said the bill's intent was to keep the streams and their adjoining land corridors managed for recreational use, but to also allow compatible non-recreational uses.

"Some people would prefer putting the land into private hands," Cotten said.

He said the public interest is best served by keeping the land in state ownership.

The bill won support from the Alaska Outdoors Council.

hills

# Cotten withdraws river bill to clear up misconceptions

Reprinted from yesterday's latest editions.

By John Quinley  
Times Writer

A controversial bill aimed at protecting recreational values along six rivers near Anchorage was withdrawn Thursday by its sponsor.

Rep. Sam Cotten, D-Eagle River, said he requested the bill be left in a Senate committee until January. "In the interim, we need to clear up misconceptions about the bill. There's a lot of misinformation that's gotten around," he said.

The bill, which has been opposed by environmental and development groups, would set aside 260,000 acres of state land along the Talachulitna, Talkeetna and Little Susitna rivers and Krotomoose, Alexander and Lake creeks.

The legislation, which passed the House on a 30-9 vote earlier this month, would require the Department of Natural Resources to manage the area for recreation. But it also would allow a variety of non-recreational uses on the land along the rivers, such as mining, oil and gas development, gravel mining, timber harvest and other commercial activities.

"I'm disappointed, but not discouraged," Cotten said. "Recreational use of those rivers remains my highest priority. We need to avoid a situation like the one that developed on the Kenai, where a crisis occurred because no action took place until it was too late."

The twin goals of accommodating recreation and development made the bill difficult to sell.

"The sticking points keep changing. The bill is

one that different interest groups are becoming aware of, then we address their concerns, then another comes along," said Ned Farquhar, an aide to Cotten.

"A lot of people with powerboats are under the misimpression that the purpose of the bill is to restrict their activities," Cotten said. "The owners of large boats saw what happened on the Kenai River and don't want that to happen" on the Susitna Valley streams.

Cotten said the intent of the bill is to keep the streams and their adjoining land corridors managed for recreational use, but to also allow compatible non-recreational uses.

"Some people would prefer putting the land into private hands," Cotten said. He said the public interest is best served by keeping the land in state ownership, allowing public access and keeping the area open to camping, hunting and fishing.

The Mat-Su Property Owners Association has called the legislation another "lock-up" of property that would result in undue government regulation.

The final House bill was opposed by the Sierra Club and seven other conservation organizations, according to Jack Hession, Alaska field representative for the club.

"There are too many incompatible uses allowed," he said. "It was so lacking in protection that those rivers are better off without it. There is more of a measure of protection under the Susitna Area Plan," a general plan for state lands in the area.

5-0230B  
Bradley  
3/5/87

Original sponsors: Cotten, Pourchot,  
Rieger, et al.

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 93 (Resources)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing six recreation rivers; and pro-  
7 viding for an effective date."

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

9 \* Section 1. AS 41.23 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 ARTICLE 3. RECREATION RIVERS.

11 Sec. 41.23.200. PURPOSES. (a) The purpose of AS 41.23.200 -  
12 41.23.280 is to establish recreation rivers on state-owned land and  
13 water and establish guidelines for the management of the recreation  
14 river corridors.

15 (b) The goals and objectives by which a recreation river corri-  
16 dor shall be managed include

17 (1) the protection and maintenance of the fish and wildlife  
18 populations and habitat on a sustained-yield basis;

19 (2) conservation of the scenic and natural integrity of the  
20 recreation river corridor and continued recreational and economic uses  
21 by the public including hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, hiking,  
22 snowmachining, skiing, dog mushing, and wildlife viewing;

23 (3) management of upland activities within the recreation  
24 river corridor for the protection and maintenance of water quality and  
25 stream flow; and

26 (4) accommodation of access, tourism, and economic uses of  
27 the river corridor.

28 ~~Sec 41.23.205. COMPATIBLE ACTIVITIES.~~  
~~(b)(1)~~ The commissioner shall allow an activity when compatible  
29 with ~~AS 41.23.200~~ ~~(b)(1) - (4) [of this section]~~ including, but not limited to

- 1 (1) use of aircraft, powerboats, snowmachines, all-terrain  
2 vehicles, and other motorized transportation;  
3 (2) harvest of wood products;  
4 (3) mineral and oil and gas leasing;  
5 (4) sand and gravel extraction for public use; and  
6 (5) public use facilities.

7 Sec. 41.23.210. GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF RECREATION RIVER CORRI-  
8 DORS. (a) The state-owned land and water within the area established  
9 as a recreation river corridor under AS 41.23.280(b) is assigned to  
10 the commissioner for management consistent with the purposes of  
11 AS 41.23.200 - 41.23.280.

12 (b) The commissioner shall reserve to the state under AS 46.15.-  
13 145 an instream flow or level for the water in the rivers described in  
14 AS 41.23.280(b) that is adequate to achieve the purposes of AS 41.23.-  
15 200 - 41.23.280.

16 (c) The provisions of AS 41.23.200 - 41.23.280 do not affect the  
17 authority of

18 (1) the Department of Fish and Game, the Board of Fisher-  
19 ies, the Board of Game, or the Guide Licensing and Control Board under  
20 AS 08.54, AS 16, or AS 41.99.010;

21 (2) the Department of Environmental Conservation under  
22 AS 46.03; or

23 (3) state agencies and municipalities under AS 44.19.145-  
24 (a)(11) and AS 46.40.100.

25 (d) The commissioner may not restrict the use of weapons, in-  
26 cluding firearms, within a recreation river corridor except in sites  
27 of high public use such as picnic areas, boat ramps, camping grounds,  
28 and parking areas when the commissioner determines that the use of  
29 weapons constitutes a threat to public safety. Except as provided in

1 this subsection, the commissioner may not restrict fishing, hunting,  
2 or trapping within a recreation river corridor.

3 (e) The commissioner may lease land competitively within a  
4 recreation river corridor for the construction and operation of a  
5 public use facility.

6 (f) The commissioner may not restrict commercial or private  
7 activities on state-owned land within the boundaries of a recreation  
8 river corridor existing on the effective date of this Act unless the  
9 commissioner determines that the activity is incompatible with  
10 AS 41.23.200(b).

11 Sec. 41.23.220. MANAGEMENT PLAN. (a) After consultation with  
12 local authorities and state agencies, including the commissioner of  
13 fish and game, the commissioner shall adopt and may revise a manage-  
14 ment plan for a recreation river corridor. The commissioner shall  
15 comply with the notice requirements of AS 38.05.945 and shall hold at  
16 least one public hearing in the municipalities and communities near  
17 the recreation river corridor and with the local fish and game ad-  
18 visory committee in the area in the adoption or revision of a man-  
19 agement plan. The management plan shall establish long-range guide-  
20 lines and management practices consistent with AS 41.23.200(b) to

21 (1) protect the fish and wildlife habitat and the free-  
22 flowing nature of the river;

23 (2) identify special recreational values and manage the  
24 level of intensity and types of recreational uses;

25 (3) designate compatible land uses and management guide-  
26 lines for associated development;

27 (4) manage commercial activities or development, including  
28 recreational services such as guiding;

29 (5) provide for necessary public services, such as

1 transportation and utility corridors, public safety, and law enforce-  
2 ment;

3 (6) allow reasonable and necessary access to public land  
4 and private inholdings and to land beyond the recreation river corri-  
5 dor;

6 (7) establish criteria and timelines to review future  
7 proposed uses for compatibility with AS 41.23.200(b);

8 (8) establish guidelines and setback restrictions for an  
9 activity occurring under AS 41.23.200(c) or for mineral and oil and  
10 gas leasing under AS 41.23.250(b) - (d).

11 (b) The commissioner may adopt regulations necessary to imple-  
12 ment the plan..

13 (c) A management plan adopted or revised by the commissioner  
14 under (a) of this section shall be submitted to the legislature for  
15 review within the first 10 days of the first regular session of the  
16 legislature to convene after its adoption or revision by the commis-  
17 sioner.

18 Sec. 41.23.230. MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL LAND. If a municipality  
19 commits land for inclusion in a recreation river corridor established  
20 under AS 41.23.280(b), the commissioner shall obtain the concurrence  
21 of the municipality to the management plan proposed under AS 41.23.220  
22 as it applies to municipal land. The commissioner shall cooperate, at  
23 the request of a municipality, in planning for municipal land adjacent  
24 to a recreation river corridor.

25 Sec. 41.23.240. ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND. (a) The com-  
26 missioner may acquire in the name of the state land that is adjacent  
27 to or located within the land described in AS 41.23.280(b) by pur-  
28 chase, lease, gift, or exchange.

29 (b) The commissioner may not acquire land for inclusion in a

1 recreation river corridor by eminent domain.

2 Sec. 41.23.250. APPLICATION OF PUBLIC LAND LAWS. (a) Except to  
3 the extent that a provision is inconsistent with a provision of  
4 AS 41.23.200 - 41.23.280, the provisions of AS 38.04, AS 38.05,  
5 AS 38.35, and AS 38.95 apply to land described in AS 41.23.280(b).

6 (b) Except as provided in (c) of this section, the state-owned  
7 land and water within a recreation river corridor is closed to mineral  
8 location and entry under AS 38.05.195 and to disposal of leasable  
9 minerals under AS 38.05.150 - 38.05.175.

10 (c) Except on state-owned land below ordinary high-water, the  
11 commissioner may permit mineral prospecting under AS 38.05.245 and,  
12 upon a subsequent discovery, mineral leasing under AS 38.05.205 in an  
13 area within a recreation river corridor if leasing is allowed under a  
14 management plan that has been adopted by the commissioner. The com-  
15 missioner shall establish appropriate conditions in permits, operating  
16 plans, and leases to protect the environment and prevent degradation  
17 of the recreational uses of the river.

18 (d) The state-owned land and water within a recreation river  
19 corridor is available for oil and gas leasing subject to conditions in  
20 an adopted management plan.

21 (e) The commissioner of administration shall separately account  
22 for funds collected under this section and deposited in the general  
23 fund. The annual estimated balance in the account may be appropriated  
24 by the legislature to the department to carry out the purposes of this  
25 chapter.

26 Sec. 41.23.260. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS. (a) The  
27 commissioner may enter into a cooperative management agreement for the  
28 management of land and water described in AS 41.23.280(b) or of other  
29 adjacent land and water with a federal agency, a municipality of the

1 state, another agency of the state, or a private landowner.

2 (b) The commissioner may transfer the management of a specific  
3 site within a recreation river corridor described in AS 41.23.280(b)  
4 to a state agency to assist in the development of a facility or to  
5 carry out a program authorized by law.

6 (c) The commissioner may not manage a recreation river corridor  
7 described in AS 41.23.280(b) as a unit of the state park system. The  
8 commissioner may assign management of a recreation site such as a  
9 campground or a boat launch to the division of parks and may adopt  
10 regulations allowing the division of parks to manage recreation activ-  
11 ities in a recreation river corridor.

12 Sec. 41.23.270. ESTABLISHMENT OF RECREATION RIVER CORRIDORS.  
13 State-owned land and water may be established as a recreation river  
14 corridor only by the legislature.

15 Sec. 41.23.280. DESIGNATED RIVERS. (a) Subject to valid exist-  
16 ing rights, the state-owned land and water established as a recreation  
17 river corridor under (b) of this section is reserved as a special  
18 purpose area under art. VIII, sec. 7, Constitution of the State of  
19 Alaska, and is not subject to surface disposal under AS 38.

20 (b) The land and water presently owned by the state and all land  
21 and water acquired by the state in the future, including shore and  
22 submerged land, that lies within the following described parcels are  
23 established as recreation rivers:

24 (1) Talachulitna State Recreation River

25 (A) Township 16 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian

26 Section 6: W1/2

27 Section 7: NW1/4

28 (B) Township 16 North, Range 11 West, Seward Meridian

29 Section 1: E1/2, SW1/4

1 Section 2: S1/2, NW1/4  
2 Section 3  
3 Section 11: N1/2  
4 Section 12: N1/2  
5 (C) Township 17 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian  
6 Section 6: W1/2, W1/2SE1/4  
7 Section 7  
8 Sections 18 - 19  
9 Sections 30 - 31  
10 (D) Township 17 North, Range 11 West, Seward Meridian  
11 Section 1: E1/2E1/2  
12 Section 3: W1/2  
13 Sections 4 - 5  
14 Section 6: S1/2  
15 Sections 7 - 8  
16 Section 9: N1/2, SE1/4  
17 Section 10  
18 Section 14: W1/2  
19 Section 15  
20 Section 17: NW1/4  
21 Section 18: N1/2, SW1/4  
22 Section 19: NW1/4NW1/4  
23 Section 22  
24 Section 23: W1/2  
25 Section 25: E1/2E1/2  
26 Section 26: W1/2  
27 Section 27  
28 Section 34  
29 Section 35: W1/2

1 (E) Township 17 North, Range 12 West, Seward Meridian

2 Section 7: S1/2

3 Section 12: S1/2

4 Section 13

5 Section 14: S1/2

6 Section 15: S1/2

7 Section 16: S1/2

8 Sections 17 - 18

9 Section 20: E1/2

10 Sections 21 - 23

11 Section 24: N1/2, N1/2S1/2

12 (F) Township 17 North, Range 13 West, Seward Meridian

13 Section 9: S1/2

14 Section 10: S1/2

15 Section 11: S1/2

16 Section 12: S1/2

17 Sections 13 - 16

18 Section 24: N1/2

19 (G) Township 18 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian

20 Section 18: SW1/4SW1/4

21 Section 19: NW1/4, S1/2NE1/4, E1/2SW1/4, SE1/4

22 Section 20: S1/2, NE1/4

23 Section 21

24 Section 22: W1/2W1/2

25 Section 26: W1/2SW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4

26 Section 27: S1/2, S1/2N1/2

27 Sections 28 - 29

28 Section 30: E1/2, E1/2W1/2

29 Section 31: NE1/4, S1/2NW1/4, NE1/4NW1/4,

- 1 SW1/4, W1/2SE1/4
- 2 Section 33: NE1/4NE1/4
- 3 Section 34: N1/2NW1/4
- 4 (H) Township 18 North, Range 11 West, Seward Meridian
- 5 Section 6: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, E1/2SE1/4
- 6 Section 7
- 7 Section 11: E1/2SE1/4
- 8 Section 12: SW1/4SW1/4
- 9 Section 13: NW1/4, E1/2SW1/4, SE1/4
- 10 Section 16: SW1/4
- 11 Sections 17 - 18
- 12 Section 19: NE1/4
- 13 Section 20: N1/2, SE1/4
- 14 Section 21: W1/2
- 15 Section 24: E1/2NE1/4
- 16 Section 28
- 17 Section 29: E1/2
- 18 Section 32: E1/2
- 19 Section 33
- 20 (I) Township 18 North, Range 12 West, Seward Meridian
- 21 Sections 1 - 2
- 22 Section 12: W1/2, SE1/4
- 23 (J) Township 19 North, Range 12 West, Seward Meridian
- 24 Section 3: N1/2, SW1/4
- 25 Section 4: E1/2E1/2, W1/2SE1/4, SE1/4SW1/4
- 26 Section 9: E1/2, SW1/4, E1/2NW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4
- 27 Section 10: NW1/4
- 28 Section 15: W1/2SW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4
- 29 Section 16

- 1 Section 21
- 2 Section 22: W1/2W1/2, E1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SE1/4
- 3 Sections 27 - 28
- 4 Section 34
- 5 Section 35: S1/2, NW1/4
- 6 (K) Township 20 North, Range 11 West, Seward Meridian
- 7 Section 18: W1/2
- 8 Section 19: W1/2
- 9 (L) Township 20 North, Range 12 West, Seward Meridian
- 10 Section 1
- 11 Section 2: N1/2
- 12 Section 11: E1/2
- 13 Sections 12 - 13
- 14 Section 14: E1/2
- 15 Sections 23 - 24
- 16 Section 25: N1/2
- 17 Section 26
- 18 Section 27: E1/2
- 19 Section 34: S1/2, NE1/4, SE1/4NW1/4
- 20 Section 35: NW1/4
- 21 (M) Township 21 North, Range 11 West, Seward Meridian
- 22 Section 31: SW1/4
- 23 (N) Township 21 North, Range 12 West, Seward Meridian
- 24 Section 25: that portion south of the Skwentna
- 25 River
- 26 Section 26: that portion south of the Skwentna
- 27 River
- 28 Section 35: that portion south of the Skwentna
- 29 River

- 1 Section 36: that portion south of the Skwentna  
2 River
- 3 (2) Alexander Creek State Recreation River
- 4 (A) Township 16 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian
- 5 Sections 6 - 7
- 6 Sections 18 - 19
- 7 (B) Township 17 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian
- 8 Section 18: S1/2, W1/2NW1/4
- 9 Section 19
- 10 Sections 30 - 31
- 11 Section 32: W1/2
- 12 (C) Township 17 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian
- 13 Section 1
- 14 Section 2: E1/2, N1/2NW1/4
- 15 Section 3: N1/2N1/2
- 16 Section 4: N1/2, N1/2SE1/4
- 17 Section 11: NE1/4
- 18 Section 12
- 19 Section 13: E1/2, E1/2NW1/4
- 20 Section 24: NE1/4, E1/2SE1/4
- 21 (D) Township 18 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian
- 22 Section 4: W1/2
- 23 Section 5
- 24 Section 6: NE1/4
- 25 Section 8: N1/2, SE1/4
- 26 Section 9
- 27 Section 10: SW1/4
- 28 Section 14: W1/2SW1/4, SE1/4SW1/4
- 29 Section 15: W1/2, SE1/4, S1/2NE1/4

- 1 Section 16: N1/2, SE1/4
- 2 Section 22: N1/2, N1/2S1/2, S1/2SE1/4
- 3 Section 23: W1/2, W1/2SE1/4
- 4 Section 26: W1/2, W1/2E1/2, E1/2SE1/4
- 5 Section 27: E1/2NE1/4
- 6 Section 33: SW1/4, S1/2SE1/4
- 7 Section 34: S1/2S1/2
- 8 Section 35
- 9 Section 36: W1/2
- 10 (E) Township 19 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian
- 11 Section 19: W1/2, W1/2E1/2
- 12 Section 29: W1/2W1/2
- 13 Section 30
- 14 Section 31: E1/2, E1/2W1/2
- 15 Section 32
- 16 (F) Township 19 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian
- 17 Sections 3 - 4
- 18 Sections 9 - 10
- 19 Section 13: S1/2
- 20 Section 14: S1/2
- 21 Sections 15 - 16
- 22 Section 22: N1/2
- 23 Section 23: N1/2
- 24 Section 24
- 25 (3) Lake Creek State Recreation River
- 26 (A) Township 21 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian
- 27 Section 3
- 28 Section 4: Excluding Tracts A, B, C and D
- 29 Section 9: N1/2 Excluding Tracts A and B

1 Section 10

2 Section 15

3 (B) Township 22 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian

4 Section 4: NW1/4, S1/2

5 Section 5: N1/2, E1/2SE1/4

6 Section 9: N1/2, SE1/4, E1/2SW1/4

7 Section 10: W1/2SW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4

8 Section 15: W1/2

9 Section 16: E1/2, E1/2W1/2

10 Section 21: E1/2

11 Section 22: W1/2

12 Section 27: W1/2

13 Section 28: E1/2

14 Section 34

15 (C) Township 23 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian

16 Section 3: W1/2W1/2

17 Section 4

18 Section 5: E1/2, E1/2SW1/4

19 Section 7: SE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4, E1/2SW1/4

20 Section 8: S1/2, NE1/4, S1/2NW1/4, NE1/4NW1/4

21 Section 9: N1/2NW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4, NW1/4SW1/4

22 Section 17: W1/2, W1/2E1/2

23 Section 18: E1/2

24 Section 19: N1/2, SE1/4, E1/2SW1/4

25 Section 20: W1/2, SE1/4, S1/2NE1/4, NW1/4NE1/4

26 Section 29

27 Section 30: NE1/4, E1/2NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4, SE1/4

28 Section 32

29 Section 33: S1/2SW1/4, NW1/4SW1/4

1 (D) Township 24 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian

2 Section 28: S1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SE1/4

3 Section 29: NW1/4, S1/2

4 Section 30

5 Section 31: N1/2

6 Section 32: NW1/4, E1/2

7 Section 33

8 Section 34: SW1/4SW1/4

9 (E) Township 24 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian

10 Section 3

11 Section 4: E1/2

12 Section 10

13 Section 11: W1/2, W1/2SE1/4, SW1/4NE1/4

14 Section 13: W1/2W1/2

15 Section 14

16 Section 15: NE1/4

17 Section 23: N1/2, SE1/4

18 Section 24: W1/2, S1/2SE1/4, NW1/4SE1/4

19 Section 25

20 Section 36: NE1/4, E1/2NW1/4

21 (F) Township 25 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian

22 Sections 6 - 7

23 Section 8: S1/2, NW1/4

24 Section 16: W1/2

25 Section 17

26 Section 18: E1/2

27 Section 20: SE1/4, N1/2

28 Section 21

29 Section 22: W1/2

- 1 Section 25: SW1/4  
2 Section 26: S1/2  
3 Section 27  
4 Section 28: E1/2, NW1/4  
5 Sections 34 - 35  
6 Section 36: W1/2  
7 (G) Township 25 North, Range 11 West, Seward Meridian  
8 Section 1: E1/2  
9 (H) Township 26 North, Range 10 West, Seward Meridian  
10 Section 31  
11 (I) Township 26 North, Range 11 West, Seward Meridian  
12 Sections 3 - 4  
13 Section 9: E1/2  
14 Section 10  
15 Section 14: W1/2  
16 Section 15  
17 Section 22: E1/2, E1/2NW1/4  
18 Section 23  
19 Section 25: S1/2, NW1/4  
20 Section 26  
21 Section 27: NE1/4  
22 Section 35: NE1/4  
23 Section 36  
24 (J) Township 27 North, Range 11 West, Seward Meridian  
25 Section 6: SW1/4  
26 Section 7  
27 Section 8: SW1/4  
28 Sections 17 - 18  
29 Section 19: N1/2, SE1/4

- 1 Section 20
- 2 Section 21: SW1/4
- 3 Sections 28 - 29
- 4 Section 30: NE1/4
- 5 Section 32: E1/2
- 6 Section 33
- 7 Section 34: W1/2
- 8 (K) Township 27 North, Range 12 West, Seward Meridian
- 9 Sections 1 - 3
- 10 Section 10: N1/2, SE1/4
- 11 Sections 11 - 14
- 12 Section 15: NE1/4
- 13 Section 23: NE1/4
- 14 Section 24: N1/2
- 15 (L) Township 28 North, Range 12 West, Seward Meridian
- 16 Sections 1 - 5
- 17 Sections 8 - 12
- 18 Sections 13 - 17
- 19 Sections 21 - 24
- 20 Sections 25 - 28
- 21 Sections 33 - 36
- 22 (4) Kroto Creek and Moose Creek State Recreation River
- 23 (A) Township 19 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian
- 24 Section 2: SW1/4
- 25 Section 3
- 26 Section 10: E1/2
- 27 Section 11
- 28 Section 14
- 29 Section 15: E1/2E1/2

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Section 22: E1/2E1/2

Section 23

Section 25: that portion west of the eastern-  
most bank of the Susitna River

Section 26

Section 27: E1/2E1/2

Section 34: NE1/4NE1/4

Section 35

Section 36: that portion west of the eastern-  
most bank of the Susitna River

(B) Township 20 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

Section 4

Section 5: E1/2

Section 8: NE1/4, E1/2SE1/4

Section 9

Section 15: W1/2

Section 16

Section 21: E1/2, N1/2NW1/4, SE1/4NW1/4

Section 22: NW1/4, S1/2

Section 27

Section 34

(C) Township 21 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

Section 3

Section 9: E1/2SE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4

Section 10

Section 15: W1/2, W1/2NE1/4

Section 16

Section 20: E1/2

Section 21

1 Section 28

2 Section 29: E1/2

3 Section 32: E1/2E1/2, NW1/4NE1/4

4 Section 33

5 Section 34: SW1/4

6 (D) Township 22 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

7 Sections 4 - 5

8 Section 6: E1/2, E1/2W1/2

9 Sections 7 - 9

10 Sections 16 - 18

11 Sections 20 - 21

12 Section 27

13 Section 28: N1/2, SE1/4, E1/2SW1/4

14 Section 29: E1/2NE1/4

15 Section 33: N1/2NE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4

16 Section 34

17 (E) Township 23 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

18 Section 4

19 Section 7: W1/2

20 Section 9

21 Section 16

22 Section 17: SW1/4SW1/4

23 Sections 18 - 19

24 Section 20: W1/2NW1/4

25 Section 21

26 Section 28

27 Sections 30 - 31

28 Section 32: S1/2

29 Section 33

1 (F) Township 23 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

2 Section 1

3 Section 2: E1/2

4 Sections 12 - 13

5 Section 24

6 Section 25: N1/2, SE1/4

7 Section 36: N1/2NE1/4

8 (G) Township 24 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

9 Section 4: W1/2

10 Section 5

11 Section 6: NE1/4, E1/2SE1/4

12 Section 8: N1/2, SE1/4, E1/2SW1/4

13 Section 9

14 Section 15: SW1/4, SW1/4NW1/4

15 Section 16

16 Section 17: NE1/4, N1/2SE1/4

17 Section 21: E1/2, SE1/4SW1/4

18 Section 22: NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SW1/4

19 Section 28: E1/2W1/2, E1/2

20 Section 33

21 (H) Township 24 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

22 Section 6: S1/2, NW1/4

23 Section 7

24 Section 8: S1/2SW1/4

25 Section 16: W1/2, W1/2E1/2

26 Section 17

27 Section 18: N1/2N1/2, SE1/4NW1/4, S1/2NE1/4,

28 N1/2SE1/4, SE1/4SE1/4

29 Section 19: NE1/4NE1/4

1 Section 20: N1/2

2 Section 21: W1/2, SE1/4, W1/2NE1/4

3 Section 27

4 Section 28: E1/2

5 Section 33: NE1/4NE1/4

6 Section 34: E1/2, E1/2W1/2, NW1/4NW1/4

7 Section 35: W1/2, SE1/4, S1/2NE1/4

8 Section 36: SW1/4

9 (I) Township 24 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

10 Section 1: E1/2

11 Section 12: NE1/4, E1/2SE1/4

12 Section 13: NE1/4NE1/4

13 (J) Township 25 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

14 Section 5

15 Section 8

16 Section 17

17 Section 18: SE1/4

18 Section 19: E1/2, E1/2W1/2

19 Section 20: W1/2W1/2

20 Section 29: W1/2W1/2

21 Section 30: E1/2, E1/2W1/2

22 Section 31: E1/2

23 Section 32: W1/2W1/2, SE1/4SW1/4

24 (K) Township 25 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

25 Section 5

26 Section 6: SE1/4, S1/2NE1/4

27 Section 7: E1/2, SW1/4, E1/2NW1/4

28 Section 8: NW1/4, W1/2SW1/4

29 Sections 18 - 19

## 1 Sections 30 - 31

2 (L) Township 25 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

3 Section 13: E1/2 SE1/4

4 Section 24: E1/2NE1/4

5 (M) Township 26 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

6 Section 5

7 Section 8

8 Section 17: N1/2, SE1/4, N1/2SW1/4, SE1/4SW1/4

9 Section 19: SE1/4

10 Section 20: E1/2, SW1/4, S1/2NW1/4, NE1/4NW1/4

11 Section 29: E1/2, NW1/4

12 Section 30: S1/2, NE1/4, SE1/4NW1/4

13 Section 31: E1/2NE1/4, that portion of NW1/4-  
14 NE1/4 within retained easement (50' each side  
15 of MHWM)

16 Section 32: lands within 150' of MHWM

17 (N) Township 26 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

18 Section 4: W1/2

19 Section 5: E1/2, S1/2SW1/4

20 Section 7: SE1/4

21 Section 8

22 Section 9: NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4

23 Section 17

24 Section 18: E1/2

25 Section 19

26 Section 20: W1/2

27 Section 29: S1/2, NW1/4

28 Section 30

29 Section 31: NE1/4

1 Section 32

2 (O) Township 27 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

3 Section 4

4 Section 5: E1/2

5 Section 8: E1/2

6 Section 9

7 Section 16

8 Section 17: E1/2

9 Section 20: E1/2

10 Section 21

11 Section 28: W1/2

12 Section 29: E1/2

13 Section 32: E1/2

14 Section 33: W1/2

15 (P) Township 27 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

16 Section 7

17 Section 8: S1/2, NW1/4

18 Section 9: W1/2

19 Section 16

20 Section 17: N1/2, SE1/4

21 Section 20: E1/2

22 Section 21

23 Section 28: N1/2, SW1/4

24 Section 29: E1/2

25 Section 32: E1/2

26 Section 33: W1/2

27 (Q) Township 27 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

28 Section 12: NE1/4

29 (R) Township 28 North, Range 6 West, Seward Meridian

1 Section 32: S1/2SE1/4

2 Section 33: S1/2S1/2

3 (5) Talkeetna State Recreation River

4 (A) Township 26 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

5 Section 1

6 Section 2

7 Sections 3 - 6: excluding ASLS 81-196, ASLS  
8 80-94, ASLS 80-84

9 (B) Township 27 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian

10 Section 2: SW1/4

11 Section 3: S1/2

12 Section 4: S1/2

13 Section 5: SE1/4, E1/2SW1/4

14 Section 7: SE1/4

15 Sections 8 - 12

16 Section 13: N1/2

17 Section 14: N1/2NE1/4

18 Section 17

19 Section 18: E1/2, SW1/4

20 Section 19

21 Section 20: N1/2, SW1/4

22 Section 30: W1/2

23 (C) Township 27 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian

24 Section 24: E1/2

25 Section 25

26 Section 26: SE1/4

27 Section 31: S1/2

28 Section 32: S1/2 exclusive of ASLS 79-149

29 Section 33: S1/2S1/2 exclusive of ASLS 79-149

1 Section 34: S1/2S1/2 exclusive of ASLS 79-149  
2 and ASLS 76-138

3 Sections 35 - 36

4 (D) Township 27 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian

5 Section 36: S1/2SE1/4 exclusive of ASLS 74-78  
6 and ASLS 74-77

7 (6) Little Susitna State Recreation River: the water column  
8 of the main stream of the Little Susitna River from mean high water  
9 mark to mean high water mark, from the point at which the river cross-  
10 es the section line dividing Sections 23 and 26 in Township 19 North,  
11 Range 1 East, Seward Meridian downstream to the point at which the  
12 river crosses the section line between Sections 15 and 22 in Township  
13 16 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian; the water column of Lake  
14 Creek from mean high water mark to mean high water mark, from the  
15 point at which the creek crosses the section line dividing Sections 10  
16 and 11, Township 18 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian downstream to  
17 the confluence with the Little Susitna River; and

18 (A) Township 16 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian

19 Section 3

20 Section 4: NE1/4NE1/4

21 Section 10: E1/2, E1/2W1/2

22 Section 15: E1/2, E1/2W1/2

23 (B) Township 17 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian

24 Section 12

25 Section 13

26 Section 14

27 Section 15

28 Section 21: NW1/4NE1/4, N1/2NW1/4

29 Section 22

- 1 Section 23: N1/2N1/2, SW1/4NW1/4, W1/2SW1/4  
 2 Section 26: W1/2W1/2  
 3 Section 27  
 4 Section 34  
 5 (C) Township 18 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian  
 6 Section 8: NW1/4, SW1/4NE1/4, S1/2NW1/4NE1/4  
 7 (D) Township 18 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian  
 8 Section 15: N1/2NW1/4  
 9 Section 16: NW1/4, N1/2NE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4  
 10 (E) Township 18 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian  
 11 Section 15: NW1/4, N1/2NE1/4, NW1/4SW1/4  
 12 Section 16: S1/2  
 13 Section 17: S1/2  
 14 Section 19: NW1/4, W1/2NE1/4, E1/2SW1/4.  
 15 (F) Township 18 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian  
 16 Section 19  
 17 Section 20: SW1/4, W1/2SE1/4, SE1/4NW1/4,  
 18 W1/2NW1/4  
 19 Section 30: NE1/4, SW1/4NW1/4, NW1/4SW1/4  
 20 (G) Township 18 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian  
 21 Section 11: SW1/4, SW1/4SE1/4, SW1/4NW1/4  
 22 Section 13: S1/2, SW1/4NW1/4  
 23 Section 14  
 24 Section 24  
 25 Section 25: N1/2  
 26 Section 26  
 27 Section 27: S1/2  
 28 Section 33: S1/2, S1/2NE1/4  
 29 Section 34

1 Section 35: NW1/4, W1/2NE1/4

2 ARTICLE 4. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

3 Sec. 41.23.900. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "commissioner"  
4 means the commissioner of natural resources.

5 \* Sec. 2. Until a management plan has been adopted for a recreation  
6 river corridor under AS 41.23.220(a) as enacted in sec. 1 of this Act,  
7 interim management shall be consistent with AS 41.23.200. The commissioner  
8 of natural resources shall adopt management plans for the three most exten-  
9 sively used rivers by July 1, 1989.

10 \* Sec. 3. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).  
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Original sponsors: Cotten, Pourchot,  
Rieger, et al.

CHANGES TO  
CSHB 93 (FIN) am  
are underlined

IN THE HOUSE

BY THE COMMUNITY AND  
REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 93 (C&RA)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing six recreation rivers; and providing for an effective date."

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

\* Section 1. FINDINGS AND INTENT. The legislature finds that the special values and uses of certain river corridors in Southcentral Alaska justify their retention for public use. The river corridors can support many public uses, including some that will enhance the local economy as well as improve access to retained public land. The designation of these corridors as recreation rivers recognizes the value of the described land and is not intended to become an undue impediment to the use and enjoyment of adjacent land or to the development of access within, across, and around the rivers. The legislature is particularly concerned that an owner of private property be assured customary and reasonable access to an inholding. Any regulation of boating under the existing authority of the commissioner should occur under the management plan, with full involvement of interested users and in an accessible public process.

\* Sec. 2. AS 41.23 is amended by adding new sections to read:

ARTICLE 3. RECREATION RIVERS.

Sec. 41.23.200. PURPOSES. The purpose of AS 41.23.200 - 41.23.300 is to establish as recreation rivers the land and water now owned by the state and the land and water acquired in the future by the state that lies within the boundaries described in AS 41.23.300(b). The primary purposes for the establishment of the recreation rivers are

1 (1) the management, protection, and maintenance of the fish  
2 and wildlife populations and habitat on a sustained-yield basis;

3 (2) conservation of the scenic and natural integrity of the  
4 recreation river corridor and continued recreational and economic use  
5 and enjoyment by the public including hunting, fishing, trapping,  
6 camping, boating, hiking, snowmachining, skiing, dog mushing, and  
7 wildlife viewing;

8 (3) management of upland activities within the recreation  
9 river corridor for the protection and maintenance of water quality and  
10 stream flow; and

11 (4) accommodation of access for recreation, tourism, and  
12 other compatible recreation-oriented economic uses of the river corri-  
13 dor.

14 Sec. 41.23.210. COMPATIBLE ACTIVITIES. (a) The commissioner  
15 shall allow the following activities within a recreation river corri-  
16 dor when they are compatible with AS 41.23.200 and consistent with a  
17 management plan adopted under AS 41.23.240:

18 (1) the use of aircraft, powerboats, snowmachines, all-  
19 terrain vehicles, and other motorized transportation;

20 (2) the harvest of wood products;

21 (3) sand and gravel extraction for public use; and

22 (4) the construction and operation of recreational facil-  
23 ities.

24 (b) In addition to the activities identified in (a) of this  
25 section, the commissioner may allow other activities within a recre-  
26 ation river corridor when they are compatible with AS 41.23.200 and  
27 consistent with a management plan adopted under AS 41.23.240.

28 (c) The commissioner shall allow the continuation of commercial  
29 or private activities occurring on the effective date of this Act

1 under a valid permit for use of state-owned land within the boundaries  
2 of a recreation river corridor so long as the commissioner determines  
3 that the activity is compatible with AS 41.23.200. When considering  
4 the revocation or nonrenewal of an existing permit, the commissioner  
5 shall make available for public comment, on request, a preliminary  
6 finding and, if appropriate, may hold a public hearing in the commu-  
7 nities near the recreation river corridor before determining whether  
8 the activity is compatible with AS 41.23.200.

9 Sec. 41.23.220. GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF RECREATION RIVER CORRI-  
10 DORS. (a) The state-owned land and water within the area established  
11 as a recreation river corridor under AS 41.23.300(b) is assigned to  
12 the commissioner for management consistent with the purposes of  
13 AS 41.23.200 - 41.23.300.

14 (b) The commissioner shall reserve to the state under AS 46.15.-  
15 145 an instream flow or level for the water in the rivers described in  
16 AS 41.23.300(b) that is adequate to achieve the purposes of AS 41.23.-  
17 200.

18 (c) The provisions of AS 41.23.200 - 41.23.300 do not affect the  
19 authority of

20 (1) the Department of Fish and Game, the Board of Fisher-  
21 ies, the Board of Game, or the Guide Licensing and Control Board under  
22 AS 08.54, AS 16, or AS 41.99.010;

23 (2) the Department of Environmental Conservation under  
24 AS 46.03; or

25 (3) state agencies and municipalities under AS 44.19.145-  
26 (a)(11) and AS 46.40.100.

27 (d) The commissioner may not restrict the use of weapons, in-  
28 cluding firearms, within a recreation river corridor except in sites  
29 of high public use such as picnic areas, boat ramps, camping grounds,

1 and parking areas when the commissioner determines that the use of  
2 weapons constitutes a threat to public safety. Except as provided in  
3 this subsection, the commissioner may not restrict fishing, hunting,  
4 or trapping within a recreation river corridor.

5 (e) The commissioner may not regulate under AS 41.23.200 -  
6 41.23.300 an activity that occurs on a river that has not been desig-  
7 nated as a recreational river under AS 41.23.300(b). Where the water  
8 of a river that has been designated under AS 41.23.300(b) flows into  
9 the water of a larger river that has not been designated under AS 41.-  
10 23.300(b), the authority of the commissioner under AS 41.23.200 -  
11 41.23.300 ceases where the water joins the larger river and the com-  
12 missioner may not regulate activities on the larger undesignated river  
13 under AS 41.23.200 - 41.23.300.

14 Sec. 41.23.230. ADVISORY BOARD. (a) An eleven-member Recre-  
15 ation Rivers Advisory Board is established and shall be appointed by  
16 the governor. Board members serve without compensation but are enti-  
17 tled to per diem and travel expenses authorized by law for boards and  
18 commissions under AS 39.20.180. The governor shall appoint members  
19 representing the following user groups:

- 20 (1) commercial fishing;
- 21 (2) sport fishing;
- 22 (3) sport hunting;
- 23 (4) conservation;
- 24 (5) resource development;
- 25 (6) powerboat users;
- 26 (7) recreationally-oriented commercial users; and
- 27 (8) other recreational users.

28 (b) The commissioner shall consult with the advisory board in  
29 preparing, adopting, and revising the recreation river management plan

1 and regulations affecting use and management of the recreation rivers,

2       Sec. 41.23.240. MANAGEMENT PLAN. (a) The commissioner, in  
3 consultation with representatives of affected municipalities, shall  
4 prepare and adopt a management plan for each recreation river corri-  
5 dor. In preparing the plan, the commissioner and each affected munic-  
6 ipality shall consult with the public, the advisory board established  
7 under AS 41.23.230, and state agencies, including the commissioner of  
8 fish and game. In preparation of the plan, the commissioner shall  
9 comply with the notice requirements of AS 38.05.945 and provide  
10 written notice by first-class mail to private property owners in the  
11 recreation river corridors and shall hold at least two public hearings  
12 in municipalities and communities near the recreation river corridor.  
13 The management plan shall establish long-range guidelines and manage-  
14 ment practices consistent with AS 41.23.200 so

15           (1) protect, maintain, or enhance the fish and wildlife  
16 habitat and the free-flowing nature of the river;

17           (2) identify special recreational values and manage the  
18 level of intensity and types of recreational uses;

19           (3) designate compatible land uses and management guide-  
20 lines for associated development;

21           (4) manage commercial activities or development, including  
22 recreational services such as guiding;

23           (5) provide for necessary public services, such as trans-  
24 portation and utility corridors, public safety, and law enforcement;

25           (6) allow reasonable and necessary access to public land  
26 and private inholdings, including municipal land that is offered for  
27 sale or lease, and to land beyond the recreation river corridor;

28           (7) establish criteria and timelines to review future  
29 proposed uses for compatibility with AS 41.23.200;

1 (8) establish guidelines and setback restrictions for an  
2 activity occurring under AS 41.23.210, including mining leasing and  
3 oil and gas leasing under AS 41.23.270(b) - (d).

4 (b) The commissioner shall adopt regulations necessary to imple-  
5 ment the management plan. The commissioner may not adopt regulations  
6 before a management plan is adopted.

7 (c) A management plan adopted by the commissioner under (a) of  
8 this section shall be submitted to the legislature for review within  
9 the first 10 days of the first regular session of the legislature to  
10 convene after its adoption by the commissioner.

11 Sec. 41.23.250. MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL LAND. If a municipality  
12 commits land for inclusion in a recreation river corridor established  
13 under AS 41.23.300(b), the commissioner shall obtain the concurrence  
14 of the municipality to the management plan proposed under AS 41.23.240  
15 as it applies to municipal land. The commissioner shall cooperate, at  
16 the request of a municipality, in planning for municipal land adjacent  
17 to a recreation river corridor.

18 Sec. 41.23.260. ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND. (a) The com-  
19 missioner may acquire in the name of the state land that is adjacent  
20 to or located within the land described in AS 41.23.300(b) by pur-  
21 chase, lease, gift, or exchange for inclusion within a recreation  
22 river corridor.

23 (b) The commissioner may not acquire land for inclusion in a  
24 recreation river corridor by eminent domain.

25 Sec. 41.23.270. APPLICATION OF PUBLIC LAND LAWS. (a) Except to  
26 the extent that a provision is inconsistent with a provision of  
27 AS 41.23.200 - 41.23.300, the provisions of AS 38.04, AS 38.05,  
28 AS 38.35, and AS 38.95 apply to land described in AS 41.23.300(b).

29 (b) Except for land within the Talkeetna State Recreation River

1 north and east of Iron Creek, the state-owned land and water within a  
2 recreation river corridor described in AS 41.23.300(b) is closed to  
3 mineral entry by location under AS 38.05.195 and to disposal of leas-  
4 able minerals under AS 38.05.150 - 38.05.175.

5 (c) Except on state-owned land below ordinary high-water or mean  
6 high tide, the commissioner may, upon a mineral discovery validated by  
7 the commissioner, permit mining leasing under AS 38.05.205 in an area  
8 within a recreation river corridor if leasing is allowed under a  
9 management plan that has been adopted by the commissioner. The com-  
10 missioner shall establish appropriate conditions for permits, operat-  
11 ing plans, and leases to protect the environment and prevent degrada-  
12 tion of the recreational uses of the river.

13 (d) The state-owned land and water within a recreation river  
14 corridor is available for oil and gas leasing subject to conditions in  
15 an adopted management plan.

16 (e) To enhance public use and enjoyment of a recreation river  
17 corridor under a management plan adopted under AS 41.23.240, the  
18 commissioner may provide for the construction and operation of commer-  
19 cial facilities such as lodges, campgrounds, and boat launches by

20 (1) leasing land including competitive leasing to a pre-  
21 qualified bidder under AS 38.05.070; and

22 (2) contracting for the construction and operation of a  
23 facility under AS 36.30.

24 (f) The commissioner of administration shall separately account  
25 for funds collected under this section and deposited in the general  
26 fund. The annual estimated balance in the account may be appropriated  
27 by the legislature to the department to carry out the purposes of this  
28 chapter.

29 Sec. 41.23.280. COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS. (a) The

1 commissioner may enter into a cooperative management agreement for the  
2 management of land and water described in AS 41.23.300(b) or of other  
3 adjacent land and water with a federal agency, a municipality of the  
4 state, another agency of the state, or a private landowner.

5 (b) The commissioner may transfer the management of a specific  
6 site within a recreation river corridor described in AS 41.23.300(b)  
7 to a state agency to assist in the development of a facility or to  
8 carry out a program authorized by law.

9 (c) The commissioner may not manage a recreation river corridor  
10 described in AS 41.23.300(b) as a unit of the state park system. The  
11 commissioner may assign management of a recreation facility or site  
12 such as a campground or a boat launch to the division of parks and may  
13 adopt regulations allowing the division of parks to manage recreation  
14 activities in a recreation river corridor.

15 Sec. 41.23.290. ESTABLISHMENT OF RECREATION RIVER CORRIDORS.  
16 State-owned land and water may be established as a recreation river  
17 corridor only by the legislature.

18 Sec. 41.23.300. DESIGNATED RIVERS. (a) Subject to valid exist-  
19 ing rights, the state-owned land and water within one-half mile of  
20 either ordinary high water or mean high tide on a recreation river  
21 designated in (b) of this section that is established as a recreation  
22 river corridor under (b) of this section is reserved as a special  
23 purpose area under art. VIII, sec. 7, Constitution of the State of  
24 Alaska and shall be retained by the state.

25 (b) The general grant land, acquired land, and the water pres-  
26 ently owned by the state and all land and water acquired by the state  
27 in the future, including shore and submerged land and land redesi-  
28 gnated after the effective date of this Act as general grant land, that  
29 lie within the following described parcels are established as

recreation rivers and shall be managed under AS 41.23.200 - 41.23.300:

(1) Alexander Creek State Recreation River

(A) Township 16 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 6 - 7

Sections 18 - 19

(B) Township 17 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

Section 6: Otter Lake, Weenie Lake, and that

portion of the SW1/4 in Tract B, ASLS 81-77

Section 7: Otter Lake and Tracts F-2 and F-3 of

ASLS 79-147

Section 18: S1/2, W1/2NW1/4

Section 19

Sections 30 - 31

Section 32: W1/2

(C) Township 17 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

Section 1

Section 2: E1/2, N1/2NW1/4

Section 3: N1/2N1/2

Section 4: N1/2, N1/2SE1/4

Section 11: NE1/4, E1/2SE1/4

Section 12

Section 13: E1/2, E1/2NW1/4

Section 24: NE1/4, E1/2SE1/4

(D) Township 18 North, Range 8 West, Seward Meridian

Section 4: W1/2

Section 5

Section 6: NE1/4

Section 8: N1/2, SE1/4

Section 9

PAGES 10-29

consist of legal  
descriptions of  
the six Rea. River  
condens. These  
are unchanged from  
CSHB 93 (FIN) am.

1 Section 34: S1/2S1/2 exclusive of ASLS 79 - 149  
2 and ASLS 76 - 138

3 Sections 35 - 36

4 (G) Township 27 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian

5 Section 36: S1/2SE1/4 exclusive of ASLS 74 - 77  
6 and ASLS 74 - 78

7 (H) Township 27 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian

8 Section 5: NW1/4

9 Section 6

10 (I) Township 28 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

11 Section 36: SE1/4SE1/4

12 (J) Township 28 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian

13 Section 2

14 Section 3: SE1/4

15 Section 9: SE1/4

16 Section 10

17 Section 11: NW1/4, W1/2NE1/4, W1/2SW1/4

18 Section 15: N1/2, SW1/4

19 Section 16: E1/2SW1/4

20 Section 20: SE1/4

21 Section 21

22 Section 22: NW1/4

23 Section 28: N1/2, SW1/4

24 Section 29: E1/2, SW1/4, SE1/4NW1/4

25 Section 31: SW1/4, E1/2

26 Section 32

27 Section 33: NW1/4

28 ARTICLE 4. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

29 Sec. 41.23.900. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "commissioner"

1 \* Sec. 3. Until a management plan has been adopted for a recreation  
2 river corridor under AS 41.23.240(a) as enacted in sec. 2 of this Act,  
3 interim management shall be consistent with AS 41.23.200. The commissioner  
4 of natural resources may not dispose of timber or other resources within a  
5 recreational river corridor under AS 38.05.115 before the adoption of the  
6 management plan for the recreation river corridor. The commissioner of  
7 natural resources shall adopt a management plan for each river by July 1,  
8 1992.

9 \* Sec. 4. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).  
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Rep. Cotten  
March 7, 1987

flows be reserved simply and expeditiously. Statutory language could be added here to prevent the issuance of any water permit for more than 5,000 gpd from the affected rivers until instream flow reservations have been completed. (2/12-15.)

5. AS 41.23.220(a)(8). The plan will establish guidelines and setbacks for mineral and oil and gas leasing. (4/9-10.)
6. AS 41.23.230. The commissioner must cooperate in planning for adjacent municipal lands if requested. (4/22-24.)
7. AS 41.23.250. APPLICATION OF PUBLIC LAND LAWS. This section has been amended to allow hardrock mineral leasing after planning (including the compatibility test) and with environmental/recreational protections. (5/10-17.) In the bill as introduced, all areas within one-half mile of the river were closed to any mineral entry; areas beyond one-half mile were unconditionally open to mineral entry. This section also sets some conditions for oil and gas leasing, closes riverbeds themselves to any mineral leasing, and prohibits the disposal of leasable minerals (such as coal, phosphates, geothermal, sulfur). This section establishes a program receipts funding mechanism for mineral and oil and gas revenues from the recreation rivers. If the Committee wishes to adopt a setback for mineral leasing activities in statute, this is the place.
8. AS 41.23.260(c) The commissioner may assign management of recreation sites to the Division of Parks and may adopt regulations allowing the Division of Parks to conduct recreation management in the recreation rivers. (5/7-11.)
9. Former AS 41.23.270 is gone. It set conditions for the commissioner's future recommendations for recreation rivers.
10. AS 41.23.280(b) is clarified to show that land disposals are prohibited in the recreation rivers. (5/17-19.)
11. Section Two of the bill is changed to require that three management plans be completed within two years (July 1, 1989). There is no deadline for the other plans. (26/5-9.)

#### Policy issues

##### Minerals.

- House-passed bill allowed no mineral entry last year.
- Senate Finance bill closed within half-mile of rivers.
- Susitna Area Plan recommended closure (1985).

Rep. Cotten  
March 7, 1987

24 copies  
Ned  
110  
3715

- Rivers are currently under administrative closure by DNR. This could be revoked/amended with public notice, possibly requiring revision of Susitna Area Plan.
- Mineral potential is low.
- Draft CS allows mineral leasing after planning (compatibility test), environmental/recreational protections. Mineral leasing: time limits, conditional conveyance of mineral rights after discovery, must be developable, hardrock only.
- Should mineral leasing setbacks be established statutorily?

#### Land disposals.

- Retention of public-use corridors is primary intent of the bill.
- Some interest groups are interested in land disposal on the rivers.
- Leasing, public facilities (campgrounds, public use cabins, lodges) are expressly allowed in the bill.
- Many Mat-Su officials have objected to past impacts of state land disposals within the Borough.
- Future legislatures would have the power to open the corridors if disposals are warranted.
- Last year the House opened the corridors to land disposal more than one-half mile from the rivers.
- Should an amendment be adopted to allow specialized land sales at the direction of future legislatures?

#### Boundaries.

- Chelatna Lake. Should this lake be included? It is currently relatively free of "inholdings," is one of few such lakes in the area, is a logical part of the rec rivers system (Lake Creek).
- Lower Talkeetna River. About nine miles were left out of the bill last year to exclude mental health lands. Should state lands, excluding MH lands, be designated? MH groups have in the past implied that designation of conservation units near MH lands can reduce the value of MH lands.
- Upper Talkeetna River. This area was recommended for inclusion in the original Susitna Area Plan, but was dropped because of potential mining conflicts.
- Some groups have recommended establishing corridors rather than using aliquot parts description of the rivers. This is not possible under the Legislature's current drafting standards.
- The bill could be amended to allow the commissioner,

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after planning for the rivers, the discretionary authority to add or delete small areas (within one-quarter mile, for instance) of the statutorily established boundary.

Instream flow.

- Should the bill be amended to prevent major allocations until instream flow reservations have been completed?

Compatability/regulation.

- Some interest groups are concerned that the bill does not have adequate protections allowing the commissioner to regulate incompatible activities or to weigh among uses according to the management goals in the purposes section of the bill.
- Does the compatability section need strengthening?

Fiscal note

Planning. The Department of Natural Resources has been asked to prepare a fiscal note showing the most logical way of laying out the planning for the recreation rivers. This should be available Monday morning. Although it might not comport entirely with the bill in its current draft, this information may be useful to the committee.

Instream flow. As stated above, a draft letter of intent regarding instream flow reservation is attached. The cost for the reservation can be reduced to virtually nothing, according to state agency staff. We have no more information about the possibility of using federal funds for instream flow or planning at this time.

DRAFT LETTER OF INTENT - HB 93

The Legislature intends that the Department of Natural Resources reserve instream flows for the recreation rivers as soon as practicable within budgetary limits. Instream flow reservations can in most cases be accomplished for the recreation rivers at relatively low cost using available stream data. In the future, after instream flows have been reserved and when water use conflicts seem imminent, it may be necessary to spend more money to improve the data base and refine the instream flow reservations, but at this time an intensive, expensive instream flow reservation process is not necessary.



Coastal Resource Service Area

P.O. Box 3110, Dillingham, Alaska 99576

(907) 842-2666—842-2667

March 12, 1987

Representative Cotten  
Alaska State Legislature  
P.O. Box V (MS 3100)  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Cotten:

The Bristol Bay Coastal Resource Service Area (CRSA) Board is a publicly elected body responsible for the development and implementation of a local coastal management program.

Enclosed is a copy of Resolution #7-01 recently passed by the Board in support of the concept of HP 93. With the promotion of tourism and increasing recreational demand by various users, the Board feels it is important that commercial recreation and related development be properly managed so as to protect the very values that sustain this rapidly growing industry. This is an important issue presently facing the Bristol Bay region and one the CRSA Board is also attempting to address. Although HP 93 does not specifically include any waterbodies in Bristol Bay, it represents an important step towards recognizing careful planning and comprehensive management of important recreational river systems is necessary for compatible and longterm economic development.

The Bristol Bay CRSA Board appreciates your consideration of the attached resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eusan Flensburg".

Eusan Flensburg  
Planner  
Bristol Bay CRSA

Encl:

cc: House Resources Committee Members

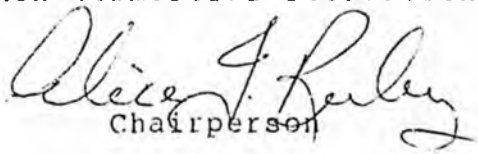
BRISTOL BAY COASTAL RESOURCE SERVICE AREA  
P.O. Box 289  
Dillingham, Alaska 99576

Resolution 87-01

- WHEREAS Heavily-used river systems and other waterbodies throughout the state, noted for their high recreational values, continue to experience increased pressure from local, state, national and international users for a variety of recreational pursuits; and
- WHEREAS Recreation contributes significantly to the states overall economy and will play an increasing role in economic development planning for local and regional areas; and
- WHEREAS There is a need to respond to the growing recreational demand by both the general public and private sector; and
- WHEREAS Comprehensive management of recreational uses and associated development is necessary to protect fish and wildlife populations and habitat upon which recreation and other existing economic uses depend; and
- WHEREAS An accepted strategy for recreation management planning and development is needed to address both these economic and environmental issues; and
- WHEREAS HB 93; as currently written, would provide a legal framework for designating recreation rivers and general guidelines for comprehensive management of a river system once designated; and
- WHEREAS HB 93, as currently written, places a primary emphasis on the protection of fish and game populations, maintenance of habitat and water quality for multiple uses sustained by these resources;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Bristol Bay Coastal Resource Service Area (CRSA) Board supports the concept of HB 93 as long as the focus of this proposed legislation remains on addressing the resource conservation needs and compatible economic development uses associated with commercial and non-commercial recreation.

SIGNED:

  
Chairperson

REPRESENTATIVE  
SAM COTTEN  
DISTRICT 15



P.O. BOX 296, EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577  
P.O. BOX V, JUNEAU, AK 99811

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Rep. Al Adams  
House Finance Committee members  
FROM: Rep. Sam Cotten *Sc*  
SUBJECT: HB 93, Recreation Rivers  
DATE: April 1, 1987

The Resources Committee has considered and passed out the recreation rivers bill, HB 93, which is now before the Finance Committee for consideration.

The bill implements a high priority of the Susitna Area Plan (1985): the establishment of recreation river corridors to retain high-value public lands for public use. These lands are to be managed primarily for their recreation and habitat values, including fishing, hunting, and boating, although other compatible uses will be allowed.

The bill affects six southcentral rivers: the Talkeetna, Talachulitna, and Little Susitna Rivers, and Lake, Alexander, and Kroto-Moose Creeks. About 270,000 acres of state land are included in the bill, out of 17 million acres covered by the Susitna and Willow Subbasin Plans.

As many members will recall, this bill has had a great deal of debate in past years. In fact, the bill that I introduced earlier this year was the same one that did not quite make it out of the Senate Rules Committee last year. That bill has undergone constructive revision in the Resources Committee. Here is a summary of the major changes:

p.1/line 6. The title has been changed from "a system of" to "six" recreational rivers.

1/9. A findings section has been added to provide the legislature's intent regarding retention, use, and access in the recreation rivers.

1/19. The purposes section has been modified to reflect language in other retained land categories such as state forests, and the compatible activities language has been moved out of this section into a separate one.

2/6. The purposes have been slightly modified, including the addition of (4), accommodation of compatible recreation-oriented economic uses.

2/9. The compatible activities section has been created from a subsection of the previous purposes section, and has been changed to require consistency with the management plan. (AS 41.23.210)

2/18. Existing activities, which are compatible, are grandfathered, as in the original bill. However, the commissioner is required to find compatibility rather than incompatibility.

2/28. The deadline for instream flow reservation, which had been five years, has been removed.

3/19. The new paragraph under AS 41.23.220 provides that the commissioner shall not manage rivers at the mouths of recreation rivers under the same authority as recreation rivers. For instance, the land descriptions for the Talachulitna include some of the Skwentna River; the Skwentna would not be managed as a recreation river.

3/28. The management planning section has been slightly modified to allow for more public process.

5/23. The original bill opened to mining claims all land more than a half-mile from the rivers. The Resources CS closes the entire river corridors to mineral entry by location, except for the upper Talkeetna, which was not included in the original bill.

5/28. The commissioner may open areas to mineral leasing, with protections, if the management plan allows mining. Thus any mining activity would have to be compatible with the purposes of the bill.

6/10. The language allowing leasing has been clarified and strengthened.

7/3. Recreation and site management by the Division of Parks are allowed.

7/9. A long section regarding future recommendations by the commissioner for other recreation rivers has been dropped.

7/12. The language has been modified so that the State must retain only those lands within one-half mile of the rivers, which would allow land disposals beyond the one-half mile corridor.

7/19. Only general grant and acquired lands are designated, thus not affecting mental health lands. If mental health

lands are someday converted to general grant status, they would fall within this designation.

7/25. The legal descriptions have been revised to include all lands proposed for recreation river status by the Susitna Area Plan. Several areas had been removed last year and in the bill as introduced.

There are several major issues that have persisted on this bill and which, no doubt, will come before you. Herewith some history:

#### Mining

CSHB 93 (Res) allows mining leasing within the recreation rivers if permitted in a management plan, which must be compatible with the purposes of the bill. Some groups oppose the inclusion of the mining provision because it seems incompatible with the recreational designation and may lead to abuse of mining leases for residential purposes. On the other hand, the inclusion of a carefully crafted mining leasing provision makes the bill more balanced, could allow development of important resources, and might in the future allow the addition of other rivers (with higher mineral potential) without amendment of AS 41.23.200-290.

#### Land disposals

Some groups have advocated land disposal within the river corridors. CSHB 93 would retain all lands within one-half mile of the rivers, as envisioned in the Susitna Area Plan. Land disposal is not a compatible or appropriate activity within the recreation rivers.

#### Regulation

Many members have been contacted by constituents who oppose the bill because they fear overregulation of boat traffic. On the other hand, the commissioner may already have some authority to regulate boat traffic on public waters (our communication with the Attorney General's Office indicated that the commissioner's authority is not clear). Additionally it is better to prepare for the management conflicts that are bound to arise among boating users than to wait until they have become unmanageable.



# Resource Development Council

for Alaska, Inc.

807 "G" Street, Suite 200, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3440  
Box 100516, Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0516 - 907/276-0700

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Paula P. Easley

March 24, 1987

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Mayor Dorothy Jones and  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
Box B  
Palmer, AK 99645

re: Recreational River legislation

Dear Mayor Jones and Assemblymen:

The Resource Development Council appreciates the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's interest in RDC's work on the issue of legislative designation of recreational rivers in Southcentral Alaska.

RDC supports a management regime for these river areas that emphasizes recreational use and development, but we do not support legislative designation as a means of achieving that goal. We are very concerned that legislative land designations across the state, for recreation or any other purpose, will unduly limit the authority of the Department of Natural Resources to effectively and efficiently manage state lands.

We will oppose the effort to legislatively designate these six river areas, but we will gladly support efforts to minimize use conflicts, plan for better resource management, and enhance the recreational values of these important areas. We feel that most, if not all, of the management directions found in current versions of this bill can be executed without legislative action.

Despite our opposition to the concept of a legislative designation, RDC has been working to insure that the bill is improved to the greatest extent possible. Toward that end we are working to see that five additional changes be made to draft legislation. Some of our suggestions have already been incorporated into recent proposals.

- 1) Provide clear language establishing legislative intent that reasonable, commercially-viable access to and across river corridors is not to be restricted.
- 2) Designate only interim boundaries until more detailed analysis justifies the inclusion of so much land in the corridors.

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Phillip L. Locker  
Dennis W. Lohse  
Chns McAfee  
Len McLean  
Richard A. Peluso  
Stephen M. Rehnberg  
Thomas H. Reynolds  
William E. Schneider  
Mary Jane Sulliff  
Dale Teel  
Joe J. Thomas  
Richard W. Tindall  
Rudy J. Troclair  
Dale P. Tubbs  
Joseph E. Usibelli, Jr.  
Lyle Von Bargaen  
George P. Wuerch

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS  
Senator Ted Stevens  
Senator Frank Murkowski  
Congressman Don Young

Mayor Dorothy Jones  
March 23, 1987  
page 2

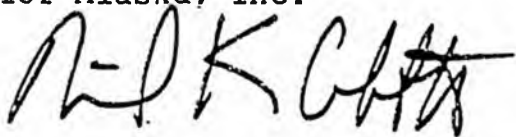
- 3) Eliminate the use of "scenic and natural" conservation as a standard for judging the acceptability of projects within corridors. We suggest the use of "recreational".
- 4) Insure that the designation will not impact non-state lands within the corridor without the approval of the public or private landowner.
- 5) Insure that the corridor designation will not negatively impact adjacent resource development efforts.

RDC recognizes that the present versions of this legislation are vast improvements over previous efforts and we appreciate the efforts of the House Resources Committee to meet our concerns. However, despite the improvements, we are convinced that this legislation is unnecessary and undesirable.

The Resource Development Council will continue to work on this issue until we feel it has been properly resolved. We would be glad to participate in any process developed by the Borough to insure that your own interests are fully protected.

Sincerely,

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
for Alaska, Inc.



Michael K. Abbott  
Projects; Coordinator

cc: Commissioner Judy Brady, DNR  
Senator Jan Faiks, Alaska Legislature  
Representative Sam Cotten, Alaska Legislature  
Ric Davidge, RDC Lands Division  
Phil Holdsworth

<u>Quad</u>	<u>River or Creek</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>	
Talkeetna C-4	Lake Creek	3,680	
Talkeetna C-3	Lake Creek	7,200	
Talkeetna B-4	Lake Creek	1,600	
Talkeetna B-3	Lake Creek	<del>27</del> <sup>6</sup> ,760	
Talkeetna A-3	Lake Creek	9,240	
Talkeetna A-2	Lake Creek	10,720	
Tyonek D-3	Lake Creek	4,840	
		Subtotal: 64,040	
Talkeetna B-2	Kroto Creek	12,880	
Talkeetna A-2	Kroto Creek	7,920	
Talkeetna A-1	Kroto Creek/Moose Creek	21,520	
Tyonek D-2/D-1	Kroto Creek	17,040	
Tyonek C-1	Kroto Creek/Little Susitna	10,020	7k L. Su
Tyonek B-1	Little Susitna River	9,600	
Anchorage C-8	Little Susitna River	4,940	
Anchorage C-7	Little Susitna River	800	
Anchorage C-6	Little Susitna River	40	
Talkeetna B-1	Moose Creek	11,240	
		Subtotal: 87,360	
Talkeetna B-1	Talkeetna River	4,120	
Talkeetna Mtns. B-6	Talkeetna River	15,080	
Talkeetna Mtns. B-5	Talkeetna River	8,120	
Talkeetna Mtns. C-5	Talkeetna River	3,840	
		Subtotal: 31,760	

(over)

<u>Quad</u>	<u>River or Creek</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
Tyonck D-3	Alexander Creek	1,920
Tyonck C-3	Alexander Creek	7,520
Tyonck C-2	Alexander Creek	11,680
Tyonck B-2	Alexander Creek	1,920
		Subtotal: 23,040
Tyonck C-5	Talachulitna River	5,120
Tyonck C-4	Talachulitna River	35,520
Tyonck C-3	Talachulitna River	2,800
Tyonck B-4	Talachulitna River	1,520
Tyonck D-4	Talachulitna River	9,280
		Subtotal: 54,240
		260,440
Total		<del>260,440</del> ACRES

REPRESENTATIVE  
SAM COTTEN  
DISTRICT 15



P.O. BOX 296, EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577  
P.O. BOX V, JUNEAU, AK 99811

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M E M O R A N D U M

May 8, 1988

TO: Senators  
FROM: Rep. Sam Cotten *Sam Cotten*  
SUBJECT: HB 93, recreation rivers

The recreation rivers bill (SCS CSHB 93(Fin)) has several major purposes:

- \* to reserve six important southcentral river corridors for their highest and best use, as identified by the Susitna Area Plan adopted by the State and the Mat-Su Borough in 1985;
- \* to protect recreation opportunities and fish and wildlife habitat on the rivers;
- \* to allow compatible economic activities; and
- \* to provide for balanced planning of the river corridors with full public involvement.

Affected rivers and acreage: The bill designates about 260,000 acres of state-owned land in the Little Susitna, Talkeetna, Talachulitna, and Deshka Rivers, and Lake and Alexander Creeks. The retained corridors are about half a mile wide.

Need for the bill: Fish and game harvest statistics show that the corridors support tens of thousands of sportfishing and hunting days every year. The Alaska Outdoor Council, the Alaska Sportfishing Association, and the National Rifle Association strongly support the bill, considering it their highest legislative priority. In addition the bill has the support of other user groups including United Fishermen of Alaska. Use of the corridors is growing rapidly.

Economic importance: The affected state lands support numerous lodges, guiding businesses, and other tourism-related opportunities for Alaskans and visitors. Compatible economic development will be allowed. Private property rights and access are protected, and regulation of boating (allowed under existing law) must occur in the management plan. The bill provides for overland access through and within the corridors. Mining is allowed if compatible with recreation and habitat management.

Planning and management standards: The need for management planning on these overcrowded, valuable rivers is obvious. HB 93 includes thorough, practical standards for land management and planning with full public involvement. There are provisions for cooperative planning for adjacent Mat-Su Borough lands.

Departmental support: Commissioner Judy Brady and Commissioner Don Collinsworth support this legislation. Both DNR and ADF&G recognize the need to elevate planning and management of the recreation river corridors.

REPRESENTATIVE  
SAM COTTEN  
DISTRICT 15



P.O. BOX 296, EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577  
P.O. BOX V, JUNEAU, AK 99811

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M E M O R A N D U M

April 8, 1988

TO: Senator Jack Coghill, Chair,  
Senate Resources Committee  
Resources Committee members  
FROM: Rep. Sam Cotten  
SUBJECT: HB 93 (Recreational rivers)

The recreation rivers bill before the Senate Resources Committee has several major purposes:

- \* to reserve six important Southcentral river corridors for their highest and best use, as identified in the Susitna Area Plan adopted by the State and the Mat-Su Borough in 1985;
- \* to protect recreation opportunities and fish and wildlife habitat on the rivers;
- \* to allow compatible economic activities; and
- \* to provide for balanced planning of the river corridors with full public involvement.

Affected rivers and acreage: The bill designates about 260,000 acres of state-owned land in the Little Susitna, Talkeetna, Talachulitna, and Deshka Rivers and Lake and Alexander Creeks. The retained corridors are about half a mile wide.

Need for the bill: Fish and game harvest statistics show that the corridors support tens of thousands of prime sportfishing and moose hunting days every year. The Alaska Outdoor Council, the Alaska Sportfishing Association, and the National Rifle Association strongly support the bill and consider it a high legislative priority. Use of the corridors is growing rapidly.

Economic importance: The affected state lands support numerous lodges, guiding businesses, and other tourism-

Page two  
Senator Jack Coghill

oriented opportunities for Alaskans and visitors. Compatible economic development will be allowed in the corridors. Private property rights and boating will be protected. The bill contains provisions for overland access so that adjacent lands can be used. New mining will be allowed on uplands if compatible with habitat and recreation management priorities.

Planning and management standards: The current version of HB 93 includes thorough, practical standards for land management and planning with the full public involvement. There are provisions for cooperative planning for adjacent Mat-Su Borough lands. The Department of Natural Resources supports the bill in part because it will help address the growing user conflicts on the rivers.

Timber: The Susitna Valley Association has proposed prohibiting commercial timber harvest in the recreation river corridors. In the House Resources Committee, we have heard from DNR that the recreation river corridors could be excluded from the proposed Mat-Su timber sale with very little effect on long-term timber supply. Thus the Senate Resources Committee may wish to consider language allowing personal use timber harvest only, for firewood and houselogs.

(Attachment)

ALASKA STATE SENATE

DNR

JOE P. JOSEPHSON  
DISTRICT H ANCHORAGE  
3111 C STREET, SUITE 550  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503  
(907) 561-7611



WHILE IN JUNEAU  
P.O. BOX V  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
(907) 465-4525

To: Senator Dick Eliason, Chair  
Rules Committee

From: Senator Joe P. Josephson *Joe Josephson*

Re: Scheduling of HB 93 -- Recreational Rivers

Date: May 6, 1988

---

By this memo, I request you schedule for Senate floor action House Bill 93, the bill that would establish a system of recreational rivers.

Considerable work has gone into this bill, resulting in hours of deliberation. I believe it should be brought to the Senate floor.

Thank you for your attention to my request.

STATE OF ALASKA  
THE LEGISLATURE

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


LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

April 26, 1988

SUBJECT: Six recreation rivers; amendment to  
Sec. 41.23.270(b) (SCS CSHB 93(Finance))

TO: Representative Sam Cotten

FROM: Richard A. Bradley  
Legislative Counsel 

The use of "only" in Sec. 41.23.270(b) seems inadequate.

Consider

(b) Except for a negotiated timber or material sale under AS 38.05.115 to provide for personal use, including house logs and firewood, for a use incidental to the construction of access, or for habitat enhancement, the commissioner may not dispose of timber or materials under AS 38.05.115 within a recreation river.

RAB:bb  
b5/044

REPRESENTATIVE  
SAM COTTEN  
DISTRICT 15



P.O. BOX 296, EAGLE RIVER, AK 99577  
P.O. BOX V, JUNEAU, AK 99811

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M E M O R A N D U M

April 25, 1988

TO: Sen. Jack Coghill, Chair  
Senate Resources Committee  
FROM: Rep. Sam Cotten  
SUBJECT: Technical amendment to HB 93

In its work on HB 93, the recreation rivers bill, the Senate Resources Committee concurred that commercial logging should not occur in the recreation river corridors. This was pursuant to our agreement in discussion last week.

However, the language adopted at p.7, lines 5-8, is open to the interpretation that commercial logging might be allowed to occur. To address this possible ambiguity, I am seeking your agreement to a technical amendment of the bill in the Finance Committee:

(b) The commissioner may conduct only [A] negotiated timber or material [SALE] sales, under AS 38.05.115, to provide for personal use, including house logs and firewood, or for a use incidental to the construction of access, or for habitat enhancement.

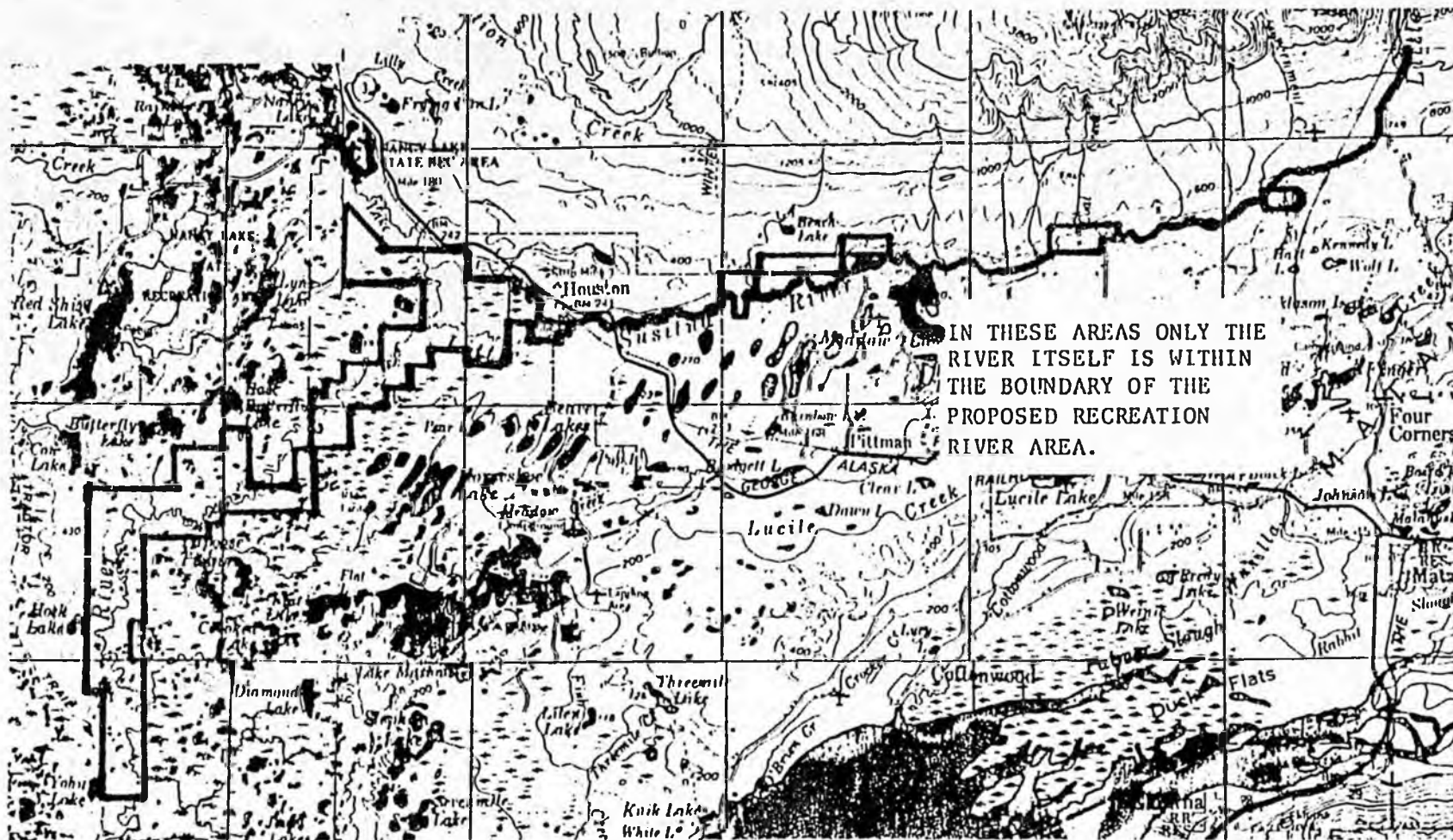
Thank you for helping out on this.

attachment

*letter of intent*

# LITTLE SUSITNA RIVER

## Proposed Recreational River Corridor



Scale 1:250,000

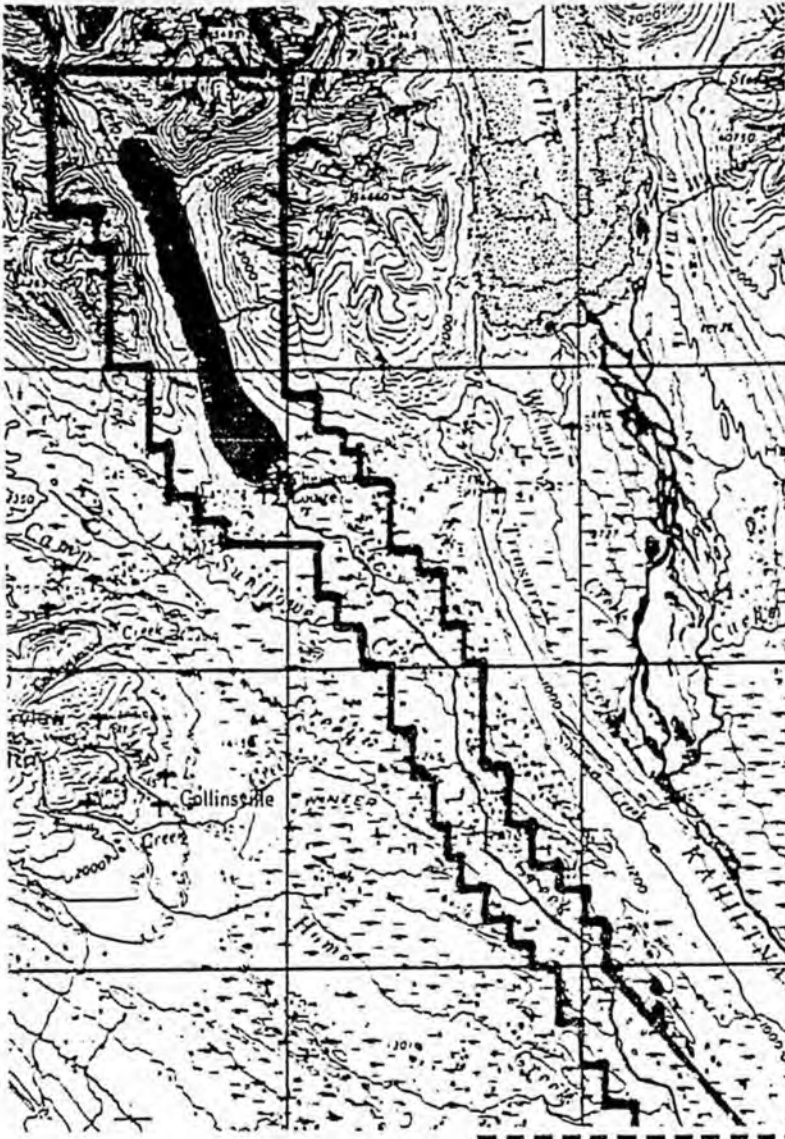


0 1 2 3 4 5 6 MILES

# LAKE CREEK

## Proposed Recreational River Corridor

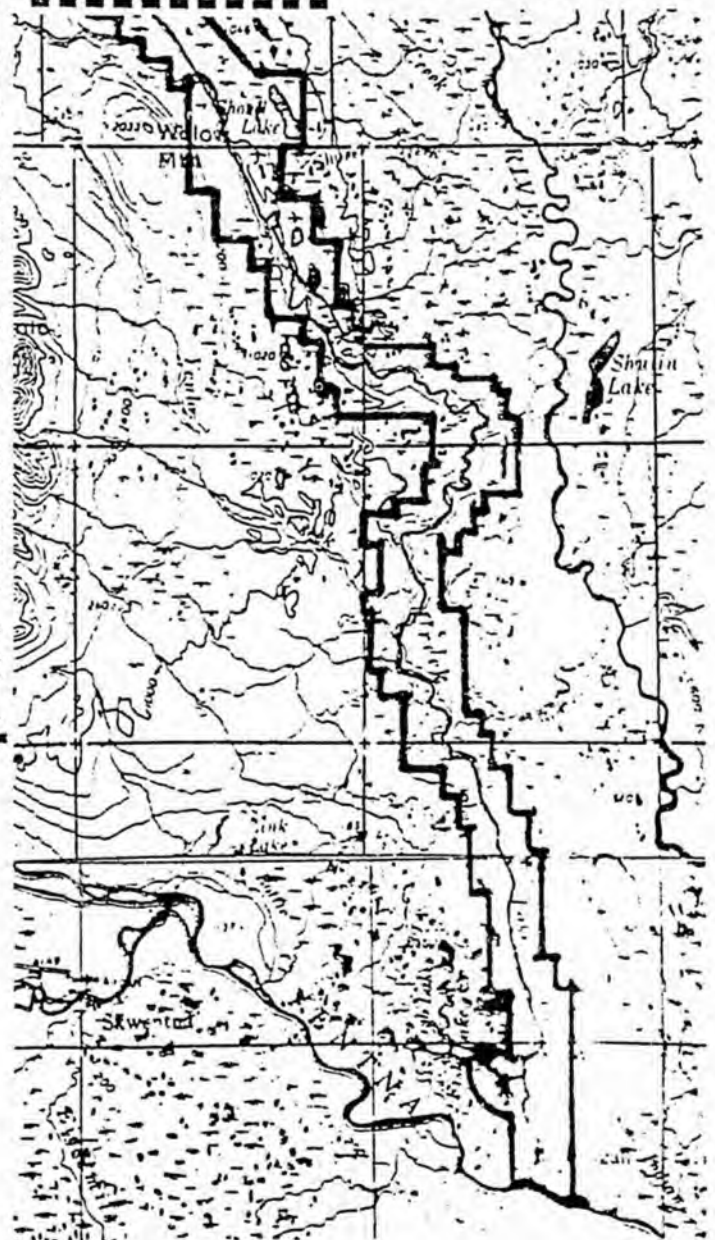
### North Half



Match Line

Match Line

### South Half

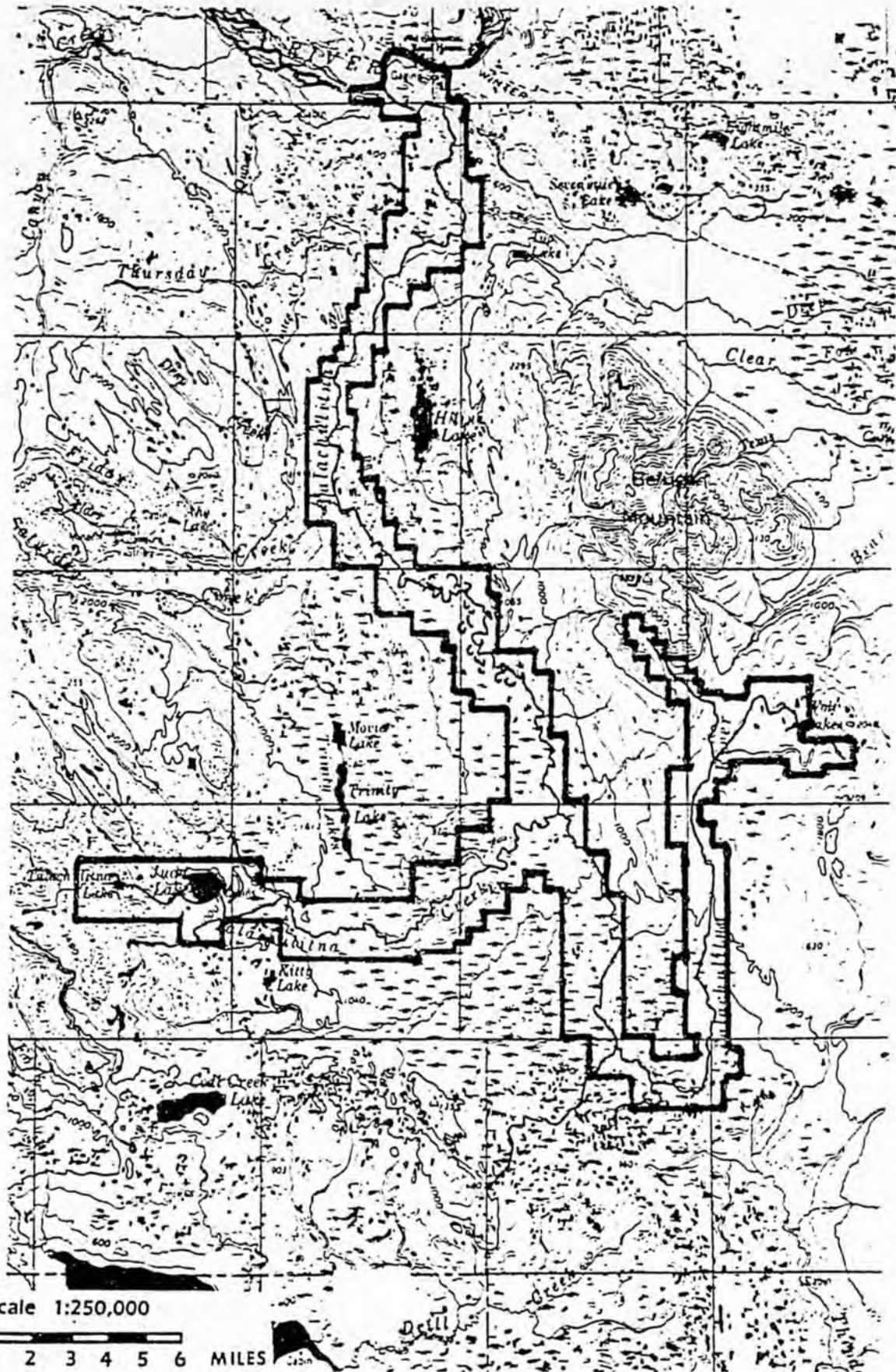


Scale 1:250,000

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 MILES

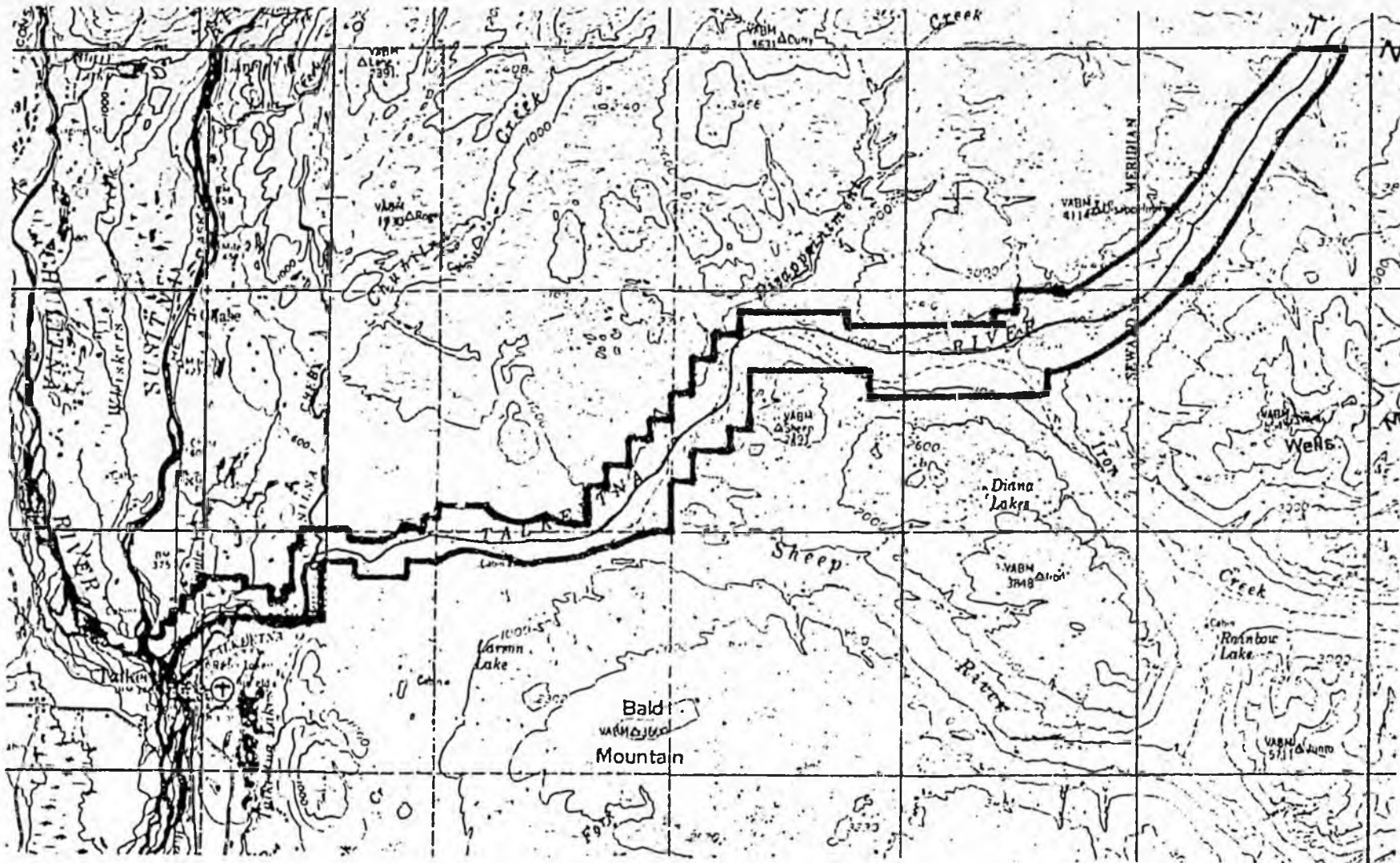
# TALACHULITNA CREEK

Proposed Recreational River Corridor



# TALKEETNA RIVER

## Proposed Recreational River Corridor



Scale 1:250,000

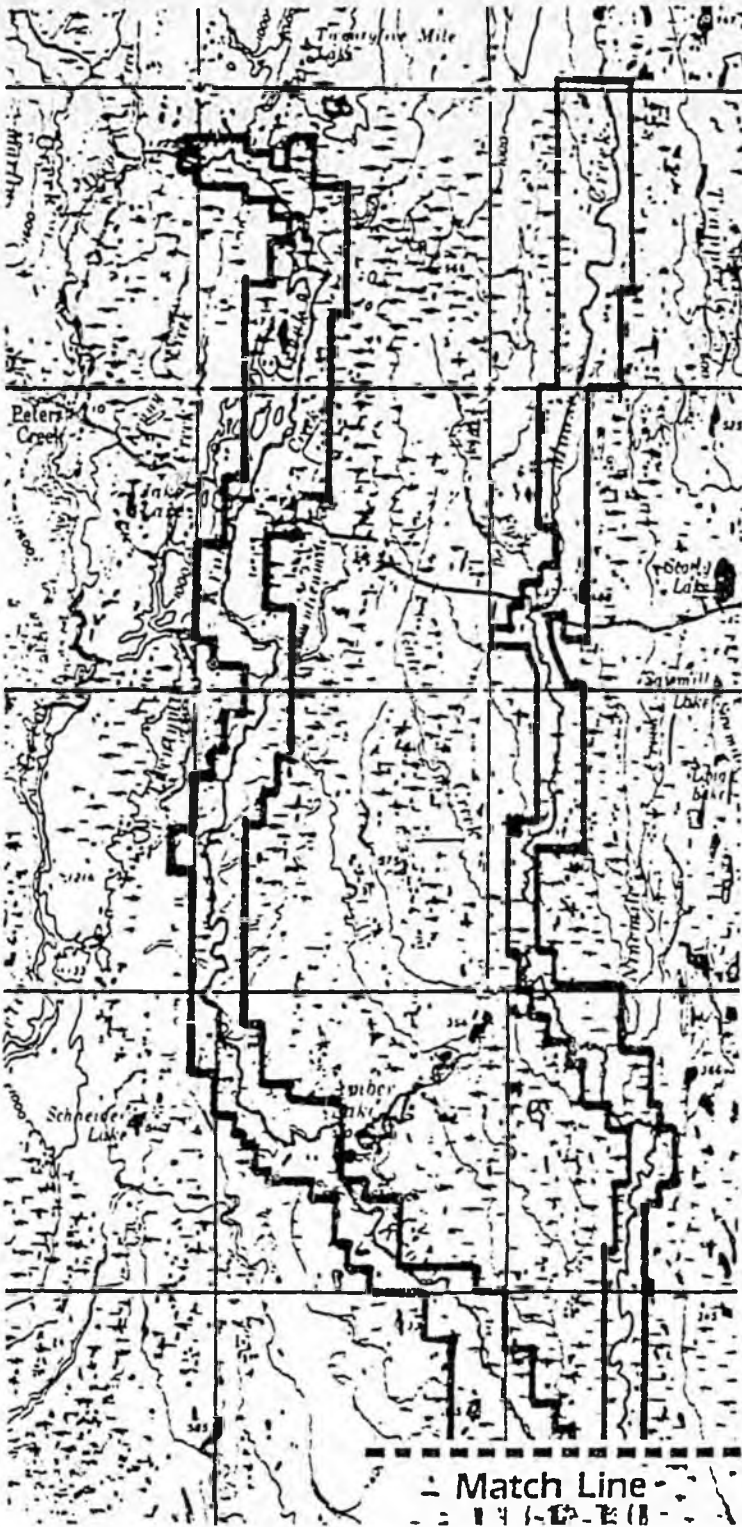


0 1 2 3 4 5 6 MILES

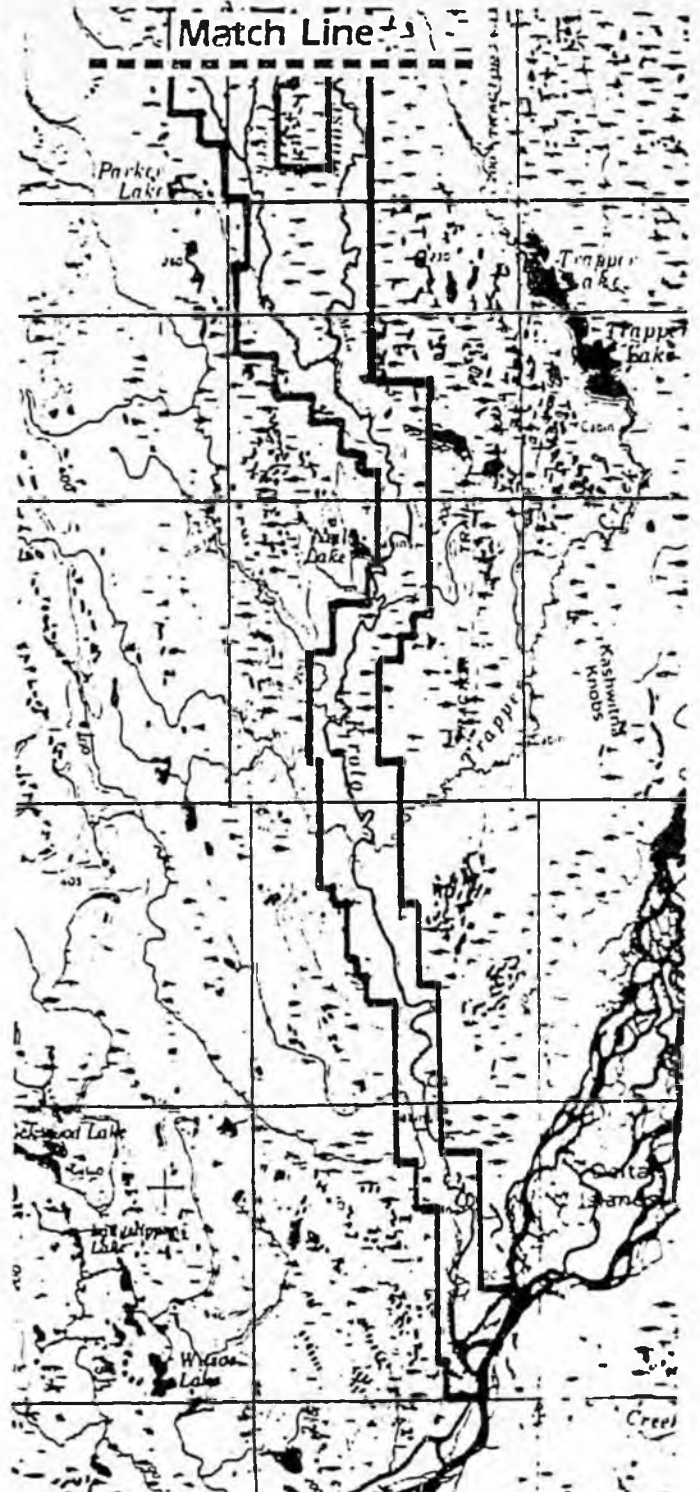
# KROTO CREEK — MOOSE CREEK

## Proposed Recreational River Corridor

### North Half



### South Half



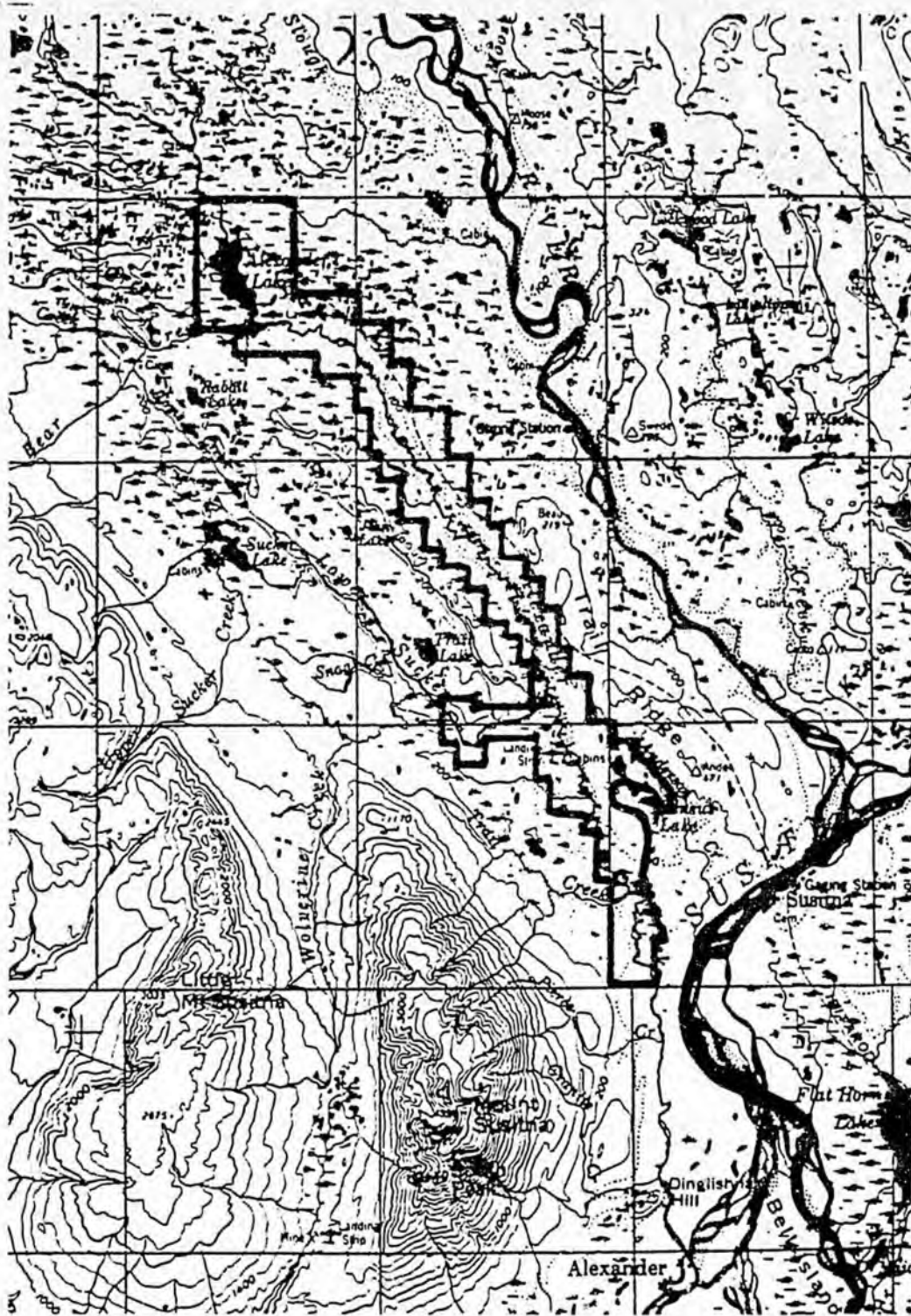
Scale 1:250,000



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 MILES

# ALEXANDER CREEK

## Proposed Recreational River Corridor



Scale 1:250,000



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 MILES

March 2, 1988

## **Susitna Valley Association**

### **Position Paper SCS SCHB 93 - Recreational Rivers**

The Susitna Valley Association is an organization of diverse groups using the Susitna Valley which is interested in maintaining the valley's remote character, current use patterns and present economic base. Our current mailings to individual members, member organizations, and member businesses reaches over 12,000 individuals.

The Susitna Valley Association was formed in late 1987, primarily to oppose the Susitna Valley/Tyonek Timber Sale as proposed by the Department of Natural Resources at that time. While the original plan has been withdrawn for further review by the Department of Natural Resources, considerable concern was expressed by members of the association about both the effect of timber harvesting on many of the rivers subject to HB 93, and about the effect of large scale timber harvesting on the commercial and private recreational activities on or near these rivers.

The Susitna Valley Association is supportive of the concept of protecting the current uses and values associated with the important recreational rivers in the Susitna Valley and throughout the state. To that extent, we support HB 93, which requires the commissioner to closely regulate activities in or near these rivers while preserving many of the current use patterns.

However, the current version of HB 93, referenced above, permits, as compatible activities, the harvesting of wood products within the corridors. The Susitna Valley Association believes that such activities, at least on a commercial scale, are fundamentally incompatible with the uses and values of these rivers. A number of our members have also expressed concern that the bill permits mining and the extraction of sand and gravel within the

March 2, 1988 - SVA Position Paper on SCS CSHB 93

Page 2

corridors, but our primary concern is commercial harvesting of timber products. Therefore, if SCS CSHB 93 was amended to prohibit commercial logging within the corridors, and if no adverse amendments were made in the meantime, the Susitna Valley Association would be in support of the bill.

If HB 93 should pass, we do want to stress that this would still not address our concerns regarding a large scale timber sale in the Susitna Valley. The two are totally different issues to be dealt with separately. Even if HB 93 becomes law, the even more important feeder streams and wetlands where salmon actually spawn would not be protected from damage from extensive logging operations. Such issues as extensive roading, critical animal habitat, the thousands of private properties that would be impacted, the potential impact on other successful industries already operating in the valley, etc., would still have to be addressed.

Should further information from the association be required on SCS CSHB 93, please contact one of the following representatives of the association:

**Officers of the Susitna Valley Association:**

Loisann G. Reeder, President  
9600 Slalom Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99516  
346-1943

Jim Seeley, Vice-President  
4330 Seeley Court  
Anchorage, AK 99502  
243-7001

Ed Sharpe, Secretary  
P.O. Box 190711  
Anchorage, AK 99519  
248-4337

Todd Rust, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 190325  
Anchorage, AK 99519  
243-1595



# Alaska Sportfishing Association

3605 Arctic Blvd., Suite 800 • Anchorage, Alaska 99503

February 9, 1987

Representative Sam Cotten  
Alaska State Legislature  
Pouch V (MS 3100)  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear *Sam* Representative Cotten:

The 2,000 individual members and 135 business members of the Alaska Sportfishing Association wish to express our appreciation on the extensive efforts that you put forth last year, and again this year, on the Recreation Rivers Bill, HB 93.

It is of great importance to us and to the state of Alaska that meaningful legislation be enacted to preserve these great resources. Your work last year nearly saw that goal a reality. With your continued assistance, it can be a reality this year.

The one great concern that we now have is that the "watering down" has already been done. To retain a meaningful bill, there remains very little that can be changed without the bill being reduced to below current protection standards as provided in the Susitna Area plan.

Thanks again for your hard work.

Sincerely,

ALASKA SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

Robert L. Hunter  
Chairman, Legislative Committee



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 4th Street, Suite 106  
Juneau, AK 99801  
907-586-2820

April 13, 1988

To: Members of Senate Resources Committee

The board of directors of United Fishermen of Alaska believes that Alaska's wealth is founded on our natural resources.

They provide not only income and employment for Alaskans, but also the basis for recreation and relaxation which contribute so thoroughly to the quality of life that we prize here.

It is with this in mind that UFA supports House Bill 93, establishing six recreational rivers in Southcentral Alaska.

The bill appears to be concerned with, among other things, maintenance of fish populations and habitat. Yet it allows resource development to take place as long as those activities are compatible with habitat maintenance.

We think these are reasonable provisions and they have our support.

We were also glad to see that this bill does not affect the current authority of the Board of Fisheries to allocate the fish resources among the various user groups. If the committee contemplates revisions to the bill, we urge you to retain this provision.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA SPORT FISHING ECONOMIC STUDY

PREPARED FOR:

Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game  
Division of Sport Fisheries  
Anchorage, Alaska



ALASKA DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME PHOTO

PREPARED BY:

Jones & Stokes  
Associates, Inc.  
Sacramento, California

WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY:

Niehaus and Associates  
Marketing Planning and  
Management Consultants  
Dr. W. Michael Hanemann  
Dr. Richard T. Carson  
Dr. Russell Gum  
Dr. Robert Mitchell

JANUARY, 1988

# INTRODUCTION

Sport fishing in southcentral Alaska is an important economic activity that contributes to employment and income in the region and to the well-being of resident and nonresident anglers. In 1986, more than 1.3 million days were spent sport fishing in southcentral Alaska, accounting for 65 percent of the statewide total (Alaska Department of Fish and Game). Resident anglers accounted for more than 85 percent (1,153,600) of the days fished. Nonresidents spent more than 201,000 days fishing in southcentral Alaska in 1986, stimulating the state economy with vital tourist dollars.

The abundance and diversity of angling opportunities largely explains the popularity of sport fishing in southcentral Alaska. Both freshwater and saltwater sport fisheries are numerous throughout the region, with more than 20 different species to target. Many sport fishing areas are characterized by unique qualities such as trophy-sized fish or a wilderness experience. Although most sport fishing occurs in summer months, more than 20 percent of resident angling households also participate in winter sport fishing, primarily ice fishing.

As the state population has grown, demands on the significant but exhaustible fishery resources have increased. Competition among user groups for access to the fisheries has intensified. To determine the most beneficial and sustainable use, resource managers and decision makers must increasingly rely on economic information for policy making.

The purpose of this study was to assess the economic importance of sport fisheries in the southcentral region of Alaska (Figure 1). The primary analytical objectives were:

- to estimate expenditures of sport anglers by water body fished and species sought at fishing locations throughout southcentral Alaska;
- to estimate the economic impacts of angler spending on sport fishing in southcentral Alaska at four regional levels—the Kenai Peninsula, the Anchorage area, the rest of Alaska, and outside Alaska; and
- to estimate nonmarket values (or consumer's surplus) of sport fishing by water body fished and species sought at locations throughout southcentral Alaska. These values are equivalent to the monetary value of sport fishing to anglers over and above expenditures.

Surveys of resident and nonresident anglers and of sport fishing-related businesses and guides were conducted by mail. The data collected in these surveys then were used in economic models to derive the estimates.



FIGURE 1

# ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

## Market Effects

Anglers spent more than \$127 million on sport fishing in southcentral Alaska in 1986, equivalent to total statewide spending in furniture, home furnishings, appliance, radio, television and music stores in 1982 (U.S. Dept. of Commerce). State residents spent more than \$74 million, while nonresident anglers

contributed nearly \$53 million. More than 60 percent (\$31 million) of expenditures by nonresident anglers was on transportation purchased out of the state.

Sport fishing in southcentral Alaska pumped more than \$44 million into the Anchorage area economy and nearly \$32 million into the Kenai Peninsula economy in 1986 (Figure 2). More than \$17 million associated with southcentral sport fishing was spent in stores outside southcentral Alaska, primarily in the Fairbanks area.

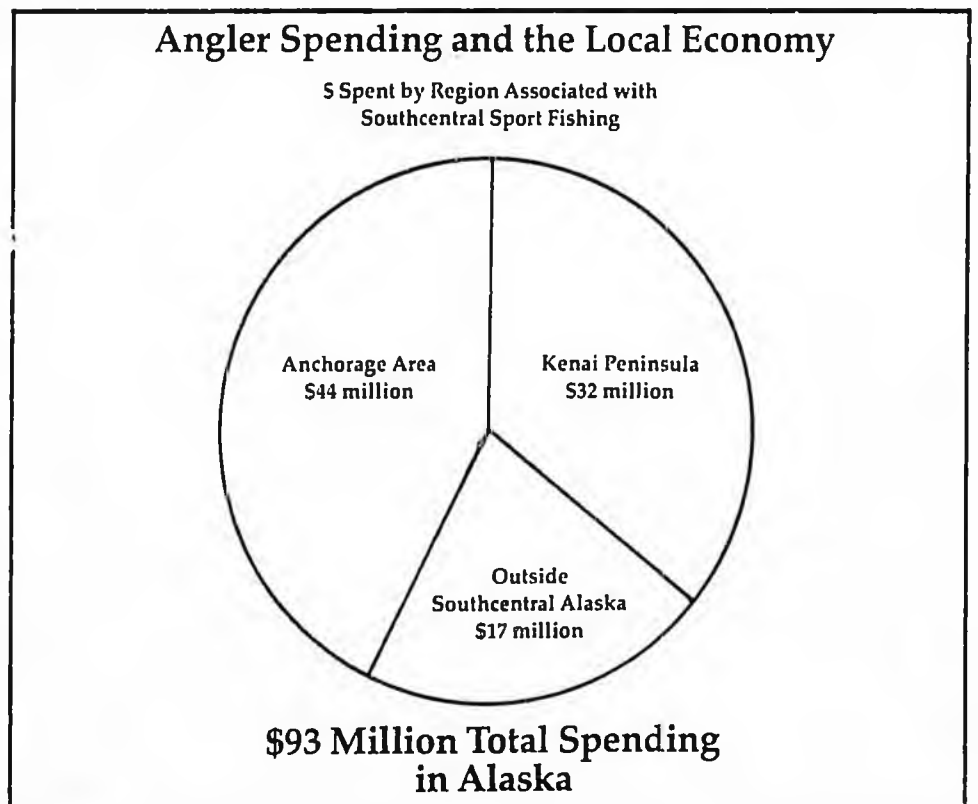


FIGURE 2

Southcentral anglers spent much of their money—more than \$38 million—fishing for king salmon. Of this total resident anglers spent more than \$16 million fishing for king salmon, while nonresidents spent nearly \$22 million. Halibut fishing also generated significant spending, with resident anglers spending more than \$12 million and nonresidents spending \$6 million.

Large expenditures were associated with Kenai River sport fishing, with total spending at \$38 million (Figure 3). Sport fishing for king salmon was the most valuable activity on the Kenai, accounting for nearly half of all spending. Other important sport fisheries in southcentral Alaska include halibut at Kachemak Bay (\$8.7 million in spending), red salmon on the Russian River (\$5.2 million), king salmon in West Side Cook Inlet/Susitna streams (\$5.0 million), and halibut at Deep Creek Marine (\$4.0 million).

Total spending associated with sport fishing in southcentral Alaska directly supported 2,178 jobs in Alaska in 1986, including 781 in the Anchorage area and 886 on the Kenai Peninsula. By comparison, the statewide lumber and wood products industry supported 1,252 jobs, and the statewide mining industry (excluding oil and gas extraction) supported 2,533 jobs (Figure 4) in Alaska in 1985 (U.S. Dept. of Commerce). It is emphasized that employment in those latter two industries include activities

### Angler Spending on Southcentral Sport Fishing (\$127 million total spending)

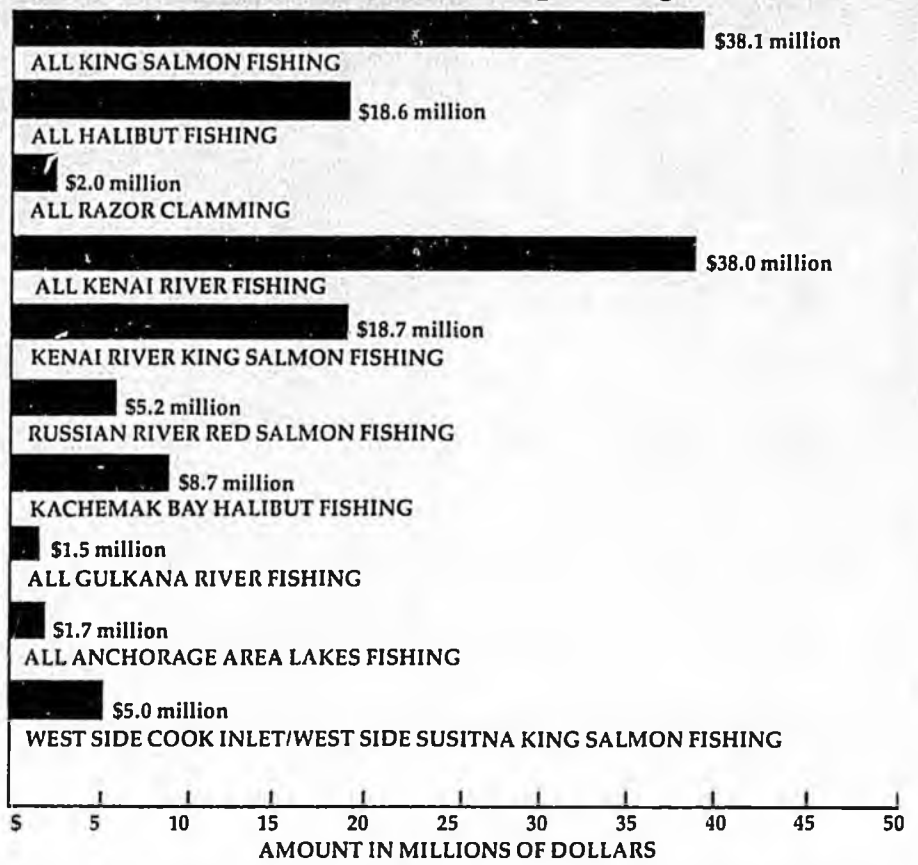


FIGURE 3

### Jobs in Alaska Directly Supported by Southcentral Sport Fishing vs. Selected Statewide Industries

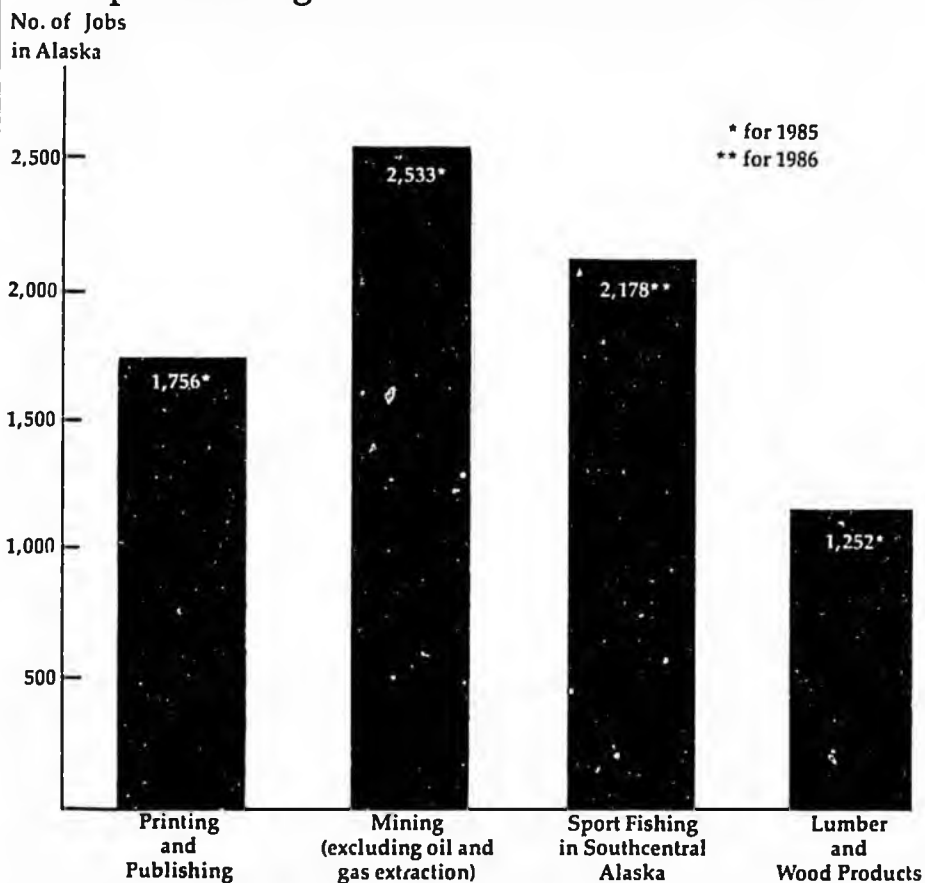


FIGURE 4

throughout Alaska, whereas the employment effects of sport fishing are associated with activities in southcentral Alaska only. Wages and salaries generated directly by angler spending on southcentral sport fishing was more than \$18 million in 1986.

#### Nonmarket Benefits

In addition to its impact on the state and regional economy, sport fishing provides substantial nonmarket benefits to anglers. These benefits are equivalent to the dollar amount that southcentral Alaska anglers would be willing to pay (over and above their current expenditures) to ensure the availability of sport fishing opportunities in southcentral Alaska. Nonmarket benefits to southcentral anglers totaled more than \$276 million in 1986, with resident anglers receiving \$246 million and nonresidents receiving \$30 million. The Kenai River was the most valuable fishery in terms of nonmarket values, generating \$23.2 million in net benefits to anglers. Other sport fisheries in southcentral Alaska generating significant nonmarket benefits to anglers include halibut fishing at Kachemak Bay (\$8.1 million), red salmon fishing at the Russian River (\$3.2 million), and halibut fishing at Deep Creek Marine (\$2.6 million).

# ANGLER SPENDING

Alaska households with members who sport fish in southcentral spent an average of \$804 per household on sport fishing-related goods and services. Anchorage area residents spent the most—\$865 per household, with 95 percent of this spending associated with sport fishing in southcentral Alaska (Figure 5). Kenai Peninsula residents spent the least, with an average of \$670 per household; 99 percent of that amount was for southcentral sport fishing. Fairbanks residents spent an average of \$769 per household, with only 42 percent associated with southcentral sport fishing.

Resident anglers spent nearly 60 percent of their money in retail trade businesses, including department and sporting goods stores, retail food and liquor stores, and service stations (Figure 6). Marine boat stores accounted for more than 17 percent of total spending by residents, and guiding businesses received about 3.3 percent of the residents' dollars.

Nonresident anglers spent an average of \$1,369 per household on sport fishing-related goods and services on trips to Alaska. Per day spending on sport fishing averaged \$168 per household. Although many anglers fished outside southcentral Alaska, 84 percent of the spending by nonresidents took place either in the Anchorage area (38 percent) or on the Kenai Peninsula (46 percent). Nonresident anglers spent most of their money in

Alaska in retail trade stores, which received more than 39 percent of their business (Figure 7). Guide businesses took in more than 15 percent of statewide nonresident angler spending. Nonresident anglers indicated that, if necessary, their household would have been willing to pay an average of \$305 more in transportation costs per household to take their most recent trip to Alaska.

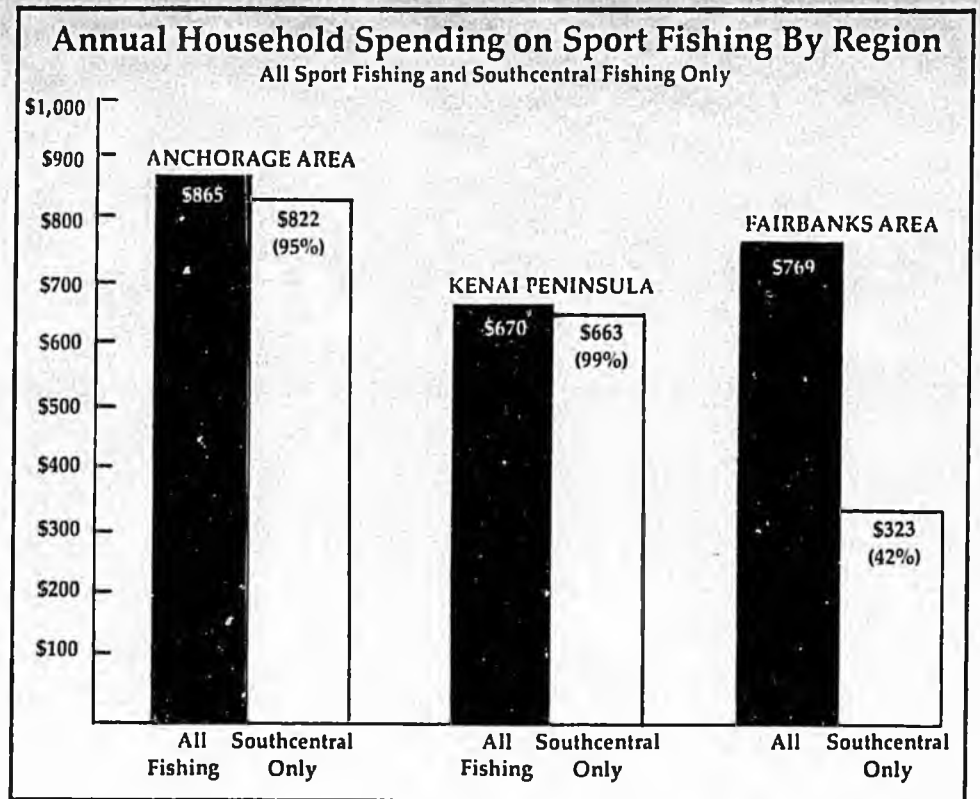


FIGURE 5

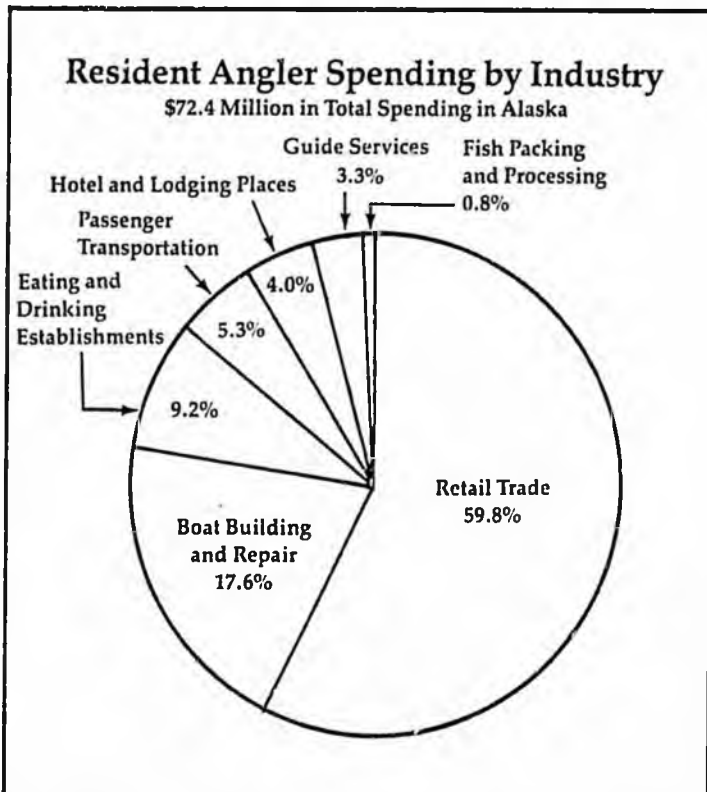


FIGURE 6

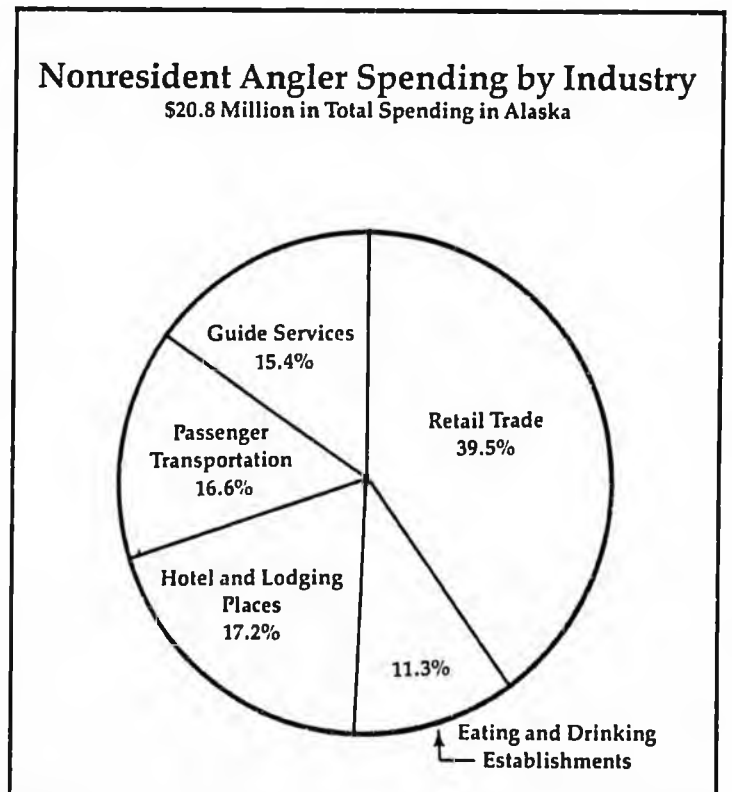


FIGURE 7

## RELATED BUSINESS ACTIVITY

Anglers made purchases in many types of businesses throughout southcentral Alaska, including variety and department stores, general sporting goods stores, specialty fishing stores, hotels and motels, eating and drinking establishments, transportation service businesses, fishing lodges and camps, travel and booking agencies, boat stores, guide service businesses, and retail food and liquor stores. These businesses are dependent to varying degrees on sport fishing. Sport fishing-related sales as a percentage of total sales ranged from 1.8 percent for eating and drinking establishments to 70.3 percent for specialty fishing stores (Figure 8). The average percentage of sales related to sport fishing for all sport fishing-related businesses was 11.7 percent. The average percentage of sport fishing-related labor employed was much higher (56.3 percent), indicating that many employees spend only a small proportion of their time in sales of sport fishing-related items.

## Dependence of Southcentral Businesses on Sport Fishing



FIGURE 8

## Local Spending by Sport Fishing-Related Businesses in the Anchorage Area

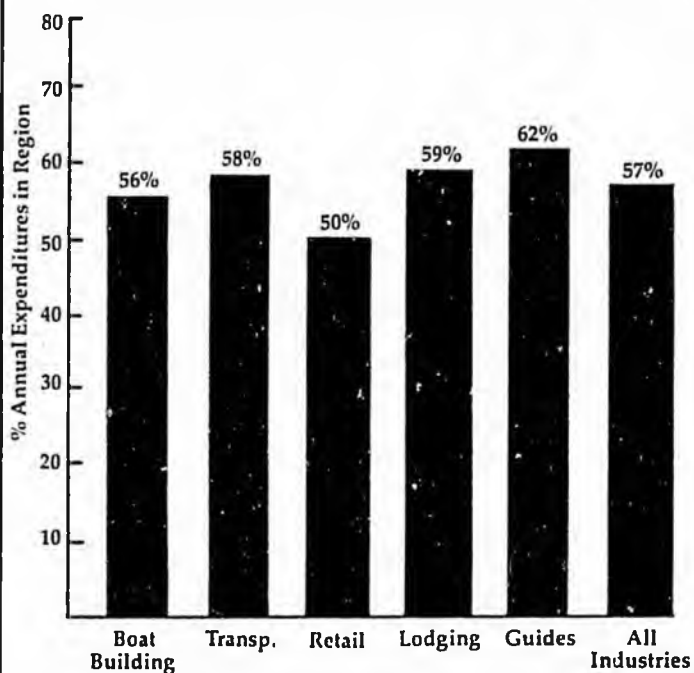


FIGURE 9A

Sport fishing guides in the Kenai Peninsula depend almost exclusively on sport fishing to support their business. More than 98 percent of their sales was related to sport fishing. Sport fishing guide businesses in the Anchorage area and elsewhere in southcentral Alaska are less dependent on sport fishing, with sport fishing-related sales of 73 percent and 81 percent, respectively. More than 62 percent of all guided sport fishing trips were destined for the Kenai Peninsula.

The respending of angler dollars in

## Local Spending by Sport Fishing-Related Businesses in the Kenai Peninsula

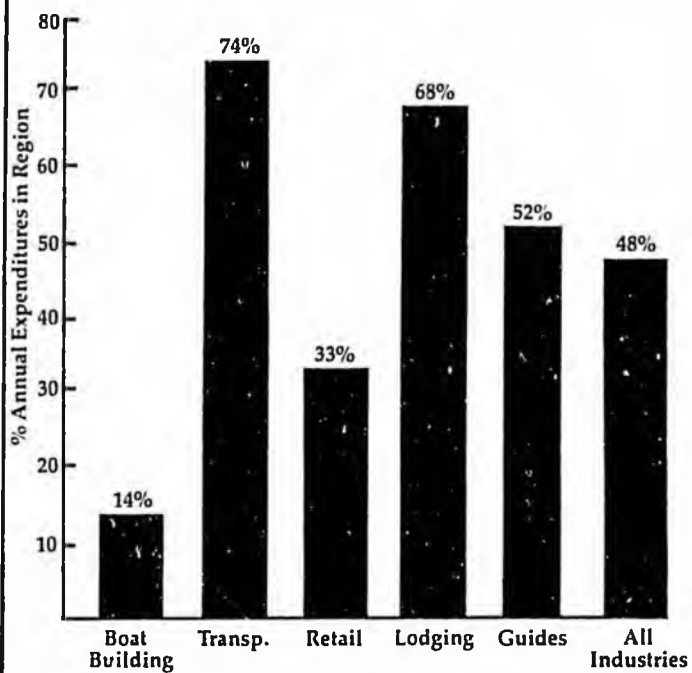


FIGURE 9B

southcentral businesses helps fuel the local economy. In the Anchorage area, 57 percent of the spending by sport fishing-related businesses was made in the local area, with no industry spending more than 62 percent, or less than 50 percent, outside the local area (Figures 9a). In the Kenai Peninsula, 48 percent of spending by sport fishing-related businesses stayed in the local economy. The percentage of local spending ranged from 14 percent for the boat building industry to 74 percent for the transportation service industry

(Figure 9b).

As angler dollars are respent by businesses, additional employment and income are created that further contribute to the state and local economy. In total, angler spending associated with sport fishing in southcentral Alaska supported the equivalent of 2,840 full-time jobs statewide in 1986. Alaska residents received more than \$65 million in wages and salaries attributable to sport fishing in southcentral Alaska.



JONES AND STOKES  
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S A S INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
CONSULTANTS TO MANAGEMENT

RECEIVED

AUG 28 1987

6557 Shawnee Run Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45243  
Area Code 513 561-6809

Telex Address  
241-468 BAN COM CIN

DIV. OF ADMIN.

August 15, 1987

Secretary  
Alaska Dept. of Game & Fisheries  
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Sir:

I just finished a very enjoyable 7-day fishing trip on the Deska River. I was impressed with the beauty of the area.

I was also distressed by the presence of numerous airboats and high powered jet and propeller boats.

They rush up and down the river, creating large waves that are badly eroding the shore line.

The airboats are particularly bad-extremely noisy, and I personally saw one strike and crush a King salmon on its spawning bed. I saw the fish struggle and the next day saw it dead on the shoreline.

I understand that this is a common occurrence as these boats use their shallow draft to run in the spawning bed areas.

I strongly recommend that you put a limit of 35 hp Mercury's. That is ridiculous.

As our last wilderness state, Alaska has a responsibility to preserve it for future generations, as well as, to support tourism, hunting, and fishing that is so vital to the state's economic health.

How can I help?

Sincerely,

J. F. STEVENSON

J. F. Stevenson

cc: Governor of Alaska, Juneau, Alaska

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 3-2000  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99802-2000  
PHONE: (907) 465-4100

September 11, 1987

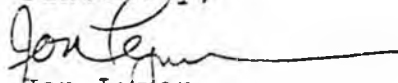
S A S International, Inc.  
6557 Shawnee Run Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45243

Dear Mr. Stevenson:

The misuse of our fisheries resource on the Deshka River is part of a larger problem. A system to plan for the better use and management of our rivers is proposed in Alaska House Bill number 93. This bill, introduced by Representative Cotton from Eagle River, would not solve all the problems, however, it is a start toward formalizing a planning process to study the impacts we are having on our rivers and to establish effective management plans. This bill will be considered during the next legislative session. I will forward your letter to the members of the House Resources Committee.

As for the impact of public use or abuse on our fisheries resources in the Deshka River, while there are no formal studies, run strength continues to be strong and the escapement needed for continuation of the run does not appear to be dropping because of public use. Your concerns do, however, mirror those of the department, and we are continuing to monitor this and other rivers that are subject to similar use.

Sincerely,

  
Jon Lyman  
Information Officer

cc: Representative Adelheid Herrmann  
Representative Sam Cotten  
Representative John Sund  
Representative Mike Navarre  
Representative Cliff Davidson  
Representative Drue Pearce  
Representative Heinrich Springer  
Representative Lyman Hoffman  
Representative Richard Schultz



# Alaska Boating Association



P.O. Box 210430  
Anchorage, Alaska 99521

11 April 1988

Representative Sam Cotten  
P.O. Box V  
Mail Stop 3100  
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: House Bill 93 Recreational Rivers

The Alaska Boating Assoc. has been closely and intimately involved in the public discussions surrounding the Recreation Rivers issue as presented by House Bill 93.

The Alaska Boating Assoc. attended all the workshops held by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and State teleconference's. We have in an objective effort to address various problems and policy issues surrounding the Recreation Rivers issue.

We have consistently objected in the most strenuous terms, to a passage of a bill prior to the completion of a management plan. The Alaska Boating Assoc. is requesting that legislation specifically directed to the Commissioner of Natural Resources enter into a cooperative planning effort with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for the development of a management plan prior to the designation of Recreation River status.

Efforts by the legislature, as represented in the Senate Committee Substitute for HB93 as presented by the Community of Regional Affairs does not reflect the changes that the Alaska Boating Assoc. has requested.

The Alaska Boating Assoc. supports the recommendations of the Alaska Miners Assoc., Mat-Sue Homeowners Assoc., and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The Alaska Boating Assoc. requests the legislature to amend the proposed bill as follows:

1. The Alaska Boating Assoc. rejects the concept of an Advisory Board as presented in Section 41.23.230. We find that the management issues between state and local group's have not been effectively resolved in the past by the Advisory boards consisting of special interests groups as seen in the Kenai River Bill and the state Fisheries Board. The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resource, if properly directed by Statute, can develop a cooperative management plan that will allow every opportunity for groups to participate in the discussions, draft plan reviews, and comments on each plan for these rivers.

11 April 1988

Page 2

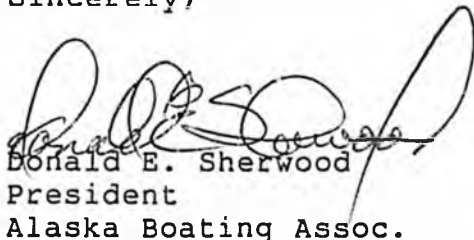
2. Section 41.28.240, dealing with the management plan, although the Alaska Boating Assoc. appreciates the addition of the language on consultation with local municipalities, the Alaska Boating Assoc. would point out that this language is nothing more than what is already required by state statute. This same statement applies to regulations that presently exist in state statutes concerning and effecting the land and river systems in this state. The policy and enforcement decisions should not be made by one commissioner but by all Department Commissioners directly responsible within the area of the Six River Recreational River Bill, Public Safety and etc.

3. The Alaska Boating Assoc. with respect to limitations on the disposal of timber or other resources within the Recreation River corridors, we would respectfully request that the corridors be extended to one (1) mile on each side of the high water mark.

The Alaska Boating Assoc. thinks that with good professional land management, using current and future scientific knowledge along with existing constraints described in regulations, would allow for the continued protection of fisheries, wildlife and recreational values while allowing for development of timber and mineral reserves.

With these changes, the Alaska Boating Assoc. could and would support this legislation.

Sincerely,



Donald E. Sherwood  
President  
Alaska Boating Assoc.

For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing six recreation  
rivers; and providing for an effective  
date."

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

\*Section 1. FINDINGS AND INTENT. The legislature finds that the special values and uses of [certain] six rivers [corridors] in Southcentral Alaska justify [their] the retention of the rivers and their adjacent corridor for public use. The six rivers should be managed for public recreation and the six river corridors can support many public uses, including some that will enhance the local economy as well as improve access to [retained] public and private land outside the river corridors. The designation of [these] the six rivers and their corridors [as recreation rivers] recognizes the value of the [described land] rivers and their corridors for public use and is not intended to become an undue impediment to [the] multiple use [and] land and water management or the enjoyment of adjacent public and private land, or to the development of access within, across, and around the rivers and their corridors. The legislature is particularly concerned that an owner of [private property] land or a legal interest in land, within or adjacent to the river corridors be [assured] allowed [customary and] reasonable access to [an inholding] and the full use of the

rights. [Any regulation of boating under the existing authority of the commissioner should occur under the management plan, with full involvement of interested users and in an accessible public process.]

\*Sec.2. AS 41.23 is amended by adding new sections to read:

ARTICLE 3. RECREATION RIVERS.

Sec. 41.23.200. PURPOSES. (a) The purpose of AS 41.23.200 - 41.23.300 is to establish as recreation rivers the land and water now owned by the state and the land and water acquired in the future by the state that lies within the recreation rivers and the river corridors [boundaries] described in AS 41.23.300.

(b) The primary purpose for the establishment of the six recreation rivers [are] is the maintenance and enhancement of the land and water described in AS 41.23.300 for recreation.

(c) The primary purpose for the management of the six recreation rivers are

2 (X) [(3)] multiple use management of upland activities within the recreation river corridors [ for the protection and maintenance of] to ensure that mitigation measures to alleviate potential adverse effects on water quality and stream flow will take place; [and]

3 ~~(2)~~ (1) the management, ~~the~~ protection and maintenance of the fish and wildlife populations and habitat on a sustained-yield basis;

1 ~~(2)~~ [(2) conservation of the scenic and natural integrity of the recreation river corridor and] continued recreational ~~and economic~~ use, including the uses described in (1) and (4) of this section, and enjoyment by the public and individuals for recreational activities that include hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, boating, hiking, snowmachining, skiing, dog mushing, and wildlife viewing, while ensuring the scenic and <sup>natural integrity</sup> fundamental characteristics of the recreation river corridor;

4 ~~(4)~~ accommodation of access [for recreation, tourism, and other compatible recreation oriented economic uses of the river corridor.] for <sup>resource</sup> economic uses, including recreation and tourism, within or adjacent to the river corridor.

Sec. 41.23.210. COMPATIBLE ACTIVITIES. (a) The commissioner shall allow the following activities within a recreation river or within a recreation river corridor when they are compatible with AS 41.23.200 and consistent with a management plan adopted under AS 41.23.240:

(1) the use of aircraft, powerboats, snowmachines, all terrain vehicles, [and other] motorized transportation and transportation by animal;

(2) the sale and harvest of wood products;

(3) sand and gravel extraction [, for public use];

[and]

(4) the construction and operation of [private] recreational facilities[.]; and

(5) other uses permitted in the management plan required by AS 41.23.230, including mining and mineral development.

[(b) In addition to the activities identified in (a) of this section, the commissioner may allow other activities within a recreation river corridor when they are compatible with AS 41.23.200 and consistent with a management plan adopted under AS 41.23.240.]

[(c) The commissioner shall allow the continuation of commercial or private activities occurring on the effective date of this Act under valid permit for use of state-owned land within the boundaries of a recreation river corridor so long as the commissioner determines that the activity is compatible with AS 41.23.200. When considering the revocation or renewal of an existing permit, the commissioner shall make available for public comment, on request, a preliminary finding and, if appropriate, may hold a public hearing in the communities near the recreation river corridor before determining whether the activity is compatible with AS 41.23.200.]

Sec. 41.23.220. GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF RECREATION RIVER CORRIDORS. (a) The state-owned land and water within the area

established as a recreation river corridor under AS 41.23.300, including to recreation river corridor, is assigned to the commissioner for management consistent with the purposes of AS 41.23.200 [- 41.23.300.].

(b) The commissioner shall reserve to the state under AS 46.15.145 an instream flow or level for the water in the rivers described in AS 41.23.300[(b)] that is adequate to achieve the purposes of AS 41.23.200.

(c) the commissioner may regulate boating, if necessary, under the management plan adopted under AS 41.23.240;

(d) The provisions of AS 41.23.200 - 41.23.[300] 310 do not affect the authority of

(i) the department of fish and game, the board of fisheries, the board of game, or the guide licensing and control board under AS 08.54, AS 16, or AS 41.99.010

(2) the department of environmental conservation under AS 46.03; or

(3) state agencies and municipalities under AS 44.19.145 (a)(11) and AS 46.40.100.

(e) [(d)] The commissioner may not restrict the use of weapons, including firearms, within a recreation river corridor except in sites of high public use such as picnic areas, boat ramps, camping grounds, and parking areas when the commissioner determines that the use of weapons constitutes a threat to public safety. Except as provided in this subsection, the commissioner may not restrict fishing, hunting, or trapping within a recreation river corridor.