

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES, 1989-1990 8672
6223 SENATE COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS

627

Feb. 27, 1990

HCO4 Box 9595
Palmer, AK. 99645

RECEIVED

MAR 2 1990

Dear Senator Szymanski,

I would like to inform you that I am in favor of state Bill 430.

Many people come to this area to appreciate its remote character. Allowing the possibility of a large scale timber operation to operate would destroy this! Many people have jobs now due to this remote recreation area and there exists the opportunity for more as the tourism industry continues to grow.

Our forests should be left as a statement of the future. There is no need to log our Susitna Valley.

Again I am in favor of SB 430.

Sincerely,

Donna Ford

cc

Jay Kerttula
Curt Menard
Ron Larson



Box 873542, Wasilla, AK 99687
(907) 376-1060

RECEIVED
MAR 1 1990

February 23, 1990

Honorable Mike Szymanski
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Mike, we hope you have had an opportunity to take a look at SB 430 regarding the establishment of a remote recreation area in the Susitna Valley. As you might imagine, REDCOR does not see the benefit of such an action for the state in general or for the Mat-Su Borough in particular. Removing this natural resource base from the economic base of the State and Borough is unthinkable.

Should SB 430 pass, very few people will benefit. But it appears those who do will receive great benefits. They will have succeeded in setting aside over two million acres as a private resource for air and river borne fishing guides. Many of the people who use that area do not contribute to the Mat-Su economy in that they are headquartered in Anchorage. This is made especially clear when we look at the make-up of the group requesting the legislation, the Susitna Valley Association. Its membership includes only 700 Mat-Su residents, according to Lois Reeder's explanation to the Wasilla Chamber of Commerce a few weeks ago. The other 3,600 are from Anchorage and elsewhere.

Most importantly, negative impacts of the bill include: it perpetuates Alaska's dying forests; continues the moose habitat problem which is causing numerous casualties to the moose population; ignores the value of the harvestable timber; and denies other significant economic and wildlife and fisheries management opportunities to the Mat-Su Borough and its residents.

REDCOR urges you to oppose SB 430 and any similar legislation which may be introduced. We have enclosed a resolution to that effect.

Budd Goodyear
Budd Goodyear
Executive Director

Enclosure



Box 873542, Wasilla, AK 99687
(907) 376-1060

RESOLUTION 90-5

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the Alaska Legislature which would create a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, the Susitna Area Plan approved by the Mat-Su Borough and State of Alaska establishes guidelines for land-use in the Susitna Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Susitna Area Plan does not recommend the creation of a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, nearly fifty-five (55) percent of all State lands within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough are already classified as Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat lands; and

WHEREAS, the classification of the Susitna Valley as a remote recreation area will severely interfere with State and Borough efforts to diversify the economy by eliminating all forms of development, including tourism; and

WHEREAS, classification of the Susitna Valley as a Remote Recreation Area will subvert and side-step past decisions for selecting lands under the Municipal Lands Entitlement program by classifying the selected lands in category not compatible with the reason the lands were selected; and

WHEREAS, the classification of the Susitna Valley as a Remote Recreation Area will provide an unfair economic advantage to existing property (lodge) owners and significant numbers of tour operators outside the Mat-Su Borough by restricting competition;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that REDCOR strongly opposes Senate Bill 430 and any others which will lock-up the Susitna Valley against environmentally sound resource development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that REDCOR respectfully urges the Alaska Legislature oppose this legislation.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the REDCOR Board of Directors this 12th day of February 1990.

APPROVED:

Harold Newcomb
President

ATTEST:

Andrew Reimer
Treasurer

P. O. Box 20
Palmer, AK. 99645-0020

7 February 1990

RECEIVED

FEB 12 1990



Senator Mike Szymanski
Chairman, Comm. & Regional Affairs
Capitol Room 11
P. O. Box V
Juneau, AK. 99811
MS: 3100

Dear Senator Szymanski;

Please find enclosed a copy of the three page letter I wrote entitled, "Multiple Use Management or SVA Land Lock Up".

I am very disappointed that a large organization, i.e., SVA, would deliberately draft and support an Act such as the proposed 2.13 Million Acre, Susitna Valley Remote Recreational Area. This goes directly against our State Constitution, the one that you are empowered to support and defend. I am even more disappointed that there are some of our elected officials in Juneau who would even consider selling out to a large organization, by supporting an Act that goes against the grain of our State Constitution. This 2.13 Million Acre piece of Alaska is Public Land, for all Alaskans, not just a select few.

I ask that you do everything within your power to Stop this Act dead in its tracks and any other version that may come before you, whether it is 2.13 Million Acres or just 200 Acres. If we allow these people to eat away at our Public Lands, acre by acre, soon there will be no open, Public Lands left for all Alaskans to enjoy. This land is for all of us to enjoy, not just a select few.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to one of your individual constituents. Please keep me informed of your views on this subject and provide me with any updated versions that may come before you. I have included my address for this purpose. May I hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert W. Lang".

Robert W. Lang

MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT "OR" SVA LAND LOCK UP

The question is, which will it be, the choice is yours if you will speak up, now. Its time that this Merry-Go-Round between Preservationist and sound Multiple Use Management Practices, ceases. I am referring to the front page article in the Frontiersman, on 1-17-90, the Proposed 2 Million Acre "Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area".

Are we, the residents of Alaska going to sit back and let a person, to wit, Lois Reeder and her adherents in the, Anchorage based, Susitna Valley Association, (SVA), tell us how to run our State and the Mat-Su Valley? Who is the SVA, look at their roles, they are individuals, organizations and businesses of whom the majority are not from the Mat-Su Valley, but rather, from the Anchorage area. They are preservationist, a group of people who already have land holdings, remote cabins, lodges, river front lots, etc., within the Mat-Su Valley who do not want any more people to encroach upon them. They have existing roads and trails to their places. They are a well organized group that have what they want, they do not want anyone else to build roads and trails to land which they might acquire from individuals or the State in the future, or to use its full potential of Natural Resources under the Multiple Use Management Concept, the SVA is totally against the concept of Multiple Use Management.

Apparently the SVA forgot to read The Constitution Of The State Of Alaska. Article VIII, "Natural Resources" reads in part: Section 1 - Statement of Policy. It is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest. Section 2 - General Authority. The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people. Section 4 - Sustained Yield. Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses. Section 5 - Facilities and Improvements. The legislature may provide for facilities, improvements, and services to assure greater utilization, development, reclamation, and settlement of lands, and to assure fuller utilization and development of the fisheries, wildlife, and waters.

There are 18 sections in all, to Article VIII, Natural Resources. Take the time to know your Constitutional Rights, pick up a copy of The Constitution Of The State Of Alaska at your nearest Legislature Information Office. In Wasilla, the Mat-Su Legislature Information Office is in the Krenik Building, their telephone number is 376-3704. Are you also aware that there are still 22 surviving Delegates Of The People Of Alaska, who wrote our State Constitution, which was adopted by the Constitutional Convention, on February 5, 1956. I can not begin to imagine what

must be going through their minds when they see such organizations as the SVA, deliberately violating our State Constitution.

The SVA say they are not in opposition to small-scale logging, therefore, small-scale logging to them must be nothing more than personal use permits. They have been at the back door of every timber sale presented and voiced their objections. Did you know that in calendar year 1989, there was not a single timber sale offered for public auction in the Mat-Su Valley, due in part to the endeavors of the SVA. Did you know that the workload of forest activities at the Big Lake office of the State Division of Forestry, is such, that 2 Foresters are able to handle this workload on the approximately 1.2 million acres, administered by that office. Of the dozen or so, Forest Technicians, that work out of that office, only one is on year round, and his primary duties are fire related, the remainder are all seasonal employees, because there is such a small workload. Compare this to any other such comparable size forests in the lower 48 or Canada, you would be astonished as to the amount of forest activity that should be in progress on some 1.2 million acres. On 1-10-90, there were only 4 timber sales offered at public auction, at the Big Lake office. Its a miracle that these 4 ever made it through all the obstacles created by such organizations, as the SVA.

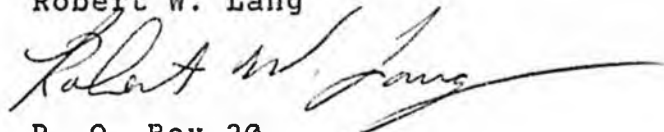
Did you notice that the cost of local forest products, i.e., lumber, firewood, house logs, timbers, slabs, posts and poles, etc., went up in price this past winter, re: Frontiersman 1-19-90, page 3, and may go even higher, state officials said in the article. A lot of this can be attributed to such organizations as the SVA, so long as they continue their attempts to "Lock Up Our Land".

Our forests are growing older just as we are, and expiring too. We have almost as much over mature, dead and dying commercial timber in the Mat-Su Valley as we do healthy stock, in part, because we are unable to harvest it. Dead and dying forests invite disease and insect infestation, and if left unchecked by sound forest management practices, i.e., timber harvesting, our forest will expire and along with it, the fish, wildlife, hiking trails, scenery, clean streams, etc. Did you notice that in some areas of the Mat-Su Valley, large blocks of White Spruce are turning brown. This is caused by the Spruce Beetle infestation, which is in progress in some parts of the Mat-Su Valley, now. This infestation will continue to spread if left unchecked by sound forest management practices or by a forest fire, which could start and blacken thousands of acres, in the valley. There is nothing else so ripe for a forest fire than a dead and dying White Spruce forests. Sound forest management practices would allow us to utilize this resource on a sustained yield basis and good silvicultural practices would increase regeneration of new stock in a healthy environment. The SVA talks about tourism, however I do not believe the tourist, who sometimes spend

thousands of dollars to come to Alaska, want to look at millions of acres of dead and dying or blackened forests.

If we are ever going to save our land from total "Land Lock Up", and maintain it for Multiple Use Management, for all Alaskans to enjoy, now is the time to step forward and speak out. Contact your local State Senators and Representatives now, and ask them to defeat the proposed 2 million acre, Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area and any other such "Land Lock Up" plans that may come before them. Be ever watchful, because when this proposed plan goes down to defeat, you can bet that the SVA will be right back with another plan of similar or stronger magnitude. It is our land, not just theirs, therefore come out fighting for your Constitutional Rights, as mandated by law.

Robert W. Lang

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert W. Lang". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

P. O. Box 20
Palmer, AK. 99645-0020

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: MIKE RODGERS
TITLE:
ADDRESS: P O BOX 873666
CITY: WASILLA ZIP: 99687
PHONE: 746-4425
BILL NO: SD 430
SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: I AM OPPOSED TO THE PASSAGE OF THIS BILL AND I WOULD APPRECIATE IT
IF YOU WOULD NOT SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION.

FOIID: 14084931
DATE: 02/20/90
TIME: 08:49:31
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

LARSON
MENARD

KERTTULA
FRANK
PEARCE
POURCHOT
ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: JACK DUNLAP
TITLE:
ADDRESS: PO BOX 418
CITY: PALMER ZIP: 99645
PHONE: 746-2352
BILL NO: SB 430
SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: I QUESTION THE INTENT OF THE BILL TO MANAGE AND PROTECT WILDLIFE HABITAT. BY ELIMINATING ANY COMMERCIAL TIMBER HARVEST YOU ARE ALSO ELIMINATING A VERY SIGNIFICANT CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUE OF PROVIDING BROWSE FOR MOOSE POPULATIONS. ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THIS YEARS DEVASTATING WINTER. I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED TO SB430.

POMID: 14125443
DATE: 02/20/90
TIME: 12:54:43
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

FRANK
PEARCE
POURCHOT
ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: PHIL MORTIZ
TITLE: DDSPRES. AK DENTAL SOCIETY
ADDRESS: 400 WILLOUGHBY AVE.SUITE 208
CITY: JUNEAU ZIP: 99801
PHONE: 586-1385
BILL NO: SR 12
SUBJECT: SUBSTITUTE
MESSAGE: I SUPPORT THE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE RESOLUTION 12. PLEASE REJECT ANY AMENDMENTS TO THIS SENATE SUBSTITUTE. THE INTENT OF AN AMENDMENT IS TO REESTABLISH THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE OF THE RESOLUTION. SENATE HESS REJECTED THAT RESOLUTION AND UNANIMOUSLY PASSED THE SUBSTITUTE WHICH I SUPPORT.

POMID: 00130914
DATE: 02/20/90
TIME: 13:09:14
LIONAME: JUNEAU LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

ADAMS
BINKLEY
COGHILL
DUNCAN
ELIASON
FAHRENKAMP
FAIKS
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
JONES
KELLY
KERTTULA
PEARCE
POURCHOT
STURGULEWSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: ROSE PALMQUIST

NAME: JULIA REEVES

TITLE:

TITLE:

ADDRESS: PO BOX 870294

ADDRESS: 1733 GREEN DALE DRIVE

CITY: WASILLA

ZIP: 99687

CITY: ANCHORAGE

ZIP: 99504

PHONE: 376-0110

PHONE: 337-3537

BILL NO: SB 430

BILL NO:

SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

SUBJECT: SB 444 AND HB 515/PERS CREDIT

MESSAGE: THE MATANUSKA SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY VOTED UNANIMOUSLY IN OPPOSITION OF SB430.

MESSAGE: PLEASE SUPPORT SB 444 AND HB 515 WHICH WILL FINALLY GIVE US THE EQUALITY AND FAIRNESS THAT IS LONG OVERDUE IN THE RETIREMENT SYSTEM. /BN

POMID: 14172749

POMID: 03082742

DATE: 02/15/90

DATE: 02/15/90

TIME: 17:27:49

TIME: 08:27:42

LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

MACLEAN	FOSTER	BINKLEY
PETTYJOHN	DAVIS, C.	ELIASON
KUBINA	LARSON	FAHRENKAMP
HOFFMAN	SWACKHAMMER	FAIKS
WALLIS	KOPONEN	HALFORD
ULMER	BROWN	JONES
SHULTZ	RIEGER	KELLY
PHILLIPS	BARNES	KERTTULA
GOLL	GRUENBERG	RODEY
DAVIS, M.	ELLIS	STURGULEWSKI
DAVIDSON	MILLER	UEHLING
MARTIN	MENARD	ZHAROFF
JACKO	HAVARRE	FRANK
FURNACE	SHARP	PEARCE
HUDSON	BOUCHER	POURCHOT
DONLEY	HANLEY	ADAMS
ZAWACKI	FINKELSTEIN	DUNCAN
		FISCHER

BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS
BOYER	BROWN	BINKLEY
COLLINS	COTTEN	COGHILL
DAVIDSON	DAVIS, C.	DUNCAN
DAVIS, M.	DONLEY	ELIASON
ELLIS	FINKELSTEIN	FAHRENKAMP
FOSTER	FURNACE	FAIKS
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FISCHER
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	FRANK
HOFFMAN	HUDSON	HALFORD
JACKO	KOPONEN	JONES
KUBINA	LARSON	KELLY
LEMAN	MACLEAN	KERTTULA
MARTIN	MENARD	PEARCE
MILLER	NAVARRE	POURCHOT
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	RODEY
RIEGER	SHARP	STURGULEWSKI
SHULTZ	SWACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

HCO2 Box 7342
Palmer AK 99645
February 12, 1990

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

Senator Mike Szymanski
Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V (MS3100)
Juneau AK 99811

Dear Senator Szymanski:

SB 430 has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Pat Rodey to create the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area. We respectfully request that you vote against SB430. Please consider very carefully the economic implications to the Mat-Su Borough. Can reserving it for the benefit of the few special interests, and the bill is quite clear in this regard, serve the best economic interests of the borough as a whole? Now is the time to look at the economic realities of the future of this borough and state. The oil will run out and if Alaska does not develop or make use of its other renewable resources the outlook is pretty gloomy.

At a meeting of the Butte Community Council with John Duffy, the borough planning director, on proposed uses of borough forest land, Al suggested that the borough timber land be put out to commercial bid, first to harvest the commercial quality timber and build roads, followed by issuing permits for personal use on the remaining low grade timber, and finally with reforestation for future commercial use. Perhaps the borough and state could do this on a cooperative basis.

How much wilderness and recreation can the Mat-Su Borough afford to furnish to the rest of the state and nation? I suspect that if the actual dollars of tourist and recreation income to Alaskans was totaled up it would not offset sound commercial development of our land and loss of tax base. How much economic support to our schools can we afford to lose? And, perhaps more to the point how much financial support are the other areas of Alaska and the nation willing to kick in to maintain the necessary social and educational needs of our area while we furnish their fishing and play grounds?

We appreciate the fact that you have to contend with competing forces in your position but when this bill, or for that matter any other bill that would detract from a sound economic base in our borough or state, comes up for your vote can you please give the above issues your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Albert + Lucille Frey

Albert and Lucille T. Frey

February 9, 1990

RECEIVED

Senator Pat Rodey
P O Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

FEB 20 1990 Senate Bill 430

Dear Senator Rodey:

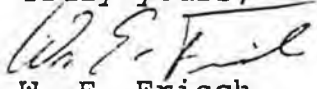
This letter is in reference to the bill to establish the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation area. This bill is not at all necessary. It will totally lockup the Susitna Valley in favor of the current landowners, lodgeowners, air taxi operators and the environmentalists. How could you introduce a bill that would serve the minority interest groups like this?

Alaska already has over 50 million acres of designated wilderness and this does not include other federal or State park lands which limit use. How can anyone enjoy the fish and wildlife if we can't even get to it? In a rough figure, your bill includes over 2 million acres. Have you sat down and looked at the area on a map?

Do you really want that massive amount of land stretching from the Alaska Range south to almost Cook Inlet restricted so that no trail or road construction could be done in the years ahead? If so, why not just shut down the whole state? It is almost coming to that now with all the parks, refuges, and what all that is in Alaska now that we can not get to to use!

Alaska is struggling to find new revenues from the state aside from the oil. If we can use the timber industry to help us make a step forward then why should we lock up any land that would prevent us from taking this one small step forward? MANAGE is the word. Why can't we manage the timber to make it useful to us for years to come? Do you know what the word MANAGE means? It means: to treat with care; to handle or direct with a degree of skill; to succeed in accomplishing. Why can't we manage the timber. Locking up this land is not managing by a long shot, nor is it preserving or conserving. Locking up that land would be killing or ruining the forest in the future. Why don't you talk the to people who wanted you to introduce this bill about that or have they no common sense?

Truly yours,


W. E. Frisch
POBx 872912
Wasilla, AK 99687

cc: Gov. Cowper
Rep. Larson
Rep. Menard
Sen. Szymanski ✓
Sen Kerttula

February 9, 1990

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FEB 20 1990

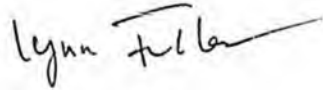
Senator Mike Szymanski
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Szymanski:

I would like to express my support for SB 430, concerning the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area.

I am an employed, voting resident of Mat-Su who recreates both summer and winter in the proposed area. While I am not necessarily opposed to commercial logging on state lands, in this instance I am not convinced that either the state or the borough has done the groundwork necessary to insure that a larger timber industry would not harm the character of the area. I would like to see the people of Mat-Su polled on this issue.

Sincerely,


Lynn Fuller
Box 1814
Palmer, Ak. 99645
(907) 745-8278

To

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

SEN KERTTULA

SEN SZYMANSKI

REP MENARD

REP LARSON

I SUPPORT SENATE BILL 430.

THE MAT-SU VALLEY CAN BE

USED MUCH MORE EFFECTIVELY

AS A RECREATIONAL AREA

THAN AS A WOOD CUTTING FOREST.

DON COUILLARD

CC TED SMITH

[13 YEAR RESIDENT IN
THE MAT-SU VALLEY]

Alexander Creek, AK
Feb. 8, 1990

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

Sen. Dymanski,

I am writing this letter in strong support of Senate Bill 430.

We are residents of the valley since 1970. We have resided at Alexander Creek as full time residents for the past 2 years. I can't even comprehend what is even being considered in our beautiful valley.

We had visitors from Finland this past year who were telling us this very kind of timber harvest took place there. Their country was ruined, the streams & fishing destroyed. That was why they were here. Their words were, "Don't let them ruin this beautiful country."

Alexander Creek is full of foreign guests all summer. They bring tremendous amounts of dollars to our economy. We won't be seeing this if this tree harvest

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

February 10, 1990

Dear Mr. Szymanski,

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that I am very much for the swift passing of Senate Bill 430.

I feel that there is already sufficient designated commercial logging area available, therefore it is in our best interest to prohibit future large scale logging west of the Susitna River.

I pray that when you address this worthy bill, you do not sit on this important issue and that our cause will be pushed forward to a positive future for our unreplaceable asset.

Sincerely,

Mandy Jo Hartley

Feb. 15, 1990

Dear Sen. Szymanski

I support SB 430 which would
create the Susitna Valley Remote
Recreation Area.

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FEB 20 1990

Marcia Whelan
5460 Revolutionary Way
Wasilla 99687

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

To: Senator Keattala
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Date 9 Feb 90

From: Michael D. Keefe
Hence of Pelow Alexander Creek, Ak.

Dear Jay, I am writing to you today in support of House Bill 430 which would establish the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area. I have been a willing resident since 1953 and am currently homesteading a parcel near Alexander Creek.

I am opposed to the Susitna Regional Forest Plan as it does not currently address the critical areas of interest in the Susitna Valley.

If the SRFP goes through not only will it destroy my home area as I have known it but economically destroy the lifestyles that exist in the Alexander area.

I would appreciate any assistance you can accomplish in regard to the matter as it would be greatly appreciated.

RECEIVED - 9-90

FEB 20 1990

Dear Sen. Szymanski,

I am a property owner and resident of Alexander Creek. I have been a recreational user of the Sustina Valley since 1970. I now own and operate a wholesale nursery at Alexander Creek. I have witnessed the environmental degradation of this area over the years and feel it is imperative that we take action to prevent further destruction. I therefore support, and urge your support of S.B. 430.

Yours truly,
Ron Osowski
mile 2
Alexander Creek, Ok.
996 95-0020

C.S. J. Kuttala
L. Menden
R. Larson
Ted Smith, Nat. In. Sec.

RECEIVED 1990

FEB 20 1990

DEAR SEN. SZYMANSKI,

I AM WRITING TO YOU CONCERNING
THE SUSITNA VALLEY. MY FAMILY
LIVES NEAR ALEXANDER CREEK IN THE
HEART OF THIS PROPOSED TIMBERSALE
PROPOSAL. A TIMBER SALE HERE
WOULD DESTROY MY WAY OF LIFE AND
MY JOB. THIS AREA IS FULL OF
RECREATION POSSIBILITIES FOR THE PUBLIC
OF ALASKA PLEASE DON'T ALLOW LOGGING
IN THE SUSITNA VALLEY. WE MUST
PRESERVE SOME OF OUR WILDERNESS.
PLEASE SUPPORT SB. 430 AS I
AND ALL MY NEIGHBORS. THIS IS
VERY IMPORTANT TO US.

CC TED SMITH
SEN KERTULLA
REP RICHARD
REP LARSON

THANK YOU

FRED SORENSEN
PROPERTY OWNER OF 6 ACRES

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

10 February 90

Dear Senator Szymanski,

I am writing you from Alexander Creek. I moved out here full time 2 years ago after spending summers here for 12 years. The reason I moved to the Susitna Valley was to get away from the roads & commotion of city life. Now I understand that the State wants to build roads to my quiet new community which would totally change the remote allure of the area. I also understand that they want to try to log these marginal forests threatening the rich wildlife of the area as well as ruining the visual purity of the Susitna Valley wilderness. As a resident of the affected area I want to register my opposition to roads and logging in the valley.

Senate Bill 430 addresses the issues I've mentioned above. I hope we can count on your support of SB 430.

Thank you.
Nancy Conzelin

RECEIVED

FEB 20 1990

February 9, 1990

Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box 1
Juneau, Alaska

Attn: Sen. Szymanski

I am a permanent resident of Alexander Creek and have been a part of Alexander Creek and the Susitna Valley for 3 1/2 years. Before residing here I spent many many years recreating with boats, planes and snowmachines all over the Susitna Valley enjoying its hunting, fishing camping and snowmachining.

The proposed timber sale is a CRIME, to say the least. The Susitna Valley produces millions of dollars in tourism, lodges, personal use of planes etc and to scar it with the cutting of timber is just plain sick. If you feel this is going to take place no matter what we all have to say I beg you so please, please, please support SB 430 designating the

Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area.

It strikes me, the amount of money brought in by the Susitna Valley tourism + private use is far and above what can be seen by timber off this land.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Sincerely

Anne A. Leary
Alexander Creek
Alaska 99695-0020

cc: Jay Ker, Hula
Rep. Menard
Rep. Larson

cc: Ted Smith

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: LORRAINE BOHN

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 3827 BALCHEN DRIVE

CITY: ANCHORAGE

ZIP: 99517

PHONE: 243-7070

BILL NO: SB 430

SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

MESSAGE: I SUPPORT SB 430 AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO ACT AND MOVE THE BILL OUT OF COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 20TH. I HAVE SEVERAL CABINS AND RECREATIONAL PROPERTY IN THE VALLEY AND WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE SUSITNA VALLEY AS A RECREATIONAL AREA.

/CMR

POMID: 03174203

DATE: 02/15/90

TIME: 17:42:03

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

FRANK
PEARCE
POURCHOT
ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: DONALD PETERSON

TITLE:

ADDRESS: BOX 770821

CITY: EAGLE RIVER

ZIP: 99577

PHONE: 694-6779

BILL NO: HB 19

SUBJECT: FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS

MESSAGE: SUPPORT HB 19. DO AWAY WITH DFYS POLICING THEMSELVES AT A COST OF \$800,000 WHEN THEY DO NOT COMPLY WITH POLICIES OR PROCEDURES ANYWAY. /LD

POMID: 03155717

DATE: 02/15/90

TIME: 15:57:17

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

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BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS
BOYER	BROWN	BINKLEY
COLLINS	COTTEN	COGHILL
DAVIDSON	DAVIS, C.	DUNCAN
DAVIS, M.	DONLEY	ELIASON
ELLIS	FINKELSTEIN	FAHRENKAMP
FOSTER	FURNACE	FAIKS
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FISCHER
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	FRANK
HOFFMAN	HUDSON	HALFORD
JACKO	KOPONEN	JONES
KUBINA	LARSON	KELLY
LEMAN	MACLEAN	KERTTULA
MARTIN	MENARD	PEARCE
MILLER	NAVARRE	POURCHOT
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	RODEY
RIEGER	SHARP	STURGULEWSKI
SHULTZ	SWACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: JIM PAGE

TITLE:

ADDRESS: PO BOX 872573

CITY: WASILLA

ZIP: 99687

PHONE: 892-6027

BILL NO: SB 430

SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

MESSAGE: I OPPOSE SB 430. IT CIRCUMVENTS THE PLANNING PROCESS WHICH HAS GONE ON SINCE 1980. THE SUSITNA AREA PLAN SHOULD BE FOLLOWED! WE SHOULD MANAGE ALL OUR RESOURCES INSTEAD OF LOCKING THEM UP FOR SPECIAL SELF SERVING INTERESTS. STATE LANDS ARE MULTIPLE USE LANDS AND SHOULD BE MANAGED AS SUCH!

POMID: 14172326

DATE: 02/15/90

TIME: 17:23:26

LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

LARSON	KERTTULA
MENARD	FRANK
	PEARCE
	POURCHOT
	ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: JAMES MINTON
TITLE:
ADDRESS: P.O.BOX 190121
CITY: ANCHORAGE ZIP: 99519
PHONE: 248-1965
BILL NO: SB 430
SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: I LIVE AND WORK IN THE SUSITNA VALLEY. I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT AND TAKE
ACTION ON SB 430 IN YOUR COMMITTEE. /CMR

POMID: 03122926
DATE: 02/15/90
TIME: 12:29:26
LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

FRANK
PEARCE
POURCHOT
ADAMS

RECEIVED
FEB 20 1990

2-10-90

Dear Sen Kerttala

I've been a resident at
Linda on Alexander Creek for a
number of years and have recently
been educated on the plan to
timber harvest in the Susitna valley.
I'm very much opposed to the
prospect of timber harvest in the
valley, not only due to my own
personal ~~own~~ concerns but also
to the economic concerns of the
Alaskan people as a whole.

In support of SB 430

with Respect

CC. Ted Smith

Sen. Szymanski

Rep. Menard

Rep. Larson

Joy Tennant

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: WILLIAM M COX, M.D.

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 7806 LINDA LANE

CITY: ANCHORAGE

PHONE: 349-7080

BILL NO: SB 430

SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

MESSAGE: I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO SUPPORT SB 430 TO CREATE THE SUSITNA VALLEY
REMOTE RECREATION AREA. I HOPE YOU WILL MOVE THIS BILL OUT OF COMMITTEE ON THE
20TH OF FEBRUARY. /CMR

ZIP: 99518

POMID: 03104815

DATE: 02/15/90

TIME: 10:48:15

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATOR

FRANK

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: LORRAINE BOHN

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 3821 BALCHIN DRIVE

CITY: ANCHORAGE

PHONE: 243-7070

BILL NO: SB 430

SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

MESSAGE: I SUPPORT SB 430 AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO ACT AND MOVE THE BILL OUT OF
COMMITTEE ON FEBRUARY 20TH. I HAVE SEVERAL CABINS AND RECREATIONAL PROPERTY IN
THE VALLEY AND WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THIS SUSITNA VALLEY AS A RECREATIONAL AREA.
/CMR

ZIP: 99517

POMID: 03122327

DATE: 02/15/90

TIME: 12:23:27

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

FRANK

PEARCE

POURCHOT

ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: DOROTHY GARRETT

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 1807 KALGIN STREET

CITY: ANCHORAGE

PHONE: 333-7991

ZIP: 99504

BILL NO: SB 15

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS BY PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

MESSAGE: NEED YOUR SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENT TO SB 15 TO PREVENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS FROM DENYING BARGAINING RIGHTS TO EMPLOYEES. PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR WILLINGNESS TO HELP OF THIS CRITICAL ISSUE. /CMR

POMID: 03173308

DATE: 02/15/90

TIME: 17:33:08

LIONAME: ANCHORAGE LIO

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: STEVE STRUBE

TITLE:

ADDRESS: PO BOX 521155

CITY: BIG LAKE

PHONE: 892-7760

ZIP: 99652

BILL NO: SB 430

SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

MESSAGE: I HEARD SENATOR RODEY'S COMMENTS TODAY REGARDING THIS BILL. HE IS APPARENTLY UNAWARE THAT THE FOREST PRACTICES ACT EXISTS AND THAT DNR HAS SQUANDERED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS ON MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR THE AREA. IF SENATOR RODEY DOESN'T TRUST PLANNERS AND FORESTERS THAN WHY PAY THEM TO PLAN AND TO MANAGE?

POMID: 14173245

DATE: 02/15/90

TIME: 17:32:45

LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORSCOPIES: SENATORS

BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS	RODEY
BOYER	BROHN	BINKLEY	FRANK
COLLINS	COTTEN	COGHILL	PEARCE
DAVIDSON	DAVIS, C.	DUNCAN	POURCHOT
DAVIS, M.	DONLEY	ELIASON	ADAMS
ELLIS	FINKELSTEIN	FAHRENKAMP	
FOSTER	FURNACE	FAIKS	
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FISCHER	
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	FRANK	
HOFFMAN	HUDSON	HALFORD	
JACKO	KOPONEN	JONES	
KUBINA	LARSON	KELLY	
LEMAN	MACLEAN	KERTTULA	
MARTIN	HENARD	PEARCE	
MILLER	NAVARRRE	POURCHOT	
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	RODEY	
RIEGER	SHARP	STURGULEWSKI	
SHULTZ	SWACKHAMMER	UEHLING	
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF	
WALLIS	ZAWACKI		

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: GARY BPETTRAGER
TITLE:
ADDRESS: HC01 6763-A3
CITY: PALMER ZIP: 99645
PHONE: 745-7085
BILL NO: SB 430
SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: I OPPOSE SB 430 BECAUSE IT LIMITS FUTURE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SUCH AS TIMBER OR MINING. EVEN RECREATION ITSELF! IT WOULD
PREVENT GROWTH OF THE MAT-SU BOROUGH AND PREVENT OWNERSHIP OF ANY
EXISTING STATE LANDS IN THIS AREA.

POMID: 14100257
DATE: 02/16/90
TIME: 10:02:57
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

LARSON
MENARD

KERTTULA
FRANK
PEARCE
POURCHOT
ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: MARK WEBB

TITLE:

ADDRESS: PO BOX 2617

CITY: PALMER

PHONE: 746-1100

BILL NO: SB 430

SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

MESSAGE: THANKYOU SENATOR RODEY FOR SPONSORING THIS LEGISLATION. I AM OPPOSED TO LARGE SCALE LOGGING IN THE MATSU VALLEY. I SUPPORT THE SUSITNA VALLEY ASSOCIATION PLAN. I HAVE LIVED IN THE VALLEY SINCE 1979. PLEASE SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF SB430

ZIP: 99645

POMID: 14145133

DATE: 02/16/90

TIME: 14:51:33

LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

RODEY
FRANK
PEARCE
POURCHOT
ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: NANCY MC QUIRE

TITLE:

ADDRESS: BOX 456

CITY: NOME

PHONE: 443-5235

BILL NO: HB 284

SUBJECT: PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT PAYMENTS

MESSAGE: DEAR SENATOR: PLEASE SUPPORT HB 284 FOR PROMPT PAYMENT BY STATE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS. SMALL BUSINESSES NEED THIS LEGISLATION BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN HURT TOO FREQUENTLY BY LATE PAYMENTS. SINCERELY, NANCY MC QUIRE

ZIP: 99762

POMID: 11150315

DATE: 02/16/90

TIME: 15:03:15

LIONAME: NOME INFORMATION OFFICE

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: HERMAN OLSON
TITLE:
ADDRESS: HC30 BOX 5438
CITY: WASILLA ZIP: 99687
PHONE: 373-4612
BILL NO: SB 430
SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: SB430 IS AN OUTRAGEOUS VIOLATION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS. LOCAL PROPERTY OWNERS ALONG OILWELL ROAD DO WANT OILWELL ROAD UPGRADED TO A YEAR ROUND 2-WHEEL DRIVE ROAD. I HAVE A TWENTY ACRE CHRISTMAS TREE FARM IN THE AREA WHICH I WILL NEED 2-WHEEL DRIVE ACCESS TO IN FIVE YEARS.

POMID: 14134657
DATE: 02/16/90
TIME: 13:46:57
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

ADAMS
BINKLEY
COGHILL
DUNCAN
ELIASON
FAHRENKAMP
FAIKS
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
JONES
KELLY
KERTTULA
PEARCE
POURCHOT
RODEY
STURGULEWSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: DANA OLSON
TITLE: AMBER LAKES NORTH HOMEOWNERS ASSOC.
ADDRESS: HC30 BOX 5438
CITY: WASILLA ZIP: 99687
PHONE: 373-4612
BILL NO: SB 430
SUBJECT: SUSITNA VAL' . REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: THE AMBER LAKES NORTH HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION IS AGAINST SB430 AS IS WRITTEN. OILWELL ROAD MUST BE UPGRADED TO A YEAR ROUND 2-WHEEL DRIVE ROAD ALL THE WAY TO KROTO CREEK. PLATTED ROAD ACCESS TO ALL PRIVATE PARCELS MUST BE RETAINED WITH NO LIMITATIONS. VOTE NO TO SB430.

POMID: 14135024
DATE: 02/16/90
TIME: 13:50:24
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

ADAMS
BINKLEY
COGHILL
DUNCAN
ELIASON
FAHRENKAMP
FAIKS
FISCHER
FRANK
HALFORD
JONES
KELLY
KERTTULA
PEARCE
POURCHOT
RODEY
STURGULEWSKI
UEHLING
ZHAROFF



**WILDLIFE
FEDERATION
OF ALASKA**

The Alaska Affiliate of the
National Wildlife Federation

RECEIVED
FEB 20 1990

February 9, 1990

The Honorable Mike Szymanski
Chair, Senate Regional Affairs Committee
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Szymanski:


The Wildlife Federation of Alaska supports legislation establishing the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area.

The Susitna Valley is now used by members of WFA, and thousands of additional Alaskans, for numerous and diverse activities--fishing, hunting, boating, skiing, dog mushing and other activities. It is also the site of hundreds of recreational cabins of the residents of nearby cities--cabins which offer the possibility for city-dwellers to get into the Alaska we all love. All of these activities and uses are at risk fro proposals for extensive timber harvests in that area.

Advocates of large scale timber harvest, who wish to establish a "forest products industry" in Southcentral Alaska, fail to realize that the highest and best use of the Susitna Valley--from an economic as well as a recreational perspective--requires that the present character of the valley be maintained. The area now supports a huge recreation industry--primarily hunting and fishing--which caters to both Alaskans and tourists from outside. These people go to the Susitna Valley because it is easily accessible from nearby cities and towns and, most importantly, because of its wilderness quality, particularly when judged by lower-48 standards. Extensive logging in the area and creation of an industry associated with mills, will destroy this aspect of the valley. The present economy associated with the region--an economy which is stable, long-term and totally compatible with the environment--would be destroyed for the new economy which would destroy the existing resource.

The legislation designating the area as the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area is needed in order to preserve the current character of the valley. The legislation which has been introduced protects all existing uses of the Valley, and even provides for future limited and compatible expansion of existing activities. We urge you to support this important legislation.

Sincerely,


Jimmy Jackson
President

cc: Senator Al Adams
Senator Steve Frank
Senator Drue Pierce
Senator Pat Pourchot

PUBLIC CPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: TED CREMER
TITLE:
ADDRESS: POB 870657
CITY: WASILLA ZIP: 99687
PHONE: 376-5453
BILL NO: SB 430
SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED. WE DO NOT NEED ANY MORE DORMANT LAND IN THE
STATE OF ALASKA. WE HAVE TOO MANY PEOPLE ON WLEFARE AND
UNEMPLOYMENT; UNABLE TO MAKE A LIVING.

POMID: 14175352
DATE: 02/21/90
TIME: 17:53:52
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

LARSON	KERTTULA
MENARD	FAHRENKAMP
DAVIDSON	ELIASON
JACKO	FRANK
FOSTER	HALFORD
NAVARRE	STURGULEWSKI
FURNACE	ZHAROFF
SHARP	PEARCE
HUDSON	POURCHOT
DAVIS, M.	ADAMS

Carol Compton
HC31 Box 5175-V
Wasilla, AK 99687

RECEIVED

FEB 27 1990

Senator Mike Szymanski
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Szymanski,

Hi! Thank you for responding to my letter on Senate Bill 430. In your reply you indicated that you wanted to work toward an equitable and environmentally sound compromise and give the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area your full and careful consideration. I take this to mean that you feel the bill has some merit and should therefore receive your consideration. I disagree.

In my earlier letter I indicated that the State already has the Susitna Area Plan that governs management of the lands proposed within the Remote Recreation bill. I believe this Plan already spells out the desires of the public on this area and I believe the Area Plan is the means to do any changes that persons might feel are warranted in a particular area of the Plan. I do not feel compromises need to be made for this bill because the proponents of the bill should be taking their concerns to Department of Natural Resources and have them taken before the public through the planning process.

I personally do not feel locking this massive area in the Susitna Valley will serve anyone to any good purpose, with the exception of those that are spearheading this bill as private land holders. The State of Alaska was told by the Legislature to offer land to the public for disposal into private ownership and as far as I know that mandate is still in force. I do not believe it would be serving Alaska's best interests to close the Susitna Valley to future land sales. And I believe that the timber industry can play an important role in developing the Susitna Valley. With environmental watchdogs around today no timber operator will ever get away with going out and raping the Susitna Valley of all its trees--I don't believe the timber operators would ever work that way and I don't believe the citizens of the Valley would ever want that. My point is that the Susitna Valley will survive without having to become a roadless area and an area locked up to all but a certain few land owners. I believe more access into the area would be good for the Valley in fact. It will allow people to be able to disperse over a larger area of land where now they have to fight to get to a spot along the Parks Highway road system. We actually NEED more accessible recreation opportunities to the public in this State because there are just too few places to go and too many people that want to enjoy that type of recreation.

I don't believe compromises are necessary at this point in time to accommodate SB 430. We actually need more accessible recreational opportunities for the people in Alaska.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Carol Compton
Carol Compton

cc: Ron Larson
Curt Menard
Pat Rodey

2/10/90

RECEIVED

FEB 27 1990

Dear Senator,

I am ~~an~~ ~~ten~~ ten years old
and live in the bush. As long
as I live in the bush I want
it to be like it is right now,
that means the forest stays ~~at~~ or
I leave and as soon as I can vote
I will not vote for you. I don't want
you to ruin or home. The forest is
my home and we cut ~~some~~ fire
wood & some cabin wood. Don't
destroy the valley!! I am in
favor of S B 430 to protect or forest

Sincerely
David B. Tabbert



CC: Senators Kerttula, Brynmanski,
Rep. ~~Monard~~ Larson, Ted Smith

David Gilbert
Alexander Creek
AK 99695-0020



Senator Szymanski
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Alaska State Legislature
PO Box V
Juneau AK 99811

ATTN:
SEN. KORTTULA
SEN. SYMANSEKI
REP. MENARD
REP. LAISON.

RECEIVED
FEB 20 1981

Dear Sir,

As a lodge owner and taxpayer in the Mat Suu Valley and a year round resident, I would like to protest the Susitna Regional Forest Plan. In a sense is a blueprint for logging. I feel it will damage the beauty and ecology of the area. I feel more weight must be given to the existing contribution to the economy of the area. The logging is a ~~strong~~ threat to the wildlife, the tourism, the economy, the beauty and the way of life in the Susitna Valley.

I think Legislative designation of a portion of the Susitna Valley as a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area is needed.

Regards
Paul H. Abbott
Abbott's River Camp
Abraham Creek, Alaska 99695

cc TED SMITH

Ruth W. Conillard

Alexander Creek
AK 99695
February 10, 1990

RECEIVED
FEB 27 1990

To
Senator Jay Kerttula
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Re: Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area

As a resident of Alexander Creek for 13 years and appreciating the remote character of this area, I very much ask you to support Senate Bill 430 which would establish the Susitna Valley Remote Area.

This Bill supports a million Dollars Industry, which would be destroyed by logging.

Thank you,

Sincerely,
Wendy Conillard

February 20, 1990

Diane and Brian Okonek
P.O. Box 566
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

Senate Resource Committee Members
Juneau, Alaska

RE: Senate Bill 430

Dear Senate Resource Committee Members,

We are in favor of Senate Bill 430 which would establish the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area.

Besides being residents of Talkeetna we also own and operate a guiding business which specializes in mountain climbing, hiking and rafting.

There is a growing tourism industry in the Susitna Valley. These tourists come from within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Anchorage, other parts of Alaska, the Lower 48 and from around the world. They come to enjoy the scenic beauty, the forest and the rivers, the wildlife and the fish. They come here because of the remote character of the area and the unspoiled lands within it. Tourism is a long term, renewable resource. Alaskan tourists unanimously agree, however, that it is the wilderness that they came to see, to feel and to experience. To maintain our tourism economy and to allow it to grow it is vital that the land of the Susitna Valley is protected so its wilderness character does not disappear.

The Susitna Regional Forest Plan has not addressed the impact increased logging would have on the environment, lifestyle and economy of the Susitna Valley. The State needs to find out what impact logging would have on other industries (commercial fishing, sports fishing, flightseeing, river rafting, remote lodges, etc.) before continuing with any logging plans. We believe that large scale logging and the construction of roads that would be required would have a detrimental effect on the tourism industry.

We also strongly support the creation of a Talkeetna Remote Recreation Area.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Diane and Brian Okonek

Diane and Brian Okonek

cc: Rep. Curt Merfeld
Rep. Ron Larson
Sen. Jay Kirtvik

*P.S. - Sen. Szymanski
please send copies of
this letter to the other
members of the Community
and Regional Affairs
Committee. Thank you!*



RECEIVED
FEB 20 1990

GABBERT'S CAMP

February 21, 1990

Senator Szymanski,
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Szymanski,

My name is Cathy Gabbert. I am a resident of Alexander Creek. I have worked here for ten years, and lived here for eight years. My husband and myself own and operate a sport fishing and hunting lodge on Alexander Creek. There are several proposed bills currently before the legislature that can directly impact my lifestyle and my livelihood.

I whole heartedly SUPPORT SB 430, Senator Rodey's proposal for a Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area. I am opposed to Representative Menard's legislation to establish a Susitna Regional Forest Plan. I am in favor of current proposals to amend and improve the Forest Practices Act, as they were written. It is essential that mandatory buffers on all streams be maintained and enforced.

I am a part of an established, growing industry in the Susitna Valley, and commercial timber harvesting would be detrimental to that industry (TOURISM, REMOTE RECREATION). As a group we contribute to the economy of the State, Natanuska-Susitna Borough and Anchorage. I do not believe that the Susitna Area Plan mandates forestry (commercial timber harvest) as the primary and only use for State lands in the Susitna Valley. It is my understanding that the Department of Natural Resources is demanding legislative designation of this area to provide for the perpetuation of remote recreation activities. Please consider existing uses as important and necessary to the livelihoods and lifestyles of the many residents, property owners, Alaskans and tourists in this beautiful, remote, roadless recreation area. Please help us maintain our lifestyles and livelihoods by voting
YES on SB 430!!

Thank You.

Sincerely,


Cathy Gabbert

Paul & Cathy Gabbert & Family
2nd West Bend
Alexander Creek, Alaska 99695
(907) 733-2371

RECEIVED
FEB 26 1990

February 20, 1990

Senator Szymanski
Alaska State Legislature
P.O. Box V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Szymanski,

Being a resident of Alexander Creek, I am in support of SB 430, a proposal to create the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area.

Logging is incompatible with remote recreation and tourism. Clear cutting near rivers and streams and hillsides erodes the hills, ruins streams and salmon and other fisheries, commercial and sport.

It also ruins the beauty from the air for our tourism-flightseeing.

Congratulations on your recent marriage.

Sincerely,



Kris Sherwood
KS/cg

cc: Representatives Menard, Larson; Senator Kerttula



P.O. BOX 355 / ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99519 / TELEPHONE (907) 243-6813 / TELEX 25-147

Senator Pat Rodey
Alaska State Senate
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RECEIVED

FEB 27 1990

February 23, 1990

re: SB 430

Dear Senator,

I support your effort to preserve the last wilderness area in South-central Alaska. The following is a summary of reasons why I support your Bill, and recommendations to enhance it.

The Susitna Valley

The Susitna Valley is a unique to Alaska wilderness area. It supports the highest concentration of fish & wildlife in Alaska (1987 ADF&G Habitat Division). It is encompassed by world-class scenery including Mt. McKinley, the Alaska and Aleutian Ranges. These mountains provide an awe-inspiring background for visitors while fishing several of the world-class freshwater fishing streams such as the Deshka River, lake Creek, and Talachulitna River. These streams meander through lush old growth Boreal forests of Spruce, Birch and Aspen—the largest forest of it's kind in Alaska. My guests often remark how much better this area is than Bristol Bay. The scenery is more dramatic; the weather warmer and dryer; the streams smaller, hence more fishable and wadable; and the heavily forested streams provide a much more intimate experience with nature than the barren tundra landscape of Bristol Bay.

The area supports an existing \$12 million Tourism industry, growing at a steady 6% per annum (1987 ADF&G Economic Study), yet there are problems.

Politically Unstable Business Climate

The State, and more recently, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly have embarked upon continued efforts to utilize the Valleys forests in order to promote industrial development of their proposed Port facility. Such a move would adversely affect the growth of Tourism, and degrade the basis of attraction for visitors, land owners, and local residents alike. Despite widespread opposition, the Assembly continues to press forward against the wishes of a majority of their people, and Anchorage residents who own property or recreate there.

The Port has never been proven to be economically feasible. The Assembly purports to be development oriented, yet their continued single-interest views, are hindering the one successful industry within the Valley, Tourism. No sensible businessman (or business-woman) would want to invest in a politically unstable business climate such as exists within the past 3 years. Those of us, who were here long before the Borough, or State for that matter, find our investments in jeopardy. I have an investment in facilities of over \$1.2 million. I have been unable to expand my business in the past 3 years because of the adverse political climate.

Tourism Potential

A majority of Alaska's business leaders feel that Tourism holds the greatest promise for long term economic stability within our State of any other industry, according to a past Dittman Poll.

Tourism will become the world's leading industry with 15 years, according to the Wall Street Journal. As global tensions decrease, conversely, trade between nations will increase, hence travel will become more affordable as economies stabilize worldwide.

For Tourism to flourish, there must be a politically and economically stable climate, in order to promote private investment.

When Tourism is flourishing, only then will we be able to tax, and fund the maintenance of Parks, Wilderness Areas and Wild & Scenic River systems. Preservation of our outstanding natural wilderness attractions is vital to allow for future expansion of the Tourism industry, and to insure future economic stability for future generations.

Wilderness-Based Tourism

What attracts visitors to Alaska, is the wilderness.

Not all wilderness is the same. There are those who will say that "we already have too much wilderness", and that it "locks up" the public lands. Alaska does have a lot of wilderness, however, very little of it is "marketable". Tundra, taiga, muskeg and un-scenic mountain ranges, we do have a lot of, but these do not sell on the world market. "Marketable Wilderness", are those public lands which hold outstanding scenic, fishery, wildlife, cultural, historic and other values, that should be held in trust for the public. These lands do sell in the world marketplace. The ultimate "lockup", is the transfer of these special lands into the private sector, or the permitted use of public land for private benefit, which precludes the public use.

Wilderness-based Tourism is big business. The highest \$ value per visitor spent in Alaska is at Wilderness Lodges & Resorts. The lowest \$ value per visitor spent, is at road-accessible attractions.

Wilderness-Based vs Road-Accessable Tourism - Economic Benefits

Compare the difference between the wilderness-based Nushugak River System and the road-accessable Kenai River System (similar attractions). The Nushugak supports a \$25 million Tourism industry with a visitor use of 12,500. The Kenai supports a \$30 million Tourism industry with a visitor use of 330,000 (1987 ADF&G Economic Study). The more accessable an area becomes, the less \$ value per visitor it brings into the local economy. The law of supply and demand applies-the more the supply, the less the demand.

Wilderness-Based vs Road-Accessable Tourism - Costs to the State

Of the two attractions, one operates at no cost or liability to the State. Wilderness-based Tourism operates at no cost to the State because the private sector incurs costs of facilities, and all maintenance. Road-accessable Tourism operates at high cost to the State because roads, campgrounds, facilities, and other improvements built by the State, must be maintained, and if they are not, the State is liable, as recent court decisions have upheld.

Remote Recreation Area vs Wilderness Area

From a marketing perspective, a simple name change, with the same conditions, does alot to improve the image and saleability of a product. Calling this area the "Susitna Remote Recreation Area", infurs a host of permitted uses including airboat races, fishing derbies, 4x4 and dirtbike race tracks, to the general public, and visitors alike. Recreation can mean many things to many people. Calling the area the "Susitna Wilderness Area" infurs limited uses in the minds eye of the public, and carries a mystic, from a marketing perspective, which attracts, and makes one more aware of the delicate nature of ones surroundings. In effect, it attracts visitors better, is more saleable, and promotes more respect of public lands in the minds eye of the public.

Economic Developement - Existing and Potential

The following is a listing of existing and potential uses of the area encompassed by SB 430 regarding economic developement potential, which may be adversely affected by SB 430.

Forest Products:

"Production of these (plywood, pulp, and other forest) products genrally requires large scale operations...such operations have been shown not to be feasible in (3) previous studies."
(Smith, R.C. 1980, Potential Economic Developement of Forest Products in Interior Alaska; USDA Forest Service PNW Forest & Range Experiment Station, Portland, OR; E.G. Lindth, C.J. 1979 An Assessment of the Domestic market for Alaska Wood Products, Dept. of Commerce & Economic Dev., State Division of Forestry Manual 1984, pg. 19.)

Existing commercial logging."At present, for every 4 tress cut, only 1 is sold. The rest are cut for firewood, milled, or left as "slash" ADN news article, 1988.

Firewood sales are down significantly, from a peak 2 years ago, mainly because of increased distribution of natural gas lines within the Valley. Milled, rough cut lumber, cut "green" in the summer when the sap is at it's highest concentration, is unsuitable for building, and therefore only used for fences, decks, and cabins, mainly because of shrinkage & warpage.

The "forest is dying". The only forests that are dying, are those near logged-off areas, for which, because of large amounts of left over "slash", Spruce Beetle infestation has taken hold. It is a natural occurrence in single-specie (Spruce only) areas, exaggerated by improper (low budget) logging practices.

There is a potential forest products industry, that has been overlooked by the industry-log cabins and high-quality interior furniture locally manufactured, from local Birch.

I have logged the first 3 miles of the Deshka River, up to 100' of the stream bank for the past 8 years. I have built a 8,000 sq. foot Log Lodge, and all improvements out of local Spruce. I only cut in the winter, when the sap it out of the tree, mill, and build immediately. There is no shrinkage or warpage in any of the lumber or logs that I have cut. I only use existing seismic trails, sloughs, and swamps for access with a snow cover of at least 2' in order that I may not disturb the natural environment. I only harvest the most mature Spruce, never exceeding 15% cut per acre (only 15% per acre is commercial quality in the Susitna valley-No. 2 sawlogs or better), and cut the trees below the root crown so a cut tree is not visible. The forest is healthy, and regenerating in the area I have cut. I hosted Ted Smith, member of the Board of Forestry, and former Director, Division of Forestry, on an inspection in August of 1989. He was quite surprised that not only was the forest healthy, but re-generating, and there was no signs of it having been cut.

Selective cut, 15% take per acre, winter access only logging practices could be employed throughout the Valley with no harm to the environment, or adverse impact to Land owners, recreationists, or the Tourism Industry.

There is a ready market for the sale of log cabins to the over 3,700 applicants who have to prove up on their State selected parcels by building a cabin of at least 400 sq. ft.

Additionally, with a State subsidized Kiln located within the Valley, loggers would have a market for their material, and carpenters and craftsman could take advantage of low cost kiln dried Birch lumber to start their own cottage industry producing furniture in their garage. This would provide employment throughout the winter (and all season), when un-employment is highest. It should be the responsibility of the Dept. of Commerce to conduct training seminars in craftsmanship, and establish standards for products, as well as securing a market for their products. High quality items sells in a local and world market.

Oil & Gas

Gas deposits have been found in the Ivan/Theodore River area by Chevron, and are being developed. These are outside the area encompassed by SB 430. Two wildcat wells were drilled in the early '60's (Lum Lovely No. 1 & 2), but were abandoned. These were located near the eastern edge of the area encompassed by SB 430. Although the Susitna Valley was extensively explored, in the '60's, and as late as the early '70's, with 3 wells drilled, one near the Pt. McKenzie project; one near Red Shirt lake and the other west of Alexander lake, these wells have been abandoned. There still remain many current leases in the area, but many have lapsed.

Agriculture

"Over 40,000 acres of Borough and State lands have been sold for agricultural development in this (Susitna) area. Very little is in production today." Susitna Area Plan-Agriculture, pg. 2-4.

"While this land clearly has the physical ability to grow crops, it is doubtful that agricultural commodities can be produced at lower prices than those products shipped in from outside Alaska where growing seasons, labor costs, access, soils and other factors are often more favorable." Susitna Area Plan-Agriculture, pg. 2-4.

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing interests depend heavily on the Susitna Valley for spawning and rearing habitat, to support their industry.

"Ex-vessel value (fish only) of \$44.9 million was generated from Commercial fishing in Upper Cook Inlet, of which 71% and 90%, respectively, were Alaska residents." Upper Cook Inlet Management Report #86-7, ADF&G, Commercial Fish Division, December 1986, pg. 1-2.

Mining

There are proven placer gold deposits that support small mining operations in the Petersville Hills, and Upper lake Creek headwater streams. Under new water quality constraints, recently enacted by the EPA and DEC, these operations will remain small in nature. Access to these claims, has traditionally been by ice road trail in the winter following a route just south of the Kahiltna Glacier and is outside the area encompassed by SB 430.

Coal deposits are located along the foothills of the Aleutian Range between Beluga and Friday Creek. just west of the Talachulitna River, and in the Kichatna River area. Future extraction of these deposits would no doubt follow a route along the base of the mountains, however it would be uneconomical to Bridge the Squentna River, Cross the headwater area of Beluga lake to access these areas in light of larger, and more viably accessable locations elsewhere in the State such as the Colville, or Bering River deposits.

Regarding the highest and best use of the Susitna Valley, I recommend that it remain in a wilderness state, with no road access to preserve its existing wilderness-based Tourism industry, and allow for regulated expansion of the industry in the future.

Regarding the name designation, I recommend that you call it the "Susitna Wilderness Area", to give it more marketability, and respect by the public.

Regarding the Forest products industry, I recommend that you allow commercial Logging on a 15% take per acre maximum; winter access only with no roads, utilizing existing trails, and other open areas; on a selective cut basis only; in those areas near Anadromous Streams, leave a 200' uncut buffer in order to allow for dense wildlife habitat; require all logging to take place from October through April with a snow cover over frozen ground not less than 18"; no trails may follow or be built upon or near Anadromous streams.

Regarding road construction, I recommend that no new roads be built, and encourage the use of winter trails for transportation of materials and other non-flyable or boatable items.

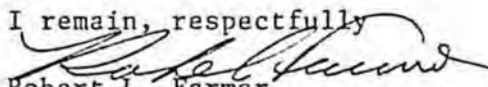
Regarding controlling the growth of Tourism so as not to adversely impact base attraction values, I recommend that you request that the Department of Fish & Game, in concurrence with the Division of Tourism to study anticipated growth patterns, and recommend an orderly development of our Tourism industry.

Regarding the use of public lands for private benefit, whether Tourism industry, or not, I recommend that you not allow the leasing, sale or interest to be conveyed in any public lands other than those existing or proposed through the normal State land Sale program of DNR, so high value public lands remain in the public domain.

Regarding the Talachulitna, Lake Creek and Deshka River, I recommend that these streams be named as State "Wild & Scenic Rivers" in order to increase their marketability, and Federal guidelines for "Wild & Scenic Rivers" be applied, under State control.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

I remain, respectfully


Robert L. Farmer

cc Honorable Steve Cowper
Senator Mike Syzmanski
Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Senator Rick Halford
Senator Rick Uehling
Senator Fred Zharoff
Director Dana Brockway

Rep. David Finklestein
Rep. Johnny Ellis
Rep. Curt Menard
Rep. Richard Foster
Rep. Fran Ulmer
Rep. Jim Zawacki

FROM THE DESK OF

Richard W. Tindall

RECEIVED

2/21/90
FEB 23 1990

Dear Senator Szymanski:

I attended the teleconference yesterday but time ran out before I had my chance to testify.

I'm mailing my testimony to you so that it will be made part of the record.

Sincerely,

Dick Tindall

TESTIMONY VIA TELECONFERENCE NETWORK BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMUNITY & REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING ON
SB #430 - SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

RECEIVED

20 February 1990

FEB 23 1990

Senator Szymanski, members of the committee, my name is Richard Tindall. I live at 6821 Sherwood Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, 99504. My telephone number is 333-1914. I have been a resident of Alaska 18 years. I am a consulting forester, a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters, and am Director, Division of Renewable Resources with the Resource Development Council of Alaska, Inc..

I oppose the passage of SB #430 and urge the Community & Regional Affairs, as well as the other committees to which it has been referred, Resources and Finance, to kill this piece of potentially disastrous legislation.

SB #430 proposes to classify and dedicate over 2 million acres of state land to limited, not multiple uses. The proposal would prohibit forest management and value-added wood production from over 1 million acres of forest land (Susitna Regional Forest Plan - 1989), foreclosing on a potential multi-million dollar per year forest product industry.

The SB #430 proposal would cast aside the millions of man hours and public funds that have already been invested in planning and public hearings in the Susitna Area Plan, the Willow Area Plan, and the not-yet completed Susitna Regional Forest Plan; all of which recommend forest management practices and commercial timber harvesting on the commercially productive forest lands of the area.

Prohibition of commercial timber harvesting and professionally accepted silvicultural practices as proposed by SB #430, will not "ensure the scenic and natural integrity of the area". Trees and forests are not cast in concrete, they are living, and ever changing, but are renewable. Without forest fires (which is nature's way - but unacceptable in terms of human values) or without commercial timber harvesting, the present forest over time will decline and decay, to be replaced, not with the present species, nor their thrifty offspring, but by an ingrowth of underbrush and grass, largely the genus Calamagrostis, - the same grasses that prevent reforestation of the seismic trails, the rights of way corridors, and the Tyonek bark beetle sale area that was logged during the '70's.

Without either forest fire or commercial timber harvesting, prohibited by SB #430, moose habitat, especially critical winter habitat, will continue to decline until starvation brings the moose population down to the level with the available food supply. Without habitat improvement, this will result in but a small population fraction of what the productivity of the valley could support if good forest management together with good game habitat management were permitted.

Harvest of timber limited to negotiated personal use sales would rob the state of millions of dollars annually, as well as subsidize those individuals and commercial businesses already situated in the area. Negotiated sales to "commercial facilities such as lodges" discriminates against other commercial users, such as the forest industry, which is able to provide value-added wood products to improve the local, as well as the state economy. The present "individuals and commercial facilities such as lodges" contribute very little to the economy of the Matanuska Susitna Borough. Those interests most likely to benefit from SB #430 are from Anchorage, and from outside the state that already have established their interests in "remote" sites in the area and wish to remain "privileged".

Harvest of timber limited to negotiated personal use sales would high-grade the present timber stands, as untrained cutters leave high stumps, cut undesignated wood, waste merchantable wood, wander off the designated area, cut more than allowed, damage reserved trees, fail to dispose of debris, leave on the area the most defective, misshapen trees, thereby robbing the best of the wild-stock gene pool of the forest, as well as not providing the means to regenerate the most desirable species, let alone promote genetic improvement.

SB #430 assumes that the scenic and natural integrity of the area can be insured, (1) by continued elimination of forest fires, and (2) prohibition of commercial timber harvesting. These assumptions are wrong because, first of all, wild fires are not in the public interest and second, commercial timber harvesting, followed by reforestation will provide not only thrifty young trees and improved game habitat, but also income and economic stability for the state and the borough as well.

SB #430 prohibits the commissioner from using public funds to construct or maintain roads connected to the "interstate" highway system. Since all of Alaska is not connected to the interstate highway system, I assume that the intrastate highways were intended. Providing no link to our existing highways forecloses any future possibility of surface access to the west side of Cook Inlet, to the Kuskokwim valley and interior, or to the west side of Denali National Park. This seems to me to be a highly unjustified foreclosure on our future transportation options.

SB #430's concerns are based upon myth and emotions, not upon facts. A forest industry involving good forest management which includes commercial timber harvesting, can exist with the recreation industry, even enhance it - especially so in the Susitna valley. The present "remote recreation industry" does extremely little to strengthen the economy, or lessen the jobless rate in the Matanuska Susitna Borough. Establishment of a modern integrated forest products industry would not only meet the economic objectives of the borough, but enhance the outdoor recreation opportunities for thousands of people - not perpetuate the status quo of a privileged few.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my oral testimony, and I'll be happy to respond to any questions from the members of the committee.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dick Tindall".

Richard W. Tindall

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: JANICE TATLOW
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: PO BOX 1621
 CITY: PALMER ZIP: 99645
 PHONE: 745-4488
 BILL NO: SB 430
 SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
 MESSAGE: SB430 ONLY ENHANCES THE FLY IN TOURIST OPERATION, BENEFITTING A FEW.
 SB430 RESTRICTS THE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF MATSU BOROUGHS RESIDENTS AND
 ALL ALASKANS. SB430 NEGATIVELY IMPACTS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE MATSU
 BOROUGHS. DEPT OF LABOR, UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECEMBER 89 WAS 15.1. PLEASE KILL S
 B430.

POMID: 14090800
 DATE: 02/22/90
 TIME: 09:08:00
 LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: SENATORS

FRANK
 PEARCE
 FOURCHOT
 ADAMS

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: EDWARD MCKRILL
 TITLE:
 ADDRESS: 9191 LEE SMITH DR
 CITY: JUNEAU, AK ZIP: 99801
 PHONE: 789-2135
 BILL NO:
 SUBJECT:
 MESSAGE: I WOULD LIKE FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM
 ENHANCEMENT REQUEST IN PRIORITY GROUP 5 OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FY91
 BUDGET AND OPERATING REQUEST.

POMID: 00091036
 DATE: 02/22/90
 TIME: 09:10:36
 LIONAME: JUNEAU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS
BOYER	BROWN	BINKLEY
COLLINS	COTTEN	COGHILL
DAVIDSON	DAVIS, C.	DUNCAN
DAVIS, M.	DONLEY	ELIASON
ELLIS	FINKELSTEIN	FAHRENKAMP
FOSTER	FURNACE	FAIKS
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FISCHER
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	FRANK
HOFFMAN	HUDSON	HALFORD
JACKO	KOPONEN	JONES
KUBINA	LARSON	KELLY
LEMAN	MACLEAN	KERTTULA
MARTIN	MENARD	PEARCE
MILLER	NAVARRE	POURCHOT
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	RODEY
RIEGER	SHARP	STURGULEWSKI
SHULTZ	SWACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: ROBIN WEBB
TITLE:
ADDRESS: BOX 2617
CITY: PALMER ZIP: 99645
PHONE: 746-1100
BILL NO: SB 430
SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA
MESSAGE: THANK YOU TO SEN RODEY FOR INTRODUCING SB 430. I AM VERY
MUCH OPPOSED TO LARGE SCALE LOGGING IN THE MAT-SU VALLEY. I AM IN
SUPPORT OF THE SUSITNA VALLEY AREA PLAN. LETS KEEP THE VALLEY
UNSCARED.

POMID: 14151931
DATE: 02/23/90
TIME: 15:19:31
LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: SENATOR

RODEY

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: RYLE RADKE

TITLE:

ADDRESS: 2136 AIRPORT WAY

CITY: FAIRBANKS

ZIP: 99701

PHONE: 452-1250

BILL NO:

SUBJECT: FY'91 BUDGET - U OF A

MESSAGE: PLEASE SUPPORT THE DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT REQUEST IN PRIORITY GROUP 5 OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA'S FY'91 BUDGET AND OPERATING REQUEST. THIS APPROPRIATION WILL ENABLE THE SCHOOL TO CONTINUE AND TO ENROLL 18 DENTAL HYGIENE STUDENTS. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT A FULL-TIME DENTAL DIRECTOR BE ON STAFF.

POMID: 07081328

DATE: 02/23/90

TIME: 08:13:28

LIONAME: FAIRBANKS LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTATIVES SENATORS

BARNES	BOUCHER	ADAMS
BOYER	BROWN	BINKLEY
COLLINS	COTTEN	COGHILL
DAVIDSON	DAVIS, C.	DUNCAN
DAVIS, M.	DONLEY	ELIASON
ELLIS	FINKELSTEIN	FAHRENKAMP
FOSTER	FURNACE	FAIKS
GOLL	GRUENBERG	FISCHER
GRUSSENDORF	HANLEY	FRANK
HOFFMAN	HUDSON	HALFORD
JACKO	KOPONEN	JONES
KUBINA	LARSON	KELLY
LEMAN	MACLEAN	KERTTULA
MARTIN	MENARD	PEARCE
MILLER	NAVARRE	POURCHOT
PETTYJOHN	PHILLIPS	RODEY
RIEGER	SHARP	STURGULEWSKI
SHULTZ	SHACKHAMMER	UEHLING
TAYLOR	ULMER	ZHAROFF
WALLIS	ZAWACKI	

PUBLIC OPINION MESSAGE

DEAR: SENATOR SZYMANSKI

NAME: LARRY DEVILBISS

TITLE:

ADDRESS: HCO 4-9302

CITY: PALMER

ZIP: 99645

PHONE: N/R-

BILL NO: SB 430

SUBJECT: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

MESSAGE: WE HAVE FARM GROUND IN THIS AREA THAT WOULD BE ADVERSELY EFFECTED BY THIS LEGISLATION AND ARE CONSEQUENTLY AGAINST SB430.

POMID: 14085459

DATE: 02/23/90

TIME: 08:54:59

LIONAME: MAT-SU LIO

COPIES: REPRESENTATIVES SENATOR

LARSON	KERTTULA
MENARD	

February 24, 1990
PO Box 2176
Palmer, Alaska
99645

Senator Mike Szymanski
Committee on Community and Regional Affairs
PO Box V
Juneau, Alaska
99811

RECEIVED
MAR 1 1990

Dear Senator Szymanski,

Please support Senate Bill 430, to form the Susitna Remote Recreation Area and halt plans for state timber sales in the roadless areas of the Su Basin. I urge you to vote the bill unchanged out of committee as soon as possible.

Introduction to the Issue

People who live, work and own property west of the Susitna River and south of Petersville Road don't want big commercial logging in that remote area. People like pilot Hank Rust, musher Joe Redington, lodge owners Ed and Judy Sharpe, the Skwentna Community Council, and the Alaska Hotel and Motel Association joined in 1987 to fight the 200,000 acre timber sale proposed by Commissioner Judy Brady. They formed the Susitna Valley Association.

Now the residents of the Su Basin face new plans by the Department of Natural Resources to sell timber over a much larger area. As instructed by the governor, the Division of Land and Water Management has been drawing up the Susitna Regional Forest Plan, containing guidelines for commercial timber sales. Unfortunately, this plan, like the 1987 proposal, neither weighs in the large existing economic values nor provides the public a say in whether commercial logging should proceed at all in the remote areas of the Basin.

Highlights of the Issue

For your information, here are some common questions and answers about the new bill:

Q. What does SB 430 do?

A. It prohibits the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources from selling state-owned timber for commercial logging and from extending highways into the western Su Basin.

Q. What else does the bill prohibit?

A. Nothing. All other uses on those state lands continue, including land disposals and mining leases. Hunting and fishing are unaffected. The bill allows timber cutting for personal firewood and for lodge and cabin logs.

Q. Won't large-scale commercial logging make lots of money?

A. In 1988, DNR examined the economics of new logging roads in the Susitna Basin Small Scale Transportation Study. The study found that an average acre in good timber yields 900 board feet of sawlogs and 18 cords when it is completely cut. For this, the operator receives a sales price of about \$1,825.

However, the costs of timber purchase, road construction, cutting, hauling, slash removal and re-forestation exceed this income. As a result, you can expect the state to subsidize commercial logging where it extends into new, remote areas. The public loses both its money and its trees.

Q. What land would be affected under SB 430?

A. Some of the timber the state plans to sell through the Susitna Regional Forest Plan would be off-limits for commercial sales. The protected areas would lie south of the Petersville Road and generally west of the Susitna River, scattered over a roadless area of 2 million acres.

SB 430 does not cover private or borough lands.

Q. Why protect that region from logging?

A. The forests of the Su Basin are heavily used for sport and commercial fisheries. Alaskans make their living in that area from 52 lodges, 38 flight services, and a number of river boat services. They offer their clients a landscape unbroken by roads. State studies show that sportsfishermen generate more than \$10 million per year in business fishing Su Basin streams away from roads. Salmon from the Su Basin account for \$18 million per year in economic activity in southcentral Alaska, not including processing.

With SB 430, business and private property owners seek assurance they can invest in their properties without the threat of logging roads and clear-cutting.

Q. Will the bill affect current logging activity?

A. No. The state lands of the proposed Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area currently have no commercial logging activity.

All commercial logging in the Mat-Su Borough occurs close to roads and outside the proposed protected area. During 1989, small commercial loggers had 28 state and 15 borough timber sales. They cut about 700 acres, according to Mr. Strube of the Division of Forestry.

Q. What about spruce bark beetle epidemics?

A. We don't have a spruce bark beetle epidemic in the Su Basin. And we are not likely to have a major problem in the future because (a) the well-timbered areas are a mix of broadleaf trees with only about 25% spruce, and (b) we have little logging slash in which the beetles can reproduce.

Q. Who is against SB 430?

A. Several groups are against the bill. They include the Mat-Su Borough's assembly, mayor, and manager, the Wasilla City Council. The borough-subsidized Regional Economic Development Corp. also opposes the bill.

Q. What is wrong with remote commercial sales?

A. o The 1989 Program Review of the Division of Forestry cited a "severe problem with reforestation" following timber harvests in southcentral Alaska. Scarification of the soil, the only technique currently used in southcentral Alaska, produces re-growth on only 30% of the acreage to which it is applied. Re-planting with seedlings is not carried out.

o State foresters have little opportunity, under current budgets, to enforce the Forest Practices Act.

o In remote areas, commercial sales are money losers. For example, DNR's 1988 road study showed the most useful new road for timber removal in the Su Basin was the Kashwitna Road near the road system in the Willow area. However, after adding up all the economic benefits, the study showed that the return likely would be five cents for each dollar spent on the road on an annual basis

Community Views

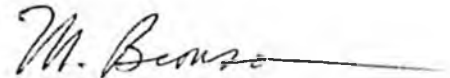
As you heard in the February 20 testimony, several governmental bodies oppose SB 430, including the Mat-Su Borough government. Mayor Dorothy Jones with Assembly members Rose Palmquist and Eleanor Malapanes maintained that the provisions of the bill would jeopardize economic activity the the borough. Eleanor Malapanes, at your questioning, also cited local opinion polls opposing the bill.

Such statements, however, have little basis, as I testified on February 20. The bill seeks to protect businesses and resources whose economic value is long-proven against the risks from remote commercial logging, which state studies show will cost more than it will produce.

Furthermore, the bill is the response of area residents to the state's logging plans. Although Mrs. Malapanes maintained that 79% of the respondents opposed SB 430 in a local opinion poll, no such poll has been conducted. She may have been thinking of a poll conducted by the Overall Economic Development Committee on other issues last month. In contrast, the only local poll on the issue of commercial logging in the Basin was a non-scientific poll by the local newspaper a year and a half ago. Most people interviewed in the Palmer and Wasilla area said they did not like the notion of large timber sales in the Susitna Valley. Attitudes are even stronger among people directly affected by the state's proposals. Talkeetna businessmen, Skwentna Community Council, Tokosha Citizens' Council, Alaska Hotel and Motel Association, and more than 60 other groups, together with some 4,000 people in Anchorage and the Valley, comprise the group that requested SB 430. These people want no commercial logging industry in the roadless areas of the Su Basin.

Please consider these observations and help move SB 430 to the Senate Resources Committee as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Michael Bronson



SIERRA CLUB

Alaska Chapter



PO Box 103441
Anchorage, AK 99510
February 21, 1990

Senator Szymanski and Members of the
Senate Community & Regional Affairs Committee,

Re: Your questions regarding planning from your hearing yesterday
on SB430

If the Alaska Chapter believed that the revision planning process for the Susitna Area Plan would take care, if you will, of our concerns about the multiple uses current in the Susitna Valley, we would hesitate to support SB430.

From our membership's point of view, the Department of Natural Resources has treated the public with mere formality at best during recent planning efforts. From the overnight amending of the Hatcher Pass plan to accomodate foreign ski development interests to the casual dismissal of public testimony upon several occasions regarding resort development in Denali State Park, DNR has demonstrated that it is operating on its own agenda. This agency's many mistakes with timber harvests in the Cape Yakataga and Icy Bay areas frustrate, frighten and anger us. It is rather difficult to trust this agency with the Susitna Valley.

Those of us involved with the many meetings for the Susitna Regional Forest Plan have repeatedly asked that other values and those listed in the Susitna Area Plan along with forestry, be given equal consideration. From the beginning this planning effort has been a march toward finding large amounts of timber to cut.

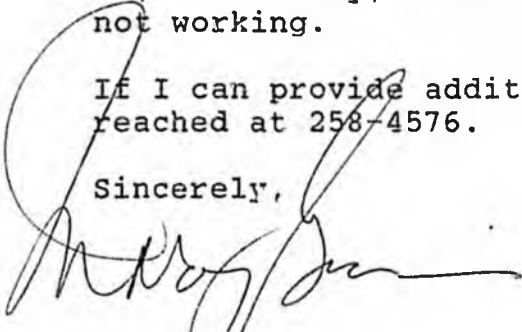
"Not blind opposition to progress, but opposition to blind progress."

Assistant DNR Commissioner Hawkins and Dr. Welbourn have told us that the only way to achieve the perpetuation of remote, roadless recreation, tourism and community values in the Susitna Valley is for us to seek a legislative solution. The revisions of the Susitna Area Plan will not provide what we seek, we have also been told.

So, in summary, SB430 has our support. DNR's planning processes are not working.

If I can provide additional assistance, please let me know. I can be reached at 258-4576.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mary Grisco', written over a large, faint circular stamp or watermark.

Mary Grisco
Volunteer



SIERRA CLUB

Alaska Chapter



PO Box 103441
Anchorage, AK 99510
February 20, 1990

Chairman Szymanski and Committee Members,

My name is Mary Grisco and I represent the nearly 1,900 members of the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club; Alaskans from Diomedes to Adak, Kotzebue to Ketchikan.

I want to thank the ANCHORAGE TIMES for giving us publicity for this legislation. However, facts are different from newsprint. We are just one of the 68 organizations working together with the Susitna Valley Association. We did not ask Senator Rodey to introduce this legislation before you.

We do support this legislation however.

This is rather straightforward legislation. It directs that the way the Susitna Valley is currently being used continue....that includes the smallscale logging activities.

The proximity of this Valley to our state's population center and our largest international airport means that many residents and tourists hunt, fish, boat, flightsee and hike in this roadless area. The established remote recreation and tourism industry provides hundreds of jobs and millions of dollars for our state, including the Mat-Su Borough. It makes no sense to destroy jobs to create jobs. Large scale road-building and commercial logging are incompatible with the established industries. Surely diversifying our economy does not mean taking jobs away from our residents.

The present DNR planning effort (called the Susitna Regional Forest Plan) does not address an essential question: will an increased level of logging be economically, culturally, and environmentally appropriate in the Susitna Valley?

This planning you may recall began in response to the public's unwillingness to let the State undertake major clearcutting and roadbuilding without first planning about how to use our public lands.

"Not blind opposition to progress, but opposition to blind progress."

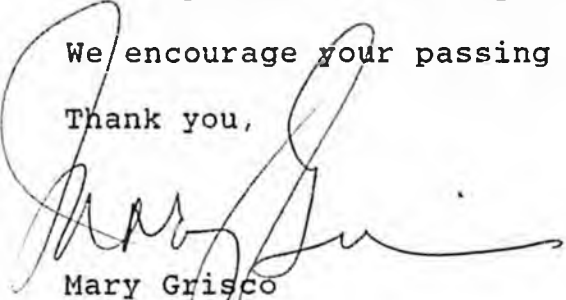
DNR's planning remains flawed; it is biased in favor of logging without giving equal consideration to other uses. The Susitna Area Plan, the basis for this planning, does not list forestry (logging) as the only, primary use for any part of the Valley. Yet, DNR is carrying out this planning as if their version of forestry were the primary use. We, along with many others, continue to participate in this planning process.

We are tired however of the arrogance of DNR; this agency works for us. And yet our concerns are ignored.

This legislation is a way to deal with the multiple uses current in this Valley. The proposed Susitna State Forest legislation also shows others are frustrated with this process. When DNR completes its logging plan, how would a State Forest designation help? The Susitna Area Plan is due to be amended this year. How will this DNR plan help? DNR has stated that they will provide for the perpetuation of remote, roadless recreation, tourism and community values ONLY IF directed to do so by the Legislature. SB430 provides this legislative direction.

We encourage your passing out of this legislation.

Thank you,



Mary Grisco
Volunteer

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 27, 1990

To: MatSu Borough Planning Dept.
MatSu Borough Planning Commission
MatSu Borough Assembly

From: Becky Long *B. Long*
Information Co-ordinator
Alaska Survival



Subject: Habitat Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Susitna Regional Forest Plan (SRFP) guidelines
Application to MatSu Borough Forest Management Plan

RECEIVED

MAR 25 1990

The protection of our natural resources is necessary for healthy rural and remote communities in the Upper Susitna Valley. This is the goal of residents involved in the public process for the borough forest management plan.

The public looks to the appropriate agencies that are statutorily mandated to protect resources. Unfortunately, ADF&G and ADNR have no statutory regulations to protect the resources of visual quality, recreation, and lifestyles. Fortunately, ADF&G does regulate fish and wildlife resources.

It was with disappointment to note the lack of Habitat Division, ADF&G comments on the borough forest plan beyond a summary of fish and wildlife resources in the 14 proposed management units. There are no detailed comments regarding potential logging impacts on the habitats and fish and wildlife resources in the units.

Through correspondence with Frank Rue, Director of the Habitat Division, the situation is as follows:

1. RMA, authors of the borough plan, requested only a summary of fish and wildlife resources from the division.
2. This information is contained in part 3.0 Forest Management Units of the RMA report.
3. The division "offered to provide more detailed background information describing the geographic distribution and abundance of fish and wildlife resources in the Mat-Su Borough Forest Management Plan area, species-specific habitat requirements, food habits, a description of potential impacts resulting from timber harvesting, and a set of management guidelines and recommendations to avoid or ameliorate these impacts."

"All of this work had already been completed for the Susitna Regional Forest Plan (SRFP) currently being developed by ADNR."

4. RMA indicated that the steering committee of the borough plan was inclined to include these guidelines developed for SRFP.
5. The MatSu Borough has not yet indicated whether they will use the SRFP guidelines.
6. The Habitat Division will be recommending to the borough to adopt these guidelines for the 14 units.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEMORANDUM IS TO STRONGLY RECOMMEND
THAT THE BOROUGH ACCEPT THESE GUIDELINES!

These guidelines are incorporated into the Division's January 1990 report Susitna Regional Forest Plan Fish and Wildlife Resources which "summarizes the distribution, habitat requirements, food habits, and potential logging impacts to a number of fish and wildlife species found in the Susitna Regional Forest Plan area. Background information is also summarized from which management guidelines were developed to avoid or ameliorate impacts to the fish and wildlife resource in the planning area."

Management considerations and recommended management options are included for:

- *1. Logging Road Location
- *2. Logging Road Construction and Design
- *3. Logging Road Management
- *4. Scheduling Harvest Activities
- *5. Location and Shape of Harvest Units
- *6. Harvesting Methods
- *7. Debris Management
- *8. Site Preparation
- *9. Prescribed Burning
- *10. Tree Harvesting Systems
- *11. Herbicides
- *12. Forest Regeneration

Although Alaska Survival does not agree with all the recommended management options, it is a good start in protecting moose, bear, furbearers, bald eagles, trumpeter swans, spruce grouse (did not see a section on fish) from logging and roading.

Of course, to fully protect the public fish and wildlife interests, the Habitat Division needs to review and comment for each specific unit. Unfortunately, this will probably not happen until specific timber sales are proposed. It can be argued that at that point, the momentum to log has been established and it is harder for the public to control the uses of these public lands.

We request that you incorporate the Habitat SRFP guidelines into the borough forest management plan.

quotes from correspondence with the Habitat Division



Briefings

SUSITNA PLANNING PROJECTS

- DNR Area plans
- Briefing: Susitna and Willow Area Plans
- Briefing: SB 430 (Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area)
- Briefing: Susitna Regional Forest Plan
- Citizens' Advisory Committee for forest plan
- Briefing: Susitna State Recreation Rivers Management Plan
- Susitna Recreation Rivers Plan brochure
- Briefing: Kashwitna Management Plan

February 15, 1990



Alaska Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

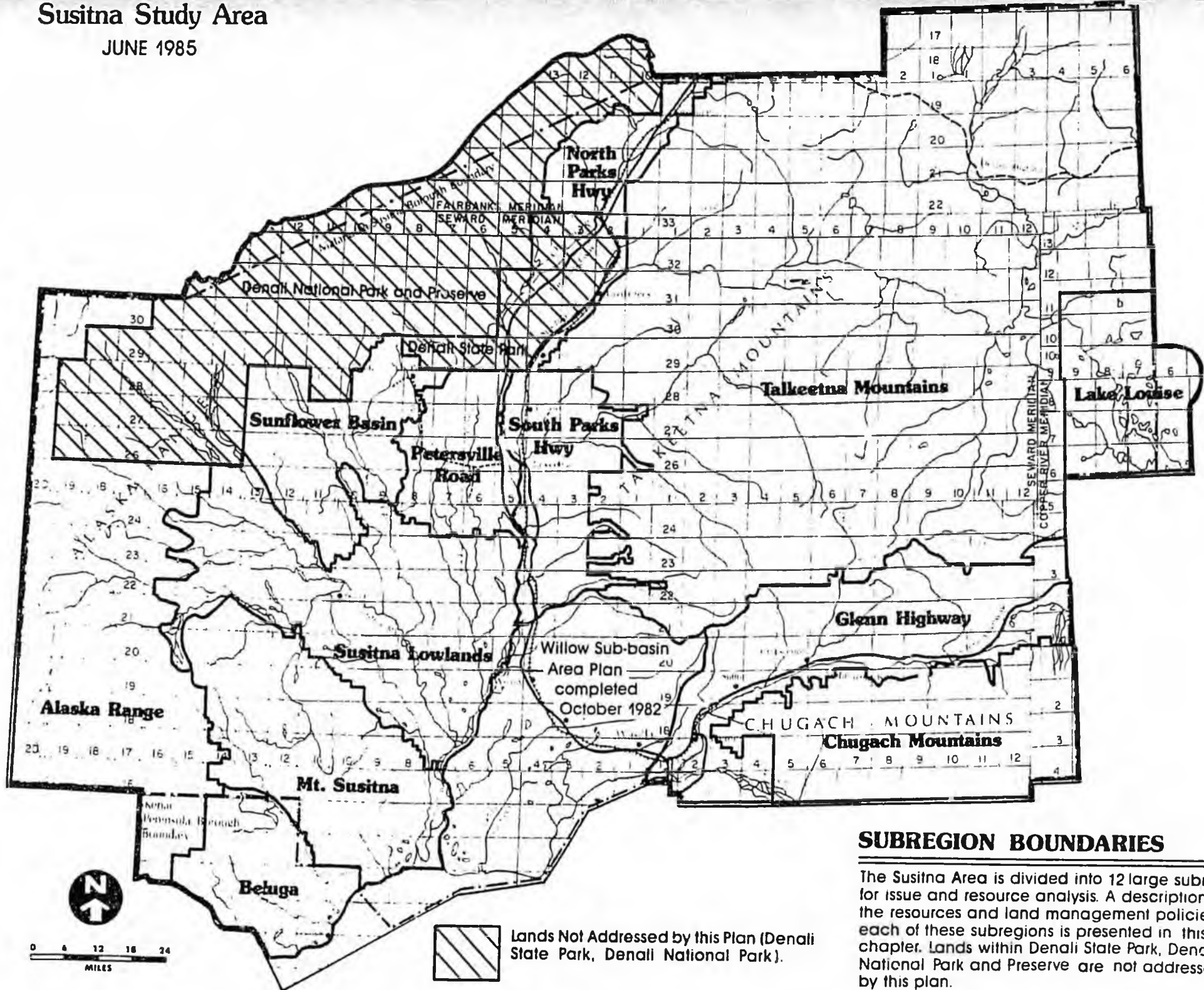
February 12, 1990

SUSITNA AND WILLOW AREA PLANS

- Purposes** Designate main uses of state and borough lands
Establish guidelines to ensure that multiple uses occur compatibly
Coordinate use of state and borough lands
- Area** 15.8 million acres of land in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Tyonek areas including:
-- 9.5 million acres of state land
-- 600 thousand acres of borough land
- Process** Issues identified by public and agencies
Information gathered by state, borough, and federal agencies
Alternatives reviewed by public
Draft plan reviewed by agencies
Draft plan reviewed by public
Final plan adopted by DNR, DFG, and Mat-Su Borough in 1985
- Participants** Planning team: DNR, DFG, DOT&PF, Mat-Su Borough
Cooperating agencies: USDA Soil Conservation Service, BLM, Kenai Borough
Public: 40 public meetings, written + oral comments, meetings with groups
- Major Decisions** Designated primary and secondary land uses
Established land use guidelines to keep multiple uses compatible
Identified 105,000 acres for future disposals
Identified 50,000 acres for agriculture, including agric. homesteads
Established stream, lake, trail, and wetland buffers in land disposal areas
Identified areas open to new mineral entry and leasehold location; closes lands along some streams and sensitive habitats to mineral entry
Recommended State Recreation Rivers (adopted), Nelchina Public Use Area (adopted), Susitna State Forest (HB 356 in committee), and legislative designation of trumpeter swan nesting areas, Susitna-Yentna Public Use Area, addition to Susitna Game Flats, and recreation sites.
Recommended transportation corridors to support land use designations
Classified land as required by AS 38.04.065
Established process for modifying the plan
- Update Process** Plans are updated about every five years. The first update for the Susitna Area Plan is scheduled to begin in 1990. The Susitna and Willow plans will be combined during the update. The update process will be done with the interagency planning team and public review.
- The process will review guidelines, land use designations, legislative recommendations, and proposed settlement and agriculture areas to determine where changes are needed. It will also update land status and develop guidelines for commercial leasing.

Susitna Study Area

JUNE 1985



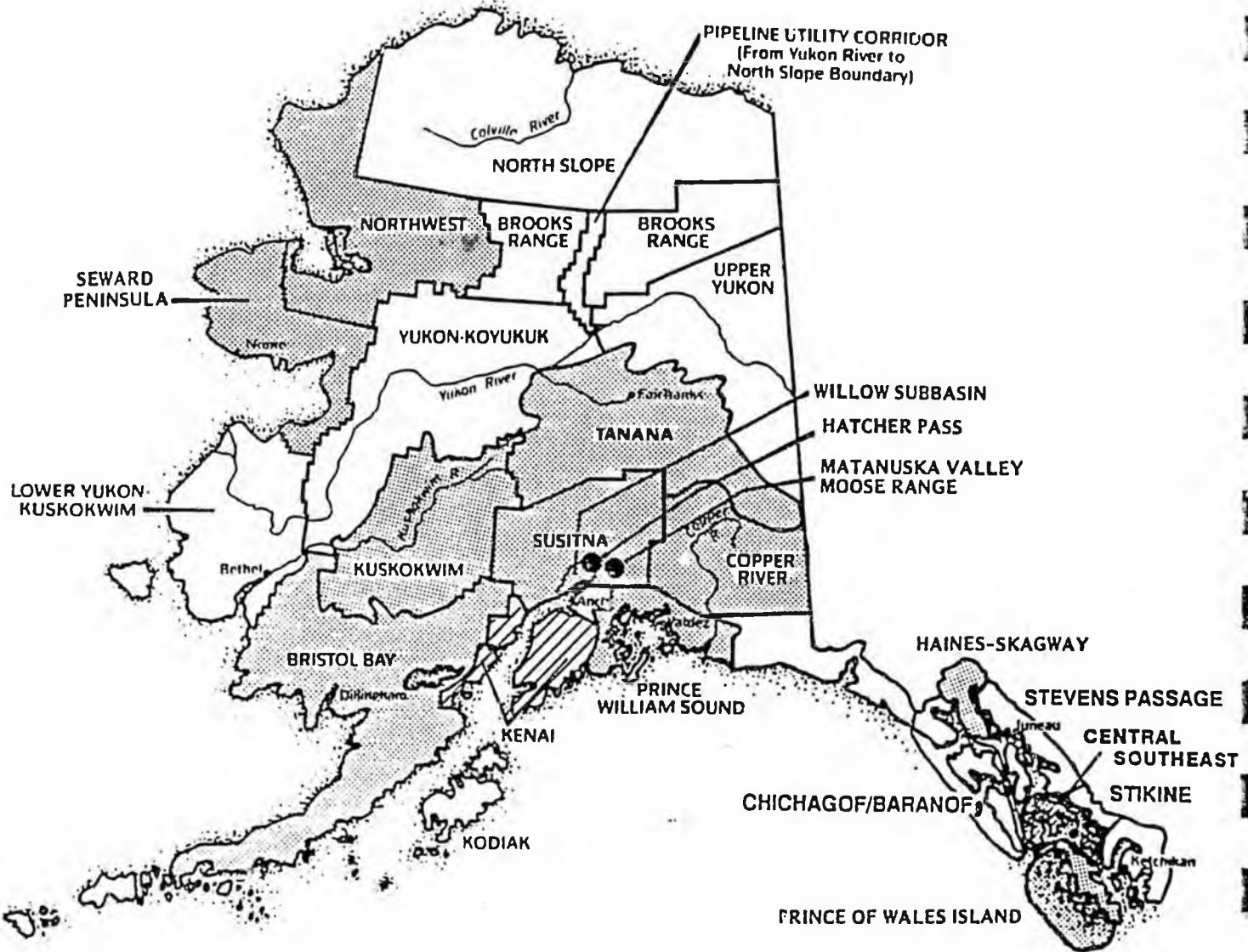
SUBREGION BOUNDARIES

The Susitna Area is divided into 12 large subregions for issue and resource analysis. A description of the resources and land management policies for each of these subregions is presented in this chapter. Lands within Denali State Park, Denali National Park and Preserve are not addressed by this plan.

Figure 3.

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

AREA PLANS



AREA PLANNING STATUS

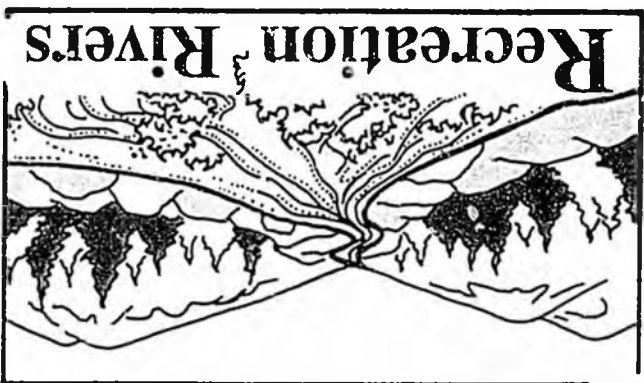
- Completed area plans
- Area plans in progress
- Not scheduled for area plans at this time

December, 1989



THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT HAS
NOT BEEN FILMED BUT IS
AVAILABLE IN THE ORIGINAL
FILE

Recreation Rivers Management Plan



Susitna Basin

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT HAS
NOT BEEN FILMED BUT IS
AVAILABLE IN THE ORIGINAL
FILE

Susitna Area Plan

PRIMARY SURFACE LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

This map shows generalized land use designations. Only the primary surface designations are shown. The primary uses are not the only uses that will be permitted; the large majority of publicly retained lands are multiple use areas where a variety of other uses, including mining, are allowed. Information on the management of subsurface resources including boundaries of areas open and closed to mining are shown on the Subsurface Designation Map. See also Chapter 2 for land management guidelines that apply to the whole planning area and Chapter 3 for a complete statement of management intent for each location.

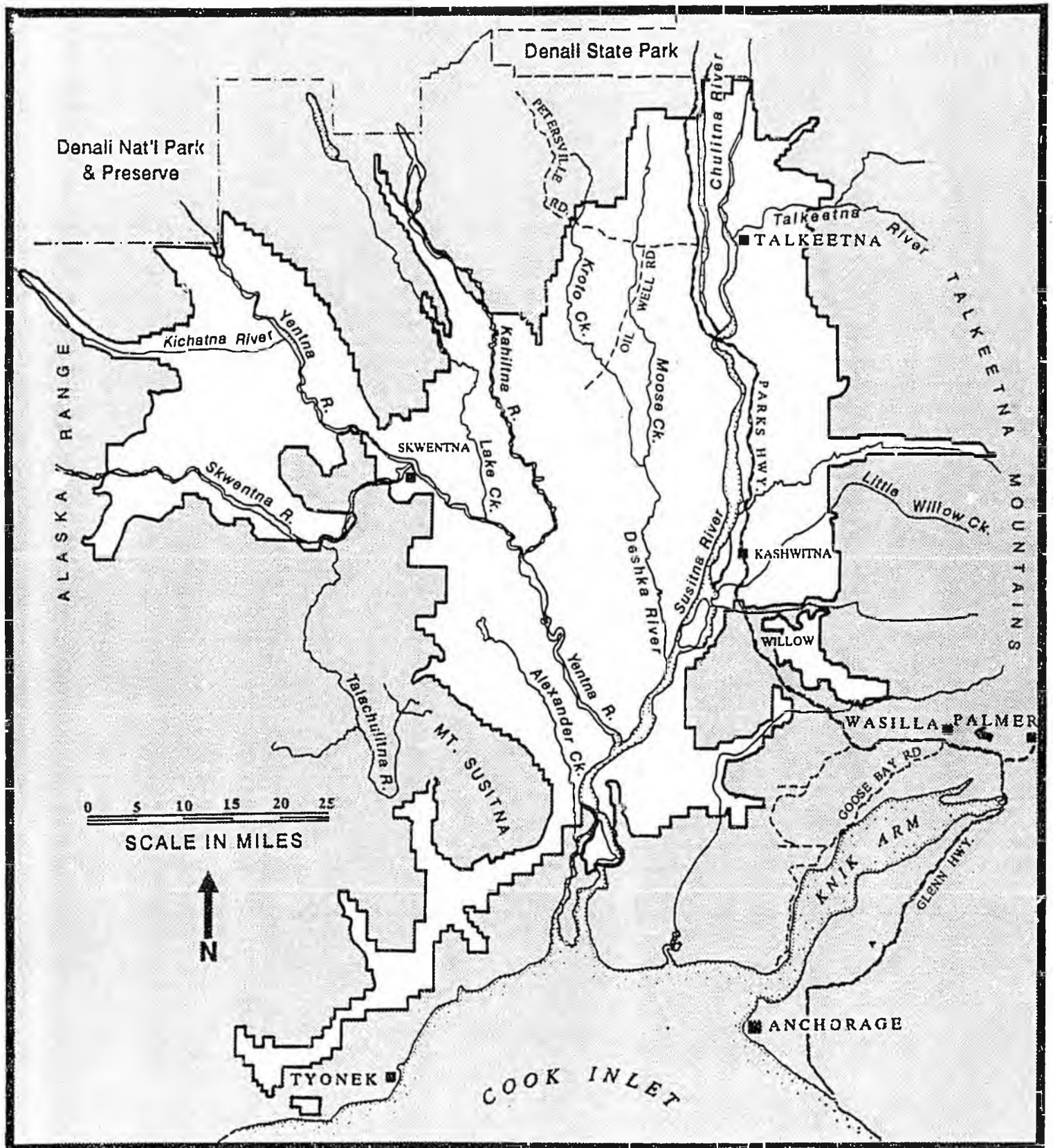


Department of Natural Resources
Division of Land and Water Mgmt.
Land and Resources Section
Box 107005, Anchorage, Alaska 99510 • 907-762-2660

February 12, 1990

- Purposes** Determine the areas available for timber harvesting
Set the rules for timber harvesting in the Susitna Valley
Determine the volume of timber available for harvest
- Area** 2 million acres total area in the lowlands of the Susitna basin and Tyonek area
1 million acres of state land with designations allowing timber harvest
400,000 acres of designated state forest land with mixed forests, cottonwood, or closed white spruce forest
- Process** Issues identified winter 1988
Planning begun spring 1988
Data collection summer, fall, winter 1988
Develop regional guidelines 1989
Develop site-specific guidelines winter 1990 - **CURRENT STEP**
Public review of draft proposal spring 1990
Final plan summer 1990
- Participants** Planning team
DNR Forestry, Land & Water, Parks, Agriculture
Dept. of Fish and Game
Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities
Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Kenai Peninsula Borough
- Technical advisors -- US Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Citizens' Advisory Committee -- representatives of 80 interest groups, local governments, corporations, and legislative offices
- General public -- meetings on issues and draft proposals, newsletters, briefings to interest groups, phone calls and letters
- Major Issues** Rules for timber harvesting
Fish and wildlife habitat and water quality
Recreation, tourism, and scenery
Access development
Coordination with adjacent landowners
Public involvement
- Current Step** Regional guidelines on habitat, recreation, cultural resources, access, and landowner issues are drafted. Planning team is developing guidelines for site-specific issues. Draft plan will be presented to the public in spring 1990.

SUSITNA REGIONAL FOREST PLAN BOUNDARY



BRIEFING PAPER

SB 430: SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA

Summary The Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area (SVRRA) proposed in SB 430 conflicts with designations in the Susitna Area Plan and proposed legislative designations.

Land Status The SVRRA encompasses approximately 2.1 million acres (see map), nearly all state land. Approximately 58 thousand acres are borough land, and seven thousand acres belong to the university. Several thousand private parcels are located within the boundary.¹ The bill would not apply to borough, university, or private lands

Relation to Susitna and Willow Plans **Roads.** SB 430 prohibits publicly-funded roads connected to the main road system. The plans identify potential future routes that would provide road access to timber harvest areas, private and borough lands, mining areas, and recreation sites and recommends road access in certain areas, especially between the Susitna and Yentna rivers. The bill does not define "road" nor clarify whether seasonal roads are included in the prohibition.

Timber. The SVRRA proposal would delete forestry as a primary use within its boundaries, and prohibit commercial forestry. This would remove the majority of the timber with commercial potential from the available pool. Timber harvesting for habitat enhancement would depend on state funding. SB 430 allows harvesting for personal use for individuals and commercial facilities. Current DNR policy does not allow use by commercial facilities under the definition of personal use, since the wood supports a profit-making operation.

Agriculture. About half the agricultural areas designated in the Susitna and Willow plans, the Kashwitna Knobs and Fish Creek projects are in the bill boundary. Under the bill, roads to these areas would have to be privately funded.

Mining. SB 430 allows mining under leasehold location if approved in a management plan and prohibits mineral location by claims. The plans requires leasehold location only in specific areas with known resource conflicts.
[what is current status on leasehold statewide]

Land disposals. Over half the land disposal pool in the Susitna and Willow Plans is within SB 430. The bill does not preclude land sales, but a prohibition on publicly-funded roads could affect markets and property values. Currently, roads with public funding such as timber roads often provide access to private lands.

Process. The bill makes extensive changes to the designations in the area plans. The plans are the result of years of interagency work and over 40 public meetings. The first five-year review of the plans will start this year,

¹Approximately 13,000 private parcels are within the Susitna Regional Forest Plan which overlaps much of this area. It is not known what portion of the parcels are within the SVRRA, or how many private parcels are in the part of the SVRRA outside the forest plan boundary. The total amount of private ownership probably totals 50-100 thousand acres.

The review will consider changes to designations and legislative recommendations. However, DNR believes that a prohibition on roads and timber harvest in an area the size of SB 430 would have to be a legislative rather than administrative action.

**Relation
to other
legislation**

Susitna State Forest. The bill would remove two-thirds of the acreage from the state forest proposed by the Susitna Area Plan, and over half the area in HB 356 (Susitna State Forest).

Chelatna Public Use Area. The Chelatna Public Use Area (SB 165) is entirely within SB 430. The public use area does not prohibit roads and allows new mining claims.

Susitna-Yentna Public Use Area. This designation was recommended by the Susitna Area Plan but legislation has not been introduced. It does not prohibit roads; forestry is a primary use in part of the area.

Trumpeter Swan nesting areas. Most of the areas recommended by the Susitna plan for legislative designation to protect trumpeter swan nesting habitat are within SB 430. These areas do not specifically prohibit roads, but limit activities that could disturb nesting.

Susitna State Recreation Rivers. The Lake Creek, Talachulitna River, Deshka River (part), and Alexander Creek corridors are within the bill boundary, but are not affected by SB 430.

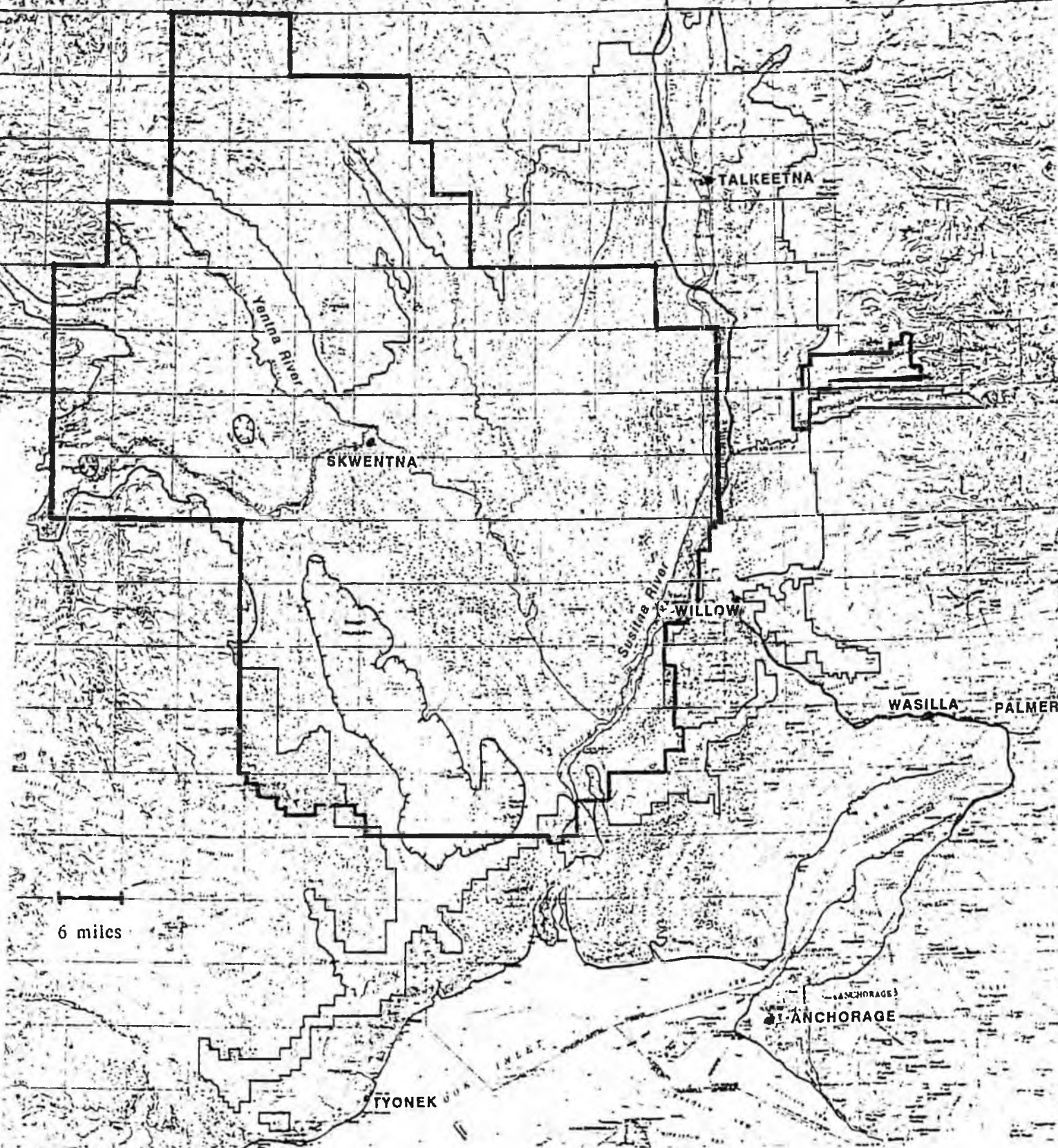
**Fiscal
Impact**

The bill requires a management plan for the area. Detailed planning for an area this size would take 2-3 years with a staff of one range 18 and one range 16 plus technical, clerical, graphic, and GIS support. The bill would prevent state investment in roads and timber sales.

**Division
Authority**

The bill gives management authority to DNR under Title 41. It does not specify whether or not it has park status nor which division is the lead authority. Since the legislation includes mining, we assume this land would be managed as a public use area under the Division of Land and Water Management

**SB 430: Susitna Valley Remote
Recreation Area**





STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

BILL ANALYSIS

DEPARTMENT Fish and Game	DIVISION Habitat	BILL NUMBER SB430	SPONSOR Senator Rodey
SHORT TITLE OF BILL Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area			
DEPARTMENT POSITION Opposed			
PREPARED BY Frank Rue, Director	DATE 2-15-90	COMMISSIONER'S SIGNATURE <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE 2/15/90

SUMMARY

OTHER AGENCIES AFFECTED BY BILL Dept. of Natural Resources Dept. of Transportation Dept. of Fish and Game	CONSTITUENT GROUP(S) AFFECTED BY BILL see attached
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BILL see attached	ORGANIZATIONAL OPPOSITION TO BILL Matanuska-Susitna Borough

FISCAL IMPACT: NONE FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT see attached

ANALYSIS OF BILL PROGRAM EFFECTS see attached

AMENDMENTS PROPOSED The bill should require Alaska Department of Natural Resources and Alaska Department of Fish and Game to jointly develop guidelines for traditional access. To accomplish this, the word [MAY] in line 4 on page 4 of the proposed bill should be substituted with the word shall (Bill version introduced 2/2/90).

PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR ANALYSIS.

ATTACHMENT TO BILL ANALYSIS FOR SB 430

CONSTITUENT GROUPS AFFECTED BY BILL

Air taxi operators, guides, Boat charters, Timber companies, Sport hunters, Commercial, Sport, and Subsistence fisheries, and Land developers

ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT FOR BILL

According to recent newspaper articles, 69 organizations and businesses and 4,300 individuals have indicated support for SB 430. Approximately 27% of the organizations and some 700 individuals supporting the bill are residents of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Many air charter services, commercial lodges, outfitters, environmental organizations, and the Susitna Valley Association, a consortium of all the aforementioned organizations, support the bill.

BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE INTENT

SB 430 emphasizes the protection, maintenance, and management of fish and wildlife habitat and populations; and traditional public uses such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and other forms of remote area recreation on certain state lands in the Susitna Basin. This bill would protect the economic potential of the area's recreation and tourism industries that are dependent on fish and game resources and the maintenance of the area's remoteness.

ANALYSIS

ADF&G is working with ADNR on the Susitna Forest Management Plan and looks to that process to resolve fish and wildlife resource issues. The proposed legislation will prohibit, subject to existing right, the sale or transfer of state lands, commercial logging, mining except by lease (excluding valid existing mines), and construction of publicly financed or maintained roads on state lands within most of the watersheds in the western Susitna Basin including Lake and Alexander Creeks, Kahiltna, Yentna, Kichatna, Skwentna, and Talachulitna Rivers. All other activities would be allowed.

PROGRAM EFFECT

The major effect of this bill on state agencies is to require Alaska Department of Natural Resources to develop a management plan for the proposed recreation area. Alaska Department of Fish and Game would participate in the planning process by assigning a department plan coordinator to collect, analyze, and present fish and game resources and related public use information. A certain number of planning activities are included in the Habitat Division's annual budget.

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: _____
 Title: Susitna Valley Remote
Recreation Area
 Sponsor: Senator Rodey
 Requestor: _____

Agency Affected: _____
 BRU: Department of Fish and Game

Components: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0				

CAPITAL	0	0				
---------	---	---	--	--	--	--

REVENUE	0	0				
---------	---	---	--	--	--	--

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0	0				

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

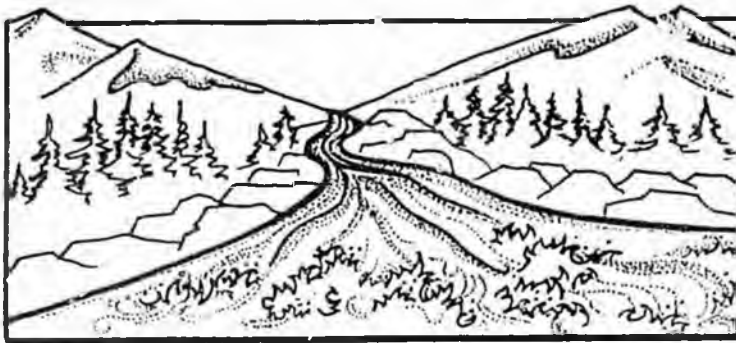
No impact on FY 90 Budget

Prepared by: Frank Rue, Director Phone: 465-4105
 Division: Habitat Division Date: 2/24/90

Approved by Commissioner: _____ Date: _____
 Agency: _____

Distribution (by preparer):

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



Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Land and Resource Section

Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan

- Purpose** To decide how to manage state land and water in corridors along six recreation rivers: Little Susitna River, Deshka River (including Moose and Kroto creeks), Talkeetna River, Lake Creek, Talachulitna River, and Alexander Creek.
- Area** 260,000 acres and 460 river miles along six river systems
238,000 acres of state-owned land and water
15,000 acres of borough-owned land
2,700 acres private land
- Schedule** Issues identified winter (1988-1989)
Data collection and draft resource assessment written (summer 1989)
Public reviews alternatives (winter 1989)
Agencies review draft plan (summer 1990)
Public reviews draft plan (fall 1990)
Final plan (winter 1990)
Legislature reviews plan (winter, spring 1991)
- Participation** Planning team: representatives from Dept. of Natural Resources divisions of Land & Water, Parks, Forestry, Agriculture, Oil & Gas, Geological & Geophysical Surveys, and Mining; Dept. of Fish and Game; Dept. of Transportation & Public Facilities; Dept. of Environmental Conservation; Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and City of Houston
- Technical advisors: National Park Service
- Citizens' advisory board: 11 members appointed by the governor's office representing user groups; 2 members appointed by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- General public: 3 rounds of public meetings, meetings with interest groups, letters and phone calls
- Major Issues** Levels of allowable development, including lodges, airstrips, and seasonal tentcamps
Access, including boating, roads, and off-road vehicles
Public facilities, including campgrounds and day use areas
Implementation, including user fees, project priorities, field staff, enforcement, and additional regulations
- Current Step** Public reviews alternatives in series of eight public meetings. Comments will assist planning team and advisory board in developing an agency review draft plan by May, 1990.





Department of Natural Resources
Division of Land and Water Mgmt.
Land and Resources Section
Box 107005, Anchorage, Alaska 99510 • 907-762-2660

Greetings --

January 5, 1990

During the last several months, you returned a blue card stating your interest in the Susitna Regional Forest Plan. As requested, a list of the organizations represented on the Citizens' Advisory Committee for the forest plan is enclosed. If you are interested in more involvement in the planning process, you may wish to contact one or more of these organizations.

The planning team and advisory committee have developed draft regional guidelines for timber management in the Susitna area. They are now starting review of individual units within the planning area to determine where additional site-specific guidelines are needed. When draft guidelines are completed, we will hold public meetings and send out a summary of the draft plan for your review.

Thank you for your interest in the planning process.

Sincerely,

Martha Welbourn
Project Manager