

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEES, 2005-2006 86/2

11575 HOUSE RESOURCES

**NELCHINA PUBLIC USE AREA. Sec. 41.23.010. Purpose of AS 41.23.010 - 41.23.040.**

The purpose of AS 41.23.010 - 41.23.040 is to establish the area described in AS 41.23.040 as the Nelchina Public Use Area. The Nelchina Public Use Area is established to

- (1) protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat, particularly caribou calving areas, trumpeter swan nesting areas, and other important habitats for moose, Dall sheep, and brown bear so that traditional public uses of fish and wildlife populations may continue;
- (2) perpetuate and enhance public enjoyment of fish and wildlife and their habitat including fishing, hunting, trapping, viewing, and photography;
- (3) perpetuate and enhance general public recreation in a quality environment;
- (4) perpetuate and enhance additional public uses described in the Susitna Area Plan;
- (5) allow additional public uses of the area in a manner compatible with the purposes specified in (1)-(4) of this section.

**Sec. 41.23.020. Management.**

(a) Management of the surface and subsurface estate of the Nelchina Public Use Area is the responsibility of the department. After adequate public hearings the commissioner may designate incompatible uses and shall adopt and may revise a management plan for the Nelchina Public Use Area. With regard to the management of land within the central caribou calving area described in AS 41.23.040 (b), the commissioner shall obtain the concurrence of the Department of Fish and Game in the adoption and revision of the management plan. With regard to the management of land within the public use area described in AS 41.23.040(c), the commissioner shall consult with the Department of Fish and Game in the adoption and revision of the management plan.

(b) The Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the management of fish and game resources and public use of fish and wildlife in the Nelchina Public Use Area consistent with the purposes of AS 41.23.010.

(c) The Nelchina Public Use Area shall be open to mineral entry under AS 38.05.185 - 38.05.275, and the commissioner may adopt regulations to achieve the purposes specified in AS 41.23.010. Each valid existing right or permit shall remain valid and continue in full force and effect according to its terms. Exploration, development, and extraction of subsurface resources shall be allowed in a manner that is compatible with the purposes specified in AS 41.23.010(1-4)

(d) The state may not acquire by eminent domain privately owned land within or abutting state-owned land described in AS 41.23.040 but may acquire privately owned land by purchase, exchange, or otherwise for inclusion in the Nelchina Public Use Area.

(e) The commissioner may not manage the Nelchina Public Use Area as a unit of the state park system.

**Sec. 41.23.030. Incompatible uses.**

(a) Except as provided in this section, the commissioner may prohibit or restrict incompatible uses under the management plan adopted under AS 41.23.020 within the state-owned land and water described in AS 41.23.040.

(b) Nothing in AS 41.23.010 - 41.23.040 prohibits the Department of Fish and Game from engaging in rehabilitation, enhancement, and development of fish and wildlife habitat within an area described in AS 41.23.040.

(c) The commissioner may not restrict lawful sport and subsistence fishing, hunting, or trapping rights allowed under a regulation of the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game within the Nelchina Public Use Area.

(d) The commissioner shall allow traditional access to the Nelchina Public Use Area by motorized or nonmotorized means of transportation to private land, interests in private land, and for lawful sport and subsistence hunting, fishing, trapping, and recreational purposes in a manner that is compatible with purposes specified in AS 41.23.010 (1) - (4).

(e) The Department of Public Safety and the Department of Fish and Game shall have necessary access for fish and game management, research, and enforcement purposes.

(f) If the commissioner determines that a use is incompatible with one or more other uses in a portion of the Nelchina Public Use Area, the commissioner shall state in the management plan adopted or revised under AS 41.23.020

(1) each determination of incompatibility; (2) the specific area where the incompatibility is determined to exist; (3) the time within which the incompatibility is determined to exist; and (4) the reasons for each determination of incompatibility.



## A multiuser, all volunteer group from the local area

### Goals:

- Realize sustainable management on public lands to protect natural resources and accommodate motorized and nonmotorized recreation.
- Mitigate, restore and improve as appropriate to protect watershed resources.
- Enhance public understanding of watershed values.

### Steering Committee:

- Nancy Moore            745-1540        [nmoore@mtaonline.net](mailto:nmoore@mtaonline.net)
- Gregory Nilsson        745-7526        [snowstar@arcticvalley.com](mailto:snowstar@arcticvalley.com)
- Royce Qualis            745-1767        [royceq@mtaonline.net](mailto:royceq@mtaonline.net)
- Steve Rowland         746-3630        [srpe@mtaonline.net](mailto:srpe@mtaonline.net)
- Charlotte Surtor        745-4565        [tobchar@mtaonline.net](mailto:tobchar@mtaonline.net)
- Cecily Fritz, Chair     746-0558        [info@knikriver.org](mailto:info@knikriver.org)

### Accomplishments:

- "The Knik River Watershed: PowerPoint program presented at 21 community, user, agency forums
- On the ground volunteerism: Clean-ups, outdoor events, lake monitoring
- Recipient: USFWS 2005 Coastal Management Grant in coordination with the Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District
- Workshop attendance "Project WET: Water Education for Teachers"

*"To sustain the Knik River Watershed to ensure use and enjoyment for current and future generations"*

*Established September 2004*



March 24, 2006

To: Representative Jay Ramras, Co-chair, House Resources Committee

Re: House Bill CS 307 "An Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area"

Dear Representative Ramras:

Representative Bill Stoltze released committee substitute legislation on March 15, 2006.

We believe the legislation should be further improved and submit the following comments for your consideration during the scheduled hearing on Monday, March 27, 2006. Our proposed changes are underlined and in bold. I hope you also have the opportunity to review the contents of the material packet we mailed you earlier in the session related to HB 307.

A: Include nonmotorized use: Page 1 Line 14: "Provide for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses including off-road vehicle and nonmotorized recreation determined to be compatible with (1) and (2) of this section."

B: Expand the public process page 2 line 7: Include workshops and public hearings, or establishment of a citizen's advisory board. This is the best means to ensure that resident safety and quality of life concerns are addressed.

C: Fix the wording on incompatible use: Page 3 line 8: "allow the Knik River Public Use Area to be used for activities, as compatible with purposes, to include all-terrain vehicles..."

D. Provide for wise use of ORVs: Delete item (2) page lines 11-16 In Incompatible Uses. This section circumvents the required public planning process. ORV use is ensured in Section 41.23.180 (Purposes page 1 line 14).

E. Ensure timely enforcement prior to adoption of a bailable offense schedule: Add intent language directing the commissioner of Public Safety, the commissioner of Fish and Game and other regulatory agencies to enforce existing laws in the area described in 41.23.230.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Since

  
Ceryly Fritz, Chair

To sustain the Knik River Watershed and to ensure use and enjoyment for current and future generations

<http://knikriver.org>      [info@knikriver.org](mailto:info@knikriver.org)

Group and Individual Letters

# STATE OF ALASKA

## Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Frank H. Murkowski, Governor

Wayne Kubat, Chair  
PO Box 874867  
Wasilla, Alaska 99687  
ph. & fax: 376-9568  
email: [args@mtaonline.net](mailto:args@mtaonline.net)

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005

Senator Huggins and Representative Stoltze,

The Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee unanimously supports House Bill 307 and Senate Bill 197, the bills to create the Knik River Public Use Area as written and introduced by yourselves.

The Knik River has historically been a destination for many visitors. With Anchorage, Palmer, and Wasilla home to over 50% of Alaska's population, this recreational area will provide access for many diverse users of the area. Adjacent to this area is Chugach State Park that restricts those Alaskans looking for an off-road vehicle experience.

Along with the specific management the legislation will create, we believe that additional education and enforcement will create an enjoyable destination for all recreational users and this legislation is a step in that direction. Thank you for your efforts!

Sincerely,

Wayne Kubat  
Chairman - Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Alaska Frontier Trappers Association  
PO Box 3208  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

January 30, 2006

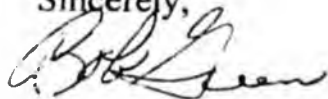
Dear Representative Stoltze and Senator Huggins,

The Alaska Frontier Trappers Association fully support House Bill 307 and Senate Bill 197.

The Knik River has been a favorite destination for all outdoor recreational users. Trappers have a history of trapping on the Knik River since the territorial days. One of the most talked about trappers was Tex Cobb. He trapped all over the South Central area and has been written about in such magazines as "Outdoor Life". Trappers are possibly the first to utilize the area as a means of support and are the first trail blazers.

With the passage of these bills as written, we will be assured of continued use without the threat of closure in the form of a State Park.

Sincerely,



Bob Green  
President, Alaska Frontier Trappers Association

## Butte Community Council RESOLUTION NO. 2005-5

A resolution of the Butte Community Council supporting a bill, for an act entitled, "AN ACT CREATING THE KNIK RIVER PUBLIC USE AREA." State of Alaska, House Bill No. HB 307, and Senate Bill No. SB 197, introduced May 7, 2005.

Whereas: Recent actions by individuals, groups, and state agencies contained in the "Asset Management Plan for Borough Owned Land in the Butte Area" to propose and solicit new unreasonable restrictions on access and use of public lands in the Butte-Knik River Watershed area, and threaten to eliminate many of the assumed freedoms, lifestyles, and traditional uses of the Butte area residents and others, and

Whereas: Due to the unknown status of the above mentioned action, and the unknown outcome thereof, this legislation is deemed necessary in order to preserve the traditional uses of the above mentioned public lands, and

Whereas: There are approximately 90 million acres of essentially non-motorized areas already set aside in Alaska in the form of National Parks, Wilderness Areas, Wildlife Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, State Parks, etc. and

Whereas: We intend that the main purpose of this Knik River Public Use Area is to be for multiple use, including motorized (land, water, and air) vehicle recreation, and including non-motorized use, and

Whereas: There are provisions contained within the Public Use Area legislation regulations to adequately provide for wildlife and habitat protection, and

Whereas: We intend this Knik River Public Use Area to be similar in scope and purpose to the Nelchina Public Use Area with its allowed uses such as off road motor vehicles, trapping, hunting, mineral exploration, mining and other legally allowed uses, and

Whereas: The users of these public Lands have previously expressed their desires for continued public access by their approvals of past BCC resolutions, public petitions, and their publicly expressed disagreement with many of the proposed restrictions in the draft "Asset Management Plan for Borough Owned Land in the Butte Area."

Now Therefore, we, the people present here tonight, June 8, 2005 being members of the Butte Community Council, by majority vote, approve of this BCC resolution supporting the formation of a Knik River Public Use Area, by the Alaska State Legislature.

Signed by: A Quorum of the Board of the Butte Community Council

Dick Coats  
Darryl Duher  
Jasmine Erickson  
Jeff McGehee  
Kiville F. Frey

**From:** Butte Area Residents

**To:** Rep. Bill Stoltze ; aklynn@gic.net ; Cecily at KRWG ; brit@alaskadreamer.com ; John Duffy

**Cc:** Senator Huggins

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 21, 2006 12:46 PM

**Subject:** Re: Work Draft for Knik River PUA Legislation  
Mr. Stoltze, Mr. Huggins,

Thank you for submitting the draft for CS HB307/SB197 to us.

Late February, when Brit was in Juneau, she dropped off a packet at Rep. Gatto's office from Butte Area Residents Civic Organization, which included our request from legislators to substitute HB 307/SB 197 Public Use Area legislation under AS 41.23 with the Knik River Valley State Recreation Area under AS 41.21.

Since we were under the impression that you chose not to have any contact with us, we asked Mr. Gatto to give the packet to you. If you would like to have additional packets, please let us know and we shall send them to you. The packet also includes a legal analysis on the statutory shortcomings of legislation under AS 41.23\*\* public use area.

Please, consider our alternate legislation for a Knik River State Recreation Area. By statute, it would allow an open public process to accommodate all user groups and would have built-in tools for immediate and effective on-the-ground-around-the-clock law enforcement. It may be of interest to you that the Mat-Su Borough's Code Compliance office has been trying to approximate the "Peace Officer" status. They have to go to court for every citation which is challenged. This is a very expensive process for the Borough. In addition, their personnel are too afraid to give citations to people when they see infractions, such as shootings or fireworks. Their presence does nothing to deter unlawful activities.

Because of the little snow cover this year, most of the area was accessible to 4x4s, ORVs and accompanying shooting, dumping and reckless partying. This accelerated mayhem has been very hard on those of us who live here. We can't rest on weekends because of explosions and gun fire at night. We can't go about our chores, nor can we enjoy the trails behind our house, during the weekend days because of ongoing shooting and us having to go to "educate" the shooters in person to protect ourselves and our properties. One of the frequent mud boggers even told us that it was no longer "safe" for them to take their rigs across the "beaver pond" because of all the metal and wrecks on the bottom. An abandoned car has been contaminating the Bodenburg Creek Overflow since late fall; vandals have shot up and tried to ram down more signs and have blacked out the no-shooting signs.

We appreciate you giving your consideration to our request.

Best regards,

Brit Lively and Gregory Nilsson  
Co-Chairs  
Butte Area Residents Civic Organization

**Emily Stancliff**

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**From:** Butte Area Residents [resource@buttealaska.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 20, 2006 12:53 AM  
**To:** Rep. Jay Ramras  
**Subject:** HB307 Knik River Public Use Area  
**Attachments:** ButteAreaResidentsFlier.jpg

Dear Representative Ramras,

HB307/SB197 for the creation of a Knik River Public Use Area (AS 41.23) was referred to your Resources committee after it was introduced last year by Representative Bill Stoltze on behalf Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance/Alaska Outdoors Council (AOAA/AOC).

As long-time residents of Butte in the Knik River Valley, we fear that this legislation, particularly under AS 41.23, will continue the degradation of our quality of life and prohibit economic development opportunities which other communities enjoy, who live in similar spectacular world-class environments close to major population centers as we do.

The reason for this email is to let you know of our hope that you will consider alternative legislation to HB307 rather than passing or amending the bill as introduced. We believe that the creation of a Knik River Valley State Recreation Area under AS 41.21 will work to everyone's benefit and will be the most practical and cost-effective solution. I shall bring a briefing packet to your office and the other members of the Resource Committees of both houses early this week when I shall be in Juneau for a legislative fly-in with a trade association I belong to.

Our packet will include a legal analysis of the deficiencies of HB307, draft legislation for the creation of a "Knik River Valley State Recreation Area," and exhibits which, of course, are intended to convince you how we have increasingly suffered under an admittedly sacrificial management regime. A Public Use Area under 41.23, even with amendments, just does not have the statutory teeth to give us an open public process for multiple use planning, nor give us good resource management or most important of all, effective law enforcement. AS 41.21 does. A State Recreation Area designation would also follow the mandate of the Susitna Area Plan.

You may ask, "why don't you go to your own legislators?" Please be assured: "we did." After meetings with DNR and the Mat-Su Borough, we had asked Rep. Stoltze and Sen. Huggins to try and appropriate \$250,000 to DNR so they could prepare an open, public management plan with no preconceived idea of any preferred legislation, but based on past studies, realistic science and user input. Mr. Stoltze was aware of our several years' futile efforts to educate the public and towards a cooperative management agreement among the public land owners.

Instead, Sen Huggins and Rep Stoltze introduced, on behalf of and written by AOC/AOAA, the HB307/SB197 legislation. Several of us have tried to contact Rep. Stoltze since repeatedly with no results. Sen. Huggins has publicly declared war on us at a AOAA/AOC rally in favor of unlimited, free-for-all motorized access.

There are so many issues and problems where 3-minute per person testimony during committee hearings can not even come close to convey the problems. May we therefore suggest that as part of your hearings and deliberations on SB197 you invite representatives from Alaska State Troopers, AST Fish & Wildlife Enforcement, Mat-Su Borough Code Compliance, Mat-Su Borough Land Management, Mat-Su Borough Emergency Services, including Butte Fire Chief, those DNR land manager representatives who have at one time solicited incident reports, such as Mr. Adam Smith and Dave Kelly, DEC representatives, DNR Habitat representatives and Alaska State Forestry. These are the people who are able to convey the extent of the problems here and their associated costs to the State of Alaska and to the public.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Please call or write if we can be of assistance.

Best regards,

2/21/2006

Brit Lively Co-Chair  
Gregory Nilsson Co-Chair

Butte Area Residents Civic Organization

Mail: 259 South Alaska Street  
Palmer AK 99645  
907-745-7526, 907-227-1628

Hello Jim,

I spoke with you before Christmas about House Bill 307 "An Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area".

The enclosed material is for consideration for inclusion in the Resource Committee members' legislative packets, assuming the bill gets scheduled for a hearing. At your convenience I would like your guidance on which of the documents should be included in the packets. I can send most of the substantive documents via e-mail but thought rather than overload your computer at the outset, I would send the entire packet by snail mail for your initial review. I'll give a call to your office in a day or two.

Thanks very much for your time and expertise.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C. J. [unclear]".



January 21, 2006

Representative Jay Ramras  
State Capitol, Room 104  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Ramras:

I am writing to request your help on House Bill 307 "An Act Creating the Knik River Public Area". HB 307 was introduced last session by Representative Bill Stoltze. Companion bill SB197 was introduced by Senator Charlie Huggins. The bills were referred to the Resource and Finance committees.

With several key amendments, this legislation can be an appropriate means to resolve problems currently occurring on state lands in the Knik River basin. **Without amendments, HB 307 should not pass.** Alternate legislation should also be considered, with the focus on securing daily (seasonal) enforcement under a bailable offense system, and directing DNR to establish a collaborative planning group of citizens, users and agencies. Enclosed please find the following:

- Map of proposed Knik River Public Use Area
- Photographic documentation of values, problems and solutions
- History of research and public process for the Knik River Area
- Amendments for House Bill 307, if deliberated
- Comparative PUA statutes
- About the Knik River Watershed Group
- Comments, letters and resolutions

As Co-Chair of the House Resources Committee, we are confident that your leadership will result in a good outcome for users and residents of the Knik River area. We support action that will ensure desperately needed enforcement, healthy wildlife and scenic resources for our children's children to enjoy, peace of mind for nearby residents, and inclusion of all users. Residents and users stand ready to volunteer!

Thank you very much for your time.

Respectfully,

  
Cecily Fritz, Chair  
Knik River Watershed Group

Enclosures

To sustain the Knik River Watershed to ensure use and enjoyment for current and future generations

<http://knikriver.org> ♦ [info@knikriver.org](mailto:info@knikriver.org) ♦ (907) 746-0558 ♦ P.O. Box 195 Palmer, Alaska 99645



# FUN IN THE KNIK RIVER WATERSHED

R Howard



S. Rowland



W Quirk



R Howard



R Howard

# LIFE IN THE KNIK RIVER WATERSHED

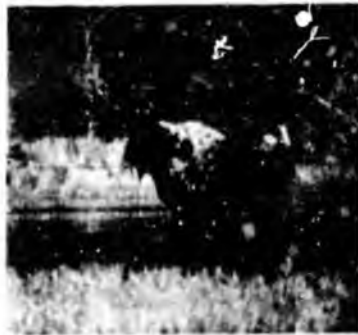


Doug Lloyd

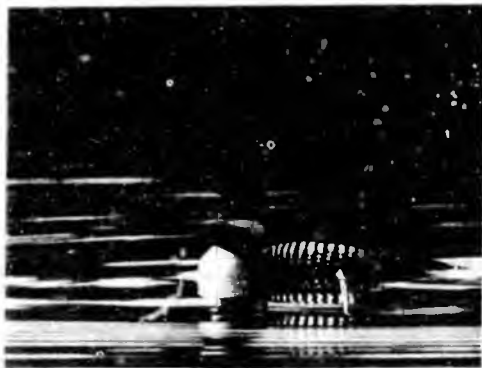
R Howard



R Howard



Doug Lloyd



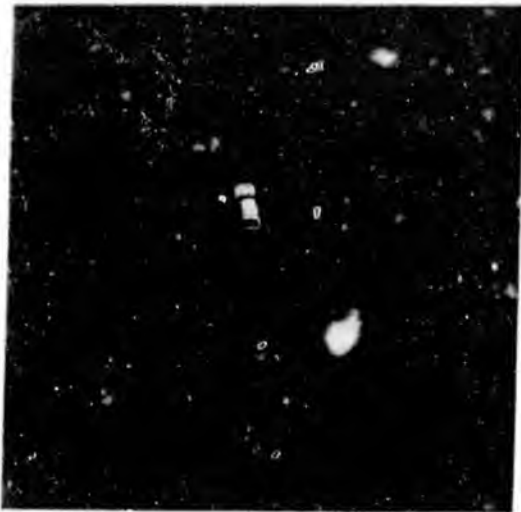
Doug Lloyd



R Howard



# PROBLEMS IN THE KNIK RIVER WATERSHED



Vandalism

Pollution

Littering

Unsafe shooting

User/Resident conflicts

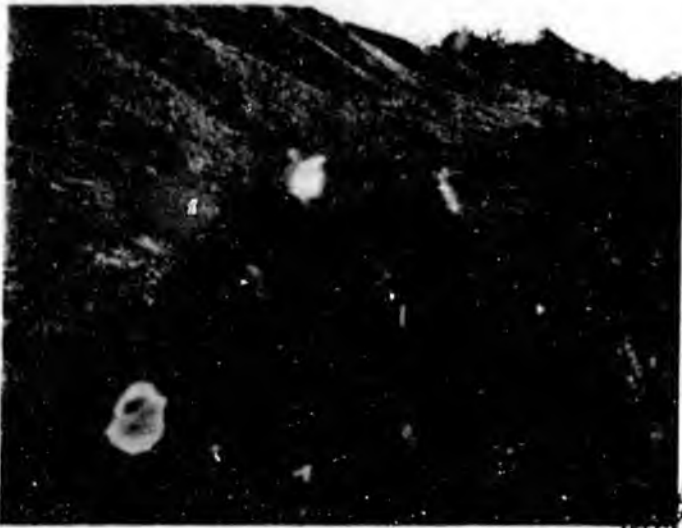
Resource Impairment

Wildlife Violations

No outhouses in high use areas

Significant increase in use

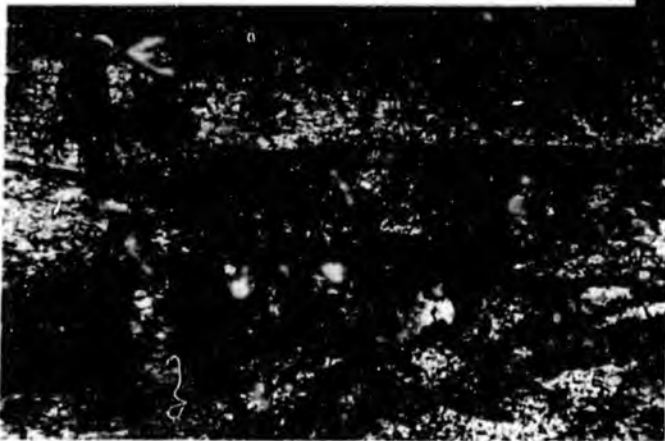
## PROBLEMS IN THE KNIK RIVER WATERSHED



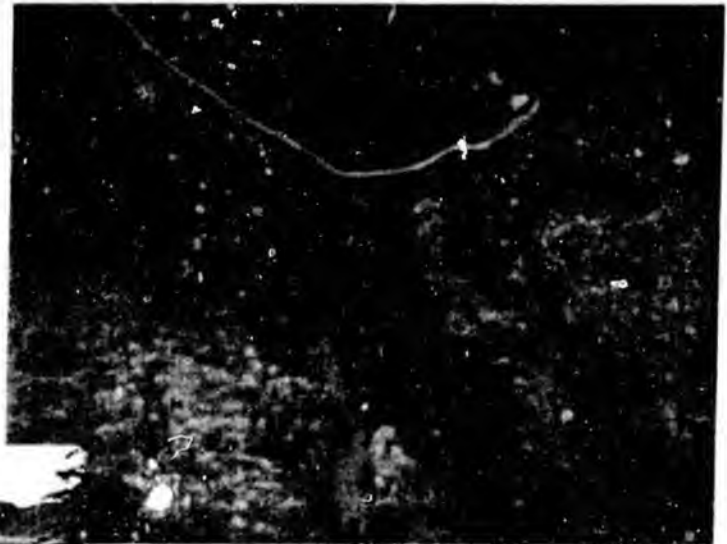
Ted Cox



R Howard



R Howard



N Moore



N Moore

HB 307 and SB 197 (page 3 line 5) preserve all existing motorized trails before planning and evaluation for impacts on residents and resources.

With the amendments suggested by the Knik River Watershed Group, ORV use is ensured in Purposes Item (1) and Incompatible Uses Item (d).

# SOLUTIONS



Denali Highway, Cantwell

Funding

Enforcement

Collaborative Planning

Education



Glacier Bay



Chena State Rec Area, Fairbanks

Help residents, users and agencies get a great start with...

**GREAT LEGISLATION**

## KNIK RIVER WATERSHED

### Twenty-five years of research and public process - Let's act now

Knik Arm Wetlands Study - 1981. (Alaska Biological Research for USF&W) Proposed the Jim-Swan area be an Area Meriting Special Attention noting high density use by ducks, year-round moose concentrations and intensive black bear use. "Long term plans, however, will have to include temporal and spatial zoning practices which will reduce conflicts between recreational user groups as well as between recreational users and wildlife."

SouthCentral Recreation Action Plan - 1984. (Alaska Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Game for Governor Bill Sheffield). Identified Jim/Swan wetlands as "critical importance for hacket" and wrote a senate bill establishing Jim/Swan Lakes State Recreation Area.

Susitna Area Plan - 1985. (DNR, F&G) "The Jim-Swan lakes area will be managed to provide a variety of recreation, including hunting and fishing. Because of its high value for these uses, its proximity to large population centers and its vulnerability to overuse and environmental degradation, the Jim-Swan area should be designated by the legislature as a State Recreation Area."

Resource Assessment of the Knik Glacier Area - 1993. (USDA/SCS, Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District, Mat-Su Resource Conservation & Development, Inc). "The area supports healthy populations of moose, Dall sheep and black bear. Other large animals inhabiting the Knik River drainage include mountain goats, wolves, coyotes, and brown bears. Wetlands in the Jim-Swan Lake area are important habitat for spawning salmon, winter forage for moose, and as a staging and breeding area for waterfowl. The south facing slopes on the northern side of the valley are important lambing areas for Dall sheep."

Ecological Review of the Lake George National Natural Landmark - 1996 [The Landmark contains sections of Knik River/Jim-Swan region] (Alaska Natural Heritage Program, US Dept of Interior, NPS, Alaska Natural Landmark Program). The program was established to identify, recognize and encourage the preservation of the best remaining examples of the geological and biological features composing the Nation's natural history. "Human use levels need to be evaluated if the NNL's ecological stability is to be maintained".

Cook Inlet mapping - 2002. (Coast Guard, Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc, Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council, NOAA, DNR, F&G) Jim-Swan is sensitive as a waterfowl concentration area and receives priority protection during oil spill planning and response.

Aerial Swan Survey Data 1998-2004. (William A. Quirk, Biologist) "For the early arriving and late migrating trumpeter swans, the lakes in the Jim Creek area have a significant advantage over other lakes in the Upper Cook Inlet Region." [Refers to comparative earliest ice out/latest freeze up.]

Cooperative Management Agreement - 2003 draft. (Requested by Butte and South Knik River Community Councils). "For the Purpose of Managing Public Lands for Multiple Uses in the Jim Creek - Swan Lake - Knik River Area"

Asset Management Plan for Borough Owned Land in the Elite Area-2004 Draft. (Lund Design North) Designate Jim and Mud Lake Primitive Area...work with DNR to designate the area as a Special Use Area for summer nonmotorized use..."

BLM Draft Ring of Fire RMP/EIS - 2005. Proposes the Knik River Special Recreation Management Area to provide additional "protection of resources, specifically wildlife and fisheries".

April 4, 2005

Honorable Lyda Green, Senator  
Alaska Legislature, Juneau Alaska

Dear Senator Green,

My name is Kurt Marshall, my family has been in Alaska since 1934, when my grandparents settled in the Butte area of Palmer, as colonists.

Our family is out doors and recreationally oriented and while we would like to continue using the Jim creek, Knik glacier area as a family retreat, the increase of family danger due to vandalism, gunfire and chaotic behavior prevents our continuing to do that. Because my family still owns a 171-acre farm near the Butte, I am very concerned about the continued degradation of the area. We have watched in frustration and horror as the uncaring individuals have claimed the area as their own to systematically destroy.

We urge you as our representative to act quickly to enable the Department of Natural Resources (DNK) to develop a short term education and enforcement plan to head off a situation which is rapidly deteriorating as the days warm and summer recreation increases.

I am aware of numerous environmental studies and land use plans for the area, among them the Susitna Watershed Plan; there are numerous solutions offered therein.

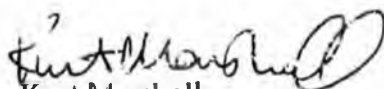
High among my family's concerns is the reckless abandon of many ATV riders tearing up the beautiful countryside with apparent disregard for those who enjoy an unspoiled trail and quiet time.

It saddens me to see what has happened to this beautiful valley. Clearly, as the Valley population grows and more Anchorage residents find the Valley as a recreational area, the impact and pressure on the remaining wilderness area will continue to grow as will the abuse.

Please, I urge you to help.

You have my family's strong support in resolving this enormous issue.

Sincerely,



Kurt Marshall

(907) 351-2722

kmarshall@harrisak.com

March 30, 2005

Dear Senators and Representatives and Planners,

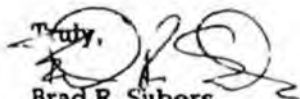
As one of your constituents and a concerned resident, I ask you to support funding for a DNT/Mat-Su Borough plan for the Knik Watershed area.

I believe it is time to focus our attention on this before we come to regret it by allowing these abuses to continue virtually unchecked. I know the State Troopers have been on increase in the area and have begun to make more arrests. We have a long way to go though towards enforcement of the area and we should support the troopers who risk their life by forming a plan, getting the community together and backing them up, so that the impact will be swifter, we can catch more criminals in the act and possibly save a life. The life could be of someone's kid of a neighbor or friend. Please think about that.

As a hunter and fisherman, I am concerned and enraged that my rights are being infringed upon by people that have no responsibility when it comes to guns and tearing up the habitat of the resources that my family and I depend on for food. It looks bad for hunters, gun owners and outdoorsmen, when these irresponsible people shoot in any and all directions whenever they feel like it. When I hear people talk about the Jim Creek (people that don't live in the area or depend on it for resources and unrivaled beauty) area it is viewed as a place to do whatever you want, whenever you want because no one cares or stops you!

This is my backyard and the consequences of that "do whatever you want" thinking results in mass shooting of automatic weapons night and day, vehicles stolen and vandalized all the way from Anchorage and even from the residents in the area nearby to Jim Creek, during the dry months drunk visitors set campfires when there is a ban on any fires period and sometimes take gasoline spill it on the ground, connecting the campfires, very close to the forest, vehicles set on fire and dumped in the creek, shot up with lead and this is where some of the prime fishing areas are! I wonder how much lead is in the water? I think we should be better stewards of the land in this area so that our resources will continue to be healthy and abundant for hunting and fishing and all the outdoor activities people enjoy. At least if we had a planning process all the people could weigh in from the area and we can send a message out the public that this kind of idiotic abuses won't be tolerated and that we are serious about putting an end to this recklessness. Maybe there would be a way to form a combined user group patrol to scout the area and report to the troopers.

I am looking forward to getting your feedback. I appreciate your attention to this matter. Thank you very much.

Truly,  
  
Brad R. Subers  
17495 E. Sullivan Ave.  
P.O. box 4709  
Palmer, AK 99645  
[subers@pobox.mtaonline.net](mailto:subers@pobox.mtaonline.net)

April 8, 2005

To: All Legislators for this area

Copy:

Cecily Fritz, Chair  
Knik River Watershed Group  
P.O. Box 195  
Palmer, AK. 99645

I implore you to support state legislative funding of a DNR/Mat-Su Borough planning process for public lands in the Knik River watershed.

I write to you because I feel an urgent need to act in regards to the Jim Creek-Swan Lake and Pavillion areas. I live almost directly across the Pavillion area. I fear for my safety and the safety of my family many nights during the week and especially on the weekend I lay awake full of adrenalin from hearing loud explosions, high-powered rifle shots going in all directions, illegal and careless drag racing shouting and more shots into the early morning hours.

I am aware that that the Butte area has a bad reputation and comes off as an embarrassment for the Mat-Su valley to bear. I just don't understand why it has to stay this way? I worry that Anchorage and Juneau doesn't take the valley folks as seriously as they should because of these type of activities (naming us valley trash leaves little doubt).

Yet, there are many folks who live here, that take pride in where they live (I am one of them), keep their place neat and clean, work hard everyday and pay property taxes. We expect to have a safe place to live, where we don't have to worry about getting shot from a stray bullet or getting killed by driving too close to a meth drug deal.

We must devise a way to STOP the reckless shooting, stolen vehicles, vandalism, pollution of vibrant hunting and fishing resources and endangerment of residents that live in an area who worry about inebriated folks starting fires that could potentially destroy their homes.

Approving funding for a plan will start a long overdue step in working to find solutions to this problem. I am willing, as a resident of this area, to volunteer my time to help clean up, patrol---whatever it takes to help out in this matter.

Finally, I appreciate the work that you do, I am sure it is not easy...thank you for your time and for your efforts regarding this matter.

Sincerely, *Margaret A. Wanke*  
Margaret A. Wanke  
P.O. Box 4709  
Palmer, AK. 99645

**Subject:** KRWG

**From:** "Helen Woodings" <helenw@mtaonline.net>

**Date:** Mon, 11 Apr 2005 12:25:29 -0800

**To:** <info@knikriver.org>

As a fifty one year resident of this area, I often used this area for picnics, dog walking, skiing and hiking.

Now that it is a dump, a hideout, gun siting area, I fear for my safety to go to that lovely area.

I support the action of this groip who wishes to promote planning for motorized and non-motorized use, and to save this beautiful area for its wildlife and recreational purposes.

Helen Woodings

4/9/2005

Cecily Fritz, Chair  
Knik River Watershed Group  
P. O. Box 195  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Cecily:

I live on the south side of Knik River, directly across (~3 km) from Jim Creek Flats, and am writing to express my insistence for state funding of a planning process for lands in the Knik River watershed. Management plans and law enforcement are long overdue for this area.

Current management and law enforcement, or lack thereof, are far beyond being acceptable and are totally inappropriate for any part of the United States, especially in such a unique area of Alaska. The watershed and surrounding areas are incredible ecosystems with a diversity of wildlife and fishery habitats, other natural resources, and aesthetic scenery. Easy access for people to the area provides exceptional opportunity for recreational users, which results in both positive and negative effects. Positive effects to people include the pure enjoyment of nature, hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, and motorized use. Negative effects to people, especially residents such as myself, include noise pollution, vandalism, annoyance, diminished quality of life, and increased risk of damage to property, pets, and life. Simply put, many residents no longer feel safe to hike, hunt, fish, or even leave vehicles anywhere because of the legitimate fear of being harassed, shot, or returning to a vandalized vehicle.

Increased recreational use has resulted in prominent damage to the natural environment, which ironically, is what makes this area so incredibly unique. Littering, pollution, vandalism, poaching, unsafe and uncontrolled shooting, joyriding, vehicle abandonment, erosion, uncontrolled ATV and airboat usage, intentional and unintentional destruction of wildlife nests and habitats, and abandoned fires are becoming the "normal" activities, which are all unacceptable especially in such a unique and wonderful area. Something needs to be done now, before everything gets completely out of control in this "land of the lawless".

Because of exponential growth of the adjacent human population, this watershed is in dire need of long-term management plans to conserve the natural resources inherent to the area, including the unique and abundant wildlife populations and habitats. In the last decade, recreational use by people of this watershed has increased dramatically. Within the next decade, human population within the Mat-Su Borough is projected to grow to 100,000. Continued lack of management and consideration of public input will result in higher risks of impacts from human activities to wildlife distribution, populations, habitats, and ecosystems.

As a local resident, I insist on a management plan for this area IMMEDIATELY, as it is long overdue.

Scott A. Wolfe  
Wildlife Biologist

To: Cecily Fritz, Chair Knik River Watershed Group

4/04/05

We support state legislative funding of a DNR/Mat-Su Borough planning process for public lands in the Knik River watershed. Currently there is no active management of the area. As the population of the Mat-Su and Anchorage area has increased so has use of the area with negative impacts on wildlife resources, watershed integrity, user enjoyment of the area, and local resident's quality of life. The rivers, lakes, wetlands & mountains sides support a tremendous variety of wildlife and recreational opportunities. A co-operative management plan is much needed and long overdue. It is an area of mixed land ownership and multiple users, who all need to be included in the planning process. We support the goals of Knik River Watershed Group

During the 30+ years we have lived in the Butte, we have enjoyed many days of canoeing, hiking, & birding in Mud/Jim/Swan lake areas and mountain biking along the Knik River. We have also helped organize and participated in many Spring Clean ups in the area. It is a truly beautiful area with relatively easy access for a variety of recreational users. We frequently take our out of town guests canoeing there, and they are always impressed with the scenery & wildlife in our "backyard".

Here are some of the problems we have personally seen:

-Trash & litter has increased

A bear bait station & other trash left at campsites by String Lake last fall.

-Vandalism

It is a frequent party spot, and place to burn old cars.

-Unsafe shooting

We have been canoeing on Mud Lake & had people begin shooting across the water.

We came around a bend in the road one day, to find someone shooting across the road.

-Destruction of terrain & wildlife -

We've seen the erosion caused by ATVs along streams and their tracks across wetlands,

We've seen motor boats running in circles at high speed in Swan Lake,

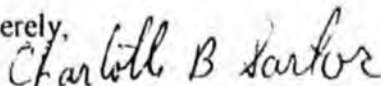
We've seen airboats creating large wakes as they speed up the channels

-Access points - Increased use puts pressure on nearby residents

The solution should include: Planning & on site management with, Increased enforcement of the rules, Education as to proper use of ATVs to prevent damage to the environment & wildlife, Education about safe shooting, Self policing by user groups, Increased user presence by those aware of problems, and Consideration by each user group of their impact on other groups.

We strongly support the idea of community groups, citizen users, the Mat-Su Borough and the DNR working together to plan for cooperative use in the area.

Sincerely,



Charlotte & Robert R Sartor

HC02 Box 7635

Palmer, AK 99645

March 11, 2005

Cecily Fritz, Chair  
Knik River Watershed Group  
P. O. Box 195  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Cecily:

I live in the Butte area, and am writing to express my support for state legislative funding of a DNR/Mat-Su Borough planning process for public lands in the Knik River watershed.

The Knik River Valley is a beautiful, accessible area that provides exceptional opportunity for all kinds of recreation and has a rich diversity of wildlife resources. Each year, the area receives a significant increase in unrestricted use over the previous year without benefit of management. The list and degree of resultant problems is growing and includes littering, pollution, vandalism, wildlife violations, life-threatening target shooting and damage to the natural environment.

The two major access points/parking areas are within a mile of our home (Old Knik River Bridge and Pavilion) and are in close proximity to many other hundred homes. Residents have taken the brunt of these illegal and reckless activities at their back door. Our quality of life has been severely compromised due to the lack of management. These ongoing problems keep the legitimate user away. It is well known that our public lands have become the badlands. The resources, the residents and the multitude of responsible users deserve much better.

I strongly support your efforts, and those of other community groups, user groups, citizens, the Mat-Su Borough, Department of Natural Resources, and our legislators in working toward a management plan for the area which protects our property values, our quality of life, the natural resources, and the legitimate uses on our public lands.

Sincerely,

Brit Lively  
Res: 5505 South Old Glenn Highway  
Palmer  
Mail: 259 South Alaska Street  
Palmer AK 99645  
907-745-7526

**GREGORY S. NILSSON**

---

259 South Alaska Street, Palmer AK 99645  
Res: 5505 South Old Glenn Highway, Palmer  
907-745-7526 / 907-227-1628

April 3, 2005

Senator Charlie Huggins  
State Capitol, Room 417  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

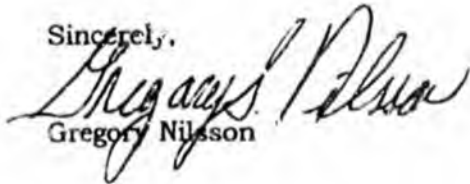
Dear Senator Huggins,

Please accept this letter as my endorsement of your efforts toward the momentum needed to generate a comprehensive management plan for the Knik River watershed area.

With the advent of spring the numbers of recreationists and the attendant problems are clearly already growing. The sooner we have education and enforcement presence here to help guide the public's use of this area, the sooner we will see fewer of the problems visited on this beautiful place.

A cooperative management plan involving the various landowners in the Knik watershed is what I see as the most effective means of developing recreational and environmental balance. The state and borough, as public entities, should take the lead in making this happen.

Sincerely,



Gregory Nilsson

March 25, 2005

Cecily Fritz, Chair  
Knik river Watershed Group  
P.O. Box 195  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Ms. Fritz,

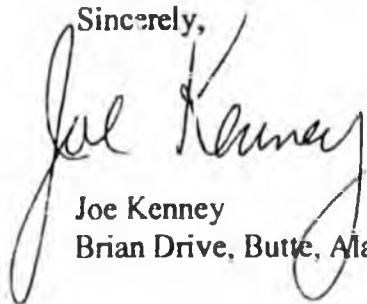
I am a resident of the Circle View Estates area and I am writing to express my support for legislative funding of a DNR/Mat-Su Borough Planning process for public lands in the Knik River area.

I have often used the area for fishing, canoeing, or hiking, and would love to see the negative types of activities (illegal dumping, shooting, vandalism, poaching, etc.) be controlled, and an increase in funds for management, planning, and enforcement.

I believe that we can make a positive contribution to the future of the area, preserving this beautiful, wild, natural land for generations to come.

Please count me in as a supporter for the future of the Jim Creek/ Knik River area.

Sincerely,



Joe Kenney  
Brian Drive, Butte, Alaska

Hi Charley

I just had a conversation with your aide with regards to your SB 197. When I expressed my disapproval of the bill, she stated that I need to write a letter to you. So Charley, I am e-mailing you this to tell you that I disapprove of the SB 197 and am asking you to not support it. I would like to further add that in the course of my conversation with your aide, she became quite rude and I have doubts if this e-mail will ever get to you.

I don't know if you remember back when you were on the School Board and we had a problem out here with School Busing and you were the only member of the School Board who took any interest in our problem. At that time you visited our house and were able to see our view and what we can see. I would like to invite you to once again come out on say a Saturday evening, when the weather is nice and watch the clouds of dust rising from all the ATV's tearing up the land. It doesn't work to come out on a weekday when very few people are here, it must be done on a nice weekend day.

I have an ATV and enjoy riding it. At the same time I respect the land, stay on trails and ride it in a way which is not damaging to the land. On the other hand, I have watched people ride their ATV's and snow machines up and down (Salmon, streams, tear up vegetation and do general destruction to what ever they can. I have watches bullets bouncing across the river (water and sand) in my direction from target shooters.

I have also watched out my front window as rescues are made to save stupid people who do not respect the unforgiving land which you want to make into an "ATV Park". I would suggest that a review be made of the rescues that the National Guard and Forestry have made over the past several years in the Knik River Valley.

I also stated to your aid that the Butte Community Council had been taken over by a group of less then desirable people who had driven all the decant folks away from the Community Council meetings. Her answer was that this was the community response and this was what you had to listen to.

I do not oppose the formation of this land as a Knik River Public use area. What I do oppose is making it a free for all. There needs to be strict rules governing the activities which take place. As many of the people using this area are not residents and many of the ones who are residents are renters, there is little respect for what they do. The end result is mayhem, nothing less. We are now living in 2005, not 1960. The number of people now living in Alaska are putting a strain on the land today that was not here, even a few years ago.

Thank you.

Marty Quaas  
746-6414

**My name is Carrie Wolfe. I am a resident of the Knik River Watershed.**

**The current 'Knik River Public Use Area' legislation proposal needs to be amended!**

The legislation **(1.) is completely biased towards motorized vehicle use at the expense of most other user groups.**

**As the legislation is now written, it is only maintaining the *status quo*, which is unacceptable. Otherwise, why would we be here tonight?**

How does legislation **(2.) hope to "perpetuate and enhance" general public recreational use the way it is now written? Increasing trails and access will not solve the conflicts between user groups. We should be thinking of restricting access not increasing access. Increasing access will only cause further damage to critical wildlife habitats.**

The legislation **(3.) does not allow the DNR the ability to adequately manage non-hunting shooting. To restrict target shooting only in high use areas is not enough.**

**This past weekend, I felt like I was living in a war zone. People were shooting automatic & semi-automatic weapons and something that sounded like a canon. This went on all day and all night. The noise pollution was sometimes deafening, especially combined with the ORVs, airboats, & snowmachine noise. Noise pollution has greatly detracted from my quality of life in the Knik River area.**

The legislation **(4.) does not mention the need for or provide the means for law enforcement or managers. Laws written on a piece of paper or on a sign have been, and will continue to be, disregarded.**

**For example, 60-some residents reported unlawful activities in July alone. How many warnings, tickets and arrests were cited due to those phone calls? And, how many other citizens decided not to bother reporting an incident because past history has shown that law enforcement is unable to arrive in time? Funding and support must be provided for on-the-ground law enforcement and managers to uphold the law. And, by the legislation maintaining the *status quo*, managers will be unable to maintain and protect critical wildlife habitat in the future.**

The legislation **(5.) states that the commissioner will be responsible for management of the recreation area. Do the current & future commissioners have the knowledge, skills, and capability to make wise land use decisions?**

**Professionals such as biologists, land planners, engineers, and hydrologists are needed to make sound land management plans.**

**Solutions are needed and a few ideas include:**

- **Providing adequate funding for law enforcement and land managers.**
- **Creating a telephone hotline to report crimes.**
- **Restricting access to critical wildlife habitat areas from motorized use.**
- **To lessen conflicts between all user groups, we could adopt a time share plan with ORVs allowed every other weekend or perhaps 2-3 weekdays and 1 weekend day.**
- **Airboats should not be allowed access into the critical wetland habitats, restricting use to the Knik River & other designated areas not only to preserve critical waterfowl nesting areas and salmon spawning areas but also to ensure the safety of humans in small watercraft.**
- **Horse power-limits or electric motorized watercrafts could be allowed access in wetlands along with all types of non-motorized watercraft.**
- **Snowmachines should only be allowed when there is 12-inches of snow or more.**
- **Restricting non-hunting shooting not just in high use areas.**

**Restricting or limiting access is not popular. But if we want to ensure the future enjoyment for all user groups and local residents... we cannot allow to let activities continue, as they are now, especially with the estimated future increase in human population of the Mat-Su Valley.**

Cecily Fritz, Chair  
Knik River Watershed Group  
P. O. Box 195  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Cecily:

I live in the Chugiak, Eagle River area and am writing to express my support for state legislative funding of a DNR/Mat-Su Borough planning process for public lands in the Knik River watershed.

Jim Creek is a very special place for my family especially my two daughters. Over the past decade we have had huge fun there, mostly involving the water and dunes. When a nice hot summer day comes along, we drop everything and load up the truck with tubes, umbrellas, a cooler and sun screen. From our house in Chugiak, it takes 40 minutes with the last 20 minutes on a very rough 4 wheel drive road, some water crossings and then we are in an Alaskan heaven. The sand dunes at Jim Creek are a great spot for kids and their parents. Here you have warm water in the form of a gently flowing and shallow stream with a nice sand beach. You also have sand dunes steep enough to roll down into the water. On occasion, the sand will be so hot you have to run across it or burn your feet because the dunes face directly south. At this location, you are surrounded by beautiful mountains and looking way upriver you can see a wall of ice, which is the Knik Glacier. How very amazing, this may be a one of a kind place in the world. Come late summer, the fishing heats up. For all these reasons and many more, access to Jim Creek should be guaranteed forever. This place belongs to the people of Alaska. I am tempted to say we should improve the road in the hope of attracting more good people and possibly less hoodlums. A huge concern is safety since certain people sense there are no rules at Jim Creek. Vandalism, dangerous shooters and environmental destruction are occurring more and more frequently. These behaviors scare off the people who love and respect the area, leaving only the irresponsible users. The wrecked and burned cars certainly detract from the pleasant surroundings. I would love to see that problem solved but never at the cost of shutting it all down. Education and enforcement are key issues to take back Jim Creek.

I strongly support your efforts, and those of other community groups, user groups, citizens, and Mat-Su Borough and Department of Natural Resource planners, in working toward realization of a management plan for the area.

Sincerely,



Michael Hansen

January 12, 2006

Representative Gatto,

I'm writing about the proposed legislation to create a Knik River Public Use Area. As a wildlife ecologist and former management biologist for ADF&G in Palmer, I know the area, and the concerns of various users, very well. I have traveled in this area by foot, snowmachine, 4-wheeler, bike, canoe and airplane, and I support our ability to continue trapping, hunting, fishing and recreating in the area.

It appears the proposed bill lacks a few key elements, without which it may serve to divide the various user groups, not unite them to best protect this great area.

I would like to see the PUA legislation include provisions to:

1. Establish a thorough planning process that includes all user groups and evaluates all trails and activities/uses (i.e. does NOT automatically grandfather all trails and uses);
2. Allow for continued access by motorized vehicles, but only in areas where their use does not degrade wetland habitats or disturb wildlife during critical seasons;
3. Establish areas for non-motorized use;
4. Increase enforcement efforts to enhance human safety and protect sensitive habitats;
5. Establish a way to manage target shooting to protect users and area residents; and
6. Prohibit air boat use of important waterfowl, salmon-rearing and moose foraging areas.

This is a fantastic area, but it is currently being degraded by the actions of inconsiderate users. And unfortunately, conflicts between user groups, and between users and residents, continue to escalate. The wildlife and habitat values in the Knik River are such that this area should really be a state game refuge. Given that it has not received that consideration, I urge you to strengthen the PUA bill with the aforementioned items.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Masteller, M. Sc.

P. O. Box 965  
Palmer, AK 99645

Ralph Hulbert

PO Box 1846, Palmer, AK 99645 phone (907)745-4586; fax (907)746-4586; email [hulbert@alaska.net](mailto:hulbert@alaska.net)

January 2, 2006

Via email

Rep. Carl Gatto

[Rep\\_Carl\\_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Rep_Carl_Gatto@legis.state.ak.us)

Re: **House Bill 307 "Creating the Knik River Public Use Area"**

While I applaud the efforts of the diverse groups working towards an inclusive management plan for the upper Knik River, I feel Rep. Stoltze's current bill needs modification. It appears to enshrine specific uses without regard for their needed evolution in the face of increased use. Some historical perspective may help.

The only permanent residence in the area was the Ezi site at Swan Lake, a great subsistence location where a fish trap or net across the creek easily captured all the salmon desired, moose were available year round, with sheep and swans right there in the spring. In the late 1960's, a classmate on a BLM fire crew ran into Chief Billy Ezi near Burnt Butte and tried to explain that setting fires to enhance moose browse was no longer permitted. Now, none of those subsistence activities are allowed.

The first time I fished on Jim Creek was in the mid 1950's. Loggers put a bridge across in the woods to access the eastern forest. I don't think permits were needed then. The bridge and road were soon washed out by a larger than normal Lake George breakup. We need permits now to log, mine, or build roads and bridges to get there.

It's been over 40 years since Lake George taught us the vagaries of "normal high water". We might not live long enough to again see annual flooding over the Old Glenn or boating in what are now the Plant Material Center's fields. We can't count on the river washing our trash away off the bar, but the notion might temper how we plan and build.

The early 1960's were lean times when the mines closed. On the last week of moose season, the Elks club would collect unfilled moose tags from needy families, find a supercub and 6x6, and head up the Knik. Dick was the pilot and dad was the designated shooter; nobody went hungry. We can't do that anymore, and luckily, don't have to. We can't build recreational or trapline cabins wherever we want, either. Our winter scout camp could be revisited, but we're too soft.

For the past 30 years, we hike up there in early April to see the swans. Sometimes, we could sneak up on a flock near the mountain - their trumpeting echoing off the rock amphitheater is



Chief Ezi's place, '82:  
"Please Do Not Burn the Boards Thats Around Here. Bill Ezi"

unforgettable. Since roads and trails have increased access, the swans are more skitterish. We'll probably have to keep our distance or use blinds if we want to preserve close encounters.

We try to take several canoe trips up Jim Creek each summer for fishing, birding, or hunting. The stabilized portage is nice. It's sometimes dangerous when a big airboat tries to pass in the narrow creek. Most travelers are considerate, but lack of etiquette will lead to increased conflicts.

Yes, I've yahooped all over and up to the glacier in ATVs, trucks, boats, and planes. There are problems. It's hard to keep out of the water, either because it's in the way or just because. Playing in the water makes a mess. Those ruts and mud kicked up on the silty bar might be gone next summer, and all we did was add dust to the air and noise pollution. Our tracks in the marsh, however, are long lasting scars and will drive away critters we love. Playing in the clear water stirs up silt and kills fish. Clearly, we shouldn't mess up the sensitive habitats.



My bad. Pull it out by hand, drive it home before it freezes

Decades ago, off-road vehicles were less common and conflicts between them rare. Now, on a single day a river trail may see hikers, skiers, snow machines, bicycles, horses, motorcycles, four stroke ATVs, two stroke racers, tracked rigs, dune buggies, pickups, and monster trucks. Compatible trail use may be prolonged with good manners and slow speed, but fatal conflicts are inevitable. Off-trail racing and motocross activities on the river bar have no established etiquette; the monster truck rodeo might not safely share space with the family 4 wheeler picnic.

Remote gravel pits and river bars foment teenage anarchy, fueled by booze, guns, and gasoline. Prohibition didn't work for us then, either, and we buried the unlucky. What worked best was the landowner, whether pit owner, neighbor, local cop, or even road foreman, would simply explain the rules of ownership – respect others, and don't trash the place. When that didn't work the owner blocked access. It seems like we're close to that now with the Knik River.

What's missing is the sense of neighborhood ownership, understandable when the Knik is now the closest uncontrolled free fire zone to Anchorage. Consequently, a public use area management plan is appropriate. All of us are the owners, and our grandkids too.

Over the past half century we've drastically curtailed our "traditional public use" rights and privileges in using the river area; the resources have largely been preserved with more people enjoying them as a result. Looking towards the next few decades, it's clear we can't keep all of our current favorite uses and current trends without continuous modifications.

A trail may need to be abandoned or moved to protect a stream, and additional trails restricted in some areas but encouraged in others. Certain vehicles may need to be restricted at different times from sensitive areas, and other areas may be reserved for them. Roads, bridges, picnic

sites, and campgrounds will be built. Future management requirements can hardly be guessed at now. Certainly, enforcement will be needed – a responsibility of ownership.

I've studied information and positions taken by the various interest groups, reviewed legislation for similar areas, and suggest the following revisions for this bill:

- Keep the area multi-use; do not favor one current use over another. Use the Nelchina legislation as a model.
- Do not limit the state's ability to manage its resources by any appropriate means, including management as a state park or with park rangers and managers.
- Recognize critical, unique, and sensitive habitats for preservation, including natural and scenic resources. This might mean limiting access and time for vehicles, boats, and hikers.
- Also, recognize less sensitive areas such as the river bars where off-trail riding and racing may occur, but only if consistent with other uses, such as other users' safety and nearby residents' rights to peace and safety.
- Encourage compromise between user groups. None will be shut out, all have much to lose and gain; cooperation will maximize benefits to all. Various groups have done much to repair damage, remove trash, haul out burned vehicles, enhance habitat – thank them all and encourage their continued involvement, because without them we won't succeed.
- Most importantly, take control. The real outrage is not about responsible use, but about activities that are now illegal or obviously rude. These threaten all users and nearby residents. Once the lawless free fire mentality is reigned in, sane management begins.

Thanks, and good luck in this session.

Rafh

With respect to HB307/SB 197 An Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area.

I support Public Use or Recreational Area legislation if the current legislation is amended or new legislation is created to include the following:

Any legislation must mention multiple use: nonmotorized as well as motorized use.

Commitment to fund on ground enforcement of existing laws for safe and lawful use of the area. This is imperative not only for the safety of the nearby residents but also for the enforcement of existing regulations.

A planning process is needed that deals with the special problems confronting the different ecosystems within the Knik River Watershed. For example, shooting and car burning on the Knik River floodplain, the increasing trails and damages to the wetlands, new driveways (on Eklutna Land) to get trucks and trailers out of Mud Lake are a few examples. Some issues overlap different areas within the watershed but their solutions may differ. The public planning process would help sort that out.

Sanitation issues must be dealt with. I am tired of going to Jim Lake and finding piles of feces and toilet paper right out in the open. No attempt to dig a cathole. No respect for other users. During the spring cleanup of the area we will find diapers and more toilet paper, not to mention the tons of other garbage. Somehow this needs to be dealt with.

The language that eliminates any future establishment of State Park must be removed. The time may not be right now to establish a State Park for even part of the area. However the time may come that Park status will be the only way to maintain the viability of the area. We do not have a crystal ball that tells us how the population growth and increased use in this area will affect these lands.

Please refer to language used in other Public Use Legislation such as the Nelchina Public Use legislation to obtain wording that is more inclusive of all users and better describes the management of incompatible uses.

In order to ensure the continued viability of this area all users must be drawn into the development of a plan. The more the public is involved, the more investment we will all have to ensure the area is treated respectfully and will remain for recreational use in the future. **Please put the public into the PUBLIC USE legislation by including them in a planning process**

Testimony at the Knik River Public Use Area public hearing on Thursday October 20, 2005 by Nancy Moore.

Lynne Woods  
P.O. Box 37  
Sutton, Alaska 99674

March 28, 2005

**Subject: Matanuska-Susitna Borough Resolution 05-22: Requesting State Funding for a Management Plan in the Knik River Watershed**

Dear Ms. Woods,

Thank you very much for your support in introducing Resolution 05-22 at the upcoming April 19, 2005 Matanuska-Susitna Borough Meeting. The Knik River Watershed has been a popular recreation area for many years. With the large expanding human population during the past 10 years in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley and in Anchorage, the area continues to receive significant increases of use without the benefit of a management plan. With so many people using the area, littering, pollution, vandalism, wildlife violations, unsafe shooting, and damage to the natural environment is taking its toll. Local residents are seeing a diminished quality of life from such large numbers of uncontrollable recreational users. A number of traditional users are becoming disenfranchised and no longer use the area due to serious conflicts with other user groups. A new management plan for the Knik River Watershed is well over due.

Senator Charlie Huggins and Representative Bill Stoltze conducted a Town Meeting at the Butte Elementary School Gymnasium on February 12, 2005 for area residents of Lazy Mountain, Butte, and Knik River Road. The agenda was an open discussion of area concerns. The Town Hall Meeting was well attended with approximately 100 people present. The concern that raised the most interest was that of recreational use in the Knik River Watershed. Numerous citizens brought up the many problems of recreational users and damage to important wildlife habitat. Several citizens spoke in support of an Alaska Department of Natural Resources Plan to manage the watershed. There was very little, if any, opposition to the plan expressed by citizens who spoke on the subject.

I often fly into the Knik River Watershed from Anchorage as it is only a 30 minute flight from Merrill Field. Visitors that fly with me enjoy the mountain scenery, wildlife and the many landing places on the gravel bars. I have noticed widespread changes in the past few years with larger numbers of users, increased wildlife disturbances, and increased damage to sensitive areas, especially the wetlands and sand dunes in the Jim Creek area.

I strongly support your effort along with all users groups, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and our legislators in working together to introduce and pass legislation that will provide the funding for a new management plan for the Knik River Watershed.

*Wm. A. Quirk, III*  
William A. Quirk, III Pilot / Biologist  
P.O. Box 212545  
Anchorage, Alaska 99521

PO Box 788  
Taiketeetna, AK 99676  
August 17, 2005.

Senator Charlie Huggins  
Alaska State Senate

via e-mail: [Senator Charlie Huggins@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator_Charlie_Huggins@legis.state.ak.us)

Dear Senator Huggins:

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the meeting tomorrow (Thursday) regarding the Knik Watershed. Here is what I had prepared to say at the meeting/hearing.

To put it bluntly, the proposed legislation, SB 197, is not in the broad public interest, and it is poorly crafted

Basically, SB 197, and its companion HB 307, give *carte blanche* to ORV use. It subordinates not only all other uses, but also resource integrity, to that mandate. It is apparent to me that the writers of this legislation did not look at the problems that are occurring in the area today, they did not seek to address those problems, they did not identify the important resource and recreation values that this area offers, they did not establish a vision of what the public would like to see this place look like in the future, and they did not consider how to achieve that vision. Instead, they wrote special interest legislation governing use of lands that are owned by all of us.

So, what is going to suffer? The fish and wildlife resources and the use of the area by anybody who isn't on an ORV or out hunting or target shooting. I don't see anything in the draft that sets aside areas for quiet or non-motorized recreation, for wildlife protection (even wetland areas aren't protected), that provides for public safety, or that seriously considers sustainability.

And, I believe that the bill is poorly crafted not only because it lacks a vision that reflects the broad public interest, but because it contains incompatible stipulations. For example, it is impossible to mandate unlimited ORV use while at the same time protecting and maintaining "migratory waterfowl nesting areas, habitats for moose..." It is likewise, in my view, impossible for the Department of Fish and Game to engage in "rehabilitation, enhancement, and development of fish and wildlife habitat" under a mandate to accommodate unlimited ORV use and not restrict (even to a limited or temporary degree) "lawful fishing, hunting, or trapping rights."

To properly serve the public interest and to preserve the resource and recreational opportunities for future generations, it is necessary to provide a balance among fish and wildlife protection, public safety, segregated non-motorized use areas, and motorized and hunting areas. I urge you, Senator, and Representative Stoltze, to look at the problems that are occurring today, to look at the existing and potential resource and recreational values, to establish a future vision, to determine how to achieve that vision, and to write legislation that accommodates and protects a broad variety of public uses, protects wildlife resources, provides for management and public safety and, most important, makes the management of this watershed sustainable so that it can be enjoyed by all in the future.

Sincerely,  
[signed]  
John Strassenburgh



**Palmer Soil & Water Conservation District**

**259 S. Alaska Street, Palmer Alaska 99645**

**Phone: (907) 745-1441 • Fax: (907) 745-1443**

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**CONSERVATION • DEVELOPMENT • SELF-GOVERNMENT**

April 1, 2005

Cecily Fritz, Chair  
Knik River Watershed Group  
P. O. Box 195  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Cecily:

The Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District (PSWCD) supports development of an area-wide Alaska Department of Natural Resources/Mat-Su Borough management plan for public lands in the Knik River watershed.

Public lands in the watershed include coastal habitat, dunes, wetlands, several anadromous streams and upland habitat, and support a tremendous variety of wildlife resources and recreational opportunities. The area is just over a half hour drive from Anchorage, is easily accessible off the Glenn Highway and receives heavy recreational use from Mat-Su and Anchorage residents. Significantly increasing unmanaged use impacts watershed integrity, quality of life for nearby residents, wildlife resources, and user enjoyment of the area. We believe DNR and MSB planners have the experience and resources to conduct a public planning process that will accommodate a broad array of motorized and nonmotorized users, protect wildlife resources, and mitigate impacts on nearby residents.

We support your efforts, and those of other community groups, user groups, citizens, the Mat-Su Borough, Department of Natural Resources, and our legislators in working toward a management plan for the area. In addition, the PSWCD is very pleased with our successful application (in conjunction with the Knik River Watershed Group) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal Management Grant Program to conduct waterfowl surveys and wetlands inventory in the watershed this year. We look forward to this joint effort in providing current scientific data on the area to assist in the planning effort and to enhance KRWG development of educational tools.

Sincerely,

Bruce Bush, District Chair

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PO Box 140264  
Anchorage, AK  
99514-0264  
907-333-4442  
[www.alaska-trails.org](http://www.alaska-trails.org)

April 28, 2005

Cecily Fritz, Chair  
Knik River Watershed Group  
P. O. Box 195  
Palmer, AK 99645

Dear Cecily:

Alaska Trails is very aware of the valuable habitat and the multitude of exceptional recreational opportunity on public lands in the Knik River watershed. We, too, are concerned about ongoing resource damage, the potential for long term impairment, and the diminished experiences for all users due to a marked upsurge in unmanaged use in recent years.

We support your efforts to call attention to the problems and to gain legislative support for an Alaska Department of Natural Resources planning process for the area especially if it involves on-site management presence. We believe the Knik River area should be managed for motorized and nonmotorized users, and that important wildlife and fishery resources should be protected.

We endorse your outreach efforts about the area values to the public and user groups. User education is important in achieving compatible, sustainable recreational uses as well as for developing support for a watershed management plan and, more importantly, its implementation.

Let us know how we can help in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack", written in a cursive style.

Jack Mosby, President  
Board of Directors

*community planning*



*community building*

## **Friends of Mat-Su**

April 4, 2005

Knik River Watershed Group  
Cecily Fritz  
Palmer, AK

Dear Cecily:

Friends of Mat-Su (FoMS) supports a comprehensive planning effort between the Department of Natural Resources and the Mat-Su Borough for public lands in the Knik River Watershed.

Due to the rapid population growth and increased use by a wide variety of users from the Mat-Su Borough and Anchorage the lands within the Knik River Watershed are being negatively impacted. Nearby residents have diminished quality of life, responsible users have diminished experience, and natural resources are beginning to show damage from unmanaged use.

Comprehensive public planning can address issues such as: appropriate dedicated access points that are well marked and provide sanitation facilities to reduce impacts on residents and habitat; sustainable recreation/trails to reduce impacts of heavy use; assessment of wetland hydrology and value to area aquifer to protect water quality for everyone; assess importance of intact dunes as a water, wind and noise barrier for residents; identify areas requiring restoration; and provide better enforcement of game and all regulations that pertain to this area.

We strongly advocate that when funding is secured that it includes the support necessary for implementation and enforcement of the plan. Too often plans are created without this.

FoMS supports the efforts of the Knik River Watershed Group, and those of community groups, user groups, residents, the Mat-Su Borough, Department of Natural Resources, and our legislators in working toward realization of a management plan for the area and we look forward to participating in the process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Wells', written in a cursive style.

Kathy Wells  
Executive Director

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Palmer Field Office  
1700 East Bogard Road, Suite 203  
Wasilla, AK 99654-6563  
(907) 373-6482 Ext. 111  
(907) 373-7182 FAX  
[www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov)

---

Cecily Fritz, Chair  
Knik River Watershed Group  
P. O. Box 195  
Palmer, Alaska 99645

Dear Cecily:

I work for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as the District Conservationist Matanuska Susitna Service Center representing the Palmer District.

Our agency is aware of the valuable wetlands, coastal and upland habitats on public lands in the Knik River watershed and is concerned about resource damage and the potential for long term impairment due to a marked upsurge in recreation in recent years.

I have recently learned about your group's efforts to call attention to the problems through public and user group outreach, and to gain legislative support for a DNR management plan for the area. We agree that the Knik River area needs better management and commend the efforts of the Knik River Watershed Group to make this happen. Through my work I have been involved with several watershed planning efforts and may be able to offer your group some support and guidance. Please contact me to learn more about our work. Thank you again for your efforts, it is encouraging to see volunteers so motivated to keep our watersheds healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Schuman".

Michelle Schuman  
Palmer District Conservationist

# Butte Area Residents

Civic Organization

269 South Alaska Street - Palmer AK 99641 - 907-745-7528 - [resource@buttealaska.org](mailto:resource@buttealaska.org)

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## **DRAFT KNIK RIVER VALLEY STATE RECREATION AREA AS 41.21.\*\*\***

**Proposed legislation**

**Estimate of Cost (Fiscal Note).**

Ideally, first year enforcement should be funded for a minimum of 1, but preferably 1-1/2 or 2 Rangers with SUV, ORV and dirt bikes.

**First Year: Law Enforcement**

Minimum: 1 Ranger, full time + vehicle = \$150,000

(if 1 1/2 Rangers, + vehicle + ORV/dirt bikes = \$225,000)

(if preferably 2 Rangers for first year for officer safety and Effectiveness + 1 vehicle + ORV/dirt bikes= \$250,000)

(Area Enforcement to be assisted by occasional AST support at current level for Butte area.)

**Planning:** \$ 25,000

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**First Year Total** **\$175,000 - \$250,000**

**Funding Source: State of Alaska 100%**

**Second Year: Law Enforcement** **\$175,000 - \$250,000**

Infrastructure \$ 30,000

Planning: \$ 30,000

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**Second Year Total** **\$235,000 - \$310,000**

**Funding Source: State of Alaska 80%**  
**Grants 20%**

**Third Year: Law Enforcement** **\$175,000 - \$250,000**

Infrastructure \$ 50,000

Planning/Education: \$ 10,000

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**Third Year Total** **\$235,000 - \$310,000**

**Funding Source: State of Alaska 60%**  
**Grants 30%**  
**User Fees 10%**

Grants include Department of Fish & Game, USFWS, and private foundations

This is an estimate of costs and will have to be verified by experienced DNR personnel.

Butte Community - Incident List

| ID | MapID | X-ID | What                        | Details   | Where           | Month     | Year    | Date    |
|----|-------|------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| 1  | 1     | 1    | Unauthorized Construction   | by MatSu Borough, see DNR letter '92  | Jim Lake        | September | 1988    | 198809  |
| 2  | 1     | 2    | Illegal Dumping             | Sanitation issues, no responses   | Jim Lake        | September | 1988    | 198809  |
| 3  | 1     | 2    | Shooting                    | personally almost shoot   | Jim Lake        | September | 1988    | 198809  |
| 4  | 1     | 3    | ORV Traffic in Anadromous E | DNR posted trailhead - no longer anadromous   | Jim Creek       | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 5  | 1     | 3    | Wildlife Harassment         | family clubbing fish - 1993 fish incident   | Jim Creek       |           | 1993    | 199300  |
| 6  | 1     | 4    | ORV Traffic in Wetlands     | see comparison photos   | Rippy Trail     | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 7  | 1     | 5    | ORV Traffic in Anadromous E | see photos of crossing  | Rippy Trail     | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 8  | 1     | 6    | ORV Traffic in Wetlands     | destruction of vegetative mat, see photos   | Rippy Trail     | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 9  | 1     | 7    | Illegal Camps               | bait station, docks, garbage, fuel barrels, posted by DNR and partially cleaned up                                | Chain Lakes     | October   | 2004    | 200410  |
| 10 | 1     | 7    | Illegal Bait Station        | posted by DNR, partially cleaned up   | Chain Lakes     | October   | 2004    | 200410  |
| 11 | 1     | 7    | Illegal Docks               | posted by DNR, partially cleaned up   | Chain Lakes     | October   | 2004    | 200410  |
| 12 | 1     | 7    | Illegal Fuel Barrels        | posted by DNR, partially cleaned up   | Chain Lakes     | October   | 2004    | 200410  |
| 13 | 1     | 8    | Illegal Bait Station        | reported but was not followed up on by authority  | Chain Lakes     | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 14 | 1     | 9    | Illegal Fuel Barrels        | fuel barrels on wetlands, not cleaned up  | Chain Lakes     | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 15 | 1     | 10   | Illegal Fuel Barrels        | pending still   | Chain Lakes     | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 16 | 1     | 10   | Illegal Drcks               | pending still   | Chain Lakes     | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 17 | 1     | 11   | New ORV Trail               | initial observation of new trail in wetlands, AKQuirk aerial photo  | Rippy Trail     | April     | 2005    | 200504  |
| 18 | 1     | 12   | New ORV Trail               | see photos  | Jim Lake        | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 19 | 1     | 12   | New ORV Trail               | see photos  | Swan Lake       | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 20 | 1     | 13   | Wildlife Harassment         | very good beaver dam destroyed by motor traffic, see photos   | Wolf Point      |           | 1988    | 198800  |
| 21 | 1     | 13   | Illegal Kill                | poached sheep, see article  |                 |           |         |         |
| 22 | 1     | 14   | ORV Traffic in Wetlands     | on vegetative mat, see photo  | Swan Lake       | April     | 2005    | 200504  |
| 23 | 1     | 14   | ORV Traffic in Wetlands     | on vegetative mat   | Swan Lake       | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 24 | 1     | 15   | Abandoned Vehicle           | overturned with fluids spilling, reported & after hassle got results from F&G, Palmer                             | Jim Lake        |           | 1993    | 199300  |
| 25 | 1     | 16   | Illegal Kill                | cow moose, reported - no response - short handed  | Rippy Trail     |           | 1994    | 199400  |
| 26 | 1     | 17   | Illegal Kill                | swan, not reported  | Jim Lake        |           | 1994    | 199400  |
| 27 | 1     | 18   | Illegal Dumping             | trash   | Sand Dunes      | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 28 | 1     | 18   | Vegetation Destruction      | live tree cutting   | Sand Dunes      | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 29 | 1     | 18   | Shooting                    | fully automatic weapons   | Sand Dunes      | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 30 | 1     | 18   | Vegetation Destruction      | live tree destruction   | Sand Dunes      | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 31 | 1     | 19   | Illegal Fishing             | fish snagging, observed several times over the years  | Jim Creek       |           |         |         |
| 32 | 1     | 20   | Shooting                    | dodged bullets, left bicycles on ground, hid son behind tree, confronted perpetrator                              | Knik River      |           | 1993    | 199300  |
| 33 | 1     | 21   | Shooting                    | Joe Blaostien dodged high power rifle fire while musing   | Mud Lake        |           | 1997    | 199700  |
| 34 | 1     | 22   | Property Destruction        | destruction of "No Shooting" sign   | Maud Road       | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 35 | 1     | 23   | Illegal Kill                | owl   | Rippy Trail     |           | 1994    | 199400  |
| 36 | 1     | 24   | Illegal Dumping             | some response   | Pavilion Lot    | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 37 | 1     | 25   | Shooting                    | some response   | Pavilion Lot    | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 38 | 1     | 26   | Wildlife Harassment         | airboat chasing swans   | Knik River      | October   | 2004    | 200410  |
| 39 | 1     | 27   | Unattended Fire             | unattended fire spreading   | Friday Creek    |           | 1997    | 199700  |
| 40 | 1     | 28   | Illegal Dumping             |   | Mud Lake        | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 41 | 1     | 28   | Vegetation Destruction      | live tree cutting   | Mud Lake        | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 42 | 1     | 28   | Illegal Dumping             | sanitation issues   | Mud Lake        | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 43 | 1     | 29   | Motor Traffic on River      | Assisted woman with broken hip, took to ambulance at trail head   | Knik River      |           | 1997    | 199700  |
| 44 | 2     | 1    | Burned Vehicle              | jeep cherokee set on fire, observed occupants of a black pickup set fire, called 911 arrived to late to get perps | Bodenburg Creek | July      | 2005    | 200507  |
| 45 | 2     | 2    | Abandoned Vehicle           | abandoned van near bridge   | Knik River      | October   | 2005    | 200510  |
| 46 | 2     | 3    | Property Destruction        | junk cars and trash in trees  | Knik River      | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 47 | 2     | 3    | Illegal Camps               | squatters living on river bar   | Knik River      | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 48 | 2     | 4    | Property Destruction        | burned out car on sand bar  | Knik River      | May       | 2001    | 200105  |
| 49 | 2     | 5    | Illegal Dumping             | trash dumped in brush and bridge base   | Knik River      | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 50 | 2     | 6    | Burned Vehicle              | shot-up burned cars on river bar  | Sexton Trail    | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 51 | 2     | 7    | Vegetation Destruction      | shot-up trees, initial observation  | Knik River Road | May       | 1997    | 199705  |
| 52 | 2     | 7    | Vegetation Destruction      | shot-up trees   | Knik River Road | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 53 | 2     | 7    | Burned Vehicle              | burned car, initial observation   | Knik River Road | May       | 1997    | 199705  |
| 54 | 2     | 7    | Burned Vehicle              | burned car  | Knik River Road | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 55 | 2     | 8    | Illegal Dumping             | trash and cars  | Maud Road Ext   | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 56 | 2     | 8    | Vegetation Destruction      | shot-up trees   | Maud Road Ext   | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |

Butte Community - Incident List

| ID | Map/C | X-ID | What                          | Details  | Where               | Month     | Year    | Date    |
|----|-------|------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| 57 | 2     | 8    | Abandoned Vehicle             | wrecked cars   | Maud Road Ext       | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 58 | 2     | 9    | Illegal Dumping               | huge trash pile at waters edge   | Mud Lake            | July      | 2002    | 200207  |
| 59 | 2     | 9    | Illegal Camps                 | abandoned camp at waters edge  | Mud Lake            | July      | 2002    | 200207  |
| 60 | 2     | 10   | Illegal Dumping               | trash  | Maud Road Ext       | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 61 | 2     | 10   | Vegetation Destruction        | shot-up trees  | Maud Road Ext       | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 62 | 2     | 11   | Illegal Dumping               | trash left in brush  | Jim Lake            | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 63 | 2     | 12   | Illegal Kill                  | rotting moose carcass floating in creek  | Jim Creek           | June      | 2001    | 200106  |
| 64 | 2     | 13   | Property Destruction          | abandoned duck blinds, initial observation   | Swan Lake           |           | 1998    | 199800  |
| 65 | 2     | 13   | Property Destruction          | abandoned duck blinds  | Swan Lake           | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 66 | 2     | 14   | Illegal Dumping               | trash left on ridge  | Jim Creek           | June      | 2003    | 200306  |
| 67 | 2     | 14   | Illegal Dumping               | trash left on ridge, cleaned up  | Jim Creek           | June      | 2004    | 200406  |
| 68 | 2     | 15   | Illegal Dumping               | trash on sandbar, from jim creek outlet to friday creek outlet   | Jim Creek           | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 69 | 2     | 15   | Burned Vehicle                | burned car on sandbar  | Jim Creek           | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 70 | 2     | 16   | Illegal Dumping               | trash  | Jim Creek Forks     | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 71 | 2     | 16   | Vegetation Destruction        | shot-up cottonwoods  | Jim Creek Forks     | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 72 | 2     | 17   | Illegal Dumping               | trash  | Manmade Lake        | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 73 | 2     | 17   | Abandoned Vehicle             | cars   | Manmade Lake        | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 74 | 2     | 17   | Illegal Camps                 | squatters  | Manmade Lake        | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 75 | 2     | 17   | Shooting                      |  | Manmade Lake        | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 76 | 2     | 18   | Shooting                      | automatic & semi-automatic weapons fire after dark, into water by headlights   | Bodeburg Creek      | October   | 2005    | 200510  |
| 77 | 7     |      | NON-USER                      | b/c of junk, parties, and concern for personal safety  | Butte Area          | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 78 | 3     | 1    | Burned Vehicle                | burning vehicles, 20-30+ per year, seen from home  | Knik River          | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 79 | 3     | 2    | Property Destruction          | transformer feeding Knik River Rd shot out, leaving ~200 residents w/o power 8 hrs, temp in teens  | Knik River Road     | January   | 2003    | 200301  |
| 80 | 3     | 3    | Illegal Dumping               | used motor oil, used diapers, etc.   | Knik River Road     |           | 1998    | 199800  |
| 81 | 3     | 4    | Illegal Dumping               | trash dumped, perpetrators id'd and contacted, mess was removed  | Knik River Road     | April     | 1999    | 199904  |
| 82 | 3     | 5    | Illegal Fireworks             | plane landed and set-off fireworks during statewide ban, July 6th  | Knik River          | July      | 2004    | 200407  |
| 83 | 3     | 6    | Illegal Fireworks             | fireworks observed on Swan Lake, driving off adult nesting swans, leaving cygnets behind, July 4   | Swan Lake           | July      | 2003    | 200307  |
| 84 | 3     | 7    | Illegal Dumping               | dirty diapers, requiring Borough HazMat team for clean up  | Caudill Road        |           |         |         |
| 85 | 3     | 8    | Unattended Fire               | abandoned camp fires, often requiring Mat-Su and Forestry intervention to put out  | Knik River          | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 86 | 3     | 9    | Dangerous Vehicle Operation   | two ~10 yr old boys on 4-wheelers crossed the road in front of vehicle w/o looking, required evasive action                                      | Old Glenn Hwy       | July      | 2005    | 200507  |
| 87 | 3     | 10   | Dangerous Vehicle Operation   | three girls (ages 11-14) traveling W on a 4-wheeler, straddling center line, required serious evasive action by driver going E, blind curve 8/13 | Knik River Road     | August    | 2005    | 200508  |
| 88 | 3     | 10   | Dangerous Vehicle Operation   | ~10 yr old boy riding 4-wheeler straddling center line, on blind curve, required serious evasive action by driver, 8/20                          | Knik River Road     | August    | 2005    | 200508  |
| 89 | 3     | 11   | Illegal Motorized Vehicle Ope | snowmachine operated like jet skis on swimming hole, sometimes sinking, area posted "Swimming Only, No Motorized Vehicles"                       | Knik River Road     | ONGOING   | 2003    | 200300  |
| 90 | 3     | 11   | Dangerous Vehicle Operation   | jet boats operated in "Swimming Only..." posted swimming hole, while children swam   | Knik River Road     | July      | 2005    | 200507  |
| 91 | 3     | 11   | Dangerous Vehicle Operation   | jet boats operated in "Swimming Only..." posted swimming hole, while children swam   | Knik River Road     | August    | 2005    | 200508  |
| 92 | 3     | 12   | Illegal Kill                  | moose shot by headlights at 2am, after butchering guts left at a school bus stop   | Knik River Road     | September | 2002    | 200209  |
| 93 | 3     | 13   | Wildlife Harassment           | air boat harassing swans, causing swans to move to non-traditional areas   | Swan Lake           | October   | 2005    | 200510  |
| 94 | 3     | 14   | Unattended Fire               | forest fire due to abandoned camp fire, required Forest Service intervention mtn side above swan lake  | Mtn Side            | August    | 2004    | 200408  |
| 95 | 4     | 1    | Irresponsible Trapping        | dog caught in snare for 3 or 4 days, dog OK  | Republican Road     | November  | 1977    | 197711  |
| 96 | 4     | 2    | Irresponsible Trapping        | dog caught in conibear trap, dog killed instantly  | Plant Materials Cen | December  | 2000    | 200012  |
| 97 | 4     | 3    | Shooting                      | while canoeing on mud lake shots fired over the water from shore   | Mud Lake            |           | 2001    |         |
| 98 | 4     | 5    | Shooting                      | bullets come through our property often, bullets have hit, building, swing sets, and parking areas   | Knik River Road     | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| 99 | 4     | 8    | Dangerous Vehicle Operation   | 2 kids on 4-wheeler die due to trespassing issues originating at Manmade Lake  | Knik River Road     |           | 1996    |         |
| ## | 4     | 10   | Shooting                      | popular shooting area, shots fired out across knik river   | Saxton Trail        | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| ## | 4     | 11   | Shooting                      | popular shooting area, shots fired out across knik river   | Knik River Road     | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| ## | 4     | 12   | Shooting                      | popular shooting area, shots fired out across knik river   | Knik River          | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| ## | 4     | 13   | Shooting                      | popular shooting area, shots fired out across knik river   | Knik River          | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| ## | 4     | 14   | Abandoned Vehicle             | ford?, still by side of road   | Knik River Road     |           | 1970    |         |
| ## | 4     | 15   | Abandoned Vehicle             | car left on bank   | Knik River Road     |           | 1985    |         |
| ## | 4     | 16   | Abandoned Vehicle             | car left on bank   | Knik River Road     | April     | 2005    | 200504  |
| ## | 4     | 17   | Shooting                      | popular shooting area, shots fired west along river bank   | Knik River Road     | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| ## | 5     | 1    | Vegetation Destruction        | indiscriminate tree cutting, living trees on private property, and downed trees left to rot, accessed by snowmachine                             | Drismae Road        | January   | 2004    | 200401  |
| ## | 5     | 2    | ORV Traffic in Stream         | an easily forded creek crossing (pedestrian & equine, which once had a foot bridge) turned to mucky mire, no longer crossable                    | 17N02E Sec 24       | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| ## | 5     | 3    | ORV Traffic in Wetlands       | former horse/ski trail ruined by motorized traffic, no longer usable for non-motorized users   | 17N03E Sec 19       |           | 2003    |         |
| ## | 5     | 3    | ORV Traffic in Wetlands       | former horse/ski trail ruined by motorized traffic, no longer usable for non-motorized users   | 17N03E Sec 19       | ONGOING   | ONGOING | ONGOING |
| ## | 5     | 4    | Unattended Fire               | campfire smoldering in a stump at the creek crossing area was dry lots of fuel available   | 17N03E Sec 18       | September | 2005    | 200509  |



Butte Community - Incident List

| ID | MapID | X-ID | What           | Details   | Where | Month | Year | Date |
|----|-------|------|----------------|---|-------|-------|------|------|
| ## | cars  |      | Burned Vehicle | GPS'd for ANG cleanup - locations approximate GPS data available from ----- |       |       |      |      |
| ## | cars  |      | Burned Vehicle | GPS'd for ANG cleanup - locations approximate GPS data available from ----- |       |       |      |      |
| ## | cars  |      | Burned Vehicle | GPS'd for ANG cleanup - locations approximate GPS data available from ----- |       |       |      |      |
| ## | cars  |      | Burned Vehicle | GPS'd for ANG cleanup - locations approximate GPS data available from ----- |       |       |      |      |
| ## | cars  |      | Burned Vehicle | GPS'd for ANG cleanup - locations approximate GPS data available from ----- |       |       |      |      |
| ## | cars  |      | Burned Vehicle | GPS'd for ANG cleanup - locations approximate GPS data available from ----- |       |       |      |      |
| ## | cars  |      | Burned Vehicle | GPS'd for ANG cleanup - locations approximate GPS data available from ----- |       |       |      |      |
| ## | cars  |      | Burned Vehicle | GPS'd for ANG cleanup - locations approximate GPS data available from ----- |       |       |      |      |
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| ## | cars  |      | Burned Vehicle | GPS'd for ANG cleanup - locations approximate GPS data available from ----- |       |       |      |      |
| ## | cars  |      | Burned Vehicle | GPS'd for ANG cleanup - locations approximate GPS data available from ----- |       |       |      |      |
| ## | cars  |      | Burned Vehicle | GPS'd for ANG cleanup - locations approximate GPS data available from ----- |       |       |      |      |

Butte Community - Incident List

| 3   | A   | B    | C                                | D   | E                      | F       | H       | I       | J        | K        |
|-----|---|------|----------------------------------|---|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| ID  | Map ID  | X-ID | What                             | Details   | Where                  | Month   | Year    | Date    | Initials |          |
| 195 | ##  | 8    | 1 Burned Vehicle                 | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Knik River             | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 196 | ##  | 9    | 2 Burned Vehicle                 | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Knik River             | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 197 | ##  | 8    | 3 Burned Vehicle                 | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Knik River             | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 198 | ##  | 8    | 4 Burned Vehicle                 | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Knik River             | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 199 | ##  | 8    | 5 Burned Vehicle                 | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Knik River             | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 200 | ##  | 8    | 6 Burned Vehicle                 | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Knik River             | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 201 | ##  | 8    | 7 Burned Vehicle                 | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Knik River             | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 202 | ##  | 8    | 8 Burned Vehicle                 | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Sexton Trail           | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 203 | ##  | 8    | 9 Burned Vehicle                 | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Sexton Trail           | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 204 | ##  | 8    | 10 Burned Vehicle                | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Sexton Trail           | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 205 | ##  | 8    | 11 Burned Vehicle                | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Sexton Trail           | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 206 | ##  | 8    | 12 Burned Vehicle                | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Sexton Trail           | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 207 | ##  | 8    | 13 Burned Vehicle                | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Sexton Trail           | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 208 | ##  | 8    | 14 Burned Vehicle                | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Sexton Trail           | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 209 | ##  | 8    | 15 Burned Vehicle                | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Knik River             | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 210 | ##  | 8    | 16 Burned Vehicle                | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Knik River             | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 211 | ##  | 8    | 17 Burned Vehicle                | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Knik River             | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 212 | ##  | 8    | 18 Burned Vehicle                | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Knik River             | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 213 | ##  | 8    | 19 Burned Vehicle                | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Knik River             | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 214 | ##  | 8    | 20 Burned Vehicle                | Butte FD call to burning car fire   | Knik River             | ONGOING | ONGOING | ONGOING | C        |          |
| 215 | ##  |      | Tree Shot Next to Residence      | Someone shot through woods  | Mile 9.8 Old Glenn     |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 216 | ##  |      | 3 GIS shoot towards corrals      | From trail off Knik River, 3 GIS were plinking away shooting at a tree toward horses in corrals                                       | Mile 9.8 Old Glenn     |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 217 | ##  |      | Unoccupied Home vandalized       | Vandals broke into unoccupied home during night. And parked. Neighbors observed   | Mile 10 Old Glenn      |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 218 | ##  |      | Car Stolen from Driveway         | Car Stolen from Driveway  | Mile 9.5 Old Glenn     |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 219 | ##  |      | ATV would not stop on road       | ATV would not stop on non-motorized bike path and chased a young woman in mini-horse cart onto the Old Glenn                          | Mile 9.7 Old Glenn     |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 220 | ##  |      | ATV harassed horse/ender         | ATV played chicken with horse and rider on Old Glenn non-motorized pathway. Horse yielded   | Mile 9.5 Old Glenn     |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 221 | ##  |      | Dirt Bike crashed into tree      | Dirt Bike jumped driveway and crashed into tree. Had to call Butte Ambulance  | Mile 9.8 Old Glenn     |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 222 | ##  |      | Drive-by shooting at night       | People kept firing gun from pickup at night.  | Mile 9.8 Old Glenn     |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 223 | ##  |      | Drive-by shooting Sunday         | People from beige pickup kept firing from pickup, could hear they started at Knik Bridge and kept firing after going by house         | Mile 9.8 Old Glenn     |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 224 | ##  |      | Explosives thrown into driveway  | Explosives (dynamite??) thrown out of car onto driveway. Shook house  | Mile 9.8 Old Glenn     |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 225 | ##  |      | Shooting toward house            | Two boys from Anc shot at house through woods hunting rabbits on private property. Said, "This is Mat-Su. There's no law against it." | Mile 9.8 Old Glenn     |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 226 | ##  |      | Unoccupied Home vandalized       | Vandals threw rocks through all windows in unoccupied house   | Mile 9.7 Old Glenn     |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 227 | ##  |      | ATVs and Dirt Bikes on Path      | ATVs and Dirt Bikes jump driveways on non-motorized pathway. Sometimes 250-300 on weekend   | Mile 9-Mile 11/12      | ONGOING | ONGOING |         |          | BL       |
| 228 | ##  |      | Beer Bottle thrown at person     | Beer Bottle thrown out from pickup hit older man on head  | Mile 9.8 Old Glenn     |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 229 | ##  |      | Moose poached                    | Moose poached   | Off Bodenburg Lp North |         |         |         |          |          |
| 230 | ##  |      | Moose poached                    | Moose poached, belly burned   | Jim Creek Trail        |         |         |         |          | AncVis   |
| 231 | ##  |      | Found raven shot                 | Found shot Raven on Knik River Rm   | Knik River upstream    |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 232 | ##  |      | Shooters in woods                | Shooters in woods off non-motorized MSB trail   | Off Old Glenn          | ONGOING | ONGOING |         |          | BL       |
| 233 | ##  |      | Vagrants camp in woods           | Vagrants camped in woods fired shots after horse/rider went by. Called Troopers   |                        |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 234 | ##  |      | ATVs and Dirt Bikes on highway   | ATVs and Dirt Bikes on Old Glenn  |                        | ONGOING | ONGOING |         |          | BL       |
| 235 | ##  |      | Heavy Explosions                 | Heavy Explosions at Knik River, heard at Mile 9.8, sometimes shake house  | Knik River             | ONGOING | ONGOING |         |          | BL       |
| 236 | ##  |      | ATV speeding on woods trail      | ATV speeding on woods trail, rider on horse had to jump off the trail several times   | Woods on MSB lar       | ONGOING | ONGOING |         |          | BL       |
| 237 | ##  |      | Near Collision with Cars         | On Sexton Trail, near-head-on collision with two racing cars  | Sexton Trail           |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 238 | ##  |      | Shooter near Pavilion            | Shooter near pavilion shoots toward paper plate targets on stump with rifle   | Pavilion Lot           |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 239 | ##  |      | Plastic bottle targets           | Plastic bottle stuck on tree branches. Targets in direction of residence  | Knik River Downstream  |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 240 | ##  |      | Construction Pile with staples   | Construction pile with staples was burned at upstream side of Knik River, then disappeared in Bodenburg Creek overflow                | Knik/Bodenburg         |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 241 | ##  |      | ATV chasing salmon               | Kids on ATVs were chasing salmon in bodenburg Creek   | Bdenburg Creek         | ONGOING | ONGOING |         |          | BS       |
| 242 | ##  |      | Jetboat in Bodenburg Creek       | Jetboat in Bodenburg Creek  | Bodenburg Creek        | ONGOING | ONGOING |         |          | BL       |
| 243 | ##  |      | Salmon Poaching                  | Salmon poaching in bodenburg Creek  | Bodenburg Creek        | ONGOING | ONGOING |         |          | BS       |
| 244 | ##  |      | Boats and motors getting clogged | Bodenburg Creek - boats, jetboats, boat motors and airboats using creek to wash off mud   | Bodenburg Creek        |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 245 | ##  |      | ATVs tearing up Hwy shoulder     | ATVs tearing up Hwy shoulder, cutting patterns  | Knik River Bridge      |         |         |         |          | BL       |
| 246 | ##  |      | Moose and baby shot              | Moose and baby shot at Mile 5 Old Glenn pond one year   | Old Glenn Hwy          |         |         |         |          | Resident |
| 247 | ##  |      | Moose and baby shot              | Moose and baby shot at Mile 5 Old Glenn pond next year  | Old Glenn Hwy          |         |         |         |          | Resident |
| 248 | ##  |      | Shoot at Bottle at Tail Race     | Throw up bottles and shoot into Exultna Tail Race   | Old Glenn Hwy          |         |         |         |          | Resident |
| 249 | ##  |      | Oil Drums Dumped                 | Waste Oil in barrels and bottles dumped on private property   | Knik River Access      | ONGOING | ONGOING |         |          | BL       |
| 250 | ##  |      | Stolen Cars & Trucks dump        | Stolen Cars and Trucks burned and dumped on private property  | Knik River Access      | ONGOING | ONGOING |         |          | BL       |
| 251 | ##  |      | Shooting                         | Shooting into water, into trees, across hwy, toward homes   | Knik River Access      | ONGOING | ONGOING |         |          | BL       |
| 252 | ##  |      | Shooting                         | Shooting into water, into trees, across hwy, toward homes   | Knik River Access      | ONGOING | ONGOING |         |          | BL       |
| 253 | ##  |      |                                  |   |                        |         |         |         |          |          |
| 254 | ##  |      |                                  |   |                        |         |         |         |          |          |
| 255 | An additional 200 plus incidents by observations of three residents have yet to be mapped |      |                                  |   |                        |         |         |         |          |          |

**Comments to House Resources Committee hearing on HB 307, March 27, 2005, 2:00 pm  
In Opposition to HB 307 Knik River Public Use Area  
By Brit Lively, long-time resident and property owner in Butte.**

Here are my specific comments to HB 307:

My concerns start with the purpose of this legislation and the ambiguity of language in the rewrite of HB 307 which seems to contradict its purpose/intent. Of course, I'm sure you all are aware that any management plan can only be as good as the stated purpose.

The role per statute and mission of Department of Natural Resources, is to "Develop, conserve and enhance natural resources for present and future Alaskans." Telling DNR in this PUA legislation to perpetuate and enhance 1) general public recreation, and 2) public enjoyment of fish and wildlife, before dealing with habitat is putting the cart in front of the horse.

Items for Purpose should be reversed because only if we perpetuate, mitigate, protect and maintain a healthy habitat, will the public be able to enjoy fish, wildlife and public recreation. *If you put recreation ahead of protection of habitat and wildlife along with the limited and expensive enforcement in this legislation, you may well end up with a gravel pit and a dust bowl extending well beyond the boundaries of this proposed Public Use Area. You may not realize that anywhere from 1,000 to 3,000 people are using this area on every sunny weekend.*

Page 1, line 7-12: Comment:  
Therefore, I suggest #1 purpose should read:)

- 1) Perpetuate, mitigate, protect and maintain migratory waterfowl nesting areas and fish and wildlife habitat for sustaining and enhancing
  - a) traditional public use of fish and wildlife populations and
  - b) general public enjoyment and recreation

Line 10: Paragraph 2: Delete, because it is not necessary to name all wildlife species, since they are all included. If we do that, we should also name all the fish and waterfowl species.

Page 1, line 13: Paragraph 3 will then be paragraph 2.

- 2) Provide an area for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses, including maintenance and enhancement of off-road vehicle and quiet recreation opportunities.

Page 2, line 1:

- A) Change "Owners of private property" to "Owners of Inholdings" in Knik River Public Use Area and add "utilizing the existing RS 2477 right-of-way" where possible.

**Page 3, Line 2: Change to: The Commissioner may restrict the use of weapons, including firearms, in the Knik River Public Use Area except for the purpose of legal hunting, in order to protect the public and to comply with DEC and federal regulations which prohibit discharging shot into a watershed.**

**Page 3, Line 11: Delete (d) 2 and either Replace with:**

**(2) adopt regulations under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) which are necessary to achieve the purposes of HB 307 and shall adopt such additional regulations as may be necessary to implement the plan adopted. The regulations must designate incompatible uses, and prohibit and restrict such uses. ,**

**Or**

**change as follows:**

**The commissioner shall**

**(2) recognize the existing trails and the access those trails provide to areas in the Knik River Public use area, determine the carrying capability of this area for public use and determine which of these trails are best suited for motorized or non-motorized recreation according to soils, habitat and compatibility with the purposes of HB 307 and accordingly enhance these trail for motorized or non-motorized recreation.**

**Page 3, Line 20: Enforcement. Use the same language as in Hatcher Pass PUA or in our proposed Draft Legislation for Knik River Valley State Recreation Area.**

After this hearing I will have had 6 minutes total (3 minutes at the Stoltze/Huggins hearing at Butte School last fall tell you how our home area has deteriorated over the last twenty-five years. We have spent thousands of dollars in cash and ten times more in lost work and lost sleep defending our homes, our neighborhoods and the quality of life we have every right to enjoy in the beautiful area surrounding us. Land managers and others in authority have writ this area off so that our home area has become a mecca for uncivilized and disrespectful behavior. This afternoon, "counseled" a party of approx 12 people who had been shooting toward homes on Republican Way for 2 hours from the Knik River. They had driven past no-shooting signs which had been blacked out by vandals. So they thought the signs didn't mean anything.

Butte Residents Area Civic Organization has spent several months putting together a packet of facts, reflecting years of documentation and local knowledge to help you plan for multiple use recreation in our area. Knik River Valley of national significance as the northern-most birthplace of the Pacific Ocean, is recognized for its world class scenery and is one of south-central Alaska's most important fish, wildlife and migratory waterfowl habitats

We condensed this into a small packet and delivered it to most members of your committee and the leaders of the House and Senate personally in Juneau. We ran out of time and did not show you photo documentation and explanation of problems with ATVs, 4x4s, the incredible amount of "targets," trees and dogs that were executed erosion and damage of the dunes, shot-up cars, fireworks and spent shells on private property, nor the dead alders

lining Jim Creek whose roots have eroded from the motor boat waves. I told most of your staff people that it would take about one hour of time to view the videos and printed material to show you why we don't think HB 307 Knik River Public Use Area will do the job.

The latter part of last week, I called as many of your offices as my time allowed, and asked if the legislators had a chance to go over our packets and if there were any questions. Everyone told me they were too busy with the oil to look at our material except for two. But - we learned that the House Majority Caucus has already agreed to vote in favor of HB 307! So why would you want to even look at what we sent you or hear what we have to say? And we learned that you have scheduled only one hour for this hearing which is THE opportunity we have prepared for and waited for so many years, to make things better - to protect our homes, families, and outstanding natural resources from the effects and overflow of "recreation gone wild."

Does anyone who has since looked at our material have any questions?

This issue should not be decided along partisan lines. This community and our incredible environment deserve more respect than that. You are our leaders. We are looking for you to enhance our quality of life and our economy and repair and enhance our natural environment long before enhancing the amount of motorized recreation at no cost to the users while our community bears the burden. *I oppose HB 307 because by statute it is like a temporary coat of paint, which will peel off and will not provide a foundation for something lasting but will have to be patched and repaired forever. We'll have to battle forever hoping for a white knight with backbone to come to the rescue of a beleaguered community.*

*Instead, please give us the proper tools for high-end visitor experiences and economic development which this borough society needs. Give DNR and the advisory committee the authority to accommodate motorized and quiet users equally, but secondary to the responsibility of protecting and enhancing our natural resources. The stated mission of Department of Natural Resources is, "To develop, conserve and enhance natural resources present and future Alaskans."*

Let's start on the high side with our draft for Knik River Valley Public Recreation Area under AS 41.21 which will give us these tools. Let its 15-member advisory committee from all user groups develop a management plan which will assure strong management and responsibility by Department of Natural Resources and, guaranteed recreation all kinds where DNR will contract out the enforcement to rangers from Alaska State Parks, and still retain all responsibilities and management. Give DNR, along with the advisory committee, the authority to determine which the trails are better suited for motorized, or horses, or foot traffic. Make it possible to build restrooms at the parking areas. When people arrive there after an hour's drive from Anchorage, they DO need a place to go. Neighbors have kept their children away from these areas for sanitary reasons. At Jim Lake, the shore is littered with human faces along with other garbage and spent cartridges.

Make quiet times in the Valley possible - whether it's along the river for those visitors and residents who want to picnic without the noise and dust from ORVs and "just watch the river go by," or for residents so they know for sure that on a certain day of the week they can have a barbeque in their backyard without choking on the exhaust of airboats and not being able to have a conversation over their noise along with that of snow machines and wave runners on the water and dirt bikes on the shores.

Quiet days provide economic opportunities for those who want to invest in our community and provide high-end visitor services. Butte has horses and facilities where national competitions are held. There are several horse board facilities. Give the Butte horse community and those who travel here with their animals a chance to take guided trips to Knik Glacier. Locals who used to do that have stopped since the motorized traffic interferes too much. Let Butte entrepreneurs cash in on guiding visitors on the canoe trails through the wetlands on quiet days. Visitors wouldn't be interested if they knew they'd be overrun and swamped by airboats. Let visiting hiking enthusiasts be guided by R or Mat Su residents on day trips or overnights to feel the overwhelming silence and grandiose splendor. Make it

possible for me to show off my beautiful back yard to my visiting business clients without embarrassing myself and my community. I know some of them would love to go fishing at Jim Creek, but I would shame myself, my business and my community if they experienced the Mad Maxx scenario being played over and over again. Just as guided ATV tours add to the economy with guided tours for the less physically able and are not being challenged by other motorized, so should mountain bikers have their times to provide guided to the glacier without being screamed at to get out of the way. And, of course, let guided ATV tours provide the less physically able with one of the most unique experiences traveling into our own back country.

Please realize that with a Knik River Valley State Recreation Area, you also give us the tools to apply for grants or matching moneys for in-kind work to help pay for the infrastructure, trail mitigation and even law enforcement. Any of us who want to use the area, when it's safe again, should be willing to pay a user fee to offset the costs of operation and management. Motorized and non-motorized users should be expected to pay for the privilege of using this beautiful area to somewhat offset the cost of running it. Provisions might include reduced or no-fee passes for local persons of limited financial means.

If you haven't yet read our draft legislation, please do so now, and ask us questions of concern.

Our packet consists of a professionally produced video of "*Bodenburg Butte - Knik River Valley - Beauty at our Back Door,*" and a companion DVD titled, "*No Respect in Knik River Valley,*" that shows a small excerpt from our collection of results of destructive activity. It includes maps, photos, a cover letter why we did not think a HB 307 Public Use Area under AS 41.23 would protect us by statute from the devastating effects of recreation gone wild for the last 20 some years, and why we reasoned that legislation for a State Recreation Area under 41.21 would. I am faxing a spreadsheet along with this which goes with these maps, showing over 260 incidents, from dumped trash to burned cars to ducking from flying bullets, which were observed by only 9 residents over several years. Three observers' notes and maps are still missing, including Gregory Nilsson's, Tom Bergey's and some of my own which will add at least 100 more incidents to the list. These incidents are dynamic in that they keep repeating themselves even after the evidence was cleaned up. There's always more trash, more poaching, more shot down and cut down trees, more burned and shot up cars, batteries, paint cans, paper plate and plastic bottle targets, human waste, springs turned into mudholes, exposed roots to document yet another year of more erosion on the dunes, etc etc

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

Brit Lively  
March 27, 2006

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3000 Area Residents  
Civic Organization

### Provisions in bills protect those who break law with ATVs, firearms

Having read Sen. Haglund's Senate Bill 107, and Rep. Stoltz's House Bill 307, one wonders if Mike Erickson took his own advice and read those bills himself ("Curbing Knik ATV access is no solution," Feb. 9).

Although Mr. Erickson acknowledges that Rambo-range shooting parties invade the area on a regular basis and agrees we need more effective laws and law enforcement, he apparently supports Sec. 41.23.200 (d) which states "the commissioner may not restrict the use of weapons, including firearms, within Knik River Public Use Area except in sites of high public use." So the reckless endangerment, vandalism, dumping and habitat destruction that accompany these shooting parties as well as the cost of dealing with the mess can continue as long as it happens out in the woods somewhere?

Also, although we have a state statute that permits ATV use on state lands as long as riders avoid destroying the terrain, Mr. Erickson apparently supports (e) of that section: "the commissioner shall allow for the use of existing off-road motor vehicle trails in existence..." So, present trails that have caused the destruction of streambeds, and wetlands with deliberately created mudholes for ATV joyriding should be grandfathered in?

Mr. Erickson's Compass piece makes me wonder why two legislators would write legislation that protects the activities of lawbreakers at the expense of law-abiding citizens, including responsible gun and ATV users?

— Marian Elliott  
Wasilla

### Knik River area needs some new legislation regarding use

Who are the people in your neighborhood? My "neighborhood" is bunkered with unrestricted gunfire, car explosions, vandalism and theft. Wouldn't you like to be my neighbor? It sounds as if I'm living in a war zone. But I live in the Knik River

# Mat-Su

## Letters from

Valley. Legislation (House Bill 307 and Senate Bill 107) supporting a Knik River Public Use Area fails to adequately address problems faced by local residents. The legislation neglects to address law enforcement planning and funding, public safety issues, incompatible recreational uses, and the protection of critical wildlife habitats. Mike Erickson said in a Compass piece last month that "more laws are needed." "Curbing Knik ATV access is no solution," Feb. 9.

What good are more laws without law enforcement? Erickson believes this legislation "preserves equal access to all." Not so. Many local residents avoid the area out of fear and disgust. I resent his implied message that most Alaskans access and enjoy recreation using motorized vehicles. Hiking, canoeing and skiing are a few unmotorized ways Alaskans enjoy outdoor recreation. Local residents have to live daily with the consequences of recreational activities in the Knik River Valley. The adverse effects of unrestricted use affect all outdoor enthusiasts. Let's encourage our legislators to write new legislation and not keep the status quo.

Corrie Gray Wolfe  
Palmer

Editor's Note: This writer is an ex-member of the Knik River Watershed Group steering committee. The views here are her own.

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THE  
FOLLOWING  
DOCUMENT(S)  
ARE  
POOR  
ORIGINAL  
COPIES

*Snake Area Resident  
Civic Organization*

**State recreation area concept for Knik basin dates back to 1980s**

Miss Erickson should have done her homework before writing "Curbing Knik ATV access is no solution" (Feb. 9).

The most vocal of HB 907/SB 197 supporters have based their campaign on fear and misinformation, which seems to work. Sen. Charlie Huggins publicly declared "war" ("Up a creek?" Frontiersman, July 24, 2006) on citizens who approached asking for overdue solutions to the documented problems in the area.

Let's examine Sen. Huggins' claim to "high ground" and the basis used by proponents of the bills.

The concept of a state recreation area did not originate with the Alaska Center for the Environment. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Knik Area Wetlands Study of 1981 recognized the area's significance. In 1984, Bill Sheffield introduced legislation to create the Jim/Swan Lake SRA. The Seward Area Plan of 1985 involving more than 40 public hearings, workshops and six full-time inter-agency staff over a 2-plus-year period called for creation of an SRA in the Knik basin.

In 1989, the Met-Su Borough, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Trails Advisory Board voted unanimously for the area to be an SRA with funding to develop and implement a plan.

Agencies from USFWS to NPS are on record regarding the value of the area. Many make specific recommendations ignored by these bills and supporters.

Understate damage and easy access to 300,000 population demands swiftness.

— Robert Howard  
Palmer

**Trails belong to everyone, not just ATV users who trash environment**

Eagle River resident Miss Erickson's contention that ATV use in the Knik watershed is environmentally benign would be laughable were it not for his trivializing the enormous problems created here by the regular influx of thousands of off-road vehicle recreationalists ("Curbing Knik ATV access is no solution," Feb. 9). Flying at 2,000 feet we observe myriad trails and attendant erosion, dust and trashed "campettes." Walking watershed trails, we are horrified to see waterfowl crushed and dying, wetlands churned to anaerobic goo, trails we have used 30 years impassable because they were "discovered" and destroyed by ATVs.

Knik River Watershed Group advocates sustainable multi-use activities. Huggins has the reason Mr. Erickson doth protest with: according to ignore damage ATVs cause. If allowing responsible use will preclude ATV use in some areas, he falls back on his right to go there, demanding all trails be grandfathered. Some ATV use is harmless, but as to the economic benefits derived from ATV operations, we have found they leave behind much more trash than treasure.

HB 907/SB 197 demands the area to motorized use, grandfather all trails, and strings effective but unworkable conditions for positive behavior and promotes the complete disenfranchisement of traditional users. This area belongs to all Alaskans, and designation as a state recreation area under AS 41.21 and inclusion of all user groups in a management plan is a better solution than this study in mediocrity: HB907/SB197.

— Gregory Nelson  
Palmer

BY JIMMY'S NOTE: The writer is on the board of directors of the Knik River Watershed Group and a founder of the Alaska Wilderness Civic Organization. The views here are his own.

Mapmakers Alaska

From: "Larabee James" <jlarabee@yahoo.com>  
 To: Carrie Wang <carriewang@yahoo.com>  
 Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2006 9:14 AM  
 Subject: Re: Jim creek area

Carrie,

~~Thanks for the comments you left on my Photo gallery!~~

I'd be glad to help with the Jim Creek campaign.  
 Attaching my name is fine with me.

Here goes:

I am a former instructor with UAA's Outdoor Program. We used to take our Winter Survival students to the Jim Lake/Mud Lake areas for overnight outings. But frequently (at least 3 times) our classes would encounter the sounds of late-night hooting and hollering combined with high-powered rifle fire. Usually this activity occurred from the Mud Lake parking lot and often we found discarded beer and hard liquor containers there the next morning. We stopped taking our classes to the Jim Lake area. We were concerned about getting shot and we were concerned about the vehicles we left in the parking lot.

James Larabee

--- Carrie Wang <carriewang@yahoo.com> wrote:

> hi james,  
 > i haven't had a chance to look at your photos, but  
 > i look forward to it.  
 >  
 > i'm emailing because i was wondering if you  
 > recalled our conversation about the jim creek area,  
 > at our last get together. i was also wondering if  
 > you would be willing to write (very brief) about  
 > what you described to me (how you used to take uaa  
 > students out there and the shooting, etc). you can  
 > just email me or brit lively at  
 > resource@huttealaska.org . if you don't want your  
 > name attached please say so. your testimony would be  
 > very much appreciated!  
 >  
 > thanks!  
 > carrie  
 >  
 >  
 > Do You Yahoo!?  
 > Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam

HR 307

Rep Jay Ramras  
 Fax - 907-465-2070

3/27/2006

March 22, 2006

Honorable Jay Ramras - HB 307  
Alaska State Legislature, Juneau, Alaska  
Fax: 907-465-2070

Dear Representative Ramras,

My name is Kurt Marshall, my family has been in Alaska since 1934, when my grandparents settled in the Butte area of Palmer, as colonists.

Our family is outdoors and recreationally oriented and while we would like to continue using the Jim Creek, Knik glacier area as a family retreat, the increase of family danger due to vandalism, gunfire and chaotic behavior prevents our continuing to do that.

Because my family still owns a 171-acre farm near the Butte, I am very concerned about the continued degradation of the area. We have watched in frustration and horror as uncaring individuals have claimed the area as their own to systematically destroy.

We urge you as the chairman of the House Resources Committee to act quickly to enable the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop a short term education and enforcement plan to head off a situation which is rapidly deteriorating as the days warm and summer recreation increases.

I am aware of numerous environmental studies and land use plans for the area, among them the Susitna Watershed Plan; there are numerous solutions offered therein.

High among my family's concerns is the reckless abandon of many ATV riders tearing up the beautiful countryside with apparent disregard for those who enjoy an unspoiled trail and quiet time.

It saddens me to see what has happened to this beautiful valley. Clearly, as the Valley population grows and more Anchorage residents find the Valley as a recreational area, the impact and pressure on the remaining wilderness area will continue to grow as will the abuse.

Our family has hoped that the ongoing destruction would eventually gain the attention of land managers who would act to address the critical problems here. We have asked at public meetings for an area plan that could sustain multiple use with a strong emphasis on law enforcement and public safety. Ideally as a special recreational area under Alaska Statute 41.21. however, a bill introduced on behalf of the motorized community by Rep. Bill Stoltze and Sen. Charlie Huggins essentially hands this area over to ORV recreation.

Sincerely,



Kurt Marshall  
(907)351-2722  
[kmarshall@harrisak.com](mailto:kmarshall@harrisak.com)

cc: Senator Lyda Green

**Mapmakers Alaska**

---

From: "Carrie" <carrie@mapmakersalaska.com>  
To: "Mapmakers Alaska" <BritLively@mapmakersalaska.com>  
Cc: <carriewang@acsalaska.net>  
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2005 4:15 PM  
Subject: re: public hearing tomorrow (8/18)

T  
HB 307  
To: Rep. Jay Ramras

If you would like you can print and take the following to the public hearing tomorrow, it can either be read aloud or given as such.

The proposed House Bill No. 307 is a poorly written piece of legislation. It appears to have been hastily put together and is self contradictory (see items (1), (3), (4), & (7) in Sec 41.23.180 - Purpose).

Section 41.23.190 - Management lacks foresight of provisions for planning and sustainable use, which again is contradictory to the stated purposes (Item (2) Section 41.23.180) of the proposed bill.

Section 41.23.200 - Incompatible Uses, is also in contradiction with the stated purpose of the bill. Incompatible uses would be those that prevent all or any users from using the area, which might occur in some areas in order to adhere to the purposes of this proposed bill.

This proposed bill indicates not effort in the area of proper planning, management, or public process, to incorporate ideas from all user groups as well as scientific data. It promotes un-restrained overuse with disregard for public safety and management enforcement. Un-restricted firearm use in a public area (outside standard hunting use) is ludicrous, if someone wants to target shoot there are firing ranges for that purpose. That the authors of this proposed bill would include such provisions shows them to have little regard for human life.

I would hope that this bill is withdrawn and replaced with one that reflects a need for planning and management to be carried out by all user groups in accordance to a management plan created with the help of DNR and other available resources.

Carrie Wang  
Anchorage AK  
8/17/05

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Carrie Wang  
MAPMAKERS ALASKA  
500 North Alaska Street, Palmer AK, 99645  
(907) 244-1198



HB 307

Representative Ray Kawras

Fax: 907-465-2070

"Ken-Doll" mercenary wannabe and buddies were observed feeling quite manly - and proud of it - defending themselves against a line of attacking trees across Bodenburg Creek, March 18, 2006. Some of the trees were hit, but all were still standing after a 30-minute assault. (Gregory Nilsson photo).

Ladies and Gentlemen: Thank you for trying to find a way for safe recreation in our community with HB 307. Have you considered the cost to the public? It is my understanding that the State of Alaska and local residents will pay all the cost, as we have been for the past 25 some years. Users are not expected to pay to go to Knik River Public Use Area.

I belong to Butte Area Residents Civic Organization. Most of us are in favor of Knik River Valley State Recreation area under AS 41.21. Why?

The simplicity of our draft legislation because of its statutory authorities gives strong responsibilities to DNR, Fish & Game, DEC, Dept of Public Safety, and a 15 member advisory committee from multiple user groups. It will start keeping residents and visitors safe as soon as our legislation becomes law, without having to go to the supreme court first to determine bailable offenses. That's all been done. You may be surprised, but this is the least costly option to utilize these public lands for recreation.

Public Use Areas don't charge user fees because such a designation denotes minimal management paid for with public funds. It is not fair for residents nor all Alaskans to keep underwriting emergency response, fire, State Troopers and to pay for the full range of services and management expected by the recreating public in Knik River while residents suffer the slumming down of their community from the overflow of recreation - noise, trash, dust, fecal contamination, vandalism, and ongoing danger from fire, shooting and fireworks. Why should we have to pay all the costs for the fun of a few, be they motorized or quiet users - while the Mat-Su School District doesn't have the funds to pay the decent wage their custodians deserve?

In a State Recreation Area under AS 41.21 users are expected to share in the cost of services in exchange for safe multiple use recreation in a healthy environment, rather than depend on free public services (except maybe for adjoining residents of limited means.) We were told that nationally and state-wide, user fees pay for 30% of the maintenance and operation. If caring residents are happy with the kind of recreation area they deserve to have in their community especially if such a designation gives them new economic opportunities, they are fully prepared to help seek funding from private and federal sources to contribute toward infrastructure, maintenance, restoration, upkeep and policing in the Knik River State Recreation Area.

Isn't the reduced cost a great incentive for you to support the Knik River Valley State Recreation Area rather than a Public Use Area? - Let's talk

Gregory Nilsson, Butte Property Owner and Resident  
Co-Founder, Butte Area Residents Civic Organization  
Mail: 259 South Alaska Street, Palmer, AK 99645, Phone: W: 907-694-7124, C: 1-907-227-1628

**To: Representative Jay Ramras, Co-Chairman**  
**Re: Public Hearing on the Knik River Public Use Area**  
**Date: March 27, 2006**

**Summary: Statement of Opposition to HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A. Due to time restraints at the hearing, I may be unable to voice my concerns. Below is my statement of record regarding the Knik River Public Use Area legislation.**

My name is Carrie Gray Wolfe and I am a south Knik River resident.

I oppose HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A. I cannot fully address my opposition in 3-minutes; therefore I will concentrate on the biases, inadequate restrictions, and the inability to protect our fish and wildlife as the legislation is currently written.

The legislation is heavily biased towards off-road vehicle use. This bias is at the expense of most other user groups. For example, Page 1, Lines 13-14, states: to "Provide an area for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses including maintenance and enhancement of off-road vehicle opportunities." And Page 3, Lines 11-16, is dedicated solely to the protection and rights of off road users. Where is the language that specifically includes the "recognition" of existing areas of non-motorized users, the "accommodations" of areas for non-motorized use, and the "maintenance and enhancement" of non-motorized trails and waterways? Page 2, Lines 7-11, state that "the commissioner may designate incompatible uses" but Page 3, Lines 5-10, state, "The commissioner shall allow the... area to be used for activities that include all-terrain vehicles, etc..." As written, there are no "incompatible uses." What if one or more of the stated activities is determined harmful to the perpetuation and enhancement of general public recreation, the public enjoyment of fish and wildlife, or the protection and maintenance of wildlife habitat? (Page 1, Lines 4-12)

Page 2, Line 29, and Page 3, Lines 2-4, fails to adequately address target shooting. It states, "The commissioner may not restrict the use of weapons... except in locations... that the use of weapons constitutes a threat to public safety." Where is it not a threat? Weapons are being fired into hillsides and across waterways with homes, residents, and recreational users on the opposite sides. Reckless shooting is destroying wildlife and vegetation. The fish and birds may be at greater risk to lead poisoning from excessive, non-hunting shooting practices. Local residents have to listen to weapons being discharged up to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We have no relief from the noise pollution. Many residents and outdoor enthusiasts avoid using the area in fear for their safety.

I ask you to reject this legislation. There are alternative solutions such as writing a new, non-biased bill or creating a Knik River Valley State Recreation Area. A State Recreation Area (SRA) under AS 41.21 will accommodate all user groups, support effective law enforcement, provide for a public planning process, and abide by the Susitna Area Plan. Two groups in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley already exist to help assist with the development of a SRA. This includes a state park Citizen's Advisory Board comprised of multi-users and The Friends of States Parks that provides supplemental park funding.

Thank you.

**Carrie A. Gray Wolfe**  
HC02 Box 7686-J  
Palmer, Alaska 99645  
Telephone: (907) 746-8008  
Email: graywolfe@gci.net

Below is a letter to the editor submitted by Carrie A. Gray Wolfe to the Anchorage Daily News, Wednesday, March 15, 2006. The letter is in reference to the ongoing dispute over HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A.

## Letters from

### **New medical center should remember it is still competing**

The new Mat-Su Regional Medical Center is up and running. While some people may have glowing, loving stories to tell of the place, I recently ended up there, and while it is only 10 minutes away from my home, I discovered that it's still run by the administration that ran Valley Hospital. I'll resume driving right past it and into Anchorage for my family's hospital needs unless weather or extreme emergency requires I end up there instead, but I will transfer to Anchorage as soon as possible.

The medical center needs to remember that it's in competition with two hospitals in Anchorage that appear to direct their care to repeat business. The staff at Valley are nice people, but the procedures that govern what they do leave patients who want a choice in their care having to go to Anchorage. Flexibility where it won't harm the patient or significantly run up costs should be their standard. If TriCare truly cares about the Valley, they will find a way to work with their patients and not make us go to Anchorage to be treated like paying customers.

I volunteer for one of Anchorage's hospitals and take my business and very large family to both Anchorage hospitals every year. That's a lot of time and a lot of money that could be more easily spent at home.

— Kellie Coulson Davis  
Wasilla

### **Knik River area needs some new legislation regarding use**

Who are the people in your neighborhood? My "neighborhood" is bombarded with unrestricted gunfire, car explosions, vandalism and theft. Wouldn't you like to be my neighbor? It sounds as if I'm living in a war zone. But I live in the Knik River

Valley. Legislation (House Bill 307 and Senate Bill 197) supporting a Knik River Public Use Area fails to adequately address problems faced by local residents. The legislation neglects to address law enforcement planning and funding, public safety issues, incompatible recreational uses, and the protection of critical wildlife habitats. Mike Erickson said in a Compass piece last month that more laws are needed ("Curbing Knik ATV access is no solution," Feb. 9).

What good are more laws without law enforcement? Erickson believes this legislation "preserves equal access to all." Not so. Many local residents avoid the area out of fear and disgust. I resent his implied message that most Alaskans access and enjoy recreation using motorized vehicles. Hiking, canoeing and skiing are a few nonmotorized ways Alaskans enjoy outdoor recreation.

Local residents have to live daily with the consequences of recreational activities in the Knik River Valley. The adverse effects of unrestricted use affect all outdoor enthusiasts. Let's encourage our legislators to write new legislation and not keep the status quo.

— Carrie Gray Wolfe  
Palmer

Editor's Note: This writer is an ex-member of the Knik River Watershed Group steering committee. The views here are her own.

### **Tax exemption bill welcomed as relief for strapped seniors**

Thank you to Rep. Vic Kohring for his support of seniors and disabled vets. His House Bill 299, if passed, will increase the current tax exemption from the first \$150,000 of property value to \$250,000 in value. As property values have increased substantially each year, this bill will help alleviate increased hardship from taxation for those in our community who have

**SUBJECT: Disturbance to Swans in the Knik River Watershed**  
Page 2

**Nesting Swan Disturbance**

Six of the seven pairs of trumpeter swans and their broods in the KRW in 2005 were continually disturbed during the latter part of the summer and fall by numerous encounters from operators of boats and ATCs pursuing recreational activities. The impairment or harm to the swans by the motorized disturbance is, as follows: (1) Swan families that were forced out of their traditional nesting habitat walked one or more miles to an adjoining lake to obtain relief which was not forthcoming; (2) Swans showed up missing and were assumed to be killed as they were never found on succeeding surveys; (3) Frequent disturbance in the summer months interrupts the swans ability to properly feed and rear the cygnets so that they will be fully developed and capable of flight during the fall migration; (4) The swan pairs which had a mate killed is destroying a life-long bond that results in instability in maintaining swan populations; (5) Six of the seven nesting pairs of swans and their broods were being disturbed to a level beyond sustainability for the swans to successfully raise a healthy brood of cygnets in the Knik River Valley in 2005; (6) The trumpeter swan has been placed on Audubon Alaska's Bird Watchlist in December 2005. It is already on the National Audubon Watchlist, as several hundred trumpeters are dying of lead poisoning each year on their wintering grounds in Washington and southern British Columbia. We don't need additional problems affecting the swans in Alaska; and (7) We are educating Alaskans that this irresponsible and misplaced use of motorized recreational vehicles is an acceptable practice as there are no management plans or guidelines for use of ORVs and boats on this State land.

**Recommendation**

First and foremost a recreational management plan is needed. The plan must address the swan disturbance issues and place in the plan safeguards and protections so that the migrating and nesting swans can use the habitat in the KRW without the overwhelming disturbance from motorized use. Once the plan has been approved, it will be absolutely necessary to have in place conservation officers to ensure that the approved plan is implemented to the fullest.

**Memorandum Prepared By**

William A. (Bill) Quirk, III Pilot / Biologist  
P.O. Box 212545  
Anchorage, AK 99521

Tel. (907) 333-7840

## MEMORANDUM

**SUBJECT: Swan Disturbance in the Knik River Watershed**

February 20, 2006

### Introduction

Thirty (30) comprehensive aerial surveys were flown in the spring, summer, and fall of 2005 to monitor the trumpeter swans in the Knik River Watershed (KRW). The surveys include the important Jim Creek Basin (JCB) where 22 lakes and numerous ponds are located in a wetland environment. Jim Creek empties into the lower Knik River 2 miles southeast of the Butte community. The aerial survey data was recorded in tables and reports were written to document swan temporal and spatial distribution, nesting success, disturbance to the swans, and other factors. The swans returned to Southcentral Alaska from their wintering grounds on April 7, 2005. Several hundred swans use the lakes in the JCB as a staging area during the spring and fall migration periods in April / May and again in September / October. An aerial survey conducted on October 27, 2004 showed a total of five hundred twenty-eight (528) swans using the JCB. The summer surveys showed a maximum number of nine (9) pairs of swans nesting in the KRW in 2005. Non nesting swans are found in singles, pairs, and / or flocks in the JCB. Non nesting swans averaged approximately fifteen (15) birds in 2005.

### Migrating Swan Disturbance

Swans arriving in Southcentral Alaska in early April seek out the JCB as it usually has the only open water at this time of the year. The open water in early spring is due to the thermal effects on the south slopes of the nearby Chugach Mountains that create warm springs that flow into the lakes. The first open water areas show up as small openings in the ice on the northern end of Mud and Jim Lakes. The swans that use these open water areas in early spring are constantly being disturbed by recreational vehicles (usually trucks) driving the Rippy Trail and parking near the shoreline of the lakes. Activities such as target practicing with rifles or pistols and fireworks displays immediately displace the swans by driving them off the open water. They often relocate on the ice of one of the nearby lakes.

The swans are also being disturbed by motorized recreational vehicles during the latter part of the spring migration period, e.g., in May, after the ice on the lakes has melted. The swans on the lakes are disturbed by air and motor boats that approach the swans at too close a range, by making too much noise at close range, or by traveling too fast in close proximity of the swans. All-Terrain Cycles (ATCs) drive through wetlands in the JCB to lakes where swans are present. Large numbers of ATCs highly disturb the swans.

The swans are frequently disturbed in September and October when large numbers of air and motor boats are frequenting the lakes in the JCB. Swans up to a hundred or more that were displaced from the JCB have been observed on naked gravel bars (no food) along the nearby braided Knik River during the fall migration period.

Representative Jay Ramras  
House Resources Committee  
State of Alaska  
Juneau, Alaska

**SUBJECT: Kill House Bill 307**

March 25, 2006

This refers to HB 307 and the redrafted version CS HB 307A. This introduced Bill including the redrafted version, 307A, will not provide the necessary tools for the State to draft a management plan that will ensure protection of area residents from noise, dust, and dangerous firing of firearms. The plan will not be able to restrict motorized vehicles from cutting and destroying valuable wetlands in the Jim Creek Basin. In addition, the plan will not be sufficient to reduce the high level of motorized disturbance and harassment of wildlife in the Knik River Watershed. The latter is contributing to a deteriorating condition for waterfowl and moose in the rich wetland habitat in the Jim Creek Basin. Attached is a Memorandum (dated February 20, 2006) entitled 'Swan Disturbance in the Knik River Watershed' which clearly shows that nesting trumpeter swans and their cygnets are being disturbed by motorized boats (including air boats and motor boats) and all-terrain cycles (ATCs) to a level that is beyond sustainability for the swans to raise a healthy brood of young in the Knik River Watershed.

Recommendation is to kill HB 307 since it is inadequate to deal with current problems and protection of the wildlife resources in the Knik River Watershed. In lieu of HB 307, I am recommending support of the Knik River Valley State Recreation Area under AS 41.21. This would be a much better way to provide a sufficient management plan for the Knik River Watershed and the conservation officers needed to enforce the plan.

William A. Quirk, III Pilot / Biologist  
P.O. Box 212545  
Anchorage, Alaska 99521

Tel (907) 333-7840

PO Box 766  
Talkeetna, AK 99676  
March 25, 2006

Representative Jay Ramras, Co-Chair, House Resources  
Alaska State House of Representatives

Dear Representative Ramras:

This letter regards HB 307, an Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area. I am a member of the Mat-Su State Parks Citizen's Advisory Board, but I am commenting as an individual.

In late 2005, the Advisory Board saw presentations by the Knik Watershed Group and by Todd Clark, President of the Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance regarding the future of the Knik River Watershed and draft legislation creating the Public Use Area (PUA). Both presentations were quite informative. Both views were different, but not incompatible. Legislation can and should respect both views.

The current HB 307 is an improvement over earlier versions, but there is further to go if all user groups are to be treated fairly and if the qualities and values of the area are to be preserved over time.

Here are specific changes to HB 307 that I urge you to incorporate into the bill.

Page 1, line 14, after the word *vehicle*, insert "*and non-motorized recreation determined to be compatible with (1) and (2) of this section*" and delete the word *opportunities*. So, starting on line 13, (3) would read "Provide for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses including off-road vehicle and non-motorized recreation determined to be compatible with (1) and (2) of this section." This accommodates all user groups equally and provides for the sustainability of the important fish and wildlife resources of the area.

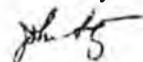
Page 2, line 7: In addition to public hearings, there should be an option for public meetings and/or informational workshops. And, I think the legislation should contemplate the establishment of a citizen's advisory oversight board, representing various perspectives and experience

Section 200, (d) (1), page 3, line 6 should have a clause that ensures consistency of these activities with the overall purpose of the PUA. Without a compatibility caveat, the use of the area would be unmanageable, to the detriment of the resource, some user groups, or both.

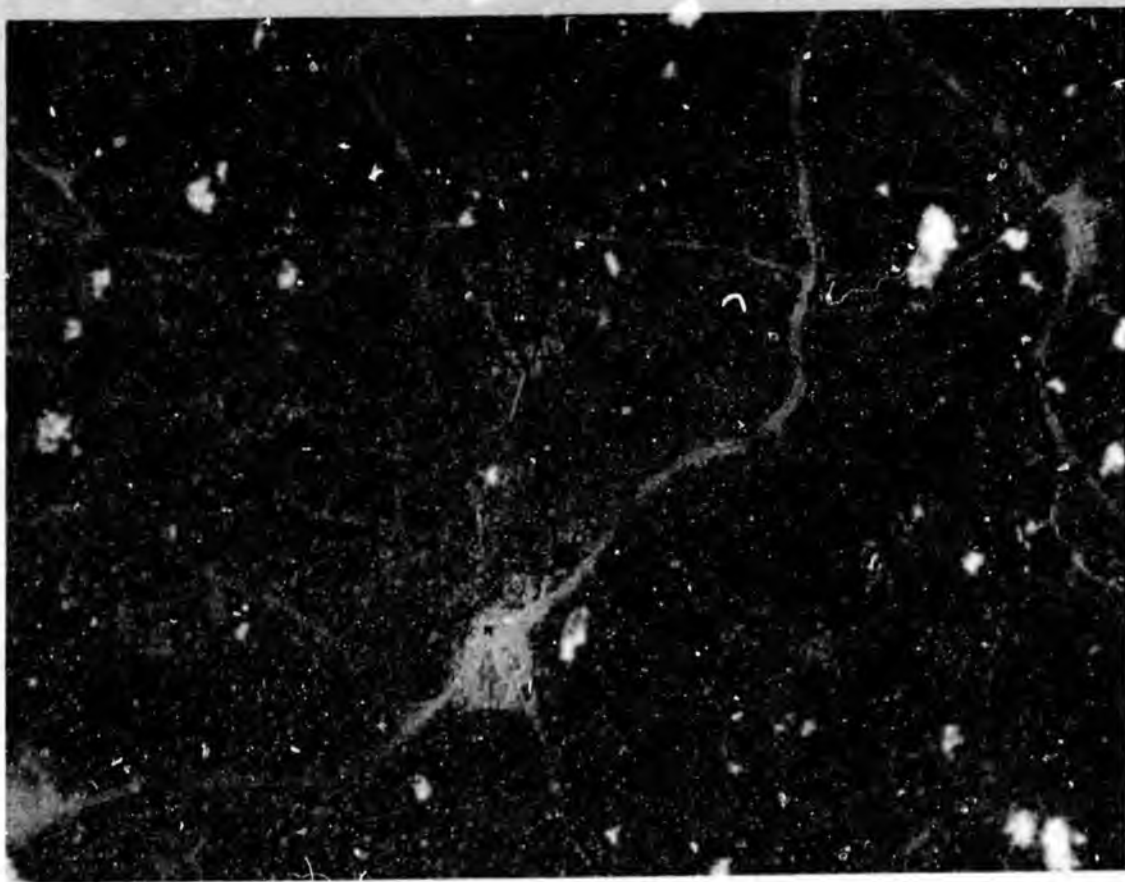
Section 200, (d) (2), page 3, lines 11-16. This is an unclear provision that appears to give motorized use priority over both non-motorized use and the integrity of the natural resource values of the area, and it hampers the planning process. Legislation should be clear in its statements, internally consistent, and not preclude proper planning in the public interest. Hence, (d) (2), lines 11-16 should be deleted.

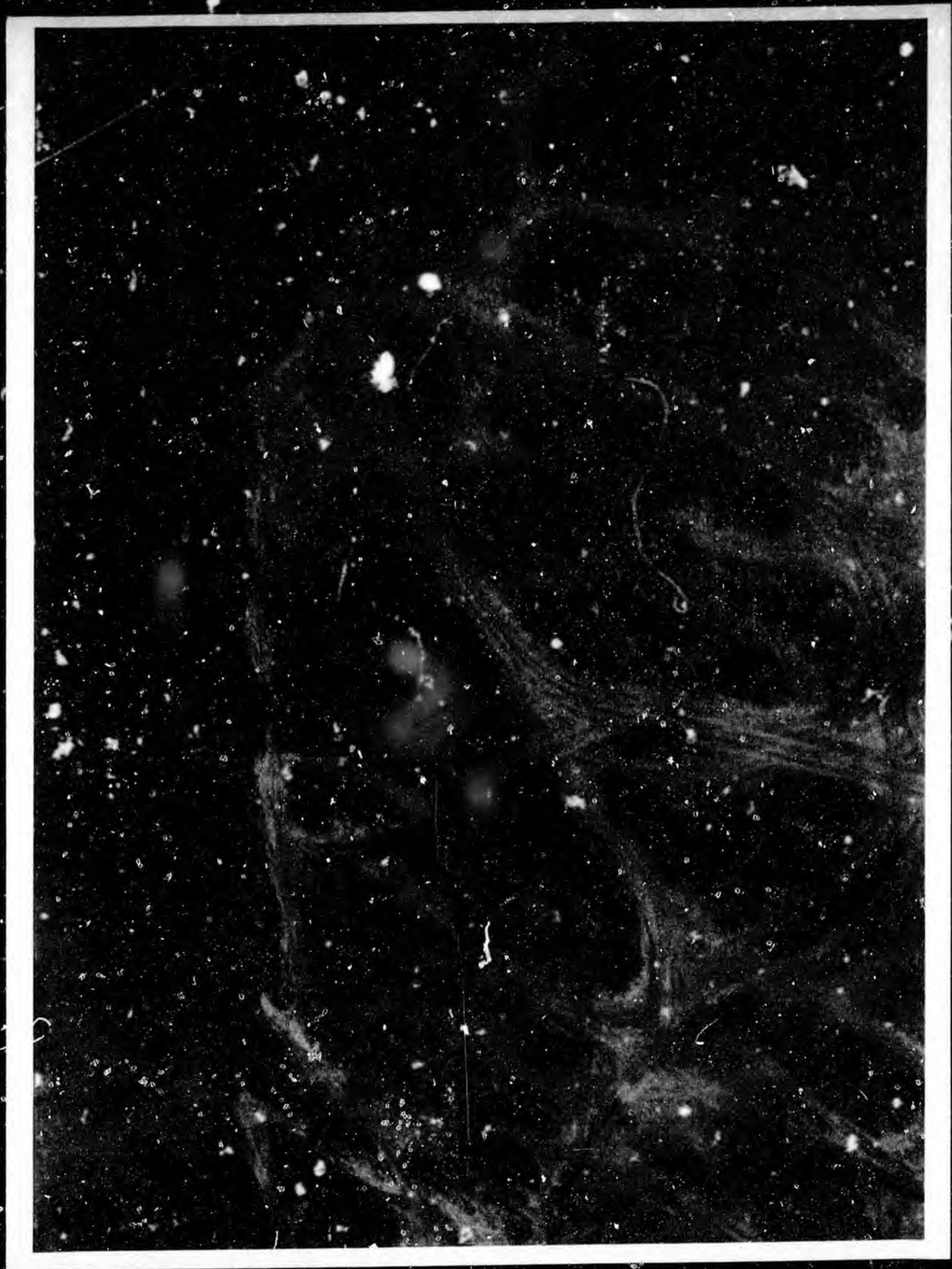
Enforcement is important, and section 210 should include language that directs the commissioners of Public Safety, F&G, and other regulatory agencies to enforce the law in the PUA.

Sincerely,



John Strassenburgh









Yellow = ORV trails

Red = road, Red E. of Mud Lk. (r. square) = Maude Rd. extension

White = Middle of Sec, 22 and extent of old logging trails

Turquoise = What is left of Rippy Trail

Blue = Friday Cr. Trails – so far, singletrack

(note- the turquoise line beyond Chain Lks. Is not a mistake - ATVs have been hauled in by air boat)

This is a rough line drawn graphic representation from my knowledge of these trails and is not a GPS map! Use at your own risk.

The Rippy portion of ad-hoc ORV traffic was single track only from White box to approximately the Friday Creek airstrip prior to the Maude Rd. Extension project.

This, along with other documentation, gives you overview about what is happening to the Jim/Swan Wetlands with no Management or adequate Law Enforcement.

Other documentation and photos available by request.

**Emily Stancliff**

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**From:** The Halls [dabbhall@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2006 9:36 AM  
**To:** Rep. Jay Ramras  
**Subject:** HB 307

Representative Ramras,

I understand that there is a teleconference this afternoon regarding the Knik Watershed public land use bill (307) that Rep. Stoltze drafted. Simply put I support his bill in its original draft in that it offers a wide array of public use for all users.

The Jim Creek region of the Knik is unique in that it can accommodate foot traffic, wheeled vehicles and even aircraft for recreation and hunting. Leave this jewel of recreation for all of the people for all of our uses.

William Hall

**Emily Stancliff**

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**From:** Peter M. Probasco [maryann@mtaonline.net]

**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2006 8:19 AM

**To:** Rep. Jay Ramras

**Subject:** HB 307-Knik River Public Use Area

Representative Ramras: I would like to express my strongest support for HB 307. This a very good bill of great importance. Please share my E-mail message with all of the members of the House Resource Committee. Thankyou. Peter M Probasco PO Box 861 Palmer, Alaska 99645. (907)745-3182

3/27/2006

**Emily Stancliff**

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**From:** Ellis [rgellis@gci.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2006 7:18 AM  
**To:** Rep. Jay Ramras  
**Subject:** HB 307

Dear Mr. Ramras,

As President of the Alaska Frontier Trappers Association, I have been asked to send you this letter in support of HB 307, Knik River Public Use Area.

I represent over fifty trappers that are strongly in support of this bill before you. We feel that public use areas are extremely critical, especially to trappers and should always include the provision for ORV useage.

Thank you for your time.

Rick C. Eliis  
President AFTA

## Emily Stancliff

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**From:** Mapmakers Alaska [BritLively@MapmakersAlaska.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2006 2:04 AM  
**To:** Rep. Jay Ramras  
**Subject:** HB 307 - jim creek area

I'd be glad to help with the Jim Creek campaign.  
Attaching my name is fine with me.

Here goes:

I am a former instructor with UAA's Outdoor Program.

We used to take our Winter Survival students to the Jim Lake/Mud Lake areas for overnight outings. But frequently (at least 3 times) our classes would encounter the sounds of late-night hooting and hollering combined with high-powered rifle fire.

Usually this activity occurred from the Mud Lake parking lot and often we found discarded beer and hard liquor containers there the next morning. We stopped taking our classes to the Jim Lake area. We were concerned about getting shot and we were concerned about the vehicles we left in the parking lot.

James Larabee

--- Carrie Wang <carriewang@yahoo.com> wrote:

> hi james,  
> i haven't had a chance to look at your photos, but i look forward to  
> it.  
>  
> i'm emailing because i was wondering if you recalled our  
> conversation about the jim creek area, at our last get together. i was  
> also wondering if you would be willing to write (very brief) about  
> what you described to me (how you used to take uaa students out there  
> and the shooting, etc). you can just email me or brit lively at  
> resource@buttealaska.org . if you don't want your name attached please  
> say so. your testimony would be very much appreciated!  
>  
> thanks!  
> carrie  
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**Emily Stancliff**

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**From:** Cliff Judkins [cjudkins@mtaonline.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 27, 2006 12:11 AM  
**To:** Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Ralph Samuels; Rep. Jim Elkins  
**Subject:** HB 307

Dear Co-Chairs Rep Ramras and Samuels and Members House Resources Committee, I am writing to you as the President of the Alaska Boating Association to urge you to pass HB 307 to create the Knik River Public Use Area. The Knik River Drainage has been used for many years by motorized outdoor recreationists. It is not unusual to see several hundred families and groups using the Knik River, the Jim Creek Lake System and the many 4wheeler trails in the valley on any summer week end. Airboaters have used the River to take family, friends and visitors to get an up close look at the Knik Glacier and to fish and hunt in the Jim Creek Lakes System and the Knik River. The earliest documented use by airboats of Jim Creek that I can find was 1943 by the Pudicomb family of Palmer. They used the area for hunting and fishing. This area is ideally located to accommodate the thousands of Anchorage and Valley motorized recreationists looking for a place close by to go for the day or the week end. There is continual use of the gravel and sand bars, 4wheeler trails and water ways by hundreds of people every week end. Where else can they go? There are thousands of motorized recreationists within fifty miles of the Knik River. They need a location that they know they will not be shut out of by groups that do not like their chosen method of recreating. HB 307 will assure the traditional uses of the Knik River drainage will be protected. Cliff Judkins, President, Alaska Boating Association.

**Emily Stancliff**

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**From:** Cliff Judkins [cjudkins@mtaonline.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2006 11:38 PM  
**To:** Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Ralph Samuels; Rep. Gabrielle LeDoux; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Mary Kapsner;  
Rep. Jim Elkins; Rep. Kurt Olson  
**Subject:** HB 307

Reps Jay Ramaras and Ralph Samuels Co-Chairs House Resources Committee and members-- The Alaska Boating Association appreciates your efforts to help outdoor enthusiasts protect their use of the Knik River drainage. This area has a long history of use by motorized outdoor recreationists. It is a great place to take friends and visitors for a close up look at the Knik Glacier. When I first began airboating the Jim Creek lake and slough system is where I learned to operate my boat. I have observed hundreds of families enjoying the river banks gravel and sand bars and the many 4 wheeler trails in the area. The earliest airboat use of the Jim Creek Lakes system that I have been able to document was by the Pudicombe family of Palmer in 1943. They used the area for duck hunting and fishing. I have harvested moose, silver salmon and Dolly Varden from the waters of Jim Creek. There are thousands of 4wheelers in the Anchorage/Mat Valley area and this is the only place that they have close by to use their machines. The area is a good alternative to the use of Highway Row's which produces constant complaints by adjacent residents and highway users due to the dust, noise and safety hazard involved. HB 307 will help to protect the existing uses and hopefully help to curtail the misuse and abuse that goes on along the River.

Again thank you for all of your hard work on this important legislation. Cliff Judkins, President, Alaska Boating Association

**Emily Stancliff**

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**From:** Kim Bergey [blossoms@mtaonline.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2006 10:57 PM  
**To:** Rep. Jay Ramras  
**Cc:** Rep.Bill.Stoltze[Representative\_Bill\_Stoltze@legis.state.ak.us]  
**Subject:** Knik River Public Use Area

Rep Ramras

I was told you are the chairman of the committee conducting hearings on HB 307. I am a resident of the Butte and I live next to one of the heaviest atv traffic areas. I have two concerns with the proposed legislation.

It is very important not to limit law enforcement in the area. We should not limit ourselves to only AST as the only law enforcement agency which can have jurisdiction in the area. It would be tragic if all the work that has gone into the area in terms of law enforcement be undone because AST redeployed and no longer had the manpower to service the area and no other agency is allowed fill the void.

The wording of the bill implies that the state currently has facilities in the area when it mentions picnic areas, boat launches etc. There are no such facilities on state land and very limited in the area in general. I read wording which states the commissioner can limit activities in these areas, but I read nothing about the commissioner being able designate any areas for the above mentioned purposes. The commissioner needs to have the mandate to propose areas for these facilities and seek a means to fund them.

Thank you for reading my comments.

Thomas Bergey  
Butte resident

**Emily Stancliff**

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**From:** robert biehl [akbiehl@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2006 10:53 PM  
**To:** Rep. Jay Ramras  
**Subject:** HB 307

I am in full support of HB 307. Robert T Biehl

**Emily Stancliff**

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**From:** Ben Milam [whiskers@mtaonline.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2006 10:28 PM  
**To:** Rep. Jay Ramras  
**Subject:** HB 307, Knik River Public Use Area

Dear Representative Ramras:

It is my understanding that you currently have before you HB 307, Knik River Public Use Area.

I fully support this as a multi-use recreational area, however the bill needs some strong language to prevent the abuse currently going on.

I live fairly close to this area and every year our community hauls approximately 20 burned and abandoned automobiles and countless loads of garbage from this area. All of this is left by those that claim it as an Off Road Vehicle area. The hikers and horse people have an equal right to use this area without being subjected to this kind of abuse.

This is probably one of the best ORV areas in the Valley, but there has to be something done to prevent the abuse.

Ben R Milam

907-746-4411

3/27/2006

**Emily Stancliff**

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**From:** Cherie Kajdan [crk@mtaonline.net]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2006 8:55 PM  
**To:** Rep. Jay Ramras  
**Subject:** HB 307

Freedom to enjoy the outdoors in Alaska, including a subsistence lifestyle, is a major reason why i have lived in Alaska for 30 years. I believe the State's constitution provides for equal access to public resources, including the land. Use of off-road vehicles can be regulated to protect the resource and so those who enjoy this life-style and may be physically impaired can continue to use this resource.

Thanks for your time.

Cheryl R. Kajdan  
4250 Birch Forest Dr.  
Palmer, AK 99645

907-745-5075

crk@mtaonline.net

**Emily Stancliff**

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**From:** Denny Hamann [loriann@mtaonline.net]

**Sent:** Sunday, March 26, 2006 9:36 AM

**To:** Rep. Jay Ramras; Rep. Ralph Samuels; Rep. Jim Elkins; Rep. Carl Gatto; Rep. Gabriella LeDoux; Rep. Kurt Olson; Rep. Paul Sealon; Rep. Harry Crawford; Rep. Mary Kapsner

**Subject:** HB 307

Hello,

My name is Denny Hamann and I am a life long resident of the Palmer area .My grandparents were part of the colonist crowd that came up in 1935.Needless to say I've spent lots of time in the Knik river area enjoying many different activities. I believe that HB 307 is a great bill and should be passed. In these past few years it has been a real disappointment to see the area being used for a dumping ground for stolen cars and the lack of any real enforcement in the area hasn't helped. I feel that the legitimate recreational users need to take this area back so all of us can enjoy it's opportunities. Thanks in advance for your consideration.

Denny Hamann  
1200 Oat St.  
Wasilla,AK. 99654