

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES, 2003-2006 00/2

11578 HOUSE RESOURCES

From: Wolf Song of Alaska [wolfson@alaska.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2006 8:26 PM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: "For HB 307 Hearing - Please distribute to Resources Committee Members."
Importance: High

"For HB 307 Hearing - Please distribute to Resources Committee Members."

Representative Jay Ramras,

We sincerely and emphatically urge you to reject HB 307 and the redrafted version CS HB307A .

As residents of the Eklutna/Thunderbird Falls area, we make frequent recreational and other personal trips to the Knik River Public Use Area. It is a beautiful area, truly representative of the Alaskan experience, but it is an area that constantly requires and demands strong and controlled management, law enforcement and development regulations, and an area that must be preserved in the best interests of all residents, not only those who represent the negative or self-serving aspects of special recreational groups, interests and agendas.

Unfortunately, as a resident of the surrounding area for 30 years, I am appalled by the lawlessness and disrespect for property and common areas demonstrated by many of the special interest users of the Knik River Public Use Area. Simply stated, it can often be "outright scary" to visit the area during certain hours of the day, as well as certain days of the week. These fears, real or imagined, combined with the outright disrespect for nature and the surrounding environment is despicable.

Please reverse the increasing negative reputation of the Knik River Public Use Area, by rejecting HB 307 and the redrafted version CS HB307A, and pursuing only positive and alternative goals and objectives for "all" users.

Please do not make any decisions that will be regretted in the future.

Tom and Maria Talasz
27831 Raven Court
Chugiak AK 99567

(This is a personal response, with no affiliation to Wolf Song of Alaska)

Testimony re CS for House Bill No. 307, Resources Comm.
March 29, 2006

My name is Loren Karro. I live at 8 1/2 mile Knik River Road, within the boundaries of the proposed Public Use Area, and my property lies adjacent to DNR land along the river itself. I am a trapper, hiker, hunter, guide, and a former Alaska Outdoors Council member. I spend up to five days a week along the upper river, accessing it by plane, ATV, snowgo, foot, skies or snowshoes. I appreciate the efforts of the legislature in reviewing the Knik River Public Use Area proposal. I know that something needs to be done to protect the wildlife, habitat and scenic beauty, as well as the peace and safety of the local residents and recreationalists. I no longer feel safe accessing the north side of the river, nor do I enjoy it in light of the trash, noise, illegal activities and severe habitat degradation that I encounter.

I believe that with some changes, the proposed bill can be a start to a better, safer management of the Knik River watershed. The problems that need to be addressed fall into two categories; one of damage to the physical area by over or improper use, with the inherent effects this has on fish, wildlife and flora; and the second problem of safety to users and residents caused by illegal activities such as unsafe firearm use, camp and bonfires during dry and restricted periods, unsafe vehicle operation, and theft and disposal of vehicles. Obviously these problems overlap, with unsafe practices degrading the environment and environmental damage creating unsafe conditions.

This month the South Knik River Community Council voted to oppose this bill as currently written. Obviously, the majority of my neighbors feel as I do that certain changes need to be made so that the resulting Public Use Area is managed for true multiple use while keeping wildlife and residents safe. **First**, I would like to see non-motorized, quiet use specifically included in the purpose of the PUA, such as in 41.23.18 (3). **Second**, the Management section of the bill (41.23.19 (a)) should specifically mandate that workshops be held, that a citizen's advisory board be created, and that DNR be the manager of the area.

Third, section 41.23.30 (d) (1) needs to have the phrase "as deemed compatible with determined purposes and goals" added before the list of included activities.

Fourth, and most important, paragraph (d) (2) of that same section should be eliminated. ATV and off road vehicle use is already guaranteed in two sections of the bill (41.23.18 (3) and section 41.2320 (d) (1). This section ties the hands of every agency and may preclude management of the area to "perpetuate and enhance public enjoyment of fish and wildlife" and "protect and maintain migratory waterfowl nesting area... [and wildlife] habitats....so that traditional public use of fish and wildlife populations may continue" as directed in section 1 of the bill.

Lastly, this bill needs to contain language specifically directing the commissioners of the various agencies having law enforcement powers within the MUA to enforce the existing laws. I hope that some funds would be available to allow increased law enforcement and patrol. I was personally endangered by unsafe target shooting as recently as earlier this week, while checking my trapline.

I appreciate your time and efforts at promoting the best possible bill to deal with these problems. This is a beautiful area, rich in wildlife and flora, which many of us have been quietly enjoying from our windows as well as in more energetic pursuits. While I enjoyed the sight of a dozen extra swans suddenly moving over to "our" side's swamp habitat last summer, I was saddened to realize that they had been driven out of the Jim Creek area during their nesting time.

Loren J Karro
26239 E Buckshot Ln
Palmer, AK 99645
907-745-3712

Representative_Jay_Ramras@legis.state.ak.us, 3/28/06 8:26 PM -0900, "For HB 307 Heari

1

To: Representative_Jay_Ramras@legis.state.ak.us
From: <wolfsong@alaska.com>
Subject: "For HB 307 Hearing - Please distribute to Resources
Committee Members."
Cc:
Bcc:
Attachments:

"For HB 307 Hearing - Please distribute to Resources Committee Members."

Representative Jay Ramras,

We sincerely and emphatically urge you to reject HB 307 and the redrafted version CS HB307A .

As residents of the Eklutna/Thunderbird Falls area, we make frequent recreational and other personal trips to the Knik River Public Use Area. It is a beautiful area, truly representative of the Alaskan experience, but it is an area that constantly requires and demands strong and controlled management, law enforcement and development regulations, and an area that must be preserved in the best interests of all residents, not only those who represent the negative or self-serving aspects of special recreational groups, interests and agendas.

Unfortunately, as a resident of the surrounding area for 30 years, I am appalled by the lawlessness and disrespect for property and common areas demonstrated by many of the special interest users of the Knik River Public Use Area. Simply stated, it can often be "outright scary" to visit the area during certain hours of the day, as well as certain days of the week. These fears, real or imagined, combined with the outright disrespect for nature and the surrounding environment is despicable.

Please reverse the increasing negative reputation of the Knik River Public Use Area, by rejecting HB 307 and the redrafted version CS HB307A, and pursuing only positive and alternative goals and objectives for "all" users.

Please do not make any decisions that will be regretted in the future.

1

Representative_Jay_Ramras@legis.state.ak.us, 3/28/06 8:26 PM -0900, "For HB 307 Heari

2

Tom and Maria Talasz
27831 Raven Court
Chugiak AK 99567

March 28, 2006

TO: House Resources Committee members
FROM: Frankie Barker, Chickaloon, Alaska
RE: **HB 307." An Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area"**

I am in support of efforts to increase the ability of the public to enjoy the Knik River area since the recreational, scenic and wildlife qualities of this area are exceptional. However, I don't believe that HB 307, as written, will improve the public's recreational opportunities or protect the land and water because it will codify the existing uses, some of which have badly damaged the area and have caused serious public safety hazards.

The greatest needs in the Knik River area are for **enforcement** of existing wildlife protection and public safety regulations and a thorough **planning** process to balance recreational uses with the environmental conditions.

HB 307, by creating a Public Use Area, preempts any planning process and establishes uses without any study of the area. It is overly biased towards motorized recreation and does not recognize or suggest enhancements for the special areas that are most suitable for non-motorized activity and wildlife migration, habitat and breeding areas. This bill, as written will restrict future managers from identifying appropriate land uses and protecting areas that are not compatible with the current uses

If HB 307 does go forward from your committee, I hope you will at least amend the language to be more inclusive of all users and to provide better options for future management and enforcement of the area. Why not allow an option for state park management through designation as a State Recreation Area, since state parks has the most experience with multiuse recreational areas?

The Knik River area has the potential to be a world-class recreational destination for all kinds of users, but unless state resources are dedicated soon for planning and enforcement, the opportunity will be lost. The State of Alaska is the dominant landowner in the area and has neglected its duty to protect the resources and provide for safe public enjoyment.

I hope you will act in this legislative session to amend HB307 or create alternative legislation that will correct this situation.

Frankie Barker, P.O. Box 1212, Chickaloon, Alaska 99674, fbarker@ak.net



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, dated 3/28/06
Bill/Subject

Signed: See attached AGNES Quaas
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

Please enter into the record my testimony to the **Resources Committee** on House Bill 307, March 28, 2006.

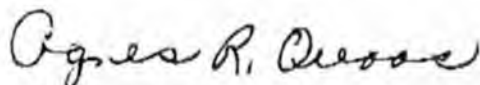
I am opposed to HB 307 the way it is written.

I was not happy that on March 27, 2006 that your committee had no time to listen to the testimony of the local residents, but you had time to listen to the President of the Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance which in my understanding Representative Stoltze is a board member of. The AOAA guy does not even live in the area and all he wants is a place for him and his macho buddies to have a place to play. I am a resident of the surrounding area.

A misrepresentation is being given that this is a complete rural area, which it is not. Much of it is bordered by private residents and this activity spills over into the private property and affects their residence immensely. In order to access this area they are crossing private property. When told that they are on private property they either threaten to shoot the property owner or tell them to move if they don't like it.

This Bill and the revision the way it is written provides only minimal enforcement. Without enough enforcement any words about protecting wildlife and people is nothing but lip service. When we call the troopers about burning cars, irresponsible shooting or other things we are told that they don't have a vehicle to get in there. Nothing is really being done to address the illegal hunting, poaching and people on their ATVs or Trucks riding up and down the creeks and streams and lakes. Nesting and migrating swans have been and are being driven off their nesting area. When the salmon are spawning ATV riders are trying to run them over to see how many they can get. Bodenbug Creek is a salmon protected creek and signs have been put up to show where the designated crossings are and they are destroyed and taken away in less than a week. The bank is so eroded that the water now reaches the Old Glen Highway. The no shooting signs the state put up along the side of the Old Glen and posters presenting safe shooting have been painted over and shot full of holes. If there is no problem as these people claim, why is the National Guard hauling out over a hundred trashed cars every year and why is tons of trash being taken out by clean up groups? Excessive shooting is lead poisoning the land and water. Reckless shooting is endangering residents and visitors. How long before an innocent bystander is shot and killed?

As this is a popular, easy to access location, the increased use has and is seriously overloading the area. The damage being done with the willy-nilly use will take Mother Nature centuries to repair. Mr. Arno stated there is no problem with the salmon runs, but by the time the problem can be seen it will be too late. With what is going on and the habitat being destroyed, there will probably be no hunting or fishing within 20 years. It's not in Rep. Stoltze's backyard as he is from the Municipality of Anchorage where all this has been banned because of the mayhem and destruction that was taking place there. All we are is a playground for the Anchorage area. People from Anchorage often boast that they can go out to the Knik River area and they can do anything and everything they want as there are no rules or regulations or law enforcement. Thank you for reading my testimony



Agnes R. Quaas
(South Knik River Resident)
21550 E. Arnold Cir
Palmer, Alaska 99645
746-6414



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, dated 3/28/06
Bill/Subject

Signed: see attached ARTHUR QUAS
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

Address

Phone number

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Resources Committee on House Bill 307, March 28, 2006.

I am opposed to **HB 307** the way it is written

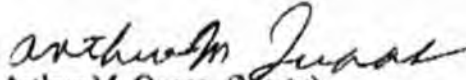
I was greatly disappointed on March 27, 2006 that your committee had no time to listen to the testimony of any of the local residents. I did however have the opportunity to listen to the hearing where you allowed the Alaska Access Alliance President to testify as he was in Juneau.

While there is little private land within the proposed public use area, there is a lot of private land bordering the area, mostly in the Bordenburgh Butte area and along the Knik River Road. At a rough estimate, I would say that 18 miles of residents border this area. Where private land is between roads and public lands, trespassing is rampant. These easy to reach access points is where most of the activities such as camping, ATV riding, partying and shooting take place at all hours of the day or night. Unfortunately these activities do not remain on the public lands, but carry over back onto the private lands. The sounds of shooting can be heard and it carries for several miles not to say anything of the bullets. Tax paying residents are woken out bed often in the wee hours by the sounds of shooting, at times by automatic weapons. Residents who have lived there for 20, 30, 40 years and longer can not get a good nights sleep and when they ask the shooters to please keep it quiet are told "If you don't like it, move". ATV riders do not remain off the public roads, often with little respect for residents or highway vehicles. Trespassers on private land will challenge the property owner to prove they own the land with "show me your deed".

The outdoor people while they say they are willing to compromise, they have not made any compromises or have they made any serious efforts to create any rules to limit their activities. Some simple gestures such as quiet hours, limiting shooting near residential areas, not riding ATV's on roads or private lands would be a start.

The residents simply want this curse to simply go away and their simple solution is to close the area down. Some local residents also feel that this area is in their back yard and that they should have access to it with no compromises, the heck with their neighbors. Residents should also be entitled to the safety, peace and quiet that they enjoyed just a few years in the past, as any resident living anywhere in Alaska is entitled to enjoy.

In it's present form, HB 307 sacrifices the rights of the local residents to favor the out door activities. The rewrite only moved the wording around and in no way changed any meaning. One the first and without a doubt most important items that must be addressed is serious enforcement. Unfortunately, the promoters of this bill are also intimately involved with the Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance and I do not feel that they are really listening to the entire story. Please listen to the residents who are finding themselves crying in the dark while their neighborhood is being over run by jerks


Arthur M. Quaas (Marty)
(South Knik River Resident)
21550 E. Arnold Cir
Palmer, Alaska 99645
746-6414



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 An Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area dated 3/28/2006
Bill/Subject

The Knik River Area is a great recreational Area currently open to all. Creating this as a Public Use area using Bill 307 sponsored by representative Bill Stoltze will keep this area as equal access to all Alaskans and Matanuska Valley Residence while still maintaining its fish and wildlife.

I have seen this area used for years by everyone, hikers, campers, fishermen, hunters, trappers, four wheelers, motorcycles, 4x4 vehicles and auboters. As a fellow female Alaskan I have done almost everyone of these activities. Giving me the opportunity to create stronger bonds with my family. Now that I have kids of my own this area has given us the ability to do more than just sit at home.

In opposition to creating the Knik River Area as a State Park or Controlled Use area it seems like a frivolous and wasteful spending of the Alaska State Parks monies and already limited resources. Our State park have closed and threatened to close Alaskas lands to access due to lack of funds. If Knik River Area is created as a State Park or Controlled Use area, there is no guarantee that this great family destination will ^{not} be targeted for closure.

Signed: Due to lack of State funding. Buffy Meyer (Buffy Meyer)
Testifier

myself and my family
Representing (Optional)

5750 N. Cunningham Rd Palmer AK 99643
Address

907 745-6252
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HOUSE RESOURCES
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 Knik River Public Use Area dated 03-27-06
Bill/Subject

I support HB 307 because we have enough parks and restrictions on public land use. I have used this area for many years in different aspects of Recreation and have caused or harmed nothing. There are some that ruin it for all, but because there are a few irresponsible people we the rest should not have to pay or suffer for this. Examples there is garbage and burned vehicles along the highway from Palmer to Seward Lake this means we should shut down the highway. People say airplanes birds subota ect. scare away animals and birds, there are many many noisy planes that leave the anchorage airport area; 1-7 jet gear and swans and other birds and animals do not flee from this nesting area, I agree there is a problem because of a few people with this area but making it a state park is very bad. The state is already closing state parks because of lack of funds which leaves this public land non usable for public use. I do believe that law enforcement of some sort should be used for people that abuse this pristine public use area

Signed: Jim Pettie James S Pettie
Testifier

Mesself and my family
Representing (Optional)

5750 CUNNINGHAM RD PALMER AK 99645
Address

907-745-4170
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 Knik River Public Use dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject Area

HB 307 is a good thing because it keeps public lands open to public use. The public enjoys the land and the wildlife.

Signed: GENE YATES 
Testifier

Myself and my family
Representing (Optional)

General Delivery Willow Ak 99688
Address

907 355 4467
Phone number

From: Ron Johnson [johnsonr@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2006 9:44 AM
To: Rep. Jay Ramras
Subject: Support HB 307

Rep. Ramaras

I strongly support the passage of HB307 assuring the continued use of ORVs in the Kink River drainage. This is a traditional use ORV area which my family and I have enjoyed for many years and hope to continue to use for years to come.

Ron Johnson
Butte
P.O. Box 249
Palmer, AK 99645

907-746-5217



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource Comm.
Committee name

Committee on 307, dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

I came here in 1935 w/ the colonists and since that time this Knik area has been used for recreation that is mentioned in this 307 bill. I am in favor of this bill. We are rapidly being restricted and I don't believe that making more restrictive is not for the best interest of our community. Yes there has been abuse but please don't restrict the majority because of the abuse of a few.

Thank you
Kent L. Sandvik

Signed: Kent L. Sandvik
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

6006 S. Backenberg, Palmer, AK
Address

907-745-3054
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Brian Winnestaffer Mat-Su
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

The Knit watershed is a beautiful place that can ~~be~~ allow for multi-uses by people. We must make sure we are representing all user groups. Some user groups cannot co-exist with other user groups in and on some trails. These sensitive areas must be addressed. A "Plan" must be made on how we all can use and enjoy our recreational areas. Motorized and non-motorized uses must be considered fairly!

Signed: [Signature]
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
Box 1105 Chickaleen AK
Address
745-7452
Phone number

→ I do not support HB 307 until it is written to represent all user groups. However, this bill is a good start.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Jessica Dryden, Mat-Su Borough
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

- 1) I support more Comprehensive Planning with all affected user groups, citizens, agencies, & concerned individuals including facilitated work sessions more than public hearings.
- 2) I support enhancing/improving ORV trails AND non-motorized trails.
- 3) I support Immediate Enforcement of rules/regulations.
- 4) I support Strong Inclusion of area residents and their 'quality of life' concerns into the Planning Process.
- 5) I support the restrictions on weapons in this area.

Signed: Jessica Dryden
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 1105, Chickaloon, AK 99674
Address

745-0737
Phone number

March 27, 2006

Senator Huggins and Representative Stoltz

I am opposed to HB307/SB197. I live in the Knik River area and the bill does not do anything to address the issues we deal with on a daily basis. During the summer months, I hear gunshots at all hours of the night. Some nights I do not fall asleep until 2 AM, and they are still shooting. They shoot across the river toward the residential side, on the south of the river.

There are no restroom facilities and this presents a huge problem. Trash and debris are left everywhere, cans and broken bottles used for target practice, McDonalds sacks and other food containers, not to mention the burned cars. Many of the users of this beautiful area show no respect for the area or the residents. ATVer's make trails anywhere and everywhere, through Salmon streams and vegetation areas that should be protected. The bill does not give us adequate enforcement in this area.

I want the area designated a State Recreation Area. That is the only way we can have the maintenance and control needed, as well as, restroom facilities, trash containers and the protection of Salmon and wetland areas and other wildlife, such as, migrating swans. It would allow for responsible motorized recreation users, with designated trails and designated places for firearms use, with enforcement of the No Shooting areas. Grandfathering of the current trails will not work.

This is a beautiful state and this is one of the most beautiful areas in the state, please don't trash it any further.

Respectfully,

Virginia Blaine

Virginia Blaine
18590 E Knik River Rd
Palmer, Alaska 99645

*Page 2
Blaine*



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____

Committee name

Committer on 307 / King River dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

I support this bill and do not wish to see this put into a park. I have used this for 35 years for recreation and hunting. I haven't seen any damage to birds for bird watchers. There isn't very much of an airplane for people to ride their machines so I support this bill

Signed: William F. Baska
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

1351 S Pioneer Dr Palmer AK 99645
Address

907 745 3051
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource Committee.
Committee name

Committee on H.B. 307, dated 03/27/06
Bill/Subject

This is to state my strongest support for H.B. 307 as drafted. This is a very good Bill that will bring some very important order to an area most important to many Alaskans. This legislation will permit continued use ~~and~~ now and in the future. It is most important that we do not allow more land to be "locked up". I compliment Rep. Stoltze for his good leadership on this Bill.

Signed: Peter M. Probasco [Signature]
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 861 Palmer Alaska 99645
Address

907-1745-3187
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, dated 27 MAR 06
Bill/Subject

I've used this area since 1952. The differences between then and now is the lack of vegetation, the ground cover is disappearing under the indiscriminate use of motorized vehicles. The insuring dust clouds are getting bigger and more frequent. Ask the people in Anchorage about their air quality. Safety is another concern, who likes to be shot at. This bill only ensures more of the same. Don't call it a public use area if all the public can't use it. Listen to the people that live there and have to put up with the misuse of a public resource

Signed: Jay Linn
Testifier

self
Representing (Optional)

PO Box 520845 Big Lake AK 99652
Address

872-7579
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the _____ Committee name

Committee on 0166 807 KUPUKA dated 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

I like the AERT and KINK RIVER FOR RECREATION
AND I DON'T THINK IT NEEDS TO BE A PARK
I HAVE USED THIS AREA SINCE 1976, I HAVE
HELP CLEAN IT UP SEVERAL TIMES
I WOULD LIKE SEE IT STAY AS A PUBLIC USE AREA,
THERE IS A LOT OF PEOPLE USING IT.

Signed: Stanley M. Carter
Testifier

SELF
Representing (Optional)

3600 BUTTE RD.
Address

746-4994
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the AK House Resource Committee
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 / CS HB 307A / Knik River dated 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

Name: Carrie A. Gray Wolfe

I am disappointed in the way this public hearing is proceeding. We need the time to express our opinions. Attached is my 3-minute statement. Please read.

Signed: Carrie A. Gray Wolfe, Carrie A. Gray Wolfe
Testifier

Self

Representing (Optional)

20390 E Birch Hill Drive, Palmer, AK 99645
Address

(907) 746-8008
Phone number

Page 1
Wolfe

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.

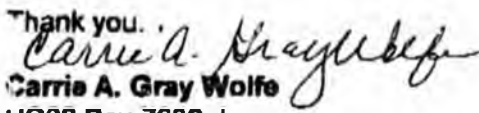
I oppose HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A. I cannot fully address my opposition in 3-minutes; therefore I will concentrate on the biases, inadequate restrictions, and the inability to protect our fish and wildlife as the legislation is currently written.

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 State Parks that provides supplemental park funding.

Thank you.


Carrie A. Gray Wolfe

HC02 Box 7686-J

Palmer, Alaska 99645

Telephone: (907) 746-8606

Email: graywolfe@gci.net

Page 2
Wolfe



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the AK House Resource Committee
Committee name

Committee on HB307 and CS HB307A, dated 3/27/05
Bill/Subject

The way in which this public hearing is proceeding is entirely unprofessional, disorganized, irresponsible, and unacceptable. Many of us local residents, who strongly oppose this bill, have given considerable effort in preparing for this last chance at making our voices and concerns heard. After 2 public hearings, our representatives should have realized the split, opposing sides and concerns over this specific issue. It is disheartening to realize that these same representatives did not set aside enough time to fully address all people through this public process. Attached is my short-version for my "speech

Signed: Scott A. Wolfe
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

20390 E. Birch Hill Dr., Palmer AK 99645
Address

746-8008

Phone number

Page 1
Wolfe

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

I wish to thank the legislatures and the public for their significant efforts for attempting to develop legislation for addressing concerns and conflicts that have developed because of repeated, irresponsible use of the Knik River area by recreational users. However, HB307 and the redraft, CS HB307A sounds as if it were written to perpetuate and enhance the problems instead of develop solutions.

For over 20 years, residents have expressed concerns to government personnel and enforcement officials about the following problems caused by overuse and abuse:

1. Burned and abandoned vehicles
2. Uncontrolled gunfire
3. Uncontrolled motorized use
4. Erosion, dust, and damage caused by ORVs
5. Pollution (Ground, air, water, noise)
6. Abandoned campfires
7. Poaching
8. Wildlife and fish harassment and disturbance
9. Trespassing
10. Alcohol and drug use *while driving motorized vehicles*
11. Incompatible uses (e.g.; airboats on Jim Creek adjacent to Jim Lake while canoes are present, lead shot in waterways)

So, obviously to everyone involved, something needs to be done to curtail the destructive activities that have existed for far, far too long. Nevertheless, this legislation does not provide mechanisms for perpetuating and enhancing ~~non-motorized~~ use. After the 2 public hearings, it should be very clear that much opposition still exists over what is our "best" alternative for managing the incredible wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities in this area. All testimonies are available on public record.

Due to time constraints, I will not reiterate a step-by-step walk through the shortcomings of the proposed legislation but strongly recommend for the legislators to review everyone's recommendations, make a much better attempt at improving the legislation, and allow a more extensive public review process before approving any legislation for this critical area.

The Knik River area and its residents deserve much, much better than a Public Use Area. I've heard ~~some~~ say, "hey, this is Alaska, where we can do whatever we want when we want" - "If you don't like it, just move!" This legislation paves the way for this illogical thinking. Because no legislation has been previously developed specifically for the area, this is now the opportunity to pave the way for wise- and sustainable- use, instead of the "take what you can, give nothing back" attitude so prevalent with many current users and in HB307.

Yes, the State must act on this ever-growing problem. However, HB307 and the redraft are not the answer.

Perhaps a State Rec. Area or Game Refuge is a more reasonable alternative for sustainable use.

*Page 2
Wolfe*



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Resources
Committee name

Committee on H.B. 307 Knik River, dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

I wish to complement the author of this Bill that allows multiple users to continue enjoying their personal method of useage. I personally first used the Knik valley with the scout troop that Mr. hawalters loaded on his 1 1/2 ton truck and drove us to the glacier at the head of the Knikine 1946. Since then I have enjoyed the valley every year, hunting, fishing, picnics, with boats and off road vehicles. I support this bill as it does not discriminate against any type of recreation and supports management oversight.

Signed: Macl Inboden
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

P.O. Box 827 Palmer, ALASKA 99645
Address

245-3027
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the AK House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 , dated 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

I ask that the committee reject HB 307 and its revisions. The Knik River area needs and deserves a better measure, one that makes this a safe area for residents and recreational use and that will make it truly accessible. As it is presently, I cannot take my grandchildren into the area without concern for their safety.

I am in favor of designating the area a State Recreation area in which regulations and law enforcement will better address the needs of the area. I do not believe that a Public Use Area designation meets those needs. A Public Use Designation only serves the interests of those who are currently using the area inappropriately - most of whom do not live in the affected area!

Signed: Katherine Cross
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

14725 W. Ryans Creek Dr, Wasilla
Address

892-7579
Phone number

PAGE 1 OF 3
Page 1 of 3

Hello, My name is Dick Coult, I am a 42 year resident of the Knik River Valley. I am speaking today for myself, as a present Board Member of the **Butte Community Council**, as the Secretary of the **Butte Community Council Trails Committee**, and as a representative of the **thousands of people** who signed our petition. I am in favor of creating a **Knik River Public Use Area** as described in **House Bill 307** and **Senate Bill 197**. The land described in the bills is presently open to off-road motorized transportation as well as other multiple uses as described in the State of Alaska statutes under "generally allowed uses" 11AAC 96.020.

I have been using this area for off-road motorized travel to the Knik Glacier area for recreation, hunting, mineral exploration, mining and trapping for 42 years. This area has been used relatively unrestricted for motorized access for over 50 years without any significant damage to the environment or habitat.

Proof of this in the hunting, fishing, and waterfowl regulations currently in place and by statements of the Alaska Fish and game department that show healthy populations of mouse, sheep, bears and other animals. A chart from the Fish and game shows that the salmon populations for the Knik River area are at an all time high, and after 50 or more years of unrestricted crossings of salmon streams in our area, there is no significant damage to the salmon habitat and no resulting drop in salmon populations due to the stream crossings.

We think that a designated area for Off Road vehicle use is entirely appropriate located here close to the most populated area of Alaska. We need a designated Off-Road Vehicle, Public Use Area here in close proximity to Anchorage and the Matanuska valley for the thousands of hunters, all-terrain vehicles enthusiasts and others with valid reasons for motorized travel in the Knik River Valley, such as miners for access to their mining claims and private property owners for their access to their property. There are several parcels of private property in the Off-Road areas of the Knik River valley and several mining claims located near the Knik Glacier.

We wish to retain our **traditional methods of transportation** and our **traditional lifestyles** here in the Knik River valley!

The State of Alaska Statutes define "traditional uses and traditional methods of transportation. **Sec 38.04.200 (2)** traditional means of access means those types of transportation for which a popular pattern of use has developed.

There are several non-motorized **National Parks** here in Alaska constituting millions of acres. There are also millions of acres of designated "**wilderness**" areas, and **additional millions of acres** of State Parks, Wildlife Refuges and

various other land areas already set aside for people who desire a "Quiet wilderness experience"

Located right here between Anchorage and the Knik River Valley is the **Chugach State Park**, ½ million acre's (one of the largest state parks in the United States) with several access points from the Old Glen Highway and the Seward Highway. The eastern part of the Chugach State park is a designated "wilderness" area.

The proposed Knik River Public Use Area is **relatively small** in comparison to the huge areas already set aside to satisfy the requirements of non-motorized users. The area presently used for Off-Road recreation is approximately 1 mile wide by 18 miles long in the main valley of the Knik River. The sand and gravel bar area along the north edge of the Knik River is the main corridor used by motorized vehicles, along with some trails in the foothills and highlands along the mountains.

Regulation that apply to these lands

There are approx. 20 "agency's" that have plans and / or regulations that apply to all or part of the Borough, State, and federal lands in the vicinity of the proposed Knik River Public Use Area.

Wetlands are adequately protected by provisions in this bill that state: With the assistance of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the commissioner shall identify wetland areas within the Knik River Public Use Area and provide for the protection of the wetland areas in the **management plan**.

Support for a public use area

There is a lot of **support** for this bill by local residents. Two **petitions** with over 3,000 names has been collected over the past 2 years. 5 **resolutions** by the Butte Community Council over the last 13 years support the House and Senate Bills and support keeping traditional trails open in our valley.

The Mat-Su Trails Council has voted to support the Knik River Public Use Area, as amended and has also voted to retain the existing trails provision that is included in the draft of House Bill 307.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly has voted to support state designation of land in the Knik River Watershed as a Public Use Area. Matanuska-Susitna Borough **Resolution Serial No. 05-068 (AM)**

Trails in the area. There are Mat-Su Borough easements, Federal section 17b easements, a certified State of Alaska (DNR) RS 2477 Right-of-Way corridor, many other trails constructed under the DNR "generally allowed uses" with a

long history of public use that constitute a basic infrastructure for a public use area.

The main trail corridor in the Knik River valley is the **RS2477** trail that has been certified by the state of Alaska (DNR) as a public trail. This trail corridor extends from near the Old Glen Highway to the Knik Glacier area and 4 miles up Metal Creek canyon.

There is an **easement** from the BLM through the native land grant that coincides with the RS 2477 trail corridor. This easement from the BLM allows access to public lands beyond the native lands.

Easements by the Mat-Su Borough designate public access corridors in the Jim Creek trailhead area.



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the AK House Resources Committee
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, dated 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

I am apalled that time is apparently not allotted for testimony For the many people who prepared to do so & took time out of their schedules to come

I oppose HB 307 as originally written. Support the recent changes with further changes to make this a good compromise bill. Without the recommended changes the bill should not be passed

Page 1 - line 14 Add wording to read "Provide for the public to enjoy the full spec and non-motorized recreation determined to be compatible with (1) & (2) of this section

Incompatible User Section has big problem Contradictory & ineffective By allowing commissioner to regulate except as provided in the section, then listing all uses & existing trails - the result is the commissioner cannot regulate any use or any trail even if it is detrimental to the purpose

line 5 - Add the phrase AS COMPATIBLE WITH PURPOSES

line 11-16 Delete - This circumvents good trail planning

Importance of Enforcement cannot be overstated Correct wording is necessary to ensure enforcement of existing laws

Complete Prepared testimony attached

Agree completely with stoltze the behavior & access are two different things

Signed: Charlotte Sartor
Testifier

30 year Butte resident, User of area Also on Board of KRWG
Representing (Optional) but testifying for self

5900 S. OUR RD
Address

907-745-4565 bobchar@mtaonline.net
Phone number

Page 1 Sartor

Monday 3/27/06

As a Butte area resident and user of the Knik River, Swan/Jim/Mud Lake area for more than 30 years I think we need to work for the best possible bill to address problems, and to allow all users to continue to use this area in the years to come. HB307/SB197 as originally written does not do this. Proposed changes to HB307 introduced 3/15/06 have some improvements - calling for a management plan that includes provisions for enforcement & is established after public hearings; managing shooting on the basis of safety; and introducing important enforcement authority. But further changes are needed.

Purposes Section (41.23.180) Page 1.

The wording needs to include non-motorized use and compatibility with purposes.

Line 14 should be changed to read "Provide for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses including off-road and non-motorized recreation determined to be compatible with (1) and (2) of this section"

Management section (41.23.190) Page 2.

I would like to see this expanded to include workshops and/or establishing a citizen's advisory board to address residents concerns about quality of life & safety

Incompatible Uses section (41.23.200) Page 2 & 3.

This is a big problem area. It is still contradictory and it is ineffective as written

Page 2 lines 21 & 22 states "except as provided in this section, the commissioner may prohibit or restrict uses..."

Page 3 of this section, Lines 5 -16 (d) (1) & (2) list a variety of uses and recognition of all existing off road trails. The result of this wording would seem to be that the commissioner cannot regulate any use or any existing trail even if it is detrimental to the purposes.

Page 3 Line 6, needs to be reworded to read: allow the Knik River Public Use Area to be used for activities, as compatible with purposes in AS 41.23.180. It is not necessary to try to list every activity. All of the uses and trails do need to be compatible with the purposes section to have an effective bill, and this needs to be clearly stated in the bill

Page 3 Lines 11-16 try to circumvent good public process trail planning and should be deleted.

Page 3 & 4 Enforcement authority 41.23.210 & 41.23.220 *Importance of Enforcement cannot be oversta*
The majority of users agree enforcement is badly needed. It is important that the wording is such to ensure timely and adequate enforcement of existing laws *Correct wording is necessary to ensure enforcement of existing laws*

Thank you for proposing some changes to this bill as written and for allowing testimony today. I have heard that special recreation areas allow for more enforcement power than public use areas. But I hope, further changes will allow for good enforcement, and this bill can be a good compromise, rather than starting all over. However, if these further changes cannot be made, the bill should not be passed.

Charlotte Sartor
5900 S Our Rd
Palmer, AK 99645

Page 2 Sartor

Good Day!

I am Robert Howard, Alaskan resident since 1961 – past member of the MSB Trails Committee, Mat Su Trails Council, and Knik River Watershed Group.

Among many activities, my family uses the Knik R. area for motorized recreation. We have recognized the need and advocated two decades for stewardship.

Our primary concern is that HB 307 fails to recognize forgone, costly, public processes aimed at solutions for the area – all of which go well beyond a Public Use Area.

The Susitna Plan mandates a State Recreation Area for the Jim/Swan Wetlands. Among the many documents available to you is this January's draft of the MSB Butte Asset Management Plan, which states "The Butte has several areas that warrant consideration as regional parks including the Knik R. Jim Cr. Area as well as the Mud and Jim Lk. Area currently owned by the State and should be managed by DNR to be consistent with the above".

HB307 limits management options and specifically excludes that possibility.

The bill mentions 'enhancing off- road opportunities' twice. Knowledge of the area and aerial photos reveal thorough saturation of motor trails. (Please refer to my graphic and photos provided).

ORV use is devastating the dunes channeling the outlet of Jim Cr. and potential course of the river. Ruts are 9 feet deep with full growth cottonwoods tumbling into them.

ORV trails extend into wetland areas holding thousands of waterfowl spring and fall.

ATV's have extended far beyond and claim as 'traditional' logging trails past Jim Lk. churning up springs open all year around, turning out onto wetlands, and imperiling anadromous streams – some of which I have personally made DNR aware.

HB307 attempts to 'recognize' trails that are not viable.

Wetlands are assaulted from all sides in an area already utilizing National Guard cleanups.

6 fuel barrels I reported along with a now removed illegal camp and helped DNR post, remain in the wetlands 1 ½ yrs. later.

The enforcement proposal in HB307 is too cumbersome compared to solutions available under AS41.21 A State Recreation Area is a better choice.

Gov. Murkowski was recently in the news advocating improving Alaska's image. . Truly a jewel accessible to over 300K people, home to prolific wildlife, deserving of all options, Knik River Watershed is a fine place to start.

Please do not disregard the legitimate processes preceding HB307!
Toss out the petition signatures from the Huggins/Stoltze soldiers – they were observed fraudulently using KRWG's cover letter at the State Fair – and give special attention to the residents concerns.

Thank You!



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Resource
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, Knik River, dated 3-27-07
Bill/Subject

The work draft dated 3-15-06 does have some improvements, and comes closer to what most people spoke up for during public testimony. Most people seemed to want sustainable use for several groups, and enforcement. I speak as a member of a hiking group and the Valley Mtn Bikers and Hikers Association. I didn't notice any mention in the work draft about restoration of areas that have been eroded or trampled or mud bogged, and that is one detail I'd urge you to consider.

The second consideration is in Section 1, Item 4-B - a phrase about "additional uses that are compatible with motorized uses" - it implies that non-compatible uses would be not so welcome. Sometimes, in order to let non and motorized groups be compatible, some extra effort needs to be made - maybe some specified trails, or schedules for certain uses on certain days - but I'd like that section to be revised to be more inclusive. Hiking was mentioned only once I think, and I'd like more consideration for more uses.

My third consideration is regarding sustainability - there is a phrase about "minimizes damage" but that seems weak when the idea of keeping an area usable and healthy for future generations is concerned. I suggest a stronger mention of protecting the area for the future.

Enforcement is my last big issue and I just urge you to pass a final bill that allows people to use the area safely and comfortably. Good luck with this process, and I appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Signed: Op Clark
Testifier

Happy Hikers, Valley Wanderers, Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers Assoc
Representing (Optional)

PO Box 876395, Napili, HI. 96887
Address

(907) 376-9576
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307, dated 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

Thank you for the work that has already been done. I still feel that the best management tool for the Knik River Area is to become a Special Recreation Area.

See testimony attached

I will be out of town on Weds

I do not believe Parks should be mentioned in this bill. Management by State Parks should be an option at another time.

Signed Nancy Moore
Testifier

Self
Representing (Optional)

PO Box 399
Address

907 745-1540
Phone number

Page | Moore

Testimony for HB 307
March 27, 2006

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. Also thank you for the work that has already been done amending this legislation.

I still feel that the best management tool for the Knik River Area is creating a Special Recreation Area which was recommended in the 1985 Susitna Area Plan. Division of Parks manages SRAs and already has the organizational structure to provide enforcement, interpretive signs and facilities such as outhouses, pavilions and the like.

However today we are addressing HB 307 creating the Knik River Public Use Area. I have commented on this legislation in the past, am pleased to see the changes that have been made thus far and would like to provide additional comments.

Step
*Please ensure adequate funding is attached to this bill so that more than one enforcement personnel can provide round the clock presence during peak periods of activity. (In 1995 I was involved in a project that repaired the portage between Jim Lake and Jim Creek. The Troopers at that time were conducting evening patrols. We would see them about 11:00 pm as we were wrapping up our work. Shortly after they cruised through, people would start showing up. Sometimes the next morning there would be litter, broken glass, empty shotgun shells and fire pits full of nails.) In addition I have found 3 campfires left smoldering and or burning.

Safety of the residents of the area and lawful users of the area cannot be overemphasized.

Funding also needs to be able to address human and solid waste management by establishing and maintaining outhouses and garbage cans/dumpsters.

To refer specifically to the legislation

*On page 1 line 14 - please add "and non motorized recreation, compatible with section (1) and (2) of this section" to the end of this line.

*On page 2 line 7 - include workshops with the public hearings.

page 1 of 2 Nancy Moore

Page 2 Moore

Also recommend that a citizen's advisory board be established with a balanced representation. This would help ensure that quality of life and safety issues for the local residents would be addressed.

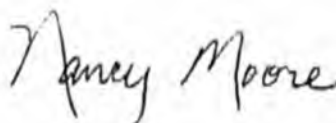
*page 3 line 6 please insert 'compatible with purposes' after activities. ^{the word}

*page 3 lines 11-16 This section should be deleted. ORV use has already been established and the points addressed in this section can be resolved in the public hearing/workshop process.

Please consider these comments and adequately fund this legislation so that the Knik River Area can be lawfully managed for the benefit and safety of local residents, diverse user groups and the rich natural resources found in this valley.

Thank you for your time and effort on this legislation

Nancy Moore
PO Box 399
Palmer, Alaska 99645



907-745-1540



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resources
Committee name

Committee on HB 307A, dated 3/15/06, to 3/27/06
Bill/Subject

As attached - Brit Lively

Opposed to HB307A - reasons previously faxed.

Additional information as attached.

Signed:

Brit (Brigitte) Lively
Testifier

Butte Area Residents Civic Organization & self
Representing (Optional)

Res: 5505 South Old Glenn Palmer

Mail: 259 S. Alaska St, Palmer, AK 99645
Address

907-745-7126

Phone number

Brit Lively

Mr. Chairman and members of the Alaska State House Resources Committee

I am Brit Lively, long-time Butte resident I support responsible multiple use. I also represent Butte Area Residents Civic Organization

Because none of you can imagine life in Butte unless you spend a weekend with us to see the beauty and the beast. We have done the next best thing and taken a packet of documentation including 2 videos showing the sunny side and the dark side of Butte to you in Juneau most of Juneau offices. Before deciding the fate of this community, please, assure us that you spend a couple of hours studying the material and the faxed testimony from those who could not come today.

You are the governing stewards of our lands and our waters which we are so richly blessed with in the Knik River Valley. We understand that you are under much pressure to do right by everyone and fortunately you have statutes and a mission statement to guide you, to: "Develop, conserve and enhance natural resources for present and future Alaskans."

With this in mind I emphasized the major deficiencies of HB 307 re-write with suggested changes in my faxed material. The major change is based on DNR's mission which the "Purpose of HB307" should have the paragraphs reversed. If you put recreation ahead of protection of habitat and wildlife along with the limited enforcement in this legislation, you may well end up with a gravel pit and a dust bowl extending 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 most weekends.

Therefore change
Page 1, line 7-12: change to 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

still
But I primarily advocate for a Knik River Valley State Recreation Area under AS 41.21 to provide strong and immediate law enforcement, a management plan with multi-user advisory, infrastructure including sanitary facilities, allowing users to share the cost for their services and giving Butte residents economic opportunities based on our high-value recreational area.

Our small community should not have to suffer the entire burden of every conceivable kind of motorized recreation for south-central Alaska, where we already endure the race track noise most every day of every weekend and mid-week events all summer long even while the owners are still trying to mitigate the noise. But, add to that all the detrimental activities described by others during this hearing, it is just too much.

through
Please, help our community discard the prevalent perception of, "who cares, it's the Butte," and provide a strong framework of a legislative designation which will give us the respect we deserve and the wings we need to soar to new heights in a structured multi-use environment.



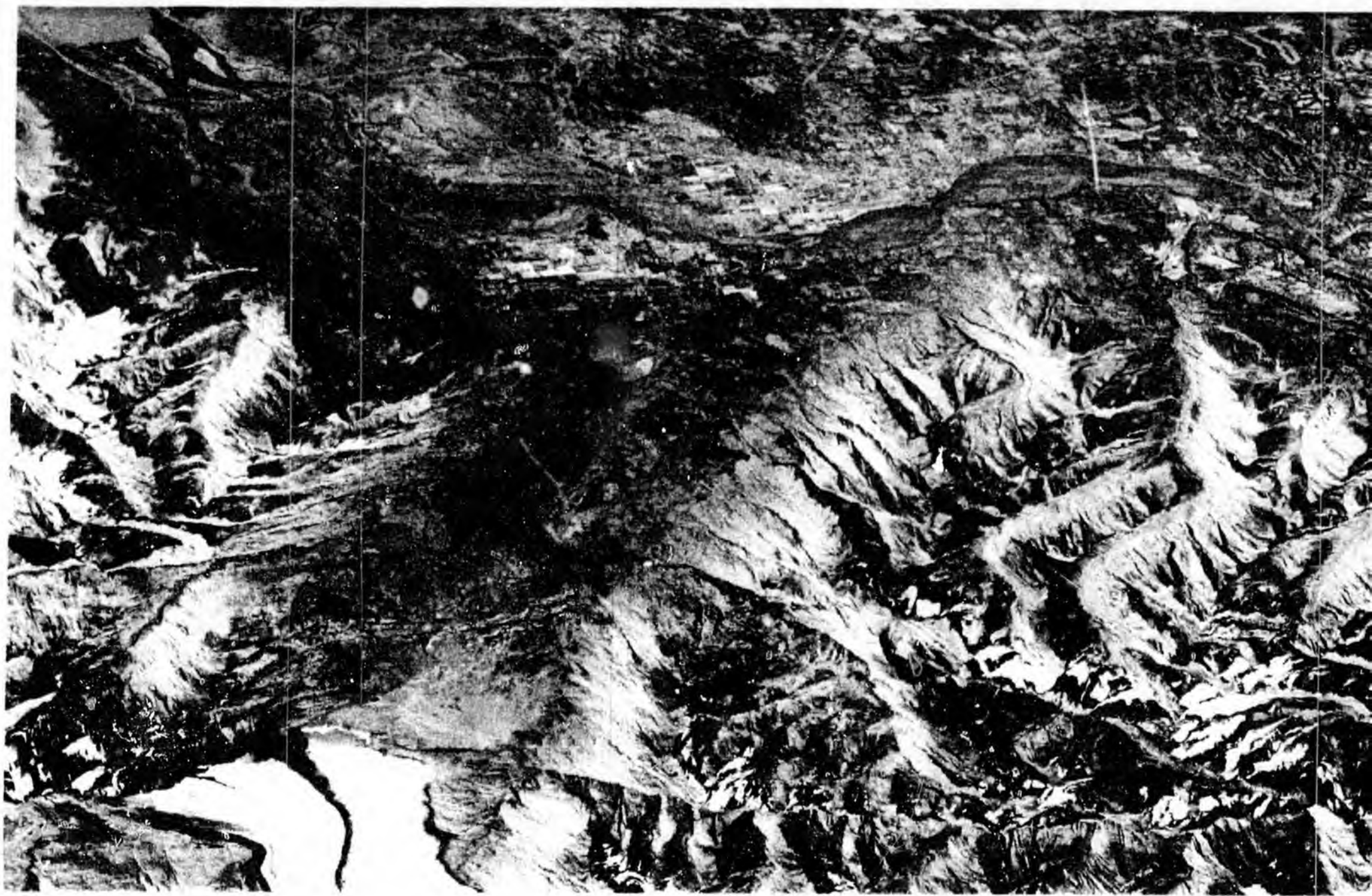
Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the HRES Committee name
 Committee on HB 307 dated 3-27-06
 Bill/Subject

I object to the Jim Creek and Jim Lake Area becoming a STATE PARK, I and many others use this area a lot for hunting, hiking, and fishing. I believe it would depress the use of this area and I personally would probably look for another area for recreational purposes. I believe fewer people would use the area if it were turned into a state park.

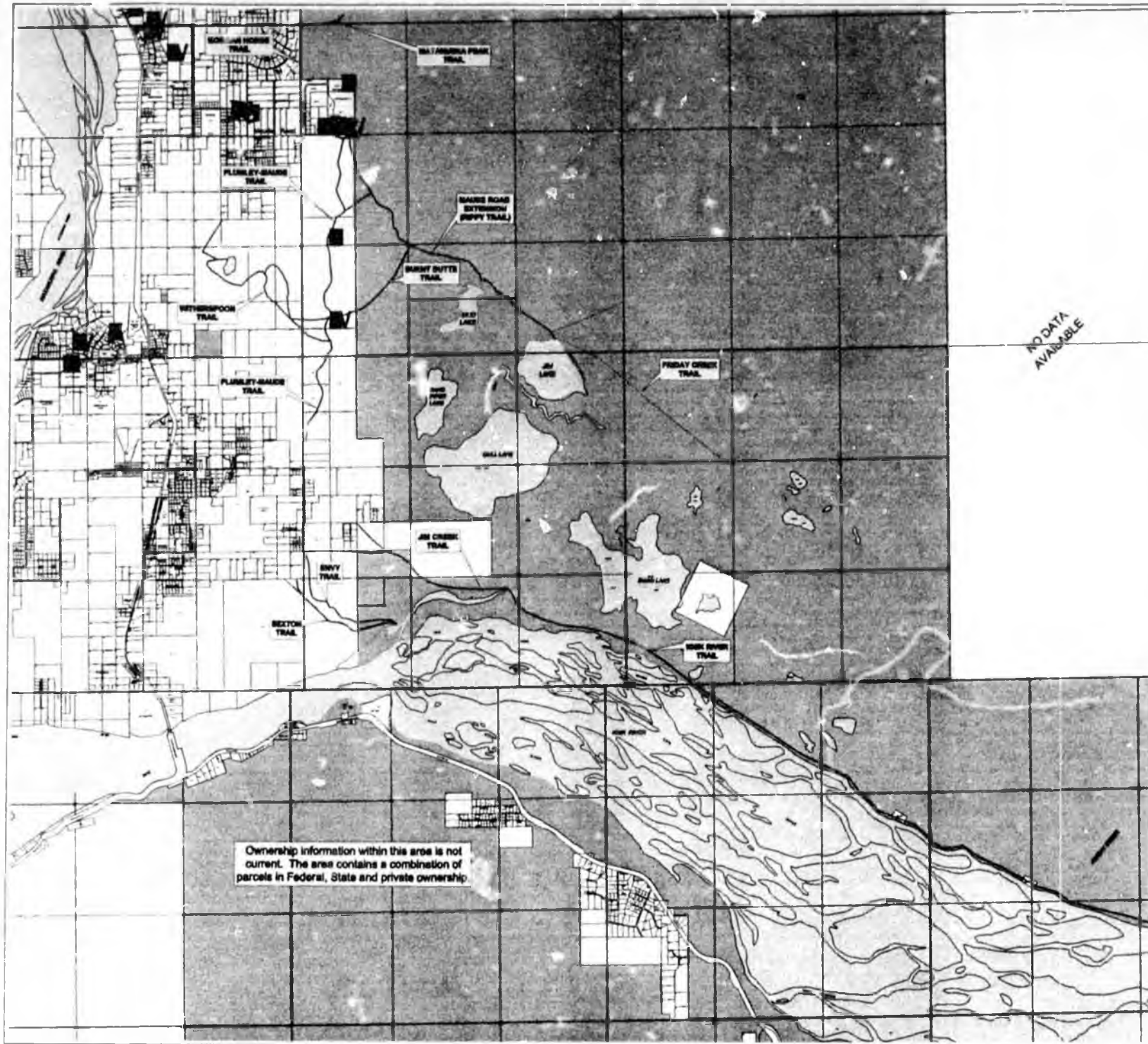
Signed: *Clinton J. Martin*
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
P.O. Box 4636, Palmer, Ak. 99645 situs: 5651A N. Maverick Dr.
 Address
(907) 745-6447
 Phone number



Jim Creek/ Knik River Area

LAND OWNERSHIP & TRAILS



Ownership information within this area is not current. The area contains a combination of parcels in Federal, State and private ownership.

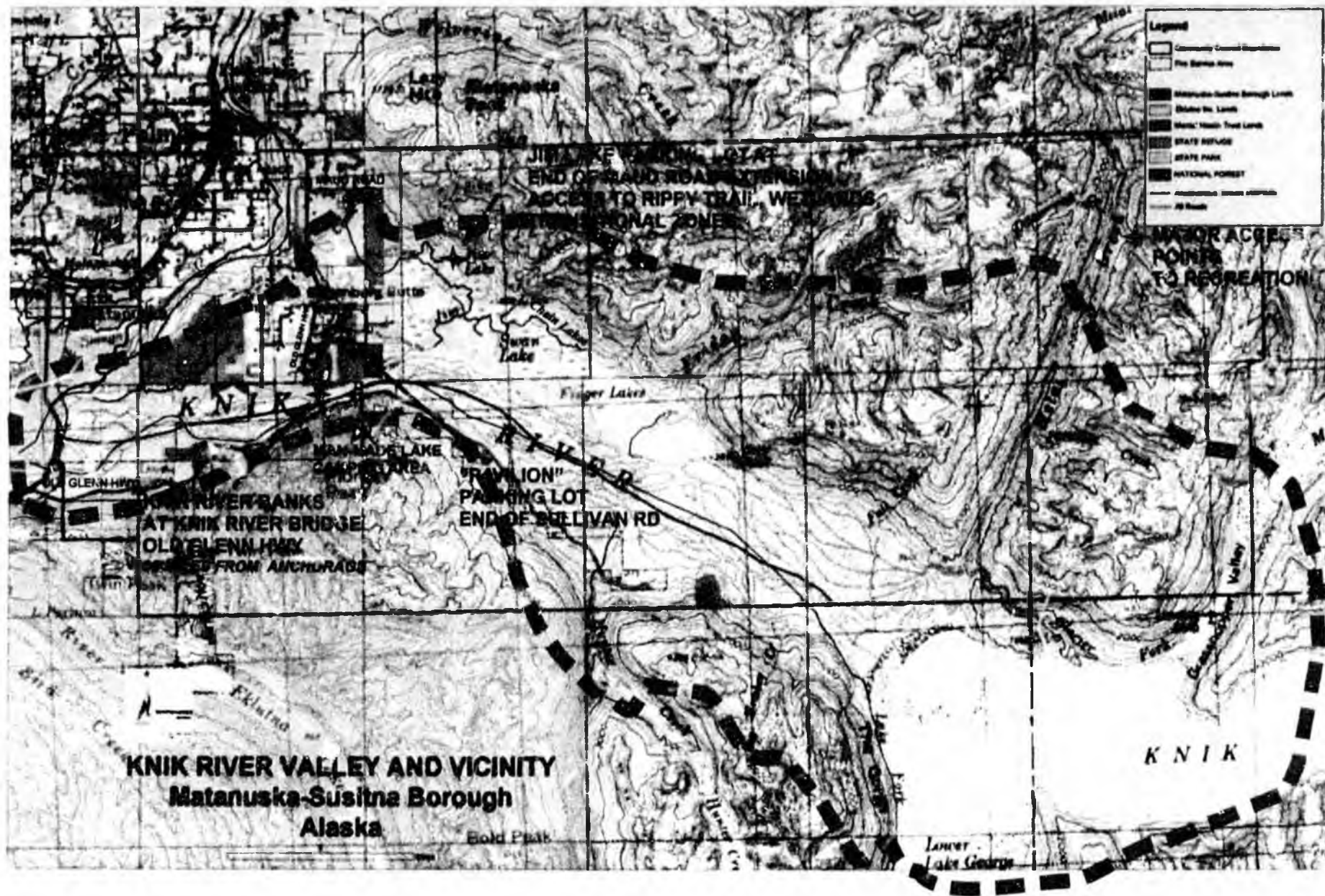
Land Ownership

- White: Borough
- Light Gray: State
- Dark Gray: Federal
- Medium Gray: Private

FOOT TRAIL
ATV or SNOWMOBILE TRAIL



This map is made for informational purposes only. The Borough makes no attempt to update or modify ownership data shown on this map. It is the responsibility of the user to verify the accuracy of the map for any particular purpose. The Borough makes no attempt to update or modify ownership data shown on this map. It is the responsibility of the user to verify the accuracy of the map for any particular purpose. The Borough makes no attempt to update or modify ownership data shown on this map. It is the responsibility of the user to verify the accuracy of the map for any particular purpose.



KNIK RIVER VALLEY AND VICINITY
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Alaska

- Legend**
- County Control Operations
 - Fire Service Area
 - International Boundary
 - Matanuska-Susitna Borough Level
 - Elevation Levels
 - State Health Trust Lands
 - STATE REFUGE
 - STATE PARK
 - NATIONAL FOREST
 - All Roads

MAJOR ACCESS POINTS TO RECREATION

Bold Print



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource Committee
Committee name

Committee on House Bill 307 Knick River dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

I am in support of H.B. 307
and wish to continue to have public
Access and motorized usage. As
a senior citizen I wish to
continue access.

Signed: Mae J. Dungebl
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
925 Goldendale Dr. Wasilla 99654
Address
907-376-8989
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the Bureau of Land Management
Committee name

Committee on HB307 and SB197 , dated 3-8-06
Bill/Subject

I support HB307 and SB197 to keep
Knik river drainage open to motorized vehicles and
boats.

Signed: Arthur Stevens
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

3555 Sams Dr. Wasilla AK. 99654

Address

907-357-3370

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the

House Resource Committee

Committee name

Committee on

HB 307

Bill/Subject

dated

3-27-06

With the price of gas we can't afford to haul
our 4 wheelers up the highway.

Let us ride in our own valley.

Signed:

Amy Seguada

Testifier

Representing (Optional)

1026 E Delwood St #1 Wasilla, AK 99654

Address

(907) 357-0856

Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 - Jim Cook, dated 3/27/06
Bill/subject

My family has been using the area since the 1940's, the Sexton Trail-head in the area is named after my grandfather

I am in support of HB307

Signed: Michael K. Sexton
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1574 Melanie Wasilla, AK. 99654
Address

357-1732
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource

Committee name

Committee on: HB 307 dated 3-27-06

Bill/Subject

I am in favor of HB 307 for the following reasons. First of all, when you look at a map of this state you see nothing more than extremely vast areas of land already designated as either state or national parks. Due to these designations on these large areas they have been set aside as a means of keeping them as pristine environments. If people do not want to see 4 wheelers and swamp buggies while out hiking they should visit these pristine lands that are going to stay that way. Second of all as a frequent visitor of the Knik River and its surrounding, I feel that motorized vehicles are not causing any more harm to the environment than the river does on its own course of erosion, as most trails and places that citizens of Alaska play on are in the river bed. If we were to simply enforce the current laws & codes already in existence the area would naturally be a cleaner place. And on a last note, ATVs, Hunting, fishing, swamp buggies, Airboats, River Boats, and air planes are all part of living the Alaska dream. We have these technologies we just need a place to be ALASKA.

Signed:

for Bel
Testifier

Representing (Optional)

mi 45.5 Parks Hwy Wasilla
Address

(907) 376-9117
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource Committee

Committee on HB 307 Knik River / Jim Creek Committee name House Resource Committee
Bill/Subject dated 3-27-06

Not all Alaskans and our visitors
can walk into experience the
beauty of Jim Creek.
Let us ride in
putting the boat in at the
Knik River Access
Don't shut down access because of
a few delinquents. Enforce current laws
don't punish us all I support HB 307

Signed: Bernard J. [Signature]
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
2200 Wasilla Fishhook Rd
Address
376-3958
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource
 Committee name
 Committee on HB 307 dated 3-27-06
 Bill/Subject

Stop closing places we can ride with our friends
 We need Jim Creek and Knik River areas
 to ride our dirt bikes.

Signed: Andrew Behn
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1807 N. meadow LKS Dr. Wasilla, AK 99654
 Address
(907) 376-9117
 Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource
Committee name

Committee on HB 307 , dated 3-27-06
Bill/Subject

*I drive to Twin Creek to fish
Don't shut me out*

Signed: *[Signature]*
Testifier

Representing (Optional)
1026 F Delwood st. #1 Wasilla AK 99654

Address
(907) 3520856
Phone number



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Resource
 Committee name

Committee on HB 307 dated 3-27-06
 Bill/Subject

We put the boat in at the Kuk River access, I can't imagine why shutting this access down is even considered. Where is the regular guy supposed to put in?

We can't afford a fly out trip, don't make our valley into a no-use area.

Signed: Shonda Dargatzis
 Testifier

Representing (Optional)
2201 Wasilla Fishhook Rd. Wasilla, AK 99654
 Address

907-376-0603
 Phone number

Mat-Su State Parks Citizens Advisory Board

11C 32 Box 6706, Wasilla, Alaska 99654
(907) 745-3975 Fax (907) 745-0978

Resolution #: 06-01

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CHANGES TO HOUSE BILL 307 and SENATE
BILL 197
"An act creating the Knik River Public Use Area"

WHEREAS, residents and users have concerns about safety, vandalism, game and nongame violations, pollution and lack of sanitation, user conflicts, littering, impacts on fish and wildlife resources and resident's quality of life; and

WHEREAS, wildlife values in the Knik River Basin are well recognized in the "Knik Arm Wetlands Study-1981"; the "South Central Recreation Action Plan-1985"; and the "Resource Assessment of the Knik Glacier Area-1993";

WHEREAS, the House Bill 307 and Senate Bill 197 can be easily improved, and existing Public Use Area statutes are good models to resolve many of the weaknesses in this legislation as noted below.

41.23.180 Purpose:

- We need an inclusive plan that will unite user groups: Amend items (1), (3), and (4)
(pg 1 lines 7-8) to: "provide a public use area for off road motorized vehicle and nonmotorized recreation."
- (pg 1 lines 12-14) to: "Perpetuate and enhance public enjoyment of fish and wildlife and their habitat including fishing, hunting, trapping, viewing, and photography."
- (pg 1 line 15, pg 2 line 1) to: "Perpetuate and enhance motorized and non-motorized general public recreation in a quality environment."

41.23.190. Management:

- We need an established public planning effort:
Add: "The commissioner shall develop and adopt a management plan and regulations implementing the plan. The commissioner shall give public notice, hold public meetings and receive public comments on the draft plan and regulations."

Board Members

Mary Anderson, Chair
Roy Wahl
William Royce
Glean Goodham, Vice-Chair

Ralph Baldwin
Linnea Crosby
Shelis Joergensen
John Strascaburgh, Vice-Chair

William Fitzgerald
Charles Leet
T. Nelson Stegall, Jr.
Howard Carlone

Mat-Su State Parks Citizens Advisory Board

2

- **Item c (pg 2 lines 15-16) We need designated on-the-ground enforcement.** Contracting with DPOR for enforcement personnel (such as Hatcher's Pass PUA) should not be excluded as a timely, cost-efficient option.

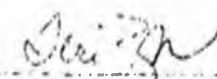
Replace Item c with: "The commissioner shall enforce existing regulations and provisions of the Knik River Public Use Area Plan and may contract with Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Alaska State Troopers, or other agencies for enforcement purposes."

41.23.200 Incompatible Uses:

- **Item d (pg 2 line 31 - pg 3 line 4) To maintain and enhance resource health,** amend to: "The commissioner shall allow access to the Knik River Public Use Area by motorized and non-motorized 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."
- **Delete Item e (pg 2 lines 5-8). A planning effort must involve evaluation of trails for resource and resident impacts; improvement, reroute or closure as appropriate.**
- **Amend Item f (pg 3 lines 9-12) Managers need flexibility to manage shooting:** "The commissioner may restrict the use of weapons, including firearms, when the commissioner determines that the use of weapons constitutes a threat to public safety."

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mat-Su State Parks Citizen's Advisory Board supports the above eight amendments to HB 307/SB 197 "An Act Creating the Knik River Public Use Area" to promote comprehensive and inclusive planning, enforcement, public safety, and protection of wildlife resources.

ADOPTED by the Mat-Su State Parks Citizens Advisory Board this 10th day of January, 2006.

Signed: /s/ 

Mary Anderson, Chair

Mat-Su State Parks Citizens Advisory Board

HB

324

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Representative Jay Ramras
Co-Chairman

(907) 465-3004

Fax: (907) 465-2833

Representative_Jay_Ramras@legis.state.ak.us

119 N. Cushman St., Suite 213
Fairbanks, AK 99701



Representative Ralph Samuels
Co-Chairman

(907) 465-2095

Fax: (907) 465-3810

Representative_Ralph_Samuels@legis.state.ak.us

716 W. 4th Avenue
Anchorage, AK 99501

State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

FAX

Please deliver the following pages to: Legis. Legal

Fm: Staff, Resources Committee, Jim Pound

Fax #: 465-2029

Total number of pages including cover: 1

Date: 2/15/06 4:12 PM

Re: Resource Committee amendments to HJR 14 and HB 324

Please amend and final the above referenced pieces of legislation as "CS" (RES)

HJR 14 -24-LS0670\G

Delete Page 2, Line 11-14

[*FURTHER RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the United States*

Congress is urged to include a provision in S. 293 to provide that the land grants do not interfere with public access to or along fishing streams or the continued use of established hunting, dog mushing, motorized vehicle, mining, and recreational trails or roads; and be it]

HB 324 - 24-LS1218\G

Page 1, Line 7

(1) knowingly import orange hawkweed....

The information contained in this fax is **CONFIDENTIAL** and/or privileged. This fax is intended to be reviewed initially by only the individual named above. If the reader of this transmittal page is not the intended recipient or a representative of the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, dissemination, or copying of this fax or the information contained herein is prohibited. If you have received this fax in error, please immediately notify the sender by telephone and return this fax to the sender at the above address.

Thank you

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SESSION ADDRESS
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-2487
Fax (907) 465-4956

INTERIM ADDRESS
112 Mill Bay Road
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 486-8872
Fax (907) 486-5264

Representative Gabrielle LeDoux

SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR HB 324

"An Act banning the importation, transfer, and cultivation of orange hawkweed and purple loosestrife."

The act prohibits the importation of orange hawkweed and purple loosestrife. It also prohibits the sale, gift, or otherwise transfer of those plants except for disposal. A person under this act is prohibited from knowingly planting or cultivating these plants.

These two plants are creating problems in Alaska. Non-native invasive species significantly threaten the ecological integrity of our state's natural systems. These species invade natural communities, farmland, forestland, wetlands, waterways and pastures.

They displace native plants and animals, disrupt ecological processes, upset the stability of our ecosystems, and can permanently change our natural landscapes. What today are fields of our State Flower, the Forget-Me-Not, can become a field of orange hawkweed.

Chester Creek had purple loosestrife growing wild along its banks. This is a horrific wetland invader found pretty much across North America.

It is estimated that invasive plants cost the United State's economy at least 137 billion dollars each year.

Even though many invasive species are not regulated or controlled federally, states have passed a wide array of laws designed to address invasive species problems. States are also beginning to adopt non-agricultural weed prohibitions to protect natural systems, especially aquatic or wetland areas.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB324-DNR-Agr-02-01-0
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____
 Title Ban Orange Hawkweed/Purple Loosestrife
 Sponsor LEDOUX, Cissna, Rokeberg
 Requester (H)RES

Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
 RDU Resource Development
 Component Agriculture Development
 Component No. 455

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
-------------------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

FUND SOURCE	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

POSITIONS

POSITIONS	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

No fiscal impact expected as a result of this proposed legislation regarding orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

Prepared by: Larry DeVilbiss, Director
 Division: Agriculture
 Approved by: Michael Merge, Commissioner
 Agency: Natural Resources

Phone 907 761-3867
 Date/Time 2/1/2006
 Date 2/1/2006

so I can't read his motivation. However, now that you both have cooled down, it's time to explain to Arnold again how worried you were when he didn't show up or call, and ask him why he reacted the way he did. Suggest that, in the future, he give you a call when he's going to be more than an hour late.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 13 and just finished the seventh grade. I recently got my belly button pierced, and everything was fine until about a week ago. This sounds weird, but a red bump showed up at the top of my piercing, and it seems to keep swelling. I've had my belly button pierced for only a month, so I'm sure I started changing my jewelry too soon. I'm worried this bump will stay on my navel forever.

Do you have any idea what it is, and how I can get rid of it? I love my piercing and don't want to take it out. Any information would help.

— **PIERCED IN MONTANA**

DEAR PIERCED: You may have an infection at the site of your piercing, or be allergic to the metal in some of your navel jewelry. My advice is to ask your mother to schedule a doctor's appointment for you so the problem can be diagnosed and treated. The doctor can determine whether or not you will have to "take it out." Keep your fingers crossed and hold a good thought.

DEAR ABBY: You have asked readers to share their pet peeves with you. Well, here's mine. Please help me get the message out. When an elevator door opens, please allow the passengers who are getting off to get out of the elevator before you get on! I don't understand why people must push their way into an elevator while folks are trying to get off.

— **ELIZABETH IN MEDFORD, ORE.**

DEAR ELIZABETH: Neither do I, unless they are so determined to be first on the elevator that they have forgotten their manners. It's only common sense that the elevator be allowed to empty before passengers begin to enter — otherwise they're jostling each other at the door.

STATE TROOPER REPORT



Thursday, July 21

• At 9:15 a.m. Kodiak troopers cited a 49-year-old Kodiak man for possessing undersize Dungeness crab. He was contacted in Middle Bay after he was observed subsistence fishing.

Saturday, July 23

• At 11 p.m. troopers responded to a report from the Kodiak Fairgrounds about an assault that had occurred with injuries. An investigation showed that a 21-year-old man from South Dakota assaulted a person during an argument. The man was arrested and remanded to the Kodiak Jail.

The injured person had a dislocated shoulder and was struck in the face. Medics were able to reset the shoulder and treat the other injuries.

Sunday, July 24

• At 12:05 a.m. troopers responded to assist the U.S. Coast Guard Military Police with an intoxicated driver. An investigation showed that a 26-year-old Kodiak woman was operating her vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. She was transported to the Kodiak Police Department for a breath test. She was then given a summons and released.



Residents kill weeds

DAILY MIRROR STAFF

Kodiak residents plucked, picked and pulled the invasive orange hawkweed plants July 17 along the bike path that parallels Benny Benson Avenue.

The effort, organized by Woody Island Tribal Council's Environmental and Natural Resources office and the Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District, was to help reduce the spread of the aggressive plant and to increase awareness about invasive plants, according to a

press release from the Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District.

Surveys have discovered orange hawkweed taking over local lawns, native wildflower meadows and popular trails around Kodiak, the press release said. Other invasive plants in Kodiak include: Japanese knotweed, Canada thistle, bull thistle, oxeye daisy and yellow toadflax.

Fifteen bags of hawkweed were collected during the weed pull by 17 children and adults.

Kodiak College

WEB REGISTRATION

Going on now!

Register for classes at www.koc.alaska.gov

If you need assistance call

Shoonaq' Tribal Bingo

Invites you to participate in the following
Special Events for the end of July:

Saturday, July 30th our end-of-the-month door prize will be
\$300 Cold, Hard Cash!!!

*Special prize payout sessions will consist of 10 games. First nine games pay out \$300 each with the 10th game paying out \$1,000.
45 players or more participating in any session pays out full prizes. If less than 45 players participate, half the stated prize amounts will be paid to winners.

SHOONAQ' TRIBAL BINGO MBP PERMIT NO. 1821
Proudly presenting a 100% smoke-free environment!

312 W. MARINE WAY
KODIAK, ALASKA 99588

adn.com

Anchorage Daily News

Print Page

Close Window

Jeff Lowenfels: Get mad, Alaska -- declare war on invasive plants

JEFF LOWENFELS
GARDENING*(Published: August 25, 2005)*

I'm turning into my dad, who happened to be the world's greatest poison-ivy hunter. Wherever we drove, no matter where we were going, how late we might be or what neighborhood we were in, he would stop the car and inform the homeowner whose yard happened to contain this dermatologically irritating vine of its dangers and how to eradicate it.

Sometimes he would just stop the car, get out and take the vines down. No matter that his sons were hiding in the back seat, afraid some homeowner believed that what he grew in his yard was no one else's business or, worse, someone we knew might recognize us.

How could it be that today I found myself knocking on the door of one of your neighbors to tell them they have the worst collection of butter and eggs (*Linaria vulgaris*), I've ever seen. Thousands of plants, pretty as a picture to be sure, but each in full bloom, displaying snapdragon-like yellow and orange flowers that, I know, will soon convert into thousands of seeds that can germinate instantly. Dad would be proud, and the only fear or shame I felt was that these awful invasives have proliferated and spread into virtually every yard and alley in Southcentral, and if we as a society don't do something about them, they will soon start to choke out every perennial around.

In fact, it felt so good that I may just do more of it. Lord knows it's a job that must be done. The wonderful people at the Cooperative Extension Service, the Alaska Committee on Noxious Weeds, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Bureau of Land Management and other agencies and volunteer groups need help.

There is every likelihood that your yard will be my next stop. If it isn't butter and eggs, it is oxeye daisies (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), bellflowers (*Campanula rapunculoides*), ornamental jewelweed or poor man's orchid (*Impatiens glandulifera*), creeping charlie or garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), dragon ribbon grass or reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinaceae*), common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*), orange or red hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) or one of the dozen or so other weeds that should never be allowed to see the light of day in our fair state.

I know the cause of the problem. It's you. Most Alaskans will put anything in their yard if it's sure to flower, and these plants sure do flower. In fact, I can hear some of you declaring, "Well, mine look great in the yard and aren't causing any problems even though I have had them for years," while others will defend their decision to grow any or all of these by noting the old saw "One gardener's weed is another's passion." Both of these sentiments, however, are way off the mark.

First, it doesn't matter if a plant has pretty flowers if it turns out to be a monster that chokes out everything else in the yard or radically changes the local environment. And this is exactly what will happen. Trust me. Just look at all the butter and eggs. Ever wonder what grew in their place before? They get so thick only butter and eggs grow. This isn't just a pretty flower. It's a pretty deadly flower. All of the invasive plants are, and they destroy the beauty that is Alaska and turn it into the bad parts of New Jersey. You owe it to yourself to learn to identify and then destroy these plants. Sound harsh and cruel? Sorry. It's what must be done. No argument can overcome the

necessity.

And it doesn't make a difference that the plant is well-behaved in your yard if its seeds get loose and take off. You have no right to cause that to happen. I don't know, for example, who in Anchorage is selling poor man's orchids, but they need to stop. They are a lovely plant and, in a dry garden surrounded by grass, can be contained for years.

However, I recently tried unsuccessfully to dissuade a friend from planting two in a garden on the bank of a river. They are, after all, beautiful, big flowers on stately looking plants and usually stay put in a lawned yard. I guess I'm going to have to take another page out of my dad's book and go back one night and do my friend -- and the river they live on -- a big favor. It may sound nutty, but this flowering pest could change the fish habitat and has been known to do so.

Of all the things I have asked you to do in the almost 30 years I have written this column, this should be among those you actually do: Go to www.uaf.edu/ces/ipm/plants/plantlinks.html and check out the links. We have a problem, Alaska, and we better start taking these plants seriously, or suffer we will.

Jeff Lowenfels is a member of the Garden Writers Hall of Fame. You can reach him at www.gardener_jeff.com or by joining the "Garden Party" radio show from 10 a.m. to noon Saturdays on KBYR 700 AM.

Garden calendar

- HARVEST: Take extra fresh harvest to Bean's Cafe or a food bank.
- LAWNS: Fall is a great time to aerate lawns and apply microbe foods.
- MULCHING: Grass clippings belong on annual beds even as they go through the winter. Collect some now and apply them.

Print Page

Close Window

Copyright © 2005 The Anchorage Daily News (www.adn.com)

adn.com

Anchorage Daily News

Print Page

Close Window

'Horrrific' weed poised to invade Southcentral**LOOSESTRIFE: Plant of European origin has been found growing wild in city.**By DOUG O'HARRA
Anchorage Daily News*(Published: October 13, 2005)*

An invasive plant that clogs creeks and wetlands across the Lower 48 and Canada has been found growing wild in Anchorage for the first time, along Chester Creek.

Purple loosestrife is a hardy flowering perennial native to Europe that can develop dense thickets almost impossible to eliminate. It's growing along a mucky island about 100 yards upstream from Spenard Road, said Jamie Snyder, invasive plant specialist with the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service, in Anchorage.

"This is a really horrrific wetland invader, pretty much across North America," Snyder said.

Its tiny seeds are carried on feathers and fur, she said, "so it's just one hop away from Potter Marsh, and then it's just one hop away from the Kenai Peninsula, where fishing industry is huge."

"This plant, if it were to get established in Potter Marsh, would absolutely cover the marsh," said Michael Shephard, plant ecologist with the state and private forestry office of the U.S. Forest Service. "There would be no more geese, no ducks, no terns, no swans."

Long planted by local gardeners who thought it could not spread, the fireweedlike purple flower has become a nightmare in many Outside communities and is now listed as a noxious plant in several states and Canadian provinces. It drives out native plants such as cattails, overgrows wetlands, ruins fish passage, even blocks access from the bank for recreation.

"They start as little herbaceous plants, but over the years, they begin to form this dense woody root crown a half a meter in diameter with 30 to 50 stems," Snyder said. "Once loosestrife gets well established, the wildlife as we know it, and the plant community as we know them, and the ecosystem as we know it, will not function any more."

They can take root from cuttings or spread in place through the ground. Once they go to seed, watch out.

"Each plant can produce over 2 million seeds, and the seeds are the size of ground pepper," Snyder said.

"This one is like the Top Gun as far as prolific seeders go," said Michael Rasy, a pest control specialist with the extension service.



Purple loosestrife has been found growing wild along Chester Creek. The invasive species, originally from Europe, poses a threat to the local environment and could even lead to the destruction of Southcentral fisheries. *(Photo by MICHAEL SHEPHARD / U.S. Forest Service)*

Snyder and Shephard will show the infestation to plant specialists, land managers and park officials this afternoon in an effort to start a loosestrife awareness campaign. Then they will carefully dig out the offending plants and their roots.

"That will be of course double bagged in heavy-duty plastic," Synder said. "You can't compost this type of plant because it would propagate. It's a form of biological pollution."

The plant could be growing wild elsewhere in the city, she said. Anyone who spots it should notify the cooperative extension service.

The outbreak of purple loosestrife in the greenbelt marks another local example of a worldwide problem: Invasive plants that take root far from their original environments and begin to spread without natural predators, competition or pests.

Alaska already has more than 20 invasive weeds spreading along roads and trails, several originally planted as garden plants or flowers. One new example is the European bird cherry, or May Day tree, which has been taking over the understory in city greenbelts.

Purple loosestrife first appeared on the East Coast in the early 1800s and slowly spread. By the 1930s, it began taking over wetlands and creek bottoms.

But the varieties sold in nurseries were supposed to be sterile, or the Anchorage growing season was thought too short to allow it to seed and spread, said Julie Riley, horticultural agent with the extension service.

In 1997, Riley challenged that view, called a meeting and argued that it should no longer be planted in Anchorage. But the consensus was that no one had ever seen it outside a tended bed.

"Because it hadn't had a history of escaping at that time, it was just kind of on everybody's watch list," Riley said.

The plant has been growing at the Alaska Botanical Garden since 1996, she said, but has never grown well and often was nibbled back by moose.

"I really didn't expect that it was going to escape (from a garden), but things are really changing," Riley said. "I think we're lucky we're spotting it, because I have this vision of Westchester Lagoon being covered with purple loosestrife."

Now Riley and other gardening experts say the time has come to give up the purple plant and root it from local beds.

"We didn't think we had a problem, but we do," said Jeff Lowenfels, an Anchorage businessman and gardening columnist. "My first recommendation would be not to buy any more of these. If you have any growing in your garden, pull it up and throw it away."

"In gardening," Lowenfels added, "the first rule is do no harm."

Daily News reporter Doug O'Harra can be reached at do'harra@adn.com.

INVASIVE WEED: Learn more about purple loosestrife at



505 West Northern Lights Boulevard, Suite 205
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 222-7714 (Phone); (907) 222-7715 (Fax)
varsha@akaction.net; www.akaction.org

Statement of Varsha Mathrani, MPH, Env. Health Coordinator, AK Community Action on Toxics
HB 324- Ban Orange Hawkweed/Purple Loosestrife (Sponsored by Rep. LeDoux)

Hearing of the House Resources Committee
February 15, 2006

Re: Comments on HB 324: "An Act banning the importation, transfer, and cultivation of orange hawkweed and purple loosestrife."

Co-Chairs Ramras and Samuels, thank you for allowing public testimony concerning HB 324. My name is Varsha Mathrani, Environmental Health Coordinator and a public health scientist representing Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT). ACAT is a statewide non-profit environmental health and justice organization that conducts research and provides educational programs, technical assistance, and training. I am preparing these comments on behalf of our statewide membership.

Alaska Community Action on Toxics approves of HB 324 as a measure to prevent invasive species from taking root and disrupting diverse native ecosystems of Alaska. We believe it is a good first step to addressing invasive species in Alaska. Thank you to Rep. LeDoux for sponsoring this bill. Prevention is key to this issue. However, the regulations providing for the disposal of the invasive species in question, purple loosestrife and orange hawkweed are unclear/not specified. ACAT approves of preventive measures. Prevention is the best tool, using mechanical and biological control of these plants first, such as weeding/uprooting and bagging and burning of the plant and its parts, or through insect species, preferably native, as forms of control). We advocate the use of assessments of alternatives to herbicides (through mechanical removal, biological controls, etc.) before even considering the use of herbicides, then selection of the least-toxic alternative. Use of herbicides adds another problem to an already existing one, and does not get at the "root" of the problem. Many herbicides are persistent and affect more than just the invasive species in question, as they are nonspecific. People in Alaska have been overwhelmingly opposed to the use of herbicides in vegetation management for forestry, transportation rights-of-way, and for invasive species.

In Alaska, more than in any other place in the country, people rely on the safe harvest of traditional subsistence foods and medicinal plants, including mushrooms, greens, berries, roots, fish, caribou, moose, waterfowl and terrestrial birds, and other wildlife. Subsistence foods comprise a significant, and in some communities, almost the entire diets of many Alaska Native and rural non-Native people. Thus, people are at much greater risk of exposure in areas treated with herbicides and it is especially important to use non-chemical alternatives rather than herbicides. People also rely on surface waters and individual wells to a great extent in rural Alaska. Commercial fisheries and the livelihood of fishing families are also dependent on good water quality and fish habitat—herbicide use would pose a serious hazard to the health of the commercial fisheries, the marketing and economic viability of our commercial fisheries. These important factors are often neglected in "quick fix" short term solutions.

The ecotoxicological and health effects on humans and other species should be considered. As UAA Professor of Biological Sciences, Frank von Hippel states, "Control of exotic plants should be achieved with mechanical removal or other non-chemical methods, rather than with herbicides. Many herbicides are known carcinogens and/or disruptors of the hormone systems of animals, including humans. The very fact that herbicides and other pesticides are designed to kill cells means that they are toxic, and time and time again pesticides that were supposedly safe were later banned due to their toxicity. We should not solve a problem of exotic species by creating a toxic environment for ourselves and our wildlife. Many good alternatives are available for weed control."

In a systematic review of the peer-reviewed scientific literature concerning health effects of pesticides, a team of physicians from the Ontario College of Family Physicians concluded: "The literature does not support the concept that some pesticides [including herbicides] are safer than others; it simply points to different health effects with different latency periods for the different classes...Some more surprising positive associations were found for pesticides that are considered less toxic in acute poisoning settings...[For example] the herbicides glyphosate [an herbicide used to control purple loosestrife] and glufosinate had associations with congenital malformations. Parental preconception exposure to glyphosate was associated with late abortion." Although glyphosate is touted as a "safe" herbicide, the latest science demonstrates that it is associated with serious adverse environmental and health effects.

The state must implement vegetation management strategies with the following guidelines:

- Least disruptive of natural controls.
- Least hazardous to human health.
- Minimize negative impacts to non-target organisms, including other plants (especially native/indigenous), insects, aquatic invertebrates, fish, and wildlife.
- Least damaging to ecological systems, including water quality, nutrient cycling, soil microbes, mycorrhizae, plant-animal interdependencies.
- Most likely to produce long-term solutions in vegetation control requirements.

The vegetation management program must provide regular monitoring to determine if and when treatments are needed. Educational, physical, mechanical, and biological measures of prevention and control will be given priority over chemical measures. Education regarding prevention is the most important measure as it gets to the root of the basic problem. In a conversation with a student in a gardening class, I observed that until people know that a plant is invasive, they may just plant it in their garden/yard "because it is pretty." Therefore, a precautionary approach should be taken. These plants should be banned from sale in Alaska. It is important to get people involved through coordination, education and awareness raising, participation in inventory and monitoring, research, and management through effective preventive and acceptable management, such as weeding.

Herbicides should be used only as a last resort. If herbicides are used, the state will use the smallest amount of the least toxic formulation with the least potential for contamination of subsistence resources, wildlife, or human exposure. Further, no chemical is permitted for use if it is acutely toxic or proven to cause cancer, hormone disruption, reproductive damage, immune system damage or nervous system toxicity. The state will apply the precautionary approach in all pest management decisions to prevent harm to human health and the environment from the use of toxic pesticides that have not been fully tested. The public process should be open and inclusive if herbicides are being considered in a particular area. If herbicides are used as a last resort, people that may use the area should be properly notified well in advance with publication in local newspapers and signage around the perimeter. Signage should be posted at least 72 hours in advance and left up at least 72 hours following herbicide applications. The notification and signage should include information about the environmental and health effects of the herbicides. This

protects the public's right to know about pesticides sprayed in their backyards (or someone else's backyard- it ultimately is someone's backyard).

Herbicides pose risks to workers, the public, water quality, subsistence resources, and human health. They are inherently harmful and should be replaced with safe non-chemical alternatives. Since glyphosate is a nonselective herbicide affecting non-target organisms, such as fish and plants, it may present a danger to native plant and animal species, as well as humans.

Again, we strongly urge the state to replace the use of herbicides with effective preventive measures as well as mechanical and biological controls of invasive plants through ecological methods/approaches of least toxic pest/weed management, and prevention (education, banning sales, etc.).

Thank you for your careful consideration of our comments regarding this bill. Please assure that these comments are entered into the official public record.

Sincerely,

Varsha Mathrani, MPH, Environmental Health Coordinator
Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT)

Mission: We believe that everyone has a right to clean air, clean water, and toxic-free foods. Please join as a member (\$30/year), volunteer, or consider an additional financial contribution to support our work. Thank you.

References:

<http://www.weedcenter.org/>

<http://www.pesticide.org/>

<http://www.invasiveplants.net/>

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs.html>

<http://www.natureserve.org/getData/plantID.ta.jsp>

http://www.akaction.org/PDFs/Glyphosate_facts.pdf

<http://extoxnet.orst.edu/pips/glyphosa.htm>

Sanborn, M. et al. 2004. Systematic Review of Pesticide Human Health Effects. Publication of the Ontario College of Family Physicians. p. 164.

ORANGE HAWKWEED

Wilson, LM / Callihan, RH

Meadow and orange hawkweed in: Biology and management of noxious rangeland weeds (pp. 238-248). Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University Press, 1999.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

Drlik, T / Woo, I / Swiadon, S, editors / Bio-Integral Resource Center

Purple loosestrife: Integrated vegetation management technical bulletin. <http://www.cfn.org/~ipmpa/Noxpl00s.html>

BIRC's newer version:

Woo, I / Drlik, T / Quarles, W

Integrated management of purple loosestrife. IPM Practitioner. October 2002. 24(10): 1-9.

Nature Conservancy

ELEMENT STEWARDSHIP ABSTRACT for Lythrum salicaria Purple Loosestrife. 2001.

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/lythsali.html>

HB

328

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO HB 328 (VERSION C)

Page 2, lines 15-18 Delete all material

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Chair
STATE AFFAIRS

Member
RESOURCES

Member
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Member
WAYS AND MEANS



REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON
House District 35

Session:
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone 907-465-2689
Fax 907-465-3472
1-800-665-2689
Rep.Paul.Seaton@legis.state.ak.us

Interim:
345 W. Sterling Highway
Suite 102B
Homer, Alaska 99603
Phone 907-235-2921
Fax 907-235-4008

Sponsor Statement HB 328

Alaska has a reputation for pure water and vibrant wild fish stocks. HB 328 seeks to maintain the long-standing prohibition on pollution mixing zones in Alaska's freshwater spawning areas. HB 328 transfers into statute a regulation that has governed wastewater discharges for many successful years of industrial and municipal expansion in Alaska.

HB 328 aids municipalities and industry by preventing man-made ditches or holding ponds that are invaded by spawning fish from being reclassified as freshwater spawning areas. This language solves the "Valdez Situation" cited by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) as a primary rationale for the regulation change. In that case, the city created a ditch from its wastewater treatment facility to saltwater, and the ditch was subsequently invaded by spawning pink salmon. This ditch was then classified as a spawning area requiring the wastewater discharge parameters to be reduced to a purity that the city's wastewater treatment plant would not be able to feasibly meet. HB 328 also allows other municipal wastewater facilities to have a mixing zone re-authorized if successful spawning occurs in the mixing zone after initial authorization, solving the concerns of many municipalities across the state.

HB 328 designates a spawning area to be a physical place in a river where fish spawning occurs. According to testimony from ADEC staff and the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game, the standard practice among regulators has been to determine where and when spawning occurs, and to employ seasonal restrictions on development activities in order to control impacts to the environment. However, in relation to the authorization of mixing zones in freshwater, there has never been explicit statutory or regulatory authorization for this practice. There was no reference to this practice in either of the previous Mixing Zone proposals.

In the summer of 2004 and again in 2005 ADEC released proposals to lift the prohibition on pollution mixing zones in freshwater spawning areas. These proposals were met with intense opposition from coastal municipalities, commercial and sport fishing industry groups, the federal government, state fish and game advisory committees, and hundreds of individuals, families, and



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON

House District 35

businesses who testified that allowing pollution in freshwater spawning areas would have a detrimental effect on the physical environment where the largest freshwater spawning populations on earth occur. Additionally, commercial fishing groups were unified in the concern that their recent successes in salmon marketing would be undermined if this important water quality safeguard was abolished.

Recently, ADEC adopted a version of the proposed regulations that both consolidate and modify the mixing zone regulations found at 18 AAC 70.240 through 18 AAC 70.020. The new regulations specifically exclude resident freshwater sport fish and resident subsistence fish spawning areas from the prohibition on mixing zones. Additionally, the new regulations allow any pollution mixing zone to be permitted year-round in freshwater salmon spawning areas if spawning salmon were not found in the area when the mixing zone was authorized, but were later found successfully spawning in the mixing zone. The new regulations also change the regulatory definition of a "spawning area" to mean a point in time. This allows regulators to authorize mixing zones in all spawning areas when it is determined that salmon spawning will not be occurring. All of these changes present significant departures from established public policy.

HB 328 does not negate other substantive changes ADEC has made in their attempt to streamline and consolidate the mixing zone regulations. HB 328 does not change regulations that allow for site-specific exemptions from state water quality standards and the granting of short-term variances from the standards, both of which can be applied to allow activities such as placer mining. Placer mines may also have a mixing zone in an area determined to not be an area where spawning occurs.

HB 328 protects municipalities and industry while maintaining the high standard of water quality and fisheries protection that has been a centerpiece of Alaska policy for years.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Chair
STATE AFFAIRS

Member
RESOURCES

Member
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Member
WAYS AND MEANS



REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON
House District 35

Session:
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone 907-465-2689
Fax 907-465-3472
1-800-665-2689

Rep.Paul.Seaton@legis.state.ak.us

Interim:
345 W. Sterling Highway
Suite 102B
Homer, Alaska 99603
Phone 907-235-2921
Fax 907-235-4008

HB 328 Sectional Analysis

Section 1 (a)

Prohibits the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation from authorizing a mixing zone in an area of a lake, stream, river or other flowing fresh water body where anadromous or resident fish are spawning or have existing redds or nests. With the exception of "lake" this language is taken directly from the current regulations at 18 AAC 70.255(h). The 2005 ADEC mixing zone proposed regulation includes lakes along with streams, rivers and other flowing fresh waters. HB 328 includes lakes, mirroring this proposed regulatory language.

Section 1 (b)

Clarifies that the prohibition on mixing zones in freshwater spawning areas does not apply to a mixing zone for a municipal wastewater discharge if spawning was not ongoing in the mixing zone at the time the mixing zone was initially authorized, but the mixing zone was subsequently invaded by spawning fish.

Section 1 (c) (1)

Defines "area" as the physical location where spawning occurs.

Section 1 (c) (2)

Clarifies that the prohibition applies to spawning areas of naturally occurring lakes, streams, rivers, or other flowing fresh water even if these waters have been modified or altered by construction or remediation. It further clarifies that the prohibition on mixing zones in spawning areas does not apply when spawning occurs in the water of an entirely man-made holding pond or channel. However, if these holding ponds and channels have been created for the purpose of facilitating fish spawning, mixing zones are prohibited in them.

Section 1 (c) (3)

Defines "mixing zone".

24-LS1273VC
Bullock
4/5/06

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 328()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES SEATON, OLSON, GATTO AND LEDOUX, Kerttula, Garu

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act prohibiting mixing zones in freshwater spawning waters."

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

3 * Section 1. AS 46.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

4 Sec. 46.03.065. Prohibition of mixing zones in spawning waters. (a) Except
5 as provided in (b) and (c) of this section, the department may not authorize a mixing
6 zone for lakes, streams, rivers, or other flowing fresh water in an area of

7 (1) anadromous fish spawning; or

8 (2) resident fish redds for

9 (A) Arctic char;

10 (B) Arctic grayling;

11 (C) brook trout;

12 (D) burbot;

13 (E) cutthroat trout;

14 (F) Dolly Varden;

15 (G) lake trout;

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

- (H) landlocked coho, king, and sockeye salmon;
- (I) northern pike;
- (J) rainbow trout;
- (K) sheefish; or
- (L) whitefish.

(b) The prohibition in (a) of this section does not apply to the renewal of a municipal or village wastewater facility's mixing zone authorization during the useful life of the wastewater facility for an area where spawning was not ongoing at the time of the initial authorization and the mixing zone became a spawning area after the date of the initial authorization.

(c) The prohibition in (a) of this section does not apply to a mixing zone for a suction dredge placer mine or a mechanical placer mine if

(1) the turbidity level of the mixing zone has been authorized by the Department of Environmental Conservation;

(2) the mixing zone extends not more than 500 feet downstream of the point of discharge;

(3) the mixing zone is at least 500 feet away from the closest mixing zone in the same body of water; and

(4) the Department of Environmental Conservation with the concurrence of the Department of Natural Resources, or, in an area designated under AS 16.20, with the concurrence of the Department of Fish and Game,

(A) restricts the discharge to periods when spawning is not occurring; and

(B) finds that the mixing zone will not adversely affect the present and future capability of the area for spawning, incubation, or rearing of fish included in (a) of this section.

(d) In this section,

(1) "area" means the physical location where spawning occurs;

(2) "lakes, streams, rivers, or other flowing fresh water" includes lakes, streams, rivers, or other flowing fresh water that have been altered by remediation or construction activities; the term does not include an artificially constructed facility for

1 water, wastewater, holding, or channeling, unless the artificial facility is constructed
2 for the purpose of facilitating fish spawning;

3 (3) "mixing zone" means an area in a water body surrounding or
4 downstream of a discharge where the effluent plume is diluted by the receiving water,
5 within which water quality standards specified by the department under AS 46.03.050
6 - 46.03.120 may be exceeded;

7 (4) "village" has the meaning given in AS 46.07.080.

8 * Sec. 2. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
9 read:

10 APPLICABILITY. AS 46.03.065, enacted in sec. 1 of this Act, does not apply to a
11 suction dredge placer mine or a mechanical placer mine with a permit in effect on the
12 effective date of this Act until the operator applies for a reauthorization of that permit.