

Jim Creek Parcel and the Community of Butte

Any Gravel Pit will do for extreme motor sports ---where private property owners should have the opportunity to provide "motorized attraction zones" on private land.

-That would be economic development.

We already have two motorized attraction zones right next door to Jim Creek: That would be the race track and the KRPU. Don't expose us to any more noise, traffic, dust; the circus that surrounds us on every sunny weekend.

The Jim Creek Parcel is too valuable for those of us who want to be able to play in a more normal way than what we've been seeing them do out there.

We should be able, as a family, to enjoy the woods and get to the Knik on a fourwheeler, on a bike, on skis, on foot or on a horse without having to dodge the crazies who come out of Anchorage, mess things up and go back home.

-That would be in exchange for us continuing to pay hefty property taxes.

We'd love to play and compete with our neighbors from Palmer, Lazy Mountain and Knik River at our 40-acre community park that was recommended for Butte, with sports fields, trails and play grounds for all ages; We would even be able to do some statewide invitationals. Those out-of-town athletes might want to rent some fourwheelers or some horses and take a run up to the Glacier and stay in a B&B or a Palmer hotel and have dinner at a local spot.

-That would be economic development close to home.

Most of us who live here know that the 260,000-acre motorized KRPUA has not been beneficial for our community, our economy, our peace of mind, our property values or our wallets. But, did you know that Butte property owners pay for rescues and respond to fire calls in the woods and on the River, and for having to fix up our roads that they tear up ?

Our Emergency and Road Service Area fees are paying for the thrill riders' fun to the extent that the Borough can't even afford to buy salt to keep the road dust down in Butte neighborhoods?

Along with the heavy-duty 150 acres of motor sports attractions there'll be 140 acres for Rustic Camping and Unprogrammed open space activity zone where anything goes. Hello??? Madd Maxxx???

Our leaders will tell you, "it's good for our economy." "We're open for bizness."

It's deja-vu all over again. And sad, knowing how hard locals - both the motorized and non-motorized oriented - have worked at bringing some light again to the dark side of the Knik, remembering how great it used to be here growing up.

When looking at this plan, doesn't it seem strange that these Master Planners put the one and only non-motorized trail right in-between the racetrack and the multi-use trail that all those fourwheeler-students-in-training are going to bomb through?

Did you know that the Borough let go of the non-motorized Envy Trail on the far end of the parcel? It's miraculously become motorized except for 900' on borough lands. They won't give it back. End of discussion. Listen to the contractor's tape of a "Focus Meeting" discussion if you don't believe it. Instead, they "graciously" allowed the State of Alaska to give us permission to apply for building a new non-motor trail paralleling the old Envy Trail into the KRPUA. You're right: it doesn't make sense.

The Butte Asset Management Plan says that we need to watch out for our moose and other wildlife. And the resources upriver.

The Jim Creek Planners and their keepers pretend there are no moose. They didn't even know that the Knik is a salmon stream. Maybe they were told to forget about our wildlife altogether. Who knows who's calling the shots here.

So, be sure to turn in your comments and help give our small and beautiful community of some 3,000 souls a chance to be known for our real assets and to develop an economy that's based on those. Most residents are for a fair balance. Most local families enjoy all recreational options available. But they have a right to feel safe doing it. Being a small community with only one playground at the school, no ball fields or other normal recreational outlets, we're tired of being used and abused by the reckless.

Do your best to convince those who rule us that they have a mandate to ensure that the Jim Creek Parcel is managed in a way that will benefit those who are most affected -our community of Butte and those who live here. It was the community's #1 Goal in of the Butte Asset Management Plan. Read it for yourself on Page 24: Residents come first - visitors second. Too bad our Mayor and Mr. Arvin and their friends don't know that.

Comments on the Jim Creek Parcel Master Plan are due by Sept. 28, 2012. email: Swdoyle@uskh.com. To ensure an honest process, send a copy to Butte Assemblyman Warren Keogh: warrenkeogh.district1@gmail.com
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