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Alaska State Legislature Sessions for HB 307 – Knik River Public Use Recreational Area

Date	Minutes	Public Testimony	Comments
07 May 05			
27 March 06	X		
29 March 06	X	X	
31 March 06	X		
03 April 06			
05 April 06	X	X	Ended Public Testimony Early
06 April 06	X	X	
10 April 06			
20 April 06			
21 April 06			
22 April 06			
27 April 06	X	X	
28 April 06			
03 May 06	X	X	
04 May 06			
05 May 06			

Knik River Public Use Area

Historical Trails are NOT to be "Grandfathered-In" and "Recognized" Trails do NOT equal Permanence!

Trails existing within the Knik River PUA are not to be considered as "grandfathered-in" for future use by recreationalists. According to the legislation, historical trails will be "recognized" but this does not guarantee its use in the future. A trail will be closed if it is harmful to the surrounding wildlife and wildlife habitat.

To create the Knik River PUA management plan, it is important to fully understand the language written in House Bill 307. The minutes of both the House and Senate can be located at <http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/home.htm>. Minutes are available for March 29th, April 5th, April 6th, April 27th, and May 3rd. If time is taken to review the commentary, you will better understand why this legislation was created, how various members of the community viewed the legislation, and what legislators said about specific issues regarding HB 307. We will be happy to provide copies of the audio commentary for your review.

The following three (3) excerpts were taken from the Alaska Legislature website. These statements are condensed version of the original dialogue.

(1.)

Minutes: House Finance

RE: "Recognition" of Trails

Website:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_single_minute.asp?session=24&beg_line=00111&end_line=00418&time=1346&date=20060406&comm=FIN&house=H

Date: Apr 06, 2006

Time: 2:22:20 PM

Comments:

Representative Kerttula referenced the section of the bill that addresses recognition of the existing off-road motor vehicle trails and asked if that meant "consideration". Mr. Mylius understood that it meant, "recognized". Some of those trails might need to be rerouted; the current language provides that flexibility.

Representative Kerttula asked if some of those trails were creating more *debilitation*, would the Department have the authority to *rehabilitate* the area to bring them back. Mr. Mylius replied they have that authority.

(2.)

Minutes: Senate Finance

RE: "Recognition" of Trails

Website:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_single_minute.asp?session=24&beg_line=00111&end_line=00418&time=1346&date=20060406&comm=FIN&house=H

Date: May 03, 2006

Time: 10:19:49 AM

Comments:

Mr. Mulligan explained that language in the House Resources committee substitute before this Committee includes language intended to maintain ATV use in the area while also addressing habitat degradation. As an example of how this would be implemented, he stated that if a trail crossed a stream or otherwise harmed habitat, the Department would be responsible for providing an alternative route. Such remediation would not negatively impact ATV use, but rather ensure that activities could continue.

10:20:59 AM

Senator Dyson understood from public testimony that the bill was amended and that the original version was preferable.

10:21:15 AM

Mr. Mulligan stated that the original version would have "grandfathered" all existing trails. The user organizations reached consensus with the amended language.

(3.)

Minutes: Senate Resources

RE: Multiple Use – A PUA created for ALL user groups not only motorized users.

Website:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_single_minute.asp?session=24&beg_line=00506&end_line=00902&time=1539&date=20060427&comm=RES&house=S

Date: Apr 27, 2006

Time: 4:06:27 PM

Comments:

CHAIR WAGONER asked how many acres would be included in the public use area.

MR. MULLIGAN replied approximately 262,000 acres.

CHAIR WAGONER said he understands it would be a **multiple use area**.

MR. MULLIGAN said yes; the sponsor and Senator Huggins maintain that **everyone ought to be able to responsibly use the area**.