

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Daniel Ray Albright  
Albright's Comm. Floors,,,, Inc.  
President  
501 West 41st. Ave Unit A  
Anchorage, Ak 99503

Phone: (907)-563-0723  
Alternate Phone: (907)-440-1345  
Fax: (907)-563-0724  
Email: acf@gci.net

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 1 of 163 - Submitted 10/05/2010 at 11:20 AM:

My family has been gill netting@ the mouth of the Kasilof for 20+ years and cannot fathom the effects it would have on our family and other Alaskan families to have the personal use fisheries program become a thing of the past.

Not only does the fishery provide our family with an excellent source of natural food, but the chance for our children to get back to nature and experience the beautiful outdoors is unquestionably part of our concerns. The beach is certainly part of our summer vacation. The experience alone is of the utmost importance to our family.

My concerns are these, why would the SOA not consider purchasing the land up the road from the Mental Trust Fund for a campground complete with public outhouses and such? I'm sure that any family that would utilize the facility would pay a daily fee such as the Anchor Point campground or any other SOA or National Park Service campground. I really also find it hard to believe that the dunes are being affected by ATV use. That quite simply sounds like a ploy by the commercial fishing industry to curtail the amount of fish taken for private use.

I truly believe that the ending of the fishery would create an outrage by the families that utilize and have utilized the personal use fishery at the Kasilof beach sites. My families and I will actively oppose any alterations or the cancellation of the fishery.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Rodney Almandinger  
780 N. Esty Dr.  
Palmer, Ak 99645

Phone: (907)-232-2109  
Email: rodbob1@hotmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 2 of 163 - Submitted 12/06/2010 at 04:01 PM:

I feel that NO fees should be amassed for the Kasilof area. If you are going to charge people for fishing, then the grounds must be maintained. The Kenai dipnet areas are not maintained, but people are charged. Fees are NOT being used for what they are collected for. I agree with that enforcement should be present. There are many people that I have witnessed, that are taking more than their limits. Also, the household is not present for the dipnet use. Only the main person. People do not follow the rules, so they get away with it. But, that is Fish & Games problem. Camping should be allowed for the duration of their quota that is on their permit. To camp out for the entire dipnet season, means they are taking more than their allotment, & again, Fish & Game should be doing their job and monitoring the area. Which they don't. Yes, on camping regulations. There needs to be some. Improved sanitation and toilet facilities, there are already portapotties present. Can't do much more than that. Building permant outhouses should not be allowed, because it takes away from the natural beauty. The Kasilof area needs to be left alone, for it works for everyone, the way it is now. Quit messing with something, only because you want to collect money. The State messed up all the campgrounds, by charging, because people camped there. What's next, charging for people to hike too? The State "groomed" the camp sites, but turned them ugly, and not many camp there. Like putting up traffic lights, for a street that doesn't need any. DON'T MESS WITH SOMETHING THAT ISN'T BROKEN OR NEEDS FIXING!!!!

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

David Atcheson  
Box 145  
Sterling, Ak 99672

Phone: (907)-262-7894  
Email: daveatcheson@hotmail.com

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 3 of 163 - Submitted 11/12/2010 at 10:51 AM:

I would like to submit a comment on the proposed special management area for the Kasilof River, and say that I STRONGLY support creating such an area. It is the only way, with the growing population and use, we will be able to protect this critical habitat for future generations to enjoy.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Rose Corinne Banse  
25836 E Justin Rd  
Palmer, Ak 99645

Phone: (907)-746-3907  
Alternate Phone: (907)-861-5100  
Email: rcbanse@hotmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 4 of 163 - Submitted 11/15/2010 at 07:08 AM:

Our family has been able to participate in the Personal Use Subsistence Fishery on Kasilof River since 2004. We go early to pick a site (one site), and spend a number of days moving onto the beach in order to be ready for the opener June 15 at 6am. Sometimes the tides are such that our nets are not even in the water for most of the day. It depends on the year. Typically it takes 6-10 days in order for us to get the fish we need to feed our families for the winter. We all work together. None of us would be able to get our fish on our own. My mother is 77. My sister and her husband have 7 children. My daughter has 6 children. I have one son left at home, and a husband who desperately needs the salmon to help in his fight against cancer. Under the "letter of the law" we could take up 5 or 6 sites (one for each card holder) but instead choose to work one site TOGETHER as a family. In the process we are teaching the younger generation about hard work, caring for each other, and caring for the environment. When we leave, our site is clean. You won't find dead fish carcasses, garbage, or waste. We've had our family time and are thankful knowing we have food for the winter. Please do not make it any harder for us to do this. A lot of money, time, and effort goes into what our family calls "Fish Camp". Added fees and restrictions would make this an impossible task. I sincerely wish that you would reconsider your decisions. Thank you for your time. Rosie Banse

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Donna Bartman  
P.O. Box 400  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Email: dmbartman@gmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 5 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Greetings from Kasilof,

I have lived two miles from the Kasilof Beach Road for almost 30 years. I love going to the beach for all it has to offer. I want to be able to park there, walk on the beach, use a 4-wheeler on the beach, fish, look around at the action during the summer, and enjoy the peacefulness when the summer folks go home. During the fishing season, I think some management needs to occur. Perhaps there needs to be a large parking area on K-Beach and Cohoe and shuttle people into the fishery. Yes, save the dunes, to protect the habitat. Thanks.

Donna Bartman

P. O. Box 400

Kasilof, AK 99610

\*Emailed 11/15/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Eleanor Batchelder  
Na  
Na, Ak Na

Email: el.batchelder@gmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 6 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

To Whom It May Concern:

I totally trust the organization Cook Inletkeeper to guard the northern outpost of our nation's environment, and in particular I support their efforts to guard the welfare of the Kasilof River. Please be guided by these passionate and knowledgeable people!

Thanks,

Eleanor Batchelder

\*Above section is an email. Below section is the attachment that came with the email.

Background: The Kasilof River is a spectacular system on the Kenai Peninsula that supports king, sockeye, silver and other fisheries. But heavy pressure on the resource from personal use fisheries has created a variety of concerns (see below). Inletkeeper believes reasonable controls will promote more responsible use of this valuable resource, and promote enhanced sport, personal use and commercial fisheries for years to come.

The Problem: Below is a brief summary of the water quality, habitat and land use management issues identified by the State of Alaska:

- Increased risk to public health and safety due to insufficient sanitation facilities.
- Degradation of dunes and associated wetlands habitats from intensive recreational use.
- Insufficient public parking/staging areas and extended stays during the fisheries.
- Increased threat to water quality from uncontrolled and unsupported uses.
- Irresponsible disposal of fish waste.
- Maintaining and enhancing public access to and from state land.
- Increased trespass on adjacent private lands is creating user conflicts with local residents, poses potential threats to public safety and places strain on existing public safety resources.
- Target and recreational shooting during the fisheries is a public safety concern to the users, families and residents of the area.

The Solution: In February 2010, Inletkeeper joined over a dozen other groups in a

letter to Governor Parnell calling for specific actions to address growing water quality, habitat, access and land use issues around the Kasilof River. In response, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources has proposed a Special Use Area (SUA) for the mouth of the river, which provides various legal authorities to address many of these concerns. Additional information on this proposal can be found at the DNR website: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/kasilof/>

Make Your Voice Heard! Alaskans throughout southcentral Alaska and beyond use and enjoy the spectacular resources of the Kasilof River. But with increased pressure over the years, we're in danger of loving the resource to death. Take 5 minutes to support a Special Use Area for the Kasilof River so all Alaskans can continue to use and enjoy the Kasilof River.

COMMENTS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2010.

You may submit comments online by clicking [here](#) or by sending them to:

Adam Smith

Department of Natural Resources

Southcentral Region Land Office

550 West 7th Avenue Suite 900C

Anchorage, AK 99501-3577

E-mail: [adam.smith@alaska.gov](mailto:adam.smith@alaska.gov)

Fax: 907.269.8913

For more information: Bob Shavelson, Cook Inletkeeper, at 907.235.4068 x22 or

[bob@inletkeeper.org](mailto:bob@inletkeeper.org).

\*Emailed 11/12/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

W. Steven Bates  
P.O. Box 876576  
Wasilla, Ak 99687

Phone: (907)-376-1061  
Email: clamgunner66@mtaonline.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 7 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

ZIP: 99687

TELEPHONE: 907-376-1067

EMAIL: clamgunner66@mtaonline.net

Topic: Fish & Game

YOU COMMENTS: This letter is a response to comments requested on the Kasilof River Special use Area (KARSUA) Draft Proposal ADL 230992, dated September 2010, presented at public forum in Anchorage in late October with responses due by November 15th.

As a consumer of the personal use/subsistence fishery since its inception, I agree that human and fish waste has developed into a problem in the dip net fishery over time. The set net fishery was spread out early on and later confined by request of commercial fisherman to its present location. Our group always packed out our human waste. I will wager the vaulted toilets will be destroyed in the first year. Port-a-potties during the peak use would be a less expensive (over time) alternative if they are pumped more often.

Degradation of dunes and wetlands occurs from ice out to freeze-up, not just during subsistence/personal use time and fencing it is long overdue but I will wager this solution will not last a year. 24/7 enforcement from April thru November may keep the fence intact but someone will see a need for the fence relocated elsewhere.

A Lower Kasilof River Boat Launch has been discussed and been needed since I moved to Kasilof in 1981. Of all items in this to do list, this one should be priority number one. A launch/recovery facility on the lower Kasilof River to access Cook inlet and the lower river for recreational consumers is long overdue.

Early Staging of Gear requires a low tide to place outer stakes safely and working the tides will not always fit into the proposed seven day prior window so I feel the proposed window should be June First for pre-site selection. A date would be less confusing that a time period and should be easier to enforce. The 14 day statue for a camp on the beach does not fit the place, time, or situation. Construction of a camp on shore alerts other beach users that a possible danger to travel exists and to be wary. The conflict in the proposal, as I read it, is we are allowed to drive heavy metal stakes which are covered by silt laden water part of the time but not allowed to occupy the beach, without a permit.

We have put time, money, and effort into enjoying the short time in our camp. Most of us are occupying a 100 foot section of beach prior to the time nets are allowed to enter the water to keep our gear from being stolen. The fish runs are not going to fit in a calendar. In years past, as fish permits were filled, sites were broken down, opening these sites for late comers, but not last year. None of the fish permits were filled at our site and by your definition of stay we would have been forced to move off the beach. A two mile move on a one mile beach translates, in the mind of a consumer, into leave the beach.

Parking, Staging, and Extended Stays. Vehicle parking along No. Coho extension and Fishermans Road has always been tight but no one to my knowledge has ever blocked access on purpose. Current parking limits consumers. I have friends who only dip net during the week. Purchasing land (takes money), construction of parking lots (more money), vaulted toilets (still more money) will only over crowd an already crowded dip net fishery. I bowed out seven years ago because of the increasing poor attitude of new recruits to the fishery.

Public Access confusion? We have set up to harvest and process the fish at our site, but need to transport the finished product to a freezer so we travel on a public road, on and off a public beach below (mean high water) MHW. Commercial, sport, PU fisherman, rock hounds, nature lovers, walkers and lovers out for a stroll all use these corridors but proposal is designed to charge only user type a user fee. This does not sound fair to me. And the big question is pushing this why.

I agree that Target and Recreation Shooting is not appropriate for the area. But of all the time I have been on the beach during the subsistence/personal use fishery, the only time I heard a firearm discharged was three years ago during a domestic dispute by an inebriate on the Fishermans Road end of the beach. The individual was arrested and transported off the beach by ADPS.

Water Quality user fee pay system. Our camp has an outhouse with a modified chair, a double lining of plastic bags in the bucket under the chair with a hospital and septic system approved powder placed in the bags which deodorizes ( no files ) and solidifies liquids so human waste can be safely transported off the beach and deposited in one of our septic tanks.

Fish Waste disposed of by ADF&G Guidelines. Put carcasses back in the water, seems pretty straight forward to me. Just get out of the way of the Seagulls and Eagles.

As a draft proposal, this document passed out at the Anchorage public comment meeting, is confusing and poorly composed starting with Section IV, Authority, (page 6) 11 AAC 96.010(b) which was repealed on 12-7-2007.

How do the bacteria count in the Kenai River pertaining to a proposal for a Special Use Area at the mouth of the Kasilof River? There are pit toilets from Salamatof to Ninilchik every summer and Fishing Vessels not required to have waste holding tanks.

I could go on but someone did a hasty job of putting this proposal together for the public to digest and respond to in a short time. The DNR website states the fence around the dunes comment period is closed so why is it listed on this document. What individual(s) or entity is pushing an agenda to target one user group?

Sincerely,

W. Steven Bates

PO Box 876576

Wasilla, Alaska 99687

CC:

File

Site partners

Office of the Governor

Commissioner Denby Lloyd, ADF&G

Boards Support Section

Commissioner Tom Irwin, DNR

Director Dick Mylius

Senator Tom Waggoner

Representative Mike Chenault

Representative Wes Keller

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Sam Beaty  
P.O. Box 714  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-283-1009  
Alternate Phone: 907-252-5309  
Fax: (907)-283-1009  
Email: aksambs@aol.com

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 8 of 163 - Submitted 11/04/2010 at 03:47 PM:

I live within the proposed area appoxamatle 5/10 of a mile from the mouth of the river. I think you should open a larger corridor for personal use set netting to relive the pressure created buy the one mile limit now imposed. Also a user fee for camping at the mouth of the river would help with clean up and improving the facilities would also make users more receptive to the fees imposed. I dont think closeing the fishery is a option as it will create undue hardship on the local people that depend on the fishery for susistance use.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Amy Berga  
Na  
Kasilof, Ak Na

Email: amy@bergafamil.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 9 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

To Whom This May Concern,

I am writing to let you know of my desire for the mouth of the Kasilof River to be designated a "Special Use Area".

As a resident of Kasilof, I want what is best for all parties and I believe that we need to treat this area the best we can.

Sincerely,

Amy Berga

Kasilof

\*Emailed 11/8/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

William M Blake  
Na  
Na, Ak NA

Email: wlam62@hotmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 10 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Hi,  
I have lived in Kasilof 48 years, I have used the Kasilof beach area frequently in the summer months and some in the winter months. Myself, my family, and many of my friends have been dip netting on the Kasilof beach from the very beginning of dip netting. I am in full agreement with protecting the dunes and protecting the beach itself.

I am completely against turning the area into a special use area. The problem with the Kasilof beach area is a problem that repeats itself over and over in Alaska. It starts with the Fish and Game creating a fishery. (the dip net fishery in this case) They create a fishery but then provide no services such as bathrooms and garbage dumpsters. They could care less about people trespassing on private property and if some poor land owner complains about people walking across his property or using it as a toilet than he is told that they don't have the man power to deal with it. Eventually the fishery gets more and more popular mainly because people want to find a fishery that isn't as crowded and doesn't have as many people. After about 5 years you end up with thousands of people using an area with no dumpsters, outhouses or law enforcement.

Most of the problems with the Kasilof beach area are Fish and Game management issues. Why did the dip netting area all of a sudden get shrunk on the south side of the river? According to some Fish and Game person I talked to they decided that a marker needed to be put up so instead of using the mean low or low water description of the mouth of the Kasilof this one person walked out like god and places a marker up in the inner part of the river. (Mean low or low water to designate the mouth of the Kasilof river for dip netting purposes has been used since 1987.) This Fish and Game god now took away all but a very small area to dip net from on the south beach of the Kasilof River. You couldn't create more damage to the dunes and erosion issues with a D8 cat. The stretch of beach from where the river turns south and before it turns out to the inlet is the most stable beach area on either side of the river.

Why is the personal use gill net fishery confined to such a small area? It wasn't always that way. It really doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that putting 4 or 5 thousand people in a little tiny postage stamp area for a week is not good for the beach. The beach used to be opened up all the way down to the end of the commercial set net area. By allowing people to spread out and allowing more area to fish then you will be doing the beach more good than by putting a whole bunch of rules and regulations in place. My final issue with the Kasilof is that there is no public boat launch. If a boat launch was created it would keep even more people from walking and

stomping on the dunes and beach area. The boat launch is a bit more difficult and a bit more expensive but would definitely be a way to help protect the environment.

The Kasilof beach and the salmon that return to the Kasilof River belong to the people of the State of Alaska and it should be managed in that way.

Sincerely,

William M. Blake

\*Emailed 11/17/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Linda Bonadurer  
689 E Beaver Ave  
Palmer, Ak 99645

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 11 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 01:23 AM:

Comments in Opposition to the Proposed Plan

I have read the proposed plan for the Kasilof River Personal Use Area. If this plan is put into effect, it will adversely affect the ability of my family to harvest the fish we depend upon to feed ourselves and our children. Set net fishing is a huge family effort, requiring all the help we can get to set the pin, set the net, pull the net, repair the net, pick the fish, clean the fish, pull the pin, and clean up the campsite. We routinely fish the entire season, with different family members coming and going as they can, adjusting around their work schedules. Our extended family includes my 77-yr old widowed mother, my sister, who fishes to supply fish for her husband, a cancer survivor who eats fish every day, her daughter and family with 6 children to feed, another sister with 7 children to feed, various other siblings, children, grandchildren, and friends who need the fish, but don't have the resources to run a site on their own. Everyone pitches in to help, from the smallest to the oldest, and it is a great time to camp out and spend time together as a family. I depend on the fish, as I live alone and must provide for myself, but could not do it without the help of the rest of the family.

As the site is operated now, those who live closest to the beach, or anyone else who can get the time off of work, go down and set the pin, then camp on the beach to hold the site until the season opens. Then others come as they can to help operate the site. Sometimes some of us can only get a day or two off of work, so having the site already operational is a huge plus. Obviously this requires several different vehicles, most of which can drive down and park at the site, but some, like mine, are not equipped for beach driving, and must be left in the parking lot, after driving down from Palmer.

As you can see, having a fee system would make it impossible for us to continue to fish, and this source of supply would have to be abandoned. Any type of fee system involving paying each time you drive onto the beach, or each day you park in the lot, or each day you camp on the beach would make it unrealistic for us to continue to fish at Kasilof. Some of us with small children would have to stay home, and this would decrease the number of people who can help operate the site, and it would also make it difficult to spend the entire time on the beach, waiting for the fish run, which is unpredictable. It would be difficult to come later in the season and expect to find a spot to fish. Although I disagree with the idea of charging for subsistence fishing, the only thing I would find feasible would be a one-time reasonable charge for a season permit, which would maybe cover the cost of putting some portable toilets at the parking lot, as well as along the beach. This would avoid the problem of disposing of

human waste, as mentioned in the proposed plan.

As a family, we make a great effort to leave the beach as we found it, cleaning up all of our area before leaving. I have seen sand and trees falling on the cliff, without any disturbance from people at all, and know that the weather and the tides, storms and waves do more to erode the beach than anything we do there. There are plenty of eagles and seals to be seen, apparently all of the people there are not bothering them any. We bring in our own firewood, and use a cut barrel as a fire pit to conserve the wood. We use a portable toilet for the young children, and the outhouses provided. We bury our fish waste so it is not left to rot on the beach, or float around and hang up in other nets.

Living in Alaska is a great joy, and subsistence hunting and fishing is a part of being able to provide for our families here. It has been a great help to all of us, and we hope to be able to continue this in the future.

I appreciate the extension of the time period for accepting comments on the proposed plan, and thank you for considering my comments.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Glen Boothe  
P.O. Box 329  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Email: tek\_99@hotmail.com

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 12 of 163 - Submitted 10/26/2010 at 01:05 PM:

I believe that a pull out for drift boats would be beneficial and some control needs to be initiated to protect the area. But, I think that more needs to be decided as to cost of access or egress to and from the mouth. I feel that more information needs to be published as to how it will affect those of us that use the area. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the meeting due to my employment on the slope.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Alan Boraas  
Kenai Peninsula College  
Professor of Anthropology  
156 College Road  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-262-0360  
Alternate Phone: (907)-252-5049  
Email: ifasb@uaa.alaska.edu

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 13 of 163 - Submitted 11/15/2010 at 11:48 AM:

I support the creation of a Kasilof River special management area for the following reasons. Archaeological sites within the proposed management areas are being degraded by four wheeler traffic, off-road pickups, and indiscriminate camping. Off-road vehicle use is contributing to the "dunes" being denuded of vegetation probably contributing to increased erosion and wildlife habitat destruction. Camping should be controlled and off-road activity should be curtailed. People can walk to fishing areas.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Erin Borowski  
18708 Mountain Plover Cir  
Anchorage, Ak 99516

Phone: (907)-3444033  
Email: erininak@gci.net

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 14 of 163 - Submitted 11/11/2010 at 12:40 PM:

My family and I support the draft of the Kasilof River Special Use Area. We enjoy fishing and camping and want to protect Alaska's awesome resources to ensure they are available for our children and Alaska's growing population.

Thank-you, Erin Borowski

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Jonathan Bowman  
Quality Assurance  
P.O. Box 877672  
Wasilla, Ak 99687

Phone: (907)-350-3339  
Email: jonathan.bowman@elmendorf.af.mil

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 15 of 163 - Submitted 12/01/2010 at 10:56 AM:

After spending the past 5 years dip netting on the north side of the Kasilof river i would recommend not only day parking, but RV/Camping sites. The state would would have the income for the upkeep and would be able to manage parking. One of the biggest problems i have noted is the sanitation, recently in the past few years there have been porta potties located where everyone is camping however there are no facilities close to the dip netters. I would recommend installing cleaning facilities similiar to the Homer marina with dumpsters to illiminate fish waste washing ashore. I would also like to see some sort of fence installed on the grass/sand dunes to keep ATV's off protected land for the wildlife, however keeping the beach open to ATV's for hauling gear/fish back and forth from fishing area to the campground/RV area. Installing permanant restrooms as well as a shower facility would also be recommended. The State could get back a revenue off of the shower facilities as well. To me it is a no brainer, something needs to be done, however there is no reason that a RV/Campground, parking lot, restrooms,showers cant be installed.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Debbie Holle Brown  
27370 Tideland  
Kasilof , Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-262-4551  
Email: db@gci.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 16 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

10 December 2010

Please accept the attached letter as part of the public comments on Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Kasilof River Special Use Area

Sincerely,

Debbie Holle Brown

27370 Tideland

Kasilof, Alaska 99610

(907)262-4551 tel

\*Above is an email. Below is the attachment that came with the email.

10 December 2010

Kasilof River Special Use Area - Public Comment

I am a Coho area property owner and year round resident. My home property is immediately adjacent to the proposed Kasilof SUA near the mouth of the Kasilof River on the Coho side (South side). Since 1974 I have personally used the lands identified in the proposed state park.

In the mid 80's I served as the Kasilof Areawide KPB Planning Commissioner for 6 Years. I also served as KPB Assembly Member for the Kasilof District and also served two terms as KPB School Board member for the Kasilof District I know the people and lands in this area very well.

I am opposed to the creation of the Kasilof Special Use Area for the following reasons:

-Governor Parnell recently in November correctly defended the people of Alaska. Governor Parnell objected to the Federal Government's declaration of Polar Bear as a species in critical danger regarding its population as an endangered species. A Polar Bear designation such as this will significantly affect Alaskans and out way of life potential for utilizing and developing our natural resources according to Article 8 of Alaska's Constitution. I sincerely appreciate Governor Parnell taking this position against an every intrusive Federal government. For very similar reasons I oppose the

State of Alaska, our own state government (DNR) in its agenda to create more and more parks. An SUA is simply a temporary designation for a park-like area which later will most likely legislatively be renamed into official state park status.

-No studies or research exists to justify the State of Alaska DNR actions to create a Kasilof River SUA.

-The SUA will harm our heritage industries like commercial fishing and potential new Oil and Gas developments in this region. These industries have been the life-blood of the Kenai Peninsula borough.

-I live closest to this area of any, possibly all local residents in Coho-Kasilof. (at 27370 Tideland near the Coho beach). I believe the solution lies in stopping the Personal Use "dipnet" Fishery altogether at the mouths of the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. Allow personal use "gillnet" fishing to occur away from the mouths of the rivers just as is required for commercial fishing. The same enforcement Fish & Game officers (from boats or airplanes) used currently for commercial fisheries, should be used to enforce the personal use gillnet fishery. This way no new DNR employees are needed. No new Trooper employees would be needed. No Kasilof River Special Use Area is needed.

-The majority of Kenai Peninsula residents living outside of the incorporated areas are strongly opposed to zoning. The creation of a state park-like SUA in the Kasilof River valley constitutes zoning with zoning-like rules, user fees, and regulations. The rules and regulations will be violated. The violations will then be ticketed to produce revenue for the State DNR. The people of Alaska easily recognize creation of parks as a strategy for the State DNR. The people of Alaska easily recognize creation of parks as a strategy for revenue generation.

-Our family have consistently utilized the fish and game resources for food in the proposed SUA, and I adamantly opposed to DNR dramatically altering my family's lifestyle. We don't want "big brother government" watching our every movement. Alaskans want to live without the eye of government employees watching our every movement. I am, and my family are law abiding people. We respect the need for sensible fish and game management using seasons and bag limits. However, we do not appreciate our freedoms being diminished as a result of the State of Alaska's gross mismanagement of the personal use fishery. DNR creating a 2,600 acre park-like SUA as a partial solution for Alaska's mismanagement of this fishery is unfounded.

-The proposed Kasilof SUA is an expansion of state government that absolutely limits the freedom of local users and property owners.

-DNR has not adequately explained to the local residents the short term and long term impacts or, or the downside of residing in or near a SUA

-I among many in the Kenai Peninsula recognize the State and local governments have an obligation to respect the people and the interests of the people as a top priority over special interest group's agendas. I and many local residents are requesting time to identify better solutions which will more appropriately solve the problems along the Kasilof beach yet satisfy the interests of our local community and property owners.

My best,

Debbie Holle Brown

27370 Tideland

Kasilof, AK 99610

(907)262-4551

\*Emailed 12/10/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Debbie Holle Brown  
Cohoe-Kasilof Council  
P.O. Box 592  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-262-4551  
Email: db@gci.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 17 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Adam,  
Please include this letter as part of "Public Comments" for the Draft Kasilof River Special Use Area,

Sincerely,

Debbie Holle Brown

Cohoe~ Kasilof Community Council

262-4551 tel

\*Above is an email. Below is an attachment sent with the email.

Cohoe-Kasilof

Community Council

11 November 2010

Dear Mayor Carey and Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly,

The Cohoe- Kasilof Community Council met Monday 25 October and again Monday 8 November 2010. The Council has authorized me to request your assistance as KPB Mayor, and the assistance of the Borough Assembly in the matter entitled Kasilof River Special Use Area. This letter supports the oral remarks made by Mr. George Pierce, Mr. Jack Brown, and myself at the Borough Assembly meeting Tuesday 9 November 2010. The Cohoe ... Kasilof Community Council requests KPB agreement with our concerns and requests support of Cohoe and Kasilof residents in stopping the creation of the Draft Kasilof River Special Use Area.

-Prior to 15 November 2010, please deliver a letter to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to clarify a previous KPB letter which is being erroneously interpreted as "support" for the creation of the Kasilof River Special Use Area. Please confirm to DNR you are now aware of significant opposition to the proposed boundaries and many other concerns, as stated in other communications received by you Mayor Carey and DNR.

-On 25 October the Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council voted unanimously to oppose the Draft Kasilof River Special Use Area. There is no opposition to placement of a fence

and related signage to identify habitat off limits to vehicular traffic in summer months. There is no opposition to placement of temporary toilets or dumpsters as needed, if/when the personal use fishery is allowed by ADF&G.

-Please also mail copies of Kenai Peninsula Borough correspondence, or other matters which may be of interest to our local communities of Cohoe or Kasilof to:

Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council

Attention: Debbie Brown

P.O. Box 592 Kasilof, Alaska 99610

Mayor Carey, in our phone conversation on 28 October, you explained to me the letter DNR refers to as a "support letter" in fact was not intended to be used as Kenai Peninsula Borough support for creating a Special Use Area for the Kasilof River. The Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council believes it is important for you to clarify this fact in writing to DNR prior to 15 November 2010. In a recent conversation I had with Roland Maw, Executive Director of United Cook Inlet Drift Association (UCIDA), Roland explained they had not specifically submitted support for the proposed Draft Kasilof River SUA and that mis-interpretation by DNR has taken place with regard to a letter UCIDA submitted to the Governor's office asking for help with the personal use fishery and related problems.

Mayor Carey, we sincerely thank you for assisting and representing small communities like ours, located in the rural, unincorporated area of the Borough.

My best,

Debbie Holle Brown, Spokesperson

Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council

P.O. Box 592

Kasilof, Alaska 99610

(907)262-4551 tel

\*Emailed 11/15/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Jack Brown  
P.O. Box 592  
Kasilof , Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-394-2590  
Email: jackbrown@gci.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 18 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

10 December 2010

Please accept this letter (attached) as public comment to Alaska DNR's proposed Draft Kasilof River Special Use Area.

Sincerely,

Jack Brown

394-2590

PO Box 592

Kasilof, Alaska 99610

\*Above portion an email. The below portion the attachment included with the email.

10 December 2010

Kasilof River Special Use Area Public Comment

I am a Kasilof resident and live in the proposed Kasilof SUA. Since moving to Alaska 1965 I have participated as a avid outdoorsman. I enjoy fishing, hunting, cross country skiing, hiking, camping, berry picking, etc. I served as Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Member from 1987 to 2001 and worked as the KPB Business Development Manager from 2001 to 2005.

I am opposed to the creation of the Kasilof Special Use Area for the following reasons:

-I believe the majority of the local residents that live near or adjacent to the proposed SUA are not aware of DNR s attempt to create the Kasilof SUA

-For over 40 years my family has enjoyed camping and harvesting fish and game in proposed SUA, I am adamantly opposed to DNR dramatically altering my family s lifestyle

-The proposed Kasilof SUA is an expansion of state government that restricts the rights of local property owners

-This proposed SUA will generate lawsuits from local residents

-DNR has not adequately explained to the local residents the short term and long term impacts of, or the downside of residing in or near a SUA

-Only 1 to 2 % of the land in Alaska is privately owned, why should DNR be Allowed to restrict the use of private property

-I am highly suspicious of the motives behind this proposed SUA; why is this being fast tracked?

Jack Brown

PO Box 592

Kasilof, AK 99610

\*Emailed 12/10/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Wayne K Bumpus  
A & A Ent.,Inc.  
President  
14130 Sunview Drive  
Anchorage, Ak 99515

Phone: (907)-4400783  
Fax: (907)-3459357  
Email: aaentinc@gmail.com

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 19 of 163 - Submitted 11/19/2010 at 01:58 PM:

I attended the Anchorage meeting, and to me, Parking appears to be the most needed improvement on the north side of the Kasilof river. I believe also that rebuilding the dunes ,and allowing defined access in maybe two locations for vehicles and ATV'S, should help guide users to and from the beach. A fence or guardrail system will probably have to be installed on top of the dunes to prevent access by ATV'S. Permanent toilets will also be a major improvement as long as they are pumped regularly during the busiest fishing periods. As far as a fee is concerned, this is a tough issue to get approved, as people know that a one time fee by a government agency automatically becomes a permanent fee, and a user fee wouldn't be fair to locals and would be difficult to enforce. Maybe a user fee, until the project is paid in full could be applied, and then cancelled upon completion. The boat launch will have to be defined clearly, as users will block access for boaters unless there is enough defined room to turn your truck and boat around for launching. The end of the easement at the river seems to be a good spot for a ramp as long as there is enough room to cut down the grade. It will also be protected by the point from tidal action, and if not, rip rap the banks of the ramp. Good luck, Wayne

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Kathleen Ann Bush  
Box 365  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-2627870  
Email: kathybush70@yahoo.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 20 of 163 - Submitted 11/13/2010 at 04:13 PM:

I believe your proposals have a lot of duplication and overkill. Fish & Game certainly has authority (and could use it) over many of the problems of controlling fish waste and stopping the camping and motorhomes on the dunes. They do not like to enforce. It is such a short period of time, we need TEMPORARY toilets, dumpsters and a presence of law enforcement. Some land needs to be prepared for designated parking and access to the beach itself. Except for those few weeks of the year, there is very little congestion at the mouth of the river to warrant such a huge outlay. Your proposal for a motor launch in the river (apparently not at the very mouth of the river) would be devastating to the preservation of the wetlands, grassland, the banks, migrating birds in the spring, due to the large numbers of motors which would come with an easy launch! Drift boats do none of damage described to this small river. Last year there was a meeting in Kasilof (Parks & Rec, Mr Schroder) The large attendance were overwhelmingly against that location proposal because of traffic thru the neighborhood and motorboat impact. Drift boats only?

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Jim Butler  
P.O. Box 191  
Kenai, Ak 99611

Phone: (907)-283.7359  
Alternate Phone: (907)-283,7167  
Email: jim@baldwinandbutler.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 21 of 163 - Submitted 11/12/2010 at 12:53 PM:

I am contacting you to convey my strong support for the Kasilof River Special Use Area designation. Fractured landownership and confused agency jurisdiction has resulted in use and abuse of this critical natural habitat and ecosystem for far too long. I believe the KR-SUA is a reasonable step in asserting some nominal level of control in order to develop enforceable rules that can protect this important area.

I recognize many express concerns about this designation because they are uncertain about what it might mean in the future. Notwithstanding this concern, I urge your department to base your decision on the known harmful and long-term negative consequences that will result in this unique area if we (your dept and all local citizens) do not take this important action.

If we loose momentum to act now, I am afraid all concerned will look back at a lost opportunity and look forward to more degradation and irreparable harm to this critical and environmentally sensitive area.

Thank you for considering my comments.

jb

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Catherine Cassidy  
P.O. Box 599  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-262-6189  
Email: cark1@att.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 22 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

I am writing to support the Kasilof River Special Use Area designation. I support most of the proposed rules and management actions in the Draft Decision.

I don't think the 14-day limit on camping makes sense. In your report you say that say that camping damages vegetation, causes human waste problems, private property trespass problems and social conflicts. Merely limiting camping to a 14 day maximum does nothing to address the camping issues. I believe that camping should be prohibited completely; that would fix most of the problems. An additional benefit from prohibiting camping in the KARSUA would be the significant increase in parking capacity for users. Particularly at the north side of the river, campers set up large, long-term camps on all the adjacent uplands (and dunes) and day users have nowhere to park. (They have no legal place to park, they do park all over privately owned, posted sand dunes - after they tear down the no-trespassing signs.) The prohibition on camping at the mouth of the Kenai River has not diminished the dipnet fishery there. I understand that many Kasilof River personal use gillnet fishermen love to camp at the river mouth during the fishery. They certainly don't need to do so in order to fish, that fishery is only open between the hours of 6am and 11 pm. They also don't have any kind of entitlement to camp there. The right to harvest fish, clams, moose or anything else in our state doesn't come with an automatic right to set up camp. Personal use fishermen from out of town can utilize one of the many local campgrounds that are already set up to handle camping.

A compromise position would be to limit camping to sandy (unvegetated) beach areas just above the high tide line, with a time limit as well. Overall camping (and waste generation) would be reduced, vegetation would not be damaged, people would be less likely to set up huge camps with motorhomes and trailers and day-use parking would be expanded.

I was surprised to see a public boat launch/recovery facility listed as an issue in the Draft Decision. It is not relevant to the environmental damage and degradation issues which prompted the request for the designation of the Special Use Area and should not be included in the Draft Decision. If, however, the State of Alaska persists in a plan to build a public boat launch for motorized vessels on the lower Kasilof, that will exacerbate the problems and create new ones. Increasing access for motorized boats on the lower Kasilof River will cause pollution problems, social and human safety congestion problems and will very negatively affect the drift-only sport fishery in the river.

Thank you for your efforts to begin taking care of state lands on the Kasilof.

Sincerely,

Catherine Cassidy

262-6189

PO Box 599

Kasilof, AK 99610

\*11/12/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Michael & Elizabeth Chase  
P.O. Box 39  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-262-3233  
Email: beachmfishery@alaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 23 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:  
11/11/10

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a Kasilof Business owner who relies on the health of the Kasilof River. I am heartbroken at the total disregard of our Kasilof dunes and watershed area where the "public" comes to dipnet and "wreckcreate" in the river and all along our Kasilof Beaches. I have personally witnessed two women squatting behind a small log to "relieve" themselves on our beach front property, ATV's racing over our commercial gear with no fear of the dangers a high line could do to their machines or their life not to mention the many cut lines we have repaired due to their negligence. We have had campers set up their tents in the dark having no idea that our running lines were less than a foot from their tent and campfire, the vomit on our ropes told the rest of the story. We have had anchor post cut down for firewood, and last but not least of the "terrorist" who come down to dipnet, we have had boats vandalized of expensive equipment and one person, after getting stuck in the sand, felt he had the right to just jump into our backhoe and pull himself free. Imagine how my husband must have felt out in the boat picking fish and he sees his \$30,000.00 backhoe walking away ...we no longer leave doors open or keys in our vehicles. Our lives have changed due to the added pressure of this NEW fishery in our area and the kind of people it draws. Not only is the State allocating a free resource to a new user group, the limit law is not being followed by many.

I am against a 14 day limit to camping ..... you would not believe how early these people show up to get the front spot and they keep it all summer long. I recommend a NO CAMPING rule on the beaches and the dunes and to set up a real campground on the DNR land that is perfect in location on the bluff above at mile 9. That would give you extra revenue to hire more enforcement to ticket the irresponsible, place bathroom facilities, and dump stations.

I am also against a motorboat launch. The Kasilof is a drift only river and the introduction of a motorboat launch is just inviting trouble between the two different fisheries. It also would increase the amount of fuel and oil residue in the river. 1/3 of our community is made up of Commercial fishermen who rely on the health and well being of the Kasilof River. Don't make The Kasilof River a target for the EPA like the Kenai is today.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael and Elizabeth Chase

PO Box 39

Kasilof, AK 99610

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Gary Clayton  
3431 N Tampa Ct.  
Wasilla, Ak 99654

Email: garyc@mtaonline.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 24 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 10:57 AM:

We need more beach opened up and a longer period of time to set the net's, maybe an opening in July when the second run comes. Also, a larger turn around, staging and parking area. A boat ramp would be big relief to keep poeple from dragging their boats up and down the beach across everybody's gear. Restrooms would be nice and common sence should tell everybody no shooting allowed.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Farrah Kay Collver  
P.O. Box 1466  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-262-5531  
Email: collvers@yahoo.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 25 of 163 - Submitted 11/22/2010 at 09:14 AM:

I have read over the proposals for the Kasilof River Special Use Area and was sad to think that the changes may make it impossible for my family to fish for personal use in the future.

The opportunity to fish with family and friends, to harvest our natural resources for personal use is one of the many reasons my husband and I choose to raise our family in Alaska.

I understand the need for common sense, for people to respect the land, and not to burden local management (state troopers to patrol, the borough to provide waste management, etc.) However, to regulate the beach to point it is no longer feasible for common families to use is not the answer. The proposal contains the same kind regulations I would expect to see anywhere, the kind that separate the people from the land. Not the kind that get people involved, teach them to love the land and resources, and act responsibly.

"A permit is required for any placement or setting of gear on the beach or adjacent tidelands, more than 7 days prior to the beginning of the Kasilof River Personal Use..."

Some families can not get to the beach to set their pin at low tide within the 7 days prior, why a permit for gear, would this include a permit to camp with our gear for recreational use as my family does prior to the personal use season?

"The seasonal establishment and implementation of the User Pay Fee System (UPFS) to cover management costs associated with providing services associated with the personal use fisheries"

Trying to come up with any system other than a fee per site would be complex. Multigenerational families would be hard pressed to pay per person per day, some days the tides are not right to fish much, some days the commercial fishery has nets out and no fish get through to the personal use fishermen. Any kind of per person or per day fee would put an end to families being able to fish for personal use.

Lets think outside the box, involve the people who use the beach, who love Alaska and are who willing to make changes for the better for all. Those are the kind of changes that will ensure use of our resources for generations to come.

Farrah



# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Jim Colver  
Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's  
Committee  
Vice Chairman  
350 East Dahlia Avenue  
Palmer, Ak 99645

Phone: (907)-746-5300  
Fax: (907)-745-9845  
Email: jimcolver@mtaonline.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 26 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

To DNR, Division of Mining Land and Water - South central Regional Land Office;  
The Matanuska- Susitna Borough Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee has reviewed the Kasilof River Special Land Use Area Plan and submits the attached letter for your consideration.

We appreciate the extension of the public comment period and the public meeting held in Wasilla which provided more opportunity for Mat-Su residents to be informed of the plan.

Frankie Barker Environmental Planner Matanuska-Susitna Borough 350 E. Dahlia Avenue Palmer. AK 99645 907-746-7439 frankie.barker@matsugov.us

\*Above is an email. Below is an attachment that came with the email. MAYOR'S BLUE RIBBON SPORTSMEN'S COMMITTEE Matanuska-Susitna Borough 350 East Dahlia Avenue " Palmer, AK 99645

December 10, 2010

Adam Smith or Raymond Keogh Department of Natural Resources Southcentral Region Land Office 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 900C Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3577

Re: Kasilof River Special Use Area

Dear Sirs:

Thank you and Governor Parnell for extending the comment period on the Kasilof River Special Use Area (KRSUA) to allow time for discussion with our Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee and the opportunity to hold a public meeting in Wasilla this month. The Sportsmen's Committee has met with the Department of Fish and Game and the Governor to advocate for increased sport fishing opportunities for Mat-Su and Cook Inlet residents and therefore has concerns and suggestions to improve the draft Kasilof River Special Use Area plan.

History of Personal Use Salmon Fishing in Cook Inlet

The issues addressed in the Kasilof Special Use Area Plan are a direct result of decisions in 1996 by the Board of Fisheries to reduce the available beaches along Cook

Inlet for the personal use (PU) gillnet fishery to a two mile area encompassing north and south of the mouth of the Kasilof River. In addition, the Board substituted dip netting as a means to harvest PU salmon. From at least 1980 to the mid-nineties, subsistence/PU gillnet fishing occurred on most beaches along the east, west and north shores of Cook Inlet.

Now, as a consequence of cramming thousands of Alaskan PU fishers in the Kasilof area, there are impacts, and DNR is turning to regulatory measures to mitigate the impacts of past decisions. Alaskans who had their opportunity and the quality of experience to harvest PU fish reduced are bearing the burden. An article in the Anchorage Daily News on September 29, 1996 detailed the action and the public outcry at the reduction in the PU gillnet fishery. The last paragraph of the story reads, "Several board members wanted to revisit that decision and were interested in expanding the gillnet season and expanding the area open to nets. Department of Fish and Game biologist Paul Ruesch said the fishery could still be managed if the two-mile beach area at the mouth of the Kasilof was doubled or tripled."

The solution is simple. Offset decreased set gillnet opportunities with additional set gillnet fishing time on the same beaches earlier in June and in July during the peak of the sockeye run and/ or open additional beaches on either side of the current boundaries to reduce the pressure and alleviate the concentration of users. This concept was well received by all attendees at the KRSUA DNR public meeting in Wasilla on December 2, 2010.

The Sportsman's Committee makes the following recommendations for the KRSUA plan:

- User Fees- Keep it Simple - Provide an annual budget for maintenance of trash and sanitation facilities
  - o Create a possible revenue stream utilizing an annual or day pass options, available online similar to a State Park pass priced at \$25
  - o No manned collection kiosk is necessary, that would be a waste of resources
- Land exchange with the Mental Health Trust - To provide the needed land for parking and camping, a land trade is essential to the success of this plan. In the past MHT lands were available for parking and camping before being blocked off this season.
  - o MHT has the adjacent lands that are needed for parking and camping
  - o DNR does not have adequate land to deliver the promised facilities in the plan
- Camping - allow 21 day maximum or at a minimum 7 days plus length of the fishery, provide a provision allowing turning campsite over to others (friends, family, etc.)
- Solid Waste - Allow honey-buckets if waste is contained, hauled off and disposed of properly. Without this flexibility at beach campsites, it would be discriminatory toward seniors, women, children and disabled folks who can't always make it to public facilities ½ mile away, especially at high tide and at night when nets are being pulled.
- Shooting - Target shooting restrictions during the fisheries are needed for public safety. It would be reasonable to have that start 7 days before the season begins.
- Set up Time Limit -No ropes, stakes or gear to claim spots set more than 7 days before the fishery begins. This is a good recommendation.

A three-year phased approach to build the promised improvements needs to occur with annual funding provided in the Governor's budget. The plan speaks to facility issues but no funding is proposed. The Sportsman's Committee is concerned that all that may result of this plan are regulatory measures without funding for infrastructure.

-Provide funding for improvements in the Governor's budget

- o Boat Launch on the lower Kasilof (this has been around since the 80's)
- o Trash bins and vaulted toilets at the river mouth and at access points to the beach and on the north side of the river (4 sites total)
- o Gravel parking pad! RV parking - rustic camping at the end of Coho Loop Road.
- o North Side provide parking and camping areas

A serious public safety threat exists from drunk drivers in the Kasilof area when the fisheries are occurring. The Department of Public Safety needs stepped up enforcement and rapid response patrols for drunk drivers.

In closing, the KRSUA plan needs to be refined a bit more and address solutions to the high concentration of fishers that are the root cause of the intensive use and impacts. Simply making regulations will not reduce the demand for recreation and the rightful quest of Alaskans to harvest salmon for their dinner table.

We request the State of Alaska to work with us to enhance our fisheries and minimize our footprint on the habitat. There are approximately 100,000 Alaskans from households that personal use fish for salmon in Cook Inlet waters. As stated in the FY11 Operating Budget intent language, "It is also the intent of the legislature that measures to address sanitation or habitat concerns shall not reduce or restrict opportunities for the public to access and participate in these fisheries" (Kasilof River).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to being a part of the solution.

Sincerely,

Jim Colver

Vice Chairman

Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee

cc: Governor Sean Parnell

Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell

Sen. Charlie Huggins

Sen Linda Menard

Rep. Bill Stoltze

Rep. Mark Neuman

Rep. Wes Keller

Rep. Carl Gatto

DNR Commissioner

Cora Campbell, Acting ADF&G Commissioner

Charlie Swanton, ADF&G Director of Sportfishing

James Hasbrook, Regional ADF&G Supervisor

ADF&G Board of Fish

Mat-Su Fish & Game Advisory Comm

Anchorage Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Mat-Su Borough Assembly

\*Emailed 12/10/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Robert A. Correia  
P.O. Box 729  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-262-7851  
Email: cormit@alaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 27 of 163 - Submitted 11/15/2010 at 07:46 AM:

I am writing to support the creation of a Special Use Area for the lower Kasilof River. My family homesteaded on North Cohoe Road in the mid-50's and I grew up using the beach access at the end of Cohoe road. Historically, people parked and walked the beach or four wheel drive trucks drove on to the beach for access to set net sites to the South. There was very little travel to the North until the various personal use fisheries began in the 80's. Older ariel photos showing the sand dune road was likely related to the maintenance of the Kasilof River channel marker light structure. Much of the current use access is with 3-wheeler, 4-wheeler and 6-wheeler all-terrain vehicles. These type of vehicles have no problem traveling on the beach and simply do not need to use the sensitive dune road. I hope we are not not all meeting 10 yrs from now to try to fix what we are ruining today.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Terry Cowart  
Box 783  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-283-0491  
Email: tcowart@ptialaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 28 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Fax to: Adam Smith, Department of Natural Resources  
Kasilof Special use Area comments. (Copy of comments to be presented at the Kasilof 10-27 meeting)

My family and many of my neighbors have fished in the fishery every since its inception. We also own property right on the beach at the north end in areas designated as KT and in KL.

Regarding the perimeter lines indicated: I would like to know if the designation as a special use area, will involve access to the beach during none fishing times, for construction and maintenance equipment, limit the use of vehicles, etc for the purpose of accessing private property.

Regarding early staking: I don't think this is as big an issue as a few people have suggested. I have talked to enforcement many times over the years and they have maintained that through suggestions and mutual agreements, most conflicts are easily resolved. I have never seen or heard of any conflicts or abuse along the bluff area on the north end. By my observations, it has been an orderly process that takes place over several months with spaces open right up to opening day. Towards the close of the period there are always open areas.

Putting stakes in so they will not come out and setting the ropes correctly takes time and some effort. The amount of effort varies dues to access and beach conditions in every area. If the state opts to allow staking only within a specific timetable prior to fishing, the process could be more disorderly as large groups would be camping out and competing for spots. It's the fact that there are existing stakes that allow people to correctly measure out the required 100 ft. There will be a lot more possibility of conflict if 5-6 parties are trying to stake in the same area.

I would argue that there are probable very few complaints compared to the number of fisherman, and that the most equitable way is to leave it alone. Tighter regulations will only require more enforcement.

Terry Cowart, Box 783, Kasilof, 99610 283-0491

\*Emailed 10/26/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Terry & Teresa Cowart  
P.O. Box 783  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Email: tcowart@ptialaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 29 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Dear Mayor Carey,

I am requesting the Borough intercede on behalf of hundreds of Kasilof and Cohoe property owners who will be disenfranchised and forever impacted by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) decision to create the 3000 acre "special use area"(SUA), DNR's 45 day comment period is up November 15, and as the final arbiter, DNR will render a final decision on the SUA. A request to postpone the final decision to allow additional studies and involvement by local residents is a reasonable request, considering the lack of DNR supporting evidence, the large acreage involved, and the number of residents who have voiced opinions against the SUA.

There are at least 100 parcels bordering the proposed SUA boundaries, Most residents along the boundary and within the Kasilof/Cohoe area are not aware DNR is proposing to expand the 300-400 acre problem area at the mouth of the river into a 3000 acre "park like SUA", They are also not aware of DNR's intention to impose numerous regulations governing the "park like boundary" and shoreline which can be implemented without additional public input.

The letters and "overwhelming" evidence referenced by DNR in the draft decision and at the Tustumena information meeting has yet to be revealed to the public for comment. In addition, if they follow their same procedures, residents will never see this evidence or be able to review and comment on the opinions given to DNR in the 45 day process,

Please review the attached comments and specifically, alternate #6 as an example of the many comments being presented to DNR. A postponement of the final decision will not interfere with the 2011 fence installation and temporary measures by DNR to mitigate sanitation concerns.

Perhaps, the best example of comprehending the magnitude of DNR's decision would be to place yourself in our position. We should not be forced to reside alongside a "park like SUA" without the benefit of participating and having a voice in the decision process, One public meeting and a decision by a sole arbiter is not good public policy and certainly disenfranchises local residents. Please on our behalf, advise DNR of our concerns prior to the November 15 deadline to official become part of the record, Respectfully, Terry Cowart, 283-0491

\*Above section is email. Below section is the attachment that came with the email.

11-11-10

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

South central Regional land office

550 West 7th Ave, Suite 900C

Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3579

Attention: Adam Smith, Raymond Keough

Subject: Public Comments and Recommendations: proposed Kasilof Special Use Area

Gentlemen,

My family and many of my neighbors have fished in the Kasilof fishery under both the "personal use fishery" and "subsistence fishery" regulations since its inception in 1981. We have maintained a residence and property fronting the beach at the north end in the area designated as KT since 1972, and vacant acreage in the south end designated as KL. Based on our years of participation in the fishery, property interests, and concerns over the impacts of the proposed Kasilof Special Use Area (KSUA), please give my comments serious consideration. I have numerous comments, and will follow and reference the draft decision document as a guideline.

Ref page 4, Purpose and mission: The first sentence refers to "overwhelming public and agency concerns", but upon reading this 43 page document, I find no references to any documents, population usage studies, impact studies, interagency comments, enforcement comments, or evidence in general, which supports this statement. The acquisition of 3000 acres by the DNR for a SUA will have a serious impact on all Kasilof residents and especially on property owners adjacent to the proposed SUA. General statements and conclusions by DNR only, do not provide the public credible assurance of a need to create a 3000 acre SUA. If the DNR wants to designate this area as a "special use" and achieve the specific objectives outlined on page 4, it should first conduct the studies and let the science speak for itself. Only then will creation of this SUA have real credibility.

Ref page 4, item 2: Phrases and comments like "acceptable level of order", "represents a disorderly system" and "equitable allocation" in reference later on to fishing sites are highly subjective terms, and if left unsupported, are out of place in our representative government, much less this document. DNR representatives at the Oct 27 Tustumena school information meeting, heard a lot of comments concerning infringement on constitutional rights and should be sensitive to this issue. Determining and applying "acceptable levels of order", prior to conducting credible and convincing studies ignores the sciences and will only create public dissent. DNR should remove these subjective comments in order to stay focused on the basic issues of habitat and water quality concerns.

Ref page 5, first paragraph: The application and choice, by DNR to use the words, "irresponsible for the SCRO to take no action at this time" implies, the DNR intends to proceed with the SUA acquisition this winter and prior to next season, regardless of alternative measures and public concerns to the contrary. It could also be argued, that it would be irresponsible to create a SUA with the many reservations expressed in public input, without the benefit of allowing additional time for credible studies and further public and interagency evaluations. Upon reviewing public input, DNR should give consideration to postponing a final decision on the SUA to gather the supporting

evidence and interact further with local residents directly impacted by the SUA.

Ref page 5, second paragraph: This paragraph clearly introduces DNR's future intention to consider turning the entire Kasilof River system into a state park. Creating the KARSUA, and its subsequent regulations, could be a preamble to the parks creations. This creation will affect far more residents than those immediately impacted by the 3000 acre KARSUA. It's unfortunate; DNR officials were not completely up front with the public when confronted by the park issue. They stated at the Tustumena meeting, "the SUA would not be a park or be organized under park style regulations". It obvious, however, the SUA could easily be turned into a park in the future. Postponement of the final SUA decision will afford DNR and the public the necessary time to interact and review the prospects of a future transition into a "special river management area" or park.

Ref page 5 "alternatives": This part of the narrative refers to the problem statement, again using the word, 'irresponsible', and comments only on the positive aspects of a SUA. What are specifically missing are any references or downsides to creating a SUA. DNR should have been more transparent with the public in discussing and disclosing any and all negative comments on the creation of the SUA. It is unrealistic to assume there were no negative opinions or discussion on the merits of previously created SUA's. I am sure; the package submitted to the regional manager for his approval included both the pros and cons to creating this SUA and did not just present the positive side to justify creating the SUA. One could conclude, to use the words a/the SUA's author, that It would be irresponsible not to share both sides with the public.

In addition, there are obviously more possible alternatives than the 3 suggested by DNR:

A. Alternate #4: Postpone the final decision for 1 year to allow time for credible studies. This fishery has been in place for 30 years. One more year to get it right and with a majority consensus is not unreasonable. It's a responsible action and affords the benefit of doubt to alternate proposals. DNR could still initiate temporary measures in the interim.

B. Alternate #5: Create the SUA in phases as studies and research support the necessity to add addition land. Why create a SUA up river like KL or KN, when a boat launch may end up at the mouth or on private property? Why include the north and south beaches, if ADF&G could possibly adjust the boundaries, and there will be ineffective enforcement and no proposed facilities. This approach is supported by DNR comments on page 11, final paragraph, where DNR acknowledges "the SUA can be amended to suit the public need".

C. Alternate #6: Create a smaller SUA, which encompasses only that area affected by the largest concentration of fisherman to include only KS, KN and that portion of KT immediately at the mouth between KS and KN. This is the core area and the focus of the majority of comments encouraging temporary sanitation facilities, fencing for habitat protection, additional parking space, campgrounds and designated access points. All references to the mouth, entrance, ground zero point to this core area.

There are approximately 100 private and government owned properties on the proposed boundary line. There would be only about 30 properties affected, if the SUA was confined to the smaller SUA. This would mitigate a lot of concerns from property owners over the "park like" effects of regulations along property lines, where there are

few complaints and minimal, if no Impacts to the habitat and water quality.

Expanding the SUA out into the KT, KB, KL, and KU areas can be compared to a city reaching into rural areas to increase its tax base, but providing minimal services compared to the city's core area. Human waste prohibition in these areas is unenforceable, access to permanent facilities will be limited if not impractical, and high tides will affect access. There will be no access problems in the KS and KN core areas and the use of "limited enforcement authority" will be considerably more effective.

It is already established by ADF&G, the entire fishery lasts only over a 6-8 week period, with 50% of the harvest occurring over a 10 day period in July during dip netting at the mouth only. The set netting fishery occurs during the first 10 days. Excluding KT, KB, KL, and KU from SUA regulations and enforcement will have minimal impact on the goals of the draft decision.

Ref page 6, paragraph 4, underlined comments: The DNR author states, "this is the preferred alternative and the only option ..... " This may be DNR's position, but given the 45 day interagency review, public notice and request for comments, it's certainly plausible better ideas will be presented to DNR. This comment" seems premature, poor public policy and would imply the lack of an open minded approach to consider any substantial changes in direction.

Ref page 6, paragraph 2: This paragraph refers to 'the overwhelming need to secure a public facility", however, there continues to be no study, substantiation or research to justify the need and expense. Creating an SUA without concrete justification, is putting the cart before the horse. The DNR needs to conduct studies first to determine need, location, costs and revenue sources. DNR would never consider a proposal from the private sector without the benefit of supporting evidence. Creation of the SUA in the present format is poor public policy and a double standard.

Ref page 6, paragraph, SPECIAL USE LANDS: This part of the narrative promotes the positive side of the SUA, but fails to acknowledge possible negative impacts. The heavy concentration of fisherman and subsequent negative impacts to the Kasilof mouth entrance was created through ADF&G policies. Through the implementation of SUA regulations, there could be a substantial increase in fishing pressure and on resources in the area. DNR should address this possibility and propose how they would deal with additional growth and pressure on the fisheries. Public opinion and future ADF&G policies might be opposed to a SUA that would encourage more pressure on this limited resource.

Ref page 10, paragraph 3, The Fisheries: This is a short history of the fisheries, but it completely omitted the transition from open beaches and subsistence fishing to personal use in the confined areas of the Kasilof and Kenai rivers mouths. This was the subject of considerable discussion at the Tustumena public information meeting. Many residents testified in support of opening the beaches back up to alleviate pressure in the confined area of the Kasilof River mouth. DNR and ADF&G needs to jointly study this option as a Viable alternative to the large SUA, and advise the public of the findings. This is possibly the most important reason to postpone the final SUA decision to allowed time to research this alternative.

Ref page 15, Sanitation: The impacts are obviously there to some degree, but the proposed solutions are unenforceable and impractical for all locations. The

prohibitions and installing permanent or temporary toilets in the vicinity of the dip netters or mouth of the river will probable work. However, prohibitions would be completely ignored along the bluffs on the north and south end. The high tides during fishing are up to the bluff. Very few people will walk any distance to use the toilets. During low tides, you would also be encouraging more vehicular and 4 wheeler traffic, which is already a challenge getting around the ropes and stakes. Presently, people just dig a hole in the sand. Rarely, is there any evidence of human waste on the beach. DNR should study this issue more and discuss options with the fisherman for more practical solutions. DNR should conduct surveys along the beach during the fishery and allow additional time for public comment.

Ref page 16, Degradation ..... dunes & The guidelines need to address small "track" vehicles.

Ref page 17, & boat launch&: The proposed action follows the creation of the SUA. This is backwards and poor government policy. Acquiring the property prior to defining the need, funding, etc is not in the public's interest as further pointed out in alternative # 6 above. DNR should conduct the proposed action prior to creating the SUA and allow for additional comment on its findings.

Ref page 18, Early setting or staging of fishing gear: I have fished this fishery every year since it started in 1981. The impacts and examples are exaggerated and the management alternatives and action will only cause chaos.

a. The law: It is not clearly a state violation and if so, why was this point not addressed in ADF&G regulations for the last 30 years?

b. User conflicts. Receiving a few complaints is not evidence of widespread abuse. To the contrary, I have had many discussions on the beach with enforcement officers and they contend only a few incidents have justified any intervention. Over the last 10 years, we rarely see enforcement on the north end, which would indicate few problems.

c. Battling for sites: ADF&G clearly states the regulations. This is a prime example where minimal regulations have allowed people to work out solutions.

d. Mock areas: This appears to be exaggerated, not explained well and certainly has a minimal impact, as I have not heard from any fellow users of this abuse.

e. Increases in private land trespass: This is a prime example of a lack of justification. DNR should not throw out these accusations without thoroughly researching the problem, reviewing the validity of any complaint, and determining if the number of complaints warrants an action.

f. Encouraging extended stays: It's a free country, a family event, a competitive event, and "the personal use fishery" encourages people to harvest the allotted amount. Again, this is an unsupported accusation, which should go through a thorough study before limiting people's rights.

g. Access problems: Additional signs and opening the beaches could resolve part of this problem. Again, a thorough study prior to SUA is warranted.

h. Restrict pre-site selection to 7 days in advance of the fishery: DNR would not have proposed this as a solution, if they fully understood the mechanics of the fishery. The net is 60' long and a proper installation requires a minimum 300' of rope laid out in a

triangular fashion with stakes at all three points. 4' rebar stakes are typically used and pounded in to the hard sand/clay beach. A pulley is attached at the stake in the water. The triangle effect is required to keep the net from rolling up in the rope on the opposite side of the triangle. The triangle footprint over the shore area is greater for second and third net installations between 200-300 feet out in the water. Over lapping lines on the beach are not usual problems. Pulling your net in or out over another fisherman's lines will snag the net and force you to wait until the tide recedes to clear the mess.

The key legal parameter is maintaining 100 foot clearances in any direction to another net. The DNR author refers to this process as "disorderly" and an "inequitable allocation of fishing sites". The current installation of stakes occurs over a 2 month period. This is, in fact "orderly" as there are plenty of open spaces and the stakers can take the time to accurately measure out there triangle in relation to existing stakes. Initiating the 7 day rule will be utter chaos as large numbers of people will be on the beach with their vehicles and equipment with many converging on the same location. High tides and rough weather on this day will only add to the aggravation. it's a terrible solution and should not be considered as a viable solution. Lastly, is DNR's proposal to require a permit for early installations. This is an obvious attempt for additional revenues and does not make any sense. To implement this strategy would clearly be contrary to DNR's list of complaints or impacts and not benefit anybody but the state treasury.

Ref page 19, Parking, staging and extended stays: Excellent idea if there is sufficient lands in the KN, KS, and KB areas. However, there should be proven justification. The entire fishery only lasts for about 8 weeks and according to ADG&G, 50% of the harvest occurs within a 10 day period In July. This means the proposed campground and improvements will be mostly empty for 10 to 11 months out of the year. The question is does 4-6 weeks of heavy use justify the expense. Again, DNR should conduct extensive research and field surveys to ensure adequate property is available in the right location prior to creating the SUA and prepare a cost-benefit analyses.

Ref page 20, 21, public access and trespass: DNR lays out the obvious conflicts with private property and its intention to work with property owners on easements and public access in general. This could be a huge endeavor and should be addressed prior to the SUA to ensure the SUA has sufficient property and access required to cover each of DNR's development goals. Acquisition of the land prior to determining it exact usage could lead to both underutilization and overutilization of land. Unless the DNR conducts surveys and extensive research, it s pure guess work as to the quantity and type of land required for parking lots, roads, trails, camping areas, refuse and sanitation facility sites. No proposal from the private sector to the government would ever be considered without this documentation. DNR should be held to the some standard unless it intends to just force the SUA onto Kasilof residents.

There is also the issue of determining where the boundary line will official lie for purposes of defining pedestrian access, vehicle access, and staking. Some existing property lines are defined as the meandering MHT line or 17 foot tide mark, while others are actual deeded points on the beach or in submerged areas. Additionally, some properties have mandated pedestrian (not vehicle) access requirements, some allow full access including vehicles, while others allow no access. There is no consistent path along the beach and the state only has authority below the MHT line. Property owners along the boundary would be best served if DNR would define exactly

what will constitute the boundary and allow addition time for public comment.

Ref page 22, target shooting: Obviously target shooting in a populated area is a risk to public safety. However, target shooting and trap shooting is legal and common both on the beach and from the bluffs throughout the year. If an occasional hiker/ walker wants to complain about the noise or possible risks, the present recourse is with local law enforcement, who will only intervene if there is obvious risk to public safety. This could change under the SUA or "park like rules". The SUA could trump local law enforcement and impose rules to stop the use of firearms year around. This would be perceived by many residents as an onerous regulation and intrusion into our rights. Prior to Issuing a final decision, DNR should make it abundantly clear, whether they intend to regulate the use and discharge of firearms annually or seasonally throughout the SUA and allow further comment.

Ref page 23, Water quality: This narrative contends, water quality is being impacted and recommends a prohibition on depositing human waste on the beach. This is a baseless conclusion, at least below the tideline. There are no drinking water sources In the area and all public activity is at a point where the river exits the uplands and wetlands. In addition, severe tidal and river currents completely wash over the submerged area several times a day. DNR correctly notes that there are some 120 buoys and attached boats, along with fish processing facilities in the river mouths. Boat crews probably contribute as much or more human waste to the river system during their tenure on the river than the dipnetters. Obviously, a prohibition on discarding human waste will be more likely in the immediate vicinity of permanent or temporary facilities. But, it will unenforceable with boat crews.

Conclusion: I strongly urge DNA to postpone the final decision on the SUA until more studies and accurate surveys can be accomplished to support the proposed actions. The public In general, and mare specifically, Kasilof and Cohoe residents need to review the supporting evidence driving the final determination and have an opportunity to provide further comment. The installation of the fence can still proceed without the SUA and temporary sanitation facilities can be installed.

Regardless of DNR comments to the contrary, this SUA will have many similarities to a state park. I personally believe alternate #6 is the most effective way to achieve the principle objectives and the least offensive to the public. Once created, the SUA can be amended if additional property is necessary. It's unrealistic to assume DNR would ever relinquish property once acquired, even if not necessary to achieve the SUA's goals.

Based on the comments provided you at the Tustumena meeting, I fully expect you will get more requests for a postponement and additional studies. I trust, in the interest of fair and good public policy, you will heed local resident concerns as they will bear the brunt of the SUA's impacts. Thank you for your consideration of these comments and especially your efforts to resolve the sanitation and habitat issues at the mouth of the river.

Terry and Teresa Cowart

Box 783, Kasilof, Alaska 99610

tcowart@ptialaska.net, 283-0491



# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Lorraine Crawford  
36615 Chinulna Drive  
Kenai, Ak 99611

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 30 of 163 - Submitted 11/10/2010 at 10:32 AM:

I support the Kasilof River Special Use Area Designation. It is clear the dunes need to be protected from human tramping, waste and traffic. The dunes are important habitat for the wildlife. Hopefully a special use area designation will protect the habitat and the future of fish runs. I oppose a boat launch or pull out on the lower river. This will increase traffic and toxic waste from power boats.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Mike Crawford Phone: (907)-260-9210  
Kenai Soldotna F&G Advisory Committee Email: creditcardmike@yahoo.com  
Chair  
P.O. Box 2067  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 31 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Kenai/Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee  
Sean Parnell, Governor

Kenai/Soldotna Advisory

Mike Crawford, Chair

P.O. Box 2067

Soldotna, AK 99669

(907) 260-9210

creditcardmike@yahoo.com

November 15, 2010

Department of Natural Resources

Southcentral Region Land Office ATTN: Adam Smith or Raymond Keough

550 West 7th Avenue Suite 900C

Anchorage, AK 99501-3577

RE: Draft Kasilof River Use Area-ADL 230992

The Kenai Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (KSF&GAC) is an established advisory committee (AC) under AS 16.05.260. The committees are governed under the rules proscribed in; 5 AAC 96, 5 AAC 97, and 5 AAC 99. Original advisory committees were formed in 1959 to provide a local forum to discuss and make recommendations on fish and wildlife issues before the Boards of Fisheries and Game.

The KSF&GAC is comprised of 15 board members and 4 alternates. To better insure a wide degree of public representation, our AC functions with designated interests (seats): 3 limited entry salmon permit commercial fishers, 3 commercial fresh water sports guides, 1 personal use user, 1 subsistence user, 1 trapping person, 1 hunting person, 5 at - large representatives and 4 alternates (1 commercial fisher, 1 guided sport and 2 general). We believe that we fulfill the statute requirement of being, "well

informed on the fish and game resources of the locality."

On November 10, 2010 the KSF&GAC voted to approve the formation of a Kasilof River Special Use Area (KARSUA) as prescribed in the, Draft Decision: Kasilof River Special Use Area / ADL 230992 signed by the Regional Manager of the Southcentral Regional Land Office (SCRO) under the authority of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) 11 AAC 96.014, dated 09.30.10.

We understand that the approval of Land Use Permit, LAS 27627 for the Kasilof Region Historical Association also on 09.30.10 is a separate decision but is a necessary component, "to accomplish the same resource management goals."

We have reviewed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Kenai Area Plane (2001) and the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Area which Merits Special Attention Plane (AMSA) (1992) and the current KPB ordinance 21.18 and specifically 21.18.025 Applications and we believe that a majority of the suggested improvements and guidelines will be incorporated in this new KARSUA designation.

We therefore agree with the division designation of: "special use lands" is for the protection of scenic, historic, archeological, scientific, biological, recreational, or other special resource values warranting additional protections or other special requirements. Special use land designations originate from an area or management plan, or are made at the director's discretion to address a certain need

#### Issue # 1

Even though we are in agreement overall, our area committee is concerned about the size of the proposed area. We realize that the a large portion of the encompassed 2,665 acres includes section (KT) Kasilof Tide and Submerged lands and River which is 1,907 acres. The AC felt that the remaining 759 upland acres might result in restrictions on access to the Kasilof River or to other activities. We would not support any regulations that would hinder the opportunity to harvest or to view fish and game within the proposed KARSUA. Access is an important aspect of living within our southcentral community and as a resident of Alaska, adequate designated ingress and egress points must be clearly accessible.

#### Issue # 2

Several of our participants who utilize the Kasilof River on a regular basis do believe that a boat launch in the "lower river" is necessary. They believe that it would degrade the current balance between the power boats and drift boats, likely to cause significant conflicts in the future between users and the carrying capacity of the system. They somewhat agree that a drift boat "take out" could be an added convenience, they have a consensus that would not like it do far down the river. Thus it is the general view of the AC that this proposed area does not meet the satisfaction of all for any additional boat launch or recovery point. They do not believe that a power boat pullout is necessary.

#### Issue # 3

We have observed on Map # 3 that there is some private lands within the KB, KS area and we are concerned that the private property owners would lose some of the rights as property owners if this SUA is approved. We would encourage the DNR to not "force" the landowners to comply with any new restrictions that would lessen the value of the property to the current owner. We would accept the exclusion of these private lands

from the KARSUA as a compromise.

#### Issue # 4

The introduction of a User Pay Fee System did gather some response from the public and the AC did not feel that it was appropriate to consider a user fee at this time.

#### Issue # 5

We are concerned with the planned restrictions on "staking" of the Personal Use gillnet fishing locations. In the discussion of XII, the description of the KT unit, second paragraph; there is a statement that reads, "Active management specifically for the associated upland uses in regards to the fisheries would be the management priority for this unit. We believe that this action item is vague and we would hold our support of this action until we can fully understand the application of this statement.

We would welcome this SUA first be adopted as a mechanism to accomplish the VI Issues as outlined in the Draft Decision.

We also have a general agreement on XII Unit Specific Guidelines, Actions and Management (Area-Wide Actions).

We are in complete agreement with the seven objectives defined on J Purpose and Mission.

To be clear on our intent, the KSF&GAC was one of the original 16 signatures of the letter that addressed the Kasilof River issues authored by the Kenai Watershed Forum hand delivered to our State Government in Juneau. We unequivocally support the protection of this fragile estuarine habitat for fish, wildlife and indigenous plants. We understand the need for barriers and controlled access. We agree that a priority to maintain the sanitation in the area with proper refuse containers, adequate toilets and regular maintenance is of utmost importance.

We also recommend that major changes as specified (Items #1-#5) should be further refined before implementation. We highly agree with the Department's statement; "specific regulations consistent with this KARSUA would be adopted per the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) after the establishment of this area". We take this to mean that the SCROIDNR will move tactfully and patiently while allowing the public to be an integral part of the implementation of the more sensitive proposed actions.

Thank you,

Mike Crawford, Chair

Kenai/Soldotna Fish & Game Advisory Committee

\*Mailed 11/30/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Warren Crawford  
36615 Chinulna Drive  
Kenai, Ak 99611

Phone: (907)-907 283-9271  
Alternate Phone: (907)-907 283-9271

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 32 of 163 - Submitted 11/10/2010 at 10:48 AM:

I support the special use designation for the Kasilof River. This over loved river is in danger of losing valuable habitat because of human use during the dip net and personal use fishery. I oppose a boat launch and pull out in the lower Kasilof. The engines produce waste that is not helpful to fish as we have seen in the Kenai River.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Bridgette Cuffe  
P.O. Box 39390  
Ninilchik, Ak 99639

Email: b\_cuffe@hotmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 33 of 163 - Submitted 11/15/2010 at 02:50 PM:

I strongly urge the Department of Natural Resources to designate the mouth of the Kasilof River as a special use area. As a lifelong Kenai Peninsula resident, I have seen the impact of personal use fisheries upon the beach and sand dunes. Due to the high volume of fisherman using the river, I believe it is very important to regulate parking and driving along the beach as well as creating designated camping areas with sanitation facilities. Improper disposal of fish waste as well as garbage is also an issue. I have also seen many people catch well over the personal use limit and I would like to see greater enforcement of fishing regulations. I would like to see the Kasilof River sustainably and responsibly managed so that it may continue to be enjoyed and utilized by future generations of Alaskans. Designating a Special Use Area would be a wise decision that I strongly support.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Charlotte Curry  
P.O. Box 892  
Cooper Landing, Ak 99572

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 34 of 163 - Submitted 11/15/2010 at 04:58 PM:

To whom it may concern,

I was just made aware of this and don't have a lot of time to write out eloquently my ideas on this issue so please excuse the brevity. I am opposed to this. I have not seen any more destruction to the Kasilof area than in my own area of the upper Kenai due to public use. By imposing fees to the Alaskans that will use this area to help live an Alaskan subsistence lifestyle you will be going against why this area was opened up in the first place. See Page 10. " These fisheries provide Alaskans an economical way to stock their freezers for the coming winter months, while enjoying the social benefits that have become an integral part of the fishery(s)" I do believe that boat launches, bathrooms, and education are needed to help those that are making a problem of this resource; but as stated on page 21, "Although the majority of users typically stay within the land" , I believe that the majority are not the problem as in all situations, it is the minority of people that will disregard the rules no matter where they are. They are the problem not the majority of Alaskans using this resource in a responsible matter. I am already past the time limit and hope you will consider my opinion on this matter.  
Respectfully yours, Charlotte Curry

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Mike & Patti Curry  
28401 Coastline Street  
Kasilof , Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-283-9182  
Fax: (907)-283-8069  
Email: pmcurry@alaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 35 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

To: DNR

For: Comment for Kasilof River Special Use Area

The Issues:

1.Sanitary facilities: There is most definitely a need for these but will not be an easy fix since it is quite complicated. Permanent toilets would be by far the best as far as for people who are camped or parked near these facilities, but for those who are a distance away from these they would not use them for obvious reasons. The temporary toilets are also needed for the high demand of people during the two month period of fishing. What is complicated with both is there are two total different fisheries and two different needs. First is the personal use set net fishing. These folks park in the area where every they can and set up camp, others travel and camp on the beach near their fishing site waiting for the season to open. If the facility is close, it will be used, if not well&.The other is the dip netting at the mouth of the river. This is a very concentrated amount of folks in a small area; temporary toilets would be the best at this location unless you plan on putting in a public boat ramp near this location. Since we line on the north side, nearest the mouth, this is the problem with the temporary toilets, after 2 days of public use; we d elect to use any bush that is handy. They must be maintained on a regular basis. Dumpsters are very good and much needed, but again they must be maintained better. In conclusion of this issue we would side to the permanent toilets at two different locations as explained above. The initial cost is more up front but in 5 or 6 years It would be a break even with the temporary.

2.Degradation of dunes: This to us is very simple! What do you want to do? As you remember when we walked the beach, what do you to protect. If you want the dune grasses back to say 30 ft high water, put up some kind of fence. If you want grass on more of the dunes, limit the access to the beach at one location, make it wide enough for two vehicles, we ll guaranty you somebody will get stuck!

3.Public boat launch: We feel this is also a good idea, but there are a few factors that should be considered. If it s put in on the north side, which it should be , where are they going to park? How are they going to get to the launch site? We didnt notice the public access route through the fenced of area on any of you proposal maps! How are you going to keep the dip netters off the launch site so it can be used? This will have a price tag of about 250 to 450k.

4.Early Set net gear: We think 30 days prior to opening of the season would be

reasonable. 7 days would be like the Oklahoma land grab, it would cause a lot more trouble than solve the problem. What is needed to make sure all stakes are removed when season is over, it is a public hazard. This particular issue doesn't really affect us, since we own to the mean high water and only have to give 50 feet for ingress/egress to the public. This means, no camping, no staking, no fires, no nothing. It would behoove fish and game, when they write the fishing regulations to get it right!

5. Public parking: This is as important as sanitary facilities. This is a very easy fix. Design it, build it, or don't design it and built it. It's just parking!

6. Water quality: Not an issue.

7. Fish Waste: Simple. All fish carcasses back in the inlet or river.

8. Maintain public access: It is a state owned/maintained road already on the north side.

9. Trespass: See last three sentences of #4 above.

10. Shooting: Since we are the only full residence on the north side closet to the mouth, what we have seen over the years, shooting or target practice happens April, May, November and December. Usually by young people drinking. We would like to see no shooting, except shotguns (duck hunting) from our place south to the river and from that point, south to the road where you ingress to the beach.

11. Funding: Your proposal of having a toll booth for parking etc., we totally disagree with! With all the folks we have talked this over with it was unanimously agreed that putting an annual dollar amount for obtaining a permit for set netting and dip netting is the only way to fund this project. 25 to 50 dollars a permit. The only drawback to these agencies will have to work together. All funds that are obtained must be used solely for this project until paid for, then eliminate the cost for permits.

12. SUA size: Your draft consists of 3000+or- acres, what you are in charge of, why do you want to include all of this at this time, since the real problem encompasses only about 200 acres. We feel the SUA should be smaller. If you are planning to put a boat launch up river on some of the property you have in the large SUA, there will be heavy opposition from the local population.

13. Our personal concern: It was stated; this area on the north side of the river was never to be a state park, If this is incorrect and you do plan on turning it into a state park down the road, we would be more than happy to sell our property to you, because a state park would definitely degrade our property values, What better place could you find to control your stewardships of the DNR property?

If there is anything we could help you with, please feel free to call or stop by. 283-918 or 398-9188. 28401 Coastline Street.

Sincerely; Mike and Patti Curry

\*Faxed 12/10/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Donald Degan  
P.O. Box 1473  
Sterling, Ak 99672

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 36 of 163 - Submitted 11/14/2010 at 04:54 PM:

I believe that designation of the lower Kasilof River as a special use area is the only way that this area can be protected. Although I would generally agree that fewer regulations are the best practice, I also have lived in this area long enough to know that the number of people using public areas on the Kenai Peninsula has increased dramatically in the last 10 years. Management of the people using public areas is as necessary as a farmer managing the number of cattle grazing a pasture.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Leah Dubber  
Na  
Na, Ak NA

Email: lhdbubber@yahoo.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 37 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Mr. Smith,

I am an Alaskan resident. I was raised in Kasilof and now live in Anchorage. I would like to oppose the creation of a Kasilof River SUA. I would like the state to consider using existing State Troopers to police the area during personal use fishing, fi there is a concern over protecting the dunes and safety for those participating in the personal use fishery. Please consider extending the time frame to allow for more deliberative process in which local residents are able to participate in problem solving the concerns that truly occur for only a couple of weeks during an entire year. I am very concerned that creating a SUA for the Kasilof River would needlessly grow state government.

My family owns property adjacent to the area being considered for a SUA and I am very concerned that personal property rights are maintained and protected. This matter requires further input from the local community and property owners who will be most impacted by any decision that is made.

Thank you,

Leah Dubber

\*Emailed 12/5/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Valarie Early  
Early Fishing  
P.O. Box 753  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-262-6132  
Alternate Phone: (907)-398-4130  
Fax: (907)-262-1523  
Email: val@earlyfishing.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 38 of 163 - Submitted 11/15/2010 at 11:33 AM:

After attending the initial meeting of the agencies regarding the Kasilof River issues it became apparent that an agency would need to take charge in order to help solve many of the complex issues regarding the Kasilof. Originally, as a river user and guide, I was mostly concerned with the lack of a take-out or launching facility on the river. However, after listening to the many issues on the lower Kasilof I realized there are many more dynamics coming to play that have created a much bigger problem for the ecology, habitat and use of the Kasilof. In order for these issues to be recognized I feel the first step is to adopt Alternative 3 in the Draft KARSUA decision. As stated in the draft, Alternative 1 is simply irresponsible. Alternative 2 would create a dialog but without any enforcement it would only be a dialog. Alternative 3 is the only progressive step toward recognizing the issues at hand, working with area residents and user groups to create a meaningful dialog that would continue to provide safe access to the area while protecting the ecosystem. It is important to note that I would consider this the first step in a process that would include the user groups of the resource, as well as concerned agencies, in creating a comprehensive plan to help the Kasilof River and its many issues. I do not consider that a "Kenai-like plan" is a one-size fits all that can be applied to the Kasilof. It is my hope that the KARSUA would address these issues, and differences, as stated in the Draft.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Kathy East  
Concerned Citizen  
1610 Silver Pines Rd.  
Kenai, Ak 99611

Phone: (907)-283-3862  
Alternate Phone: (907)-389-5440  
Email: mukluckathy@yahoo.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 39 of 163 - Submitted 11/13/2010 at 10:17 AM:

Please designate the Kasilof River area as special use. I live in the area, and want to see the land preserved so that it will there for many years to come. Specific issues of concern are:

" Degradation of dunes and wetlands as there are no regulations or restrictions on using off road vehicles or foot traffic through the dunes and wetlands, especially during the heavy fishing season

" Insufficient sanitation facilities and the resulting mess and potential health hazard that results during all times of the year

" Increased threat to water quality due to sanitation concerns and other pollutants that can get into the water system due to overuse and lack of regulations.

It is a beautiful area - please don't let it get "loved to death". Please pass the special use designation to protect this area for all to use.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Karl Edwards  
8758 N. Sun Valley Dr.  
Palmer, Ak 99645

Email: karledwards@hotmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 40 of 163 - Submitted 05/02/2008 at 04:58 PM:

-Fishing hours?-I do not want restrictive hours for dip netting. I like to fish before and after work. Quiet hours are okay but keep access open 24 hours.

-I would like to see the use fee paid when obtaining dip net permit-lower overhead costs.

-I think it is a good idea to improve the Cohoe Loop parking area and install vault toilets.

-Please put portable toilets down at the mouth of the river with daily service on the weekends.

-I would like to see further land swap or buy land from the Mental Health Trust along Cohoe Beach Rd for formal camping sites, and parking.

-Restrict target shooting in the wetlands during fishing season.

\*Comment dated 12/2/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Nina Faust  
P.O. Box 2994  
Homer, Ak 99603

Phone: (907)-235-6262  
Email: aknina51@yahoo.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 41 of 163 - Submitted 11/11/2010 at 06:31 PM:

I support a Special Use Area for the Kasilof River. There are a number of serious overuse and misuse issues in this area that need to be addressed to protect this area. As with many overused public recreation areas, if we do not address the overuse problems, the water quality, habitat, and wildlife will decline. Please act on this by creating a SUA for the Kasilof River.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Ken Federico  
Scada  
Na  
Na, Ak Na

Phone: (907)-715-8363  
Email: kenfederico@mtaonline.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 42 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Adam Smith,

Ken Federico here from the South Central Alaska Dipnetters Association. I would first like to congratulate you and Everyone at DNR for coming up with some sensible solutions concerning the Kasilof Special use area. 99 percent of my membership approves on the decisions made so far concerning the Kasilof and habitat protection.

I am glad to see that you have continued to allow historical access trails and still find a way to protect the dunes. That has been a major concern from a lot of my members. They were afraid that you were going to do something extreme, dealing with access issues.

Scada supports use of the existing trails and will back up DNR on closing off protected area and dunes. With the amount of people having access, we need to have some sort of a control mechanism, to protect the dunes but still allow fellow Alaskans access to the resource.

There has been talk of charging people to just walk the beach and most of us have to laugh at those naysayers. Habitat protection falls to all Alaskans to do their part and to those users, that dipnet, they should help pay their own way. To those that would just like to take a look at what is happening on the beach, I would say having a set aside parking area for birders and the curious, there should be no charge. Just make them walk a little further to not displace people trying to put fish in their freezers.

Once a special use area is created, I look forward to working with you on certain restrictions, like keeping ATV use to existing trails and the beach itself. Common sense should prevail and I hope DNR continues to use a balanced approach.

You can consider this SCADA's response to the KSUA.

Thank you again, to all of your staff with having a well balanced thought out process to help protect the Kasilof and still allow access.

Ken Federico, SCADA, 715-8363

\*Emailed 11/7/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Jack Fisler  
P.O. Box 366  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-262-2857  
Email: [jsgc@acsalaska.net](mailto:jsgc@acsalaska.net)

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 43 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:  
November 6, 2010  
Dear Adam and Raymond,

I attended the Kasilof River Special Use Area meeting in Kasilof and reviewed the public comment draft proposal the Department of Natural Resources has developed. My family fished South Cohoe Beach when it was a subsistence fishery and continues to fish the same fishery under its current personal use set net designation. In the past, we have dipnetted from a boat in the lower Kasilof and lower Kenai. After looking at all of the personal use fishery opportunities, we reverted back to the personal use set net fishery on Cohoe Beach. We already have the gear, need the fish, and can afford to participate. While we are not experts, my family has participated in this fishery and has watched the dramatic change in use over the years.

I will try to organize my comments by topic:

**River Mouth and Dunes Area:** I have no objection to the fencing, toilets, trash collection, and access limitations proposed for the dunes and river mouth area. This portion of the fishery is almost a carbon copy of what occurs at the Kenai River mouth. The city of Kenai collects fees and provides seasonal enforcement personnel. It works for them because there is a single landowner, law enforcement authority beyond the seasonal personnel, no conflict in regulations, and no personal use set net fishery.

**River Access and Dip netting from Boats:** We stopped dip netting from a boat for several reasons. The Kenai is no longer an option because of the four stroke limitation. We do not sportfish on the Kenai River and the cost of a new motor does not pencil out in our retirement budget when compared to how often we use the Kenai. Thirty years ago we could access the lower Kasilof from the cannery boat launch on the north side of the river. That option is no longer available. Current ADF &G regulations allow motorized boats to dip net in the lower two miles of the river. We are allowed to launch our powerboat at the Kasilof State Recreation Site boat launch and travel downstream to dip net. While it is legal to launch at the recreation site, it's not a socially acceptable and drift boat users often feel any powerboat, no matter how carefully it is operated, is illegal and fair game for insults and retribution. A boat launch/take out in the lower two miles of the river would alleviate this problem, but the conflict between user groups and current boating regulations requires more planning and public input than the Special Use Designation provides opportunity for.

**Trash and Human Waste:** We take all our human waste off the beach and dispose of it

in our septic system. We collect our trash and what we cannot burn we bring home for disposal. DNR should work with DEC and ADF &G to determine if any current regulations address the waste problem before developing new regulations. Once that is determined, the regulations need to be publicized and enforced for all beach users, including commercial set net fishermen and other campers on the east side beaches.

**Cost, Permits, Length of Stay:** A key element will be the cost to participate. How the fee is assessed is important. The state has already done away with seasonal camping passes for state parks and camping fees are paid daily. State Parks does offer boat launch and day use passes. Kenai had seasonal passes for launching, parking, and the camping fees are daily fees. We know that DNR currently offers general land use permits that come with a non-refundable application fee of one hundred dollars plus the cost of the permit once it is issued. DNR also requires commercial guides to register to use state land/waters and issues shore fishery leases to commercial fishermen. The prices range from less than one hundred dollars to five hundred plus dollars to authorize these commercial uses of state land and water. Most of the families that utilize the personal use set net fishery are retired or limited in income, and fishing for food. It is not unusual to have more than one family fishing a personal use set net site or fishing proxies for disabled community members.

The proposal is silent on how the permits would be applied for or awarded. Will we be able to apply online or do we need to trek to Anchorage and turn up in person? Will they be available January 1st or one week before the fishery? Will a certain number of permits be allotted to different geographical regions? If I get a permit, will DNR assign a site to me? Will DNR staff evict people that have no permit or have overstayed?

Anchors for the set nets need to be set in the submerged tidelands at the lowest tide right before the fishery opens. There won't be another opportunity to set the net anchors before the fishery closes. The idea that a site cannot be occupied any sooner than seven days before the opening day may not be fair. All users should pay a fee or get a permit. Everyone will use the dumpsters and the restrooms. Habitat protection and management benefit all users and they should all pay. Perhaps a page can be taken from DNR Parks and an annual decal can be purchased by the dog walkers, hikers, picnickers, and kite flyers that use the area too. For the personal use set net area I recommend one permit fee for the entire personal use set net season and one permit per personal use set net site. The permit fee should not exceed one hundred dollars.

**Staffing, Facility Management, Law Enforcement:** It is shortsighted to think that a seasonal staff presence will be enough to keep the fencing up, restrooms intact, and signage shot free. Once DNR creates the SUA it should have staff on site and keep them year round in the community to educate and manage the area. All the potentially prohibited acts can occur just as easily in the winter as they can in the summer. If it is important enough to limit access, charge fees and develop regulations, it is important enough to do all year.

Staff should be full Peace Officers and should be empowered to enforce all laws of the state. You are doing the public a disservice to have staff that can only write Band-Aids for parking and off road violations. The public will flip out when they realize you can write a parking ticket but can't enforce fishing violations, etc. The state is liable every time an officer or employee observes a dangerous or illegal situation and they walk away. Alaska State Troopers, Fish and Wildlife Protection and ADF &G are stretched thin and often unable to respond to the beaches. Invest in your staff and give the public the enforcement presence that is needed on the beaches.

After thinking and talking about this for a week or two, I have come to the conclusion that the personal use set net area should be EXCLUDED from the KARSUA. We currently have DNR regulations for the uplands and submerged lands, ADF&G regulation for how the fishery is conducted, open seasons, violations etc and I assume we have undiscovered DEC regulations about solid waste, human waste, and fish waste. If we look a little deeper we will probably find USFWS, NOAA, NMFS and Corps of Engineers regulations we are violating too. We can go up the road or river a few miles and run into another DNR department that has another whole slough of regulations that apply to the state land they manage. And the all the regulations conflict with each other. At the very least the terms of the permit, the length of the permit, and when sites can be occupied should be the same. It will be a joke to be cited for a violation by one state agency and the "illegal" activity is allowed by the other two state agencies that manage the same area.

We are Alaskans fishing for food, as we always have. We should not have to take a second seat to the commercial fishermen or the sport fishermen. We are not eligible for the existing federal subsistence fisheries in Kasilof because we live here instead of Ninilchik. Does that make sense? As you heard at the public meeting, the subsistence set net fishery was not a problem until it became personal use set net fishery crammed into a small area on either side of the river mouth. And the circus really started when dip netting was included for extra opportunity. I would like to suggest that DNR/ADF&G and DEC sit down with the public, in a more formal process and discuss how to allow Alaskans access to all of the eastside beaches for personal use/subsistence set net fishing. Regulations and inter agency agreements that address all the issues can be developed and enforced up and down the eastside beaches, not just in a two mile area for one month of the year.

Sincerely,

Jack Fisler

PO Box 366

Kasilof, Alaska 99610

907-262-2857

\*Emailed 11/9/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Ricky Gease  
Kenai River Sportfishing Association  
Executive Director  
224 Kenai Avenue, Suite 102  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-262-8588

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 44 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

KENAI RIVER SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATION

Mr. Ray Keough and Mr. Adam Smith

State of Alaska - Department of Natural Resources

Division of Mining, Land and Water

Southcentral Regional Land Office

550 West 7th Ave. Suite 900C

Anchorage, AK 99501-3577

November 15, 2010

Dear Mr. Keough and Mr. Smith:

Kenai River Sportfishing Association (KRSA) is a 501 c 3 nonprofit fishery conservation organization dedicated to the sustainability of Alaska's great sport fisheries. As one of the many local organizations that sent a letter to Governor Parnell on February 25, 2010 seeking review and action in regards to the management of the lower Kasilof River, we are pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Decision: Kasilof River Special Use Area ADL 230992.

KRSA supports the finding and preferred alternative for proposed management actions in the draft decision. We greatly appreciate the time and effort that MLW has dedicated to the public process and the draft decision for a special use area for the lower Kasilof River.

KRSA supports consideration of one additional management action: exploration of a land trade between MLW (or other appropriate state entity) and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Land, specifically the 120 acre tract adjacent south of Cohoe Beach Road. The tract would be a suitable location for the establishment of a public use campground and parking area. A public campground in the region, located in proximity to popular fisheries but not on the beach or dunes, would go a long way in providing responsible options for extended stays, such as camp sites, restrooms, showers, parking, trash and fish waste management.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this important issue.

Respectfully,

Ricky Gease, Executive Director

Kenai River Sportfishing Association

224 Kenai Avenue, Suite 102

Soldotna, AK 99669

907-262-8588

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Jon Goltz  
2613 Cottonwood St.  
Anchorage, Ak 99508

Phone: (907)-258-8011  
Email: ejgoltz@gci.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 45 of 163 - Submitted 11/14/2010 at 09:41 PM:

(1) General support. I support efforts by the DNR to manage State lands near the Kasilof River mouth to promote public safety, public health, resource conservation, and public access. The area desperately needs more management than it now receives. Without more management, significant public resources will continue to be diminished in the near term and may be lost in the long term.

(2) Fence to protect dunes. Protection of the dunes is important. The draft decision does not show a fence to separate beach vehicles from the dune grasses in unit KN. A fence would serve as a physical barrier and visual instruction to keep vehicles off the grass. The problem at Kasilof is largely a problem of lack of self-restraint regarding motor vehicle use. A fence could provide helpful external restraint.

(3) Kiosks. I support the idea of high quality kiosks to inform and remind people how to use the area. It should also seek to explain at a basic level why management is necessary: too many people being sloppy with their waste and careless with their vehicles. It may be helpful to make trash bags available at the kiosks and provide a secure place for people to deposit trash. Breaking the custom of tossing fish guts on the beach should be a high priority goal for kiosk instruction.

(4) Traffic corridors. The traffic corridors are important, and I support them. Motorized access to the beach should be maintained so long as use of motor vehicles on the beach remains feasible, i.e., not too crowded and not damaging to the resource.

(5) Parking. Parking is also important. Information about parking options when the lot is full will help avoid overcrowding of limited parking.

(6) Solid, clean, and maintained bathrooms are obviously important. The State should have installed these facilities years ago. But better now than never.

(7) Boat ramp. A boat retrieval facility would go a long way to help promote orderly public use of the Kasilof River. I support a drift only facility. The Kasilof is well-suited for it physically and historically because use is now mostly non-motorized. This non-motorized allows more people to make better use of the public resource. The facility should be designed to accommodate not just classic drift boats, but also inflatable rafts and other boats that Alaskans might reasonably use to float the river.

(8) Fees. The draft decision is too vague about fees. The department should develop a clear proposal for how to handle funding and issue a plain statement for public comment. I believe it makes sense to require a daily parking fee, an overnight camping fee, and to have an enforcement presence with significant penalties for infractions

such as littering, speeding, and driving in prohibited areas. These are well established fees that should be accepted by most people and will help defray the costs of management.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Eric Goudey  
3324 Old Squaw Loop  
Wasilla, Ak 99654

Email: ericg373@gmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 46 of 163 - Submitted 12/05/2010 at 10:45 AM:

This decision seems to be a good compromise allowing continued use and protecting the resource.

My family has dipped and beach camped the south side Kasilof to provide most of our salmon for 10 years and we've seen the growth in use and impact on the area. This plan deals with the parking, access and sanitation issues in a reasonable manner.

Hopefully it will also help educate people about their impacts. I think a lot of folks don't realize the impact on the dunes from camping, wheeling etc. and many would minimize their impacts if they realized the effects.

I'm concerned the fees not be excessive for a family to continue to use the area for a few days every year.

Thanks.

Eric Goudey

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Dorothy Gray  
Uaa Assistant Professor of English  
51910 Arness Rd.  
Kenai, Ak 99611

Phone: (907)-7765220  
Alternate Phone: (907)-7765220  
Fax: (907)-7765220  
Email: dorothygray@acsalaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 47 of 163 - Submitted 10/26/2010 at 10:12 AM:

I completely support the Kasilof River Special Use Area to protect the dunes, the river, the watershed, and the grasslands that provide refuge for salmon and other fish in the early stages of their lives.

This area has gone unprotected for too long. Let's hope this measure will ensure that the destructive behavior by humans will stop.

Dorothy Gray Kenai, Alaska 99611

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Dorothy Gray  
Uaa  
Asst. Prof. of English  
51910 Arness Rd.  
Kenai, Ak 99611

Phone: (907)-7765220  
Alternate Phone: (907)-7765220  
Fax: (907)-7765220  
Email: dorothygray@acsalaska.net

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 48 of 163 - Submitted 11/18/2010 at 07:45 AM:

My family and I urge you to protect the Kasilof River and its habitat by designating it as a Special Use Area. If the area is not protected, we will lose a non-renewable resource of fish, shore birds, and waterfowl that is important to not only all Kenai Peninsula residents, but also to all Alaskans and visitors who travel here to fish and enjoy our wildlife.

Please protect the Kasilof.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Kenai River Professional Guide  
Association  
P.O. Box 3674  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-244-4777  
Alternate Phone: (907)-252-3503  
Email: krpga1@gmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 49 of 163 - Submitted 11/14/2010 at 03:06 PM:

The Kasilof Area is important to migratory birds, production of fish in the estuarine area, and other wildlife. It has been slowly being destroyed by off road vehicles, heavy human use in the personal use fishery, and other actions (waste disposal). The Kenai River Professional Guide Association (KRPGA) signed on in support of conservation efforts on the beach area where the bulk of the damage to the dunes and native grass has been occurring. We still support the conservation effort for this area. These are the issues at hand.

Further actions pertaining to more enforcement and denial of access to the resource should be given more attention through the public process, boat launch/recovery sites, hunting/shooting, gear setting procedures and the like. This proposed SUA has a much broader scope than the original idea and KRPGA would like to see a more conservation minded proposal instead of a Special Management Area backed by State Parks. Thank You, David Goggia President KRPGA

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Richard D. Hahn  
Self  
N/A-Retired  
351 Amethyst Drive  
Sequim, Wa 98382

Phone: 360-683-8717  
Alternate Phone: 360-797-4787  
Email: kenaisoki13@live.com

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 50 of 163 - Submitted 11/11/2010 at 07:06 PM:

My wife and I vacationed in Alaska 1986-1996; lived in Soldotna, Alaska 1997-2009, vacationed there again in 2010, and have fished all the Kenai Peninsula rivers for more than 20 years. The Kasilof River is special because of its salmon runs, accessibility, and its value for Alaskans and Alaska tourism. It is the River of choice, as an alternative to the Kenai River, and preferable in many respects because it's a quiet, peaceful drift fishery. It's entire watershed should be designated as a Special Management Area, and its habitat and water quality should be protected (much like the Kenai River) for posterity. The Kasilof River is one of the Kenai Peninsula's most valuable natural assets, which should be properly managed. I would recommend Governor Parnell appoint a citizen/community advisory board specifically to oversee the care and regulation enforcement for the River, much like the KRSMAAB. The Kasilof is the second most important river on the Kenai Peninsula and deserves proper management!

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Jane G. Haigh  
35675 Kalifornsky Beach Rd.  
Kenai, Ak 99611

Phone: (907)-394-4475  
Email: [jhaighak@gmail.com](mailto:jhaighak@gmail.com)

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 51 of 163 - Submitted 11/19/2010 at 12:57 PM:

I support the creation of a Kasilof River Special Use Area. I have fished the mouth of the Kasilof during dip net season, and seen what a mess the public is making of the area. Not that most people do not want to cooperate, but it just is not clear where to drive to avoid damaging the dunes. I would really like to see some fencing off of the dunes, on both the North and the South sides of the river mouth, and I would like to see bathrooms. I also think that the area needs some management during the dip net season. I understand that the designation of a Special Use Area is the fastest way to achieve these goals. I am not a huge fan of fees, but I understand that fees may be necessary.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Fred B Hall  
Box 289  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Email: fhallall@msn.com

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 52 of 163 - Submitted 11/15/2010 at 10:47 AM:

As a 30 year resident I support the effort to gain control of the access to the PU fishery thru a Special Use Area. Personally I would prefer that all nets and associated gear not stay longer than 24 hours. This would allow access for more permit holders and encourage enforcement of the Alaskan Only nature of the fishery , which is largely ignored.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Marjorie J Hays  
Na  
Na, Ak NA

Email: mjhays@alaska.net

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 53 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Please continue with the Special Use Area project. Individual rights are grand, but be we need to be thinking about the common good and the future of the river.  
Thank you.

Marge

\*Emailed 12/1/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Henry Henson  
101 W. Spruce Avenue  
Wasilla, Ak 99654

Email: henry.henson@gmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 54 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

I would like to see the 14-day camping permit extended to 18-20 days to allow additional time for setup and break down of camp.

I think a camping fee is a fine idea to provide funding for improved garbage and toilet facilities. I don't believe a user fee for use of fishery to fish is something that should be implemented.

Vaulted toilets are a fantastic idea, also additional portable toilets sound helpful, and knowing there will be additional costs, the portable toilets should be serviced daily, at least during the personal use gillnet and dipnet openings.

We need to expand the fishing area to eliminate congestion.

\*Comment turn in after a public meeting.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Nikiski Middle High School Students      Phone: (907)-776-3456  
P.O. Box 7112, 52275 Education Drive      Fax: (907)-776-3486  
Nikiski , Ak 99635

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 55 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:  
11/15/10

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Mining, Land, and Water  
South-central Region, Land Offices 550 W 7Th Ave, Suite 900C Anchorage, Alaska  
99501-3577

To Whom It May Concern,

My partner, Melinda Hampton, and I have been working on the Kasilof River dunes problem for our Caring for the Kenai science project for the past 16 months. We have researched the issues and considered the different concerns of the various user groups. After thoughtful consideration, we want to lend our voice in strongly supporting the Kasilof River Special Use Area designation currently under consideration.

Dylan Holloway and Melinda Hampton

Nikiski Middle/High School Students

907-776-9448

\*Faxed 11/16/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Duane Howe  
41640 Gladys Ct  
Homer, Ak 99603

Email: duhowe@alaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 56 of 163 - Submitted 11/14/2010 at 06:26 AM:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposal to establish the Kasilof Special Use Area. I support that proposal. I have visited the area several times during the last 10 years, and I can see that the problems of overuse during the fishing season are becoming intolerable. The worst problem is sanitation. Unless you have a vehicle with a self-contained lavatory, and very few people do, the only way to relieve yourself is to "go behind a bush". Since there are very few bushes in the area, when you go behind one you know what you are going to find. It is disgusting.

The state has developed some very good designs for outdoor rest rooms that make them quite pleasant to use. Since the heavy use of this area occurs in July, it would not need to be winterized, but maintenance will need to be diligent during that busy season in July.

There is one other use that goes largely unnoticed at the Kasilof site, and that is birding. I and others from Homer have gone birding there, and found that coastal area to be quite interesting. A variety of shorebirds use that habitat during the migration periods in spring and fall, so part of the plan should address that use by not disturbing the shorebird habitat. Travel routes should be directed away from the shore areas.

Target shooting, or any kind of shooting should be prohibited in the area. There is no need for firearms to be there at all.

Parking is also a problem. Most visitors camp near their vehicles, so the limited area causes people to encroach on each others' space. The usable area needs to be expanded as much as is practical or the number of campers should be limited.

Thank you for taking on this project.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Erik Huebsch  
P.O. Box 599  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Email: cark1@att.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 57 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:  
11/11/10

Department of Natural Resources

Southcentral Regional Land Office

Attn:

Adam Smith,

Ray Keough

550 West 7th Ave. Suite 900C

Anchorage, AK 99501-3577

Mr. Smith and Mr. Keough,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Kasilof River Special Use Area.

As a 50 year resident of Kasilof I have been witness to the many environmental and social changes that have occurred on the Kenai Peninsula. The re-occurring theme over the last 2 decades has been the willful destruction of valuable fish and wildlife habitat caused by the unrestricted growth of the sport fisheries.

I support the creation of a Special Use Area for the lower Kasilof River.

State agencies can no longer allow unlimited access to a finite resource. This exposes a problem with some of the rules that DNR has proposed. Providing a boat ramp in the lower Kasilof River will only serve to increase the number of users, increase the habitat degradation, lead to increased levels of hydrocarbons in the estuary, create more social and safety problems and is in direct conflict with the very intent of creating the Special Use Area. To put it very plainly, providing a boat ramp in the lower Kasilof River is a stupid idea. Another proposed rule that will legitimize the destruction of more habitat is the idea of issuing camping permits. Camping should be prohibited within the Special Use Area. Camping is the direct cause of many of the social and environmental problems that have brought us to this point. Camping is responsible for sanitation problems, damage to the grassy vegetation that protects the dunes and creates social conflict as evidenced by the number of State Trooper calls to this area. Allowing camping is in direct conflict with the intent of creating the Special Use Area.

Sincerely,

Erik Huebsch

PO Box 599

Kasilof, AK 99610

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Charlie Huggins  
Legislative Affairs  
Senator  
600 East Railroad Avenue  
Wasilla, Ak 99654

Phone: (907)-376-4866  
Alternate Phone: (808)-862-3878  
Fax: (907)-373-4724

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 58 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Commissioner Irwin:

Senator Huggins asked me to relay to you his support for the Mat-Su Borough Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee's request that you extend the public comment period for the proposed Kasilof River Special Use Area.

The Committee has formally asked that the public be allowed additional time to comment on designating the lower area of the river as a SUA and that the Department hold additional public meetings in the Mat-Su, Anchorage, and Kenai, (Please see the attached correspondence.)

Senator Huggins encourages your favorable consideration of the committee's request

Thank you,

Jody

Jody Simpson

Staff to Senator Charlie Huggins

Senate District H

600 East Railroad Avenue

Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Tel: (907)376-4866

Toll-Free: 800-862-3878

Fax: (907)373-4724

[jody\\_simpson@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:jody_simpson@legis.state.ak.us)

[senator\\_charlie\\_huggins@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:senator_charlie_huggins@legis.state.ak.us)

\*Emailed 11/15/10.



# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Leif Jenkinson  
P.O. Box 982  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Email: [jljenk@acsalaska.net](mailto:jljenk@acsalaska.net)

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 59 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

DNR: We live just 2 ½ miles south of the beach on N. Cohoe Loop road. It is obvious to anyone who live here that something has to be done to protect the dunes at the mouth of the Kasilof River.

Several times this summer when I visited the beach, there were 4-wheel drive pickups or ATVs deliberately doing brodies and spinning their wheels on the dunes. One of the local ATV associations wrote to the Peninsula Clarion protesting the idea of a fence, but they can t control the users, and don't offer any solution. Last week (End of October), someone got a pickup with a plow stuck, and the pickup and the tractor used to pull it out tore up beach and grass

Just in the last 4 summers, we have gone from general population who took care and cleaned up after themselves (more or less), to crowds that seem to get a kick out of how much destruction they can do. It is more than just the extreme increase in users.

Mental Health cordoned off the land that many users traditionally used for camping, forcing yet more people onto the beach. There is a large Borough parcel back from the beach, but no indication that the Borough won't do the same, as they have been selling off neighboring parcels.

I'm not sure why you hold public meetings since you refuse to take the testimony for the record, but I have to agree with several of the people at the Tustumena Elementary School meeting who don't want to see user fee just to walk the beach, or bring their dog down, or take pictures at sunset. And they aren't the ones stressing out the environment.

Have you taken into account the dog mushers, both pro and amateur, who use the beach and the main trail through the dunes? I've yet to see them travel on the grass, including by evidence of their distinctive tracks.

I'm not opposed to the Special Use area - but insist on common sense.

Respectfully,

Leif Jenkinson

PO Box 982

Kasilof, AK 99610

\*Emailed 11/01/10



# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Brent Johnson  
20773 Porcupine Ln  
Clam Gulch, Ak 99568-9706

Phone: (907)-907.262.4763  
Alternate Phone: (907)-907.262.4763  
Fax: (907)-907.262.4763  
Email: ragweb@gci.net

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 60 of 163 - Submitted 11/11/2010 at 10:46 PM:

I support creation of a Kasilof River Special Use Area (SUA) as outlined by DNR at the 27 October 2010 meeting at Tustumena School. I believe the SUA designation will make the Dunes Fence effective for protecting habitat. Chaos currently reigns on the Kasilof during pu fishing season. The SUA can bring order, which is in the best interest of society and nature.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

David Johnson  
Retired  
P.O. Box 678  
Kasilof, Ak 99610-0678

Phone: (907)-262-9689  
Email: davjon@gci.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 61 of 163 - Submitted 10/29/2010 at 10:47 AM:

I live in the Kasilof area. My main use of the beaches near the mouth of the Kasilof River are dog walking and wildlife (marine mammals and birds) viewing. I use the beaches year round for these purposes. I have observed the temporary slumlike camping congregations during the personal use fisheries. More and more people come each year. I am very much in favor of designating this as a special use area. I think there should be user fees, fences to protect the dunes, and as much enforcement as possible. I also would like to see the personal use gillnet fishery extended in both directions north and south along the beaches. I think this would spread out the fishers and might also reduce the number of dipnetters near the mouth. I'm sure the holders of commercial setnet sites don't like this idea, but the personal use fishery ends before they need to prepare for the commercial season (in my opinion). I participated in the gillnet fishing years ago when it was allowed all along the beach. I didn't see the problems and competitive nature of the fishery that exists now. I realize that there were less people participating then. That is a good reason for more enforcement now. I am sorry that the various user groups see each other as competitors, but since there are more and more people using a limited resource, perhaps this is inevitable.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Judy A Johnson  
20773 Porcupine Lane  
Clam Gulch, Ak 99568

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 62 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

I would like to support the fence project at the Kasilof River on the south side of the river as proposed at the meeting at Tustumena School on October 27th.

I would like to support the special use area plan also proposed at the Oct. 27th meeting.

I support charging user fees to help offset the cost of restrooms, garbage, and parking facilities. I live on south Cohoe Loop, about 6 miles from the river.

\*Faxed 11/10/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Syd & Sherry Karnikis  
Na  
Na, Ak NA

Email: karnikis@alaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 63 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Dear Mr. Smith,

My wife and I just attended a meeting regarding the pending adoption for a Kasilof River Special Use Area.

We have read the draft proposal and are basically in favor of this endeavor. Probably the main concern we heard voiced at the meeting was the lack of specifics with regard to some of the proposals.

The biggest issue in our eyes is user fees. How much will they be and how will they be charged? Will the fees be only for designated parking spaces or will there be a fee to drive and park on the beach? It appears in the draft proposal that these fees will only be charged during the personal use season-could that be changed?

We remain in favor of the creation of the KRSUA but we also see why many of our neighbors would like to see more interaction and communication between the DNR and the local population.

Thank you very much.

Syd and Sherry Karnikis

\*Emailed 12/8/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Grace Kendall  
P.O. Box 2523  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-262-4812

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 64 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:  
November 15, 2010  
DNR

South central Region Land Office  
Attn: Adam Smith or Raymond Keough  
550 West 7th Avenue Suite 900C  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3577

Reference the Kasilof River Special Use Area;

I think it's a great idea to finally use a little control over what happens down there. So far, it's been "The Wild West". People threaten each other with guns and knives and the "Biggest Bully" wins. A guy by the name of George was on "Sound Off" and said he was going back down to the mouth of Kasilof with his gun because someone had pulled up his stakes & running line. This same guy was at the Tustamena school meeting. (I don't know him, but he's always on "Sound Off").

I quit going to Kasilof years ago; it's too tough and rough for this little old lady. I managed to get 2 fish at Kenai this year before I was "Bullied out" by a guy twice my size. I got 4 last year and I'm considering not even going to Kenai next year it's becoming just like Kasilof. I'm getting too old.

They are ruining these areas with their trash and vehicles. Quite a few years ago I remember there was a series of colorful fliers that claimed people were "Loving the Rivers to Death". Nobody paid any attention to them ... they didn't work. Trying to be "politically Correct" will not work. There just has to be some rules & regulations ... and enforcement... or the damage will continue.

The last time I was at Ninilchick, (a few years ago), it was really trashy with glass, socks, diapers, things that would make a person blush etc.

I grew up on a large farm in Oregon, with small spring branches and a creek that ran into Nestucca River. They ALL had salmon in them but the state didn't take care of them and protect them from Industry (& probably a lot of other things) so now those fish are gone forever. Some hatchery fish runs up Nestucca but nothing into Tony Creek or the Spring Branches. No truly wild ones left.

We need to be protecting Bristol Bay against "Pebble Mine". We have the one last great salmon run...left in the world ... which belongs to the people ... not a few greedy people who would trade that to "get rich quick". Most of the wealth would be leaving Alaska for parts unknown ... Canada? Britain? They will move in, develop the mine, destroy the area for it's wild life, salmon, beauty etc ... , they'll pull out; take the wealth with them and leave a mess for the taxpayers to clean up.

Also, the people who live there and depend on the salmon to help make a living& what about them? In the end they won't have the salmon or the mine ... so once again the taxpayers get to take up the slack on that too.

Dams will never hold the toxins for hundreds or thousands of years until the poisons are no longer harmful. That area has too much water running through the ground ... (aquifer)... The dams will hold just long enough for the makers to get "out of sight" and leave a mess that will never be cleaned up .... that will be impossible to clean up.

It will become another Hugh mess and burden for Alaska ... (remember the Exxon Valdez Spill, we still haven't recovered from that) ... just so a few people can get rich? None of those resources,(fish or gold) belong to Canada, Britain etc. They belong to Alaska, and the best use is what they are being used for right now.

Grace Kendall

PO Box 2523

Soldotna, AK. 99669

1-907-262-4812

\*Mailed 11/17/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Nick John Keyros  
626 Deerfield Ln.  
Norcross, Ga 30093

Phone: 404-406-0899  
Fax: 770-9210164  
Email: nickkeyros@comcast.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 65 of 163 - Submitted 12/03/2010 at 03:34 PM:

I would like a email confirming that my property on Coho Loop Rd. has been excluded from the Kasilof River Special Use Area. I thank you in advance for your attention to this matter, and would appreciate you letting me know when this has been done.  
Thank You Nick J. Keyros

P S Legal discription, T 3N R 12W SEC 2 SEWARD MERIDIAN KN 2005016 PETTIFOGGERS PLACE SUB. KEYROS ADDN TRACT B2

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Nick J Keyros  
Na  
Kasilof, Ak NA

Email: nickkeyros@comcast.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 66 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Dear Mr. Keough,

As I only received a letter stating the intent of the Department of Natural Resources on or about the 27th of October which did not include any information about erecting a fence which had already been decided on and approved, I am asking for a 45 day extension before any further decisions are made on this matter so I may have more time to see how this will affect me and the use of my land and the land around me.

In the conversation I had with you last week, you made no mention of a fence being erected at the end of Coho Beach Road. Are any of the changes being made going to affect how I use my land and how I access it or construction on it? I would appreciate a response from you as soon as possible so I can make further decisions and comments on these matters. Thanking you in advance for prompt response.

Yours Truly

Nick J. Keyros

\*Emailed 11/8/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Bruce King  
P.O. Box 4258  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Email: [brucek@ptialaska.net](mailto:brucek@ptialaska.net)

**Topic: Draft Decision**

Comment 67 of 163 - Submitted 11/12/2010 at 09:00 AM:

please support the efforts to establish a special use area at the mouth of the kasilof river

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Peter Klauder  
Klauder & Company Architects  
Na  
Na, Ak NA

Phone: (907)-283-1919  
Email: klauder@alaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 68 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Dear Adam Smith and Raymond Keough,  
My wife and I move here in 1990. We have two children born and raised here ages 18 and 15, soon to be 19 and 16. We were very active in the set net personal use fishery until the state destroyed that fishery by restricting it to a small area around the mouth of the Kasilof River. It is amazing to me to watch the state destroy a perfectly good fishery only to replace it with chaos and disrespect for both the resource and the ecology that support that resource. The old personal use set net fishery use to extend virtually as far as you could drive anywhere on the Cook Inlet beach (outside certain limits away from the river mouths). That made sense, it allowed access to the fishery in the most durable and resilient ecological zone of the fishery, i.e. the beach a mile away from the river mouths. The beach a mile away from the river mouths rises and falls with the tide, is wet, dry, frozen, windswept, and as resilient as any environmental zone or niche that I can think of. The only possible complaints registrar against this fishery must have come from commercial set net fishermen who were understandably concerned with folks operating personal set nets around there commercial sites. The correct response would have been to establish rules and regulations for behavior around the commercial sites and impose significant fines for non compliance. Instead we now have two personal use fisheries (dip net and set net in a restricted area around the mouth of the Kasilof) that are both poorly thought out, and a disgusted display of our complete disregard for the land, water and fish that we share this wonderful place with.

I used to take my family down the beach until we were out of sight of all other humans and set up our net, build a small fire and spend the day truly enjoying the incredible privilege it is to be an Alaskan. My kids got to experience nature as few people anywhere in the world have an opportunity to do. The respect for life and place that one can pass on to ones' children and kids in general in a setting like that is extremely valuable. The values we express as a society by the mass harvest, congested, dirty, wasteful, expensive, and ignorant display of the bad side of human nature inevitably displayed in congested settings as exists in both the current set net and dip net fisheries is a complete disgrace to our society and a complete failure of our government to exercise common sense and good long term planning. Personal use harvest is more than just meat. Just as fishery management should not be centered around the number of fish allocated to each user group. Intelligent planning should focus on the ecology and ecosystems effected by human activity to insure successful return of fish in perpetuity. My office is located on the bluff (606 Petersen Way, Kenai)

in Old Town Kenai overlooking the Kenai River mouth. I used to watch up to 40 beluga whales feed in the mouth of the Kenai River. Now what we witness is crowds of people, cars, RV's, trash, trampled dunes, expensive fences to protect the dunes whose fence posts are already being undermined or buried as the sand naturally moves, and an incredible display of all that is tragic in our society, greed, a lack of respect for each other and for the beauty of where we live and a complete focus on consumption and the "me" approach to life. The beluga whales are protected or endangered, is it even legal to so totally disrupt beluga whale feeding grounds? Even if it is technically legal why would we want to do that? That government not only has allowed this to develop but has planned promoted and enforced this is a very sad statement about who we are and what we plan for the future of this place.

Thank you for your time,

Peter Klauder

Klauder & Company Architects

[klauder@alaska.net](mailto:klauder@alaska.net)

(907)283-1919 (office)

(907)283-0450 (fax)

\*Emailed 11/22/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Gary Knopp  
Kenai Peninsula Borough  
Assembly President  
144 North Binkley Street  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-283-9494  
Fax: (907)-262-283-9800  
Email: pa12gary@hotmail.com

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 69 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Introduced by: Mayor, Johnson

Date: 12/07/10

Action: Adopted

Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

#### KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH RESOLUTION 2010-101

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED KASILOF RIVER SPECIAL USE AREA TO PROVIDE FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE AREA TO ACCOMMODATE INCREASED PUBLIC USE WHILE PROTECTING THE HABITAT

WHEREAS, since 1981 the Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) created and continued a personal use dip net fishery around the mouth of the Kasilof River, and around that time also established a personal use gill net fishery in the waters adjacent to the Kasilof River mouth; and

WHEREAS, these fisheries have increasingly become extremely popular; and

WHEREAS, a large-scale commercial set gillnet fishery operates about one mile both north and south of the river mouth; and

WHEREAS, that area also is used extensively by the drift gillnet commercial fleet for harvesting and mooring; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources has received numerous public and agency comments expressing concerns about the impacts from the intense use patterns on state land during the personal use fisheries surrounding the mouth of the Kasilof River; and

WHEREAS, in response to those comments the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water, Southcentral Regional Land Office has initiated the process of designating the lower Kasilof River and vicinity as a Special Use Area; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Kasilof River Special Use Area (KARSUA) boundary is located in the area of the lower Kasilof River system and will directly affect all state owned and

managed lands (including both uplands and tidelands) within the proposed boundary; and

WHEREAS, Special Use Lands are designations placed on certain lands identified as having "special resource values warranting additional protections or other special requirements," IIAAC 96.014; and

WHEREAS, the proposed KARSUA would protect habitat important for wildlife including waterfowl, shorebirds, fish, and various aquatic resources; and

WHEREAS, the mouth of the Kasilof River is currently fairly easily accessible via road and has undergone significant increased public use in conjunction with the concentrated nature of the fisheries at the mouth of the Kasilof River; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Natural Resources this increased usage has significantly affected the area through insufficient sanitation facilities, the degradation of dunes and associated wetlands due to intensive recreational use by people, the strong demand for a public boat launch/recovery site on the lower Kasilof River, the insufficient public parking/staging areas and extended stays during the fisheries, the irresponsible disposal of fish waste, the increased threat to water quality from uncontrolled and unsupported uses, and numerous other problems stemming from increased public use and expected increasing demand for use of this area by the public; and

WHEREAS, the public comment deadline is 5:00 p.m. on December 10, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the assembly supports designation of this special use area subject to certain considerations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly supports establishment of the proposed Kasilof River Special Use Area as described in the draft decision issued by the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water dated September 2010, provided that the proposed boat launch be located away from the existing Kasilof boat harbor to minimize competition for access to the area in which the current Kasilof boat harbor is located, and that local residents' needs be considered in establishing fees and access for this area, to the extent allowed by law.

SECTION 2. That a copy of this resolution be submitted to the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water prior to 5:00 p.m. December 10, 2010, as a public comment regarding this proposed special use area.

SECTION 3. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 7TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2010.

Gary Knopp, Assembly President

ATTEST: Johni Blankenship, Borough Clerk

Yes: Haggerty, Johnson, McClure, Murphy, Smalley, Smith, Tauriainen, Knopp

No: None

Absent: Pierce

\*Resolution 2010-101 pulled of Kenai Peninsula Borough website 12/7/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Kurt & Catherine A Koehler  
P.O. Box 67-1026  
Chugiak, Ak 99567

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 70 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:  
November 14, 2010  
Department of Natural Resources

Southcentral Region Land Office

ATTN: Adam Smith or Raymond Keough

550 West 7th Ave. Suite 900 C

Anchorage, AK 99501-3577

Comments Re: Kasilof River Special Use Area Decision

We were informed on Friday that DNR has agreed to our request to re-draw the boundary of the proposed Kenai River Special Use Area to exclude our land from the SUA boundary. Changing the SUA boundary to exclude our lot in the Pettifoggers Place Subdivision from the special use area resolves our main concerns and questions about the effect of the proposed special use area on the use of our property and we appreciate DNR's positive and timely response. With that boundary change, we support the proposed KARSUA designation and appreciate the need for DNR to move forward in a timely manner to adopt and implement the KARSUA by next summer.

However, we have questions about the proposed User Pay Fee System for the KS unit of the special use area. The draft decision doesn't go into much detail about how user fees to support services and management within the new KARSUA would be determined and applied but notes that "the creation of a User Pay Fee System would not be for a source of revenue obtained from the users to access and use state lands." As we read this, DNR does not plan to charge fees for members of the public to walk, or drive a four-wheeler, down Cohoe Beach Road to access the beach but would charge fees for parking in the new parking lot and for camping on state land. If so, we have no problem with user fees.

Given the close proximity of our property to the beach, during fishing season our family members often make a dozen trips per day/night from our property down Cohoe Beach Road to the beach, on foot or by four-wheeler. Because our property is so close to the beach we have no need to park or camp on state land in the proposed special use area and do not think we should have to pay fees to simply access the beach from a public road.

However, if DNR intends to charge a user fee for accessing the beach by foot or

four-wheeler then we would request that DNR consider issuing a low cost seasonal permit for tmlimited back and forth access by residents of the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Kurt and Catherine Koehler

P.O. Box 671026

Chugiak, AK 99567

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Kurt & Catherine A Koehler  
P.O. Box 67-1026  
Chugiak, Ak 99567

Email: koelers@mtaonline.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 71 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Kurt Alan Koehler  
Catherine A. Koehler

P.O. Box 67-1026

Chugiak, Alaska 99567-1026

koelers@mtaonline.net

T 3N R1W Sec 2 SM Kenai Recording District

Pettifoggers Place Sub Keyros Addition Tract B1

State of Alaska

Dept.of Natural Resources

Division of Mining, Land and Water

South Central Alaska

Regional Manager

richard.thompson@alaska.gov

October 26th 2010

Mr. Thompson,

Thank you for our impromptu meeting yesterday afternoon. We were quite surprised we had not received written notification as we our one of the four private land owners within this several thousand acre proposed public use area. We have a written notification received this morning post marked October 25th 2010. Have the other land owners received the same notice after the October 21st 2010 notification of meeting and one day notice for the October 27th 2010 meeting located in Kasilof? We now know that a public notice dated October 7th 2010 in the Anchorage Daily News and the Clarion was published.

We just want to make sure we are given proper time to research this project and the effects on the traditional uses we have enjoyed on our private lands and our use of the public Cohoe Beach and the mouth of the Kasilof River. We have great concern about the impact of our private property becoming an in holding of a public use area.

Again thank you for your time yesterday as we do have concerns and contacted you in person within hours of learning of our property becoming an in holding of this project. We look forward to having adequate time for research of and responding to this proposed Kasilof River Public Use Area and believe that the other private land owners that would belong to this proposed in holding would too.

At this time would like to request that our lands be placed outside of the Public Use boundary as our land is on the outlying edge of the draft plan at this time. We emailed you as opposed to public response as we are very private people and consider our private land issues a private matter. Thank you again for your time yesterday and enjoyed meeting you and your staff members Adam Smith and Raymond Keogh and you providing us with the information packet and your valued time.

Please let us know your response to our request to have the Public Use Area not hold our land within its borders.

Thank You, Kurt & Catherine Koehler

\*Emailed 10/26/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Kurt & Catherine A Koehler  
P.O. Box 67-1026  
Chugiak, Ak 99567

Email: koehlers@mtaonline.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 72 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Kurt Alan Koehler  
Catherine A. Koehler

P.O. Box 67-1026

Chugiak, Alaska 99567-1026

koehlers@mtaonline.net

T 3N R1W Sec 2 SM Kenai Recording District

Pettifoggers Place Sub Keyros Addition Tract B1

State of Alaska

Dept. of Natural Resources

Division of Mining, Land and Water

South Central Alaska

Regional Manager

richard.thompson@alaska.gov

October 27th 2010

Mr. Thompson,

Due to the inadequate notification to property owners within this proposed special use area KARSUA. We would please like to please request a 45 day extension of ADL 230992 Kasilof River Special Use Area KARSUA.

We also would request to not be an in holding of KARSUA as our private property has dedicated state right of way ingress and egress on Coho Beach Road.

The entire Pettifoggers Place Subdivision Keyros Addition Tracts B-1, B-2, and B-3 all have State of Alaska Dept of Transportation Right of Way Access and could easily be taken out of the project boundary lines.

We just want the process to be fair. We really need time for research. This land was purchased as part of our family legacy and would like to safe guard our children, grandchildren and so on from future problems associated with private lands as an

in-holding.

Thank You, Kurt and Catherine Koehler

\*Emailed 10/27/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Kurt & Catherine A Koehler  
P.O. Box 67-1026  
Chugiak, Ak 99567

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 73 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Kurt Koehler  
P.O. Box 671026

Chugiak, AK 99567

November 14, 2010

Rick Thompson

Regional Land Manager

South Central Regional Land Office

Department of Natural Resources

550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 900C

Anchorage, AK 99501-3577

Re: Kasilof River Special Use Area Decision

Dear Mr. Thompson:

I was pleased to receive your message last Friday that DNR has agreed to our request to re-draw the boundary of the proposed Kenai River Special Use Area to exclude my land from the SUA boundary. Changing the SUA boundary to exclude my land from the special use area resolves my main concerns and questions about the effect of the proposed special use area on my own property and I appreciate your positive and timely response.

Although I previously requested a 45 day extension of the November 15 deadline for submitting comments on the proposed KARSUA, I don't think I really need the extension after DNR's decision to re-draw the boundary. I support the proposed KARSUA designation and appreciate the need for DNR to move forward to adopt and implement the KARSUA by next summer.

However, I have questions about the proposed User Pay Fee System for the KS unit of the special use area. The draft decision doesn't go into much detail about how user fees to support services and management within the new KARSUA would be determined and applied but notes that "the creation of a User Pay Fee System would not be for a source of revenue obtained from the users to access and use state lands."

As I read this, DNR does not plan to charge fees for members of the public to walk, or drive a fourwheeler, down the road to access the beach but would charge fees for parking in the new parking lot and for camping on state land. If so, I have no concern about user fees.

Given the close proximity of my property to the beach, during fishing season my family members often make a dozen trips per day/night from my property down the road to the beach, on foot or by four-wheeler. Because my property is so close to the beach we have no need to park or camp on state land in the proposed special use area and do not think we should have to pay fees to simply access the beach. However, if DNR intends to charge a user fee for accessing the beach by foot or four-wheeler then I would request that DNR consider issuing a low cost seasonal permit for unlimited back and forth access by residents of the area.

Thank You,

Kurt Koehler

\*Mailed 11/15/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Dwight Kramer  
Kenai Area Fisherman's Coalition  
Kafc  
P.O. Box 375  
Ken, Ak 99611

Phone: (907)-283-1054  
Email: dwimar@gci.net

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 74 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Hello Adam,  
Kenai Area Fisherman s Coalition has commented to your agency in the past supporting improvements and protection of the Kasilof personal use fishery land area. Because the comment period has been extended on the proposed Kasilof Special Use Area designation we are submitting the attached comments. In the past we have laid out our specific concerns and suggestions on this issue. This letter is more specific for this designation.

Thank You,

Dwight Kramer KAFC Chairman

\*Above is an email. Below is the comment/letter that was sent with the email.

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Mining, Land, and Water  
South-central Region, Land Office 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 900c Anchorage, Alaska  
99501-3577

To Whom It May Concern:

The Kenai Area Fisherman s Coalition (KAFC), with a membership of over 200 individuals, is composed of scientists and non-guided anglers of the Kenai Peninsula. Out organization s purpose is to provide objective scientific comments on issues impacting Kenai Peninsula streams and rivers. At the present time we have 8 fishery biologists in our membership with a combined experience of over 120 years studying Kenai Peninsula ecosystems, with a strong focus on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers.

We strongly support the Kasilof River Special Use Area designation currently under consideration. Because of the fractured land ownership, by various agencies, it is vitally important that we have one governing body overseeing this area. It should be obvious to everyone involved that the present status is unacceptable. Until now no one agency has led the charge to take responsibility for administering how this critical habitat area would be managed.

We encourage this designation as a proper basis for future improvements to this area and the user base that relies on its resources.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dwight Kramer KAFC Chairman

\*Emailed 12/12/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Morris A Lambdin  
Dept of Fish & Game  
Fish & Wildlife Technician III  
1058 Pleasant Street  
Blue Hill, Me 04614

Phone: 207-374-5750  
Alternate Phone: 207-266-3793  
Email: amlambj@gmail.com

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 75 of 163 - Submitted 11/12/2010 at 12:23 PM:

I want to say first off that I strongly support "special management status" to the lower Kasilof wetland river mouth area. I lived in the Kenai/Soldotna/Homer area for over 34 years and have watched the decline in beach grass, the habitat destruction and huge increases of waste along the mouth of the river. Not only human waste but garbage as well. I am a retired Fish & Game Technician that helped count salmon on that river from 1980-1984 and certainly saw the increase in people visiting the area. Along with that I saw the damage that incurred. When I first moved to AK in 1974 and hunted along that river there were almost no people and almost no pollution - these things changed with vast increases in people due to the personal use fishery as well as the dip net fishery. With these changes we need to protect the areas that produce the resources that people come for. I too have dip netted there and it's very sad to see the destruction that continued to occur over time. The dunes take a long time to recover from ATV and off road vehicles that tear up the dunes. There needs to be some form of controlled access and limited use or control use of where vehicles can be used. The waste problem also needs to be addressed. I urge you to designate the mouth of the Kasilof River a special management area like the Kenai. MAL

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Lori Landstrom  
P.O. Box 3362  
Seward, Ak 99664

Email: lltr@gci.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 76 of 163 - Submitted 11/14/2010 at 03:59 PM:

I fully support the Special Use Area designation for the Kasilof River!!! I am not in favor of allowing camping for even a day on the existing vegetation. If camping is allowed, at all, it should be below the existing vegetation. Please ensure protection of the beach rye grass and the existing vegetation. I totally support the placement of permanent and seasonal toilets and garbage bins. I support limiting motor vehicle use to established trails and on the beach. Again to protect the beach vegetation. It is vital to protecting and keeping the dunes. The Kenai River mouth is a prime example of this. I support having a budget for enforcement. You can NOT rely on the dip netters policing themselves. They have one thing on their mind and that is getting their fish. I do NOT support a power boat launch being put in this area. Please leave the Kasilof River drift only. Please do not add to the confusion and congestion of this area by putting in a power boat launch. Please help protect this unique and valuable area by establishing it as a Special Use Area and ensuring adequate funding for it's management. Thank you.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Robyn Lauster  
Citizen  
3003 W. 32nd Ave.  
Anchorage, Ak 99517

Phone: (907) 245-1634  
Email: robynkcl@gmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 77 of 163 - Submitted 11/11/2010 at 07:19 PM:

I have observed some of the damage being done to our salmon rivers from overuse and thoughtlessness. It seems clear that some restriction and management are necessary to protect this valuable resource. I trust Cook Inlet Keeper to present thoughtful, practical solutions to the problems and would like to go on record as supporting their recommendations. Thank you.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Dorothy Lazar  
2781 Seafarer Loop  
Anchorage, Ak 99516

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 78 of 163 - Submitted 11/11/2010 at 05:38 PM:

We have to protect our waterways. The Kasilof is magnificent. Don't let it go the way of the rivers in the lower 48 that were just used up. Please use whatever means are at your disposal to keep the Kasilof healthy for fish and plants and other wildlife and thereby for us also.

Thank you.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

James Lazar  
39805 Smith Rd  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Email: [jlazar@acsalaska.net](mailto:jlazar@acsalaska.net)

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 79 of 163 - Submitted 11/15/2010 at 12:33 PM:

I support the creation of KRS••UA and the preferred alternative. The situation at the mouth of the Kasilof has deteriorated and it is time to take action.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Larry L Lewis  
P.O. Box 403  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-262-1370  
Email: lvilewis@acsalaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 80 of 163 - Submitted 10/09/2010 at 08:16 AM:

While I appreciate and support the concept of the Kasilof Special Use Area, I have concerns about government imposed access and use limitations for the area that year-round local residents may have to abide by throughout the entire year at some future date. The KSUA plan seems to be largely in response to the high-impact personal use fisheries that are taking place for a relatively short amount of time. "Seasonal" regulations and "user pay" fees may be onerous for year-round residents unless "seasonal" time constraints are self-imposed by the government to allow unfettered use of the area during other, low traffic times of the year. As there is within the plan a "seasonal establishment and implementation of the User Pay Fee System" I highly recommend that "seasonal" be clearly defined within the plan. Also, if we take the family dog down to the beach for a walk in late summer as we have for the last 19 years, will we be forced to pay for the privilege of "use" under a user pay system and be subjected to law enforcement action if the dog answers nature's call within the KSUA? Under a strict reading of the proposed changes and regulations, "Prohibition to place, drop, or discard waste or refuse (including human waste) except within the provided sanitation facilities" it appears so. Is waterfowl hunting or killing a furbearer in a legally set trap or snare considered "recreational shooting"? If not, where is the exemption that allows for discharge of a firearm for legal hunting and trapping purposes? Why is the term "recreational shooting" not defined? I understand the purpose and concerns here but as the term "seasonal" is not clearly defined, I have concerns that other seasonal legal uses could be curtailed by some future overly zealous government administrator and would like to see clearer definitions. Also, has any consideration been given to the impacts that an increase in traffic from a public boat launch on the south side of the river would have on a road (North Coho Loop) that is literally falling apart already? North Coho is a 45 MPH, primarily residential area access road that will suffer further degradation and a higher risk of mishap to local users should a public boat launch facility be placed on the south/west side of the river without major improvements to the road and an increase of enforcement of traffic laws. "Fish waste should be disposed of in accordance with applicable ADF&G guidelines" What are the current guidelines exactly? The directives and recommendations for fish carcass disposal seem to vary dependent upon which river system or park etc. a person is visiting. Will the recommendation be that fish waste be placed below the high tide mark, taken home or "somewhere else" to be processed or placed in the local waste transfer site or on-site container? My recommendation is to require by regulation the use of bear resistant waste management receptacles year-round within the KSMA and require use of a frequently serviced bear resistant dumpster for disposal of fish waste during the personal use fishery. While we understand and share concern over the

damage to the area from the personal use fishery and the need for some level of protection for the area, please clearly define the terms used and delineate times proposed. Please do not turn the Kasilof beach area into a year-round Park. We enjoy our unlimited access and use of these public lands after everyone else goes home with their fish. Thank you.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Susan Loshbaugh  
1257 Richard Berry Dr  
Fairbanks, Ak 99709

Email: s.loshbaugh@gmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 81 of 163 - Submitted 10/29/2010 at 05:53 PM:

Thank you for finally taking action. It's sad action comes too late to save the watchman's house historical site, which beach users and state neglect destroyed. I used to live in Kasilof and spent many happy hours at the river mouth and adjacent beaches. It is sad that swarms of visitors and irresponsible actions threaten this public resource. I heartily approve of actions to fence off private & fragile lands, to provide infrastructure to serve and contain visitors, and to charge suitable user fees to pay for such developments. I also recommend that the state provide suitable resources to enforce existing rules and maintain any new facilities it builds.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Rob Lund  
4178 Hohe St.  
Homer, Ak 99603

Email: [summersong@alaska.net](mailto:summersong@alaska.net)

**Topic: Draft Decision**

Comment 82 of 163 - Submitted 11/12/2010 at 10:38 AM:  
Please support a special use area for the Kasilof River.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Mark Luttrell  
P.O. Box 511  
Seward, Ak 99664

Email: prufrock@arctic.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 83 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Adam:

I fully support the proposed Kasilof River Special Use area. Better management will help prevent or mitigate some of the problems associated with over use at the area such as inadequate sanitation facilities and destruction of dunes and wetlands. Tighter regulation and oversight will make a more pleasurable experience for all users.

Sincerely,

Mark Luttrell

Box 511

Seward, AK 99664

\*Emailed 11/11/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Joy Lyon  
37715 Chas Ross Road  
Sterling, Ak 99672

Phone: (907)-260-4871  
Email: fj40mom@alaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 84 of 163 - Submitted 11/14/2010 at 08:26 PM:

To whom it may concern,

I am the Mother of seven children and I am very concerned about all the new regulations you are proposing to burden the set netters with. This is a fishery that my family has enjoyed since 2004. We are a traditional family with a Dad and Mom and seven children. We live on my husband's income and subsistence fishing and hunting make it possible for us to make it through the winter with food on the table. Not only does this fishery benefit our immediate family, but our extended family as well as assorted friends. We have two nets and we stay on the beach as long as it takes to get the fish everyone needs. We plan our vacation time and budget around these ten days every year. Already my kids are asking how long until we go to "fish camp" again.

As you can see the cost of all you are proposing is a big issue for me. We do not do much fishing at all with a rod and reel because almost everywhere you go you have to pay to park or launch a boat or use the ferry. Also the time involved catching all our fish with a rod and reel is considerable. If we have to start paying through the nose just to get onto the beach we will not be able to afford it. Instead of a subsistence fishery it becomes a "buy your fish" fishery. If I could afford to buy my fish I would save myself the time and work of catching, cleaning, and processing and buy it.

Bluff erosion and people making a mess is something I keep hearing about. Every year when we go to the beach we are amazed at how the bluff looks different from last year. This difference is not made by humans, and if you want to stop it you will need to outlaw the tides and winter storms. As far as people making a mess I don't know anything about the dip net season because I have not been dip netting in years, but the set net beach is in good hands. Everyone makes a point to get their trash off the beach. I have never seen garbage left on the beach or strewn around.

I'm not sure why people are worried about us staying "long term" on the beach. Let me assure you that we are not homeless and moving in to stay forever. As it stands now we are able to pick our site and set up camp. We put our pin in according to the tide and come and go setting up our gear until the season starts. Then we are there to stay until we get our fish or the season ends. This year that entailed camping out with numerous small children in the pouring rain for a whole week. Then we got 3 days of beautiful sun before we went home. If I was just homeless and hanging out I would have been anywhere but where I was. Camping out, getting to know your neighbors and pulling in the fish can be a great experience and can look pretty crazy to an outsider, but two days after the season closes you can't even tell that we were ever there.

I think that one good way to lower impact on the beach is to open more of it. At one time people could set net anywhere all the way down to Homer. Now we all HAVE TO be stacked together because of your regulations. We would be happy to have a spot not so crowded even if the fishing was not as good and it took us longer to get our fish.

In closing I would just like to say please consider the people of this issue. These fish play a big part in my children's diet and health. We also have people on our site that eat these fish on doctor's orders. They are good for all of us, young and old, those with cancer and high cholesterol, pregnant women and growing children. I realize there are extremist environmentalists who would like us all to stay home and not breathe, but this resource was created for our use and benefit. Please manage it wisely with us in mind and not just to further a political agenda. I really don't want to have to tell my children that we can't afford to set net this year and that fish will not be a part of our diet anymore.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Kevin Brower Lyon  
37715 Chas Ross Road  
Sterling, Ak 99672

Phone: (907)-283-8240  
Alternate Phone: (907)-398-3159  
Email: fj40mom@alaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 85 of 163 - Submitted 11/14/2010 at 05:21 PM:

The following comments are in opposition to the plan. The proposed plan should be posted during the 2011 personal use fishery and the comment period extended so that comments can be made by more of the participants in this fishery. Also the weighting of comments from set netters should be given more weight than the dip net personal use due to the smaller number of set net fishermen due to limited sites and the higher investment cost of the gear.

A similar plan appears to be successful on the Kenai River for dip netting during the peak of the run, however, the Kasilof set net season is at the beginning of the run and it seems to place an undue hardship for subsistence set net fishing due to the time required for proper gear setting. Since fishing can only take place between 6 AM and 11 PM and depending on the tide, limits the actual time the net is in the water. Multiple generations of our family utilize one set net site and depending on the run timing it usually takes approximately 5 to 6 days of the season for each of the households to get the fish for the season, which provides about 70% of the fish allowed on the permits. Specific comments to proposed regulations below:

"A permit is required for any placement or setting of gear on the beach or adjacent tidelands, more than 7 days prior to the beginning of the Kasilof River Personal Use Set Gillnet Fishery (NOTE: Does not affect units KL and KU)"

What are the proposed procedures and cost of the permit? Issues include: Setting the pin and running lines for running set nets is contingent on tides if the tide is not low enough the pin can not be properly set or retrieved. These tides vary year to year.

"The seasonal establishment and implementation of the User Pay Fee System (UPFS) to cover management costs associated with providing services associated with the personal use fisheries (NOTE: Does not affect units KL and KU)"

What are the specific fees of the UPFS? Depending on the fee amount, per site or per person, per day this needs to be limited as during some tides there is little time to fish between 6AM and 11PM due to the tide the net spends a lot of time high and dry. Also predictability of fish being present is unpredictable during the early part of the season, as the timing of the run and commercial openers control the ability to get the subsistence fish. If it were per person / per day UPFS this would cease to be a family affair (I have a family of nine including seven children and we fish with our extended family including eight other households) as only those necessary to the operation of the nets would be present. Also the days where the commercial fleet was out it would not be cost effective to fish. There is only a 10 day season to set net and typically the

fish arrive on day 6 or 7. We have kept a log at our site (I was unable to insert it in this public comment) for the last three years and the data showed in that in 2008 the average fish per day was 18.36; 2009 it was 32 fish per day and in 2010 it was 17.14. The low fish count was on June 15, 2010 with only 5 fish all day. Later in the season the fish per day count exponentially increases, to be cost effective it would be better to come later in the season, however, it may be difficult to find a site or set the pin depending on the tides.

"A permit is required to park, stage or camp for a period longer than 14 consecutive days"

What would it take to get a permit? The proposed regulations seem to require that most of the set netters need a permit (7 days before and 10 day season = 17days.)

Issues I see with the proposed regulations: 1. Limits participation If a fee is required only a fee per site not per person. 2. Over Crowding With daily fees there will be a focus on fishing only when fishing is best. 3. Additional government costs Required to issue all the additional permitting. Since this is in a Coastal Zone are the permits going to require the 27 page ACMP application to get a permit?

In conclusion set netting is currently a family event that our family vacations are scheduled around. It takes commitment to subsistence set net, including the expense of the equipment. This is a time for families to work and play together. The regulations proposed, especially those that will increase the cost, discriminate against large families wishing to spend time and work together.

Thanks for considering my comments

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Myron Maki  
P.O. Box 1044  
Sterling , Ak 99672

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 86 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

With the country going broke, the bureaucrats sure seem to find ways to spend the Peoples money on frivolous projects. The building of fences, toll booths, toilets, boat ramps, enlarging camping area and information booths seems to be a bit hypocritical in the name of saving the environment. The thousands and thousands of dollars it will cost to build and maintain these facilities that are used for a very short times seems a huge waste to me. The hiring of new personal and enlarging another government bureaucracy seems ridiculous.

Pay attention to this past election we the people don t want or need Bigger Government.

\*Mailed 11/8/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Eric & Fain Marchegiani  
19013 Richner Road  
Chugiak, Ak 99567

Phone: (907)-688-3343  
Email: ericmary@mtaonline.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 87 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Adam & Raymond:

I attended the meeting last night in Anchorage and I am attaching my comments in a word document for your use along with embedding them in this email (yea I know sometimes the State Spam Filter might scrap my attachment).

Good luck with your meetings in Kenai &

Thanks &

EAM

PS: I have also copied my legislators ... so they are aware also &

PSPS: You may wish to forward my comments to ADF&G concerning the possibility of moving the upper limit of the personal use fishery up to the Eastern Boundary of Area KL.

\*Above is an email. Below is the attachment from the email.

October 22, 2010

Dear Sir/ Madame:

Please reference the Proposed Kasilof River SUA that has been posted along with the Public Meeting in Anchorage on October 21st. First off I want to commend you in your efforts to get the draft of the SUA out on the street and to the public. I know it takes a certain amount of effort to get all the information pulled together along with meeting the appropriate regulatory requirements for publishing notices and comment periods (I previously worked for State of Alaska at the AEA for 20 years). The SUA is definitely needed given the amount of public pressure that has occurred during the summer personal use fishery on the Kasilof. My wife and I have utilized that fishery for the last 6 or 7 years and have routinely placed our catch in our freezer to feed our family over the winter. It is a benefit available to Alaska Residents and one that is much appreciated.

The following are our comments:

1. Page 8/43, VII. Propose management Actions:, Bullet 5 & 6 ( I would recommend the final not use bullets but rather some numbering or letters so that they can be referenced easier): It talks about establishing a User Pay Fee System (UPFS) and also a

permit to park, camp or stage more than 14 days. I would recommend that the new regulations require all entities (i.e. set netters, dip netters, general public etc) be required to obtain a permit/card placed in one's vehicle between the time frame of June 1st and August 15th. In other words, set a time frame that a permit! day pass is required during the high use periods during the summer. There are fishing people and there are camping folks that need to pay into the system (me included). I don't feel that if someone is there for less than 14 days that they should be able to not pay into the system during the high use periods .... Everyone needs to be paying in for the use at that time. No proposed fees were placed in the draft SUA so I am going to suggest something like a \$5 per day fee for parking and \$10 per day for camping. If someone is going to be there for 30 days or more and they wish to obtain an extended time frame permit you might consider a break in the overall costs but the reality is that if you go any place on the Kenai during the summer you would be hard pressed to find a place to camp at less than \$10 a day during peak times. Thirty days would be a \$300 fee ... no one can find a place to live for \$300 over a month even with limited services.

2. I had suggested in the Public meeting that both the KL (329 acres) and the KU areas need to have better access ... i.e. a road into these areas. My suggestion is that if DNR is able to provide alternative areas for camping, fishing, parking, etc then it would likely reduce pressure off of the mouth of the Kasilof. As an example on the Kenai there is a huge number of people that are at the mouth of the river that dip net but one can also go to the Ames Bridge and park there to dip net the Kenai River. Agreed it does not make a substantive impact on what is happening at the mouth but it does provide an alternative to the folks that do not want to be crowded up with the huge numbers at the mouth.

It was pointed out that the KL area is mostly wet lands which it is. If you take a look at the South Eastern corner of KL it appears that there is a substantive area that appears to have trees on it which would seem to indicate firmer ground (obviously one would need to take a better look at this area via aerial photos and possibly on the ground). My suggestion is that you create another access point in this area which may decrease the pressure on the mouth of the Kasilof. One could potentially construct a parking area here and camping area for tents and RVs. If you put in something like 50 parking spots and 50 camp sites it would make a substantive dent in what happens at the mouth.

Discussions with the Fish & Game Representative (Sports Fish) at the meeting indicated that presently the end point for dip netting occurs at the northern point of KL area and as such the proposed access would not actually allow for folks to dip net where I am suggesting the access point be. Originally I had hoped that all the land was firm but given the aerial photo shown at the meeting it became obvious that would not work. As a consequence, I am assuming that the ADF & G or the Board of Fishery would need to move the end point for dip netting up to the Eastern edge of the KL area in order for things to work out for dip netting there. It is doubtful that anyone presently is using the area between the mouth and the end point presently and as such one could extend it the additional distance up to the southern boundary of KL and close it in the area that is not being utilized... And as the ADF & G rep indicated there is no guarantee that the fish would be there but my guess is that if you have fish in the river they will also be there.

Your immediate goal as indicated within the meeting is to try and relieve the pressure on the mouth of the Kasilof and to still try and provide access for the public along with

limited services (toilets etc). I understand fully that you need to be doing something soon and agree with that approach ... but long term I believe making an additional access point for the personal use fishery makes the most sense. Based upon the mapping, my best guess is that you would need about a 2,500 foot road down to the waters edge, probably fill for that along with the parking and camping areas. It would likely also require vaulted toilets and dumpster locations. Yes, it is going to cost money and it will require obtaining various permits for the development of the area but it is a long term solution for relieving the pressure that is occurring at the Kasilof. I would think that there would be substantive support for that type of development from the various Kenai Peninsula Legislators along with Anchorage Legislators (whom I vote for and can also provide support for)

3. Page 19/43, Parking Staging and Extended Stays, Proposed Management Alternatives & Proposed Action: Under the Alternatives I believe you need to add RV Parking and also Camping slots (i.e. tent and RV). Under proposed Action - See my comment above under #1 concerning the 14 day timeframe. Also similar to the comment under #1 - the bullets need to be numbers or letters for better referencing.

4. Page 20/43, Public Access, Under Propose Action, although your immediate action is to be implementing some various mitigation actions that will provide an immediate effect; I am suggesting that you also need to include a long term solution of providing more access to KL and KU areas to allow for relieving pressure on the mouth of the river (see my comments under #2).

5. Page 21/43, Trespass: Under your Proposed Management Alternatives: "Limit motorized vehicle use to designate areas" ... I would expound a bit on that item and add some language that indicates "thru fencing and other barriers" ... In my mind it has to be almost totally fool proof since a number of the members of the public will do almost anything to get to where they want to go and as such the fencing/ barriers need to be close to impossible to move/ abrogate in order for them to be effective and protect the areas along with the home owners since there will be limited local police/ officials to enforce the no trespassing.. Under Propose Action: you need to state that Fencing and Barriers will be placed to ensure that Private Owners are protected. If the present situation continues with Private Owners having their lands damaged; the State and Local Borough may have a law suit filed against them. Although it may not prevail litigation is always much more expensive than being proactive to correct the situation ahead of time.

6. I understand the basic challenges in trying to deal with the Mental Health Trustee and the University Lands folks. I believe that the State of Alaska must have holding that would look just as beneficial as their lands near the Kasilof River. My suggestion would be to continue a dialog with others within the State of AK that have knowledge of the holdings for the State and also both of these other land owners to see if one could negotiate a swap that would be beneficial to both. That might allow for more parking, camping and facilities close to the river mouth and again ease the pressure on the area. This again is not something that will occur overnight and is a long term solution but it should be included in your overall SUA.

7. I have mentioned a couple of times in my comments that there need to be long term solutions considered besides the short term / immediate solutions for the area. This area is going to continue to be a very popular area and as such the SUA in my mind should include both Short Term Solutions and Long Term Solutions. Obviously the long term solutions that I have mentioned cost a fair bit of money and would likely require

some type of legislative appropriation but that does not mean that they are not valid options. Also, various developers/ propose projects sometime look for some type of "off site" mitigation (I know that this is not the preferred option but sometimes it is the only option); that said, a developer might consider paying/or constructing the development of an area such as the KL area that I proposed as the mitigation for their particular project. Just another possible option for this type of development of additional access and facilities. FYI, on Maui, Hawaii - the developer of large subdivision are required to develop the water supply and also new schools as the result of bringing in more people into the area. If they do not agree to provide the necessary infrastructure as part of the overall project - they do not get their permits to construct the facilities ... this is one example of having the developer provide a certain amount of mitigation upfront&

8. Page 15143, Under XI Issues and Management; You provide a number of tables but one that in my mind that is missing ... is "Enforcement". During the presentations there was an indication that presently there is only a "Passive Enforcement" and that there would hopefully be a more "Active" Enforcement with the SUA. I believe the SUA needs to address this issue head on and include it within the Issues area. I sincerely believe that all the good intentions by installing vaulted toilets, dumpsters, additional parking, camp sites, fencing / barriers are all good but until there is some presence by an enforcing officer be it local DNR folks that are Deputized or with additional back up from the Troopers/ Federal & State Fish & Wildlife Officers ... there will continue to be challenges. I would suggest that once the SUA has been formally established and publicized well that there be at a minimum a true presence by not only DNR Deputized Officers but also Troopers and other Fish & Wildlife Offices. Initially there should be "Warnings" issued unless it is a flagrant violation and after a period of a couple of weeks ... I would recommend full citations for any violations. Once word gets out that the "Authorities" are in fact going to enforce the SUA and the regulations that go with it; I believe the public will be much more likely to follow the guidelines. Obviously you will always have the drunk fools that will still violate things but that is what the citations and potentially arrests by Local Law Enforcement folks is for.

Again, many thanks for the chance to comment on the SUA. Good luck in your meetings down on the Kenai Peninsula. Please note if you wish to contact us concerning any comment for clarification or if you have questions concerning what we have suggested, please feel free to contact us at the following points of contact:

Eric & Fain Marchegiani

19013 Richner Road

Chugiak, Alaska 99567

Tel 907-688-3343

Email: [ericmary@mtaonline.net](mailto:ericmary@mtaonline.net)

\*Emailed 10/22/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Constance Markis  
7661 E 17th Ave.  
Anchorage, Ak 99504

Phone: (907)-257-4664  
Alternate Phone: (907)-333-7657  
Email: cmarkis@gci.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 88 of 163 - Submitted 11/14/2010 at 03:12 PM:

I am writing to support the plans for upgrading to a sensible use of the Kasilof River by the public. It has been such a popular use spot that the water quality, sanitation facilities, parking, access and safety issues are all inadequate now and have been for some time. Not to mention that the environment of the area & wetlands that support the habitat that is part of the fish cycle is declining. As a person who's family uses this area like many, many other Alaskans, I am hopeful that attention will be paid to help support and enhance this marvelous area of Alaska that is more available to many Alaskans than other remote areas. Safety is one of the important issues to be considered and I thank you in advance for any improvements to this area you can help bring.

Sincerely, Connie Markis

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Ken Marlow  
Marlows On the Kenai  
P.O. Box 2465  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-262-5218  
Email: marlows@alaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 89 of 163 - Submitted 11/17/2010 at 02:57 PM:

November 17, 2010

Dear Sir,

I'm emailing to comment on the Creation of a Special Use Area for the lower Kasilof River. I am very much in favor of such an action.

I've read the letter sent by the Kenai Watershed Forum and believe that they have a good idea and wanted to express my support of their suggestions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ken Marlow Business owner of Marlows on the Kenai-- KWF board member

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Milli Martin  
P.O. Box 2652  
Homer, Ak 997603

Phone: (907)-235-6652  
Email: millimom@xyz.net

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 90 of 163 - Submitted 11/12/2010 at 06:53 AM:

I strongly support the efforts concerning the Kasiloff River area, as requested by Governor Parnell that called for specific actions to address growing water quality, habitat, access and land use issues around the Kasilof River. I fully support the Alaska Department of Natural Resources proposal for a Special Use Area (SUA) for the mouth of the river, which provides various legal authorities to address many of these concerns.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Lisa Matlock  
40698 Augusta Circle  
Homer, Ak 99603

Phone: (907)-235-3808  
Email: ak.odonata@gmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 91 of 163 - Submitted 11/01/2010 at 09:11 AM:

I have been part of the public use dipnet fishery on the Kasilof River since I moved to Homer from Sitka in 2007. I took part in the personal use dipnet fishery at Redoubt Bay in Sitka from 2003-2007, so I have something with which to compare the Kasilof fishery. I was amazed at how many people from all over the state take advantage of the Kasilof fishery. I believe this is a very good thing for Alaskans, especially those low-income folks for whom this low-tech fishery is a vital form of healthy food gathering. But I was also appalled at the conditions on the river. One porta-potty for that many people a far distance from the beach is completely unacceptable and only leads to a current waste and pollution problem that could become a serious health problem in the not too distant future.

I was also disgusted by the lack of containers for fish waste resulting in huge numbers of filleted salmon parts covering the beaches. It is only a matter of time before this area becomes an attractive nuisance for bears resulting in dangerous human-bear conflicts. Safety is an issue also with regards to ATV's zooming around unchecked at high speed among families, fishermen, and pets.

I not only believe it is a good idea for DNR to charge a fee, but I think it is imperative as the problems in this important local fishery may someday outweigh its wonderful benefits. The personal use fishery has no special fees other than a fishing license, so a fee to use an area so heavily impacted by users is not unreasonable. If DNR needs to create special fee waivers for those whose adjacent property would be affected, please do so. Please find ways to better manage this fishery so it continues and is a better future experience for all of us.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Sandra Matthews  
Kasilof Resident  
P. O. Box 265  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-262-2669  
Email: sacmatthews@acsalaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 92 of 163 - Submitted 11/15/2010 at 10:41 AM:

I agree that we need to protect the dunes from the damage done by personal use fishers with fencing, restricted driving and parking areas, improved sanitation and, consistent enforcement.

After reading the KARSUA draft some issues regarding the improvements did not seem clearly addressed.

The size of each facility-how many parking/camping spaces is not clearly stated in the draft. The KN unit has very limited areas of dry ground suitable for parking areas of the size that would accommodate the large numbers of personal use fishers that camp there now. Especially if the Watchman's house site and the historic cemetery are preserved (which I agree should be done).

Most of the KN area is dunes or wet lands. The wet lands adjacent to the parking areas along the road are used by migratory water fowl to rest and refuel before going on to the nesting grounds. It would be wrong for the State to fill in wet lands to create larger areas of high ground for parking.

Putting a public boat launch in the lower Kasilof is briefly mentioned on pages 10 and 17 of the draft but nothing about location and type is decided.

In 2008 the State proposed a public boat launch for this area in a residential neighborhood at about river mile 3.5 (the Trujillo property). Because Federal funds were to be combined with State money the proposed launch would have been open to power boaters. This put the Kasilof at risk of being turned into another Kenai River. The proposal was strongly protested and ultimately failed.

A power boat launch could add 100's of boats to the Kasilof causing damage to the habitat and marine life the KARSUA is trying to protect. The increased boating impact would not be just during personal use fishing. Kenai power boaters would be here when fishing is closed on the Kenai River. There would also be increased power boat pressure during silver season and duck hunting season.

Heavy power boat use on the lower Kasilof during the late summer and fall would be especially bad for the beluga whales that swim miles upriver, every year, to feed on salmon. These animals are already in reduced numbers in Cook Inlet and should not be stressed further by power boats running up and down the lower Kasilof.

The Kasilof is known as a mostly non motorized river. I could support a public drift

boat take out in the lower river but only if it did not impact a residential neighborhood. I would be against a boat ramp that was open to power boats. I feel we have to be careful to not turn the lower Kasilof into another Kenai River full of power boats running up and down the river 24 hours a day chasing salmon.

Many of the speakers at the Tustumena School meeting on Oct. 27 were against the State working to protect the dunes. They saw the fence and user fees as a loss of their personal freedoms. They didn't seem to understand how the dunes are not recovering from 2 months of abuse every year during personal use fishing season. Some of the most vocal were new to Alaska and don't know how much damage has been done in just the last 5 years, but a lot of old timers don't see how the dunes are disappearing either.

I believe the State needs to continue with the KARSUA to protect the river but until Fish and Game does a better job of managing personal use fishing I'm not sure it will really be effective in the long run.

Sandra Matthews November 15, 2010

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Roland Maw  
P.O. Box 64  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-398-7992

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 93 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Date: November 12,2010

Addressee: Department of Natural Resources

Southcentral Regional Land Office

Attn: Adam Smith

Ray Keough

550 West 7th Ave. Suite 900e

Anchorage, AK 99501-3577

RE: Kasilof River Special Use Area

Dear Mr. Smith and Mr. Keough

Page 4 of 43:

I. PURPOSE AND MISSION" "response to overwhelming public agency concerns"

\* Delete this section. Signing the original letter of concern was not an unlimited justification for what you are proposing as solutions. The wording suggests that your proposed solutions are what we asked for. The agency is trying to use my concern as justification for your proposed solutions.

Page 4 of 43:

"Objectives"

\* Could be stated specifically as related to stated problems

Page 5 of 43:

II. MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES:

\* Are far too restrictive in scope and thinking. The alternatives are designed to drive the solutions into specific avenues that DNR wants. There are no ADF&G, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Clean Water or Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) involvement. Why?

Page 6 of 43:

## VI. THE ISSUES:

\*The summary of issues is descriptive, however are inadequate in scope. Example: increased bear activity due to both black and brown bears feeding on salmon, salmon head and guts, human waste and garbage. As a local land owner, every year we have several bears that regularly appear in and around our households as the personal use fishing activities occur. This public safety issue is not even identified or addressed, even though this has been brought to the attention of DNR and ADF &G several times.

Page 8 of 43:

## VII. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:

"1) the need to preserve and enhance recreational opportunities"

\* Omit or revise this statement. This statement does not logically or technically agree with the mission statement where it is stated that there are already "impacts from the intense use patterns". Why would a proposed management action include "preservation and enhancement" of recreational opportunities. It is this intense use that is the problem, which reflects poor analysis and possible bias by DNR. DNR is not listening to the public.

2) \* The analysis and logic are fatally flawed. Why then would you propose to use this flawed analysis for the basis decision-making?

3) Special Use designation rule-making

\* Any reference to "An authorization is required for any commercial buoy, dock, boat launch/recovery, or mooring" is totally out of line, beyond your authority and must be omitted. However, you do not address the issues associated with "Personal Use Fishing" interference with USCG navigational buoys, day markers or the public's illegal blocking of navigable channels. You only demonstrate a bias and total lack of understanding of the conflicts and legal requirements and rights of the other users. See attached map and notes.

\* To dispose of "Fish waste should be disposed of in accordance with applicable ADF&G guidelines", demonstrates a lack of analysis and legal requirements of law by any other State and Federal agencies. How weak and ineffective: "ADF&G guidelines", what are you going to do if ADF&G says it is ok to throw salmon heads and guts on the beach?

Page 10 of 43:

"The Fisheries"

(Original comment has an overview of the Kasilof River area. However the original was faxed in black and white. )

Area in orange is the only way to enter/leave the Kasilof River. This is the river channel that is marked by USCG buoys.

(o)= USCG Bouys

(x)= USCG Day shape / Night navigation light

The personal use set nets do the following

- ~ Set nets in navigation channel
- ~ Set net running lines go across navigation channel

#### Personal Use Fisherman/Families

- ~ Use USCG navigation light (x) to support tents
- ~ Destroy light or cover it up creating navigation hazard
- ~ Do not obey water rules of the Road

"used as a management tool to harvest the surplus of salmon stocks not harvested by the commercial or sport fisheries"

\* This statement is not true and represents a biased view of the history of personal use

"This area is also an extensively used harvest area for the commercial drift gillnet fleet, including the existence of a significant number (over 120) of commercially used mooring sites (buoys), beginning at the river mouth, and extending about 2 miles upstream."

\* This statement is not true. DNR demonstrates a lack of understanding of the truth.

"clamming"

\* Omit - there are no clams in the proposed KARSUA that are utilized by humans, only shorebirds. .

"Page 15 of 43:

#### XI. ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT

\* Good section. Do fish, fish heads and guts fall under this heading? How does this address the bear issue described above? "Page 17 of 43:

#### "BOAT LAUNCH/RECOVERY FACILITY"

\* Totally opposed to the concept of launching and recovery when you already admitted to excessive use of this area. Your own document mitigates against this even being considered as a new development. This is a "deal breaker" for any further support for this KARSUA.

Page 18 or 43:

#### "EARLY SETTING OR STAGING OF FISHING GEAR"

\* The alternative suggested is weak and ineffective and will continue the public conflict. Other site allocation schemes/methods must be presented and discussed. For example: queuing, lotteries and draws. Why allow a 7 day pre-staking advantage? This seems counterproductive.

#### "14 DAY USE REGULATION"

\* You already admitted to excessive use, then why codify a 14 day exclusive right - perhaps a 1-2 day exclusive right permit/stay. Not sure what you are referencing: the fishing stakes, fishing area or what?

There needs to be a discussion relative to navigation channels, markers, buoys and

range markers.

This discussion is so superficial as to demonstrate any understanding of how these fisheries occur: personal use and existing commercial fisheries.

Page 19 of 43:

#### PARKING, STAGING AND EXTENDED STAYS"

\* Recommended: Alternatives too limited. Why was a day use option not offered and discussed?

Totally disagree with any form of 14 day stay. There are numerous campgrounds in the area that could be used.

Page 20 of 43:

#### "PUBLIC ACCESS"

\* You are dreaming to think that the current land owners are going to be willing to participate in securing easements so that more people can impact the habitats for a few weeks a year.

Page 21 of 43:

#### "TRESPASS"

\* Please consider this as a day use area.

Page 23 of 43:

#### "WATER QUALITY"

\* The proposed management solutions are limited and do not involve other State agencies or Federal regulations. DNR was assigned as lead agency to effect solutions, not that all solutions had to remain within the DNR functions.

Page 24 of 43:

#### "FISH WASTE"

\* Is weak and ineffective. I don't need "outreach and education". I need the fish heads and guts out of my area and the bears off my lawn and not sleeping in my lean-to during the time that the personal use fishery is occurring.

\*These management actions do not deal with:

- Too many people
- Concentrated use patterns, peak loading times
- Distribution of available resources among the larger general population
- Amount of capital and operating costs that are going to be covered by the fee structure
- Liability issues

If you wish to discuss the issues raised, please contact me at 907-398-7992.

Sincerely,

Roland Maw, PhD

PO Box 64

Kasilof, AK 99610

\*Faxed 11/12/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Bob McCard  
P.O. Box 591  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-260-2642  
Email: bmccard@alaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 94 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Hi Adam,

I want thank you, Rick, Ray, and Christie for putting together the draft for the Kasilof River Special Use Area, driving to Kasilof, and conducting your informational meeting.

I would like to compliment you and Rick for the well-organized presentation and the manner in which you conducted the meeting. You, both, were very professional, friendly, courteous, knowledgeable, and answered questions in a positive manner. I respect the manner in the way that you dealt with obnoxious individuals.

I am hopeful that the Kasilof River Special Use Area becoming a reality.

One area that would like to see be addressed is how an individual may walk on the beach without having to pay for the fisheries users fee. This may not be possible because of discriminatory laws.

Some solutions that I would like to offer to above are:

A seasonal walking permit for persons who just want to walk on the beach that can be displayed on their cars, dashboard, or the front mirror. Something similar to the handicapped parking permit.

Allowing the parks seasonal parking permit to be used in the Special Use Area. Have designated areas for people wanting to walk on the beach and those that want to fish.

I'm sure that there other solutions that would meet the needs of those individuals who just want to walk on the beach.

Again, thanks for all the time and efforts that have been put into this project. I appreciate everything that has been done.

If there is anything that I can do to show support for the project and help it along in any way, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Bob McCard

PO Box 591

Kasilof, AK 99610

Phone: (907)260-2642

Email: [bmccard@alaska.net](mailto:bmccard@alaska.net)

\*Emailed 10/29/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Jennifer Jane McCard  
51910 Arness Road  
Kenai, Ak 99611

Phone: (907)-776-5220  
Email: j\_mccard@hotmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 95 of 163 - Submitted 10/24/2010 at 09:23 AM:

I am writing in support of establishing a Kasilof River Special Use Area. By establishing a Kasilof River Special Use Area, any regulations that are established can be enforced by the law. Right now there is no agency that can enforce any rules or regulations (motorized vehicles need to stay of the dunes and grasslands, etc) so people can do whatever they want to do without any penalties. Therefore, I support the establishment of a Kasilof River Special Use Area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely, Jennifer McCard

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Robert McCard  
P.O. Box 591  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-260-2642  
Email: bmccard@alaska.net

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 96 of 163 - Submitted 10/25/2010 at 12:41 PM:

I am writing to support the Kasilof River Special Use Area.

There is a definite need for a Kasilof river Special use Area to protect the grasslands and dunes and keep motorized vehicles off the grasslands and dunes.

Thank you,

Bob McCard

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Beverly McCloud  
Na  
Na, Ak NA

Email: mccloud\_beverly@asdk12.org

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 97 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Mr. Keough, as per our conversation this morning regarding our 10 acre holding in the proposed KARSUA boundaries ...

It is my understanding that our desire to have our 10 acre holding removed from within the KARSUA boundaries will be honored per a formal written request.

You also stated that residents of the area will never be charged to enter KARSUA.

I will be composing a formal request this weekend and will forward it to you by email.

Thank you for your time,

Beverly McCloud

Don McCloud

\*Emailed 11/12/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Beverly & Don McCloud  
Na  
Na, Ak Na

Phone: (907)-688-0119  
Email: oncloud9@gci.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 98 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:  
November 14, 2010

Mr. Keough, Mr. Smith and Mr. Thompson:

We respectfully request that our 10 acre landholding at the corner of Cohoe Loop Road and Cohoe Beach Road be removed from within the proposed Kasilof River Special Use Area (KARSUA) boundary.

We do not wish our land to be included in the KARSUA. We wish our land to be outside of the boundary.

The legal description of our landholding is: T 3N R 12W SEC 2 Seward Meridian  
KN 2005016 PETTIFOGGERS PLACE SUB KEYROS ADDN TRACT B3.

We also request an extension of the comment period and a rescheduling of the informational public meeting. We did not receive your notification of the comment period or the meeting until after October 27th - the envelope is postmarked October 25, 2010.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Beverly and Don McCloud

Phone: 907-688-0119

Email: oncloud9@gci.net

\*Emailed 11/14/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Diane McClure  
P O Box 1243  
Kasilof, Ak 99610-1243

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 99 of 163 - Submitted 11/15/2010 at 08:24 AM:

KASILOF BEACH APPEAL - Destruction of the dunes on this beach is greatly exaggerated. Human problems during dipnetting and setnetting seasons would be greatly reduced or eliminated if fishing regulations were changed. It appears to me that the ridiculous fishing regulations in this state are what has created all the problems. DNR should be working to get fish and game regulations changed instead of encroaching on the freedom of the people. This is the land of the last frontier. We should have the freedom to explore our beach and wilderness areas. There should be no gates, no fees, etc. to wander the beaches of Alaska. My freedom to use the beach should not be restricted, lessened, or taken away because for a few weeks out of the year the beach is "abused" as the direct result of bureaucrats enacting rules on subjects for which they have no knowledge. COMMON SENSE is the answer to most things in life, not a bunch of politicians sitting around making decisions based upon who they owe favors to.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. McClure

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Paul McConnell  
Alaska Wildlife Troopers  
Sergeant  
44009 Kalifornski Beach Road  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-262-4573  
Fax: (907)-262-9664  
Email: paul.mcconnell@alaska.gov

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 100 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Adam

You did a good job Wednesday night. It was well presented.

Sgt. Paul McConnell

Alaska Wildlife Troopers

44009 Kalifornski Beach Road

Soldotna, AK 99669

Phone: 907 262 4573

Fax: 907 262 9664

\*Emailed 10/29/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Kristy McCullough  
P.O. Box 1369  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-262-0944

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 101 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 11:41 AM:

Our family supports the designation of a special use area at the Kasilof River mouth, with governmental support for basic services during high-use periods. We are fully willing to pay fees for these services.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

John Meyer  
1008 Cascade Drive Nw  
Salem, Or 97304

Email: jemlibra@mindspring.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 102 of 163 - Submitted 11/11/2010 at 10:37 AM:

I own a cabin off crooked creek road and spend summers there. I have fished the Kasilof since 1991. I am very much in favor of a special use area for the Kasilof and anything that can be done to mitigate the effects of overuse on the Kasilof. I am truly interested in preserving salmon runs on the Kasilof and would rather have all catch and release fishing than lose the runs. In oregon private groups to raise salmon smolts, clip them and release have been successful with the help of fish and game. cell 503-551-4617 Thanks More limits on commercial and other netting would be helpful also.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Patricia Meyers  
P.O. Box 446  
Kasilof, Ak 99611

Phone: (907)-283-3317  
Email: handson907@gmail.com

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 103 of 163 - Submitted 11/09/2010 at 04:58 AM:

I support any effort to designate a special use area for the mouth of the Kasilof. Anyone that has seen the area during the Personal Use fishery can see the damage done by the trampling, trashy hoard. There are not enough Fish and Game officers to patrol all those folks, so they set "their" sites early and take whatever they please. No sanitation adds it's own problem. There is no regard for the habitat. I am for any effort made to protect this valuable, beautiful and vulnerable place. Please for the sake of the river. Thank you. Pat Meyers

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Annarose (Noelle) Miller  
P.O. Box 578  
Kenai, Ak 99611

Email: [nolephlipper@hotmail.com](mailto:nolephlipper@hotmail.com)

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 104 of 163 - Submitted 10/08/2010 at 10:56 AM:

I support more regulation of this area. Though it has many issues in common with those being faced by the dipnet fishery at the mouth of the Kenai, the Kasilof has recently been "oft overlooked" regarding such concerns. My family has participated in the setnet fishery since I was a small child (about 25 years, give or take) and we have seen a lot of change during that time. The last time I was around the mouth of the river I was shocked at how many ATV trails there were all throughout the dunes. While I was there I noted 4 atvs riding at speed around the trails on the grass, seeming to have no worries about conserving them. And of course the "stay off the dunes sign" rather quickly was shot up and disappeared. And there are instances of irresponsible fish waste, trash being left out, camping issues with space, irresponsible ATV traffic, toiletry issues, etc... running rampant. I know there are a lot of staff shortages, but it used to be that a FD&Ger would patrol the beaches daily, about the times that people were pulling in their nets, and check the salmon counts and stuff. I haven't seen that in years, at least not at our nets. I'm all for continued subsistence use and the continuation of the set-net fishery, and I'm not big on regulation if it's not needed. I'm not, however, for dune loss, littering, tearing up the scenery with ATV's, public drunkenness, toilet paper everywhere, and lack of respectfulness for the fish. Back in the day we'd occasionally find dead dog skeletons, horse skeletons, sheep skeletons, and skates on the beach. Those could be disconcerting, but they were at least biodegradable. Now we find beer bottles, tire tracks, piles of fish carcasses unburied, and the occasional feud over who can put their nets in where and when and who was there first. It used to be a community event with friends and neighbors, now it's much larger. It'll doubtless take time and money to do some regulation of the area and some people will hate it because "it limits access and hey, this is Alaska!" But I think we need to keep what we've got beautiful and good while it still is. Alaska's growing and will keep growing, and we can do better than this.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Anna-Maria Mueller  
Aquacoustics,,, Inc.  
Senior Biologist  
39805 Smith Road  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-262 6023  
Email: am@aquacoustics.com

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 105 of 163 - Submitted 11/14/2010 at 09:31 AM:

Yes, indeed, - I hold the land, water, fish and wildlife within the proposed KARSUA in high esteem. I am not aware of a single example where an area as heavily used as the lower Kasilof River has survived intact through voluntary restraint. It is the age old story of the tragedy of the commons. I am not a friend of regulating for the sake of regulating but here I do not see an alternative. Therefore, I fully support the creation of a Special Use Area for the lower Kasilof River, and the adoption of regulations, dedicated positions, funding and limited statutory enforcement authority, i.e., the preferred alternative described on page 6 of the Draft KARSUA Decision ADL 230992. In particular, I also fully support the nine additional rules outlined on page 8.  
Anna-Maria Mueller

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Frank Mullen  
P.O. Box 2577  
Homer, Ak 99603

Email: mullenf@alaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 106 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Hello,

My parents homesteaded in Soldotna in the '40s. I grew up in the area when the only roads in the Kasilof area were the original fox farm roads. I have observed the encroachment and degradation of the dunes and other sensitive areas with much sadness.

I very much support the establishment of the KRSUA. It is long overdue. Much damage has been done already to the dunes and the uplands. I hope that fencing and sign age can keep people from driving on the dunes and behaving disrespectfully in other ways. There are a couple of things that I hope you take into consideration:

-Boat launch: there should NOT be a public boat launch incorporated as part of the KRSUA. A boat launch will simply add to the congestion and environmental degradation and create an even more circuslike atmosphere. It will add to hydrocarbon pollution, unnecessarily contribute to additional bank erosion, and interfere with drift boat sport fishing. I agree with the many who contend that the Kenai River dipnet fishery from boats is an extremely negative thing. Having a wall of dipnets in the narrower Kasilof absolutely invites disaster from a safety perspective. On a commercial fishing day, there are a couple hundred gillnetters transiting the narrow channel. I have no doubt that if a boat launch is constructed allowing a fleet of small dip net vessels into the lower Kasilof that there will be small boats overturned and lives lost. Additionally, the "wall of dipnets" that would occur if a boat launch is constructed will certainly deter any beluga whale who might otherwise be inclined to enter the lower river.

-Camping: Camping should be prohibited entirely. Campers add to environmental degradation. Problems with waste disposal are exacerbated. Private property trespass is a greater concern. The many calls from State Troopers to the area are mostly tied to campers/partiers who cause disputes. The Kenai River dipnet fishery does quite well without overnight camping.

Thanks for giving me the opportunity for comment!

Frank Mullen  
PO Box 2577  
Homer, Alaska 99603

\*Emailed 11/6/10



# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Margaret Mullen  
365 Lingenberry Lane  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-262-4646

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 107 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

M Mullen 365 Lingenberry Lane Soldotna, Alaska 99669  
Adam Smith AK Dept. Natural Resources Southcentral Reg. Land Office Anchorage,  
Alaska

Dear Adam

The impact of subsistence fishing at the mouth of the Kasilof River has been an insult to this major Kenai Peninsula Salmon Producer.

Please Save the dunes and the grasses growing thereon.

A boat launch would result in more vehicular traffic causing more disasters.

Action must not be delayed. The ruination may not be reversible.

Margaret Mullen.

\*Faxed 12/10/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Patrick Murray  
P.O. Box 843  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Email: mrpm@acsalaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 108 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

11/412010

Patrick Murray

PO Box 843

Kasilof, AK. 99610

Dear DNR folks;

My Public Comments;

I have copied some comments I made on the Clarion Newspapers letters to the editor.

I live near the north beach. I go down there frequently. After having seen the area trashed with junk cars that were burned on the beach and nearly shoved into the river, I am all for making it a Special Use Area. It was very hard to get any agency to haul them away. Much debris was scattered. I have pictures of bulugas and young ones feeding on herring, within 30 feet of burned batteries and car parts. I caught the guys hauling the junk to the beach. They were hauling them out of the last driveway down there. They would haul them towards K beach rd, then at the wide spot they would unload the junkers off the trailer and drag them to the beach, ripping the road up and scattering car parts and clipping trees off, making big tracks right past their driveway so no one would ever think they came from there. I called the troopers. Pretty soon the trailer ended up in the mouth of the river- wheels up. The troopers looked at it and said it wasn't a hazard. Obviously it was a major hazard. I took my tractor down there and it was all I could do to drag it up out of the low tide and mud. I put it on state land so they might haul it away, but it ended back on Ocean Beauty property and got scattered into pieces. Having said this, I don't want to be charged all year to use the beach area. I don't want to leash my dog or scoop the poop -ya know- unless she did it in crowd. Allot of time we just drive down to look- see how the fishing is. Hope somehow that wouldn't ..cost? Gotta make room somehow for the hordes and keep em off the dunes. Maybe buyout the place (The Currie's I think) that was junking the beach, and make room there? I see people getting along well, mostly, dipnetting . Get some porta potties closer to the fishin. Won't have to pee on my tire. Teach the dipnerds to throw those fish parts out in the water and not liter. Hope the setnetters can work it out. My thoughts tonight. Been there seen it quite a bit.

I can tell you talk of outsiders going home is a "dog that wont hunt". No matter if born here, or how long lived here, that argument won't get anyone anywhere. Like it or not

people catching their own fish is a good thing. We all know the results are overused habitat and litter, etc. My way, is the only way, isn't going to work either. As long as the fish keep returning, people will be fighting over them. Instead of demonizing other user groups, we need to cooperate to save the habitat and share the fish.

Let's all not overlook the thousands of barrels of crude oil that are released into the inlet as a percentage of the produced water that is permitted for discharge from the production facilities.

Also while dipnetting we see quite a bit of oil and soap coming out of the river. Rainbow sheens show on the beach while you're cleaning your fish. At high tide in the summer, oil sheens can be seen at Inlet Fish Kasilof dock. Having worked on the slope, I wanted to SHUT HER DOWN, but they said "it does that every tide"! Our personal fishery is a small part of a much larger problem. Anchorage doesn't want to upgrade their sewage treatment facility, and on and on. Next up- Coal Mining a salmon stream and discharge into the inlet.

Thank you for considering my comments;

Submitted By: Pat Murray [mrpm@acsalaska.net](mailto:mrpm@acsalaska.net)

PO Box 843

Kasilof, AK. 99610

\*Comment included 2 images. Can be seen with the original email.

Just one of Several.

\*Emailed 11/4/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Maria Nasif  
6601 N Longfellow Drive  
Tucson, Az 85718

Email: marianasif@yahoo.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 109 of 163 - Submitted 11/12/2010 at 08:29 PM:

The problems:

Increased risk to public health and safety due to insufficient sanitation facilities.  
Degradation of dunes and associated wetlands habitats from intensive recreational use. Insufficient public parking/staging areas and extended stays during the fisheries.  
Increased threat to water quality from uncontrolled and unsupported uses.  
Irresponsible disposal of fish waste. Maintaining and enhancing public access to and from state land. Increased trespass on adjacent private lands is creating user conflicts with local residents, poses potential threats to public safety and places strain on existing public safety resources. Target and recreational shooting during the fisheries is a public safety concern to the users, families and residents of the area.

Please protect and manage this area more sustainably!

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Marion Nelson  
P.O. Box 3612  
Kenai, Ak 99611

Email: mmkn@ptialaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 110 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Adam and Raymond, et al,

I fervently support designating the mouth of the Kasilof River as a Special Use Area before its completely trashed.

This is an amazing fish and waterfowl habitat area -on both sides of the river- not be destroyed&but to be protected.

Camping should be prohibited as it is by the mouth of the Kenai River. Save the area's natural habitat.

Do not include a power boat launch in the Special Use Area discussion as it is counter-productive to the goal of reducing the negative impact of intense public use.

Again, I fervently support designating the mouth of the Kasilof as a Special Use Area. Do it.

Marion Nelson PO Box 3612, Kenai 99611

\*Emailed 11/8/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Josselyn O'Connor  
Kenai Watershed Forum  
Acting Executive Director  
P.O. Box 2937  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-260-5449  
Fax: (907)-260-5412

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 111 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Kenai Watershed Forum  
PO Box 29371 Soldotna, AK 99669 1 Phone (907) 260-5449 1 Fax (907) 260-5412 1  
[www.kenaiwatershed.org](http://www.kenaiwatershed.org)

November 8, 2010

Mr. Adam Smith

Mr. Ray Keough

Department of Natural Resources

Southcentral Regional Land Office

550 West 7th Ave. Suite 900C

Anchorage, AK 99501-3577

Mr. Smith and Mr. Keough,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comment on Draft Decision: Kasilof River Special Use Area ADL 230992. On behalf of the Kenai Watershed Forum board of directors, we would like to reference our letter to Governor Parnell dated Feb. 25, 2010-

[http://www.kenaiwatershed.org/images/PU\\_coalition %20letterfinal-1.pdf](http://www.kenaiwatershed.org/images/PU_coalition%20letterfinal-1.pdf)

We are supportive of the finding and preferred alternative Adoption of Special Use Area, Regulations, Dedicated Position(s), Funding and Limited Statutory Enforcement Authority. In our Feb. 25, 2010 letter signed by multiple entities, we called attention of the following issues upon which all signatory to the letter agreed upon:

- Increased risk to public health and safety due to insufficient sanitation facilities
- Degradation of dunes and associated wetlands from intense use
- Increased threat to water quality from uncontrolled and unsupported uses

Other issues ADNR has identified on pages 6 and 7 of the Draft document that were not addressed in our letter, or did not have common agreement among those

signatory to the letter include public boat launch, early gear setting, and shooting. We would encourage the department to first use those three issues that were identified in the Feb. 25, 2010 letter, and exercise caution and allow for more public discourse on other issues listed on page 6 and 7 of the Draft document.

As a direct tie is made between the identified issues and the proposed management actions, we would suggest that only those issues identified that affect public health and the habitat of the beach dune and associated estuarine wetland complex be listed as the "issues" for the basis of the SUA. The issues outside of these should be raised in a separate process, so as not to diminish probability of addressing the more commonly understood concern with concentrated activity associated with the personal use fishing:

The Kenai Watershed Forum is supportive of the following Management Actions:

1) Create a Special Use Area for the lower Kasilof River (KARSUA) under 11 AAC 96.014 for the purpose of enhancing and protecting the important natural resource values within the lower Kasilof River area while balancing the need to preserve and enhance recreational opportunities for all Alaskans now and into the future.

2) Utilize the KARSUA decision as the basis for the management of this area and as the basis for department decision-making. More specifically, this area is to be managed by the Department consistent with the requirements of this document described herein as 'Issues\* and Management' and 'Unit Specific Guidelines, Actions, and Management'.

\*With the Issues being more limited in scope as described above

3) Utilize the KARSUA decision as the basis for the addition to the special use regulations (11 AAC 96.014) and as the basis for the management of uses. These additions (rules) are identified below:

-Prohibition to place, drop, 01' discard waste or refuse (including human waste) except within the provided sanitation facilities

-Operation of a motorized vehicle is limited to beach areas and designated trails/areas

-The establishment and implementation of the User Pay Fee System (UPFS) to cover management costs associated with providing services in support of the personal use fisheries"

-Prohibition to destroy, deface or remove state owned or authorized facilities and/or property

\*Provided the UPFS is limited to addressing the user associated costs of the Kasilof River personal use fishery

Thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

Josselyn O'Connor

Acting Executive Director

Kenai Watershed Forum

\*Mailed.



# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Josselyn O'Connor  
Na  
Na, Ak NA

Phone: (907)-252-9346  
Email: jossb21@yahoo.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 112 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Dear Mr. Keough and Mr. Smith,  
I am in full support of the Kasilof Special Use Area Draft Decision. I think this is a fantastic first step in protecting and preserving the special use around the Kasilof River estuary.

I am thankful that the Kenai Peninsula Borough passed a resolution in support of this action as well.

Sincerely,

Josselyn O Connor

(907) 252-9346

\*Emailed 12/10/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Carole Okamoto  
P.O. Box 1226  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-262-1997  
Fax: (907) 262-1997  
Email: hiadaway@acsalaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 113 of 163 - Submitted 11/10/2010 at 01:50 PM:

I went to your meeting at the Tustumena School in October 2010. I listened as you talked and I did hear you mention that you were looking at the idea of a boat launch. I do feel that we need a boat launch take out on the Lower Kasilof River. Many years ago the boats delivered mail up the Kasilof River to a post office and store at the end of 'Tall Grass' (Tall Grass is a new name for the street that was previously called Alice) hence, 'Old Kasilof Landing'. This is off of the Kalifornski Beach Road at MP 2.8. I was told this story by a Den'ina Indian who lives behind the Kasilof Airport. This particular piece of property is a historic area and should somehow be remembered for it's contribution to history. Also it is an ideal place for a take out boat launch for drift boats. This is the same locale as 'Ed's Kasilof Seafoods'. I know that the adjacent property next to Ed's Kasilof Seafood's is available for purchase and it is five acres and has 300 feet of frontage on the Kasilof River. Please put these comments in your list of ideas.

Thank you.....Carole Okamoto

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Steve Okkonen  
Box 1025  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 114 of 163 - Submitted 11/08/2010 at 03:49 PM:

I support the proposal to designate state land on both sides of the Kasilof River mouth as a 'Special Use Area'. However, I don't support allowing camping except seaward of the vegetation line. Finally, a boat launch within the Kasilof River special use area would likely contribute to an already congested area.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Dancel C. Orito  
Education  
Finance Director  
5705 S. Settlers Bay Dr.  
Wasilla , Ak 99654

Phone: (907)-232-9304  
Email: towncenter2@yahoo.com

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 115 of 163 - Submitted 12/01/2010 at 09:37 AM:

Unit KN: Designated Areas (Unit KN)

1. What is the Cost? 2. How many total Vehicles can the Designated Parking Areas allow and are they all R.V. accessible? 3. Is it First come first serve? 4. Is it possible to install potable water faucet so we can fill up R.V.'s and R.V. Dump site. 5. How about installing Showers with Hot Water W/Fee? 6. Installing Fillet Tables or Fish House and Freezers W/Fee? 7. Having a little store at Watchmans Cabin?

If we can get all these things we are willing to pay. You should really think about designating one Parking area strictly for R.V's. Thank You! Mr. Dancel Orito

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Jonathan Osowiecki  
P.O. Box 558  
Cooper Landing, Ak 99572

Email: jpo62@myway.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 116 of 163 - Submitted 11/15/2010 at 04:01 PM:

To whom it may concern, After reading through the draft decision, Kasilof River Special Use Area ADL 230992. I am strongly against the creation of the KRSUA. This will greatly increase the strain of my being able to live here year round. The problems addressed in the draft (trespass, early site placement, long stays) already are against the regulations. If they are not enforced now, how will creation of more government regulations cure the problem? Other problems addressed, (health of fisheries, sanitation and bacteria, human degradation to wetlands and dunes) lack proof that there is any issue to address. As to water quality there is also no proof that there is an issue. (See Page 23. "Although no direct impacts to water quality has been reported to date,"). The need for improved roads is warranted, but is there not already government infrastructure and mandates to maintain them? Yes. Don't our taxes provide funds for these projects? Does the need for better public access, and sanitation facilities really require the creation of more government agencies. No. All the issues address fall under the authority of ADF&G, ADL, AHRS, DMLW, DNR, DOT, DPS, KPB, Alaska St. Troopers, and probably more. Is it more economically sound to add some staff, if actually necessary, to the departments that already regulate these issues. Yes  
Thank you for your time  
Jonathan Osowiecki

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Nancy Pease  
Na  
Na, Ak NA

Email: nancypease@alaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 117 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

To; Adam Smith, Governor's Office; and Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land, Mining and Water

Regarding: comments on Kasilof River Special Management Area (ADL 230992)

I support the proposed management plan for the Kasilof River Special Management Area. Given the habitat damage, health and sanitation risks, and careless behavior that occur at the river mouth during salmon season, the State of Alaska is bound to take a more active management role to protect the natural resources and ensure human health and safety.

I suggest the following policy revision: "Prohibition to place, drop, or discard waste or refuse[sic] (including human or pet waste) except within the provided sanitation facilities<sup>11</sup>". Dog waste, in particular, is every bit as noxious as human waste and there is a public interest in protecting the waters and recreation areas. Give the enforcement personnel the specific ability to cite pet owners who do not clean up after their pets.

I strongly support the limiting of motor vehicles to designated access trails. The habitat values and stabilization of the dunes and shoreline vegetation are far more valuable to the public interest than recreational riding at this particular location.

Fencing appears necessary to protect wet or erosive terrain from vehicle and foot traffic. I hope this doesn't mean chain link fence. It is important to consult DNR's landscape architects or other site designers to use the least intrusive type of barriers and maintain some natural character.

I also strongly support user fees to pay for the management services. The problems at this site are created by the users themselves: so the users ought to ante up for the management costs.

\*Emailed 11/12/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Lauri Pepi  
P.O. Box 316  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Email: akpepi@yahoo.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 118 of 163 - Submitted 11/10/2010 at 03:25 PM:

I am in agreement that creation of a KRSUA would be helpful to handle the mess and devastation of the dunes that we now have at the mouth of the Kasilof river since Personal Use fishing opened there. However, on the North shore, any fencing or barriers cannot be effective without the cooperation of Ocean Beauty to protect THEIR large parcel from being overrun---- from the beach side up onto and over the dunes. Page 21 addresses the issue of trespass, but proposes no viable solutions. Signs have not to date and will not stop 4 wheelers riding back and forth over the sensitive dunes. And point 4 of the management alternatives is to " limit mototized vehicle use.." How do you do that on private land, with a dedicated access road through it to dip net point? The trespassing on privately owned dune lands needs to be addressed and solved to protect the north shore.

In regards to page 19, the issue of extended stays--- I propose it be changed to NO camping allowed at all in such a small and congested area. The campsites and firepits dug, and the RVs are the main source of the mess, not the day users. There is no camping allowed at the Kenai river dunes, so why have any permitted at all here?

I disagree with the proposed recommendation on page 10 that a Public Boat launch is needed for motorized personal use fishers boat access. The Kasilof river is narrow and the navigation is difficult enough for the 100s of commercial drift and set net boats that must use the river for their employment. In my 12 years of working at the dock at the mouth of the river, I personally witnessed many many small boat near accidents, and several overturnings because of the swift tides and the crowding of so many boats in such a small river mouth. To add an unlimited number of small boats to this mix would be a dangerous idea, and would only increase the intense use of the area. Thank you.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Alex Peterson  
366 Diane Lane  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-2627945  
Alternate Phone: (907)-2627945  
Email: apetersousc@gmail.com

**Topic: Draft Decision**

Comment 119 of 163 - Submitted 10/24/2010 at 09:46 AM:

Soldotna resident for over 20 years and I support the establishment of a Kasilof River Special Use area.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

George Pierce  
Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council,,,,, Inc  
Board Member  
P.O. Box 592  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 120 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

December 9, 2010

Department of Natural Resources

Southcentral Region Land Office

ATTN: Adam Smith or Raymond Keough

550 West 7th Avenue Suite 900C

Anchorage, AK 99501-3577

(TRANSMITTED TO DNR BY USPS- OVERNIGHT MAIL AND BY FASCIMILE)

Re: Draft Decision: Kasilof River Special Use Area, ADL 230992 Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council, Inc. Petition and Comments

Gentlemen,

Please find attached a petition prepared by the Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council, Inc. (CKCC) and circulated throughout the community from December 5th through December 8th. The petition is submitted in accordance with the public comment period guidelines extended through December 10th as a public response to the Draft Decision: Kasilof Special Use Area, ADL 230992.

A meeting of the CKCC was held on December 1st wherein it was agreed to hold a community meeting on December 8th and provide for a petition to document the consensus of area concerns on key points of the Draft Decision. During the meeting and following it, the CKCC surveyed local residents in the Cohoe-Kasilof area, collected comments on their understanding of the Draft Decision and prepared a petition. The CKCC broadly posted the notice of the community meeting and held it at the Tustumena School on December 8th to gather final signatures and provide a forum for any additional comments to be forwarded to DNR as part of the petition. The community meeting was held as scheduled and was attended throughout the evening by approximately 40 residents. The meeting was informal and achieved its goals of explaining and answering all questions regarding the points on the petition and its objectives. There were no suggestions or requests by residents to modify or add additional comments to the petition.

This petition reflects the position of CKCC and the area residents that have signed it. The petition does not support the Draft Decision as written. Through this community petition, it is requested that DNR make substantial changes in its proposal as supported by the undersigned 166 local residents. CKCC through this petition also formally requests DNR suspend its final decision deadline and consult with local residents and the CKCC in a public forum prior to implementing any future final decision on a Kasilof River Special Use Area.

The letter by Rick Thompson, DNR Regional Land Manager, on December 1st specifically stated, " &the SCRO works closely with local governments and pay close attention to the concerns and needs of local users who are most knowledgeable and introspective on the issues ... The CKCC is emphatic in its position that DNR will never achieve any credible support from local residents by allowing only written comments alone. Local residents want a say in the final decision process in an open public forum providing for meaningful, constructive discussions with thorough consideration of all potential alternative actions. We trust in our understanding of your above comments that you will provide the residents within the Cohoe- Kasilof area that forum.

The CKCC will continue to be officially engaged in response to this current Draft Decision and all future DNR's actions proposed for the Kasilof River as provided by Alaska Statute. Additional signature pages of the petition received in time for the facsimile transmission will be forwarded as well prior to the deadline on December 10th.

Respectfully,

George Pierce, Board Member

Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 592

Kasilof, AK 99610

Attachments:

\*Above is the comment. Below are attachments that came with the comment.

COHOE-KASILOF COMMUNITY COUNCIL INC. PETITION TO OPPOSE THE "KASILOF SPECIAL USE AREA" DESIGNATION AS PRESENTLY DEFINED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DRAFT PROPOSAL-TO BE SUBMITTED ON 12-10-10 TO DNR

NOTICE TO ALL 99610 RESIDENTS IN THE COHOE-KASILOF AREA Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council, Inc. COMMUNITY MEETING

at the Tustumena School

6:00pm to 8:30pm

Wednesday

December 8, 2010

on the

DRAFT DECISION: KASILOF RIVER SPECIAL USE AREA

Public Comment Deadline: December 10, 2010

At this community meeting, the Coho-Kasilof Community Council will explain their OPPOSITION to the creation of a 3,000 acre, "park-like special use area" being proposed by DNR. A petition will be available for signatures.

Residents are encouraged to attend and bring additional information and response to this KRSUA to the Council's attention. The Council is committed to a fair and balanced approach to the issue. In the best interests of all residents, the Council will submit both negative and positive comments provided to the Council as a supplement to the petition. The deadline for public comments to DNR is December 10th.

Attachment page 1

Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council, Inc Petition to the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Mining, Land and Water Southcentral Regional Land Office Re: Draft Decision. Kasilof River Special Use Area, ADL 230992

The Board of Directors of the Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council, Inc. (CKCC) has taken a position to oppose the creation of a special use area (SUA) at the mouth of the Kasilof River as presently defined in the Draft Decision, Kasilof River Special Use Area, ADL 230992.

The following signatures of residents in the Kasilof 99610 zip code area support the CKCC recommendations to temporarily suspend the SUA process and proceed under the following recommendations towards an equitable solution.

OVERALL AGREEMENT: oIncreased risk to public health and safety due to insufficient sanitation facilities.

oDegradation of dunes and associated wetlands from intensive recreational use.

oProceed with the dunes fencing project for immediate habitat protection working through the

Kasilof Regional Historical Association

KEY POINTS:

1. The Division of Natural Resources (DNR) has provided no supporting justification to warrant setting aside 2,665 acres of state land encompassing approximately 3,000 acres.
2. DNR will be the sole arbiter controlling the evaluation of comments and final decision. The council is opposed to DNR's 3 step process consisting of a draft decision, comment period and final decision, which fails to adequately involve local residents who stand to be impacted most by creation of the SUA.
3. Once created and given SUA authority, DNR will impose restrictive regulations utilizing the same 3 step process, again denying any direct involvement by local groups beyond submitting comments.
4. DNR has held only one informational meeting and has denied a request from local residents for additional meetings or participation in DNR's final decision process. 5. DNR has not conducted one study, nor provided the public any evidence to support the creation of a 2,965 acre park-like Special Use Area. DNR is basing the entire creation

of the SUA on two letters from local organizations with additional groups' signatory to the letters. Both letters only requested solutions to the above problems and possible water quality concerns.

6. Local groups, initially requesting a solution to the problem, only envisioned a small area set aside at the mouth of the river. No group has openly expressed support for a 3,000 acre park like SUA extending beyond the vicinity of the river mouth.

7. Contrary to DNR's explanation, the SUA will be managed like a state park as it will involve imposing restrictive regulations, state funding, fees, state employees etc.

8. Year around beach access and recreational use is allowed under "generally allowed uses" by state law. These uses may be restricted under authority granted to DNR under SUA statutes.

9. DNR has narrowly confined its decision process to 3 alternative actions to promote the largest SUA possible. Several additional alternatives exist for a smaller SUA.

10. DNR has proposed unenforceable, problematic solutions for sanitation, enforcement, access, and staking demonstrating a serious lack of knowledge of the fisheries and the problems.

Attachment page 2

Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council, Inc. Petition to the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Mining, Land and Water South central Regional Land Office

KEY POINTS (cont.):

11. DNR is proposing parking lots, road upgrades, campgrounds, and facilities without the benefit of any impact studies, which could have unintended consequences such as increased pressure on the fishery causing additional degradation and pressure on existing wetlands.

12. DNR did not introduce or concede any negative impacts as a result of creating the KSUA.

13. The creation of an SUA without any supporting data is bad public policy and creates a double standard. The private sector would never be allowed to approach the State in this manner.

14. DNR did not provide an overview of their long term goals and objectives for the area.

15. DNR has not provided the public with any information on the co-ordination and jurisdictional impacts with other state and federal agencies including the ADF&G and the Corps of Engineers.

Alternate solutions:

1. Implement temporary measures for sanitation controls for the 2011 personal use fishery.

2. Revise the Kasilof River SUA to reflect the actual land requirements, estimated at less than 100 acres, to resolve habitat and sanitation issues. 3. Investigate with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and through the Kenai-Soldotna Advisory Committee,

the feasibility of expanding the fishery to a larger area to reduce congestion and resultant impacts.

ACTIONS SUPPORTED BY THE BOARD OF THE COHOE-KASILOF COMMUNITY COUNCIL AND THOSE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BY THEIR SIGNATURES:

1. Suspend the Draft Decision Kasilof River SUA for comprehensive studies and seoping meetings.
2. Conduct comprehensive studies of the fisheries, recreational uses, and habitat impacts.
3. Conduct scoping meetings with the general public, local residents, and private property landowners who may be affected by a proposed SUA boundary.

Attachment page 3

Attachment page 4- Not included- Kasilof River Special Use Area Map 2. Can be seen with original document.

Fact sheet:

## GENERALLY ALLOWED USES ON STATE LAND

Alaska Department of

Natural Resources

Division of Mining, Land and Water May 2009

As provided in II AAC §.020, the following uses and activities are generally allowed on state land managed by the Division of Mining, Land and Water (these uses and activities may be restricted in legislatively designated areas, or special management category or status as listed in II AAC 96.014'). Uses listed as "Generally allowed" do not require a permit from the Division of Mining, Land and Water. Note that this list does not apply to state parks, nor to land owned or managed by other state agencies such as the University of Alaska, Alaska Mental Health Trust, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, or the Alaska Railroad. You may need other state, federal or borough permits for these uses or activities. Permits can be required from the Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Environmental Conservation, the Environmental Protection Agency, Alaska Department of Fish and Game Habitat Division (ADF&G Habitat). A Coastal Project Questionnaire may also be required by these agencies. Before beginning an activity on state land, the user should check to be sure it is generally allowed in that particular area.

## TRAVEL ACROSS STATE LAND:

Hiking, backpacking, skiing, climbing, and other foot travel; bicycling; traveling by horse or dogsled or with pack animals.

Using a highway vehicle with a curb weight of up to 10,000 pounds, including a four-wheel-drive vehicle and a pickup truck, or using a recreational-type vehicle off-road or all-terrain vehicle with a curb weight of up to 1,500 pounds, including a snowmobile ( or other tracked vehicle), motorcycle or A TV, on or off an established road easement, if use off the road easement does not cause or contribute to water quality degradation, alteration of drainage systems, significant rutting, ground

disturbance, or thermal erosion. (Curb weight means the weight of a vehicle with a full tank of fuel and all fluids topped off, but with no one sitting inside or on the vehicle and no cargo loaded. Most highway rated sport utility vehicles are within the weight limit as are most small ATVs, including a basic Argo.) Use of larger off-road vehicles over 1,500 pounds curb weight, and the off-road travel of construction and mining equipment requires a permit from DNR. An authorization is required from the ADF&G-Habitat for any motorized travel in fish bearing streams.

Landing an aircraft (such as a single-engine airplane or a helicopter), or using watercraft (such as a boat, jet-ski, raft, or canoe), without damaging the land, including shoreland, tideland, and submerged land. Driving livestock, including any number of reindeer or up to 100 horses, cattle, or other domesticated animals.

#### ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS ON STATE LAND:

Brushing or cutting a trail less than five feet wide using only hand-held tools such as a chainsaw (making a trail does not create a property right or interest in the trail).

Anchoring a mooring buoy in a lake, river, or marine waters, or placing a float, dock, boat haulout, floating breakwater, or boathouse in a lake, river, or in marine waters, for the personal, noncommercial use of the upland owner, if the use does not interfere with public access or another public use, and if the improvement is placed within the projected sidelines of the contiguous upland owner's parcel or otherwise has the consent of the affected upland owner. A float or dock means an open structure without walls or roof that is designed and used for access to and from the water rather than for storage, residential use, or other purposes. A boat haulout means either a rail system (at ground level or elevated with pilings) or a line attached from the uplands to an anchor or mooring buoy. A floating breakwater means a structure, such as a log bundle, designed to dissipate wave or swell action. A boathouse means a structure designed and used to protect a boat from the weather rather than for other storage, residential use or other purposes.

These special use areas are listed in 11 AAC 96.014 and on the last page of this fact sheet. Maps of the areas are available online at: [www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/sua/](http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/sua/)

An SUA can restrict access to the beach. (Handwritten on the fact sheet)

Attachment page 5

#### REMOVING OR USING STATE RESOURCES:

Hunting, fishing, or trapping, or placement of a crab pot, shrimp pot, herring pound or fish wheel, that complies with applicable state and federal statutes and regulations on the taking of fish and game.

Harvesting a small number of wild plants, mushrooms, berries, and other plant material for personal, noncommercial use. The cutting of trees is not a generally allowed use except as it relates to brushing or cutting a trail as provided above. Commercial harvest of non-timber forest products requires a permit (11 AAC 96.035) and harvest practices must conform to the Alaska Non-Timber Forest Products Harvest Manual for Commercial Harvest on state owned Lands.

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/NTFPReports.htm>

Using dead and down wood for a cooking or warming fire, unless the department has closed the area to fires during the fire season.

Grazing no more than five domesticated animals.

Recreational gold panning; hard-rock mineral prospecting or mining using light portable field equipment, such as a hand-operated pick, shovel, pan, earth auger, or a backpack power drill or auger; or suction dredging using a suction dredge with a nozzle intake of six inches or less, powered by an engine of 18 horsepower or less, and pumping no more than 30,000 gallons of water per day. An authorization is required from ADF&G-Habitat prior to dredging in fish bearing streams.

#### OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AND STRUCTURES ON STATE LAND:

Setting up and using a camp for personal, noncommercial recreational purposes, or for any non-recreational purpose (such as a support camp during mineral exploration), for no more than 14 days at one site, using a tent platform or other temporary structure that can readily be dismantled and removed, or a floathouse that can readily be moved. Moving the entire camp at least two miles starts a new 14-day period. Cabins or other permanent improvements are not allowed, even if they are on skids or another non-permanent foundation. The camp must be removed immediately if the department determines that it interferes with public access or other public uses or interests.

Brushing or cutting a survey line less than five feet wide using only hand-held tools (such as a chainsaw), or setting a survey marker (setting a survey monument- a permanent, official marker- requires written survey instructions issued by the Division of Mining, Land and Water under II AAC 53).

Placing a residential sewer outfall into marine waters from a contiguous privately owned upland parcel, with the consent of the affected parcel owners, if the outfall is within the projected sidelines of the contiguous upland parcel and is buried to the extent possible or, where it crosses bedrock, is secured and covered with rocks to prevent damage. Any placement of a sewer outfall line must comply with state and federal statutes and regulations applicable to residential sewer outfalls.

Placing riprap or other suitable bank stabilization material to prevent erosion of a contiguous privately owned upland parcel if no more than one cubic yard of material per running foot is placed onto state shoreland and the project is otherwise within the scope of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers nationwide permit on bank stabilization.

#### MISCELLANEOUS USES OF STATE LAND:

An event or assembly of 50 people or less, including events sponsored by non-profit organizations or a commercial event.

Entry for commercial recreation purposes on a day-nse basis with no overnight camps or unoccupied facilities that remain overnight, as long as the use has been registered as required by 11 AAC 96.018.

Recreational or other use not listed above may occur on state land as long as that use

\* is not a commercial recreational camp or facility, (whether occupied or unoccupied) that remains overnight;

\*does not involve explosives or explosive devices (except firearms);

\* is not prospecting or mining using hydraulic equipment methods (i.e. the use of

pumped or flowing water to remove overburden or move gravels);

\*does not include drilling in excess of 300 feet deep (including exploratory drilling or stratigraphic test wells on state land not under oil or gas lease);

\* is not for geophysical exploration for minerals subject to lease or an oil and gas exploration license or for seismic surveys involving the use of explosives;

\*does not cause or contribute to significant disturbance of vegetation, drainage, or soil stability;

\*does not interfere with public access or other public uses or interests; and \*does not continue for more than J 4 consecutive days at any site. Moving the use to another site at least two miles away starts a new J 4-day period.

\*does not include exploration for coal (a notice of intent to conduct exploration for coal must be filed with the DNR)

Cheek for special conditions and exceptions!

All activities on state land must be conducted in a responsible manner that will minimize or prevent disturbance to land and water resources, and must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. By acting under the authority of this list, the user agrees to the conditions set out in 11 AAC 96.025 (a copy of these conditions 115 are attached to this fact sheet). A person who violates these conditions is subject to any action available to the department for enforcement and remedies, including civil action for forcible entry and detainer, ejection, trespass, damages, and associated costs, or arrest and prosecution for criminal trespass in the second degree. The department may seek damages available under a civil action, including restoration damages, compensatory damages, and treble damages under AS 09.45.730 or AS 09.45.735 for violations involving injuring or removing trees or shrubs, gathering technical data, or taking mineral resources. (11 AAC 96. 145)

Remember that this list does not apply to state parks, University of Alaska lands, or Alaska Mental Health Trust lands. In addition, some other areas managed by the Division of Mining, Land, and Water are not subject to the full list of generally allowed uses. Exceptions may occur because of special conditions in a state land use plan or management plan for example a management plan may reduce the number of days that people can camp at a specific site, or by a special use land designation (for instance, a special use land designation for the North Slope requires a permit for off-road vehicle use). Special Use Areas are listed in 11 AAC 96.014; more information is available on the department's website at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/sua/> . GAU's have also been modified for the Knik River Public Use Area. Also, be aware that this list does not exempt users from the permit requirements of other state, federal, or local agencies. For example, the ADF&G - Habitat may require a permit for a stream crossing or if the use will take place in a state game refuge.

Finally, this list does not authorize a use if another person has already acquired an exclusive property right for that use. For instance, it does not give people permission to graze livestock on someone else's state grazing lease, to build a trail on a private right-of-way that the Division of Mining, Land and Water has granted to another person, or to pan for gold on somebody else's state mining location. Department staff can help users determine the land status of state-owned land and whether it is subject

to any special exceptions or to private property rights.

For additional information, contact the Department of Natural Resources:

Public Information Center 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1260 Anchorage, AK 99501-3557  
(907) 269-8400 TDD: (907)269-8411

Division of Mining, Land, & Water Public Information Office 400 Willoughby Ave., Suite 400 P.O. 111020 Juneau, AK 99801-1021 (907)465-3400 TDD: (907)465-3888

Public Information Center 3700 Airport Way Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699 (907) 451-2705 TDD: (907) 451-2770

Attachment page 6

#### CONDITIONS FOR GENERALLY ALLOWED USES (11 AAC 96.025)

A generally allowed use listed in 11 AAC 96.020 is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) activities employing wheeled or tracked vehicles must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface damage;
- (2) vehicles must use existing roads and trails whenever possible;
- (3) activities must be conducted in a manner that minimizes
  - (A) disturbance of vegetation, soil stability, or drainage systems;
  - (B) changing the character of, polluting, or introducing silt and sediment into streams, lakes, ponds, water holes, seeps, and marshes: and
  - (C) disturbance of fish and wildlife resources;
- (4) cuts, fills, and other activities causing a disturbance listed in (3)(A)-(e) must be repaired immediately, and corrective action must be undertaken as may be required by the department:
- (5) trails and campsites must be kept clean; garbage and foreign debris must be removed; combustibles may be burned on site unless the department has closed the area to fires during the fire season; (6) survey monuments, witness corners, reference monuments, mining location posts, homestead entry corner posts, and bearing trees must be protected against destruction, obliteration, and damage; any damaged or obliterated markers must be reestablished as required by the department under AS 34.65.020 and AS 34.65.040:
- (7) every reasonable effort must be made to prevent, control, and suppress any fire in the operating area: uncontrolled fires must be immediately reported;
- (8) holes, pits, and excavations must be repaired as soon as possible: holes, pits, and excavations necessary to verify discovery on prospecting sites, mining claims, or mining leasehold locations may be left open but must be maintained in a manner that protects public safety;
- (9) on lands subject to a mineral or land estate property interest, entry by a person other than the holder of a property interest, or the holder's authorized representative, must be made in a manner that prevents unnecessary or unreasonable interference with the rights of the holder of the property interest.

## List of Special Use Land Designations Excluded from Generally Allowed Uses

Alyeska Ski Resort / Lower Goodnews River / Baranof Lake Trail / Lower Talarik Creek / Caribou Hills / Marmot Island Special Use Area / Exit Glacier Road /Nenana River Gorge and McKinley Village Subd. / Glacier-Winner Creek / North Slope Area / Hatcher Pass Special Use Area / Northern Southeast Area, Tidelands / Haines State Forest / Nushagak / Indian Cove / Poker Flat North / Kamishak Special Use Area / Poker Flat South / Kenai Fjords Coastline / Resurrection Bay / Kenai River Special Management Area Proposed Additions / Tangle Lakes Archaeological District / Thompson Pass / Lake Clark Coastline / Togiak National Wildlife Refuge / Knik River Special Use Area

Attachment page 7

Cohoe-Kasilof Community Council, Inc., Petition to the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Mining, Land, and Water Southcentral Regional Land Office

Actions supported by the board of the Cohoe-Kasilof community council and those members of the public by their signatures:

- 1.Suspend the Draft Decision Kasilof River SUA for comprehensive studies and scoping meetings.
- 2.Conduct comprehensive studies of the fisheries, recreational uses, and habitat impacts.
- 3.Conduct scoping meetings with the general public, local residents, and private property landowners.

Attachment (there are 14 pages of in total 172 signatures that all agree with the above points.)

\*This comment included 14 pages of signatures and one map attachment that can be seen with the original comment.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

David Post  
Dotpf-Central Planning  
Surface Transportation Manger  
P.O. Box 196900, Ms-2525  
Anchorage, Ak 99519

Phone: (907)-269-0512  
Fax: (907)-269-0521  
Email: david.post@alaska.gov

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 121 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

MEMORANDUM

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Central Region

FAX NO.: 269-0521

PHONE NO.: 269-0512

DATE: November 17, 2010

TO: Adam Smith

Southcentral Region Land Office Dept. of Natural Resources

FROM: David Post

Surface Transportation Manager Central Planning

SUBJECT: Public Notice: Kasilof River Special Use Area (Extension) ADL230992

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT &PF) has reviewed the Kasilof River Special Use Area Extension and has no comments.

AJ/as

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

J. C. Powell  
P. O. B. 124  
Sterling, Ak 99672

Phone: (907)-262-1813

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 122 of 163 - Submitted 11/09/2010 at 05:52 PM:

Most of the complaints that I have heard involve conflicts between users. One user will put out a running line, and the next one pulls it. If the rules aren't followed who resolves these disputes? Camping needs to be addressed. It wasn't supposed to be a month long drunk. USER PAY FEE! Do not make the residents of the state who do not go down there pay in any way! As with other P. U. fisheries there is no "ENFORCEMENT"! PUT A GUY ON THE ROAD TO MAKE SPOT CHECKS AND FUND IT WITH THE FEE! Other states use this tool for deer, elk and game fish. Make the fines heavy enough, enforce the existing rules and most of abuse will end.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Jeremy Ptak  
Na  
Eagle River, Ak 99577

Phone: (907)-269-3071  
Email: jerm1776@hotmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 123 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Mr. Keough,  
Thank you for the meeting yesterday at Central middle school. Here are a few comments for your review.

Thank you,

Jeremy Ptak

907-269-3071

jerm1776@hotmail.com

\*Above was on the cover letter faxed over with the comment.

Thank you for your assistance with managing these public concerns. As a SCADA member I know we are happy with the work DNR is doing.

Here are just a few general comments:

Please:

=> Place bathrooms on the beach (south shore) and at Cohoe Loop Road

=>Widen the end of Cohoe Loop Road

=>If a fee is implemented make the timeline good for 24 hours (not 12 hours like at North Beach of Kenai)

Thank you!

Jeremy Ptak

\*Faxed 10/22/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Joseph Reich  
48500 Diamond M Ranch Road  
Kenai, Ak 99611

Email: jar85422@yahoo.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 124 of 163 - Submitted 11/15/2010 at 08:55 PM:

I am opposed to the adoption of this proposal in its entirety. I have witnessed the results of such 'plans' in this area and have found them counterproductive- and not in the public's 'best interest'; in spite of their stated objectives. A much more effective answer would be to continue to accommodate increased public use by: enhanced parking, more temporary and permanent toilet facilities; fish cleaning facilities on both sides of the river; and construction of a public access boat launch too the Cook Inlet via the Kasilof River. I object too any further 'user' fees-the monies Alaska citizens and visiting fishermen pay via the licensing process need too cover these expenses. We do not need another level of DNR beaurocracy-just more efficient and effective use of the money they now get. How many of the betterments I listed, could have been instituted with the monies/manpower spent on this 'proposal' process?

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Na Reynolds Family  
Na  
Na, Ak NA

Email: losteskimo@gmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 125 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Good Afternoon,

The only question I have is how does this affect those of us who actually live full year on the river? With the commercial fisheries having almost all of the fish in their commercial nets (just look at the history of "emergency" orders extending the commercial fisheries) how are us who live here and rely on the Kasilof to get our subsistence fish for the winter. The Kasilof River was not open to dip netting up to the bridge as in years past, thereby forcing all of us locals to go to the beach. Most of the "citidiots" go to the North side of the river, and us locals use the South side of the river at the mouth. I'm 44 now, and can remember as a child that my father always told us not to fish the Kenai, it was too polluted, just look how many times it was closed this year for human consumption, or alerts were sent out to thoroughly clean the fish caught in the Kenai. On the south side of the river, I have never seen a fish and game officer, maybe they were undercover, but I have seen us locals educating those who do not live here about cleaning up their mess, or not to keep that king that went into their dip net

Sent from my iPad using only my index fingers

\*Emailed 11/15/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Ethel Marie Riley  
P.O.Box 394  
Kasilof, Ak 99610-0394

Phone: (907)-262-8723  
Alternate Phone: (907)-252-6080  
Email: sorrel\_equus@yahoo.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 126 of 163 - Submitted 11/09/2010 at 09:42 PM:

I would like to voice my support of the formation of a Kasilof Special Use Area. I have lived in Kasilof for 16 1/2 years and my family has owned the property we currently live on for 40 years. The current situation since the dip net fishery was instituted is very hard on the mouth of the Kasilof; there needs to be some sort of designation that will not only provide protection for the environment but place some responsibility on the humans that swarm the mouth as well as provisions for enforcement of whatever is put in place.

A public boat ramp. I am against a public boat ramp but recognize the eventuality of one. Two things need to happen. One, a boat ramp should not be put in the middle of an existing neighborhood. There are spots that do not require routing trucks and boats down populated neighborhood roads. Two, allowing power boats on the Kasilof will result in bank erosion which will eventually mirror that of the Kenai. For once, lets be proactive as a society and prevent the problems in the first place. I do not want to see the Kasilof turning into the next Kenai. Joe Q. Public does not have a good reputation of being good stewards unless they are forced to. Any special use designation or a public boat ramp needs to have funds to enforce whatever is decided otherwise all this posturing is for naught.

Ethel M. Riley

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Larry Rundquist  
2912 Alder Drive  
Anchorage, Ak 99508-3200

Email: rundquist@gci.net

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 127 of 163 - Submitted 11/11/2010 at 04:06 PM:

I encourage you to move forward with the proposed Kasilof River Special Use Area. Our heavily used river systems need special attention to protect the important riparian and nearby upland habitats.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Melvin Rush  
P.O. Box 211496  
Anchorage, Ak 99521

Phone: (907)-351-4197  
Email: mwrush@gmail.com

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 128 of 163 - Submitted 11/09/2010 at 07:32 AM:

I support the designation of a Special Use Area at the mouth of the Kasilof. I am against a public "power boat" launch in this Special Use Area.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

C. A. Ryan  
2448 Sprucewood St  
Anchorage, Ak 99508

Email: caryan797@gmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 129 of 163 - Submitted 11/11/2010 at 04:08 PM:

I strongly support establishment of a Kasilof River Special Use Area to address these and other issues:

Increased risk to public health and safety due to insufficient sanitation facilities;  
Degradation of dunes and associated wetlands habitats from intensive recreational use;  
Insufficient public parking/staging areas and extended stays during the fisheries;  
Increased threat to water quality from uncontrolled and unsupported uses;  
Irresponsible disposal of fish waste; Maintaining and enhancing public access to and from state land; Increased trespass on adjacent private lands is creating user conflicts with local residents, poses potential threats to public safety and places strain on existing public safety resources; and Target and recreational shooting during the fisheries is a public safety concern to the users, families and residents of the area.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Audrey Salmon  
P.O. Box 1186  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Email: [info@ucida.org](mailto:info@ucida.org)

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 130 of 163 - Submitted 11/10/2010 at 02:25 PM:  
11/10/10

Department of Natural Resources Southcentral Regional Land Office Attn: Adam Smith  
& Ray Keough 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 900C Anchorage, AK 99501-3577

Mr. Smith and Mr. Keough,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Kasilof River Special Use Area.

I support the creation of a Special Use Area for the lower Kasilof River.

Sincerely,

Audrey Salmon PO Box 1186 Kasilof, AK 99610

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Colleen A Savage  
3690 S. Cook Inlet Circle  
Wasilla, Ak 99654

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 131 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:  
December 8, 2010  
Dear Adam Smith,

My name is Colleen A. Savage. I was born and raised in the State of Alaska and have always appreciated it for its resources and beauty. I, along with my husband, attended the meeting that you so graciously held in Wasilla recently. I thank you, as well as your fellow workers at the meeting, for giving us, as Alaskan residents, your time and the opportunity to speak at that meeting. I've never had the ability to speak at one of those meetings before, and I hope that my "red-neck" way of speaking so bluntly didn't offend anybody.

Through the last 30 years, I have noticed quite a downfall in our Natural Resources. I'm sure you will agree with me when I say that the fishing, hunting and camping that was once enjoyed and respected in our state, has become out of control due to the negligence of the people. In my opinion, I really do see a great need for more enforcement of the current laws, rather than to bring in new ones. But in order to enforce those laws, the people need to know the laws and the proper authorities need to be willing to enforce them. I'm the kind of person that doesn't fear telling someone that they just "took/killed a King Salmon" when it was unlawful to do so. This is a respect that I have always had for our laws and our resources. But sometimes I see my efforts returning void when I have reported violations to the proper authorities. Many people in this state that use these resources don't even put the effort into finding out about our laws. I consider myself as a reasonable citizen when I say that "we the people, as the people" are responsible for looking up the laws and obeying them. The State of Alaska graciously provides some of these laws to the people (i.e. the Regulations books) and yet the people don't read them. Even when the people are caught violating those laws, there are many different reasons why they are not held accountable. Our "leniency" has caused a great outbreak of repetitious offenders in this state, and now we are seeing the consequences thereof.

I have written down a few suggestions below. These may sound harsh to some people, but the way I see it...it takes cooperation and sacrifice from both sides (the people and the government) to make it work "for the people." I am not a citizen of spite, but something needs to be done quickly and efficiently. We, as Alaskan Citizens, need to work together to save our Natural Resources ... and if this costs me money to put into a "General Use Fee," then count me in ... I'm willing to make that sacrifice!!

Concerning the Kasilof River Special Use Area Plan

## Problems/Concerns:

### 1. Sanitation:

a. Garbage, such as unburnable substances (glass, plastic, Styrofoam and metal-based products), that are being thrown into fire pits and left to pollute the land - aka - "litter."

b. Human Waste: People are using the 'wooded' areas as Latrine facilities instead of bringing their own 'porta-potty' style container into the Kasilof camping area (for Human waste) and carrying it out for proper disposal; People are using motorized vehicles to access these wooded areas "In a hurry" which is tearing up the wetlands and sand dunes.

### 2. Congestion:

a. Vehicles (i.e. motorhomes, trucks and cars) parking and camping along the roadside within a X mile distance from the beach entrance which limits the entry and exit of vehicles to the Kasilof River Dipnetting area.

b. Parking vehicles and pitching camps within the accessible entrance trails between the Designated Trail and the beach (which is an Encroachment on beach access) causing people to walk through or drive through other peoples' campsites (which are typically on the grasslands) in order to access the beach.

3. Destruction of Wetlands and sand dunes caused by irresponsible use of vehicles (i.e. 4- wheelers, dune-buggies, trucks, cars and motor-homes).

4. Drunk Drivers and drinking in the Kasilof River Dipnetting area which is disturbing the enjoyment and safety of all the people with rights to that enjoyment and safety according to the State of Alaska.

## Proposals/Solutions:

1. The State of Alaska would impose "General Use Fees" for the Kasilof River SUA, payable at the time of receiving their Dipnetting Permits (No "Drop Boxes") at the Dept. of Fish and Game, in order to clean and maintain the area.

2. The State would provide 3 large Portable Garbage Dumpsters and 6 Human waste stations (toilet facilities) along the south and north entrances to the Kasilof River beach and maintain a 3-day disposal schedule during the Dipnetting season; otherwise maintaining a once a-week disposal schedule for the remainder of the summer use season; remove the dumpsters and toilet facilities during the winter season in order to cut costs. The "General Use Fees," as well as the funds collected from citations written against violations committed in the Kasilof River SUA, would be used for this improvement.

3. The State of Alaska would provide these new regulations on paper at the time the citizens receive their Dipnetting permits for the Kasilof River SUA and requiring a signature for proper verification that ALL citizens using that area HAVE been notified thereof.

4. During the Dipnetting season, bring in the proper authorities to patrol the whole distance of the beach on both sides of the Kasilof River Dipnetting area on a 'Once-a-day' basis, in full view of the public (marked vehicles and uniforms portraying

their authority): to collect the complaints from the "Complaint Box"; to check the credibility of those complaints; to write citations and impose fines for those Violations; to take evidence and collect public reports of violators; and to enforce the laws and regulations that are currently in force for fishing, camping and vehicle restrictions. The "General Use Fees," as well as the funds collected from citations written against violations committed in the Kasilof River SUA, would be used for this improvement.

S. The State of Alaska would post signs within a 1/4 mile of the Beach entrance that clearly state "Temporary Parking Only - Parking is limited to 1 Hr. durations for the use of Waste Disposal Facilities, toilets and Boat Launch (this "boat launch" was someone else's suggestion at the meeting that i would agree to.) The "General Use Fees," as well as the funds collected from citations written against violations committed in the Kasilof River SUA, would be used for this improvement.

6. The State of Alaska would provide a specified parking area for the use of Motorhomes, Camping Trailers and other vehicles that have limited ability to access and drive on the beach. The "General Use Fees," as well as the funds collected from citations written against violations committed in the Kasilof River SUA, would be used for this improvement.

7. The State would provide Information Billboards at both the North and South Entrances of the Kasilof River SUA. (Personally, I would like to see these at All recreational sites in Alaska.) These Billboards would contain the following information:

\*Notifying the citizens that due to the neglect of the Natural Resources in the Kasilof River SUA, the area is now going to have a "General Use Fee" for the purpose of Waste Disposal Facilities to be provided and maintained, as well as future improvements as needed.

\*Warning the citizens of the litter fines in the State of Alaska and explaining the consequences thereof by the proper authorities if sufficient evidence is gathered against them (i.e. pictures of the persons committing the violation, videos, the violators vehicle license plate numbers and/or the litter gathered at the scene).

\* Notifying the citizens of their rights and responsibilities for taking care of our Natural Resources by reporting violations and explaining what kinds of evidence to collect in order to hold the violators responsible for their violations against the regulations of the State of Alaska.

\*Notifying the citizens that parking is only permitted along the roadside within a 1/4 mile of a mile from the beach entrances in order to dispose of waste, use the toilet facilities, or use the boat launch; limiting parking to 1 Hour.

\*Notifying the citizens of the State of Alaska Camping ordinances, laws, regulations and restrictions, including, but not limited to, 'the "two-week limit" to camp in any area. Moving the campsite beyond the 2 mile distance would start a new "two-week limit.'"

\*Notifying the people of their responsibilities to Use the facilities provided (Garbage cans and toilets) in a proper manor, or to bring their own "portable toilets" and dispose of the waste In the facilities provided.

8. The State would provide a locked "Complaint Box" at these "Information Billboards," along with printed forms to fill out in the event of a concern or if a violation has occurred.

Forms should have spaces to fill in such as, but not limited to, Violator's Vehicle license Plate Number, Make and Model of vehicle, color of vehicle and several lines for the Description of the Violation (examples: 'Tearing up the Wetlands by speeding a Yamaha 4 Wheeler through them'; 'Throwing glass bottles into a fire pit'), date of violation, witness' information (example: names, addresses and phone numbers, Alaska Driver's license Number and the best time to be contacted), a space to be signed by the "Witness to the Violation." The "General Use Fees," as well as the funds collected from citations written against violations committed in the Kasilof River SUA would be used for this improvement.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope that I have helped in some way to bring an end to this problem for the sake of our future.

Colleen A. Savage

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

John C Schiemann  
P.O. Box 874937  
Wasilla, Ak 99687

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 132 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

December 5, 2010

Public Comment Concerning the Kasilof Special Use Area

As a documented user of this area, utilizing a Personal Use Salmon Permit, I feel the state was negligent in not directly notifying permit holders, as this group is the one most affected by any action in this area. I also take exception to the statement that the option of taking no action is 'unacceptable'. As a long time user of this area, I have few complaints about the current situation, and do not want to see it turned into another park with user fees, seasonal gates, more prohibitions, etc. The feeling of being in an 'untamed' area is indeed part of the experience, and increased regulations will surely detract from that experience.

My views on the issues of concern:

Sanitation- The porta potties and dumpster are greatly appreciated. Overuse at times? More frequent dumping. Placing additional temporary outhouses closer to the river mouth would greatly reduce current problems. Some groups erect temporary outhouses, which work well. Most all fish waste is buried below high water mark during setnet season. Making this practice illegal would be inconvenient and place a larger burden on the state. Sealed vault privies seem extravagant for a two month season.

Degradation of Wetlands- People for the most part stays off the wetlands, and those that don't are often warned by other area users. I have not witnessed 'extensive recreational use of ATV's in the adjacent wetlands', but rather occasional use. A fence has been approved, though I believe this is unwarranted.

Boat Launch- It is my understanding that at one time there was a boat launch off the end of Cohoe Loop Rd. A boat launch would do much to relieve pressure on the beach, giving fisherman an option to set nets off shore, as some users currently do. I would like to see a launch off the end of Cohoe Loop.

Early Setting of Fishing Gear- Most users understand that set net sites are established when the net hits the water. The nature of the fishery requires that anchors and lines be set at low tide, which doesn't correspond to the opening time or dates of the fishery. A sort of beach etiquette has evolved where users respect others sites, and most are accommodating. Regulations should be changed to allow gear to be set for up to 30 days to allow full access to the season and tides. A low tide is also necessary to pull gear.

Parking, Staging and Extended Stays- Recently Mental Health Lands Trust has barricaded property near the end of Cohoe Loop Rd. Closing this area that was used by many has no doubt increased pressure on the beach. All over Alaska people set up camps for extended periods. Limiting camping to 14 days or charging a user fee is not needed, and is incongruous with a personal use fishery. People want to come and go as they please, and have a right to do so. Mental Health should remove those barriers to the old gravel pit and allow camping there as before.

Public Access- Important indeed, and legal dedicated access must be maintained.

Trespass- Once again, reopening the old gravel pit would reduce conflicts with adjacent landowners. The state should also considering expanding the access area to accommodate more vehicles next to the beach. Large turn around and off loading areas would be helpful.

Target and Recreational Shooting- I agree that target shooting is inappropriate in this area during times of heavy use. However, I imagine some locals do use this are for target shooting in the off season, and they should be allowed to continue to do so.

Water Quality- We all want clean water, but making it a crime to dig a hole and do your business is a bit draconian. Additional temporary outhouses should mitigate adverse affects from human waste.

Fish Waste- Burying salmon carcasses below tide line is preferable than hauling them to the dump. Requiring fish waste to be deposited into dumpsters would result in terrible odors and an attractant to scavenging wildlife. In practice, throwing your fish carcasses in the water is discouraged by other users as they tend to fowl the nets. Another bit of 'beach etiquette' that newcomers to the fishery are informed of by their peers.

It is my belief that most all users of this area do not want user fees, more restrictions, or the development of a State Park type atmosphere. Some minor changes as outlined above should go a long way to alleviating most concerns.

John C. Schiemann PO Box 874937 Wasilla, AK 99687

\*Mailed 12/5/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Hazel C. Schofield  
35765 Ryan Lane  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-260-8479  
Email: w.schofield@att.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 133 of 163 - Submitted 11/14/2010 at 10:01 PM:

I have lived in AK. for 51 years and have seen a lot of changes. I have enjoyed fishing at the set net site for several years. I have not seen anyone where we fish destroying property or causing damage. The people usually are families like we are trying to get enough fish to eat for the year. It is a lot of work but people work together and enjoy it. We take care of our own sanitation and fish waste in a proper manner. I have not seen anyone get sick from lack of proper hygiene or sanitation. I would appreciate your reconsideration on restricting sites and permits etc. Sincerely, Hazel Schofield

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Myron Severson  
Na  
Na, Ak Na

Email: mseverson@gci.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 134 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Raymond Keough:

"I support the establishment of the Kasilof River Special Use Area in order to protect the habitat of the area and provide for public health and safety of users of the area."

Myron Severson

\*Emailed 10/25/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Paul A. Shadura  
Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association  
Executive Director  
43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road, Suite F  
Soldotna, Ak 99669-8276

Phone: (907)-262-2492  
Fax: (907)-262-2898  
Email: kpja@alaska.net

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 135 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association Ensuring the Sustainability of Our Fishery Resources  
43961 Kalifornsky Beach Road, Suite F, Soldotna, Alaska 99669-8276 (907) 262-2492  
Fax: (907) 262-2898 EMail: kpja@alaska.net November 16, 2010

Department of Natural Resources

Southcentral Region Land Office

ATTN: Adam Smith or Raymond Keough

550 West 7th Avenue Suite 900C

Anchorage, AK 99501-3577

RE: Draft Kasilof River Use Area- ADL 230992

The Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association (KPF A) is a non-profit 501 (c) (6) commercial fisheries advocacy trade group representing Cook Inlet (CI) fishing families for over 55 years. Primarily representing limited entry salmon set net permit holders from Kachemak Bay to the Susitna River, from the west side of Cook Inlet to the east side of the Kenai Peninsula.

Our Board of Directors and Staff have attended your outreach meetings. We also have reviewed the Draft Decision: Kasilof River Special Use Area (KARSUA), ADL 230992. In addition, we have also read the final Memorandum of Decision, Land Use Permit of the Kasilof Regional Historical Association, LAS 27627, dated 09.30.10. We are assuming that no appeal has been filed in regards to the fencing permit and that construction regardless of the outcome of the KARSUA decision will proceed in the spring of 2011.

KPF A is in full support of the LAS 27627. We believe that this is congruent with our mission of "Ensuring the Sustainability of Our Fishery Resources". The highly sensitive estuarine zone of the Kasilof River is vital to the protection of salmon and other aquatic life. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) is mandated to manage escapements into the River within a Biological Escapement Goal (BEG) or Maximum Sustained Yield (MSY). AS 38.04.910 (11) defines sustained yield as, "the achievement and maintenance on perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the state land consistent with multiple use".

We believe the adoption of the KARSUA is within the guidance of Article VIII, Natural Resources, Sections 4, 5 and 8 of our State constitution.

We support all efforts to continue with protecting sensitive dunes and the plant life that anchors the sandy region from increased erosion. We have requested the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) continue to fund refuse removal and to have adequate restroom facilities to manage human waste. Creating designated access points and improved parking will lessen the need to degrade the dunes.

We are surprised at the ADF&G Habitat Divisions lack of interest in designating this area as a critical habitat. We are mystified why no environmental assessment has been made on the negative effects of the expanding Personal Use (PU) fishing on the proposed KARSUA. We have heard several individuals complain on the management of the PU fisheries and question the Departments responsibility to conduct an orderly fishery with reasonable expectations. Managing a Board of Fisheries (BOF) mandated opportunity where the paramount Department concern is protecting the habitat for the Public Trust should be of high priority.

We are one of the original 16 groups that signed on to a letter to the Governor that expressed our desire to see the mouth of the Kasilof protected from overuse. Our Association's mission will continue to direct us to request the necessary funds from our state leaders to assist the DNR with managing this new KARSUA.

Even though we are very supportive of the actions proposed in XII Unit Specific Guidelines, Actions and Management, and also the statements VI The Issues, we have some real reservations on some of the key proposed actions.

1) We have asked the question in public on how the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will manage the commercial fisheries within the proscribed submerged land and waterways. The historical access to setnet fishermen to the beaches around the Kasilof River has been well documented. Fish processing facilities are present to support commercial fishing activities. Fishermen use the River to anchor their vessels (mooring) and to launch and haul out their vessels. The proposed area in front of the River is a designated Terminal Harvest Area. We insist that a clarified statement within the plan will give assurances to the commercial fishing industry that there will be no restrictions to any commercial fishing activities while they are operating or staging within the KARSUA.

2) We have read several reports and attended meetings centered on the discussion of developing a boat launch in the lower reaches of the River. We adamantly oppose any expenditure of State revenue that will implement a plan to construct any more vessel launch facilities on the Kasilof River. We believe that it is extremely premature to discuss this concept without a full Kasilof River use plan. Several private facilities are available at present and one very expensive state facility at the intersection of the Sterling Highway. We suggest that a current mid River private facility could be developed into a limited haul out for drift boats only. This would have to be considered only as a minimally invasive operation that will not upset the current carrying capacity of vessel traffic. We certainly do object to any power boat launch located in the lower reaches and oppose any inclusion of this concept to be included within the KARSUA.

In conclusion, we would like to commend the DNR in coming forth as the lead agency in addressing the real concerns of the area residents.

Many commercial fishermen are reluctant to fully support the proposed actions as they believe that they will somehow interfere with their livelihoods (private enterprise). KPFA is also fearful that increased development of the area will encourage the over use of the KARSUA and further exacerbate the efforts to protect and conserve this vital ecosystem.

We await your comments on our issues and look forward to addressing our concerns with the DNR in a special meeting with commercial fishermen or in a public forum.

Thank you,

Paul A. Shadura II, Executive Director

\*Mailed 12/3/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Kristi Sherman  
University of Alaska, Land Management  
Associate Director  
910 Yukon Drive, Suite 106  
Fairbanks, Ak 99775

Phone: (907)-450-8133  
Fax: (907)-450-8131

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 136 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

October 11, 2010

Department of Natural Resources Southcentral Region Office ATTN: Adam Smith or Raymond Keough 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 900C Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3577

Re: ADL 230992 Draft DNR Decision Kasilof River Special Use Area

Dear Mr. Smith and Mr. Keough :

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Department of Natural Resources ("DNR") proposed establishment of the Kasilof River Special Use Area (ADL 230992).

The Draft Decision: Kasilof River Special Use Area document dated September 2010, states that "This proposed action will be authorized pursuant to: 11 AAC 96.010(b), 11 AAC 96.014, 11 AAC 96.020, AS 38.04.200(a)(3), AS 38.05.020, AS 38.05.027, AS 38.05.035, AS 38.05.85."

Please be advised that University of ALASKA ("University") land and is not state land managed under the authority of the Department of Natural Resources or the provisions of AS 38 cited in the Draft Decision. In accordance with the provisions of AS 38.05.030(f) "Land owned by the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska is not subject to this chapter."

Because University lands are not under the authority of DNR or subject to the provisions of AS 38 cited above, DNR does not have the authority to include University lands within the boundaries of a DNR designated Special Use Area. Please revise the boundaries of DNR's proposed Kasilof River Special Use Area to clearly exclude all University-owned Lands.

If you need maps identifying University lands that are currently shown within the boundaries of the Kasilof River Special Use Area, please contact Jerry Kilanowski at (907) 786-766. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (907)450-8133.

Sincerely,

Kristi Sherman

Associate

\*Mailed 10/11/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Aaron Shewman  
421 Winfield Circle  
Anchorage, Ak 99515

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 137 of 163 - Submitted 10/18/2010 at 12:16 PM:

I am for the proposed draft decision. If the State of AK could restrict the use of motorized vehicles on this beach I would also be for this restriction. Currently there is far too much noise from inconsiderate yahoos with motorcycles, ATVs, etc roaring around all night!

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Ellen Simpson  
Dept F&G, Division of Sport Fish  
Habitat Biologist  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, Ak 99518

Phone: (907)-267-2463  
Alternate Phone: (907)-267-2342  
Fax: (907)-267-2464  
Email: ellen.simpson@alaska.gov

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 138 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

State of Alaska  
Department of Fish and Game

Division of Sport Fish

Memorandum

TO: Adam Smith

Natural Resource Manager

Department of Natural Resources

Division of Mining, Land and Water

FROM: Ellen Simpson

Habitat Biologist

DATE: December 10, 2010

SUBJECT: Draft Decision for the Kasilof River Special Use Area (ADL 230992)

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has reviewed the draft decision to create a Special Use Area at the mouth of the Kasilof River. The proposed Kasilof Special Use Area (KARSUA) would allow the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to actively manage state lands which currently receive intense use by the public especially during the personal use fisheries. The generally allowed uses (11 AAC 96.020) currently in effect are inadequate to manage these lands to maintain existing fish and wildlife habitat values and a safe and healthy environment suitable for public recreation. The establishment of the KARSUA should provide DNR with the tools and the authorities to actively manage this area for these values without adversely affecting the personal use fisheries or public access to fish and wildlife resources. ADF&G appreciates the effort DNR has taken to address our concerns in the draft decision however we still have two substantive issues: disposal of fish wastes and early staging of fishing gear.

Fish Waste Disposal- ADF&G does not have any regulations, guidelines or formal recommendations concerning the proper disposal of fish waste that are appropriate for

the fisheries at the mouth of the Kasilof River. We do recognize that you have already corrected this reference in your in-person presentations. Please remove any references to ADF&G guidelines for fish waste disposal from the KARSUA Decision. There are references on page 8, page 24 and page 25 of the draft decision. ADF&G staff is willing and is looking forward to working with DNR to create educational materials regarding proper fish waste disposal guidelines for the KARSUA.

Early Staging of Fishing Gear- Although it is not in regulation, the intent of the Board of Fisheries when establishing the personal use set net fishery was for net sites to be selected on a 'first come, first served' basis. We are concerned that the proposed management alternative requiring DNR land use permits (Draft Decision, page 18) for early site selection would conflict with ADF&G's interpretation of the intent of the BOF. It would also create conflicts between those fishermen with and those without DNR permits in addition to the current conflicts between fishermen for sites. We recommend that the KARSUA initially allow a reasonable time period to stage gear prior to the opening of the fishery and spend at least one season on the beach to research proposed solutions before adopting regulations requiring a land use permit.

Other Issues- The bulleted list of the issues on page 6 overstates the demand for a boat launch. We support the approach suggested by the proposed management alternatives on page 17 and recommend that the issues statement be consistent with the proposed management alternatives.

It would be more appropriate to replace the Kasilof River Salmon Management Plan (5 AAC 21.365) with the Upper Cook Inlet Personal Use Salmon Fishery Management Plan (5 AAC 77.540) in the listing of other plans on page 12.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and participate in the process. Please contact me at 267-2463 if you have any questions or need more information.

cc by email: Ginny Litchfield, ADF&G/Habitat Division, Soldotna

Robert Begich, ADF&G/SF, Soldotna

Tom Vania, ADF&G/SF, Anchorage

Jim Hasbrouck, ADF&G/SF, Anchorage

Pat Shields, ADF&G/CF, Soldotna

Jeff Selinger, ADF&G/WC, Soldotna

\*Above section is a memorandum that was sent via mail. Below is an emailed correction.

Adam -I omitted a factual correction from the comments I sent Friday. The second sentence in the Background section (page 9) that reads " ..... and the second largest source of Chinook (King) Salmon in the state" should be corrected to ..... and the second largest source of sockeye salmon on the Peninsula.

Ellen Simpson

Habitat Biologist

Division of Sport Fish - HQ

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

907-267-2463

\*Mailed 12/15/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Jody Simpson  
Legislative Affairs  
Finance Assistant  
600 East Railroad Avenue  
Wasilla, Ak 99654

Phone: (907)-376-4866  
Alternate Phone: (808)-862-3878  
Fax: (907)-373-4724  
Email: jody\_simpson@legis.state.ak.us

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 139 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

All,  
I see the comment period has been extended.

Thank you.

Jody

Jody Simpson

Staff to Senator Charlie Huggins

Senate District H

600 East Railroad Avenue

Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Tel: (907)376-4866

Toll Free: (800)862-3878

Fax: (907)373-4724

Jody Simpson@legis.state.ak.us

\*Emailed 11/15/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Jack E Sinclair  
Natural Resources  
Park Superintendent  
P.O. Box 1247  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-262-5581  
Fax: (907)-262-3717  
Email: jack.sinclair@alaska.gov

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 140 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Adam & Ray:

Congratulations on surviving the Kasilof meeting last night! You all did a great job of handling a colorful crowd. It was good for the Alaska Legislators to see the issues from the local's perspective. It was nice to have Brent Johnson there, as well.

Jack

\*Section with [ ] around them were original in red when emailed.

Here are a few of my observations on the Draft Decision:

[The Draft Decision starts off in the mission and purpose addressing only the impacts associated with the personal use fishery, not the drift sport fishery and its needs. That becomes implied later but is not clearly stated at the beginning.]

Page 5 II Management Alternatives:

[The first paragraph states in light of the "problem statements" it would be irresponsible to do nothing. There is no reference to problem statements anywhere else in the document so I am assuming this means the "VI Issues" on the following page.]

VI Issues: [The opening paragraph states that these are related to the personal use fishery demands. The bullets that follow state that there is a strong demand for a public boat launch/ takeout on the lower Kasilof River. While there may be a documented demand for a take out retrieval there is no evidence that a boat lunch is strongly supported. Rather it may be strongly opposed through this process. The question should be asked rather, Is there a demand? not a statement like there is a demand.]

VII. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:

Proposed Management Action(s)

-Fish waste should be disposed of in accordance with applicable ADF&G guidelines

[As far as I know no such guidelines exist.]

Page 10:

Public Boat Launch and Recovery: "Access to the lower river is a significant public and agency concern, as no public docks or ramps exist. The only developed public boat launch/and take out facility is approximately eight miles upstream of the mouth located at the Kasilof River State Recreation Site, adjacent to the bridge. A small private boat launch and pier owned by Ocean Beauty Seafoods LLC exists on the north-side of the mouth, but is limited to the commercial fishing fleet during the summer season. There are also a number of private docks in the river less than 3 miles from the mouth that support fish-processing facilities, and two private facilities in the lower river; one being a launch and recovery facility; the other only a take-out facility. These private facilities mainly cater to guided drift boats. The overwhelming need to secure a public facility on the lower river has become a public and agency priority. An agreement with a private dock or upland owner, with the DNR for the purpose of creating a dedicated public boat launch and/or takeout facility on the lower river can be a tangible solution to this river access problem. The lower river is also used for moorage by numerous fishing vessels and fish buyers".

[This section doesn't relate well to the PU fishery. Providing a power boat launch facility would change the culture of the PU fishery and cause a great many more issues with boating and public safety. I would strongly urge MLW to tread carefully here. There is a demonstrated need for a public boat retrieval but not a launch.]

Page 17: Facility is misspelled in the heading

LOWER KASILOF RIVER PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCH/RECOVERY FACILITY:

[Under Impacts- should be potential impacts

User conflicts between boaters to others has not been obvious or well noted.

Again, the launch in relation to the PU fishery is dangerous water and doesn't have a direct line to each other. but will if they develop a boat launch.

How fees would be collected for boaters launching at the bridge at Kasilof River SRS and then paying another fee to pull their boat out at a MLW site downriver perplexes me, (and it will do the same to the public!)

Page 24 ... no guidelines have been developed from ADF&G. No discussion of a fish cleaning facility as a proposed action.]

\*Emailed 10/28/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Cynthia & Daniel Smith  
Na  
Na, Ak NA

Email: cindysmit@acsalaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 141 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

I think the KRSUA proposal is on target to help with the issues and management on the Kasilof River. There are a few issues that I see as potential problems.

On page 19 regarding extended stays for up to 14 days don't seem to address the problem of congestion and overuse of the dunes and surrounding vegetation. This is not a public park and should be prohibited to overnight parking or camping like the Kenai River fisheries is managed. The management of the personal use fishery on the Kenai River seems to work well and we should try a similar management style on the Kasilof. This would also encourage RV parks in the local area to offer services for those that wish to stay overnight in the Kasilof area.

Also, on page 17 in regards to a public boat launch. Our neighborhood has been involved in the previous legislative sessions fighting against a partial federal funded public motorized boat access on the Kasilof. I live in one of the proposed sites for a public launch and do not agree with buying private property, in an established neighborhood, it would greatly impact our quality of life and our property values. I have received a recent email from Chenault's office from James King that there are "six possible drift boat takeout locations" and a more comprehensive study should be done on all proposed sites; I have not gotten a list of those locations but I hope there is a more reasonable site that has less impact to our neighborhoods. Also, this public boat access should only be considered as a drift boat takeout site, the Kasilof River is very narrow and congested, with a lot of commercial boats, and this influx of more users would devastate the character and ecology of the river if public motorized access was granted upriver of Seasonal Seafoods.

Look forward to more public meetings and information on the KRSUA project and especially interested in all information regarding a public boat ramp. Thank you.

Cynthia Smith

Daniel Smith

Kasilof, Alaska (19 years)

\* Emailed 11/15/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Dal Smith  
9471 West Brass Circle  
Wasilla, Ak 99654

Email: smittys@juno.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 142 of 163 - Submitted 12/09/2010 at 09:21 PM:

Regarding the proposed solutions to largely supposed problems surrounding this issue, I would like to address each of them.

Probably, my greatest concern is the proposed, USER FEES because there are almost no ways an Alaskan family can enjoy the outdoors, (Camping, Fishing, hiking, beach combing, to name only some.) without enough expense to discourage it. Such pastimes are therefore restricted to the more affluent, because they are the only ones who can afford it.

There are few places, where one can even park a vehicle without paying a parking fee. I find that every place, pullout, or wide shoulder on the road, that can be used to access an area of interest is blocked with huge ditches, huge boulders, and signage.

We as citizens, and owners of public lands, are restricted and therefore funneled into special areas, where we can be controlled, and charged money for facilities that aren't always needed, and/or wanted.

Surely, it is a legitimate use of public funds to provide any such facilities, that are reasonable, free of charge, so that EVERYONE who lives in Alaska can enjoy the great outdoors for the price of gas, and the operation, and maintenance of their vehicles. That is expensive enough.

ENFORCEMENT, has always been a statewide problem, due to a lack of Police to enforce the law. The User Fee money doesn't go for specific enforcement in areas where we pay the User Fees. Therefore, we cannot justify User Fees based on the need for "Enforcement".

I see no problem with Limiting Camping Days. Campers can enforce/report abuses themselves. without paying for so-called enforcement, that costs more than it's worth anyway.

CAMPING REGULATIONS can be posted at little cost, and paid for with public funds. No Big Deal.

SANITATION AND TOILET FACILITIES, should be provided where needed, with Public Funds, rather than User Fees.

If more facilities are needed, such as, more parking, boat launches, or access, down there they should be provided. However these things should not be used to justify more User Fees for the purpose of limiting the ACTUAL USE, of the area, which I'm

quite certain is the real motive for many people involved in this restrictive endeavor.

This stuff about, about "Degradation of dunes and associated wetlands from intensive recreational use" is overdone, IMO, and largely a tool that the Locals down there would use to keep from sharing the resource with those from elsewhere. It is a non-issue and therefore, easily rectified.

I've been there the last 4 years in a row, and I've not noticed any SHOOTING. I haven't even heard a shot. I conclude that this complaint is also a creation from the same people.

I believe that whatever Government, this falls under, be it, Federal, State, Local, or ALL of them, THEY, should be the ones to accomplish and pay for it, WITHOUT charging User Fees, and attempting to RESTRICT use of the resource.

Lord knows we pay enough in TAXES to all the Governments, to pay for this, many times over. Government should look to their priorities, rather than to the public for more Fees that will be misused anyway.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Nancy Sonafrank  
Environmental Conservation  
Environ Program Manager II  
610 University Ave.  
Fairbanks, Ak 99709

Phone: (907)-451-2726  
Fax: (907)-451-2187  
Email: nancy.sonafrank@alaska.gov

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 143 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) supports DNR's proposal designation of the Kasilof River Special Use Area and concurs with the need for additional authority to manage activities in this area. Of the management issues cited by DNR, DEC wishes to comment on the following two:

- Increased risk to public health and safety due to insufficient sanitation facilities.
- Irresponsible disposal of fish waste.

DEC appreciates the actions DNR has taken to improve sanitation at the beaches near the mouth of the Kasilof River and concurs that additional improvements to the location and capacity of the sanitation facilities are needed. DEC tested for enterococci and fecal coliform bacteria in six water samples taken from the beach on the north side of the mouth of the Kasilof River in July 2010 during the personal use fishery. Bacteria levels met the water quality standards for recreational use. DEC recommends additional bacteria monitoring to confirm the effectiveness of sanitation facilities and practices on the high use beaches on the north and south shores at the mouth of the Kasilof River. DEC plans to seek grant applications for beach monitoring on the Kasilof River in its FY20 11 beach grant solicitation.

DEC recommends that the public take normal safety precautions

- Avoid swallowing beach water.
- After being in contact with the beach waters, wash or shower
- After catching fish wash them in clean tap water.
- Cook fish and other seafood to a minimum of 145 degrees Fahrenheit internal temperature to destroy pathogens.
- Properly dispose of fish wastes and trash that may attract birds and other animals that are a source of bacterial contamination.

Fish wastes may degrade the quality of recreational waters when present in amounts that attract wildlife (e.g. birds) or create odors and unsightly wastes that impact recreation activities. DEC recommends the following progression of fish management practices implemented to the extent necessary to keep the beach clear of fish wastes.

-Post signs and/or distribute flyers to beach users on proper disposal of fish wastes and other sanitary practices.

-For low to moderate fishing activity,

- o Direct fishers to place fish wastes back in the water, not on the beach or upland areas; and
- o Rake the fish waste off the beach and into the water, as needed and preferably daily during highest use (i.e. weekends), timed with tides such that the wastes will be carried away from the beach.

-For high use fishing activity, when the practices above are not sufficient to keep the beaches clear of fish waste, DEC recommends the following alternatives.

- o Provide clearly labeled and covered containers for fish waste on the beach above the high tide line. Direct fishers to collect fish waste in buckets or bags, avoiding contact with beach sand. If the fish waste is ground before discharge, sand damages the grinders.

- o Take the fish waste to seafood processors that are allowed to grind and discharge under the limits set by their wastewater discharge permit.

- o Develop alternative disposal or reuse options (e.g. fertilizer, biodiesel). Please feel free to contact me at (907) 451-2726 or [nancy.sonafrank@alaska.gov](mailto:nancy.sonafrank@alaska.gov) if you have any questions regarding these recommendations.

Nancy Sonafrank

Program Manager

Water Quality Standards, Assessment and Restoration Program

610 University Ave.

Fairbanks, AK 99709

(907) 451-2726

fax: (907) 451-2187

[nancy.sonafrank@alaska.gov](mailto:nancy.sonafrank@alaska.gov)

\*Emailed 11/15/10.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Glenn Swan  
16811 Mercy  
Eagle River, Ak 99577

Phone: (907)-694-8747

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 144 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

I have been dip netting at the mouth of the Kasilof for years. I m afraid that your proposed plan will severely restrict access to state lane. I don t see how you have addressed the parking problem in fact you have made it worse. There needs to be more parking, the area on the south side across from the cannery behind the dunes should be incorporated into parking. The point that Cohoe loop drops onto the beach should be expanded and a turn around or at the very least a size restriction posted. I have seen 40 motor home pulling 4 place trailer pill down there and have no way out (dumb asses) and spend hours tying up beach access, making some folks real angry. Please don't cut off our access before you make it worse. For once step up to the plate and make it better. Stop the resections to open state lands!!!

Glenn Swan

694-8747

16811 Mercy, Eagle River, Alaska 99577

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

David Syre  
Trillium Corporation  
Chairman  
Na  
Na, Na Na

Phone: (360)-676-9400  
Fax: (360)-738-2912  
Email: kac@trilliumcorp.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 145 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Dear Adam,

Almost 30 years ago we purchased US Survey 83A from Alaska Packers Association. We have always considered US Survey 83A to be a very special place. The view corridors, land/sea relationship, sand dunes, bird life, water access. Plant life, wetlands, boat traffic, salmon runs and cultural values give this location abundant "soul".

For years the soul has been seriously compromised by a lack of management. US Survey 83A, along with neighboring properties, has been terrorized by short term public visitors who leave behind human waste, fish waste, rutted roads, injured plants and all forms of garbage. We have been at a loss as to how to manage our lands, giving this overwhelmingly inappropriate human behavior. We are pleased that the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources has provided leadership in advocating the Kasilof River Special Use Area should not include private lands. Therefore, we are prepared to sell US Survey 83A Tract B to the appropriate public entity.

Should the special use area not be formed for whatever reason, and US Survey 83A Tract B not be purchased by a public entity then we support closing the entire area to the public destruction of recent years.

Sincerely,

David Syre

David Syre/Chairman

Trillium Corporation

P 360-676-9400

F 360-738-2912

E kac@trilliumcorp.com

\*Emailed 10/26/10. Attachment with emails can be see with original email.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Kenneth E Tarbox  
Retired Biologist  
Box 3507  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-262-7767  
Email: tarbox@ptialaska.net

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 146 of 163 - Submitted 11/08/2010 at 04:31 PM:

The purpose of this email is to support the creation of a Special Management Area at the mouth of the Kasilof River. I have written in the past about the ecological value of this area to nesting birds, wildlife, and adjacent fishery resources. The proposed SMA is a viable way to stop the degradation of these habitats and to control future use patterns that are sustainable.

Thank you for taking the political risk to suggest this alternative.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Laura Telford  
36510 Fox Rd  
Anchor Point, Ak 99556

Phone: (907)-226-2616  
Email: alaskanadventure@gmail.com

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 147 of 163 - Submitted 11/13/2010 at 08:40 AM:

Please review the recommendations from the Cook Inletkeeper and others and devise a plan to protect the Kasilof for future generations of Alaskans.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Daniel Thompson  
P.O. Box 670562  
Chugiak, Ak 99567

Phone: 907-269-8711  
Email: dan.thompson@alaska.gov

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 148 of 163 - Submitted 11/02/2010 at 12:55 PM:

The Kasilof Special Use Area provides an outstanding opportunity to educate the public about cultural resources, Alaskan archaeology, and history. The area under consideration is not only biologically-rich, but used for thousands of years by MANY different users.

-the Kasilof River was center of the Kenaitze seasonal round; they were the first to install large and complex (AND VERY NEAT!!) fish traps on the river.

-The first human migrants drawn to the Kasilof River were the Kachemak Eskimo of the Kodiak and Alaska Peninsula, by about 2000-3000 years ago. Their sites are found all over the area

-The first cannery on the Kenai Peninsula was built at the Kasilof River in the late 1870s

-Graves of norwegian cannery workers are nearby and could be used to teach about the socially-diverse cannery period. The cannery period could be explored further.

-Canneries were one of the most important parts of the territorial economy. -The use of fish traps and localized overfishing led to the first fish conservation efforts, a struggle that contributed to our fight for statehood in 1959.

-Several large house pit features (Prehistoric houses??) are located directly in the planned APE, and could be cleared of grass and used for possible interp purposes.

-Many users come as families, with children, and spend considerable time camping, or just waiting for the fish. This is a teachable audience

-By exposing the public to the site's long and complex history, they might see themselves PART of this fascinating continuum. This could only lead to stewardship and appreciation of the area.

-I imagine a modest number of interp panels along a recreational trail through the dune fields. Panels could have historical photographs, and be placed overlooking these cultural resources (ie House pits) to trigger contemplation and interest.

I hope these comments help. As an archaeologist and historian I am happy to provide additional historical information, sources etc. to help develop the site with public education in mind.



# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Gregory Tressler  
P.O. Box 316  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Email: gtressler@mac.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 149 of 163 - Submitted 11/11/2010 at 09:12 PM:

I strongly support the KRSUA proposal as laid out, except for the public boat launch, and would like to recommend an addition. Here are my opinions on these two items. DEGRADATION OF DUNES AND WETLANDS. On the north side of the Kasilof, a large portion of the dunes are located on private property (Ocean Beauty Seafoods). This section falls within the boundaries from the chain link fence at the south end of State land to the north shore of the Kasilof and from the mean high tide east to the road into the processing facility. This section received heavy use and damage this summer and would not come under the protection of your plan. I would like to suggest that you contact Ocean Beauty about possible transfer of ownership, either through donation or purchase of this section or secure permission to include this area for fencing/protection also. LOWER KASILOF RIVER PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCH/RECOVERY FACILITY. I based my commercial fishing out of the Kasilof for 15 years so I feel I have a fairly good knowledge of the lower river. I also remember when the public had access for dipnetting. Even back then I saw a lot of mishaps with the small boats used for this fishery, swamping and near misses. Back then there weren't near as many dipnetting boats as there will be now. Tidal action has a much stronger effect on the Kasilof than it does on the Kenai due to the narrowness of the river. There are times when there will be standing waves due to the outflow. The commercial fleet creates large wakes that traverse the width of the river (no place to hide) and the size of these wakes is greatly multiplied by the outflow also. I strongly recommend against putting in a public boat launch that will give access to the lower Kasilof. I really don't think that it is a safe idea. It's also been shown that the general public doesn't want a boat launch facility in a pre-existing subdivision. Reasons for this were increased road traffic, noise, wear and tear on the roads and the lack of respect for adjacent private property to name a few. Even the empty are drift boat trailers are noisy enough to wake you as they bounce down the road at 5am. I would be in favor of a drift boat pullout as long as it was located outside of a subdivision. Thank you for your time.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Jim Trujillo  
Ed's Kasilof Seafoods  
President  
P.O Box 18  
Kasilof, Ak 99610

Phone: (907)-262-7295  
Alternate Phone: (907)-262-3702  
Email: eks@alaska.net

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 150 of 163 - Submitted 12/06/2010 at 09:58 AM:

To Whom It May Concern;

As a 42 year resident of the Kasilof area and former manager of a boat take-out on the Kasilof River and former board member of the Kasilof River Board. I want to support the effort of establishing a Kasilof River Special Management Area.

Over the years the demand for access to the natural resources of the Kasilof River has grown tenfold as has the degradation of the habitat. For these reasons we need to regulate how this area is being used and for what uses. A well defined and managed use area will ensure a long lasting resource base without the conflicts that have happened in the past.

Sincerely

Jim Trujillo

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

William Tyrell  
602 Mumford Street  
Anchorage, Ak 99508

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 151 of 163 - Submitted 11/15/2010 at 09:24 AM:

I am certainly in favor of the DNR maintaining the area and providing sanitation facilities as needed in order to protect public health. I am very opposed to what will result from this proposal and that will be user fees. The state as a whole has the responsibility to maintain state facilities and property. Whether I personally visit the area or not, as a citizen, I share responsibility to maintain it. With a user fee, visitors pay way more than their fair share. Certain visitors trash the place and we all share responsibility to clean it up, not only the people who visit and generally take care of the place or minimally do not trash it. Some people can not afford the incremental cost of a user fee and therefore are excluded from what they should be able to freely share with their wealthier neighbors. Life is expensive enough and sometimes the 5 or ten dollars, that some kind of weird "conventional wisdom" says that everyone always has access to, can be the dealbreaker for a family living close to the edge. So I am adamantly against the proposal because it will lead to additional exclusionary practices by our state.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Ezra Mitchell Vann, Jr.  
P.O. Box 3041  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Email: mitchvann@yahoo.com

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 152 of 163 - Submitted 11/15/2010 at 12:11 PM:

Kasilof River Special Use Area

If the current laws and regulations were enforced there would be no need for a special use area. I oppose any changes to the way the public has access to this area. Regards,  
Mitch

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Randal L Vasko  
P.O. Box 810  
Kasilof, Ak 99510

Phone: (907)-598-1909

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 153 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

Public Comment Form KRSUA - ADL 230992 I am a land owner of @35 acres boarding the river at mile one and adjacent to the state parcels on the south side of river, I have attended the Kasilof, Mat-Su and KPB assembly meetings. I am also involved in the sport fish, commercial & personal use fisheries along with the basic enjoyment of the beach and wildlife within the area.

This is a special area with relatively easy access which has caused the numerous problems that have been increasing for the past few years. These problems have increased the burden on DNR, KPB, the local residents, and all of the transient users themselves. "They are loving the area to death." I support the creation of the KRSUA.

I also strongly suggest a fee schedule for all personal use fish permits that are presently given away at no -charge to \$25.00 per permit, paid for at the time of issue. In 2009, # 29,619 permits were issued. If a \$25.00 fee were implemented for each issued, it would result in @ \$750,000.00 in funding. This funding would be allocated for the creation of vaulted toilet facilities, trash facilities, parking, road improvements, labor and enforcement costs. This would alleviate DNR and other agencies of having the legislature appropriate or worse yet not appropriate funds yearly as is now the case. This in turn would create a better experience for all users, the state and also ensure the protection of the resource and habitat.

I also would like to ensure that if created, KRSUA, The DNR other than the shore-fishery lease for the set-nets will not in any way curtail or impede the commercial and or sport fish fisheries, including the terminal fisheries when needed due to over-escapement ( commercial) concerns.

In regards to a boat launch / takeout, I think this is a good idea as the Kasilof has no lower river launch or harbor at this time. Given the different user groups: personal use, sport-drift boats, set-net skiffs, commercial drift boats and recreational users that want to halibut fish, cross the inlet, go to Kalgin Island, duck hunting, bird viewing or just taking in the beautiful scenery & tranquility of the area, etc &All of these groups are important and the location of a boat launch / retrieval should be appropriately located to best serve all of these user groups most effectively and make sure no group or groups are disenfranchised by its location thus catering to one group at a loss to the other groups.

The boat launch/ retrieval is a definitely needed facility for all user groups to add safety, access, enjoyment and a sense of order to this lovely area.

Another potential possibility is the creation of a small boat harbor. It's been done numerous times before in the state, although a larger plan. Federal & State funding through both U.s. & State Senators and Representatives is a distinct possibility. Kasilof presently has no boat harbor.

Well ladies & gentlemen that is all for now. As stated earlier, the DNR's KRSUA is a much needed & welcome plan. No one likes change, but you have to change with the times or you get left behind. "It's not the wild, Wild West any-more but we can see it from here."

Thank You for your time & efforts,

Randal L. Vasko PO Box 810 Kasilof, AK 99510 (907) 598-1909

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

John Velsko  
Retired  
Box 2269  
Homer, Ak 99603

Phone: (907)-235-7836  
Alternate Phone: (907)-299-1215  
Email: jvelsko@hotmail.com

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 154 of 163 - Submitted 11/08/2010 at 04:30 PM:

I am in support of establishing a Kasilof Special Use Area, however I am not in favor of construction of a public boat launch ramp in the area as it will only add to pollution and congestion problems already there. Also, camping should be restricted to 3 days maximum stay and a day rate charged for camping and parking with a portion of the fees dedicated to site clean up and restoration efforts.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Teddi Ann Velsko  
Retired  
Box 2269  
Homer, Ak 99603

Phone: (907)-235-7836  
Alternate Phone: (907)-299-1945  
Email: teddivelsko@hotmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 155 of 163 - Submitted 11/17/2010 at 02:45 PM:

I am in favor of a Special Use Area designation for the mouth of the Kasilof River - it is long over due. The hordes of inconsiderate non-residents who are destroying this fragile habitat during the summer months need to be regulated and more importantly educated in good manners. Most of these folks don't live on the Peninsula & so don't have any qualms about trashing the landscape & destroying salmon habitat. Please do not include in your plans the construction of a public boat ramp as this will only lead to more abuse of the river & shoreline. Finally, why is your Department holding a special meeting on this matter in Wasilla? - What special status do they have as regards Kasilof River management versus Kenai Peninsula residents? I smell something rotten.  
Teddi Velsko Homer, Alaska

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Paul Voeller  
Kenai Peninsula Borough  
Platting Officer  
144 North Binkley  
Soldotna, Ak 99669

Phone: (907)-714-2212  
Alternate Phone: (907)-714-2200  
Fax: (907)-714-2378  
Email: pvoeller@borough.kenai.ak.us

### Topic: **Draft Decision**

Comment 156 of 163 - Submitted 11/29/2010 at 02:19 PM:

I would like to request that the eastern 30 feet of those State of Alaska lands located within the eastern portion of Section 1, Township 3 North, Range 12 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska (being considered to become part of the Kasilof River Special Use Area) be allowed to be dedicated for a north to south roadway that currently has a half dedication on the western portion of the east 1/16 line of said section. This half dedication is currently named Brillantes Street and has had a partial dedication since 1976.

This would allow for the construction of a suitable roadway at some point in the future if the need were to arise and the route deemed suitable for roadway construction.

Thanks you very much for your consideration of this request.

Paul Voeller

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Franklin Waldron  
Pobox39093  
Ninilchik, Ak 99639

Phone: (907)-3980238  
Email: fwaldron@acsalaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 157 of 163 - Submitted 11/05/2010 at 09:33 AM:

Thankyou for this opportunity to comment. This Special use area at Kasilof mouth is both necessary and overdue. My wife and I have used the area south of the river mouth recreationally for many years. This is a unique and special area. I have watched the erosion of the dunes increase over the last thirty years due to vehicle traffic. This traffic is not only from dipnetters, and occurs before, during, and after the personal use season. We see unsupervised adolescents drive in upon local trails and tear up the turf. For a while the tire marks of four wheel drive vehicles showed where they had driven over and crushed the young spruce. It is not possible for ADFG to patrol this area all the time. A fence along with designated vehicle corridors as shown in Kasiliof Special Use Area map six is the only way to slow this damage. I appreciate the ongoing efforts to provide sanitary facilities. The human waste problem has diminished, but remains a problem. Facilities near the mouth are required.  
Frank Waldron

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

George Wallin II  
8050 Medellin Unit B  
Anchorage, Ak 99507

Phone: (907)-242-9470  
Alternate Phone: (907)-522-9440  
Email: dnswallin@gmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 158 of 163 - Submitted 11/24/2010 at 12:29 PM:

Hello I am Alaska Native who has lived in Alaska for 40+'s years and have fished (set Netting) the Kasilof River for 8+'s years and my sister 15+'s years. Kasilof is one of the best places to take my family and provide food for part of the winter months. So I say to you isn't there enough costs around the states parts. And now you all are thinking about charging me to provide for my family. What's wrong with this picture? People will start having to break ground where there is no charge because the way the economy is taking us, and we don't want our lands to messed up like in other states. SO PLEASE DON'T TAKE THE LANDS OUR FOREFATHERS FOUGHT FOR US, TO HAVE THE FREEDOMS LIKE BEING ON THE MOUTH OF THE KASILOF. Thank You for your time. George Wallin II

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Wade Willis  
P.O. Box 100965  
Anchorage, Ak 99510

Email: [sciencenowproject@gmail.com](mailto:sciencenowproject@gmail.com)

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 159 of 163 - Submitted 11/15/2010 at 10:29 AM:

I support the DNR addressing negative impacts to the wetlands and sand dune areas at the mouth of the Kasilof river but I am disappointed that the state is relegating effective management of ORV use to only special use areas.

This significantly limits the DNR in addressing chronic statewide negative impacts by ORV's on DNR managed state lands.

11 AAC 96.020 clearly gives the state the authority to regulate ORV use:

" if use off the road easement does not cause or contribute to water quality degradation, alteration of drainage systems, significant rutting, ground disturbance, or thermal erosion."

Certainly, significant rutting and ground disturbance's have occurred.

The DNR states that requiring a permit to use ORV's at the mouth of the river would be an "administrative burden", yet, the DNR appears to think developing and managing a special use area would not be an administrative burden. That \$40,000 a year to manage human waste would not be a burden. That allowing large trucks to service the "waste" stations would not increase the impacts of the existing "trail" along the sand dunes.

The real issue is the lack of enforcement authority. Instead of addressing this issue as a statewide problem and petitioning the legislature to authorize a bailable citation program, the DNR is subverting the long term solution for a single location quick fix.

ORV use on state lands is a chronic issue across much of the state. While the SUA designation may provide the tools for dealing with the Kasilof river problem, it does little to address the issue on a statewide level.

If the DNR continues to avoid the fundamental issue which is a lack of statewide regulatory enforcement capability, the DNR will continue to be ineffective at addressing ORV use on state lands.

I would suggest that the DNR should have used this situation as a perfect example for the need to address the long term issue of ORV use on ALL state lands by requesting a regulatory enforcement program.

Engage the public on the need for such a program to address the Kasilof issue under existing regulations found in 11 AAC 96.020. This is a perfect opportunity for the DNR to bolster resident and legislative support for such a program. Deferring effective ORV

management to only SUA's is a short sighted fix, although, it may be effective in this one case.

Essentially, the DNR is willing to win one battle, but lose the war by refusing to manage state lands along the Kaslof river corridor under 11 AAC 96.020.

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Barry Mitchell Wise  
Retired  
6580 E. King Salmon Dr.  
Wasilla, Ak 99654

Phone: (907)-746-7807  
Email: bswise@mtaonline.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 160 of 163 - Submitted 11/10/2010 at 02:03 PM:

November 8, 2010

Kasilof River Special Use Area (KARSUA) Proposal ADL 230992

### KARSUA Response

First of all I find it a bit ironic that most, if not all, of the original proposals concerning the personal use fisheries, on or around the Kasilof River, were written and submitted by commercial fishermen. I don't know of a single group in the state of Alaska having a more vested interest in undermining or removing the personal use fishery from the very people who need it the most. When one takes a serious look at the proposals submitted by this group over the past many years, it's not much of a leap coming to the conclusion that this group honestly believes every fish in the state of Alaska belongs to them. I often wonder how many of these commercial fishermen actually live year round in the state of Alaska. If I'm not mistaken, I believe one of the first requirements of a person seeking to enter the personal use fishery is they have to be a legal resident of this state.

I'm sure if we personal use folks were to organize as a group, we could flood your desks with proposals concerning the abuse, greed and lack of integrity which in most cases seems to be a prerequisite to becoming a commercial fisherman. I can't say that every person engaging in the personal use fishery is a law abiding citizen, but for the most part the ones I've come to know over the years are just simple Alaskan folks trying to put up food for the year.

In our camp we are on a first name bases with the Fish & Game officers patrolling the beach and they visit our camp often throughout the season to chat and find out how things are going. Our camp has hauled our waste and garbage off of the beach and disposed of it in a safe and sanitary manor at least three or four times a week every season we have fished. When we brake down our camp at the end of the season you can't tell we were ever there.

I've been disabled since 1989 with severe occupational asthma and a condition called porphyria. I'm on a fixed income and the porphyria prevents me from being able to eat red meat. The bulk of my yearly household diet is the fish I catch from this personal use set net fishery. I wouldn't be able to get my fish without the help of friends, (Two of which are retired Fish & Game employees), and they fish the same net and stay in the same camp as I do. When we're done filling our permits, if we fill our permits, we

fish proxy permits for elderly and/or disabled folks that can't fish for themselves any longer. How any of us on a fixed income, let alone the disabled or elderly folks, would fit into or survive these new proposals is a mystery to me.

I don't have a problem with the proposed boat launch; I think that idea is long overdue.

I don't have a problem with fencing the dunes; I've seen the misuse and destruction of that property over the years with my own eyes. However, I doubt the fence will stay intact if it is not patrolled all year.

My hope is that this fishery won't become just another in a long line of benefits lost to long time Alaskans and become available only to those who can afford it. My hope is that DNR won't jump the gun without further consideration and input from not just the public, but from other agencies that could and should have a say in this most important matter.

Sincerely, Barry Wise 6580 E. King Salmon Dr. Wasilla, AK. 99654 907-746-7807  
bswise@mtaonline.net

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Barry Wise  
6580 E. King Salmon Dr.  
Wasilla, Ak 99654

Phone: (907)-746-7807  
Email: bswise@mtaonline.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 161 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 12:00 PM:

November 8, 2010

Kasilof River Special Use Area (KARSUA) Proposal ADL 230992

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Sincerely,

Barry Wise

6580 E. King Salmon Dr.

Wasilla, AK. 99654

907-746-7807

bswise@mtaonline.net

\*Mailed 11/8/10

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Elise Wolf  
P.O. Box 15303  
Fritz Creek, Ak 99603

Phone: 541-728-8208  
Email: ewolf@alaska.net

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 162 of 163 - Submitted 11/11/2010 at 10:46 AM:

My family has fished the Kasilof River since the 1960s. We have watched the river deteriorate over that period. ATVs, fishing line everywhere, people leaving trash and fish guts everywhere, and just the overall disrespect.

This river, while smaller than the Kenai, is absolutely gorgeous. A lot of people have built homes along the river now and the banks have eroded, but there are still quite wild places and a lot of reason to protect what you can.

My family and I wholeheartedly support the proposed Special Use Area. We would also encourage the restriction of lead weights and the requirement that people clean up fishing line. As well as fishing, we are bird watchers and cringe at the thought of merganzers getting tied up into fishing line or poisoned by lead shot.

Thank you,

Elise Wolf and family

# DNR - Mining, Land & Water Online Public Comment

## Kasilof River Management

Kathryn Zerbe  
5722 Camp Rd  
Houston, Mo 65483

Phone: (907)-967-9679  
Email: ktheg@hotmail.com

### Topic: Draft Decision

Comment 163 of 163 - Submitted 12/10/2010 at 08:40 PM:

Until recently, I have been a resident of the Kenai Peninsula for thirty-five years. I have counted it a privilege to dwell in one of the most beautiful places in the nation. I have responsibly enjoyed its resources and have considered myself a fortunate wanderer among the thriving flora and fauna of the region. My appreciation for the land I have called home for so many years, and the stewardship of its local residents is now extended to the agencies responsible for drafting this important document. Because there are those in the general populace who do not share the same high regard for this land and its cherished resources, these measures are an inevitable necessity. The time is now to implement such measures and I applaud those who have initiated the process.

Though I no longer reside in the state, I have acquired a small parcel of property and cabin in Kasilof quite near the proposed special use area, and plan on extending my Alaskan experience into my elder years. Thank-you for your efforts in keeping Alaska such a great land.

