

**Kachemak Bay State Park
Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday September 12, 2012**

I. Call to Order

- A. Members Present:** Steve Schultz, Mike Flora, Glenn Green, David Taylor, Roger MacCampbell, Mako Haggerty, Nancy Hillstrand and Willie Dunn.

Staff Present: Chief Ranger MacCampbell and Pam Russell Alaska State Park permitting officer.

- B. The Minutes** from the May 9, 2012 were approved as written.

- C. Agenda:** The agenda was approved.

- D. Correspondence-** Letter from Nina Faust the Seldovia Village Tribe regarding the proposed Heli-skiing application.

- E. Introduction of Visitors-**Dave Brann-The Kachemak Bay Nordic Ski Trail maintains the Eveline State Recreation Site year round for Alaska State Parks. The park is located 12.5 miles out East End road. From September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012 there have been 2078 visitors, 472 more than the previous year. This is based off those who sign the trail registered when visiting the site. Visitors range from many different states and countries. The biggest attraction for visitors is the wildflowers and the glacier views. David is hoping to print a brochure with a list of all the wildflowers found in the area. For local visitors they enjoy trail walking and dog running on the trail. This trail is wheel chair accessible. An invasive species of Orange Hawkweed was found in the area and removed. On the week end of September 15th and 16th from 1pm to 4pm a work party will help in spreading 40 yards of D1 gravel to extend the wheel chair accessible trail. All help is appreciated. The club has log over 208 volunteer hours providing such services as grooming the trail and clearing the trail of debris.

The Kachemak Bay Water trail is progressing. The committee is currently working on a RFP to develop a website. The website would identify resources along the trail from the end of Homer spit to Seldovia such as launch sites, landings, hiking trails, campsites and or special places. They committee will be asking the borough for a letter of support. Aqua Kids were in the area filming several shows the whole season in Alaska from the Valley to Kachemak Bay.

F. Committee Reports

- a. **Operations Reports-** Chief Ranger Roger MacCampbell handed out a summary of the operations report for the Kachemak Bay State Park. This included projected that were completed since the May 9, 2012 meeting. Some of the highlights included Trails Day that was very successful with over 50 participants; Work with H.O.W.L. and crew to establish a designated climbing area, closing a hazard area and creating a "Day Use" area and designated campsites at Kachemak Crack. The new bridge for lower Humpy Creek will be ordered for installation in 2013. Cook Inlet is willing to help in rebuilding Slide Hole trail at Anchor River.

Kachemak State Park Technician Eric Clarke submitted a report to the board outlining work completed in the 2012 season. Some of the highlights include upgrades to the Halibut Cove Lagoon Ranger Station and work on trails and campsites within the park.

- b. **Friends Report-**Mako reported that a meeting was held several weeks ago, several members attend. At this time the committee has approximately \$5000 dollars in the account. The committee is looking at updating the database and doing some sort of outreach to reach past members. The groups will meet prior to September 29, 2012 that is National Public Lands Day. This is the general membership first meeting at Island and Oceans at 7pm. There will be dessert and a slide show will be presented by Mike McBride looking at ways to protecting parks. This meeting is also for the elections of new board members.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Board Members Application-Three new applications have been received and the application period is open until October 1, 2012. Roger asked that this get tabled to the October meeting. Paul Heuper has resigned from the board.

- b. Board Priorities: Nothing to Report.

- i. Ranger I position
 - ii. Convert ACC to Tech position
 - iii. Convert Eric Clarke from 8 to 10 month position
 - iv. Diamond creek: mgt plan and capital
- c. Letters to Paul Seaton-Mako Haggerty has a rough draft of the letter. He will send this draft letter to Chair David Taylor for additional information.
 - d. Fat bikes on trail: The current regulation changes are being review by our Deputy Director Claire LeClair. Also, Chugach Ranger Matt Wedding is working on some other changes that allow fat bike tires on certain trails. Research has shown that the weight distribution on the bikes does not have an adverse effect on the trails. Roger is also looking in changing the regulation to address all terrain handicap bikes for use on the trails. This is currently illegal.
 - e. Wet Dog Race-Roger reported that he thought the permit had been issued, but that they were not permitted to go through Nuka Bay. Willie Dunne Commented that the map on line still reference the course going through Nuka Bay.
 - f. Regulation changes concerning lakes to float planes: Roger reported that the regulations are in a holding pattern. The lakes that are in questions are Wosnesenski and the Grewingk Lake.
 - c. Kachemak Bay State Park brochure promotes activities that are not allowed in the park. These activities include snow machine riding and four wheelers. New brochures are not schedule to be printed at this time.
 - d. Roger also reported about the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and the rearing permit outside of Halibut lagoon was not very successful this year. It has not been determined if the project will proceed in 2013.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Heli-skiing meeting report: - Roger reported that there were 2 applications submitted. Jeffery Lee was one that requested that huts be built within the Kachemak Bay Wilderness Park. This request was denied for the structures only. The other application is Njord Rota who has submitted an application with and operational plan and map. Roger reported that helicopter landing are not banned n the park, but per state park regulation it is allowed only by a directors determination, which can include public comment. (11AAC 20.110 states that the use of aircraft is allowed in Kachemak Bay State Park on saltwater, except gravel bars, Emerald Lake, China Poot Lake, and Petrof Lake except for the purpose of practice landings . A person may not land a helicopter in Kachemak Bay State Park without a permit from the director under 11 AAC 18.) There are landing zones that do exist that are still there but have not been used. A director's determination is required for this activity.

Thomas McDonough from Alaska Department of Fish and Game reported that mountain goats are the less studied ungulate in Alaska. They have a slowest reproduction and there life history is 4-5 years old before they have their first birth. The adult female will only whine 3 to 4 young in there life time. Thomas gave a paper called northern Mountain Sheep and Goat Council in 2004, titles "NWSGC Position Statement on Helicopter-supported recreation an mountain goats".

Mid May to June is when the females give birth and mating occurs in November.

Stock assessments formula is based on counts that may occur every 2 to 4 years. ADF&G does not have good data on the mountain goat population. Permits have been restricted because of the unknowns.

Introduction of Visitors

Other comments:

1. David Rascan asked that the State Parks look at all the research including the current operation in the Chugach Nation Forest in Anchorage prior to issuing the permit. David also quoted from the paper that helicopter activity should not occur on or near occupied ranges between November 15 – April 30 each year. Observing wildlife in the area of the landing zones is a concern, but noise also needs to be considered.
2. Tony Doyle asked that State Parks to scale back the operations. Once the permit is issued is it a done deal? Gather information before issuing the permit. . Heli-skiing would be an up and down operation and motorized vehicles just don't seem to fit into a wilderness area.
3. Chuck Lindsey: This is a wilderness park. Wilderness and the wilderness character that hut fits better than the helicopters in the park.
4. Roberta Hyland: This is a wilderness park, start from square one to start. A lot of helicopter landing in the park does not fit in the park. The business wants it done quickly should not be done. Don't move quickly, the

management plan is outdated, talk more about the impact. Lets first start with updating management plan. Fish and Game there is not enough money for research and that should be a clue. A Fish and Game base line should be established prior to issuing the permit.

5. Greg Brier: See what happens with the operations in Seldovia fist, before issue a state park permit.
6. Gary Schultz asked if State Parks could work with the pilots and the operators on looking for wildlife prior to landing.
7. Margo Rascan-When you ski you don't what to here helicopter.
8. Andrew Peters- Can the public reviews the operational plan that was submitted by Njords Rota. Can it be made available electronically?
9. Dan Delmissier asked why the huts were denied in the park. A copy of the denial letter was given for him to review. Roger explained the regulations regarding why structures are prohibited in the park.
10. Jeffrey Lee asks about his new permit application which requested that the huts be built in the State Park and not the wilderness park. The skiing in this area is great and he is trying to provide an area that is easily accessible and not always motorized. Wilderness is a park that they should be able to go skiing and not be run over by a motor. A place that is safe for skiing.

Roger stated that we need to review all available information before a determination is made. Roger asks who skies over there. And ask if they would provide information of where and how many times you go over a year.

The board proposed a motion to continue discussion on this issue to the October 11, 2012 meeting. Electronic copies of the permit applications are available to the board, public, and no formal recommendation from the board will be given until all information is reviewed, to request a comment from Fish and Game on the impact on wildlife and a State Park public comment period is held prior to the permit is issued

Nancy moved to accept the motion and Mako 2nd the motion.
The motion was passed unanimously.
Mako asked why the applicant was not present for the meeting

- b. Officer nomination for 2012-2013
Mako nominated David Taylor was nominated for chair with Will Dunne as Vice Chair.
David nominated Willie Dunne was nominated as Chair with Willie nominated Nancy Hilstrand as Vice Chair.
Willie nominated Nancy Hilstrand was nominated as Chair.

IV. COMMENT and discussion by Board Members

V. ADJOURNMENT

VI. Date/Agenda of Next Meeting October 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.