



## KACHEMAK BAY STATE PARK & STATE WILDERNESS PARK



### PUBLIC SCOPING WRITTEN COMMENTS

Between November 2013 and May 2014, the Department of Natural Resources accepted written comments as part of the initial scoping phase for the Kachemak Bay State Park and State Wilderness Park management plan revision process. Written comments covered a wide range of issues and have been grouped accordingly. Names are listed only where the name of the individual or organization was expressly stated within the body of the comment.

The planning team would like to thank those that took the time to submit written comments. The following is a summary of what we learned.

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#### GENERAL

##### COMMUNICATION

- Deadline for submitting questionnaire not listed on website.
- How do we get questionnaires submitted via snail mail?
- Not clear how questionnaire should be submitted.

##### PLANNING PROCESS

- Holding a meeting during working hours is ludicrous. Does your office not wish too much input from working Alaskans?
- Alaska State Parks would serve the outdoor public more appropriately during the planning process by reporting back to the public how closely the 1995 management plan has come to achieving its legislatively intended goal.
- Prior to involving the public in any pre-planning process for revisiting the KBSP plan the legislative intent creating the park and wilderness area would be better served by having AK State Parks prepare a report on how well the 1995 management plan has been implemented. Since State Parks has chosen not to make that information available and instead made public their questionnaire, the best the outdoor public user can do at this point is to inform State Park's planners of what activities, consistent with scenic park values, they would choose to participate in while enjoying KBSP over the next 20 years.
- DNR should work closely with ADF&G to review the management plans for the state park and critical habitat area simultaneously because some of the activities that occur in waters of the state park are the same activities that occur in the entire bay which is designated as critical habitat.
- In updating user activity, you should undertake an informal survey not only to get a better idea of the amount of birding activity, but where in the Kachemak Bay area this activity occurs.
- Russian Jack Park is a strange location to host this open house. As a 35 year resident of Homer and Kachemak Bay, I would request that DNR holds this activity on the lower Kenai Peninsula.
- Why in the world is the open house in Anchorage when the Park is in and around Homer? Are we all supposed to take off work so we can attend the open house? Doesn't make a whole lot of sense to me.
- One would think that Homer, the major access point, will receive more than one scoping meeting.
- Outlined on your website regarding this planning process I see that steps 3 & 4 state to prepare and evaluate land use alternatives and prepare a draft plan. I would like to recommend that

DNR follow the National Parks lead when it comes to putting together alternatives regarding specific uses in the parks, particularly personal watercraft use.

#### PLAN CONTENT AND FORMAT

- Generally speaking the current management plan is quite good and still relevant. There isn't much need for change other than to update information, particularly user group activity, but updating user group activity may point out the need to improve some facilities (ex. trails) as well as the need for management action (ex. regulations) to avoid conflict between user groups.
- In general, I like the provisions of the 1995 plan. Not all of them, but I think it strikes a fair balance among various values and uses of KBSP and KBSWP. I hope the new plan retains the spirit and substance of the 1995 plan and does not deviate from it in any significant way.
- If the forthcoming KBSP and KBSWP Management Plan does not function to stop and even reverse the human caused losses we've experienced, it is ill conceived.
- KBCS does not want to see this management plan weakened in any way. Protecting our State Parks and Wilderness Areas becomes even more important as the present push for resource development continues to threaten our precious lands and water.
- The current plan looks pretty good.
- A portion of the KBSP, along with southern Kachemak Bay, overlaps with the legislatively designated Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area (CHA). The CHA is managed primarily by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). DNR, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) and ADF&G manage the overlap area consistent with a 1989 Cooperative Agreement. The revised plan should clearly describe the areas of Kachemak Bay that are contained both within the KBSP and the CHA. The plan should also identify that ADF&G Special Area Permits may be required for activities subject to AS 16.20.530 and 5 AAC 95. Based on the 1995 plan organization, reference to ADF&G CHA management should be included in Land Status (Chapter 2); Regional Recreation Providers, State of Alaska (Ch. 3); Issues (Ch. 4); including Access, Aircraft and Motor Vehicle Use, Facility Development, Commercial Activities, Fish Enhancement Activities, and Mariculture; Recommendations (Ch. 7); and Plan Review (Ch. 9).
- Devote a chapter of links with headings and a concise explanation of the economic benefit open space provides to humanity. The final Economic Importance of Alaska Wildlife in 2011 sponsored by ADF&G needs to be cited in the plan. The top six wildlife viewed in Alaska, bringing billions of dollars into our state, are present in KBSP.
- Tell which trails are presently which class and use more maps with symbols depicting trail class I, II, III, IV, etc, natural zones, wilderness zones, cultural zones, recreational zone, critical wildlife zone, and wildlife viewing areas.
- There should be guidelines listed under Recreational Development Zone – bear friendly no trash, leave no trace, living with and considering wildlife and their habitat, and full cut off luminaire lighting.
- Add critical wildlife areas on maps in cross hatched shading on land along the coastline to minimize boat landings, etc., on areas such as barnacle mussels, macro invertebrate critical forage area, kelp bed habitats, goat habitat rearing and wintering, calving, bird nesting, bird rearing on land and water, and bird foraging on land and water.
- In chapter 6, add critical wildlife bird and fish habitat zones to land classification zones. The (1995) plan is lacking seriously in wildlife related significance. The Park has an opportunity to educate the public in wildlife, their habitats, and life stage histories. Wildlife and bird viewing is a huge recreational pastime in the United States resulting in a total industrial input of \$142

billion. It is an enormous economic generator and must be managed correctly. Grants are readily available to assist the Park in educating the public in this. Overlapping the Critical Habitat Area gives us an additional opportunity to promote safe care for our wildlife that graces our park.

- Provide a living resource inventory past and present of wildlife, fish, birds, macro invertebrates, and kelp. Use the Critical Habitat data and other surveys including the NERR and asking long term residents to give their perspective on past inventories so we have a basis to preserve our living populations. The mixture of ADF&G and DNR must marry here to uphold the statutes proclaiming protection otherwise we have simply words.
- Enter in the significance of the starry night sky under most or all headings in the plan to raise awareness of our Night Sky Heritage.
- Create an Appendix F – MAPS in the plan. The plan needs more maps showing CHA's, the Water Trail, the updated classification zones, wildlife viewing areas, critical habitat areas significant to birds, fish and wildlife, land ownership, trails with symbols showing ease of hiking and zone each trail is in or crosses through, etc., winter skiing terrain maps, campsites, facilities, and huts, NOAA's shorezone habitat mapping, NERR maps available, and spruce bark beetle infestation map – show changes for event educational/historical purposes.
- Create an Appendix G – Maps of neighboring Refuges, Reserves, Parks, and Critical Habitat Areas.
- List MOA with NERR.
- Under the issue of Private Land, add light trespass and full time generators for electricity.
- Add all statutory, regulatory, and MOA language to Appendix B in one place even if it is duplicated elsewhere in the Plan.
- The K-Bay Board has voted to make KBSP and KBSWP a Dark Sky Park. In order to do this we need this to be inserted into all areas where necessary to show our intent to the International Dark Sky Association. Full cut off luminaries are required at facility development at all sites, trail development, campsite development, fish cleaning facilities, and docks. Also add interpretive star party programs.
- In Chapter 2 (1995 plan) raise the awareness of our wildlife resource as a scenic beauty admired and loved by expanding the Wildlife headings using the connection between the CHA and our Parks, incorporating some of the Critical Habitat Management Area and the National Estuarine Research Reserve verbiage in our Chapter 2 Environment and Resource, referencing Visitors to Wildlife Refuges, 34.8 million people visited National Wildlife Refuges located in the continental US, 82% of all visitors to Wildlife Refuges are wildlife watchers, and 77% of this 82% are shareholders coming primarily to watch waterfowl. Wildlife refuge waterfowl watchers purchase duck stamps to gain entry into the refuges and wear them as a badge of honor to initiate a park "ranger" badge. These refuge visitors generated \$1.7 billion of sales in regional economies, 27,000 people employed \$542.8 million in payroll, and \$185.3 million in local state and federal tax.
- I do not want to see the management plans weekend. There is a big push in our current administration to open sensitive areas to development and to bend over backwards to comply with industry requests to the detriment of parks and critical habitats. There are many state lands not in parks or critical habitats to be considered for some of these uses that are not compatible. There is no need to water down the language to make it ambiguous enough to allow incompatible uses. Keep the management plans strong to protect the values and natural resources these parks were created to protect.

- I filled out the online survey about KBSP and when I pressed the submit button, I got a message that this operation is not permitted, so my answers did not go anywhere.
- I have version 5.1.10 of Safari and after filling out the form I was unable to send it. Maybe it went but there was no confirmation. On Firefox it did not allow me to fill it out. It would be nice to know if the form was sent or not.
- I was not able to submit my form online. When I tried to submit it, I got a message stating "This operation is not permitted".
- Submit button did not work.
- Lack of confirmation that the questionnaire was sent/received after using the "submit" button.
- Questionnaire not compatible with Firefox.
- It was difficult to send/attach the questionnaire as requested on the website.
- I was unable to complete the download and sending of the KBSP Management Plan questionnaire.
- When we tried to save the Recreational Use and Access Questionnaire re: KBSP and KBSWP it said that the answers could not be saved, only the blank form. How can we send you a completed form by email when it is impossible to save the answers?
- It is very confusing as to how I am to attach the PDF file that is the questionnaire. It seems to me that an easier method would increase your volume of feedback.
- Tried to go to the site to view the existing park plan and get the questionnaire, but the site would not come up. Is there another way to access this paperwork?
- I'm trying to send my completed Use, Facilities, and Access Questionnaire, but I can't send my completed form, it will only save the blank form. I'm quite familiar with PDF's so I am wondering what I'm missing here or if there is a technical issue with the setup of the form.
- People are having difficulty filling out the questionnaire online, especially those over age 50.
- I tried filling out the questionnaire you have. I clicked on Save but I have no idea where my response was saved or if it got to you. When I clicked on the name instead of your email address I got this generic DNR form with no assurances that it will ever get to you.
- I am finding it very confusing as to how I am to attach the PDF file that is the questionnaire. It seems to me that an easier method would increase your volume of feedback.
- I was extremely annoyed to thoughtfully fill out the scoping document and then not be able to save it and send it as an attachment, after following your instructions.
- Unable to open attachment with information on open houses and comment deadline.

#### SCOPING QUESTIONNAIRE

- The link for selecting Grewingk Creek on question no. 4 does not work.
- The questionnaire does not offer the opportunity to comment on what your advertisement identified you are interested in - KBSP and KBSWP. By lumping the two (the Park and Wilderness) together you will get inaccurate information. Please make these changes, if possible, before your entire survey is tainted.
- Questionnaire is biased.
- Looks like your questionnaire needs more work.
- Since it's not clear how it should be submitted, you may be missing responses, which would then bring into question any analysis made of those responses that were received. Since you don't know how many responses haven't been received, like mine, I would suggest starting over again.

- This questionnaire is an inappropriate format for public scoping.
- Questions A1-A6, A9-10 and all of section B are information that should be made available to the public from data collected by Alaska State Parks in accordance with the March 1995 management plan (page 67), and under Visitor Use management #9.
- Only two questions, A7 and A8, in the questionnaire would be relevant to updating the KBSP. Legislatively created state parks are for all the public to enjoy not just those who have visited KBSP in the past or who currently reside in the Kachemak Bay area. That fact is not reflected in the KBSP questionnaire prepared by State Parks.
- As I pointed out in numerous emails and in the questionnaire, your survey did not differentiate between allowable uses or even identified differentiation of current management between KBSP and KBSWP. Apparently, since you did not report on my comments nor did you even respond to my comments, there must be no differentiation between the two – they are simply a term your office uses.

#### RECREATION

- My wife and I have enjoyed recreating in KBSP and to a lesser extent KBSWP for the last seven years. We have enjoyed hiking, backcountry skiing, berry picking, kayaking, dip-netting, rock climbing, and packrafting – in order of decreasing frequency.
- We have greatly enjoyed quiet recreation such as camping, hiking, and kayaking in Neptune and the wider Kachemak Bay.

#### AREA MANAGEMENT

- Many people expect the Alaska State Wilderness to be a wilderness with a capital “W”. There are activities that may be allowed in the State Park and should not be allowed in what others and I may expect and wish to encounter in the Wilderness section of the Park. Granted, the State does not have the limitations that the Federal Wilderness System has, but many Wilderness users do not comprehend that the State of Alaska has such a myopic vision of Wilderness.
- This wilderness, this park deserves to be preserved and utilized in the least impactful methods possible.
- People enjoy the peace and serenity offered by the Bay.
- We have plenty of other spaces for those choosing to recreate with loud machines. Keep the Bay and park quiet, keep it as true to its native habitat and support the activities and recreation that also support the wilderness of Kachemak Bay.
- Keeping the park as wild as possible is a good move; there are so many opportunities to get a “National Park” experience in Alaska with rangers and ADA areas, etc. that it’s nice to have some undeveloped places.
- Legislatively created State Parks are for all of the public to enjoy, not just those who have visited KBSP in the past or who currently reside in the Kachemak Bay area.
- There is enough noise and pollution in the world today so it is very enjoyable to find the peace and quiet in the Kachemak Bay area.
- I am concerned about any changes to the management plan that would allow activities that may not be consistent with the parks’ statutory purpose.
- Maintain the nature of the park as it has been.

- KBSP and KBSWP should be for the enjoyment of all, provided no harmful activity is done in the obtaining of the enjoyment. Management's only job is to attempt to minimize harm to the park. I define harmful activity as any activity that would likely detract negatively from the enjoyment of the park by others including use of ATV's, snowmobiles, helicopters, jet skis, large groups of people, loud people, people leaving trash in the park, and people physically harming the park.
- Highly developed theme parks make more money than relatively under developed natural parks, but that is not what was intended for Kachemak Bay parks as duly noted in the first chapter of the management plan.
- Too many people using the park is harmful to the park, so if necessary management needs to limit the number of people using the park by whatever means necessary, perhaps using a lottery system.
- I believe management's job is not to advertise the park, encourage use of the park, make access to the park easier, or build structures or trails in the park.
- We believe a broader range of allowed uses would provide a much needed lift to Seldovia, a city struggling with the lingering effects of the economic downturn. Uses in winter months would also result in year-round economic growth, a positive for our businesses and families.
- Often overlooked, and not addressed, we need to make sure that changes in the management plans will not degrade the natural quiet of these two parks.
- Keep the management plans strong to protect the values and natural resources these parks were created to protect.
- Differentiate between the park and the wilderness park – they should be managed differently and there should also be differences with the parcels on the Homer side.
- It is appropriate that there is KBSP and KBSWP. Each has different natural resource values and character, and management guidance should vary accordingly.
- KBSWP is remote and rugged and receives less human disturbance, and it has unique habitat values. It should be managed such that the protection of its natural resources and habitat values are the top management priority. When it comes down to protection versus access, protection should always prevail.
- The importance of resource protection is also true in KBSP, but there needs to be more flexibility, in order to manage its greater visitation such that its resource and habitat values are protected.
- I moved here for the beauty and quiet of the area. Since I moved here jet skis have been invented and helicopter skiing has taken off. If I needed those activities in my life, I would live elsewhere. There are choices that are available now to live in areas that offer those kinds of activities.
- Keep the area a wilderness and recognize the need for critical habitat protection.
- There should be no oil or mineral extraction.
- There are no specific requirements for a "Wilderness" therefore, I suspect from your lack of comment, the public really should have no expectations when in the State's Wilderness Areas – Wilderness has no definition within the State of Alaska – at least State land managers do not comprehend a difference. Management will attempt to protect resources based on a "wait and see" process – as to what happen after the act. While not science based, it is a process that has been used in numerous places in the past. If plans change for an alternative approach, i.e. to manage the Wilderness portion under different guidelines, I would hope you would let the public know.

- Alaskans and visitors alike are in awe of the spectacular scenery and wildlife viewing that our many state parks provide, including KBSP and KBSWP. There exists a fine balance between preserving these wonders and providing access to them.
- The park has gone to a lot of expense to develop trails and access in its holdings on the south side of the bay and ignored any kind of use of park areas closer to home. Right now if one does not have a boat or lots of money to drop on a water taxi over to the trails, one is excluded from use of the park.
- There are those that would love to leave the park as is and prohibit any development. Some would argue that any development destroys the essence of the area. Others just want to inhibit any development from some form of self interest. Some minimal development creates groups of users willing to work to protect an area that they have come to enjoy and enhance their understanding of why the State wants to protect a particular area in park status.
- Allowing all users/uses equal access to the park seems like a good use.
- Maintain the wild, quiet, contemplative wilderness for all our future generations to enjoy.
- Please help us, especially those of us who live here and use the Park frequently, to keep the values that initiated the creation of our magnificent Park, the place of incredible beauty, proximity to wildlife; recreation including hiking, paddling, fishing, photography; a source of delicious seafood, the scent of clean air and sea, and above all, the peace and quiet that soothes our and our visitors' spirits.
- I have recreated in Kachemak Bay over years, and it is a wonderful and beautiful place. Part of its attraction is its remoteness and quiet. All parks cannot be all things to all people. It is not appropriate to allow all uses.
- Appropriate uses of facilities should include hiking, camping, wildlife viewing/birding, non motorized boating, public use cabins and cross country skiing.
- Increased outdoor recreational activities that respect and honor our unique environment are an important component of economic vitality, as well as an appropriate use of the State Park and Wilderness Park.
- The large volume Wosnesenski River is fed by glaciers and the water temperature as it comes into Neptune Bay is often in the low 30's. It is virtually impossible to cross safely. As it's a braided stream it puts down gravel bars in different locations yearly as well as depositing huge volumes of glacial silt and mud. The beach in Neptune Bay is very wide and flat, so on a minus tide it might go out ½ mile or more beyond the McKeon Rocks. Additionally, under SE windy conditions, glacial loess blows down the river toward the west. The NE, E, and SE winds all adversely affect the westerly portion of Neptune Bay that is in the State Park. This part of KBSP to the west has not been and should not be considered for development because of these adverse and outright dangerous wind, tidal, and muddy conditions.
- The largest portion of KBSP is on the south side of Kachemak Bay and should be managed differently than the areas on the Homer side of the Bay. I feel that the southern part of the Park should provide recreational opportunities for that area is an escape from the urban hectic lifestyle that most of us experience.
- My wish is to see the Park minimally developed and low impact activities allowed. Anything that negatively impacts the wilderness and quality of the Park should either be by revocable permit only or not allowed.
- For the Park on the south side of Kachemak Bay there should be minimal development, maintain what you build, keep it wild – when someone gets ½ mile off the beach they should feel like they're out in the wilderness. There's more usage now than 20 years ago, but these guidelines will work until the next Management Plan update.

- For the sections on the north side of Kachemak Bay – Cottonwood/Eastland, Eveline, and Diamond Creek, I think the development philosophy should be a little more aggressive. There are a lot of visitors to Homer that have less time and would welcome the opportunity to get out and go for a hike or go for a picnic. I think these areas would lend themselves perfectly for day use activities.
- Eveline State Recreation Area – it appears the partnership with the Kachemak Nordic Ski Club should be continued.
- For the Cottonwood/Eastland Canyons area, Parks should establish and develop access points on the east and west ends of the area with parking, developed trails, and one or more day use areas with fire rings and outhouses. Since this area has adjacent private parcels, all development should be done with input from the neighbors.
- For the Diamond Creek area, provide fire rings for picnicking and possibly an outhouse somewhere on the trail. Also, provide better parking at the trailhead – right now on a busy day people park on the Sterling Highway.
- Activities that should be allowed in the southern part of KBSP include hiking, fishing, hunting, boating on the salt and freshwater, and camping in the backcountry with carry out what you take in philosophy.
- I would suggest that you address the different areas of the Park separately in the Plan and have different tracks for the development of each of the areas. The areas on the Homer side of the Bay will see more use overall and that's where the development effort should be focused.
- Hiking, kayaking, skiing, ice skating, regulated fishing and clamming, mountaineering, leave no trace camping, photography, napping on a beach in quiet solitude, these are appropriate and necessary activities in these areas.
- Chugachik Island – glad to hear it is getting improved.
- Encourage day use at Diamond Creek Park.
- Eveline State Recreation Site – love it.
- My primary interest is in strict resource protection in all of our State Parks, including of course Kachemak Bay. That includes protecting, and where appropriate restoring, fish and wildlife populations and habitats, clean air and water, scenic beauty, wilderness character, soils, vegetation, and natural sounds and natural quiet.
- Expand on Leave No Trace.
- Minimize boat landings on critical habitat covered beaches.

#### LAND ACQUISITION AND OWNERSHIP

- When did Nuka Island become State Parks?
- Did the university give up their lots on Nuka Island?
- What's planned for Herring Pete's place?

#### MARICULTURE

- Allow mariculture in the park/wilderness area. It is sustainable, beneficial to the environment, encourages local tourism, and supplies a local food source that helps lessen the pressure on wild shellfish species.
- Remove language disallowing Clam on Bottom Culture. On bottom culture should be reconsidered as a restorative process as a way to address the collapse of the Kachemak Bay clam populations. It is a huge problem that there are no clams in such productive water and that



local markets are relying on out of state clams which could be introduced into the local environment potentially causing diseases or an invasive species problem.

- With the legal language establishing these parks in mind, I strongly support retention of the established prohibitions on certain uses, such as on-bottom clam farming.
- Subsistence use of clams and the value of beaches for wildlife forage are two uses that compete with on-bottom clam farming. The public did not support allowing this incompatible use when a permit was requested. With climate change, warming waters, and algae blooms, natural beaches are even more important in their natural state for personal use and for wildlife habitat.
- There should be a very close eye kept on enforcing regulations about shell fish harvesting. It has improved but it hasn't been that long ago that folks from Anchorage (presumably for restaurants) could be seen with 50 pound onion bags full of clams on the Homer dock offloading from a skiff unto an awaiting truck.
- It is critical to recognize the contribution fisheries enhancement makes to the enjoyment of these parks. Activities such as the personal use China Poot sockeye salmon dipnet fishery, the Halibut Cove king salmon sport fishery, and sport fishing for sockeyes in Tutka Bay Lagoon provide opportunities for Alaskans and visitors to enjoy the resources offered. These opportunities are available through fisheries enhancement projects, recognized under the 1995 Management Plan for KBSP and KBSWP (pg 36-37).
- There are indirect benefits to the fisheries enhancement programs because the salmon releases and subsequent returns also become a food source for other predators such as eagles, whales, otters, seals, bears. This thereby increases the wildlife viewing opportunities for park users.
- Fisheries enhancement programs are an integral part of the plan, offering park users valuable recreational and personal use opportunities. These recreational fishing opportunities do not exist without the continued enhancement by such agencies as Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
- Please retain protections for Kachemak's ecosystem, and consider enforcing stricter catch limits for shellfish and halibut.
- We have noticed in the past couple of years an increase in traffic at the China Poot dipnet river.
- I don't want to visit hatcheries or see salmon enhancement and don't want to see those activities increased.
- Hatchery operations including anchored net pens, salmon enhancement and commercial fishing seems like good use.
- Fisheries enhancement has been allowed in the past and should be allowed in the southern part of KBSP.
- In addition to the tourism dollars generated by the state parks, the fisheries enhancement program conducted by the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA) generates a sustainable resource for both commercial and recreational fisherman.
- I would like to voice my strong support for the CIAA enhancement program in Kachemak Bay for the benefits that it provides our local resident and commercial fisheries businesses, as well as to our parks visitors.
- The CIAA sockeye and pink salmon enhancement program generates an estimated \$4.5 million in ex-vessel value annually. This revenue supports a viable commercial fishery as well as a successful cost recovery program. As global demand for Alaska salmon increases and the price for these fish continues to rise, this enhancement program will likely increase in value. The clean waters and untrammled shores of KBSP and KBSWP are integral to the success of this enhancement program.

- CIAA currently has enhancement programs in Leisure Lake, Hazel Lake, Tutka Bay Lagoon and Tutka Bay. CIAA performs limnology sampling at Leisure Lake to monitor food source availability and to ensure that the stocking program is not having detrimental effects to the lake system.
- Recreational and Personal Use fisherman benefit greatly from the availability of sockeye from the CIAA enhancement program. China Poot Bay fishing opportunities draw many visitors across the bay into the parkland, bolstering support statewide for both protecting and enhancing the park.
- The release of salmon into the environment provides additional protein for predators such as eagles, whales, otters, seals, and bears.
- The fisheries within KBSP are an important component of the overall character of the park, which is defined by its proximity to the sea. Enhancement helps successfully maintain these fisheries and this success should be recognized in the park management revision process.
- The 1995 plan describes fish enhancement activities allowed in the State Parks, including operations conducted by the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA). These projects provide opportunities for commercial and sport fishing in Kachemak Bay. ADF&G works with CIAA in their development of enhancement projects through the Cook Inlet Regional Planning Team, and we are involved in authorizing projects (e.g. remote release sites). ADF&G also stocks king salmon in Halibut Cove Lagoon to enhance sport fishing opportunities. ADF&G recommends that the DPOR continue to allow fish enhancement activities in the State Parks that provide for public fisheries in a manner that minimizes impacts to fish and wildlife and their habitats, and minimizes conflicts with competing public uses.
- Quantify fisheries enhancement as compared to commercial production. There is a big difference from rehabilitation and enhancement as compared to industrial commercial production.

#### COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY

- Consider commercial options/opportunities for clam on bottom culture
- Develop a permitting system for heli skiing operators to do business in the park. Why should one group be excluded?
- It is important to keep allowing commercial operators like water taxi, lodges, etc. and to encourage new user groups so more people can enjoy this natural treasure.
- Eco-tourism is one of the most increasing venues to gain a new avenue of economics to our small town.
- The lands and waters of the KBSP should remain off limits to all commercial motorized recreation.
- KBSP is a jewel and limiting commercial operations (fishing or otherwise) is just fine as we've trashed enough places already in Alaska for those purposes, and preserving this beautiful state park is sagacious.
- I hired a commercial boat operator to show me the sights of Kachemak Bay.
- I have hired water taxis in Kachemak Bay. They took me to places where I could hike or kayak, and that the way to enjoy Kachemak Bay.
- Commercial fishing as allowed by law should be allowed in the southern part of KBSP.
- A proposal was received to build, maintain, and operate a remote mountain hut for a commercial guiding service. The service would operate all year but would have a special focus on winter activities including ski touring, hiking, and helicopter assisted skiing based out of the hut. The proposed location is the area from Tutka Bay to Port Dick in the vicinity of the Southern

Glacier, with the mountain hut being located at the Rocky River headwaters. This site is a central site located between Port Dick and Tutka Bay along the route proposed in the 1995 management plan to access the outer coast with an overland route. The proposal includes establishing 4- 9 helicopter drop off sites with a 3 mile pick up zone around each site.

## **TRAILS**

### MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- Encourage Local work parties for trail work. There are many people across the Bay and from Homer who would help with trail work. This may help lessen the financial burden on park.
- The first priority should be the maintenance of existing trails with an increase of staff to keep up with required maintenance over time.
- Do keep the Park trails well maintained.
- Support Trails Day.

### TRAIL DEVELOPMENT/DESIGN

- Continue developing access options and infrastructure, including trails and trails maintenance, that supports use of KBSP.
- Consider allowing for trails or routes to be developed in KBSWP. Trails are compatible with wilderness values and should be allowed. The addition of a trail/route from the existing Tutka Lake trail past the waterfall into the up-river valley would provide fantastic access into the alpine.
- Consider developing more trails and recreational opportunities in park units located on the north side of Kachemak Bay (Cottonwood-Eastland, Diamond Creek). If trails were present, lots of people would use them because access is so easy and year-round trails are lacking on the north side of Kachemak Bay.
- The long term nature of the management plan should address the construction of new trails since overall use is likely to increase over time.
- Any trail should be located only in a location that does not disturb or displace wildlife, there should be rules governing trail use and users should be appropriately educated.
- I support established hiking and skiing trails that are rustic in character, and no more than 6 feet wide.
- I would love to see hiking trails and beach access (from East End Rd) on the north side of the Bay, specifically in the Cottonwood Creek and Eastland Creek area.
- I would like to see the park use expanded to hiking/skiing trails and water access in the Cottonwoods Creek/Eastland Creek areas.
- With the development of the water trail in the Bay, it would be great to be able to drop a kayak at the spit and paddle a few miles and be able to take out in the Cottonwood Creek area.
- I support developing hiking trails, but they should be as natural as possible. A marked path would be better than a trail until it needed more construction to protect the resource. There is nothing worse than going to a beautiful, natural place for a hike to find that all vegetation has been cleared and the trail is wide enough for a car. People who love to hike in remote areas don't need highways.

- The Park on the south side of Kachemak Bay should have a maintained trail system with the opportunity to start at Mallard Bay and end up in Tutka Bay (the cross park trail that the CAB has been pushing for and working on for the last 25 years).
- I would like to see extensions of State Park trails into the State Wilderness Park particularly over to Port Dick.
- The key here is well maintained facilities. The trails should be well constructed, but built for able bodied hikers. Given the cost and difficulty of the access to the Park (over Kachemak Bay with a boat), it would not make sense to build expensive trails for users that are not likely to show up to use them. The discussion I had with Ranger MacCampbell regarding making Grewing Lake trail wheelchair accessible, does not make sense to me. Aside from changing the whole look of the trail and impacting wildlife, I don't believe it would be used enough to warrant the construction cost. In addition, what would a wheelchair bound traveler do in response to a black bear encounter? I can't remember the last time I hiked that trail and didn't see a black bear. It's been several years.
- Accessible trails should be a long term goal for the Cottonwood/Eastland Canyons area.
- Add more trails.
- Trail to beach at Diamond Creek Park?
- The access trail from Rocky River Road (drawn in the 1995 management plan) needs special consideration to protect the private homes in the area. It is important to not inadvertently route park goers through a private home. The access trail is on native land and Parks would need to get an agreement with the tribe. I suggest a bridge near the confluence of the Windy and Rocky River which would provide the necessary link to get on the Wilderness Park Route listed in the 1995 plan.
- The Diamond Creek area gets a tremendous amount of use. It would get more if the trail was better and there was parking available. This is also the place to build an accessible trail. Here it would get used. Spots along the creek would be ideal for picnic area.

#### MULTI USE

- Horses should not be allowed on hiking trails and this use should be subject to regulation. Horses do a lot of damage unless the trail is a hardened trail. Horses should be allowed on hardened trails only.
- Horses are currently allowed on saltwater beaches only due to the severe trail destruction that would occur if they were allowed off the gravel beaches. This should remain as is.
- Build and maintain a multi use (hiking, biking, accessible for wheelchairs) non-motorized trail to the mouth of Diamond Creek and the beach.
- Mountain goats (*Oreamnos Americanus*) and Dall sheep (*Ovis dalli*) are susceptible to numerous diseases that could be introduced by domestic pack animals such as sheep, goats, llamas, and alpacas. Horses, mules, and burrows have not been shown to be a problem for interspecies transmission. Currently our wild sheep and goat populations on the Kenai Peninsula have yet to test positive for any of these known diseases to the best of our knowledge. The revised plan should identify measures to limit access of these pack animals into the alpine country to reduce the risk of diseases.

#### BIKE USE

- I fully support revising the plan to allow bicycle access in the park.

- HCC has recently contributed to efforts to build a demonstration trail in the Diamond Creek Recreation Area. We view this short trail as an example of the style of trail that is appealing to cyclists. While the Homer area boasts many walking and skiing trails, it utterly lacks trails of this particular type. This is unfortunate, as biking is a growing recreational activity in the state, as evidenced by the expansion of such trails in the Anchorage area, and options for this user group are lacking on the lower Kenai Peninsula. We look forward to continued collaboration with State Parks to create a sustainable, mountain bike focused, multi users trail system in the Diamond Creek Recreation Area.
- Fat biking is a rapidly growing sport and wilderness cycling. The modifications made to the bicycle result in a wider “footprint” which distributes the weight over a larger area. As a result, bikes can be ridden on soft sandy beaches, muddy areas, as well as snowy terrain with greater ease. Bikes can be coupled with packable rafts for longer traverses that require water crossings.
- Scores of riders visit Kachemak Bay every year to ride our world class beaches.
- Bike access in KBSP would open opportunities for locals and visitors to ride in a more remote setting and experience the diverse terrain that the park has to offer. Beaches such as Glacier Spit, Neptune Bay and China Poot Spit, the Woz Trail, and Grewingk Trails are some of the most appealing destinations from a fat bikers' perspective.
- Areas such as the Glacier Spit, China Poot Spit, and Neptune Bay along with their neighboring trail systems are potentially dream destinations for fat bikers. Both of these locations offer enough riding options to fill a day and would pair nicely with the standard water taxi shuttles that are already available. Options for fat bike access in KBSP may also increase park usership in the off seasons as they are designed for winter riding.
- Consider allowing for bike use or a “bike route” within KBSP. Although the trails in KBSP are rugged in nature there are a few, like the Wosnesenski Trail and the trail to Humpy Creek from Glacier Spit which are suitable for bikes, but currently closed.
- While many trails within the park are unsuitable for bicycle traffic, there are several that hold great potential, mostly the Wosnesenski and the Grewingk systems because they are broad, relatively unobstructed, and not too steep, and could be travelled by bike.
- Bikes shouldn't be allowed on high use trails like the Saddle Trail but they shouldn't be banned from the park.
- Fat tire bikes allow for biking on soft beaches, muddy terrain, or snow and they also handle rough trails well.
- Bikes can be disassembled and tied on top of a pack raft, making a cross-park route like Chugachik Island to Haystack Rock possible (paddle the coastline to Humpy Creek, follow trails currently closed to bikes) to Glacier Spit, paddle the coastline into Halibut Cove Lagoon, ride/push bike past Leisure Lake to the Wosnesenski Trail (currently closed to bikes), bike the Wosnesenski Trail or packraft the river with bike tied to bow, paddle the coastline to Tutka Bay!
- HCC would like to formally encourage the allowance of bicycle access in KBSP.
- A revision to the management plan to include the cyclist user group would provide an opportunity for park users to experience the park by bike – a method of transportation that is in line with both the character and environment of Kachemak Bay State Park.
- Options for fat bike access in KBSP may also increase park usership in the off-seasons, as they are designed for winter riding.
- If bicycle access is granted, steps should be taken to increase awareness of proper cycling etiquette on trails in regard to minimizing environmental impact and being respectful of other park goers to alleviate potential for user group conflict.

- Mountain bikes or any other type of bicycle or wheeled machine should not be allowed on the trails.
- I encourage DNR to be very cautious about bicycle trails, as mountain bikes erode trails faster and more disruptively than hikers do. We need to exercise caution.
- I am concerned about opening many trails to bikes, especially beaches which are vulnerable to trampling and crushing of marine life – trails can also change drainage patterns.
- Many trails are not suitable for bikes and it would take a lot to bring them up to standard and maintain them with the additional wear and tear.
- Bikes can cause conflicts with hikers seeking solitude and quiet especially in large groups or going at high rates of speed.
- Bicycles could be allowed on select trails if it is determined that there would be no more trail degradation than foot traffic.
- Bike trails should be in the plan for Cottonwood/Eastland Canyons area.

#### SPECIFIC TRAILS

- The Diamond Gulch trail from the Diamond Creek State Recreation Site western parking area to Diamond Beach is one of the most used in the trail system. A new trail should be sited, designed, constructed, and regularly maintained.
- Water Trail
  - Trail has the potential to provide a high value experience for in and out of state users.
  - Improvements could be to harden campsites on the water trail system, including outhouses for waste management, permanent and maintained mooring buoys and interpretive information at the site on the natural and human history of the bay.
  - A campsite should be established for the planned Water Trail which lacks campsites along the north side of the bay. The campsite should include an outhouse for waste management.
  - The Water Trail information system will do a lot to get the warnings and benefits out, but it needs money from Alaska State Parks.
- Put up better marks along the Sadie Knob Trail.
- Need better signage by Haystack Rock Yurt to find the trail.
- Trail to Grewingk Lake is wonderful.

#### **ACCESS**

##### GENERAL

- I urge you to go as slowly and conservatively as possible regarding access. Kachemak Bay and the Gulf Coast is dangerously close to metropolitan Anchorage and Lower 48. The more access is enhanced the faster this area's carrying capacity – even recreational carrying capacity – is overwhelmed. Once you “open the door”, you will never be able to close it. Just look at what's happened to the fish and game population and balance. Both have been negatively affected since the 70's.
- Establish regularly scheduled shuttle service from Homer to pre-established drop off points on the south side of the bay may be an option that would allow more cost efficient access to the park for local users whose access is being limited due to the rising costs of shuttle service.

- The state park and its wonders should not be limited to the young and healthy where there are means available to give access in a responsible manner.
- KBSP should continue to be a place for human powered access.
- Access for the Cottonwood/Eastland Canyons area will be the biggest goal to achieve and after that slowly developing a walking trail system should be the next priority.
- Establish access to the state park parcels located on the north side of the bay. This area has the potential to be used by the general population since it can be accessed from the road system.

#### MOTORIZED

- Please insure that no motorized recreation takes place in the wilderness area of the park. Wilderness designation means quiet and solitude for humans and wildlife. Machines are incompatible with wilderness areas. There must be a few places where motorized recreation is not allowed.
- With the exception of fixed-wing aircraft and motor boats in salt water, do not allow motorized transportation (helicopter, snow machine, jet ski, ATV) in the park. These forms of transportation are not within the character of the park and would not be compatible with other uses. Some of these activities may likely cause resource damage or threaten wildlife (ATV, helicopter, PWC).
- The original purpose of these parks was protection, and jet skis and other fast motorized means of recreation will definitely change and destroy that. Please do all you can to oppose opening these areas to this type of change.
- There should be no motorized access allowed such as helicopters, fixed wing aircraft, snow machines, all terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, jet skis, or any other motorized machine.
- All areas within both the wilderness and non-wilderness areas should only be open to foot traffic.
- Allow access by airplane into the park and wilderness areas. The footprint of airplane access, especially float planes, is the least impact to the wilderness that we all appreciate and want to preserve.
- We want to see an absolute and complete rejection of helicopters and four wheelers for any purpose within both Kachemak park systems, and a limit on fixed wing activity.
- One user group issue that has arisen periodically is the demand for access to the state parks via certain types of motorized vehicles is an issue that comes up periodically. It needs to be clearly stated that no one is actually being denied access to the parks. In order to avoid conflict with user groups whose activities are more consistent with park purposes as well as to protect resources from damage, what may and should be restricted in certain cases is the mode of access. Despite restriction, anyone can visit the parks using approved means of access.
- The fact that the park is not within automobile access makes it a treasure. We'd be sorely disappointed to sacrifice the peace for motorized use of any kind. There are plenty of places for motors to play in this world. The point of the park is to provide a sanctuary of nature.
- People motoring across the Bay are not helping the earth and such activity should not be encouraged.
- No motorized recreation in KBSWP.
- It is important that a few areas in our state park system remain free of the noise pollution and degradation that accompanies motorized recreation – the impacts from this are well documented especially regarding ATV's, jet skis, and helicopters.
- I am an advocate of protecting natural quiet, a vanishing resource. Jet skis, helicopters, or even expanded floatplane landings will threaten this important natural quality.

- I do not support established trails for motorized vehicles. ATV's do enormous damage to the natural resource, habitat values, and adversely impact other park visitors and trail users. ATV's are currently prohibited and should remain prohibited.
- More lakes in the park should be opened to float plane traffic. Each year the amount of elderly folks that are arriving to Homer as tourists is increasing and each year we have multiple requests to land on Grewingk Lake so they can see the glacier, and we turn down those requests because currently this is not allowed.
- I would like to see a very limited number of flights per day be allowed to land on Grewingk Lake so that folks who are not as mobile as they used to be can see the beauty of the glacier up close.
- Please preserve KBSP and KBSWP without the addition of more motorized activity.
- I urge any future plans for Kachemak Bay use to avoid other additional motorized traffic.
- KBSP has been a favorite destination for many years. The hiking is good, the kayaking superb, the camping peaceful, and in spite of its close proximity to busy Homer and fishing activities, the park manages to retain a sense of true Alaskan wilderness because it does not allow the invasion of noisy toys. Without those toys the park also remains friendly to wildlife. Thank you for keeping jet skis out of those waters. Please do not allow heli skiing for the same reasons.
- Allowing motorized activities such as personal watercraft or jet skis or snowmachines into new areas will disturb the experience of those who want to enjoy muscle powered sports and experience the quiet. These activities can be dangerous and need to be supervised to make sure wildlife is not being harassed.
- ATV's and helicopters should not be allowed either. ATV use would lead to significant degradation just as it has in other places where it cannot be properly managed.
- I strongly feel that inappropriate uses are personal watercraft, ATV's, snowmobiles, and heli skiing. Our community has weighed in on this several times in the past and currently our culture continues to stand strongly for stewarding with courage this sensitive and rare park. We are a model to all who visit and these motorized activities are clearly not encouraged here.
- Do not allow PWC, dirt bikes, helicopters, snowmobiles, ATV's, fixed wing planes, any motorized vehicles in KBSP, not to mention KBSWP.
- I would like to place my voice as one who would like all motorized craft not allowed in KBSP (across the bay). This includes helicopters for heli skiing, ATVs, dirt motorcycles, snowmachines, and jet skis. Personal aircraft (rotary or fixed wing) is acceptable.
- Our overriding concern for the future development of KBSP is that Alaskan citizens and visitors alike continue to have the park a place for human powered access. Meaning a good trail system and a limit on aircraft and motor vehicle access. We want to see an absolute and complete rejection of helicopters and four wheelers for any purpose within both Kachemak park systems, and a limit on fixed wing activity.
- We are property owners "across the bay" having purchased in 1993 for the purpose of enjoying all elements of serenity, solitude, and subsistence. We strongly oppose any Plan that would jeopardize these in any fashion. In particular we would like to express our strong opposition to motorized vehicles such as personal watercraft, dirt bikes, helicopters, snowmachines, ATVs or fixed wing planes in KBSP and KBSWP. Allowing these activities would threaten the very soul of what we cherish about the Bay and its surroundings, and would threaten the very same elements that have nurtured the eco-tourism industry that has developed into a big contributor to the Homer economy.
- Airplane and boat access as currently allowed should continue in the southern part of KBSP.
- Any motorized tool or vehicle use in the upland areas and beaches of the Park should not be allowed, except for boat landings and airplane usage as currently allowed.



- I would like to request open access for all forms of marine transportation; in particular personal watercraft should be included in the operational plan.
- I would like to see the greatest possible protection of the park and wilderness from development and motorized use. This includes personal watercraft like jet skis, snowmachines, four wheelers, helicopters, motorcycles, and other noise and air polluting machines. Please keep this place sacred and keep motorized use out.
- I commercial fished for over 20 years and understand the importance of preserving what we have here in Kachemak Bay. It seems imperative to me that we do all we can to keep it wild. It seems to me that folks want to bring in jet skis and heli skiing and snowmobiles and ATV's and more tourism that puts more stress on the wildlife and folks that do come here for the peace and quiet. I ask that you keep this in mind when making the new guidelines and do not allow them in the parks. We are a marine sanctuary here, please leave it that way. Keep it wild.
- ADF&G manages fish and wildlife populations for the benefit of the public. ADF&G manages fishing and hunting based on seasons and bag limits established by the Boards of Fish and Game. Fixed wing aircraft access to alpine lakes has been a traditional and customary method of access for mountain goat hunting. We recommend the DPOR allow this customary method of access on all alpine lakes, including those within the State Wilderness Park, where aircraft lands/take-offs are feasible.
- I do have a special interest in natural sounds and natural quiet, which are at serious risk in much of Alaska and are increasingly rare in our state. Motorized recreation, in particular, is poorly managed on most of Alaska's public lands. I oppose any loosening of existing regulations regarding motorized recreation, including but not limited to those affecting jet skis, ATVs, snowmachines, float planes, and helicopters.
- The Wilderness Park should be free of all motorized recreation. In the non-Wilderness Park, float plane landings, where authorized, should be carefully monitored.
- Motorized vehicles are not compatible in these particular Parks. This includes on snow, wheel ski, and any other invented motorized, electric, fusion, or what have you vehicle in the future. There are plenty of other places open for access for this activity.
- I am a strong non-motorized use of the park and wilderness area, and I just wanted to make that very clear that people here in this area and people who come to visit from all over the world come here because it is free of motorized use and noise and visual pollution of that nature. So put me down as no motorized use in the State Park and Wilderness area and let me know if there is anything else that I can do to promote those wilderness values.

#### PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

- People including myself seek serenity and tranquility in a wild environment. Because of this, I would not support the use of motorized personal watercraft such as jet skis within the park. In addition to being noisy, I also feel that they would result in wildlife harassment. As a kayaker, I know the urge to see otters and seals up close. In a kayak, these animals are faster, and can easily escape if they feel threatened. As opposed to skiffs that are used for work and transport, the purpose of a jet ski is to tear around for kicks. I can only imagine that approaching wildlife would follow, regardless of laws and regulations that prohibit it.
- KBCS is appalled at the total disregard for the wishes of Alaskans. Homer area residents worked very hard to get regulations changed to ban jet skis in Kachemak Bay for many good reasons including biological, quiet sports, integrity of the bay, ecotourism requiring quiet bays, etc. This would negate those directives.

- PWCA stands behind the fact that a personal watercraft is a boat and should be allowed equal access to areas where all other boats are granted access specifically in the salt water areas of the entire Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area and Kachemak Bay State Park and Wilderness Area.
- PWCA endorses a repeal for 05 AAC 95.310, 11 AAC 20.115, and 11 AAC 20.215. These restrictions deny a class of boaters from access to the largest amount of saltwater coastline that's within close proximity to a boat launch.
- I would like to ask you to oppose any measures that would change the restrictions currently in place, including opposing the use of jet skis in any part of Kachemak Bay.
- I believe that restricting jet skis or PWC's from this harbor is not only discriminating, but probably illegal if put to a court test - no vessel should be turned away for any reason, especially to seek refuge from weather or mechanical problems.
- Since the original law against PWC was years ago, the dynamics of the machines have changed – they are now quieter than most skiffs, safer, and have been used on many rescues because they are fast and can get into shallow areas where some rescue vessels cannot.
- I have found that the groups riding PWC these days are older, experienced seamen, and have money to pursue long range trips with these craft. By not allowing them into our harbor we are missing potential income from harbor fees, fuel, to food, and motels, etc. Tourists are not just coming for the halibut any longer, and if they are they are going to be disappointed.
- I believe it is time to quit the discrimination against these craft and allow them into the Homer Harbor and let them abide by all of the same boating rules in the bays and coves that all other vessels are subject to.
- It is important to document that a personal watercraft is a boat and boat owners of all boats must follow specific state and federal laws – all Alaskans that own a motorized boat (which include personal watercraft) must register their boats by paying a registration fee.
- The only difference between a personal watercraft and a “traditional” boat is the definition where a person “sits on a personal watercraft rather than in”.
- We are adamantly opposed to the use of personal watercraft “jet skis” anywhere in Kachemak Bay.
- The laws should be the same for all motorized boats with only a few exceptions. The exceptions should coincide with the laws that differentiate between regular motor vehicles on the streets and motorcycles – where a car or truck can go so can a motorcycle – where a boat can go so should a personal watercraft.
- With the statutory language establishing these parks in mind, I strongly support retention of the established prohibitions on certain uses, such as the use of jets skis in State Park waters. The public process has been thorough and should not be thrown out by redefining, for example, jet ski as personal boats – a redefinition does not change how these craft are marketed and used, which is as a thrill craft capable of very high speeds in shallow water.
- I don't think jet skis are compatible in the park.
- I appreciate that PWC's are currently banned from Kachemak Bay. These vehicles are noisy and polluting and can go in very shallow water. PWC's greatly disturb wildlife and marine life, often in critical stages in their life cycles. The ban on PWC's should remain in place and not relaxed or removed in any way.
- I am opposed to jet skis anywhere in the park.
- I urge any future plans for Kachemak Bay use to avoid jet skis.
- Now comes another threat to what we have left, in the form of PWC, with its high pitched screech heard across the vast distances over the water and up into the mountain trails, and high

speed to threaten the tranquility of birds resting on the surface, otters and seals diving to flee the threat, more oil and fumes in the Bay.

- Jet skis especially, and jet boats at the head of the bay (although not very feasible, one never knows) should not be allowed. Period. Anywhere. Already there are fishing boats who load jet skis on board and then off load these noise making machines which ruin a wilderness experience.
- Personal watercraft (jet skis) should not be allowed as it would be impossible to enforce any water level limits for their use or prevent subsequent marine habitat destruction.
- It is time to let Personal Water Craft back into KBSP, and Kachemak Bay State Critical Habitat Area. It is time to undo a wrong that took place 12 years ago.
- All personal watercraft owners pay registration fees as do boat owners. However, personal watercrafts are currently prohibited from operating in Kachemak Bay. A personal watercraft is essentially a boat; and boat owners as well as personal watercraft owners must follow specific state and federal law which are enforced by the United States Coast Guard. I believe that marine access should be the same for both watercraft and motorized boats with few exceptions.
- The original problem with personal watercraft was concerns with noise and pollution. Both the noise and pollution was the result of using 2 stroke engines as the power plant for the watercraft. 2-stroke technology is a high revving, oil burning engine. However, since about 2005, almost all PWC utilize 4 stroke engines as the powerplant. They are much quieter, more fuel efficient, and are not oil burning; in addition since there is no prop hanging below the vessel, there is little effect on the eco system. With the improvements made in building and operation of personal watercraft there is no reason to single it out from any other vessel.
- Please consider open access for personal watercraft in the new management plan. I recommend that DNR follow the National Parks lead when it comes to putting together alternatives regarding specific uses in the parks, particularly personal watercraft use.
- The original argument the groups had against “jet skis” has no holding anymore. The machines have cleaner four stroke motors and have minimal impact when comparing to any boat that can go into these areas, also the new motors make a fraction of the noise that the diesels or two stroke boats make. They are as large as some of the boats and seat more too. These are boats sitting in the harbor that can reach higher speeds than PWC. The stand up models don’t even have capabilities of reaching any cove across the Bay, so the models and users you would see would be on the larger cruiser models that are wanting to fish and tour coves. This is a huge sport in Prince William Sound, also this category of machines come with a price tag that will one, keep the amount of actual users down drastically, and minimize the amount of “terrorizing teenagers”.
- I don’t think I should be able to get a large group of my friends together and get kayaks banned from the park just because I feel it interferes with my experience there.
- There is plenty of room in the Park’s waters for PWC’s. I think there are some compromises that we could make and get this argument behind us. Very simply allocate areas that are off limits to PWC’s, we don’t want to go into Halibut Lagoon anyway (which is where most opposing parties are) and maybe some of the other heavily populated areas. Lift the ban for only four stroke PWC’s angling the change to promote cleaner waters in areas west of Halibut Lagoon.
- The Wilderness area would be an amazing place to explore on a PWC, and it will see no more impact from the machine than any of the other boats that are used to get into that area. I think the opposing parties would realize this too if the ban was lifted. Seeing the lack of educated statements from PWC opposition makes it appear to be this trend that they feel they need to follow as part of the group of users they are associated with.

- I feel we can designate areas to remain closed to all PWC's and open other less populated areas to only four stroke PWC's as a way to promote cleaner waters. This change will stop the clashing of different parks users and allow more public and park services' efforts to an amazing recreational experience for all users.
- I want to strongly comment against allowing such watercraft as jet skis in the waters of KBSP. This area is part of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area which is habitat for a wide variety of marine and land based species within KBSP and KBSWP. Jet skis are able to maneuver very close to shorelines at high speed and noise and cause disturbances of marine species on these shorelines by the wave action produced by them.
- My main concern is that I am terribly against having jet skis in this bay. And I had wanted to just register that. This jet ski thing has come up a bunch of times and I am really, really against it.

#### HELICOPTERS (INCL. HELI SKIING)

- I am opposed to the use of helicopters in the park because I seek serenity and tranquility in a wild environment. Aside from it being unfair to the experience of backcountry skiers, the noise pollution and harassment of wildlife would be disrespectful to put it lightly.
- I support helicopter access, both private and commercial, to allow those who aren't physically able to enjoy the beauty of our area. The helicopter is the least impact on the land.
- There should be an absolute and complete rejection of helicopters for any purpose within both park systems.
- With the legal language establishing these parks in mind, I strongly support retention of the established prohibitions on certain uses, such as the landing of helicopters in the park.
- Helicopter skiing has been proposed over the years, but this use is so intrusive to wildlife and natural quiet that it is not compatible with park values.
- There are many other areas that are not in the park that should be considered rather than opening the door to this use.
- I don't think helicopter skiing is compatible in the park.
- I object to allowing helicopter skiing in either KBSP or KBSWP. Helicopter skiing is a high impact use that is incompatible with park natural resources and adversely impacts the quality of the experience of other park recreational users.
- Typically helicopter skiing is a commercial activity that occurs repetitively, going from point A to point B over and over. Whatever land use or activity happens to be in the noise profile of such an operation is going to be heavily and adversely impacted, to the extent that both wildlife and other park users would be disturbed and displaced.
- I am not in favor of helicopter traffic for skiing or other activities within the park.
- I am opposed to helicopters anywhere in the park.
- We have already experienced the annoyance of helicopters and fixed wing planes doing touch and go practice in the China Poot area. This must not be allowed. We have lost so much already, we cannot afford to lose what remains of the peace and quiet, the tranquility of the trails and water.
- Helicopter landings should be minimal and by permit only in the southern part of KBSP.
- Heli skiing should not be allowed – it is the frequency of the helicopter flights that is the annoyance here, particularly for the skiers that are in the Park for quiet and solitude.
- I also want to strongly comment against heli skiing access to more remote areas of KBSP. This state park is visited by thousands each year, visitors coming in all seasons. This park is a jewel in

the State Park system and this type of motorized access would not be an asset, rather a detriment.

- ADF&G is concerned with potential effects of helicopter use on mountain goats. Currently all of our management areas that have helicopter traffic in them have declining goat populations. Studies suggest that helicopters traveling closer than 1,500 meters to goats leads to disturbance. This is particularly problematic during the winter as this is the most stressful time of the year for goats and when the highest mortality occurs. Currently the highest cause of natural mortality in goat populations studied here in Alaska is death by avalanche. Heli skiing has the potential to increase the number of avalanches in goat country both through purposeful starts to decrease danger to skiers and accidental starts. ADF&G recommends that DPOR carefully consider the specific conditions under which commercial heli skiing could be allowed in the State Parks.
- No fly zones or corridors to provide horizontal and vertical separation from aircraft have been suggested to minimize potential negative effects of helicopter flights on goats in some regions of the U.S. However, ADF&G does not have sufficient data to suggest specific no fly zones or corridors within the southern Kenai Peninsula for mitigation purposes. Optimum flight restrictions should follow the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council (NWSGC) position statement.
- If DPOR determines that heli ski operations are compatible in the parks, permitted within the State park areas, ADF&G requests the opportunity to review all proposed plans of operations and permit applications. Possible permit stipulations may include: minimum height and lateral requirements should be set above 1,500 meters for over-flights for all goat groups, upon designation of mountain goat winter range habitat, appropriate exclusion zones should be established based on NWSGC standards, no circling or hovering of goat population allowed, and operators should be required to provide time stamped flight tracks, landing points, and ski tracks of all operations that occur during the season.
- Heli skiing should not be allowed in either park.

## **WILDLIFE AND WILDLIFE VIEWING**

### GENERAL

- As a sea kayak guide, the greatest appeal to my clients is the abundance of marine, bird, and wildlife, the lack of noise pollution, and the remote coastlines. We encounter people and boat traffic of course, and in small doses, it ranges from tolerable to an interesting insight into the life off the road system. During days of high traffic, it diminishes the desired experience.
- As visitation to the parks increases, and recognizing this will mostly be by boat, some sort of seasonal zone may be needed to protect areas where birds concentrate for nesting, foraging, etc. Increasing boat traffic may disrupt the murrelet feeding that occurs in the Glacier Spit area. Murrelets often leave the foraging area when disturbed by fast moving boat traffic. Being forced to leave the area during optimal feeding conditions, even temporarily, could affect their survival.
- Disturbance to murrelet foraging could be mitigated by having the management plan designate a seasonal cautionary zone for the Glacier Spit area to make boaters aware of the impact they have on murrelet as well as other birds at certain times of the year. Boaters should be asked to steer clear of areas where they see birds foraging, particularly if they are going faster than trolling speed. It could be noted that boaters who persistently violate this advice could be subject to harassment of wildlife charges.

- The feeding of bald eagles should be prohibited so that it is clearly not legal to feed the eagles within the parks.
- What I appreciate most about Kachemak Bay is its spectacular natural setting and abundance of wildlife, most notably birds and marine life.
- Hunting and viewing areas must be designated to avoid user conflict. This must be in the plan. Otherwise the majority of users are removed from having access and having a quality experience viewing historical populations of wildlife.

#### WILDLIFE VIEWING

- There has been a substantial increase in the amount of birding activity in the Kachemak Bay area. There are more guided trips than ever before and whenever there is a rare bird sighting in the area we can get dozens of visiting birders, including some from the lower 48.
- With climate change affecting fishing and likely making it harder to make a living that way, some fishing boat owners might find a clientele who prefer wildlife viewing, a sustainable activity if managed properly.

#### TRAPPING AND HUNTING

- Old hunting camps should be removed from the park as they are bear attractions and a bummer to stumble across. The person responsible for the mess should be held accountable for the cleanup cost.
- I would like to see more thought to integration of the new water trail in the plan, development of ways to accommodate more wildlife viewing, particularly in the fjords where hunting is causing a serious decline in waterfowl and other animals easily shot from beaches.
- The park needs to make it very clear that commercial guided hunting needs a permit and is not allowed without a permit.
- Trapping is not allowed in the Park but if it is, traps must be set ½ mile off trails for the safety of park users.
- The park hunting regulations need to be managed under a Special Management Area Plan that provides restrictions to wildlife bag limits, seasons, methods, or means. This goes in the ADF&G Regulation Book to hunters.
- Bear baiting is not allowed in the Park.

### **FACILITIES**

#### DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- I would like to reiterate my emphasis on facility maintenance. You can put it in the plan, but don't build it if you can't maintain it. My experience over the last 30 years is that the State Park crews do a great job with the funding and the manpower that they have, but they just can't keep up.
- Improve outhouse at Eveline State Recreation Site.
- How about outhouses at Diamond Creek Park?
- Develop humanure toilets.

#### MOORING BUOYS

- The 1995 management plan lists boat moorage facilities as one of the facility development recommendations; however this facility has diminished in number to the point of “extinction”. The use of KBSP is very compelling especially to those of us who live on the Kenai Peninsula. Without the availability of mooring buoys, we are restricted in the use of our valuable resource which readily, and so seemingly unavailable.
- As soon as I began reviewing the 1995 Management Plan online, I noticed that in the summary, it lists the facility development recommendations included: trails and trail related facilities, boat moorage facilities, campsites, and public use cabins. Now that one of the four facility developments no longer exists, I feel one of the fundamentals of the management plan has been disregarded by those which have the authority to appropriate the needed funds. I understand there is a lot of funding needed to purchase, install, and maintain these buoys. I would like to see this addressed at the upcoming meeting and hopefully to come up with a plan to see the mooring buoys distributed again to all the areas they once occupied and to other new places inside KBSP.
- Mooring buoys for boaters, who indulge in that KBSP has to offer, are like parking spots for motorists who indulge in what other Alaskan parks have to offer. Take away these, and you take away the use.
- I would like to see the mooring buoys that used to exist at Saddle, Sea Star Cove replaced.
- Without mooring buoys we are restricted in the use of our valuable resource (KBSP & KBSWP) which is readily, and so seemingly available.
- Mooring buoys are for boaters who indulge in what KBSP has to offer, are like parking spots for motorists who indulge in what other Alaskan parks have to offer. Take away these, and you take away the use.
- A greater number of permanent mooring buoys should be placed in strategic sites in state waters adjacent to the park.
- Maintenance of a limited set of mooring buoys is probably more important than just a greater number of buoys.
- The highest priority mooring buoy location should be one located by the Saddle Trail trailhead.
- Put in some extra moorings at the Saddle Trail beach head.
- I believe that the Park on the south side of Kachemak Bay should have mooring buoys in strategic locations – Halibut Cove Lagoon, Saddle Trail trailhead, Sadie Cove quarry, to give a few examples, others as the need is identified.
- What happened to the mooring buoy by Glacier Spit?

#### PUBLIC USE CABINS (PUC)

- Continue developing infrastructure including PUC’s that supports use of KBSP.
- I would very much like to see more public use cabins, especially located near the alpine zone, for example at Portlock Plateau or Grace Ridge.
- PUC’s should be constructed with locally obtained materials and designed for easy maintenance.
- Any PUC (or hut) should be located only in a location that does not disturb or displace wildlife, there should be rules governing facility use and users should be appropriately educated.
- Rental cabins are popular and are apparently a good revenue source, but I would like to urge caution in addressing them in the Plan. I would encourage you to keep them to a minimum and in locations that do not compromise the wilderness of the Park. Accessible trails would be a

good idea around the rental cabins because quite likely cabin renters would include older people and those that may be wheelchair bound.

- Add more public use cabins; improve buoys and trails from cabins.
- The updated plan should address the eventual replacement of the yurts with public use cabins. While yurts provide shelter for users, public use cabins are more appropriate for the Alaskan environment.

#### YURTS

- Add more yurts, improve what we have – especially outhouses.
- Haystack Rock yurt is wonderful.
- What happened to the yurt on Glacier Spit?
- Encourage the use of the yurts.

#### CAMPING AND PICNIC AREAS

- I generally oppose developed picnic areas, but in instances where an area is being heavily used and trash, resource damage or sanitation problems are occurring, DPOR must manage this use in order to protect the natural integrity of the area. This could be active management, such as kiosk information/education, bear-proof trash containers, an outhouse, etc.
- I believe that the Park on the south side of Kachemak Bay should have developed campsites with fire rings and maintained outhouses with water if possible.
- Developed campsites should be easy to maintain, hence in all likelihood close to a body of water so that crews can easily get there to do the maintenance.
- Add campsites along trails.
- Add more picnic sites at Eveline State Recreation Site.
- How about primitive campsites at Diamond Creek Park?

#### DOCKS

- A permanent dock should be located near the Saddle Trail trailhead. .
- Improve docking.

### **SUBSISTENCE**

#### GENERAL

- My family owns several lots in Neptune Bay and has traditionally used that area for subsistence fishing and berry picking.
- I pick berries and beach comb in the park

### **EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION**

#### GENERAL

- Do have an information kiosk on the Spit if there is not one already.
- Create a boating wildlife interaction protocol – protect rearing young birds, foraging birds, significant habitats.



## **FUNDING**

- More funding is needed to purchase, install, and maintain buoys.
- KBSP And KBSWP are amazing resources that are managed very well by limited, but dedicated, staff on a shoestring budget. I commend Alaska State Parks for pulling this off.
- There needs to be more support for funding, especially for a full-time ranger position.
- DPOR facilities are constructed and then often not maintained. DPOR should never develop a facility without having a reasonable expectation that DPOR will have the funding to properly manage and maintain it.
- DPOR has somewhere in the neighborhood of \$50 million in deferred maintenance and this is a disgrace. DPOR should not develop any facility until this huge amount of deferred maintenance is reduced to a reasonable and manageable level.

## **MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES AND IDEAS**

- There are too many people on the planet and they want to live too high a lifestyle. The amount of harm done to the earth is directly related to the number of people and also to their income.
- Recent efforts by the state administration to weaken management plans and to allow more development and incompatible uses are very disconcerting.
- Since the City of Homer is soliciting exemptions from the Critical Habitat Management Plan to allow parking of oil rigs at the City's dock, I believe that it is important to not allow storage of oil rigs anywhere within state park waters. Doing so would not only completely destroy the scenic view shed, the bright lights and noise associated with these rigs would be completely incompatible with maintaining the quiet and natural beauty of the parks.
- We are opposed to ADF&G's attempt to undermine habitat protection rules because the rollbacks would allow permits to be issued for virtually any activity in a special management area regardless of the consequences, it disregards the wishes of Alaskans, sheds the rights of Alaskans to protect game, fish and land comparable to HB77, and would allow the continued extermination practices of Alaskan habitats.
- I would like to see the road to Red Mountain restored. It was enjoyed by many from Seldovia.
- We live in a mechanized world filled with harmful chemicals, visual noise and air pollution, and to recharge the health of our minds, bodies and souls, we seek nature. This is crucial to our spiritual and physical survival. KBSP and KBSWP is our refuge, our cathedral of the wilderness, it is our one place to go when the pressures of civilization have taken their toll and we need a reprieve.
- Stepping Stone Lake – is that really part of the system? Signs – picnic area?
- Deep Creek – seems to be nothing but staging for private launch site. Used to love to bird there.
- Ninilchink Beach – hope the clams come back!!
- Quantify spiritual sustenance. The Park provides spiritual sustenance through its many sacred sites and naturalness, and recreational values based on its scenic landscapes and opportunities for their enjoyment. It generates economic value to local communities through tourism and local employment. This unique combination of attributes makes the Park one of the nation's most special places, worthy of national park status.
- Effort needs to be expanded and devoted to the 43 million birdwatchers, the 70 million wildlife viewers, outdoor youth programs, schools, Girl Scouts of America, and Boy Scouts of America.

- The National Estuary is special and worthy of extra protective measures. The ecosystem balance has changed and the explosion of the sea otter population has impacted the clam and mussel supply and kelp beds.