

Sponsored by: Assemblymember Sykes
Adopted: 02/07/17

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 17-012**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING ALASKA STATE HOUSE BILL NO. 6, ESTABLISHING THE JONESVILLE PUBLIC USE AREA.

WHEREAS, the Jonesville Mine/Slipper Lake area near Sutton, over the past few years; gradually turned into a lawless area that included one shooting death; several near misses; numerous poorly thought out unorganized shooting areas; shots fired at working construction equipment and residential houses; numerous four-wheeler accidents; massive partying with alcohol and other drugs; garbage; human waste and many other thoughtless, unsafe, and undesirable activities; and

WHEREAS, upwards of 20 truck and trailer loads of garbage and contaminants are picked up from the grounds in the area and taken to the local transfer station by community volunteers each year; and

WHEREAS, Sutton community members became concerned and attempted to improve the area, but the undesirable uses grew faster than local solutions, and

WHEREAS, the community of Sutton provided its own resources and funds to clean and monitor the Jonesville area, even though the jurisdiction over the lands lies with the state of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, signage has not been placed to designate public use activities including shooting and off-road recreational vehicles; the State has not provided signs without a management plan in place; and

WHEREAS, the Sutton Community Council established "The Jonesville/Slipper Lake Action Committee" in November 2015, that gathered widespread community input and participation, to determine a course of action to improve the situation on public lands in and around Sutton, known as Eska and Jonesville mining areas; and

WHEREAS, the Sutton community sought help from Borough Planning and Land Management officials, Alaska State Department of Natural Resources, and Alaska State Troopers; and

WHEREAS, a management plan and agreement can only be put in place after the area has been declared a Public Use Area by State legislation; and

WHEREAS, legislation would allow a management plan which would protect the homes and property of local citizens in Sutton; reduce all-terrain vehicle accidents; provide needed safe places for recreational shooting; mitigate illegal dumping; and generally provide a healthier, cleaner and safer environment for public multiple use activities; and

WHEREAS, the area being wrecked by crazy behavior is beautiful and has potential for family camping, picnicking,

controlled shooting, hiking and other outdoor activities; and

WHEREAS, the state of Alaska controls the active and abandoned mining leases and the moose range located in the Jonesville area, which has a long history of public use under the Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the Jonesville/Slipper Lake Action Committee and other stakeholders have reviewed the history and determined a course of action needs to be taken for the benefit of the community of Sutton and the safety of the general public; and

WHEREAS, the current problems are similar to the Jim Creek area lands a few years ago prior to the establishment of the Knik River Public Use Area (KRPUA), and

WHEREAS, the steady establishment of the KRPUA of a shooting range, designated trails, and other things have dramatically reduced violence, crime, alcohol and other drugs, and changed the character of the land use to be more family friendly; and

WHEREAS, the areas adjacent to the main Sutton community are beautiful, accessible areas with great potential to have similar camping, safe shooting areas, designated trails and more family friendly activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly enthusiastically supports the establishment of a Public Use Area by the state of Alaska for purposes of recreation in the Jonesville/Slipper Lake area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough will assist and coordinate efforts to develop a public use plan and supports the enabling legislation, House Bill 6, now before the 30th Alaska Legislature.

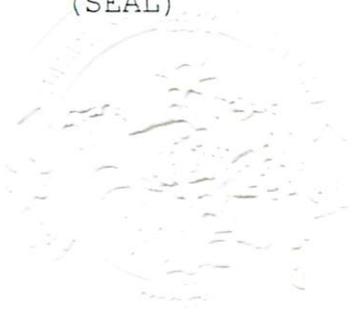
ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 7 day of February, 2017.


VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Sykes, Beck, McKee, Mayfield, Doty, and Kowalke

