

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

Work Session | Fairbanks, Alaska | March 17, 2016
On Time Public Comment Index

Betsy Palfreyman PC01

Bob Mitchell PC02

City of Gustavus PC03

Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge PC04

Greg Streveler PC05

Nina Faust PC06



Submitted By
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Submitted On
3/9/2016 10:12:59 PM
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Would like to see Dude Creek Critical Habitat area plan approved. it is time to bring public input back into these special use areas. errors were made in the previous administration and this new plan would begin to correct these errors. a collaborative process that finds a balance between conservation and public use is our best hope to keep these areas safe. it starts with Dude Creek. thank you.



From: robert.mitchell31@aol.com
Subject: Dude Creek Management Plan
Date: Thursday, March 10, 2016 11:43:25 AM

Dear members of the Board of Game,

I wish to thank the Alaska Board of Game and Governor Walker for readdressing the management process for Alaska's critical habitat areas, fish and game refuges and wildlife sanctuaries - and in particular the Dude Creek Management Plan, which has gone through an extensive public process and includes sound management provisions based on local knowledge and input.

The exemplary process used for development of the Dude Creek Management Plan is of interest to all Alaskans, and should be applied to all special area management plans across the state.

Local Alaskans are best suited to shape the management policies for the special habitat areas that support sport, personal use, subsistence, recreation and commercial uses. I trust that the Board of Game will work closely with the Community of Gustavus in the refinement and implementation of the Dude Creek plan, and with other communities for plans affecting their respective locales.

Sincerely,

Bob Mitchell

241 E 23rd Ave

Anchorage 99503



**CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA
RESOLUTION CY15-33**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE GUSTAVUS CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF
THE DUDE CREEK CRITICAL HABITAT AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, the community of Gustavus has long had an interest in protecting the Dude Creek wetlands for their value to wildlife and other traditional uses, and

WHEREAS, the State legislature, in response to a community initiative, established the Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area (CHA) in 1988, and

WHEREAS, the objectives, as set out in the legislation and accompanying intent language, were to protect Sandhill cranes and other wildlife habitat in the CHA while allowing traditional uses to the degree not in conflict with crane and other wildlife habitat protection, and,

WHEREAS, after years of CHA management without a formal plan, a planning process headed by the Fish and Game Habitat and Wildlife Conservation divisions was completed in 2011, with input from the City of Gustavus, several State agencies, The Nature Conservancy and other interested parties, including the general public, and

WHEREAS, the draft CHA management plan arising from that effort was quashed in 2012 by the then-current State administration and replaced with a much altered document that diluted or removed most protections agreed to by participants in the original draft, and

WHEREAS, this altered document was met with much criticism and never adopted into regulation, and

WHEREAS, under the present State administration, a draft plan has now been reissued, on 10/30/15, that fully reflects the protections agreed to previously, and

WHEREAS, this draft plan has the following goals (paraphrased here), as follows:

- 1) Protect the habitat for cranes and other wildlife;
- 2) allow and improve public access to the extent compatible with goal #1;
- 3) support research and monitoring of the key wetland resource;

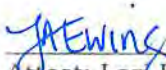
WHEREAS, these goals are well reflected in the proposed management prescriptions presented in the 10/30/15 draft plan, and

WHEREAS, the Gustavus City Council subscribes to the goals and prescriptions as presented in that draft,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gustavus City Council supports the draft CHA management plan as presented in the current 10/30/15 draft and urges its enactment into regulation.

PASSED and **APPROVED** by a duly constituted quorum of the Gustavus City Council this 14th day of December, 2015, and effective upon adoption.


Mike Taylor, Mayor


Attest: Lori Ewing, City Clerk



To: Alaska Board of Game
FAX: 907/465-6094
Date: March 9, 2016
Pages: 2
From: Barbara Carlson
FAX: 907/248-3159
Phone: 907/248-2503

Subject: Support for clear process regarding Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area

Dear Board of Game:

I write on behalf of Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR) to support a clear and open process in dealing with management plans for all of Alaska's 32 special habitat areas. We appreciate that Governor Walker is restoring balance to the process for managing Alaska's critical habitat areas, fish and game refuges and wildlife sanctuaries. We encourage you to embrace this restoration of balance for the good of these unique and invaluable resources belonging to Alaskans.

We read the original draft plan for Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area before it was red-lined by Randy Bates with outrageous and counterproductive edits. We support the original draft plan, which followed a wise process of involving Alaska Department of Fish & Game and cooperating biologists, the local community of Gustavus, and the Board of Game. This original draft plan had already been approved by the planning team and was supported by the surrounding community, which speaks volumes. It was a sound plan and was designed to support the purposes for which Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area was set aside for the people of Alaska, not just for people today, but also for future generations.

Each of Alaska's 32 refuges, sanctuaries and critical habitat areas were set aside for specific purposes depending on their unique attributes. It is important; therefore, to involve the biologists and managers that the state employs to work with stakeholders, including *especially* the local communities, who will know many things that others may not understand about a given special area. Local stakeholders generally have a greater appreciation for and knowledge about their refuge, sanctuary, or special area, because they are closest to the resource. For the long term survival of these resources we want that local input. To not include it would be folly.

It is important to include local communities in planning involving their resources. They have good insight into what management is needed to help ensure the appropriate and



long term use by Alaskans for areas that support sport, personal use, subsistence, recreation, and commercial uses, as well as conservation and wildlife watching.

Thank you for your service to Alaska and for your utmost attention to this important process for the good of not just this generation, but for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Barbara Svarny Carlson

248-2503

Barbara Carlson
President and Executive Director
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Submitted By
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Submitted On
3/9/2016 10:54:59 AM
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To Board of Game members:

I will send under separate cover a copy of a city resolution supporting the draft management plan for the Dude Creek CHA. Here is my \$.02 worth to go with it.

I've been involved with this CHA since the idea was first floated. The sandhill crane migratory stopover it protects is a big deal for Gustavus, that everyone looks forward to each April and September. The draft management plan does a good job of protecting the the cranes and other wildlife, while allowing uses, such as hunting, trapping, hiking and firewood gathering that do not conflict with keeping the wetlands and critters in good shape. Fish & Game is to be congratulated for an inclusive process that gave many stakeholders a voice in the process. Please give the plan your blessing. Thank you, Greg Streveler



From: [Nina Faust](#)
To: [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Cc: [Nina Faust](#)
Subject: Dude Creek Critical Management Plan
Date: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 7:41:40 PM

P.O. Box 2994
Homer AK 99603

March 9, 2016

Alaska Board of Game
Juneau AK

Dear Board of Game Members:

Alaska's Critical Habitat Areas are extremely valuable areas for the state; that is why they have been set aside for special management. These areas have gone through a rigorous public process to develop the best possible management plans to protect their resources and allow responsible and compatible use. We do not need to throw out our Critical Habitat Area Management Plans in the name of streamlining permits for development.

I applaud Governor Walker for standing up for the well regarded process the State has used to develop the Management Plans for our critical habitat areas, refuges, and sanctuaries. A great deal of public participation went into the development of each of those plans. This is where local knowledge, a very valuable asset usually based on on-the-ground use of these areas, is used to guide the management process. I know the Dude Creek Management Plan is a classic case of extensive public input being used to develop a sound plan to protect and manage this area. Locals know the habitat and should be a major part of developing a plan.

I firmly believe Alaskans want to keep this type of process in place in developing plans for all special use areas. Many probably have very good plans already. These plans may only need to be tweaked. I urge the Board of Game to follow suit with the Governor and use the existing Dude Creek Management Plan. Keep Alaskans part of the process.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust