



Alaska State Scenic Byways

Designation Application

This application will help the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) determine whether the nominated byway will qualify under the Alaska Scenic Byways program. After a review by the Scenic Byways Committee, the commissioner of DOT&PF will make the final determination as to whether the byway qualifies for designation. Once a road is designated as an Alaska Scenic Byway, it is eligible for National Scenic Byway grants, and for nomination to national status. Byways must have a corridor management plan (CMP) to apply for All American Road or National Scenic Byway. The CMP will include information about how the community intends to develop and protect the byway.

Please return to:

Scenic Byways Coordinator
ADOT&PF
Statewide Planning
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801

Applicant Information

Sponsoring Agency, Organization or Individual

City of Homer on behalf of the Sterling Highway Byway Group

Contact Person

Anne Marie Holen

Mailing Address

491 East Pioneer Avenue

Physical Address

Same

City

Zip

Homer, Alaska 99603

Telephone

Fax

(907) 235-8121 x2246 (907) 235-3143

E-mail

Website

amholen@ci.homer.ak.us www.ci.homer.ak.us

Proposed Byway Information

Name of Proposed Byway

Sterling Highway

Route Section(s)

Example: Section 1: Sterling Highway from Anchor Point to Homer

Sterling Highway from the west intersection of Skilak Lake Loop Road at milepost 75.3 to Anchor Point at milepost 156.4 This would result in the entire Sterling Highway being a State Scenic Byway when combined with the two currently designated portions.

Approximate length (in miles) of the entire proposed byway

New proposed portion: 81 miles. Combined (new & current):142.5

**Please include a map indicating the route, and up to six non-returnable photographs of the proposed byway.*

Statement of Significance

Using the intrinsic qualities identified on the previous page, please explain how the proposed byway is significant, and why it should be added to the Alaska Scenic Byways System. Additional pages may be attached if necessary. Please do not exceed five pages.

See attached 4 page Statement of Significance.
See attached maps showing recreation opportunities along the undesignated portion of the Sterling Highway.

Jurisdiction

Please list local, state and/or federal government agencies that have jurisdiction over the proposed byway route and the primary contact. Describe how the agencies have been informed about the effort to designate a scenic byway in their jurisdictions.

Government Entity	Contact Name & Phone Number	How Informed
US Fish and Wildlife	Robin West-Refuge Mngr 907-262-7021	In person, e-mail, meetings
ADOT&PF: SC Region	Rex Young- Area Planner 907-269-0507	Phone and e-mail
Kenai Peninsula Borough	Pete Sprague-Chair 907-262-4073	In person, assembly meeting
	Milli Martin-Lands Chair 907-235-6652	In person, meeting
	Gary Davis-Roads Director 907-262-4427	In person, meeting
	Philip Bryson-Planning Chair 907-283-4428	In person, meeting

Community Participation

Community Organization	Contact Name & Phone Number	How Informed
See attached spreadsheet. Over 160 organizations, agencies, businesses and members of the general public have been contacted. Outreach to stakeholders continues to be a priority and will be expanded over the next months.		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sterling Highway is America's premier fishing highway. There is no other corridor in America that offers anglers the range of world-class fishing opportunities. People travel from around the world to cast their lines into the salt and fresh waters along the Sterling Highway. Many who 'fish the Sterling Highway' also enjoy the numerous other recreational opportunities that are only accessed by this corridor.

This corridor is also a perfect compliment and partner with the Seward All-American Road and Alaska's Marine Highway National Scenic Byway. Together, these three connected routes will offer state residents and visitors views, experiences and perspectives on the land and water, on resource use and resource recreation, on the wildness of Alaska, on the history of its human inhabitants, and on the varied and spectacular beauty that defines our state. Based on both the Sterling Highway's nationally significant recreation resources as well as the potential for a nationally unique multi-byway experience, the Sterling Highway merits designation as an Alaskan Scenic Byway and ultimately as a National Scenic Byway.

The Sterling Highway can easily be divided into three segments. While the two end sections are already designated as State Scenic Byways, the middle section is not. The two designated segments are from the Wye (milepost 37.0) to the west intersection with Skilak Lake Loop Road (milepost 75.3), and Anchor Point (milepost 157.0) to Homer. The first segment is designated for its outstanding scenic quality, natural setting, recreational activities, historic significance and wildlife viewing. The same is true for the 23-mile stretch from Anchor Point to Homer, which is also noted for cultural and archaeological qualities.

The middle portion of the Sterling Highway is also worthy of both state and national byway designation for its world-class recreation. The designation of this portion of the Sterling Highway will be primarily for recreation and secondarily for the remaining five qualities. These qualities are discussed below.

Primary Qualities

RECREATIONAL QUALITY

The Sterling Highway provides access to world-class recreational opportunities, including availability to the Chugach National Forest, the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and numerous Alaska State Parks, and is described as "Alaska's Playground" on the official Alaska Highway Map. Those traveling the Sterling have access to fishing, hiking, camping, hunting, mountain biking, class five river rafting, sea and river kayaking, back-country and cross country skiing, wildlife viewing, canoeing, snowmobiling, bird watching and dog-mushing. All of these activities are of state and many are of national significance. Many of the recreational resources and experiences on the Kenai Peninsula are accessible from the currently undesignated, middle portion of the Sterling Highway.

Fishing. Exceptional fishing opportunities are accessible along the entire length of the Sterling Highway, from Tern Lake to the Homer Spit. The highway provides easy access to two of Alaska's largest river fisheries and it is common knowledge among fishing enthusiasts that these runs are the largest in the world. This world class salmon fishing

is the most popular activity for both residents and visitors to the Kenai Peninsula. Anglers can target four species of North Pacific Salmon: Pink, Coho, Sockeye and Chinook, which are found in saltwater, freshwater and in various stocked lakes. Other popular fisheries include Dolly Varden, Steelhead Trout, Smelt, Rainbow Trout and Lake Trout, as well as Arctic Grayling and Northern Pike. Saltwater sport fisheries target world record Halibut, as well as Cod, Sea and Rock Bass and a variety of Clams and Crabs.

All fisheries on the Kenai Peninsula are stable, healthy populations managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game's long-term strategic plan emphasizes sport fishing as an essential element of Alaska's economy and the well being of Alaska's residents.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game states on their website:

"The Kenai River supports the largest recreational fisheries for Chinook, Sockeye and Coho salmon in Alaska."

A 1999 report prepared for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game titled *Economics of Sport Fishing in Alaska* summarizes the following:

- The Kenai and Russian Rivers are the overwhelming most popular sport fishing areas in Alaska. The Homer, Anchor Point and Ninilchik area came in second. Both these areas are accessed by the Sterling Highway.
- 34% (the most) of Alaskan resident fishing occurs on the Kenai Peninsula
- 46% (the most) of all visitors to Alaska fish the Kenai Peninsula
- In 1993, \$540 million was spent in Alaska on sportfishing activities
- The 1993 total economic value of sportfishing in Alaska was \$736 million.

The March 2004 issue of *Field and Stream Magazine* indicates that the Kenai River has produced ten of the last twelve WORLD record salmon and is consistently ***the number one location in North America to catch a trophy salmon***. The salmon are so large and plentiful in the Kenai River that they must weight more than 70 pounds to be considered a 'trophy salmon'. All other fisheries in Alaska have a trophy size of 50 pounds.

The undesignated portion of the Sterling Highway provides access to 50 of the 82 miles of the nationally significant Kenai River fishery.

Other rivers with significant fisheries include the Kasilof River, Deep River, Anchor River, Crooked Creek and numerous smaller rivers and creeks along the highway. These areas represent the second most popular fishing areas in Alaska and are accessed by the undesignated portion of the Sterling. Popular saltwater fishing areas for Clams, Halibut and Sea Bass are found at Clam Gulch, Ninilchik and other beach communities along the Sterling. These world class saltwater fisheries are also accessed from the undesignated portion of the Sterling Highway.

Outdoor Recreation. Numerous recreation opportunities exist along the Sterling Highway. The Seward Ranger District of the Chugach National Forest, the 1.92 million acre Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Alaska State Parks all provide public recreation opportunities along the corridor. These agencies manage and maintain the following facilities along the Sterling Highway:

- 16 public use cabins
- 46 public campgrounds with RV facilities with several hundred sites
- 30 trails totaling over 500 miles
- 200 miles of canoe routes
- 4 visitor/interpretive centers
- dozens of boat launches
- numerous fishing platforms and wildlife viewing facilities

Additionally, local agencies and organizations along the highway provide smaller scaled recreation opportunities including trails, camping facilities and interpretive centers.

Hundreds of private businesses along the Sterling Highway offer extensive recreation opportunities such as camping, whitewater rafting, guided wildlife viewing, skiing and snow machining adventures, guided hunting and fishing, and other wilderness adventures on the Kenai Peninsula and across Cook Inlet.

Secondary Qualities

SCENIC QUALITIES

While the currently designated segments of the Sterling Highway are well documented for their nationally significant scenic qualities, much of the middle segment of the corridor has scenic qualities of state importance. Scenic areas of interest along the undesignated portion of the highway are the views across Cook Inlet to the Chigmit Mountains and their active volcanoes, the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Moose Flats, views of the Kenai Mountains, and numerous untamed rivers.

NATURAL QUALITIES

Nearly two million acres of protected lands exist along the Sterling Highway's undesignated portion, including the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. The highway parallels much of the western boundary of the Wildlife Refuge. A large portion of this area is undisturbed and provides significant opportunities to see wildlife, landforms and vegetation, and to recreate in an outstanding natural environment.

The Sterling Highway provides access to trails and waterways leading to popular areas for wildlife observation and hunting. More than 200 wildlife species are found along the Sterling Highway and its surrounding public lands, including moose, caribou, bald eagles, Dall sheep, brown and black bears, wolves, lynx, and salmon. Birders find opportunities to add to their life lists with species such as spruce grouse, willow ptarmigan, trumpeter swans, common and pacific loons, and arctic terns.

The Chigmit Mountains on the west side of Cook Inlet are home to some of Alaska's most famous volcanoes, many of which are still active and visible from many points along the Sterling Highway. These include Mount Redoubt and Mt. Iliamna to name a few. These have erupted as recently as 1990 and continue to be monitored. The Sterling Highway is one of few locations in the nation that provide visual access to the 'Ring of Fire'.

HISTORIC QUALITIES

Long before European contact, the Sterling Highway corridor was historically home to the Dena'ina Native people and later the Alutiiq (Aleuts) who populated the east coast of Cook Inlet and lived off the area's rich fishing and hunting resources. Native peoples migrated with the fish and mammals during the harvest seasons and over-wintered in small communities. After contact with western explorers, Native hunters were recruited by the Russians for gathering sea otter pelts.

Western exploration of the Kenai Peninsula was well documented by the Russian, English and Spanish. The earliest documented contact was in 1741 when Russian explorer Alexsei Chirikov, on board the Sv. Pavel, visited the Kenai Peninsula to establish trade. Evidence of this contact and future establishment of Russian settlements can be found in communities including Ninilchik and Kenai. The most famous exploration to the area was by Captain James Cook in 1778 who sailed Cook Inlet in search of a northwest route between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans. Today, many of the landforms and waterways paralleling the Sterling highway can be identified with the Cook Expedition.

CULTURAL QUALITIES

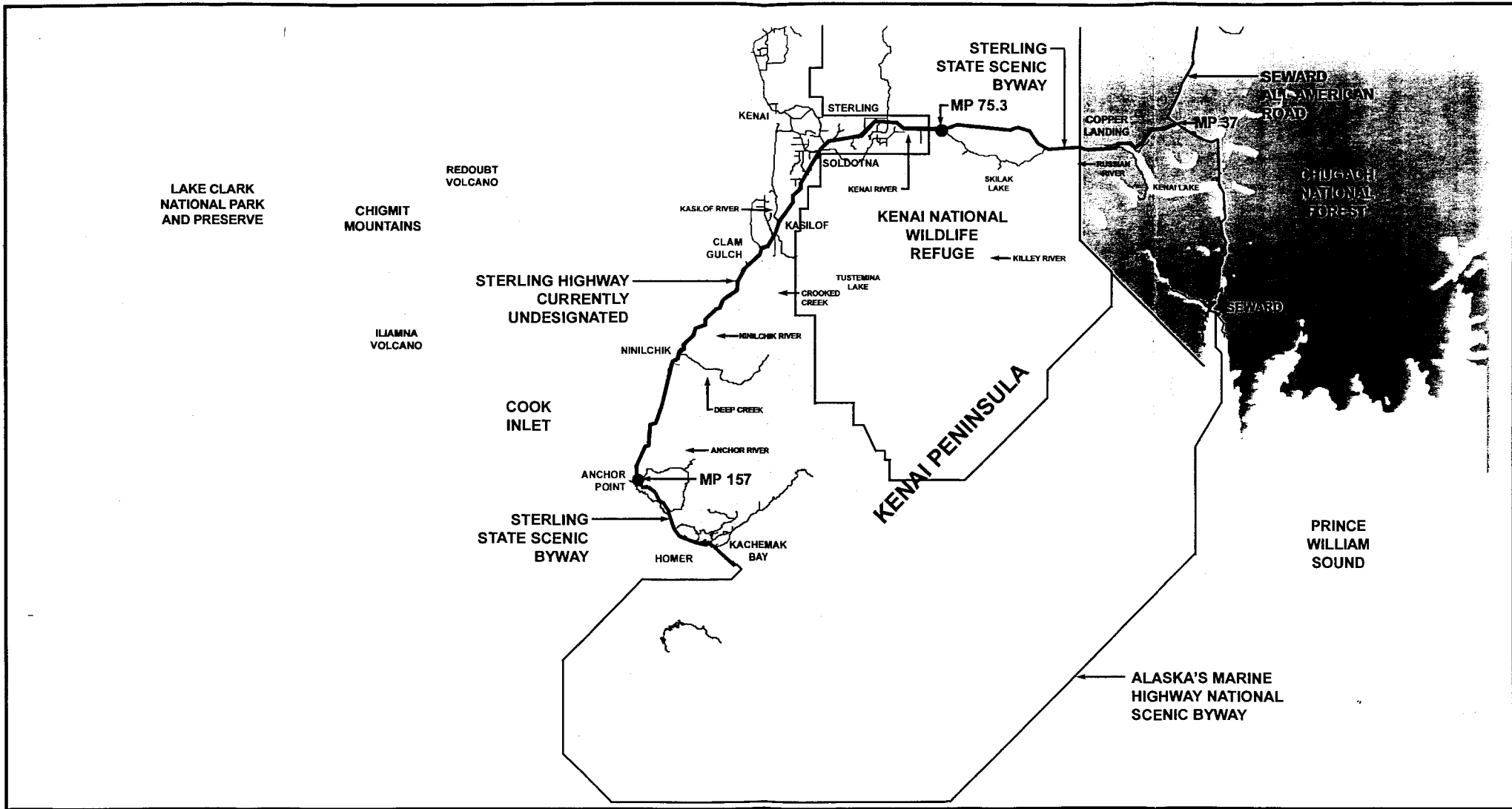
Native American culture continues to be vibrant along the corridor. Comprised of the Dena'ina and Alutiiq, several communities along the corridor continue their Native heritage. Many small Native coastal communities can still be found along the corridor while predominantly maintaining their culture. With the establishment of Russian America along the Kenai Peninsula and the merging of the Russian Orthodox religion with the Native population, a rich Russian Orthodox culture was created and still exists along the Sterling Highway.

ARCHEOLOGICAL QUALITIES

Archaeological surveys have identified numerous historic sites and traced human occupation of the region to much earlier times than those of the Spanish, English and Russian explorers. Numerous archaeological sites belonging to the Dena'ina and Alutiiq are known along this portion of the Sterling Highway, ranging in age from 100 - 1800 years old. Although well documented, the locations of many of the discoveries are not made public in order to help preserve these sacred sites.

SUMMARY

The entire Sterling Highway is deserving of State Scenic Byway designation. There is little doubt in the mind of Alaska's residents and recreationists from around the world that the Kenai Peninsula offers significant recreational opportunities. Many of these opportunities in "Alaska's Playground" are accessible along the undesignated portion of the Sterling Highway. Simply put, this portion of the Sterling provides access to world class recreation opportunities, predominantly outstanding freshwater and saltwater fishing. When combined with countless exceptional recreational opportunities; and many secondary qualities, the entire Sterling Highway is certainly worthy of both State and National Byway designation.



BASE MAPS PROVIDED BY



SCENIC BYWAY WORK BY

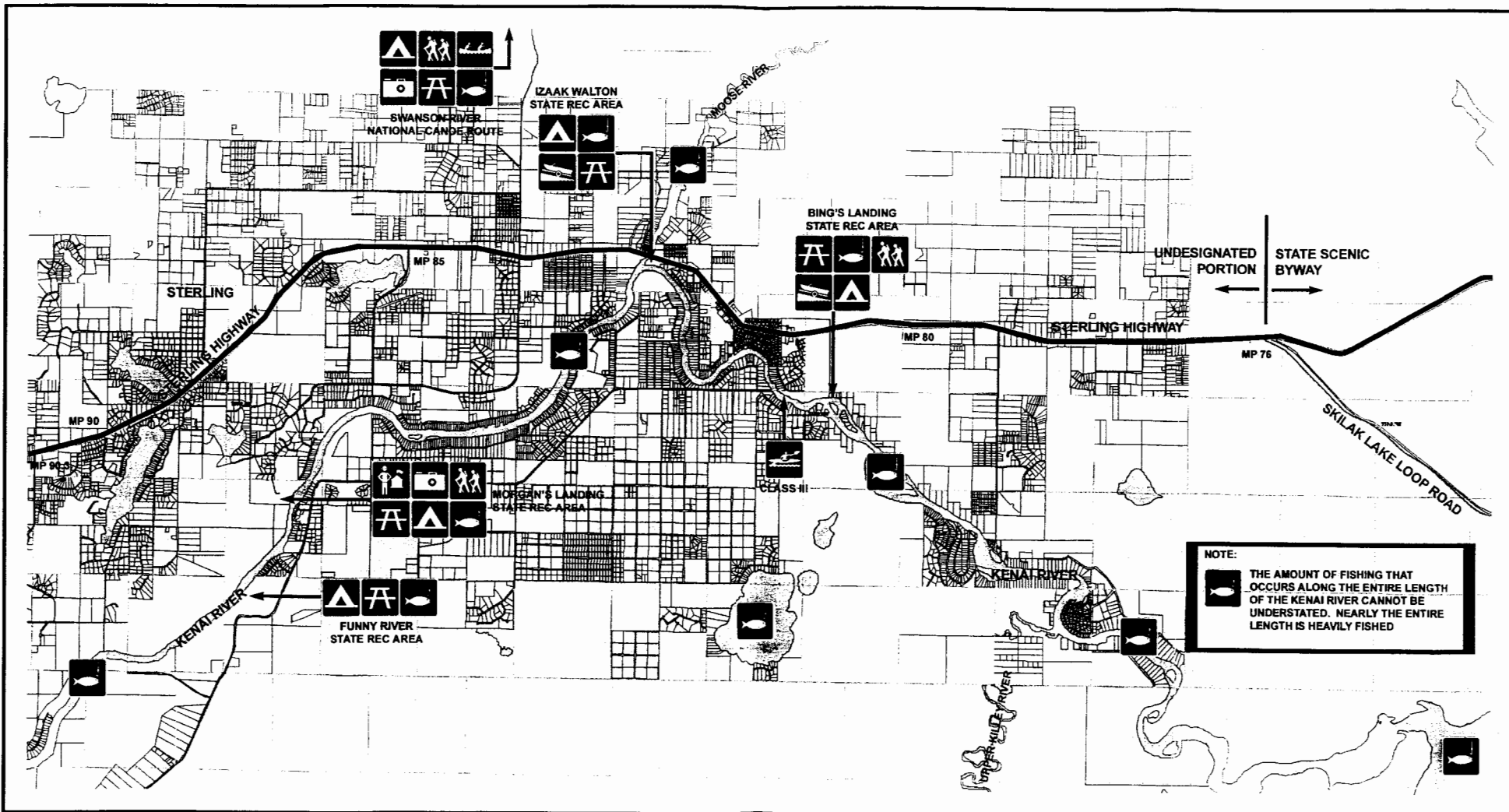
Jensen ■■■ 522 West 10th St
 Yorba ■■■ Juneau, AK
 Loft ■■■ 99801
 Inc ●■■ 907-586-1070

STERLING HIGHWAY STATE SCENIC BYWAY DESIGNATION APPLICATION
 WEST SKILAK LAKE LOOP ROAD TO ANCHOR POINT

HIGHWAY KEY PLAN



NOT TO SCALE



BASE MAPS PROVIDED BY



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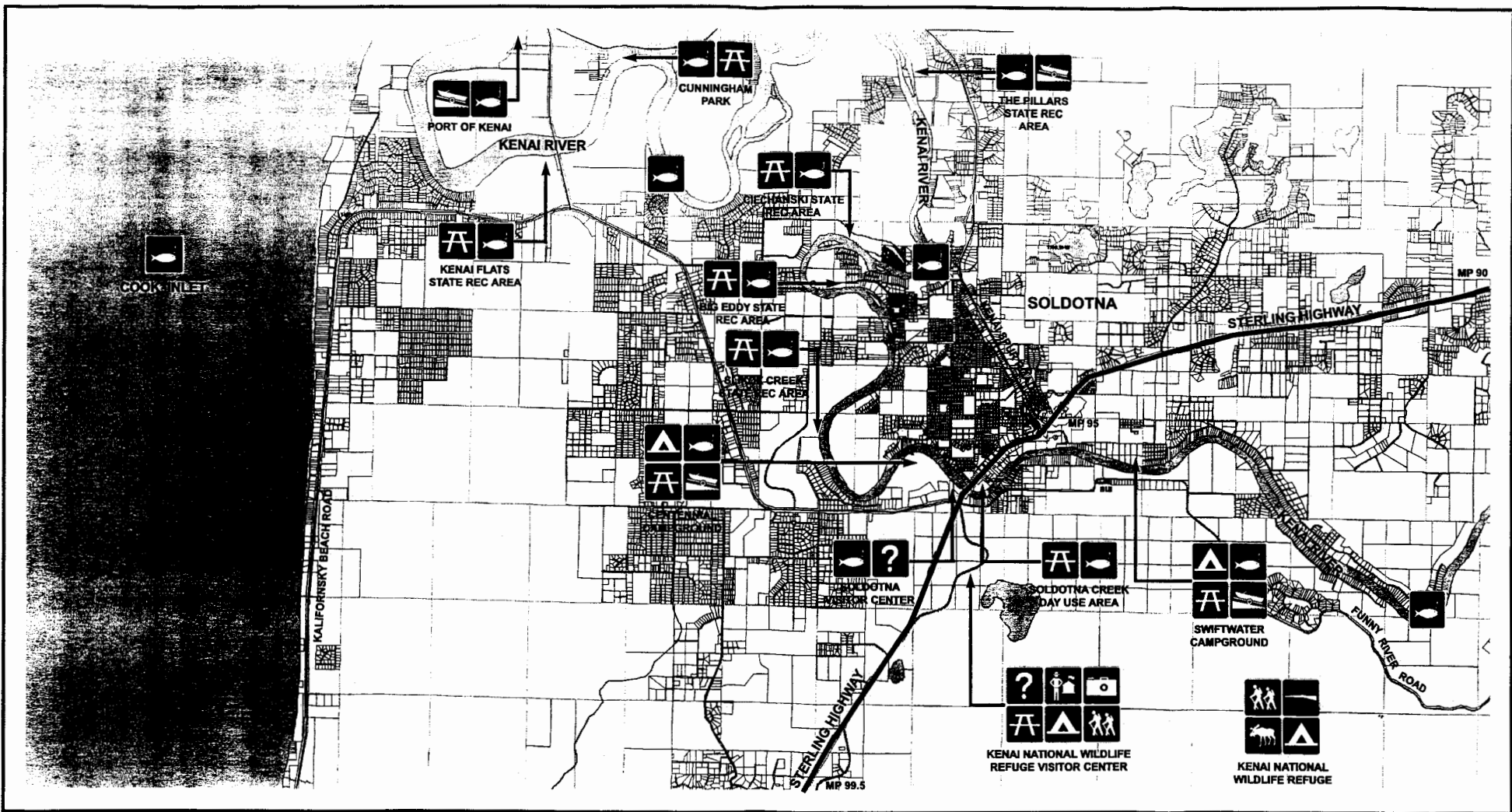
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STERLING HIGHWAY STATE SCENIC BYWAY DESIGNATION APPLICATION
WEST SKILAK LAKE LOOP ROAD TO ANCHOR POINT
RECREATION OPPORTUNITY MAPPING

STERLING



1 INCH = 1 MILE (11"x17")
APPROX



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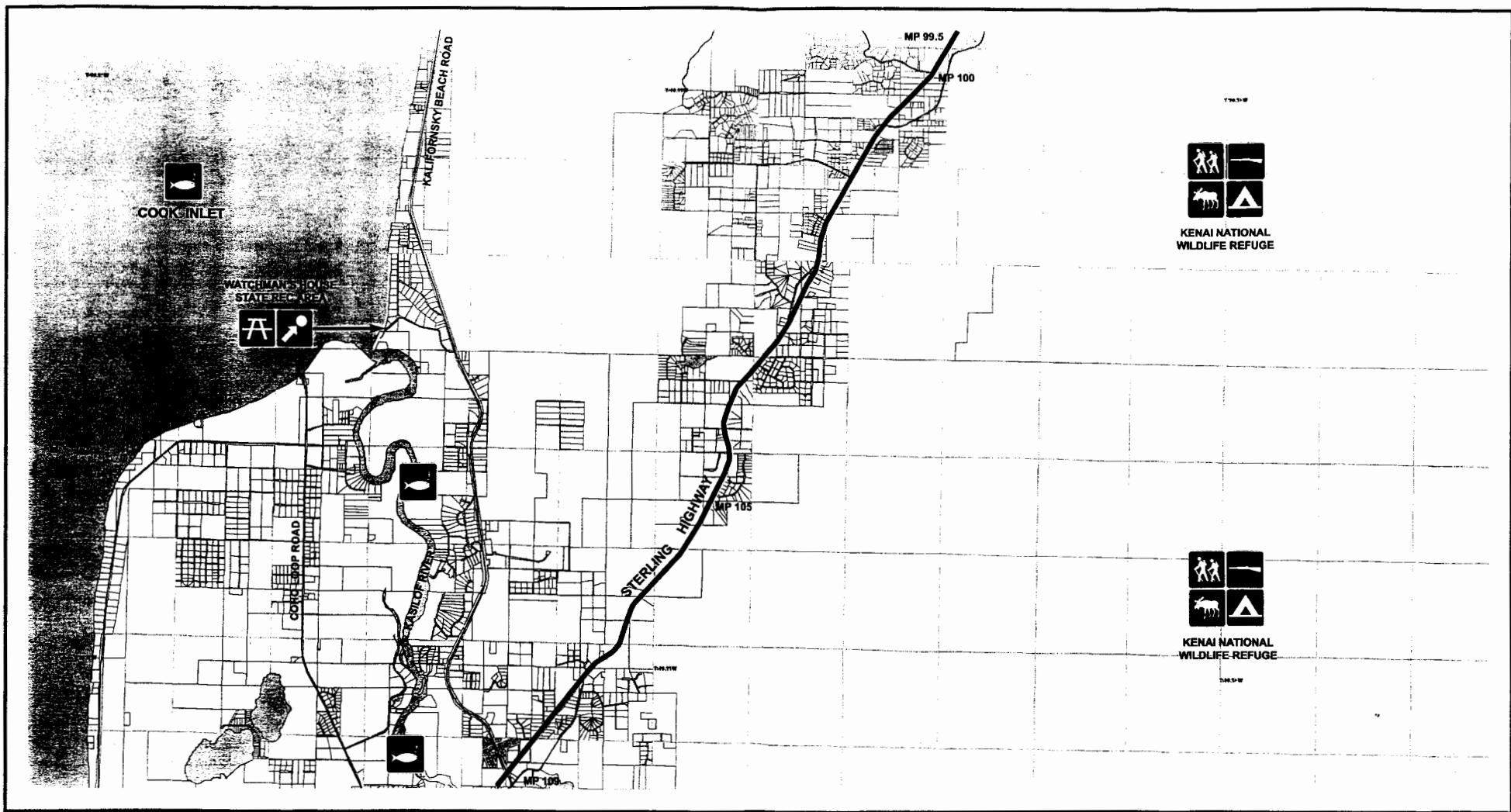
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 WEST SKILAK LAKE LOOP ROAD TO ANCHOR POINT
RECREATION OPPORTUNITY MAPPING
SOLDOTNA

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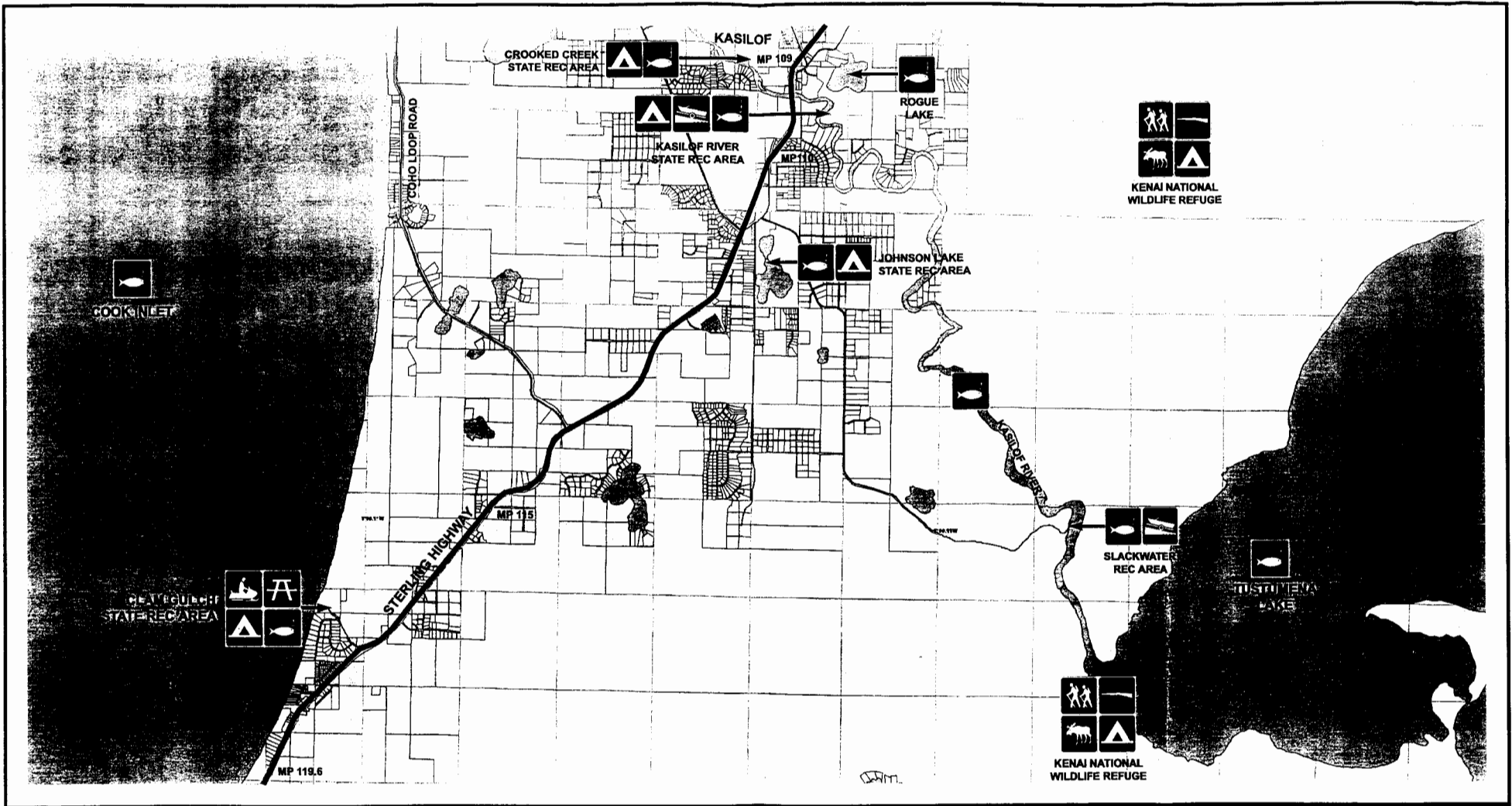
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 WEST SKILAK LAKE LOOP ROAD TO ANCHOR POINT
RECREATION OPPORTUNITY MAPPING
KALIFORNISKY



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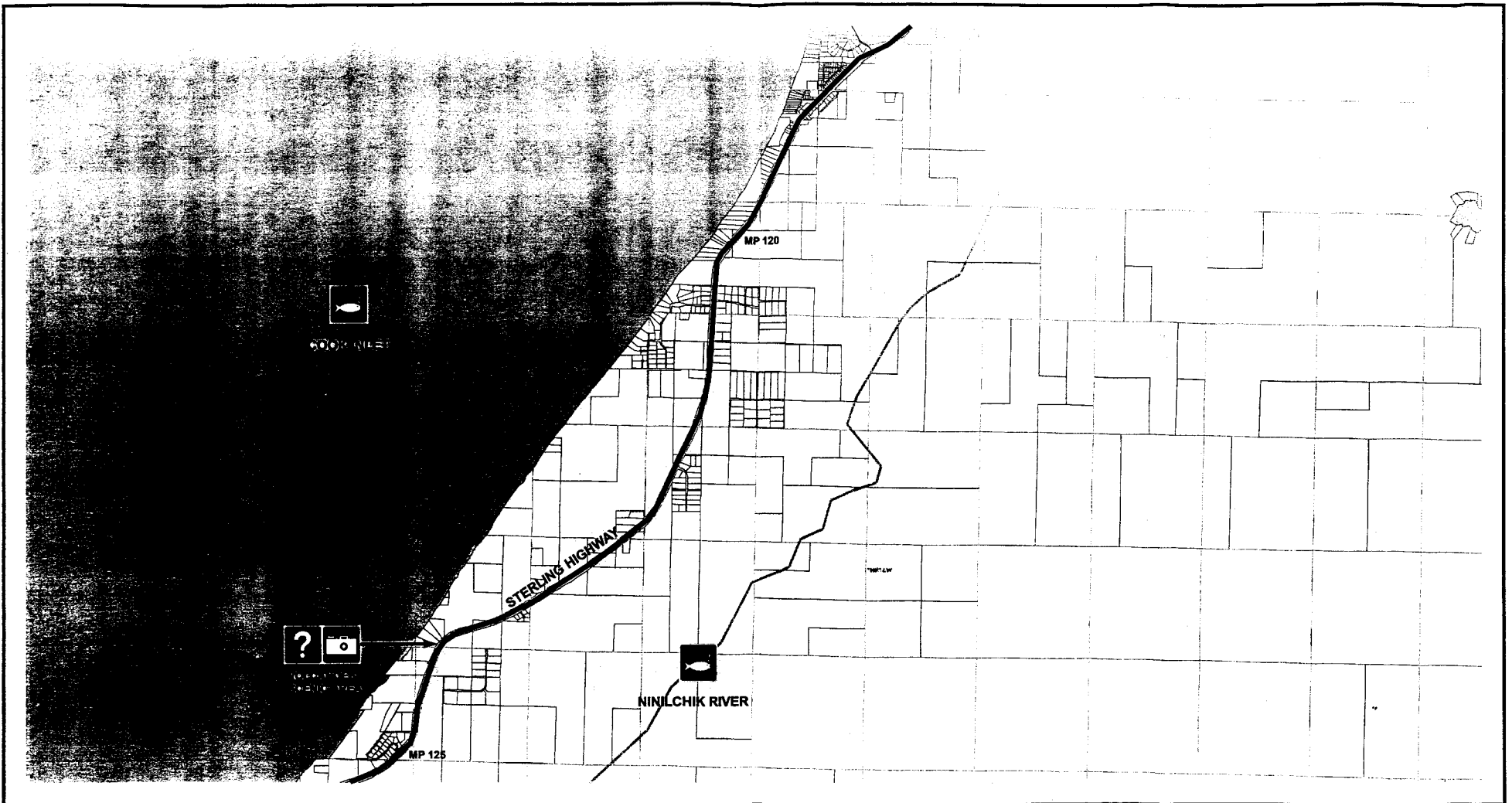
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RECREATION OPPORTUNITY MAPPING
CLAM GULCH



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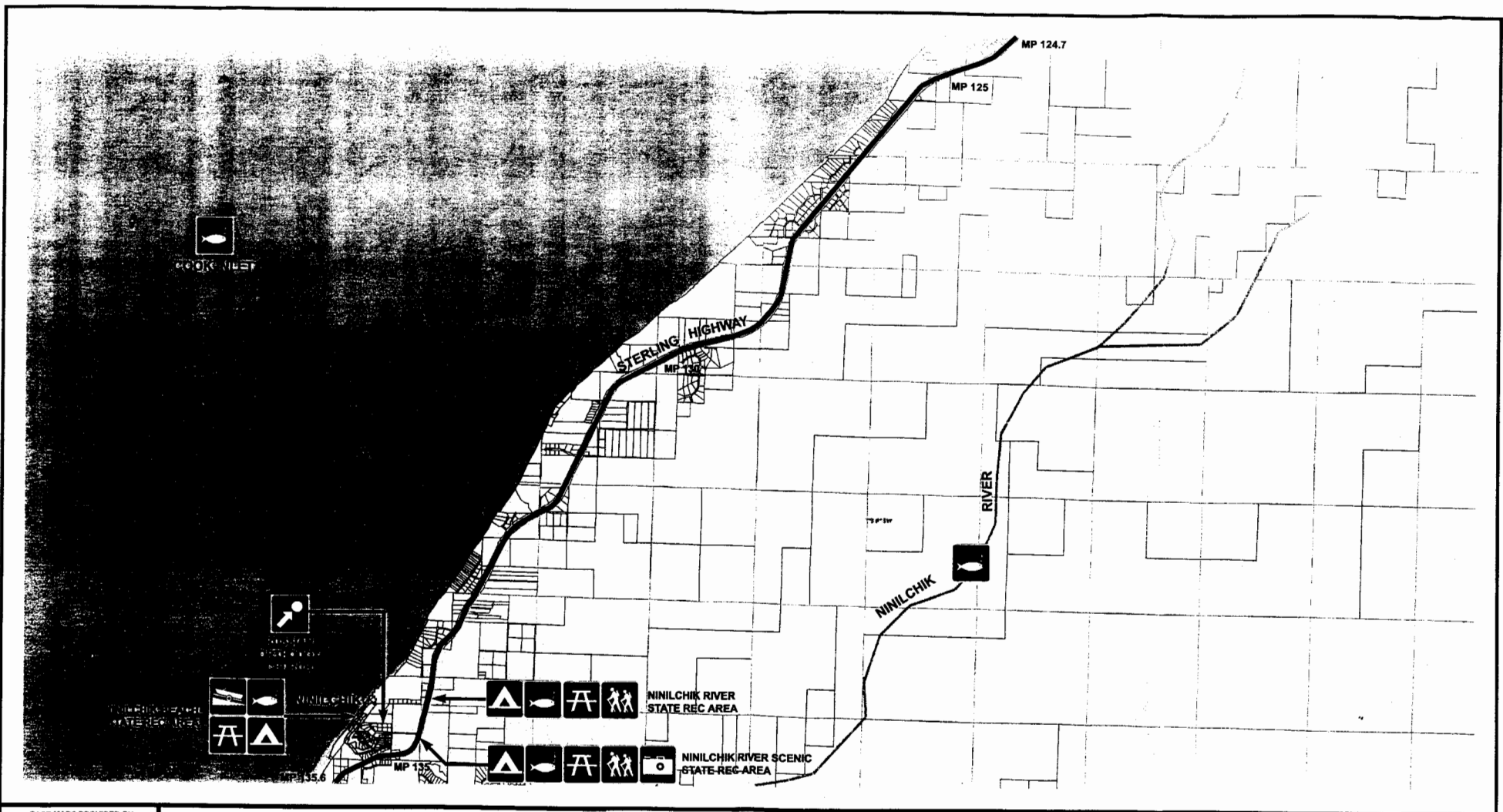
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 WEST SKILAK LAKE LOOP ROAD TO ANCHOR POINT
RECREATION OPPORTUNITY MAPPING
NINILCHIK RIVER



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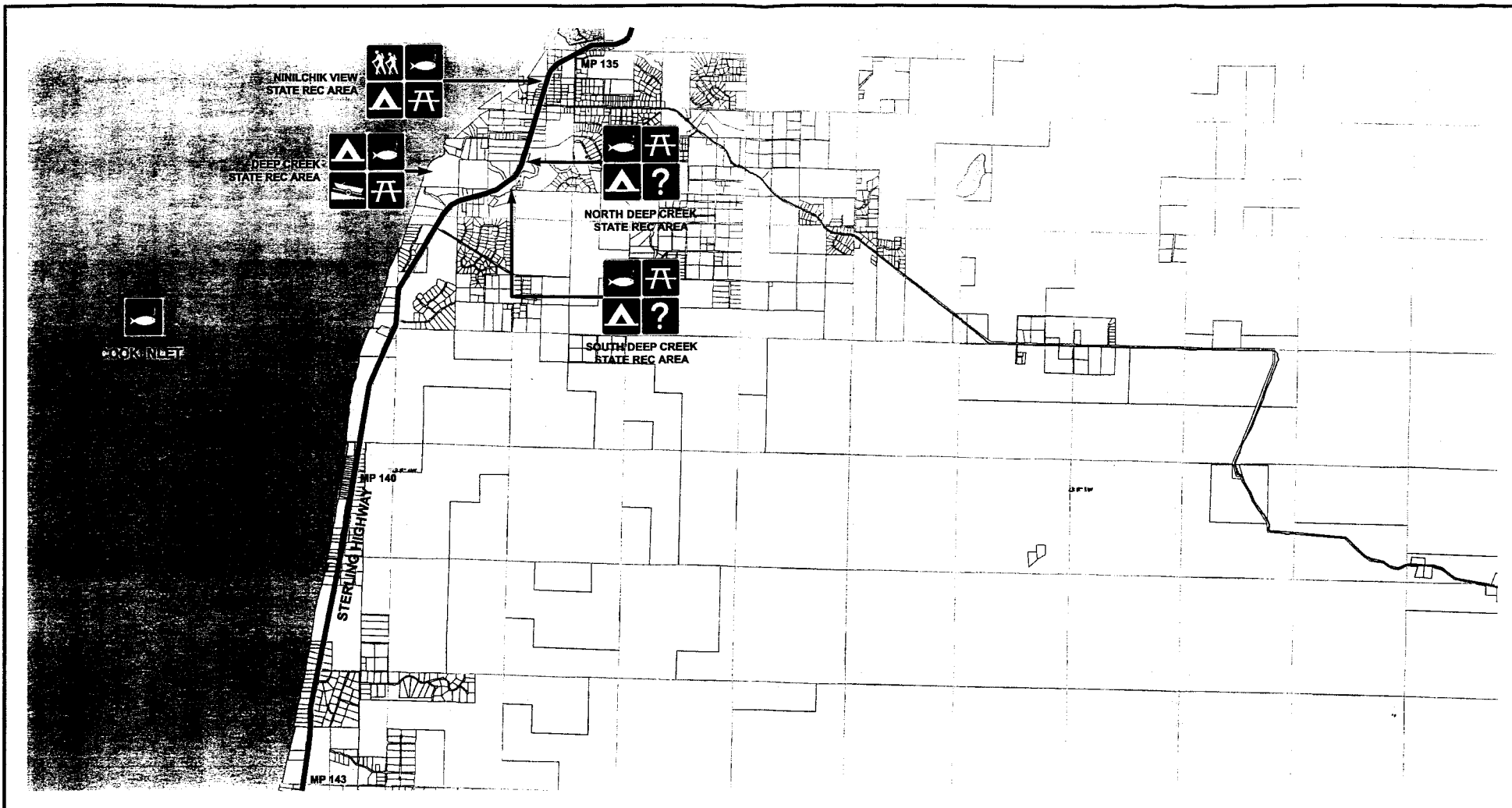
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RECREATION OPPORTUNITY MAPPING
NINILCHIK



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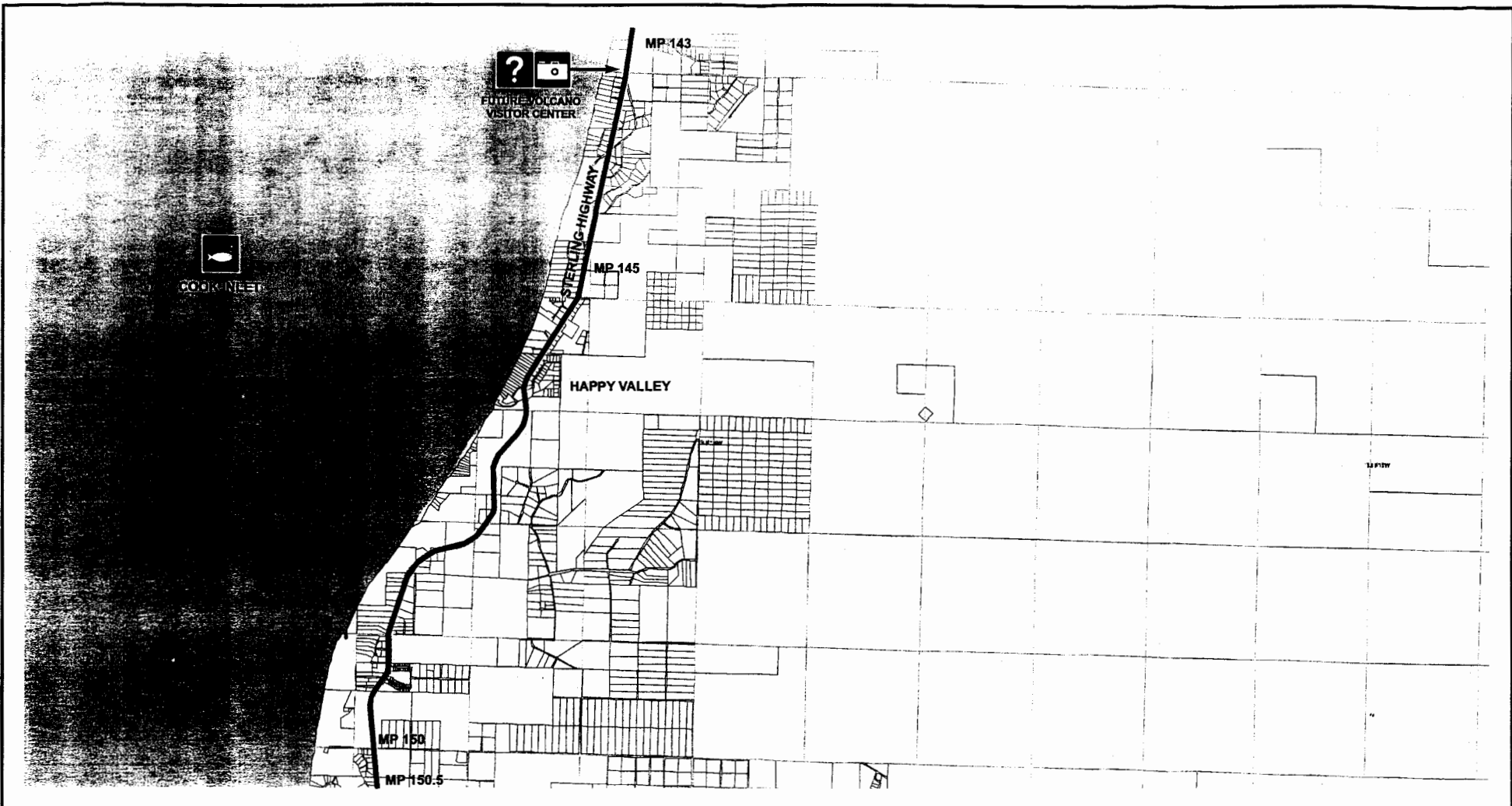


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 WEST SKILAK LAKE LOOP ROAD TO ANCHOR POINT
RECREATION OPPORTUNITY MAPPING
DEEP CREEK


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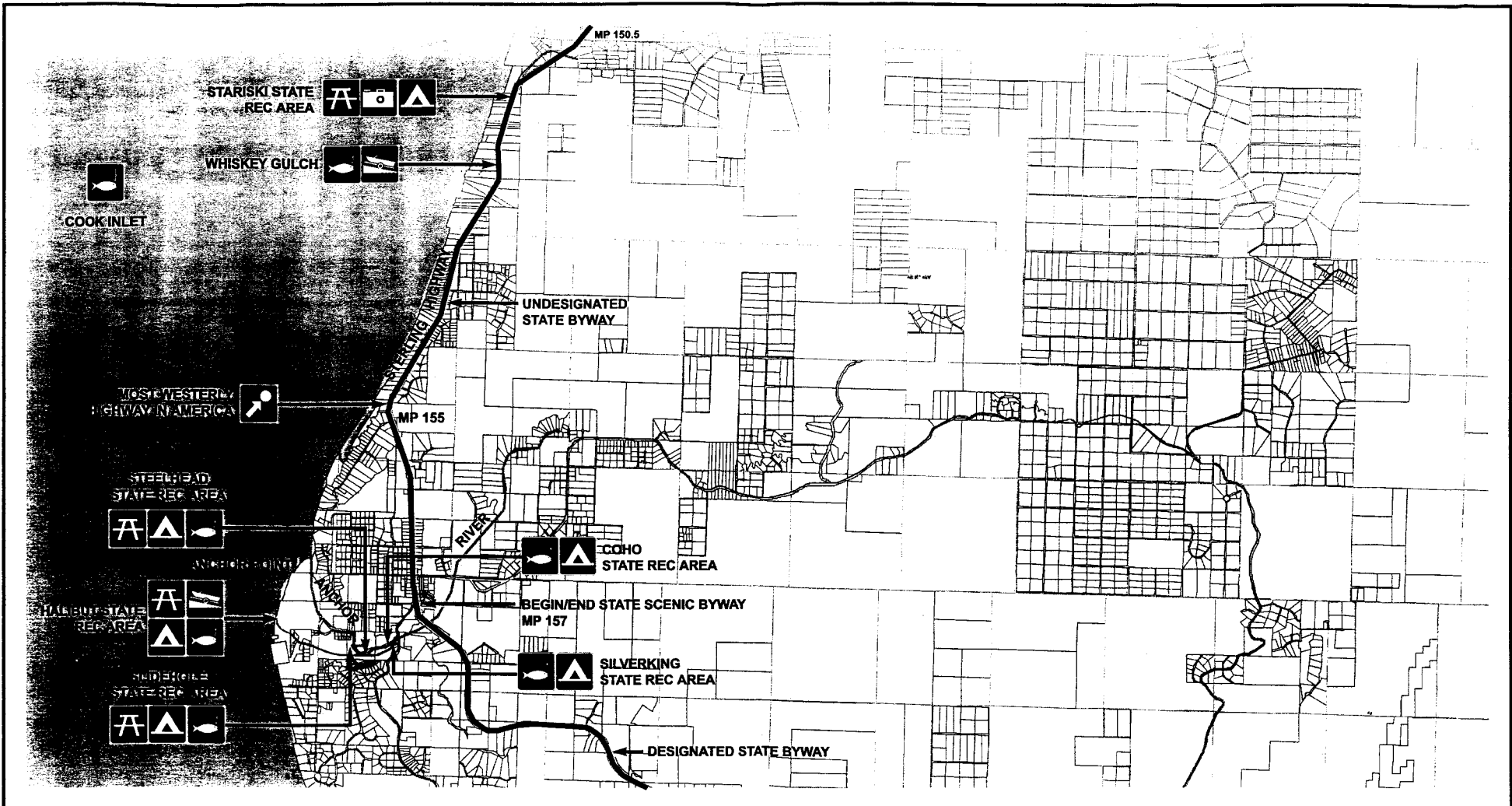
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WEST SKILAK LAKE LOOP ROAD TO ANCHOR POINT
RECREATION OPPORTUNITY MAPPING
HAPPY VALLEY



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RECREATION OPPORTUNITY MAPPING
ANCHOR POINT



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STERLING HIGHWAY STATE SCENIC BYWAY STAKEHOLDER LIST

Organization Name	How Contacted	Contact Name	Title	Phone
AAA	meeting, email	Bob Wildmann		
ADOT & PF, SC Region	phone	Rex Young	Area Planner	
ADOT & PF, Scenic Byways	phone, in person, email	Aneta Synan		
Alaska Heritage Tours	email	Lisa Kruse		
Alaska Legends Adventure Resort	mailed letter, email	Marnie Nelson		
Alaska Legends Adventure Resorts	mailed letter, email	Linda Heath	KPTMC Board	
Alaska River Adventures	mailed letter, email	George Heim	KPTMC Board	
Alaska Sealife Center	mailed letter	Jillian Simpson	KPTMC Board	632-4718
Alaska State House	phone	Kelly Wolf	Representative	
Alaska State House	phone	Mike Chenault	Representative	
Alaska State Senate	phone	Thomas Wagoner	Senator	
Alaskan Angler RV Resort	mailed letter			
Alaskan Serenity B&B	email			
Alaskan Sourdough B&B	email			
Alaska's Marine Highway, ADOT&PF	mail	Sharon Gaipman	Marketing Director	
Anchor Point APC	phone	Joanne Collins	Chair	235-8071
Anchor Point APC	mailed letter	Earl Breyfogle	Vice Chair	235-6055
Anchor Point APC	mailed letter	Doug Ruzicka	Commissioner	235-0156
Anchor Point APC	mailed letter	Edna Anderson	Commissioner	235-8433
Anchor Point APC	mailed letter	Raymond Drake	Commissioner	235-7635
Anchor Point APC	mailed letter	Paul Roderick	Commissioner	235-8405
Anchor Point Chamber of Commerce	phone	Joanne Collins	Director	
Anchor Point Community Club	mailed letter			
Anchor Point Senior Citizens Inc.	phone	Sara Inez Clendenen	President	
Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau	email, phone	Julie Saupe		
Aspen Hotels	mailed letter, phone	Rebecca Sorenson	KPTMC Board	
Birch Ridge Golf Course	phone	Pat Cowan	Owner	
Bluff House B&B	email			
Borough Clerk	phone	Linda Murphy	Clerk	
Borough Mayor	in person	Dale Bagley	Mayor	262-3160
Call of the River B&B	email			
CARTS - Central Area Rural Transit	phone, email	Jennifer Beckmann	Exec. Director	

Casperhouse B&B	email				
Catch of the Kenai Lodge	email				
City of Soldotna	mailed letter, phone	Anna	Johnson		
Cook Inlet Region, Inc	phone, email	Katie	Gage		
Cooper Landing APC	APC meeting	Robert	Bear, Jr.	Chair	595-1773
Cooper Landing APC	mailed letter, meeting	George	Siter	Commissioner	595-1266
Cooper Landing APC	mailed letter, meeting	Karl	Romig	Commissioner	595-1232
Cooper Landing APC	mailed letter, meeting	Jon	James	Commissioner	595-1598
Cooper Landing APC	mailed letter, meeting	Glenn	Sackett	Commissioner	595-1827
Cooper Landing APC	mailed letter, meeting	Carrie	Williams	Commissioner	
Cooper Landing APC	mailed letter, meeting	Dolores	Wilson	Commissioner	595-1260
Cooper Landing Chamber/Visitors Bureau	phone, email	Mary Louis	Molenda	President	595-1222
Cooper Landing Citizen	phone	David	Rhode	Byway advocate	
Cooper Landing Community Club	phone, mtg, email	Mona	Painter	President	
Cooper Landing Historical Society	phone, email	Mona	Painter	President	
Deal's Den	email, phone				
Discover Alaska's Kenai Peninsula	phone				
DosEagles of Alaska	mailed letter	Elisa	Van Meter		
Explore Tours	meeting, email	Lilly	Shelden		
Freedom Realty	meeting, phone	Sue	Isham	Sales Assoc.	c.252-9200
Friends of Cooper Landing	phone, in person	Bob	Baldwin	President	562-5451
Great Alaska Adventure Lodge	mailed letter				
Gulls Landing B&B	email				
Gwin's Lodge	email	Robert	Siter		
Happy Valley	phone message	Shirley	Schollenberg		
Homer Chamber of Commerce	phone	Derotha	Ferraro		
Homer Elks	phone				
Homer Ocean Charters	in person	Roark	Brown	KPTMC Board President	235-7751
Homer Senior Citizens Inc.	phone				
Homer Soil & Water Conservation District	phone message	Shirley	Schollenberg		
Homer Travel Services, Homer Chamber	email	Karen	McCarty	KPTMC Board	
Hotel Edgewater	email	Paul	Carter	KPTMC Board	
Hotel Edgewater	email, phone	Kristian	Imbrock		
Hotel Seward	mailed letter	Brad	Snowden		
Ingrid's Inn B&B	email				
Kenai Chamber of Commerce	phone	Colleen	Canady		
Kenai Chamber of Commerce	phone	Michelle	Glass	Director	

Kenai Convention & Visitors Bureau	phone	Ricky	Gease	Director	
Kenai Convention and Visitors Bureau	mailed letter, phone	Michelle	Glass	KPTMC Board	
Kenai Fjords Nat'l Park	mail	Anne	Castelina	Superintendent	
Kenai Natives Association, Inc.	phone	Coby	Wilson	President	283-4851
Kenai Nat'l Wildlife Refuge	in person	William	Kent	Supervisory Park Ranger	
Kenai Nat'l Wildlife Refuge	in person	Jim	Hall	Deputy Manager	
Kenai Nat'l Wildlife Refuge	in person	Robin	West	Refuge Mgr	
Kenai Pen Borough Assembly	mail, Assembly mtg.	Betty	Glick	KPB Assembly	283-7644
Kenai Pen Borough Assembly	mail, Assembly mtg.	Gary	Superman	KPB Assembly Vice President	776-8448
Kenai Pen Borough Assembly	mail, Assembly mtg.	Grace	Merkes	KPB Assembly	262-9811
Kenai Pen Borough Assembly	mail, Assembly mtg.	Ron	Long	KPB Assembly	224-7068
Kenai Pen Borough Assembly	mail, Assembly mtg.	Paul	Fischer	KPB Assembly	262-9269
Kenai Pen Borough Assembly	mail, Assembly mtg.	Chris	Moss	KPB Assembly	235-8053
Kenai Pen Borough Assembly	Assembly mtg, in person	Dan	Chay	KPB Assembly	283-9227
Kenai Pen Borough Assembly	Assembly mtgs, in person	Pete	Sprague	Chair	262-4073
Kenai Pen Borough Assembly Lands Committee	Assembly mtg	Milli	Martin	KPB Assembly	235-6652
Kenai Penin. Econ. Dvpmt. District, Inc.	mailed letter, phone	Dee	Gaddis	Office Mgr	
Kenai Penin. Econ. Dvpmt. District, Inc.	phone	John	Parker	Director	
Kenai Penin. Tourism Marketing Council	phone, email	Aud	Walaszek	Director	
Kenai River B&B	email				
Kenai River Sportfishing Assoc, Inc.	in person	Ricky	Gease	Exec. Director	
Kenai Watershed Forum	phone, email	Robert	Ruffner	Director	
Kenaitze Indian Tribe	phone, email	Rita	Smagge		
Kenaitze Indian Tribe	phone, email	Alexandra	Lindgren		
KPB Community & Econ. Dvpmt. Division	email	Bonnie	Golden	Grants Mgr	
KPB Community & Econ. Dvpmt. Division	in person	Jeanne	Camp	Econ Analyst	
KPB Community & Econ. Dvpmt. Division	in person	Jack	Brown	Director	
KPB GIS Division	in person	Bill	Holloway	Manager	
KPB Planning Commission	mail, meeting	Mark	Massion		234-7575
KPB Planning Commission	mail, meeting	Mari Anne	Gross		235-7330
KPB Planning Commission	mail, meeting	Lynn	Hohl		224-7300
KPB Planning Commission	mail, meeting	William	Hutchinson		262-5256
KPB Planning Commission	mail, meeting	James	Isham		262-9200
KPB Planning Commission	mail, meeting	Brent	Johnson		262-4763
KPB Planning Commission	mail, meeting	Blair	Martin		283-5227
KPB Planning Commission	mail, meeting	Todd	Petersen		288-5050
KPB Planning Commission	mail, meeting	Ray	Tauriainen		776-8885

KPB Planning Commission	mail, meeting	Dick	Troeger	Parliamentarian	262-5387
KPB Planning Commission	mail, meeting	Dr. Rick	Foster	Planning Commissioner	235-9100
KPB Planning Commission	mail, meeting	Tom	Clark	Vice Chair	235-2887
KPB Planning Commission	Planning Commission mtg	Philip	Bryson	Chair	283-4428
KPB Planning Department	phone	Max	Best	Director	
KPB Road Department	mailed letter	Gary	Davis	Director	
KPB Road Service Area	mailed letter	John	Bonk	Chair	
KPTMC	mailed letter	Brandii	O'Reagan	Board Member	
Land's End Development Corporation	in person	John	Faulkner		
Longmere Lake Lodge B&B	email, phone				
Natural Resources Conservation Service	phone	Mike	Odegard	Coordinator	
Ninilchik (Kenai Peninsula) Fair Assoc.	phone				
Ninilchik Chamber Board	phone, email	Jodi	Evers		567-3631
Ninilchik General Store	phone, email	Judy	Giarratana		
Ninilchik Native Association	phone, email	Gary	Oskolkoff	President	
Ninilchik Senior Citizens Center	phone	Julie	Welch		
Ninilchik Village Traditional Council	phone, email	Bruce	Oskolkoff		
Nyce Co.	phone	George & f	Nyce		
OrganizationName	contact method	FirstName	LastName	Title	HomePhone
Peninsula Clarion	phone	Hal	Spence	Reporter	
Pioneer Village	in person, email	Patti	Heim		
Posey's Kenai River Hideaway B&B	email				
Road Service Board	mailed letter	Buzz	Kyllonen		
Road Service Board	mailed letter	Sue	Tauriainen		
Road Service Board	mailed letter	Norm	Blakely		
Road Service Board	mailed letter	Ronald	Wille		
Road Service Board	mailed letter	Sam	McLane		
Road Service Board	mailed letter	John	Bonk		
Road Service Board	mailed letter	Joseph	Ross		
Sackett's Grill	mailed letter, phone	Glenn	Sackett		
Salamatof Native Association	phone, email	Penny	Carty	President	
Salmon Haus	email				
Seward Chamber of Commerce	email	Lacey	Eckberg	KPTMC Board	
Snug Harbor B&B	email				
Soldotna B & B Lodge	mailed letter, phone	Steve	Anderson	KPTMC Board	
Soldotna Chamber of Commerce	mailed letter, phone	Shanon	Hamrick	KPTMC Board	
Soldotna City Council	mail, phone	Lisa	Parker	Member	262-6656

Soldotna City Council	mailed letter	Jane M.	Stein	Member
Soldotna City Council	mailed letter	Audrey	Porter	Member
Soldotna City Council	mailed letter	Scott	McLane	Member
Soldotna City Manager	phone	Thomas	Boedeker	City Manager
Soldotna Senior Citizens Center	in person			
State of AK Dept of Fish & Game, Southcentral Re	phone	Lisa	Olson	Sportfish Reg Info Program
State of AK, Dept. Fish & Game, Sport Fish Div.	in person	Larry	Marsh	Biologist
State of AK, Div. of Parks & Outdoor Recreation	in person	Jack	Sinclair	District Ranger
State of AK, Div. of Parks & Outdoor Recreation	in person	Jack	Blackwell	District Ranger
Sterling Community Club	mailed letter	Bob	Oakes	
Sterling Senior Citizens Center	phone			
Sunny Cove	email	Carrie	Bohl	
The Milepost	mailed letter, email	Marion	Nelson	
The Sterling Needle B&B	email			
Tustumena Ridge Cabins	mailed letter			
Upper Kenai River Inn	email			
USDA Forest Service, Chugach Nat'l Forest	phone	Joe	Meade	Forest Supervisor
USDA Forest Service, Seward Ranger District	phone	Debra	Cooper	District Ranger

CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Public Involvement. Prior to submitting this application, a significant outreach effort directed towards stakeholders was carried out on the Sterling Highway with an emphasis on the undesignated portion of the highway. Initial stakeholder meetings were held along the undesignated portion of the Sterling during the month of April. Many stakeholders expressed a desire to dedicate the entire Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway and to then immediately nominate the highway for National Byway status. Several meetings were held in Soldotna, Homer and Cooper Landing and many more are being scheduled for the near future. Many stakeholders along the corridor were visited during the inventory of the highway, including local, state and federal agencies. Interviews were held with local organizations, businesses and users of the area. A large majority were excited about the prospects of the designation.

Marketing. An obvious benefit of designation for the Sterling Highway is the increase in available marketing opportunities for the highway and the communities along the corridor. Marketing of a Scenic Byway loop on the Kenai Peninsula in partnership with the Seward All American Road and the Nationally Designated Alaska's Marine Highway creates a powerful marketing tool once the loop is completed with the designation of the Sterling Highway.

Resource Protection. There was some concern that additional recreation impacts, especially by those with an interest in sport fishing, might result in a decrease in fish populations caused by additional stream bank erosion and other habitat destruction; however, interviews with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game indicate that the salt and freshwater fish populations are stable and healthy. A major contributor to this stability is ADF&G's successful management of the fishery and recognition that sport fishing opportunities are an essential element of Alaska's economy and to the well being of Alaska's residents. Forecasting shows a strong fishery capable of sustaining increased use.

An advantage of State and National designation is the grant money that would be available for improving river access for fishing and wildlife viewing. New shoreline facilities could help disperse 'combat fishing' at accessible locations. Such facilities would also benefit the fishery by stabilizing stream banks by creating durable trails and fishing platforms to reduce damage to salmon streams and rivers. Wayside facilities could be funded to reduce haphazard parking along the Sterling Highway where anglers are parking to access rivers or popular clamming beaches. Organized parking and wayside facilities would improve the overall safety and enjoyment of the recreation opportunities along the highway. Such improvements are likely priorities along the undesignated portion of the Sterling Highway, and would benefit residents, visitors, wildlife, and the natural habitat along the corridor.

Parking Facilities. Numerous other recreational opportunities beyond fishing are found along the undesignated portion of the highway and are only accessed directly from the highway. In many cases, similar to river and beach access, vehicles with snow machine trailers, dog mushing vehicles, and private vehicles with weekend skiers, hikers, hunters or wildlife enthusiasts park along the highway in unstructured pullouts and wide shoulder areas. Facilities need to be improved for these users to access the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and Caribou Hills. This is especially true in the areas near Anchor River and Clam Gulch where highway safety has become an issue. Since these are existing

recreation areas, there is the opportunity to add interpretive facilities and improved signage to help guide and inform visitors about these significant recreation areas.

Camping Facilities. The primary agencies currently providing recreational facilities along the undesignated portion of the Sterling are Alaska State Parks and the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Alaska State Parks estimates that their recreational facilities run at approximately 90% occupancy from Memorial Day to July 4th and from 60-80% for the remainder of the summer season. They have capacity for additional users. The Refuge has similar capacity statistics and is also capable of handling an increase in users. Additional visitors will also benefit local privately run recreational facilities such as campgrounds, RV parks and cabins. This sector would welcome an increase in users.

Road Safety. Byway designation brings an increase in vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The northern portion of the highway has passing lanes at strategic locations to reduce congestion and improve safety. New wayside sites have been created and paved as part of a recent highway resurfacing project and could be further upgraded to include restrooms through the byways grant program. In more populated communities along the Sterling highway including Soldotna, Sterling, Homer and Anchor Point, the highway increases from two lanes to three or five, depending on traffic volumes and density of the community. Striped shoulders are present along most of the highway corridor, allowing for safer pedestrian travel.

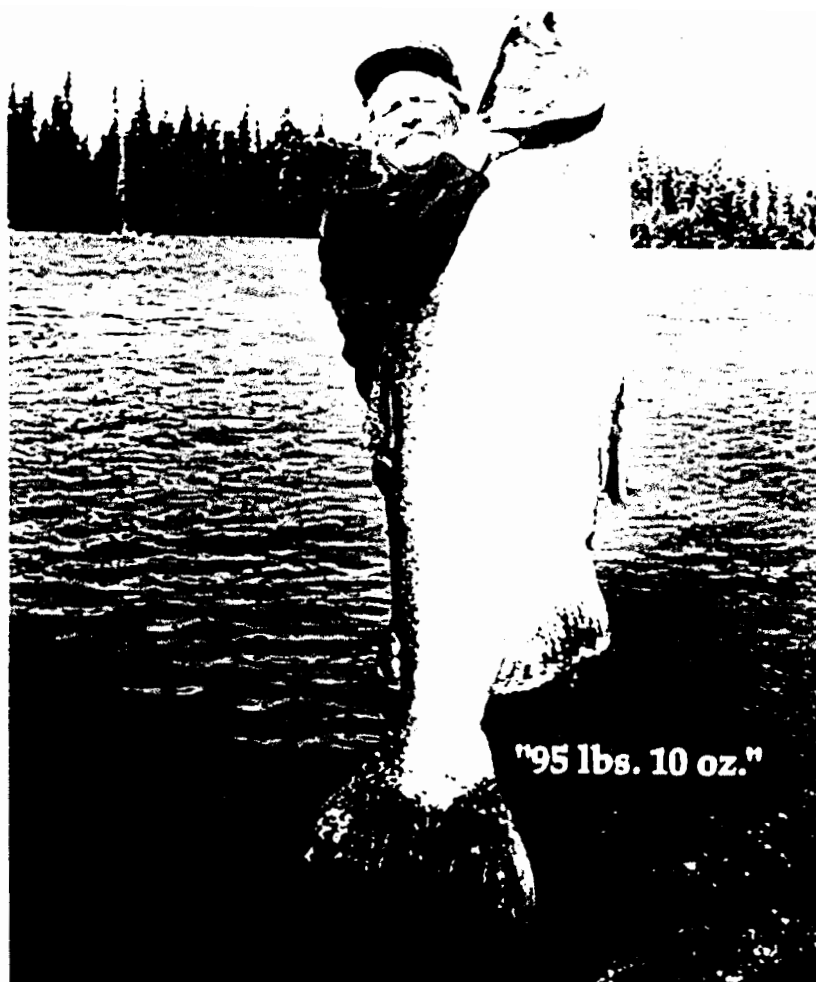
Interpretive Facilities. There are several potential partnerships in the making to help improve visitor services and interpretive facilities along the Sterling Highway. Byway designation can help strengthen existing infrastructure through the funding opportunities of byway grant program. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is working with the USDA Forest Service to construct a new visitor interpretive center on the border between the National Forest and Refuge. The Kenai Peninsula Borough has purchased land along the Sterling Highway between Ninilchik and Happy Valley with the intent to build a volcano interpretive center, but the project has been on hold for many years. Byway designation could make funds available and bring partners together to complete the development of these facilities.

Signage. Signage is an element in highway design that can greatly improve a visitor's experience. The Sterling Highway is a great road with great communities along its corridor. There are many stories to be told about the highway, its people, the landscape, natural resources and history. Interpretation is a key element of both state and national byway designation. Stories told through the Scenic Byways program can help visitors and residents of the Sterling Highway corridor better understand the Kenai Peninsula and its rich land.

Community Organization. One of the strong benefits of having the entire Sterling designated as a state byway is the formation of a byway group. This group is already starting to form for the Sterling Highway. A grassroots byway group can bring people and civic organizations together to deal with issues related to the corridor. Problem-solving and improvements for the Sterling Highway corridor can be accomplished by bringing together a variety of interests and forming new partnerships to deal with issues, priorities and opportunities. At this early stage it seems that most people who have expressed an interest in the byway designation do not favor land restrictions or new zoning related to the highway. They do, however, favor state byway designation of the Sterling Highway.



The Kenai River offers numerous methods of fishing for all four types of Pacific Salmon. Each year the Kenai River attracts tens of thousands of resident, out of state, and international fishers from May through September. The Kenai River is the most popular and successful salmon fishery in the world.



The Kenai River is home to more world record salmon than any other river.
Salmon are so plentiful and large in the Kenai River that they must
weight more than 70 pounds to be considered 'trophy sized' while all other
rivers have a trophy size of 50 pounds.



The Sterling Highway provides access to numerous rivers and streams with plentiful fish runs.
A lone late season fisherman catches a Deep Creek salmon as the sun sets
on boulders lining the mouth of the river.



After the fish runs have ended in the autumn, fishing platforms provide scenic access to the rivers. Soldotna Creek (above) is a popular recreation area.



In 1941, President Roosevelt set aside 1,730,000 acres of land as the Kenai National Moose Range for wildlife viewing and hunting. In 1980, the Range was renamed the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge to reflect the abundant populations of a wide range of wildlife found in the area. Today the Refuge has grown to 1.92 million acres and is a popular recreation area for wildlife viewing, hunting, camping and numerous other activities. The Refuge is accessed by the Sterling Highway. .



Backcountry hiking and camping is a popular activity found within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and along the Sterling Highway.



The Sterling Highway provides access to numerous trails, rivers, lakes and additional recreational opportunities. Boating is a popular activity and includes Class V whitewater rafting, canoeing, floating, boat camping and of course fishing. Above, the sun sets on a camp site on the 200 mile Swanson River Canoe Trail.



In addition to the world class recreation found along the Sterling, the highway and its communities have a rich cultural and historic background. Ninilchik's Russian Orthodox Church remains a part of this community's culture dating back to Native Alaskan settlements and exploration by early Russian explorers.

Alaska's
KENAI PENINSULA

RESOLUTION 2004-002

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE STERLING HIGHWAY AS A STATE SCENIC BYWAY BETWEEN SKILAK ROAD AND ANCHOR POINT BY THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES.

Whereas, The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) has designated the Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway between Wye and Skilak Road (38 miles) and between Anchor Point and Homer (23 miles) for its outstanding scenic qualities; and

Whereas, The remaining undesignated portion of the Sterling Highway has world class salmon and halibut fishing and clamming that is second to none in the world and attracts residents and visitors to the Kenai Peninsula's rich waters accessible by the Sterling Highway; and

Whereas, The undesignated portion of the Sterling Highway also has regionally significant recreational, cultural, historical and natural qualities found in numerous hiking and camping opportunities, Russian Orthodox culture, rich Native American and Cook Expedition history, and the volcanoes that line Cook Inlet visible from the Sterling Highway; and

Whereas, The national and regional qualities along the undesignated portion of the Sterling Highway when combined with the outstanding scenic qualities along the State designated portions creates an enjoyable traveling opportunity for those who visit and use the Sterling Highway; and

Whereas, These visitors can enhance the economies of the communities along the entire Sterling Highway as well as benefiting the whole Kenai Peninsula; and

Whereas, The process and final outcome for seeking Byway designation is based on a partnership planning that involves local communities, individuals, and interested groups and specifically does not involve regulation or land use restrictions of any lands or assets along the Sterling Highway.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE *Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council* OF the Kenai Peninsula THAT:

phone (907) 283-3850
fax (907) 283-3913
e-mail info@kenaipeninsula.org
14896 Kenai Spur Hwy, Suite 106A
Kenai, Alaska 99611



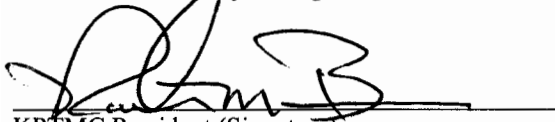
Alaska's
KENAI PENINSULA

The ADOT&PF is encouraged to designate the Sterling Highway between Skilak Road and Anchor Point as a State Scenic Byway and that *the Kenai Peninsula Tourism Marketing Council* wishes to be included in the byway partnership planning process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

Once the entire Sterling Highway from Wye to the Homer Spit is designated a State of Alaska Scenic Byway, we support the pursuit of the Sterling Highway as an America's Byway for 2005 and creating the first America's Byway loop to include the Sterling Highway, the Seward All American Road, and the Alaska's Marine Highway National Byway, and the benefits associated with the America's Byway program including national marketing and grant opportunities for communities along the Sterling Highway and the entire Kenai Peninsula.

Done this 27th day of April, 2004, in Kenai Peninsula, Alaska.


KPTMC President (Signature)

APRIL 27, 04
Date

ROARK M. BROWN
KPTMC President (Print)

phone (907) 283-3850
fax (907) 283-3913
e-mail info@kenaipeninsula.org
14896 Kenai Spur Hwy, Suite 106A
Kenai, Alaska 99611



STATE OF ALASKA

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
Kenai-Prince William Sound Area Office

PO Box 1247
Soldotna, AK 99669
PHONE: (907) 262-5581
Fax: (907) 262-3717

June 1, 2004

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Dear Commissioner Barton:

The Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) supports the designation of the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the Wye (M.P. 37) to Homer (M.P. 173).

Currently the northern end of the Sterling Highway is recognized for its outstanding scenic and recreational qualities. The Southern portion is recognized for its cultural and archeological qualities. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation feels that the middle 81 miles of the Sterling is also worthy of State designation.

Our rationale for state designation of this portion of the Sterling Highway is the regionally and internationally significant recreational, cultural, and natural qualities found along the corridor. In particular, our Kenai Peninsula salmon fishery provides world class fishing, and is also home to nationally recognized halibut fishing and clamming. These are successful managed fisheries that are stable and attractive to many. A majority of these fishing areas are accessed from the middle portion of the Sterling Highway and are utilized by Alaskans for subsistence as well as a large number of visitors to our state. No fewer than 9 state recreation areas or sites exist within this middle stretch of the Sterling Highway to support some of the intense demand for recreational opportunities.

In addition, the middle portion of the Sterling Highway provides access to numerous other recreational activities, including, biking, river kayaking, canoeing, rafting, bird watching, year-round hiking and camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, skiing (both back-country and cross-country), and dog mushing in the 1.9 million acres Kenai National Wildlife Refuge accessible from the Sterling highway. Also of national and state importance is the opportunity for viewing the Aleutian and Alaskan mountain ranges across Cook Inlet, including several recently active volcanoes. Mount Iliamna,

Sterling Highway Scenic Byway Support
June 1, 2004
Page 2 of 2

Mt. Redoubt, Mt. Augustine and Mt. Spurr can all be viewed from many points along the middle portion of the Sterling Highway. The western coast of the Kenai Peninsula also has a rich Russian Orthodox history, Native American culture, was mapped by the Cook Expedition, and would be of interest to many visitors to the area.

The Kenai Peninsula has a stable and diverse economy. The Byways program and its grassroots approach will allow us to improve our existing tourism market, maintain long-term regional stability, and enhance our ability to draw new businesses and residents to the area. Marketing the Sterling Highway along with the Seward All-American Road and the Alaska's Marine Highway as National Byways would create an outstanding visitor package for those who visit the Kenai Peninsula and would be the nation's first Byway Loop.

Equally exciting to us are the funding possibilities that come with State and National Byway designation. Once designated, the entire Sterling Highway will be eligible for grants that would provide benefits enjoyed by visitors and residents alike. New highway facilities could be funded through the Byway Program including roadside rest areas, improved parking at river access points, new trailheads, a Cook Inlet Volcano Visitor Center, and new signage. Grants could also be submitted for bank stabilization and fishing platforms along the Russian and Kenai Rivers, benefiting local subsistence and visitor access, and reducing negative human impacts on our important fish habitats.

We appreciate your attention and consideration in designating the entire Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway. If we can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,



Chris Degernes *sk*
Kenai Area Park Superintendent



Kenai River Sportfishing Association, inc.

PO Box 1228 • 224 Kenai Avenue, Suite 102

Soldotna, Alaska 99669

907.262.8588 phone 907.262.8582 fax

www.kenairiversportfishing.org • kenairiv@ptialaska.net

Dedicated to preserving the greatest sportfishing river in the world, the Kenai.

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

April 30, 2004

Dear Commissioner Barton:

The Kenai River Sportfishing Association would like to formally request that the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities designate the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the Wye (M.P. 37) to Homer (M.P. 173).

Currently the northern end of the Sterling Highway is recognized for its outstanding scenic and recreational qualities. The Southern portion is recognized for its cultural and archeological qualities. The Kenai River Sportfishing Association feels that the middle 81 miles of the Sterling is also worthy of State designation.

Our rationale for state designation of this portion of the Sterling Highway is the regionally and internationally significant recreational, cultural, and natural qualities found along the corridor. In particular, our Kenai Peninsula salmon fishery is the *most outstanding fishery in the world* and is also home to nationally recognized halibut fishing and clamming. Specifically, the Kenai River holds twenty-three world class records for salmon and is the most popular sport fishing destination in Alaska. These successful managed fisheries are stable and attractive to many.

A majority of these fishing areas are accessed from the middle portion of the Sterling Highway and are utilized by Alaskans for consumptive and non-consumptive uses as well as by a large number of visitors to our state. Over the last decade, the Kenai River Sportfishing Association has been a community leader in providing over \$1 million in funding for habitat restoration and angler access projects on the Kenai River, and has partnered with the cities of Kenai and Soldotna, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska State Parks, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and the Chugach National Forest on such projects.

Exciting to us are the funding possibilities that come with State and National Byway designation. Once designated, the entire Sterling Highway will be eligible for grants that would provide benefits enjoyed by visitors and residents alike. New highway facilities could be funded through the Byway Program including roadside rest areas and improved parking at river access points. Grants could also be submitted for bank stabilization and fishing platforms along the Russian and Kenai Rivers benefiting angler access, and reducing erosion damage to fish habitats. The Kenai River Sportfishing Association is committed to continue working to preserve the Kenai River as the world's greatest salmon sportfishing destination.

We appreciate your attention and consideration in designating the entire Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway. If we can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please contact us at 262-8588 at your convenience. Thank you for your time and attention to this worthy matter.

Sincerely,

Ron Rainey, Board Chair
Kenai River Sportfishing Association

Ricky Gease, Executive Director
Kenai River Sportfishing Association

RECEIVED

JUN 10 2004

JENSEN YORBALOTT, INC.
W.J. | T.Y. | J.L. |

CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA

CITY MANAGER

RESOLUTION 04-49

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
SUPPORTING DESIGNATION OF THE STERLING HIGHWAY AS A
STATE SCENIC BYWAY BETWEEN SKILAK LAKE ROAD AND
ANCHOR POINT.**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities previously designated the Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway between the Wye and Skilak Lake Road, and between Anchor Point and Homer; and

WHEREAS, the central portion of the Sterling Highway between Skilak Lake Road and Anchor Point also possesses qualities which make it worthy of Scenic Byway designation, including scenic, recreational, cultural, historical, and natural attributes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Homer wishes to encourage travelers to drive the entire highway, enjoying attractions and activities along the way; and

WHEREAS, Sterling Highway travelers contribute to the economic vitality of the communities along the highway, including Homer; and

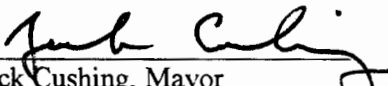
WHEREAS, the City of Homer has been involved as a partner in planning efforts aimed at achieving both State and National Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway; and

WHEREAS, this planning effort does not involve regulation or land use restrictions of any lands or assets along the Sterling Highway;

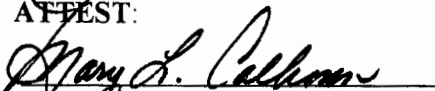
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Homer City Council hereby encourages the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to designate the Sterling Highway between Skilak Lake Road and Anchor Point as a State Scenic Byway.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE HOMER CITY COUNCIL this 25th day of May, 2004.

CITY OF HOMER


Jack Cushing, Mayor

ATTEST:


Mary E. Calhoun, City Clerk

Fiscal Impact: None known at this time





Kenai
Watershed
Forum

RECEIVED
JUN 18 2004
JENSEN
W.J. JENSEN, INC.
J.L.

44539 Sterling Hwy
Suite #202
Soldotna, AK 99669

Working together for healthy watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula

6/09/04

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Dear Commissioner Barton:

The Kenai Watershed Forum is writing to express our support of designating the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the "Y" (M.P. 37) to Homer (M.P. 173).

We are happy to join with the Soldotna Chamber of Commerce and many others in supporting this designation in its entirety. Much can be said about the scenic values along the route under consideration. In our opinion, this stretch of highway is very deserving of Scenic Byway Designation.

Thank you for considering our comments and if we can provide any additional information or take any additional action to further support this effort, please contact us.

Sincerely,

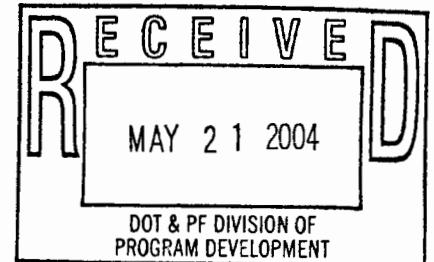
Robert Ruffner
Executive Director



STERLING AREA SENIOR CITIZENS, INC.

P.O. Box 154 Sterling, Alaska 99672 • (907) 262-6808 • Fax (907) 262-3883

May 14, 2004



Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner 3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

mk

Dear Commissioner Barton:

The Sterling Senior Citizens, Inc. would like to formally request that the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities designate the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the Wye (M.P.37) to Homer (M.P.173).

Currently the northern end of the Sterling Highway is recognized for its outstanding scenic and recreations qualities. The Southern portion is recognized for its cultural and archeological qualities. The Sterling Senior Citizens feel that the middle 81 miles of the Sterling is also worthy of State designation.

Our rationale for state designation of this portion of the Sterling Highway is the regionally and internationally significant recreational, cultural, and natural qualities found along the corridor. In particular, our Kenai Peninsula salmon fishery is the *most outstanding fishery in the world* and is also home to nationally recognized halibut fishing and clamming. These are successful managed fisheries that are stable and attractive to many. A majority of these fishing areas are accessed from the middle portion of the Sterling Highway and are utilized by Alaskans for subsistence as well as a large number of visitors to our state.

In addition, the middle portion of the Sterling Highway provides access to numerous other recreational activities, including, hiking, river kayaking, canoeing, rafting, bird watching, year-round hiking and camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, skiing (both back-country and cross-country), and dog mushing in the 1.9 million acres Kenai National Wildlife Refuge accessible from the Sterling highway. Also of national and state importance is the opportunity for viewing the Aleutian and Alaskan mountain ranges across Cook Inlet, including several recently active volcanoes. Mount Iliamna, Mt. Redoubt, Mt. Augustine and Mt. Spurr can all be viewed from many points along the middle portion of the Sterling Highway. The western coast of the Kenai Peninsula also has a rich Russian Orthodox history, Native American culture, was mapped by the Cook Expedition, and would be of interest to many visitors to the area.

The Kenai Peninsula has a stable and diverse economy. The Byways program and its grassroots approach will allow us to improve our existing tourism market, maintain long-term regional stability, and enhance our ability to draw new businesses and residents to the area. Marketing the Sterling Highway along with the Seward All-American Road and the Alaska's Marine Highway as National Byways would create an outstanding visitor package for those who visit the Kenai Peninsula and would be the nation's first Byway Loop

RECEIVED

MAY 18 2004




DOT & PF Commissioner

Equally exciting to us are the funding possibilities that come with State and National Byway designation. Once designated, the entire Sterling Highway will be eligible for grants that would provide benefits enjoyed by visitors and residents alike. New highway facilities could be funded through the Byway Program including roadside rest areas, improved parking at river access points, new trailheads, a Cook Inlet Volcano Visitor Center, and new signage. Grants could also be submitted for bank stabilization and fishing platforms along the Russian and Kenai Rivers benefiting local subsistence and visitor access, and reducing erosion damage to fish habitats.

We appreciate your attention and consideration in designating the entire Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway. If we can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,



George Elser, President



Homer Chamber of Commerce

Post Office Box 541

Homer, Alaska 99603

May 23, 2004

(907) 235-7740

FAX (907) 235-8766

Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Dear Commissioner Barton,

The Homer Chamber of Commerce would like to formally request that the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities designate the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the Wye (MP 37) to Homer (MP 173).

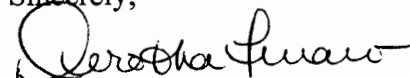
Since the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities previously designated the Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway between the Wye and Skilak Lake Road, and between Anchor Point and Homer, the designation needs to happen to complete the journey to Homer.

Similar to the areas already designated, the central portion of the Sterling Highway between Skilak Lake Road and Anchor Point also possess qualities which make it worthy of Scenic Byway designation, including scenic, recreational, cultural, historical, and natural attributes. Such designation will encourage travelers to drive the whole way to Homer, helping support the Borough's tourism industry which contributes to the economic vitality of the communities along the highway as well as Homer.

It is our understanding that this designation also opens opportunities for funding and programs to help residents and visitors alike enjoy the scenic by-way which can only be an asset for the lower Peninsula. Since this planning effort does not involve regulation or land use restrictions of any lands or assets along the Sterling Highway, there is no disadvantage of such opportunity.

The Homer Chamber of Commerce encourages the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to designate the Sterling Highway between Skilak Lake Road and Anchor Point as a State Scenic Byway.

Sincerely,



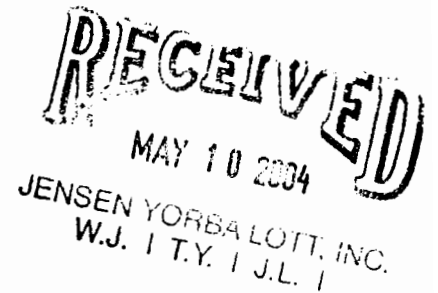
Derotha Ferraro
Executive Director



Chamber of Commerce

* P.O. Box 610, Anchor Point, Alaska 99556 * Mile 156 Sterling Hwy * (907) 235-2600 *

May 3, 2004



Christopher Mertl
Jensen Yorba Lott, Inc.
522 West 10th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Sterling Highway Scenic By-Way Designation

Dear Mr. Mertl:

I am happy to inform you that at the April 14, 2004 meeting of the Anchor Point Chamber of Commerce, the motion to support designating the remaining portion of the Sterling Highway as a scenic by-way was passed unanimously by the Board of Directors.

Please keep us in the loop with your efforts and we will be happy to help with this endeavor in any way we are able.

Sincerely,

Paul Voeller
President



May 18, 2004

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Dear Commissioner Barton:

The *City of Soldotna* supports the request that the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities designate the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the Wye (M.P. 37) to Homer (M.P. 173).

Currently the northern end of the Sterling Highway is recognized for its outstanding scenic and recreational qualities. The Southern portion is recognized for its cultural and archeological qualities. The *City of Soldotna* feels that the middle 81 miles of the Sterling is also worthy of State designation.

While not all of the middle section of the Sterling Highway is as scenic as the area between the Wye and Skilak Lake Road there are numerous scenic off road opportunities. Such as watching the eagles soar on the up draft off the bluffs along Cook Inlet or observing a moose cow and calf grazing in the marshy areas along the Highway. The Sterling Highway not only offers viewing from the vehicle but also provides many opportunities for leaving a vehicle and enjoying the scenery up close.

It also provides access to numerous recreational activities, including, biking, river kayaking, canoeing, rafting, bird watching, year-round hiking and camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, skiing (both back-country and cross-country), and dog mushing in the 1.9 million acres Kenai National Wildlife Refuge accessible from the Sterling highway. Also of national and state importance is the opportunity for viewing the Aleutian and Alaskan mountain ranges across Cook Inlet, including several recently active volcanoes. Mount Iliamna, Mt. Redoubt, Mt. Augustine and Mt. Spurr can all be viewed from many points along the middle portion of the Sterling Highway. The western coast of the Kenai Peninsula also has a rich Russian Orthodox history, Native American culture, was mapped by the Cook Expedition, and would be of interest to many visitors to the area.

The designation could assist in obtaining funding for stream protection projects along the Kenai River and its tributaries that would allow better access for residents and visitors while alleviating stream damage. The designation would assist efforts to establish other improvements such as roadside rest areas, new trailheads and opportunities for education of the area geology, including the spectacular volcanoes viewed from the Sterling Highway.

The Kenai Peninsula has a stable and diverse economy. The Byways program and its grassroots approach will allow us to improve our existing tourism market, maintain long-term regional stability, and enhance our ability to draw new businesses and residents to the area. Marketing the Sterling Highway along with the Seward All-American Road and the Alaska's Marine Highway as National Byways would create an outstanding visitor package for those who visit the Kenai Peninsula and would be the nation's first Byway Loop.

We appreciate your attention and consideration to the request to designate the entire Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway. If we can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,
The City of Soldotna


David R. Carey
Mayor

RECEIVED

JUN 10 2004

JENSEN YORBA LOTT, INC.
J. I. T. Y. I. J. L. I.

Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District, Inc.

Introduced: J. Parker

Date: 05/27/04

Reviewed: _____

Vote: 7-1

RESOLUTION 2004-4

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE STERLING HIGHWAY AS A STATE SCENIC BYWAY BETWEEN SKILAK ROAD AND ANCHOR POINT BY THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES.

Whereas, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) has designated the Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway between Wye and Skilak Road (38 miles) and between Anchor Point and Homer (23 miles) for its outstanding scenic qualities; and

Whereas, the remaining undesignated portion of the Sterling Highway has world class salmon and halibut fishing and clamming that is second to none in the world and attracts residents and visitors to the Kenai Peninsula's rich waters accessible by the Sterling Highway; and

Whereas, the undesignated portion of the Sterling Highway also has regionally significant recreational, cultural, historical and natural qualities found in numerous hiking and camping opportunities, Russian Orthodox culture, rich Native American and Cook Expedition history, and the volcanoes that line Cook Inlet visible from the Sterling Highway; and

Whereas, the national and regional qualities along the undesignated portion of the Sterling Highway when combined with the outstanding scenic qualities along the State designated portions creates an enjoyable traveling opportunity for those who visit and use the Sterling Highway; and

Whereas, these visitors can enhance the economies of the communities along the entire Sterling Highway as well as benefiting the whole Kenai Peninsula; and

FOCL

Friends of Cooper Landing, Inc.

Post Office Box 815
Cooper Landing, Alaska 99572

June 7, 2004

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Dear Commissioner Barton:

The Friends of Cooper Landing (FOCL), support designation of the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the Wye (M.P. 37) to Homer (M.P. 173).

Currently the northern end of the Sterling Highway around Cooper Landing is recognized for its outstanding scenic and recreational qualities. The Southern portion including Homer is recognized for its cultural and archeological qualities. FOCL believes that the middle 81 miles of the Sterling is also worthy of State designation.

Our rationale for state designation of this portion of the Sterling Highway is the regionally and internationally significant recreational, cultural, and natural qualities found along the corridor. In particular, our Kenai Peninsula salmon fishery is the most outstanding sport fishery in the world, and is also home to nationally recognized halibut fishing and clamming. These are successful, managed fisheries that are stable and attractive to many. A majority of these fishing areas are accessed from the middle portion of the Sterling Highway and are utilized by Alaskans for subsistence as well as a large number of visitors to our state.

In addition, the middle portion of the Sterling Highway provides access to numerous other recreational activities, including, biking, river kayaking, canoeing, rafting, bird watching, year-round hiking and camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, skiing (both back-country and cross-country), and dog mushing in the 1.92 million acres Kenai National Wildlife Refuge accessible from the Sterling highway. Also of national and state importance is the opportunity for viewing the Aleutian and Alaskan mountain ranges across Cook Inlet, including several recently active volcanoes. Mount Iliamna, Mt. Redoubt, Mt. Augustine and Mt. Spurr can all be viewed from many points along the middle portion of the Sterling Highway. The western coast of the Kenai Peninsula also

-- Our focal point is Cooper Landing --

has a rich Russian Orthodox history, Native American culture, was mapped by the Cook Expedition, and would be of interest to many visitors to the area.

The Kenai Peninsula has a stable and diverse economy. The Byways program and its grassroots approach will allow us to improve our existing tourism market, maintain long-term regional stability, and enhance our ability to draw new businesses and residents to the area. Marketing the Sterling Highway along with the Seward All-American Road and the Alaska's Marine Highway as National Byways would create an outstanding visitor package for those who visit the Kenai Peninsula and would be the nation's first Byway Loop.

Equally exciting to us are the funding possibilities that come with State and National Byway designation. Once designated, the entire Sterling Highway will be eligible for grants that would provide benefits enjoyed by visitors and residents alike. New highway facilities could be funded through the Byway Program including roadside rest areas, improved parking at river access points, new trailheads, a Cook Inlet Volcano Visitor Center, and new signage. Grants could also be submitted for bank stabilization and fishing platforms along the Russian and Kenai Rivers benefiting local subsistence and visitor access, and reducing erosion damage to fish habitats.

Thank you for consideration about designating the entire Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway. If we can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,



Bob Baldwin

President

kenailake@arctic.net

907.595.2129

907.868.6477

May 10, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

The undersigned request that the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities designate the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the Wye (Mile Post 37) to Homer (Mile Post 173).

Currently, the northern end of the Sterling Highway is recognized for its outstanding scenic and recreational qualities. The Southern portion is recognized for its cultural and archeological qualities. We, the undersigned feel that the middle 81 miles of the Sterling is also worthy of State designation.

The state designation of this portion of the Sterling Highway is due to the regionally and internationally significant recreational, cultural, and natural qualities found along the corridor. In particular, our Kenai Peninsula salmon fishery is the most outstanding fishery in the world and is also home to national recognized halibut fishing and clamming. A majority of these fishing areas are accessed from the middle portion of the Sterling Highway and are utilized by Alaskans for subsistence as well as a large number of visitors to our state. In addition, the middle portion of the Sterling Highway provides access to numerous other recreational activities, including biking, river kayaking, canoeing, rafting, bird watching, year-round hiking and camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, skiing (both back-country and cross-country) and dog mushing in the 1.9 million acres of Kenai National Wildlife Refuge accessible from the Sterling Highway.

Once designated, the entire Sterling Highway will be eligible for grants that would provide benefits enjoyed by visitors and residents alike. Grant proposals could also be submitted for bank stabilization and fishing platforms along the Russian and Kenai Rivers benefiting local subsistence and visitor access, and reducing erosion damage to fish habitats.

Sincerely,

Name	Address
Julie Welch	PO Box 39649 Ninilchik AK
Carol Banta	PO Box 39175 Ninilchik AK
Bob B. Banta	PO Box 39175 Ninilchik AK
Robert E. Gillis	11755 Sterling Hwy Ninilchik AK 99639
Mr. John A. Wasson	PO Box 39153 Ninilchik, AK 99639
Robert Wasson	PO Box 39153 Ninilchik AK 99639
Annie Wentworth	PO Box 39536 Ninilchik AK 99639
Marilyn Wentworth	PO Box 39536 Ninilchik AK 99639
Edna Rucker	PO Box 39394 Ninilchik AK 99639
Judith L. Freyer	PO Box 39394 Ninilchik, 99639
Karen Shering	PO Box 39823, Ninilchik 99639

CARTS

Get a Ride!

Central Area Rural Transit System, Inc.
A Community Solution for Public Transportation
P.O. Box 993
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-262-8900 907-262-6122 fax

May 13, 2004

RECEIVED
JUN 03 2004

JENSEN YORBALOTT, INC.
W.J. | T.Y. | J.L. |

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Dear Commissioner Barton:

Central Area Rural Transit System, Inc. (CARTS) would like to formally request that the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities designate the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway.

Currently the northern end of the Sterling Highway is recognized for its outstanding scenic and recreational qualities. The Southern portion is recognized for its cultural and archeological qualities. CARTS feels the middle 81 miles of the Sterling Highway is also worthy of State designation.

Our rationale for state designation of this portion of the Sterling Highway is the regionally and internationally significant recreational, cultural and natural qualities found along the corridor. In particular, our Kenai Peninsula salmon fishery is the most outstanding fishery in the world and is also home to nationally recognized halibut fishing and clamming. These are successful managed fisheries that are stable and attractive to many. A majority of these fishing areas are accessed from the middle portion of the Sterling Highway and are utilized by Alaskans for subsistence as well as a large number of visitors to our state.


In addition, the middle portion of the Sterling Highway provides access to numerous other recreational activities, including biking, river kayaking, canoeing, rafting, bird watching, year round hiking and camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, and dog mushing in the 1.9 million acres Kenai National Wildlife Refuge accessible from the Sterling Highway. Also of national and state importance is the opportunity for viewing the Aleutian and Alaskan Mountain ranges across Cook Inlet, including several recently active volcanoes. The western coast of the Kenai Peninsula also has a rich Russian Orthodox history, Native American culture, was mapped by the Cook Expedition and would be of interest to many visitors to the area.

The Kenai Peninsula has a stable and diverse economy. The Byways program and its grassroots approach will allow us to improve our existing tourism market, maintain long term regional stability and enhance our ability to draw new businesses and residents to the area. Marketing the Sterling Highway along with the Seward All American Road and Alaska's Marine Highway as National Byways would create an outstanding visitor package for those who visit the Kenai Peninsula and would be the nation's first Byway Loop.

Equally exciting to us are the funding possibilities that come with State and National Byway designation. Once designated, the entire Sterling Highway will be eligible for grants that would provide benefits enjoyed by visitors and residents alike. New highway facilities could be funded through the Byway Program including roadside rest areas, improved parking at river access points, new trailheads, a Cook Inlet Volcano Visitors Center, and new signage. Grants could also be submitted for bank stabilization and fishing platforms along the Russian and Kenai Rivers benefiting local consistency and visitor access and reducing erosion damage to fish habitats.

I appreciate your attention and consideration in designating the entire Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Beckmann
Executive Director
Central Area Rural Transit, Inc.
907-262-8900

May 27, 2004

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

RECEIVED
JUN 03 2004

JENSEN YORBA LOTT, INC.
W.J. T.Y. T.J.L. T

Dear Commissioner Barton:

As residents of the Kenai Peninsula, we support the designation of the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the Wye (M.P. 37) to Homer (M.P. 173).

Currently the northern end of the Sterling Highway is recognized for its outstanding scenic and recreational qualities. The Southern portion is recognized for its cultural and archeological qualities. We feel that the middle 81 miles of the Sterling is also worthy of State designation for it's exceptional recreational and scenic qualities.

Our rationale for state designation of this portion of the Sterling Highway is the regionally and internationally significant recreational, cultural, and natural qualities found along the corridor. In particular, our Kenai Peninsula salmon fishery is the *most outstanding fishery in the world* and is also home to nationally recognized halibut fishing and clamming. These are successfully managed fisheries that are stable and attractive to many. A majority of these fishing areas are accessed from the middle portion of the Sterling Highway and are utilized by Alaskans for subsistence as well as a large number of visitors to our state.

In addition, the middle portion of the Sterling Highway provides access to numerous other recreational activities, including, biking, river kayaking, canoeing, rafting, bird watching, year-round hiking and camping, golf, hunting, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, skiing (both back-country and cross-country), and dog mushing in the 1.9 million acres Kenai National Wildlife Refuge accessible from the Sterling highway. Also of national and state importance is the opportunity for viewing the Aleutian and Alaskan mountain ranges across Cook Inlet, including several recently active volcanoes. Mount Iliamna, Mt. Redoubt, Mt. Augustine and Mt. Spurr can all be viewed from many points along the middle portion of the Sterling Highway. The western coast of the Kenai Peninsula also has a rich Russian Orthodox history, Native American culture, was mapped by the Cook Expedition, and would be of interest to many visitors to the area.

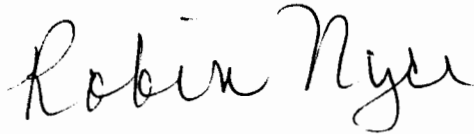
The Kenai Peninsula has a stable and diverse economy. The Byways program and its grassroots approach will allow us to improve our existing tourism market, maintain long-term regional stability, and enhance our ability to draw new businesses and residents to the area. Marketing the Sterling Highway along with the Seward All-American Road and the Alaska's Marine Highway as National Byways would create an outstanding visitor package for those who visit the Kenai Peninsula and would be the nation's first Byway Loop.

Equally exciting to us are the funding possibilities that come with State and National Byway designation. Once designated, the entire Sterling Highway will be eligible for

grants that would provide benefits enjoyed by visitors and residents alike. New highway facilities could be funded through the Byway Program including roadside rest areas, improved parking at river access points, new trailheads, a Cook Inlet Volcano Visitor Center, and new signage. Grants could also be submitted for bank stabilization and fishing platforms along the Russian and Kenai Rivers benefiting local subsistence and visitor access, and reducing erosion damage to fish habitats.

We appreciate your attention and consideration in designating the entire Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway. If we can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Nyce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "N".

George and Robin Nyce
P.O. Box
Kenai, AK 99611
907-283-

May 28, 2004

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

RECEIVED
JUN 01 2004
JENSEN YORBA LOTT, INC.
W.J. T.Y. TULL

Dear Commissioner Barton:

The Ninilchik General Store would like to formally request that the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities designate the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the Wye (M.P. 37) to Homer (M.P. 173).

Currently the northern end of the Sterling Highway is recognized for its outstanding scenic and recreational qualities. The Southern portion is recognized for its cultural and archeological qualities. The Ninilchik General Store feels that the middle 81 miles of the Sterling is also worthy of State designation.

Our rationale for state designation of this portion of the Sterling Highway is the regionally and internationally significant recreational, cultural, and natural qualities found along the corridor. In particular, our Kenai Peninsula salmon fishery is the *most outstanding fishery in the world* and is also home to nationally recognized halibut fishing and clamming. These are successful managed fisheries that are stable and attractive to many. A majority of these fishing areas are accessed from the middle portion of the Sterling Highway and are utilized by Alaskans for subsistence as well as a large number of visitors to our state.

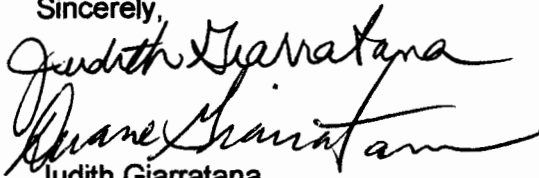
In addition, the middle portion of the Sterling Highway provides access to numerous other recreational activities, including, biking, river kayaking, canoeing, rafting, bird watching, year-round hiking and camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, skiing (both back-country and cross-country), and dog mushing in the 1.9 million acres Kenai National Wildlife Refuge accessible from the Sterling highway. Also of national and state importance is the opportunity for viewing the Aleutian and Alaskan mountain ranges across Cook Inlet, including several recently active volcanoes. Mount Iliamna, Mt. Redoubt, Mt. Augustine and Mt. Spurr can all be viewed from many points along the middle portion of the Sterling Highway. The western coast of the Kenai Peninsula also has a rich Russian Orthodox history, Native American culture, was mapped by the Cook Expedition, and would be of interest to many visitors to the area.

The Kenai Peninsula has a stable and diverse economy. The Byways program and its grassroots approach will allow us to improve our existing tourism market, maintain long-term regional stability, and enhance our ability to draw new businesses and residents to the area. Marketing the Sterling Highway along with the Seward All-American Road and the Alaska's Marine Highway as National Byways would create an outstanding visitor package for those who visit the Kenai Peninsula and would be the nation's first Byway Loop.

Equally exciting to us are the funding possibilities that come with State and National Byway designation. Once designated, the entire Sterling Highway will be eligible for grants that would provide benefits enjoyed by visitors and residents alike. New highway facilities could be funded through the Byway Program including roadside rest areas, improved parking at river access points, new trailheads, a Cook Inlet Volcano Visitor Center, and new signage. Grants could also be submitted for bank stabilization and fishing platforms along the Russian and Kenai Rivers benefiting local subsistence and visitor access, and reducing erosion damage to fish habitats.

We appreciate your attention and consideration in designating the entire Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway. If we can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Judith Giarratana and Duane Giarratana. The signature of Judith is on top, and Duane's is below it, both in cursive.

Judith Giarratana

Duane Giarratana

Owners, Ninilchik General Store



Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Information Center

May 27, 2004

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Dear Commissioner Barton:

The Soldotna Chamber of Commerce would like to formally request that the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities designate the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the Wye (M.P. 37) to Homer (M.P. 173).

Currently the northern end of the Sterling Highway is recognized for its outstanding scenic and recreational qualities. The Southern portion is recognized for its cultural and archeological qualities. The Soldotna Chamber of Commerce feels that the middle 81 miles of the Sterling is also worthy of State designation.

Our rationale for state designation of this portion of the Sterling Highway is the regionally and internationally significant recreational, cultural, and natural qualities found along the corridor. In particular, Our Kenai Peninsula salmon fishery is the *most outstanding fishery in the world* and is also home to nationally recognized halibut fishing and clamming. These are successful managed fisheries that are stable and attractive to many. A majority of these fishing areas are accessed from the middle portion of the Sterling Highway and are utilized by Alaskans for subsistence as well as a large number of visitors to our state.

In addition, the middle portion of the Sterling Highway provides access to numerous other recreational activities, including, biking, river kayaking, canoeing, rafting, bird watching, year-round hiking and camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, skiing (both back-country and cross-country), and dog mushing in the 1.9 million acres Kenai National Wildlife Refuge accessible from the Sterling highway. Also of national and state importance is the opportunity for viewing the Aleutian and Alaskan mountain ranges across Cook Inlet, including several recently active volcanoes. Mount Iliamna, Mt. Redoubt, Mt. Augustine and Mt. Spurr can all be viewed from many points along the middle portion of the Sterling Highway. The western coast of the Kenai Peninsula also has a rich Russian Orthodox history, Native American culture, was mapped by the Cook Expedition, and would be of interest to many visitors to the area.

The Kenai Peninsula has a stable and diverse economy. The Byways program and its grassroots approach will allow us to improve our existing tourism market, maintain long-term regional stability, and enhance our ability to draw new businesses and residents to the area. Marketing the Sterling Highway along with the Seward All-American Road and the Alaska's Marine Highway as National Byways would create an outstanding visitor package for those who visit the Kenai Peninsula and would be the nation's first Byway Loop.

Equally exciting to us are the funding possibilities that come with State and National Byway designation. Once designated, the entire Sterling Highway will be eligible for grants that would provide benefits enjoyed by visitors and residents alike. New highway facilities could be funded through the Byway Program including roadside rest areas, improved parking at river access points, new trailheads, a Cook Inlet Volcano Visitor Center, and new signage. Grants could also be submitted for bank stabilization and fishing platforms along the Russian and Kenai Rivers benefiting. Local subsistence and visitor access, and reducing erosion damage to fish habitats.

RECEIVED
JUN 01 2004
JENSEN YORBA LOFT, INC.
W.J. I.T.Y. I.J.L. I

www.SoldotnaChamber.com

44790 Sterling Highway • Soldotna, Alaska 99669 • (907) 262-9814 • Fax: 262-3566 • Email: info@soldotnachamber.com



Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Information Center

We appreciate your attention and consideration in designating the entire Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway. If we can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Glaves".

Michelle Glaves
Executive Director

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

RECEIVED
MAY 27 2004

JENSEN YORBA LO...
W.J. T.Y. J.L.

Dear Commissioner Barton:

Steven Anderson would like to formally request that the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities designate the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the Wye (M.P. 37) to Homer (M.P. 173).

Currently the northern end of the Sterling Highway is recognized for its outstanding scenic and recreational qualities. The Southern portion is recognized for its cultural and archeological qualities. 1 feel that the middle 81 miles of the Sterling is also worthy of State designation.

Our rationale for state designation of this portion of the Sterling Highway is the regionally and internationally significant recreational, cultural, and natural qualities found along the corridor. In particular, our Kenai Peninsula salmon fishery is the *most outstanding fishery in the world* and is also home to nationally recognized halibut fishing and clamming. These are successful managed fisheries that are stable and attractive to many. A majority of these fishing areas are accessed from the middle portion of the Sterling Highway and are utilized by Alaskans for subsistence as well as a large number of visitors to our state.

In addition, the middle portion of the Sterling Highway provides access to numerous other recreational activities, including, biking, river kayaking, canoeing, rafting, bird watching, year-round hiking and camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, skiing (both back-country and cross-country), and dog mushing in the 1.9 million acres Kenai National Wildlife Refuge accessible from the Sterling highway. Also of national and state importance is the opportunity for viewing the Aleutian and Alaskan mountain ranges across Cook Inlet, including several recently active volcanoes. Mount Iliamna, Mt. Redoubt, Mt. Augustine and Mt. Spurr can all be viewed from many points along the middle portion of the Sterling Highway. The western coast of the Kenai Peninsula also has a rich Russian Orthodox history, Native American culture, was mapped by the Cook Expedition, and would be of interest to many visitors to the area.

The Kenai Peninsula has a stable and diverse economy. The Byways program and its grassroots approach will allow us to improve our existing tourism market, maintain long-term regional stability, and enhance our ability to draw new businesses and residents to the area. Marketing the Sterling Highway along with the Seward All-American Road and the Alaska's Marine Highway as National Byways would create an outstanding visitor package for those who visit the Kenai Peninsula and would be the nation's first Byway Loop.

Equally exciting to us are the funding possibilities that come with State and National Byway designation. Once designated, the entire Sterling Highway will be eligible for grants that would provide benefits enjoyed by visitors and residents alike. New highway facilities could be funded through the Byway Program including roadside rest areas, improved parking at river access points, new trailheads, a Cook Inlet Volcano Visitor Center, and new signage. Grants could also be submitted for bank stabilization and fishing platforms along the Russian and Kenai Rivers benefiting local subsistence and visitor access, and reducing erosion damage to fish habitats.

We appreciate your attention and consideration in designating the entire Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway. If we can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Steven Anderson



Anchor Point Senior Citizens, Inc.

May 7, 2004

Anchor Point Senior Citizens, Inc.
72750 Milo Fritz Ave.
P. O. Box 438
Anchor Point, AK99556-0438

Phone: 907-235-7786
Fax: 907-235-7118

Alaska Department of Transportation &
& Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, Alaska 99801-7898

Dear Commissioner Barton:

Anchor Point Senior Citizens, Inc. wish to formally request that the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities designate the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the Wye (M.P.37) to Homer (M.P. 173)

The northern end of the Sterling Highway is recognized for its outstanding scenic and recreational qualities, while the Southern portion is known for its cultural and archeological qualities. The Anchor Point Senior Citizens, Inc. sees the remaining 81 miles of the Sterling equally worthy of State designation.

The rationale for state designation of this remaining portion of the Sterling Highway is the regionally and internationally recognized recreational, cultural, and natural qualities found along this corridor. In particular, our Kenai Peninsula salmon fishery is *the most outstanding fishery in the world* and the Kenai Peninsula is also home to nationally recognized halibut and steelhead fishing and clamming. These are successfully managed fisheries that are stable and are attractive to travelers from around the globe.

In addition, this middle portion of the Sterling Highway gives access to numerous other activities, including biking, river kayaking, canoeing, rafting, bird watching, hiking, camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, skiing, and dog mushing in the 1.9 million acres Kenai National Wildlife Refuge accessible from the Sterling Highway. Also of interest internationally is the unique opportunity to view both ocean and snow-capped volcanic peaks from many perspectives. Mount Illiamna, Mt. Redoubt, Mt. Spurr and Mt. Augustine all are seen from the middle portion of the Sterling Highway. There is rich Russian Orthodox history here, as well as Native American history.

The Kenai Peninsula has a stable and diverse economy. The Byways program with its grassroots approach will enhance our existing tourism market, maintain long-term regional stability, and enhance our ability to draw new enterprise and residents to the area. Marketing the Sterling Highway with the Seward All-American Road and the Marine Highway as National Byways would create an outstanding visitor package for visitors to the Kenai Peninsula and would be the nation's first Byway Loop.

The Byway designation would make the Sterling Highway area eligible for funding possibilities which would assist with improving facilities for residents and visitors alike, as well as improvement and preservation of existing attractions.

Sincerely,

Inez Clendenen, President Board of Directors

Sara V. Clemson, V. President Board of Directors

APSCI



Cooper Landing Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau

PO Box 809 ♦ Cooper Landing, Alaska 99572 ♦ (907) 595-8888

<http://cooperlandingchamber.com> ♦ info@cooperlandingchamber.com

May 27th, 2004

Dear Commissioner Barton:

The Cooper Landing Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau would like to formally request that the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities designate the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the Wye (M.P. 37) to Homer (M.P. 173).

Currently the northern end of the Sterling Highway is recognized for its outstanding scenic and recreational qualities. The Southern portion is recognized for its cultural and archeological qualities. The Cooper Landing Chamber feels that the middle 81 miles of the Sterling is also worthy of State designation.

Our rationale for state designation of this portion of the Sterling Highway is the regionally and internationally significant recreational, cultural, and natural qualities found along the corridor. In particular, our Kenai Peninsula salmon fishery is the *most outstanding fishery in the world* and is also home to nationally recognized halibut fishing and clamming. These are successful managed fisheries that are stable and attractive to many. A majority of these fishing areas are accessed from the middle portion of the Sterling Highway and are utilized by Alaskans for subsistence as well as a large number of visitors to our state.

In addition, the middle portion of the Sterling Highway provides access to numerous other recreational activities, including, biking, river kayaking, canoeing, rafting, bird watching, year-round hiking and camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, skiing (both back-country and cross-country), and dog mushing in the 1.9 million acres Kenai National Wildlife Refuge accessible from the Sterling highway. Also of national and state importance is the opportunity for viewing the Aleutian and Alaskan mountain ranges across Cook Inlet, including several recently active volcanoes. Mount Iliamna, Mt. Redoubt, Mt. Augustine and Mt. Spurr can all be viewed from many points along the middle portion of the Sterling Highway. The western coast of the Kenai Peninsula also has a rich Russian Orthodox history, Native American culture, was mapped by the Cook Expedition, and would be of interest to many visitors to the area.

The Kenai Peninsula has a stable and diverse economy. The Byways program and its grassroots approach will allow us to improve our existing tourism market, maintain long-term regional stability, and enhance our ability to draw new businesses and residents to the area. Marketing the Sterling Highway along with the Seward All-American Road and the Alaska's Marine Highway as National Byways would create an outstanding visitor package for those who visit the Kenai Peninsula and would be the nation's first Byway Loop.

Equally exciting to us are the funding possibilities that come with State and National Byway designation. Once designated, the entire Sterling Highway will be eligible for grants that would provide benefits enjoyed by visitors and residents alike. New highway facilities could be funded through the Byway Program including roadside rest areas, improved parking at river access points, new trailheads, a Cook Inlet Volcano Visitor Center, and new signage. Grants could also be submitted for bank stabilization and fishing platforms along the Russian and Kenai Rivers benefiting local subsistence and visitor access, and reducing erosion damage to fish habitats.

We appreciate your attention and consideration in designating the entire Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway. If we can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,
Deb Marshall
Secretary

Deb Marshall

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JUN 01 2004

JENSEN YORBA LOTT, INC.
W.J. | T.Y. | J.L. | I



IN REPLY REFER TO:
04036wck

United States Department of the Interior

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

P.O. Box 2139
Soldotna, Alaska 99669-2139
(907) 262-7021

JENSEN FORSLOTT, INC.
W.J. F. E.Y. I J.L. I

May 25, 2004

Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Office of the Commissioner
3132 Channel Drive
Juneau, AK 99801-7898

Dear Commissioner Barton:

The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge supports the designation of the middle portion of the Sterling Highway as an Alaska State Scenic Byway, thus completing State Scenic Byway designation for the entire Sterling Highway, contiguously from the Wye (M.P. 37) to Homer (M.P. 173).

Currently the northern end of the Sterling Highway is recognized for its outstanding scenic and recreational qualities. The Southern portion is recognized for its cultural and archeological qualities. The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge feels that the middle 81 miles of the Sterling, of which approximately 24 miles passes through the Refuge, is also worthy of State designation.

Our rationale for state designation of this portion of the Sterling Highway is the regionally and internationally significant recreational, cultural, and natural qualities found along the corridor. In particular, the Kenai Peninsula salmon fishery is the *most outstanding fishery in the world* and is also home to nationally recognized halibut fishing and clamming. These are successful managed fisheries that are stable and attractive to many. A majority of these fishing areas are accessed from the middle portion of the Sterling Highway and are utilized by Alaskans for subsistence as well as a large number of visitors to our state.

In addition, the middle portion of the Sterling Highway provides access to numerous other recreational activities, including, biking, river kayaking, canoeing, rafting, bird watching, year-round hiking and camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, snowmobiling, skiing (both back-country and cross-country), and dog mushing in the 1.9 million acres Kenai National Wildlife Refuge accessible from the Sterling highway. Also of national and state importance is the opportunity for viewing the Aleutian and Alaskan mountain ranges across Cook Inlet, including several recently active volcanoes. Mount Iliamna, Mt. Redoubt, Mt. Augustine and Mt. Spurr can all be viewed from many points along the middle portion of the Sterling Highway. The western coast of the Kenai Peninsula also

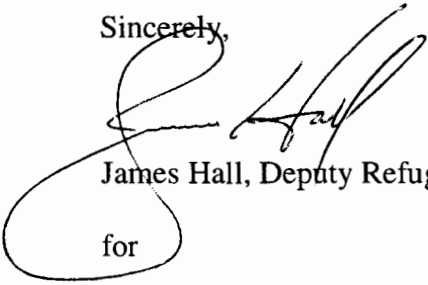
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We appreciate your attention and consideration in designating the entire Sterling Highway as a State Scenic Byway. If we can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please contact us.

Sincerely,



James Hall, Deputy Refuge Manager

for

Robin West
Refuge Manager