



## THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY ALASKA CHAPTER

5800 Kalgin Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99516

*The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a professional society founded in 1971. With over 200 members, the Alaska Chapter is one of the largest chapters of The Wildlife Society, an international organization representing wildlife biologists and managers employed by state, federal, and borough resource agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental conservation organizations, and private industry. Our mission is to enhance the ability of wildlife professionals to conserve biological diversity, sustain productivity, and ensure responsible use of wildlife resources in Alaska for the benefit of society.*

Alaska Board of Game  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Spraker and Board Members,

I am writing in support of BOG proposal 105, a proposal to expand the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. This proposal would "set aside" lands that have already been acquired and transferred to the state for addition to the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. It does not increase land ownership by the state, does not impose land use restrictions beyond normal refuge management, nor does it impose an additional financial burden on the state.

These lands were conveyed to or acquired by the state with the intent that they be included within the refuge boundaries. Although the state now owns these lands under ADNR oversight, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has no management authority over them without legislative action. Thus, ADF&G cannot undertake habitat improvements or manage public access, and enforcement of violations is unclear.

Passage of this proposal would be a valuable step in ensuring ADF&G can manage these lands consistent with refuge goals and management plans and address current issues.

I hope that the board will support this proposal to help facilitate expansion of the refuge and to ensure the quality of the land remains undiminished.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant Hilderbrand".

Grant Hilderbrand  
President, Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society