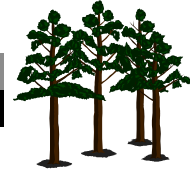




Rabbit Creek Community Council
1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100, Anchorage AK 99503



February 15, 2017

Joe Meehan, Lands and Refuges Program Coordinator
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Div. of Wildlife Conservation
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99518
BY EMAIL

Re: Property acquisition to enhance ACWR Potter Marsh Boardwalk

Rabbit Creek Community Council (RCCC) supports the proposed ADF&G acquisition of a 2.2-acre undeveloped parcel to be added to the Alaska Coastal Wildlife Refuge adjoining the entrance to the Potter Marsh Boardwalk. At our February 9 meeting, RCCC heard the details of the proposed acquisition, which will preserve habitat and protect the natural setting for visitors to the boardwalk interpretive site. The owners of the parcel favor its acquisition by the state in order to preserve its natural environment. RCCC passed a motion of support with no objections. Approximately 22 voting members were in attendance.

The Potter Marsh Boardwalk interpretive site is undoubtedly the most-visited natural site within our Council area, with over 110,000 visitors. Protection of 2.2 forested acres near the boardwalk entrance will preserve the adjacent forested habitat, benefitting not only the wildlife but retaining natural ambience for visitors who come to watch wildlife and enjoy the coastal scenery. If this parcel were not acquired by the State of Alaska, but were instead sold to a residential developer, the natural setting at the north end of Potter Marsh would be seriously compromised. RCCC also values this parcel as the legacy of a homestead-era family who wish to see the land become part of the refuge.

Sincerely,

Adam Lees, Chair

CC: John Weddleton, Anchorage Assembly