



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: www.akrepublicans.org

Sponsor: Senator Ralph Seekins
Current Version: SB 85
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 85

Short Title: OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE ON DALTON HIGHWAY

Summary:

- Removes the prohibition on the use of off-road vehicles within five miles of the right-of-way of the James Dalton Highway beginning 12 months after the bill becomes law.

Benefits:

- Provides access for average Alaskans to recreate on tens of millions of acres of public land.
- Allows land owners to create and implement land use plans to provide for orderly, environmentally sensitive recreational development.
- Complements existing Bureau of Land Management turnouts, restrooms and visitor centers constructed to accommodate increased public interest in this part of Alaska, and enables BLM to apply the Dalton Highway management plan that has been shelved since 1991.

Background:

- A substantial portion of Alaska's landmass lies on the north side of the Yukon River, served by only one road in the entire area—the Dalton Highway. With very limited exceptions, current law entirely bans the use of off-road vehicles within five miles of the highway's right-of-way starting at the Yukon River crossing at mile 57 and extending 357 miles north to the Arctic Ocean.