

Sponsor Statement for House Bill 165

Kenai River Special Management Area

**“An Act relating to the Kenai River Special Management Area;
and providing for an 02 effective date.”**

The Kenai River Special Management Area ([KRSMA](#)), under direction from the Alaska Legislature ([AS 41.21.500](#)), is managed as a unit of the Alaska State Park system by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Department of Natural Resources. To provide the protection and management called for in the management plan revision, 536 acres of general state lands must be legislatively added to the boundary of KRSMA. This includes the public lands and waters that contribute to sustaining the Kenai River’s important fish, wildlife, and recreational resources. The level and consistency of management to adequately protect the valuable resources of these lands and waters is currently not possible without KRSMA designation. Existing park staff assigned to KRSMA is adequate to cover additional management responsibilities. No facilities are planned for the proposed additional lands.

These lands are located downstream from Skilak Lake. The lands are primarily those acquired as habitat and recreation lands under the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill settlement funding, or isolated tracts of state lands overlooked during the 1984 KRSMA legislation.

[This bill](#) will transfer State lands to the Kenai River Comprehensive Management Area.