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Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2004 10:10 AM
Subject: FW: Comments on Cooper Lake Relicensing Project

-----Original Message-----

From: Ricky Gease [mailto:ricky@kenairiversportfishing.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 28, 2004 9:02 AM
To: Burke Wick
Subject: Comments on Cooper Lake Relicensing Project

Dear Burke Wick:

The Kenai Rive Sportfishing Association would like to provide comments on the Cooper Lake relicensing project prior to the September 30, 2004 extension deadline.

1. When the Chugach studies on the issue of fish passage / thermal barrier on Cooper Creek are available in final form, we believe that the socio-economic impacts of a Cooper Creek sportfishery on the Cooper Landing community and Kenai Peninsula Borough need to be addressed and studied, both from a perspective of past economic impact (what has been the socio-economic impact of not having Cooper Creek as a sportfishery) and for the future economic impact of either having it as a resource if mitigation efforts proceed forward or of not having it if mitigation efforts do not proceed forward.
2. When the studies are available in final form, we also believe that there needs to be a study on the necessary infrastructure requirements to support responsible sportfishing opportunities along Cooper Creek if the thermal barrier to fish passage is mitigated. If new angler access areas along Cooper Creek are opened to public use, then there needs to be a management plan in place that deals with this new use in a responsible manner. Angler access infrastructure and use issues can be comparatively studied by looking at the Russian River sportfishery and other such areas in the Kenai River watershed.

We look forward to participating in the Cooper Lake relicensing work group.

Sincerely,

Ricky Gease, Executive Director
Kenai River Sportfishing Association