

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

NIKISKI, ALASKA

Economic Recovery Program of the 1990 Farm Bill
Title 23, Subtitle G

Prepared by:

North Peninsula Community Council
May, 2001

Assisted by:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Forest Service
Natural Resources Conservation Service

**KENAI PENINSULA RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT, INC.**

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

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I. INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

In May of 2000, interested North Peninsula residents met to discuss the possibility of revitalizing the North Peninsula Community Council (NPCC) which was formed in the mid 1990's in an effort to provide input and guidance to the Kenai Peninsula Borough on issues associated with the North Peninsula area.

Subsequent meetings of the NPCC defined the focus of the newly revitalized Council as providing community leadership and input into the development of a long-range community/economic development plan for the area. Existing NPCC By-laws were revised to reflect their new mission and the Council received their approved Alaska State Articles of Incorporation (Domestic Non-profit Corporation) in September of 2000.

In July of 2000, the NPCC and North Peninsula Chamber of Commerce successfully requested and secured financial assistance through the USDA Forest Service's Economic Recovery Program for the formation of a Nikiski Community Action Team and the subsequent development and preparation of a Community Action Plan.

In an effort to gather public input into the development of the Community Action Plan, the NPCC staffed an informational booth at the Nikiski Days "Fun in the Sun" community event and successfully distributed and completed 128 survey questionnaire's developed to gather information from the general public concerning North Peninsula issues, concerns, likes, and dislikes.

In addition to the "Fun in the Sun" survey, public input into the development of this plan was gathered at the North Peninsula Economic Outlook Forum which was held in March of 2001 and organized jointly by the NPCC, North Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development District (EDD), Kenai Peninsula Borough Community & Economic Development Division (CEDD), and the Kenai Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development District (KPRC&D). The community sponsored event attracted over 60 local residents and provided a forum for citizens to discuss and prioritize community issues and opportunities.

In December of 2000, the NPCC utilized technical assistance from the KPRC&D to prepare an application to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to obtain their

501 ©(3) non-profit status. In April of 2001, the IRS determined that the NPCC was exempt from federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and granted the Council an advanced five-year ruling period.

The overall development and preparation of this Action Plan represents a commitment from within the community to establish goals and objectives and implement specific action items and projects related to the recovery and diversification of the economic base of Nikiski, Alaska.

II. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF AREA

Location & Climate:

The unincorporated area of Nikiski, also known as Port Nikiski and Nikishka, is located on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula approximately nine miles north of the City of Kenai. The area encompasses 28.1 square miles of land and 90.1 square miles of water. Winter temperatures range from 14 to 27 degrees F, with summer temperatures varying from 45 to 65 degrees F. Average annual precipitation is 24 inches.

History, Culture, & Demographics:

Traditionally in Kenaitze Indian territory, the area was homesteaded in the 1940's and grew with the discovery of oil on the Kenai Peninsula in 1957. By 1964, oil related industries located in the North Peninsula Area included Unocal, Phillips, Chevron, and Tesoro.

During the April 1990 U.S. Census there were 1,045 total housing units with 157 of these vacant. The official unemployment rate based on 1990 data was 14.5%, with 1,059 jobs estimated to be in the community and 42.2% of all adults not in the work force. The median household income was \$44,242 and 7% of the area's residents were living below the poverty level.

1999 Kenai Peninsula Borough data indicates a population of 3,038 in the Nikiski area (1999 KPB Situations & Prospects). Alaskan Natives represent 6.1% of the population.

Economy & Transportation:

Nikiski is where numerous oil companies explore and produce crude oil and natural gas from both on-shore production facilities and off-shore production platforms. Tesoro operates a refinery processing Alaska oil into gasoline and jet fuel. Agrium operates an ammonia/urea plant, and Phillips Petroleum operates an LNG plant. In January of 2001, British Petroleum began constructing a pilot plant to test gas-to-liquids technology for future use on the North Slope. Timber,

commercial and sport fishing, government, retail businesses and tourism related services also provide employment opportunities. Fifty-five residents currently hold commercial fishing permits. Alaska Petroleum Contractors and Natchiq Inc. build modules in Nikiski for shipment to the North Slope. The \$750 million module project started in 1998 and is expected to provide 200 jobs for approximately three years.

The Sterling Highway provides access to Anchorage and the nearby City of Kenai offers an airport and docking facilities. The Port Nikiski docks service offshore drilling platforms and currently there are two private airstrips in the area.

Public Facilities & Services:

Groups and organizations providing public services in the Nikiski area include the Nikiski Fire Department/Emergency Medical Services, Nikiski Senior Center, North Peninsula Recreation Department, North Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, and the North Peninsula Community Council. Nikiski is an unincorporated community and contains no official form of government. There are three schools in the North Peninsula Area, attended by approximately 980 students. The Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation own and manage the 3,460-acre Captain Cook State Recreation Area. The North Peninsula recreation area offers a variety of recreational opportunities including camping, boating, swimming, and beachcombing.

III. NIKISKI VISION STATEMENT

To assist in the development of a long-range vision statement, the NPCC, utilizing citizen responses obtained from their community survey, developed the following list of positive attributes related to living in the North Peninsula Area:

- Small town, rural atmosphere
- Parks, swimming pool, & other recreational opportunities
- Schools
- High quality of life
- Friendliness of the people
- Community spirit
- Lakes, scenery, & wildlife

Utilizing the above information, the NPCC developed the following vision statement:

BUILDING A BETTER COMMUNITY FOR TOMMORROW BY PULLING TOGETHER FOR:

- ***A CLEAN COMMUNITY***

- **STRONG FAMILIES**
- **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**
- **BETTER ROADS**
- **A SAFE COMMUNITY**
- **DEVELOPMENT**
- **WISE USE OF LOCAL RESOURCES**

IV. COMMUNITY ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The NPCC identified various community related issues and concerns through the responses received from the 2000 Nikiski Days "Fun in the Sun" survey questionnaire. Information received from the 128 completed questionnaires indicated the following top ten community concerns:

1. Lack of road service/maintenance and poor road conditions (20 responses)
2. Abandoned vehicles and buildings (19 responses)
3. Crime and drug problems (17 responses)
4. Lack of trash and litter clean-up (12 responses)
5. Lack of activities for children and young adults (10 responses)
6. Lack of police protection (8 responses)
7. Chemical plant pollution and other possible dangers (7 responses)
8. Undeserved North Peninsula Area reputation (6 responses)
9. Lack of a strong business community (5 responses)
10. Lack of basic services (4 responses)

During the North Peninsula Economic Outlook Forum held in March of 2001, the NPCC facilitated a visioning exercise where participants were asked the question "What is the North Peninsula Area Like in the Year 2010?". Of the approximately 70 responses received during the brainstorming session, the forum attendees were then asked to prioritize and select their top three response items. The following specific issues/opportunities were identified as high priority items by the 60 forum participants:

- Gas pipeline development
- Removal of abandoned buildings and vehicles
- Deep water port development
- Preserve the area's lifestyle

Note: The deep water port development and preserve the area's lifestyle responses tied in votes for the number two priority

V. COMMUNITY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTION ITEMS

Based on public input (survey results, economic outlook forum, & monthly meetings), the following goals, objectives, and specific action items have been established by the NPCC to promote community development and strengthen economic recovery and diversification of the North Peninsula Area. It should be noted that the following list has not been prioritized by the NPCC. Project prioritization will occur as annual project plans are prepared and submitted to potential funding sources.

GOAL A: PROMOTE THE CLEAN-UP AND BEAUTIFICATION OF THE NORTH PENINSULA AREA

Objective 1 - Coordinate activities, strengthen existing efforts, and develop new and innovative approaches for the collection, removal, and or recycling of the areas abandoned vehicles and buildings

Action Items:

- 1) Complete an area-wide inventory of abandoned vehicles and buildings (owner identification, vehicle identification numbers, locations, building safety evaluations, possible hazardous waste sites, etc.)
- 2) Investigate the development of small business opportunities and the creation of jobs designed to collect, transport, and recycle abandoned vehicles.
- 3) Organize and conduct annual community clean-up events
- 4) Promote and provide assistance to the Mayor and the Kenai Peninsula Borough Solid Waste Department in their 2001 Abandoned Vehicle Initiative
- 5) Explore the possibility of a North Peninsula solid waste recycling facility
- 6) Promote the development of "junk screening" utilizing fences, murals, natural vegetation, or other innovative methods
- 7) Explore zoning, property tax incentives, and/or other local ordinance options related to the reduction of abandoned vehicles and buildings
- 8) Organize and conduct a North Peninsula Beautification Program (awards, rewards, incentives, etc.) to promote community awareness
- 9) Promote the enforcement of existing laws and regulations with respect to abandoned vehicles and buildings

GOAL B: PROTECT, PRESERVE, AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE NORTH PENINSULA AREA

Objective 1 - Facilitate the completion of local community facility expansion, construction, and renovation projects

Action Items:

- 1) Seek appropriate funding sources to renovate and expand the Nikiski Senior Center to include senior housing opportunities
- 2) Explore the expansion of the North Peninsula Recreation Center Complex to include refrigerated ice for hockey rink and outdoor educational opportunities
- 3) Investigate alternatives for the development of a North Peninsula Community Center that would include an emergency response shelter, teen center, and multi-purpose room.
- 4) Explore the development of a community library facility or investigate bookmobile alternatives

Objective 2 - Develop recreational facilities in a manner that protects and preserves the area's scenic resources and rural life style

Action Items:

- 1) Investigate alternatives to re-open the Bernice Lake Campground facility
- 2) Seek appropriate funding sources to plan, design, and construct a North Peninsula multi-purpose trail system
- 3) Encourage the Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to implement improvements to the Captain Cook State Recreation Area (Stormy Lake swimming beach, Swanson River boardwalks or platforms, etc.)
- 4) Expand the areas recreational potential by promoting the development of winter recreational activities including snowmachining and x-country skiing (community events/races, etc.)
- 5) Explore opportunities for the development of visitor friendly facilities and amenities (North Peninsula Visitor Center, area recreational maps, visitor signage, RV dumps, etc.)

Objective 3 - Promote the safety and health of the area's residents

Action Items:

- 1) Explore alternatives with the Alaska Department of Public Safety to increase law enforcement presence in the North Peninsula Area
- 2) Investigate the implementation of a public safety program utilizing community based peace officers
- 3) Promote the expansion of medical services in the North Peninsula Area
- 4) Develop a land use plan that identifies heavy industrial land use corridors

Objective 4 - Expand the area's educational opportunities

Action Items:

- 1) Work with the Kenai Peninsula School District and area industry and small business leaders to explore alternatives for the implementation of a local work force development youth oriented training program
- 2) Investigate opportunities for the development of a North Peninsula Area vocational/technical school

GOAL C: PROMOTE THE MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENT, AND EXPANSION OF THE NORTH PENINSULA AREA TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

Objective 1 - Develop a long-term plan for residential and industrial traffic patterns, highway improvements, and potential new highway corridors

Action Items:

- 1) Work with the Alaska State Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) to identify existing daily vehicle counts on major roads, congestion areas, turning lane zones, speed limits, and industrial and residential zones
- 2) Work with the DOT&PF for maintaining hazard-free roads and establishing a network call system for reporting and eliminating road hazards

- 3) Identify desired traffic routes for industrial and residential users and make recommendations for the existing road system to incorporate future traffic patterns
- 4) Work with the DOT&PF to establish a pedestrian path system adjacent to the existing roadways

GOAL D: SUPPORT AND PROMOTE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RELATED PROJECTS THAT PROVIDE DIRECT ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE NORTH PENINSULA AREA

Objective 1 - Promote the North Peninsula Area as the terminus for the proposed natural gas pipeline project

Action Items:

- 1) Work with the Kenai Peninsula Borough for establishing a corridor through the community for the proposed North Slope natural gas pipeline project
- 2) Identify potential industrial quality sites for construction of a North Slope natural gas liquification plant
- 3) Educate the community on the social, economic, and environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of a North Slope natural gas plant

Objective 2 - Explore the development of a deep water port/cargo hub facility in the North Peninsula Area

Action Items:

- 1) Determine the feasibility of establishing a local port authority
- 2) Determine community and political support for deep water port project
- 3) Identify possible deep water port and support facility sites for construction of an international container ship terminal
- 4) Educate the community on the social, economic, and environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of a deep water port capable of handling international cargo and cruise ship operations

Objective 3 - Support and promote small business development and expansion in the North Peninsula Area

Action Items:

- 1) Explore the development of new value-added timber products and industries utilizing the area's beetle kill spruce (particleboard, furniture, etc.)
- 2) Explore opportunities for value-added specialty seafood production

VI. FUTURE COMMUNITY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

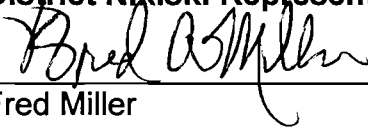
The NPCC will utilize this long-term Action Plan to seek and secure future sources of local, state, federal, and private foundation technical and financial assistance to promote community development and to foster the recovery and diversification of the economic base of the North Peninsula Area.

It is the intent of the NPCC to meet on a regular basis to review potential action items outlined in this plan and develop, where appropriate, project cost estimates and funding applications to meet the goals and objectives as stated. Continued assistance to the NPCC in the implementation of specific action items outlined in this plan will be provided by the Kenai Peninsula RC&D District, Inc., USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Economic Development District, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough Economic Development Division.

VII. COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN APPROVALS


The NPCC Action Team hereby adopts this Community Action Plan and agrees to effectively use all available assistance to realize the goals, objectives, and action items outlined herein.

North Peninsula Community Council President & Kenai Peninsula RC&D District Nikiski Representative


Fred Miller

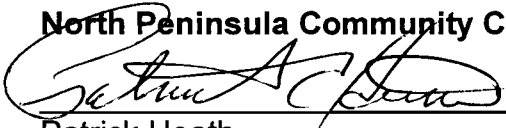
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North Peninsula Community Council Vice-President


Loretta Eaton

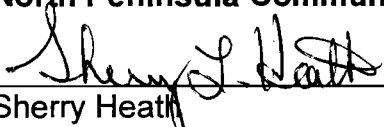
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North Peninsula Community Council Secretary


Patrick Heath

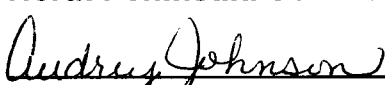
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North Peninsula Community Council Treasurer


Sherry Heath

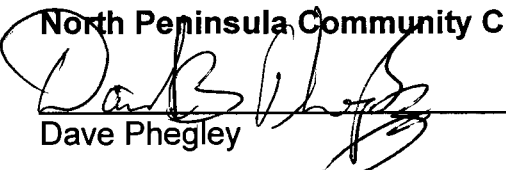
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North Peninsula Community Council Member at Large


Audrey Johnson


5-11-2001
Date

North Peninsula Community Council Member at Large


Dave Phegley


5/7/01
Date

North Peninsula Chamber of Commerce


Marty Anderson

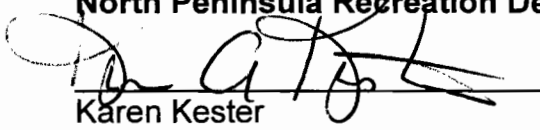
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Nikiski Senior Center


Leigh Hegstrom-Sanger

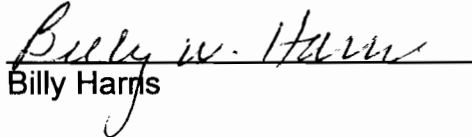
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North Peninsula Recreation Department


Karen Kester

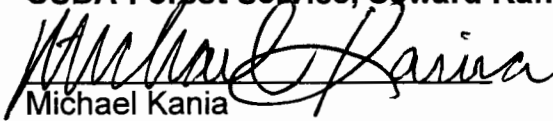
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Nikiski Fire Department/Emergency Medical Services


Billy Harris

5/9/01
Date

USDA-Forest Service, Seward Ranger District


Michael Kania

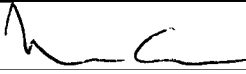

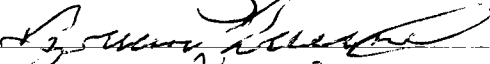

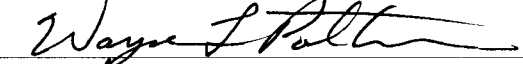
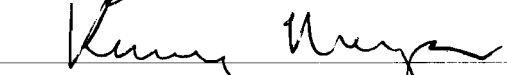
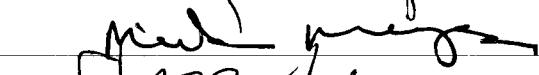


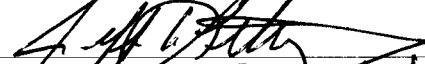
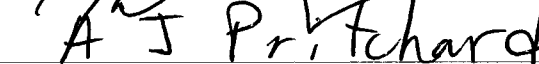
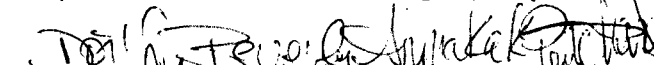
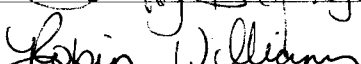

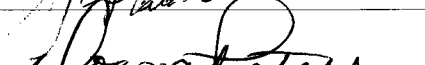
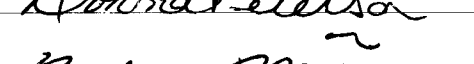
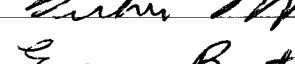
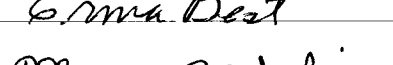
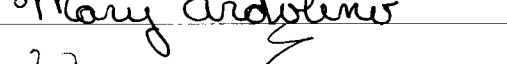

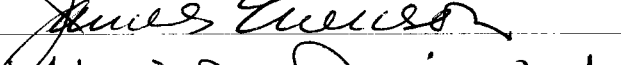
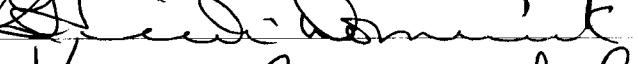
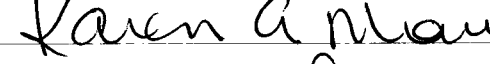


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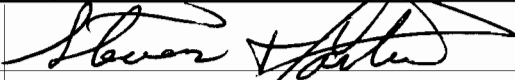
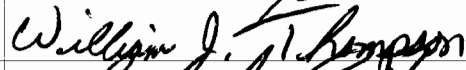

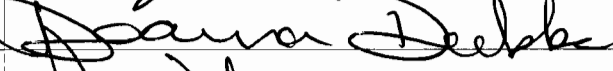

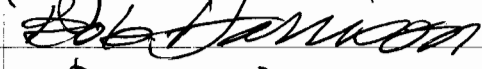
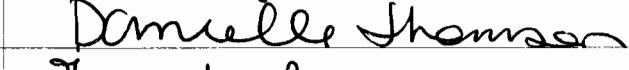




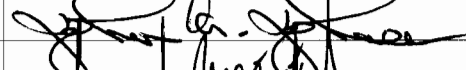
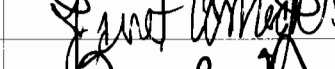



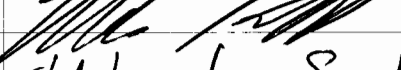

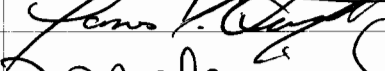
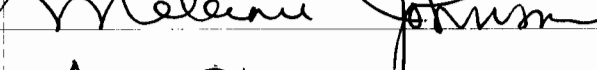

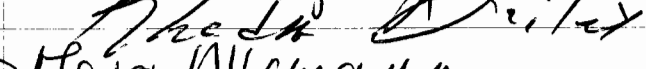
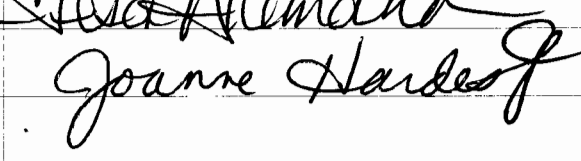
for 
Deputy Regional Forester

Date: 9/20/01

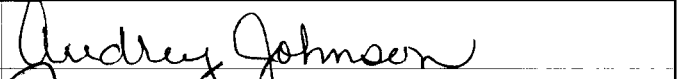
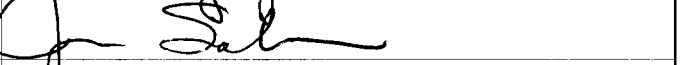
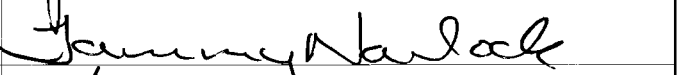
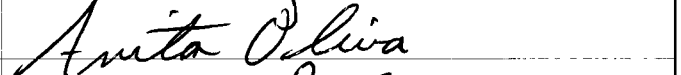





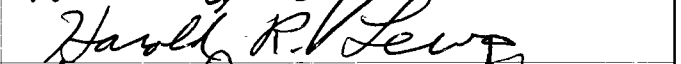
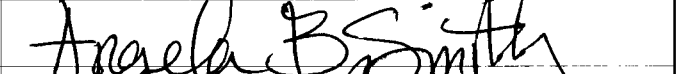
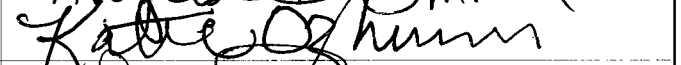


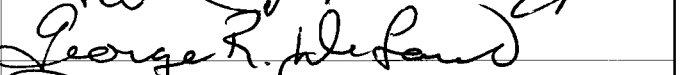
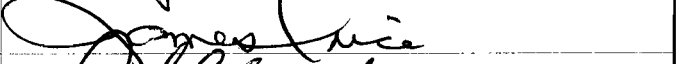


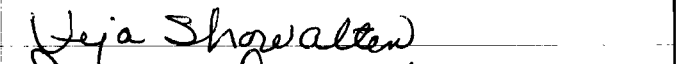
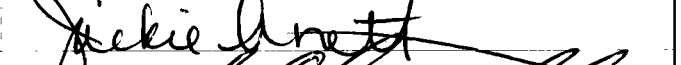
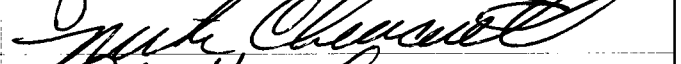
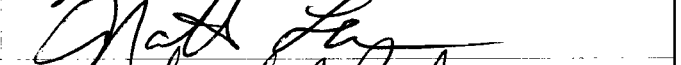


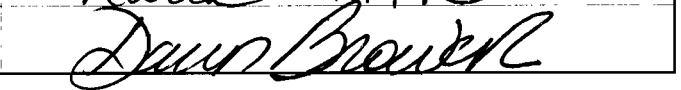
Nikiski Action Plan Endorsement

Printed Name	Signature
HARRY EATON	
Pat Segura	
BRIAN BUREVEL	
Steve Holloway	
Wayne P.	
Ken Meyers	
Mike Meyers	
Stan Levitt	
ALAN BUTTE	
JEFF LEITCHINGTON	
A. J. Pritchard	
DOROTHY S. WILKINSON (SAR)	
Robin Williams	
LARRY FRED STAATS	
Donna Peterson	
Duke Minium	
Erma Best	
Mary Ardolino	
NEDRA EVENSON	
JAMES EVENSON	
Heidi Dominick	
Karen Maudal	
Jessica Segura 06-16-01	
Jason D. Floyd	
Michele R. Floyd	

Nikiski Action Plan Endorsement

Printed Name	Signature
STEVEN T. CARTER	
WILLIAM J. THOMPSON	
Gary L. Gabbett	
Deanna Debbu	
Jean Thomson	
Bob Harrison	
Danielle Thomson	
Greg Henderson	
Beth Kellie	
Mark Adams	
Kathy Sluis	
John A. Johnson	
Janet Conright	
Mike Nugent	
Robin Bogard	
Kelli K. Henderson	
MARK POWELL	
Wendy S. Morse	
James D. Quarty	
Melanie Johnson	
Adele Kroger	
Tessa Allemann	
Joanne Hardesty	

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Printed Name	Signature
Audrey Johnson	
Janet L. Salonen	
Tammy Narlock	
Anita Oliva	
DOROTHY LENTZ	
Camille Taylor	
Linda Spotts	
Shannon ELSEY	
Dan Elsey	
Harold R. Lewis	
Angela B Smith	
Katie Oshuman	
Sharlene Rooker	
Paul Lorenzo	
George R. Delano	
James Price	
Paul A. Smith	
Barbara H. DeLano	
Veja Showalter	
JACKIE ARNETT	
MIKE Chenuit	
Nathan Lewis	
Michael AbeeK	
Karla Smith	
Dawn Brewer	

Nikiski Action Plan Endorsement

Printed Name

Signature

DAVID L. LASHLEY
Suzette Graham

David L. Lashley
Suzette Graham