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Susitna Joint Venture
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INTRA-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

LOCATION Anchorage
TO Wayne Dyok
FROM Sharon Vaissiere
SUBJECT Navigation of the Susitna River

DATE August 31, 1984
NUMBER _____

Following are the comments of two people who were recently interviewed as part of socioeconomic subtask surveys of lodge operators and guides. These comments pertain to winter and summer navigation of the Susitna River and may be pertinent to your area of study.

Contact: Wayne Holley, part owner and operator of Talkeetna Roadhouse 8-27-84.

Wayne knows of winter river uses by snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, and dogsledders, but claims it is extremely risky to travel or recreate on the river due to the varying thickness of the ice. Last year 2-3 snowmobilers in the area broke through.

Contact: Steve Mahay, owner and operator of Mahay's Riverboat Service 8-27-84.

Steve has traveled upstream from Talkeetna to Devil Canyon as part of his business for nine years and has had no navigational problems. However, after a flood he says it is a bit more difficult to read the river and know where the main channel and gravel bars will settle. Steve claims regulated flow from the dam would help his business (which includes regular sightseeing tours upstream to the rapids, hunting and fishing drop offs, and freight deliveries upstream of Talkeetna) even if the dam gave as little as $\frac{1}{4}$ of the present flow because it would establish a regular channel. He also feels those who use the river during the winter are crazy because of the variability in the thickness of the ice. Moose that have broken through and drowned are often found during late winter and early spring.