



March 7, 2022

Eric Werwa
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy,
Management and Budget
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Submitted electronically through www.regulations.gov

Re: Request for Information to Inform Interagency Efforts to Develop the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas (Docket No. DOI-2021-0016)

Dear Mr. Werwa,

The Office of Project Management and Permitting (OPMP) has coordinated with the Alaska Departments of Natural Resources (ADNR), Fish and Game (ADF&G), Environmental Conservation (ADEC), and Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) to review the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) request for information related to the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas (Atlas) published in the Federal Register on January 4, 2022.¹ The following comments represent the consolidated views of the State of Alaska (State).

The State, through ADF&G, previously commented to DOI and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in response to Section 216 of Executive Order 14008² and the America the Beautiful initiative (Initiative).³ Please consider the following consolidated comments, which supplement the State's previous comments and hereby incorporates those prior comments by reference, in all applicable administrative records related to developing, designing, or implementing the Initiative or the Atlas.

America the Beautiful Initiative

Section 216(a) of Executive Order 14008 established a federal goal of conserving "at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030."⁴ On May 6, 2021, the DOI, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Department of Commerce (DOC) through NOAA, released the *Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful*

¹ 87 FR 235.

² State of Alaska comments (April 2, 2021), submitted electronically via oiea@ios.doi.gov, in response to Section 216 of Executive Order 14008 (86 FR 7619).

³ State of Alaska comments (December 15, 2021), submitted electronically via www.regulations.gov/docket/NOAA-HQ-2021-0109, in response to *Request for Information on NOAA Actions to Advance the Goals and Recommendations in the Report on Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful, Including Conserving At Least 30 Percent of U.S. Lands and Waters By 2030* (86 FR 59996).

⁴ 86 FR 7619.

report (Report), which specified development of the Atlas.⁵ As detailed below, Alaska already far exceeds its proportional 30 percent share. We view the narrative discussion around this issue as an implicit acknowledgement that Alaska is an outsized contributor to national and global conservation by any measure, but critically in both absolute area conserved and as a percentage of the state.

In determining how to implement the directive of Executive Order 14008, the State advises DOI, CEQ, USDA, and NOAA that conservation includes managing human uses of natural resources for public benefit, including social, economic, and environmental considerations. This is a key point to acknowledge within the context of the Initiative; conservation is not preservation. Moreover, conservation methods used by the State should be the model for establishing guidelines to determine whether lands and waters qualify for conservation under Executive Order 14008. As described more fully below, existing state and federal conservation designations and management approaches in Alaska already exceed the 30 percent goal established in Executive Order 14008. DOI and NOAA should look to other areas of the nation, and the world, to follow Alaska's lead and ensure that unique and sensitive areas are adequately conserved, and such conservation policies strike a balance with responsible resource use, grounded in principles of sustained yield and common use.

The State respectfully requests that DOI and NOAA engage us as a full partner as the Initiative is designed and implemented. Alaska should not be treated as a stakeholder, rather as an invited partner granted full participation rights. The implications to Alaska and its citizens from this federal initiative are potentially significant and it is not acceptable to relegate Alaska or any state to the sidelines as this initiative is designed or implemented. The pattern of landownership and associated uses of renewable and non-renewable resources in Alaska is unique. We understand that context and have more at stake than outside user groups with little knowledge or appreciation for Alaska's complex history and unique set of laws that apply here. As such, the state must be consulted in all efforts, including this one, that have the potential to significantly affect our social and economic interests as a sovereign state.

American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas

DOI is soliciting comments to “inform how the [Atlas] can best serve as a useful tool for the public and how it should reflect a continuum of conservation actions in the America the Beautiful initiative...”⁶ Given the scale and complexities of land ownership, designations, management, and uses in Alaska and nationally, DOI's stated intent to develop a publicly available Atlas is admirable. However, the State is generally concerned that the scope of the Atlas may grow untenable, and its use may devolve into a tool for federal overreach, further limiting responsible use of natural resources in Alaska and other states that is critical for resilient domestic supply chains, national security, and economic prosperity.

⁵ 87 FR 235.

⁶ 87 FR 235.

To address our concerns, the State recommends DOI remain focused on the public as its intended audience for the Atlas and endeavor to cite sources of information and disclose all assumptions and limitations of the Atlas. The Atlas should be considered a graphic illustration of the official source documents only and not carry or imply any legal or administrative enforceability. Any State land that is included in the Atlas should not be interpreted as now subject to any layering of federal oversight on those lands. The State retains the sole authority for those lands and can alter their designations as it sees fit.

Web-based, interactive tools are typically most accessible and useful to the public. ADNR maintains the *Alaska Mapper*⁷, a web and mobile-based geographic information system (GIS) that allows the public to locate Alaska land records and related information through an interactive map of the state. Similarly, ADF&G maintains a web-based interactive mapping tool for *The Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes* and its associated *Atlas*.⁸ These two mapping tools offer DOI proven examples of how it may make reliably sourced information about various classifications of lands and waters in Alaska available to the public through on-line, interactive GIS tools.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act

Through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA), Congress dramatically grew the Nation’s conservation lands by expanding the National Forest System and the National Trails System, more than doubling the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System, more than tripling the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS), nearly doubling the number of and tripling the acreage of the National Wild and Scenic River System, as well as by designating other federal conservation areas, including a national conservation area and a national recreation area. As a result of this national effort, Alaska now hosts 106 million acres of federally managed conservation system units (CSU) and other conservation area designations covering more than one-third of the state—more than any other state in the nation by a huge degree.

Notably, ANILCA doubled the NWPS by creating 48 new designated wilderness areas, totaling 57 million acres - a quarter of all federal lands in Alaska. Over half of the entire NWPS now resides in Alaska including “...the nation’s largest unbroken expanse of statutorily protected Wilderness...”⁹ ANILCA also designated 1.9 million acres of national forest lands as a wilderness study area. Ten years later, Congress passed the Tongass Timber Reform Act, further increasing the NWPS by 5.5 million acres. The Conservation Atlas must recognize and account for the expansive conservation system in Alaska by including these existing permanent federal conservation designations at its core (see Enclosure 1).

⁷ <https://mapper.dnr.alaska.gov/>

⁸ <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/SARR/AWC/index.cfm?ADFG=main.home>

⁹ (H. Ken Cordell et al., *The Multiple Values of Wilderness* (State College, Pennsylvania: Venture Publishing Inc., 2005), pg. 34).

To balance the unprecedented scale of these conservation designations, Congress also similarly included unprecedented accommodations for Alaskans' way of life, its relatively undeveloped transportation and utility infrastructure, and reliance on a resource-based economy. Congress intended for the remaining non-CSU federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service under the multiple use mandate in their respective Organic Acts (e.g., the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the 1976 National Forest Management Act) to be available for more intensive use and disposal, consistent with ANILCA, the Alaska Statehood Act, and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Congress explicitly stated in ANILCA Section 1326 that any further studies or withdrawals intended to establish new CSUs or designations **for similar or related purposes** would need approval from Congress.

- (a) *No future executive branch action which withdraws more than five thousand acres, in the aggregate, of public lands within the State of Alaska shall be effective except by compliance with this subsection. To the extent authorized by existing law, the President or the Secretary may withdraw public lands in the State of Alaska exceeding five thousand acres in the aggregate, which withdrawal shall not become effective until notice is provided in the Federal Register and to both Houses of Congress. Such withdrawal **shall terminate unless Congress passes a joint resolution of approval within one year after the notice of such withdrawal has been submitted to Congress.** (Emphasis added)*
- (b) ***No further studies** of Federal lands in the State of Alaska for the single purpose of considering the establishment of a conservation system unit, national recreation area, national conservation areas or for related or similar purposes shall be conducted **unless authorized by this Act or further Act of Congress.** (Emphasis added)*

Given only Congress can change the balance achieved in ANILCA and to ensure the commitments Congress made to the State and Alaska Native Corporations in all three Acts are upheld, these lands must remain as such and not viewed as federal lands available for, or in need of, new administrative protections.

Forty volumes of legislative history document the extensive debates in Congress that led up to the passage of ANILCA on December 2, 1980. Section 101(d) of ANILCA succinctly captures this overarching Congressional intent:

*This Act provides sufficient protection for the national interest in the scenic, natural, cultural and environmental values on the public lands in Alaska, and at the same time provides adequate opportunity for **satisfaction of the economic and social needs of the State of Alaska and its people**; accordingly, the designation and disposition of the public lands in Alaska pursuant to this Act are found to represent **a proper balance between the reservation of national conservation system units and those public lands necessary and appropriate for more intensive use and disposition**, and thus Congress believes that the **need for future legislation** designating new conservation system units, new national conservation areas, or new national recreation areas, **has been obviated thereby.** (Emphasis added)*

Existing State Conservation Efforts

Today the State hosts the largest State Park System in the United States, and unique game refuge areas, marine sanctuaries, and other state-directed and managed conservation areas throughout Alaska. To reflect these meaningful conservation efforts already long underway, the Atlas must capture the entirety of the State's conservation efforts including those of the ADF&G, the Boards of Fisheries and Game, and ADNR. This will require close collaboration with the appropriate state agencies to identify funding to support identification of data sources for efforts that are already quantified. It is also imperative to support the states' existing conservation efforts through federal regulatory frameworks that are complimentary to those of the State. Recognizing that the conservation of resources is a dynamic and on-going process, resource needs for the State to maintain its myriad conservation efforts will continue to expand over time.

Conservation as a Continuum. How can the Atlas reflect the meaningful conservation work already underway in America?

Alaska has unique responsibilities for, and control over, the conservation of its fish and wildlife resources as recognized in our State Constitution and the Statehood Compact. In certain areas where conservation and protection of wildlife and fish is emphasized, the Alaska Legislature, under Title 16, created refuges, sanctuaries, and critical habitat areas. Title 16 authority for managing fish and wildlife resources across all lands in Alaska is delegated to the Commissioner of Fish and Game, with certain responsibilities assigned to the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game.

The boards are authorized to regulate "the conservation, development, and utilization" of fish and game (see AS 16.05.251 (a)(12) and AS 16.05.255(a)(10)). The combined authorities of the boards and ADF&G include the establishment of seasons, quotas, bag limits, and harvest levels and regulation of commercial, recreational, guided, subsistence, and personal uses of fish and wildlife through fishing, hunting, trapping and other activities. ADF&G and the Boards of Fisheries and Game are empowered to establish the means and methods employed in the pursuit, capture, transport, and related uses of fish and wildlife. Restrictions on methods and means may include types of access, vessel types, size of motors, and establishment of areas with particular public restrictions such as non-motorized areas for hunting and limiting fishing to catch and release only. Except in emergencies or on legislated lands managed by ADF&G, such restrictions can only be affected through regulations adopted after an extensive public process.

The State manages all replenishable resources, including fish and wildlife, according to Alaska's sustained yield clause in Article 8, Section 4 of the Alaska Constitution, which "provides that: [f]ish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses." Within the responsibility for conservation and development of fish and wildlife resources, the allocation of resource utilization rests with the boards.

Existing conservation efforts in Alaska relevant to the Atlas specific to ADF&G include the following land and resource management tools (see Enclosure 2 for complete list of Legislatively Designated Areas in Alaska):

- Sanctuaries – Three such areas have been designated and were created to protect a specific species and associated public uses: walrus at Walrus Island State Game Sanctuary and brown bear at Stan Price and McNeil River State Game Sanctuaries. ADF&G manages the fish and wildlife resources and most land use activities. ADNR manages mineral entry and leasing (except at McNeil River, which is closed to mineral entry and leasing by statute). Hunting and trapping within McNeil River Sanctuary are statutorily prohibited. At Stan Price Sanctuary, ADF&G is legislatively directed to manage state owned tidelands compatibly with the U.S. Forest Service’s management of the adjacent uplands at Pack Creek.
- Refuges – The generic purpose of the state’s refuge designation is to protect and preserve natural habitat and wildlife populations in certain areas of the state; some refuges have more specific statutory purposes. ADF&G and ADNR retain their respective management authorities in refuges. ADF&G manages the fish and wildlife and is responsible for developing a management plan for the refuge in consultation with ADNR.
- Critical Habitat Areas – The purpose of these areas is to protect and preserve habitat especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife and to restrict other uses not compatible with that primary purpose. ADF&G is specifically directed to adopt regulations it considers advisable for conservation and protection purposes governing the taking of fish and game in these areas. Similar to refuges and sanctuaries, ADF&G and ADNR retain their other respective management authorities.
- State Range Areas – Two state ranges totaling 220,051 acres provide habitat protection for wildlife, primarily moose and bison. While ADNR remains the primary land manager of these areas, ADF&G manages the wildlife and habitat within the ranges.

The Alaska Legislature under Title 41.21 created Alaska State Parks to foster the growth and development of a system of parks and recreational facilities and opportunities in the state. The ADNR, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) provides outdoor recreation opportunities and conserves and interprets natural, cultural, and historic resources for the use, enjoyment, and welfare of the people.

Alaska State Parks manages 156 state parks covering 3.4 million acres, the largest state park system of any state in the nation. Alaska’s State Parks include vast wilderness areas, scenic views, and prime conservation areas. DPOR manages the principal protected areas and outdoor recreation destinations close to the state’s population centers of the Anchorage Metropolitan Area and the Fairbanks North Star Borough, accounting for 65 percent of the state’s population.

Alaska State Parks boasts two of the top three largest state parks in the nation:

- Wood-Tikchik State Park in Southwest Alaska covers 1.6 million acres, is the largest state park in the nation, and includes the headwaters of the Wood River and Nuyakuk River, and crucial portions of the Bristol Bay ecosystem, a substantial contributor to Alaska’s economy.
- Chugach State Park covers 485,000 acres, is the 3rd largest state park, and includes hundreds of miles of backcountry trails while protecting Anchorage’s water supply and scenic views.

All state parks provide for natural habitat for fish and wildlife, scenic views, and outdoor recreation for Alaska's residents and visitors.

Since 1965, DPOR has dedicated public lands in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation with projects developed on state lands and in partnership with local communities through the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program. Since the inception of LWCF, more than 300 sites in Alaska have been designated for public outdoor recreational activities ranging from trails and camping areas, to fishing and boating areas, hockey rinks, children's playgrounds, and ball fields. Project approval is based on commitment from the land management agency to provide for outdoor recreation and conservation of the resource in these locations in perpetuity.

What stewardship actions should be considered, in addition to permanent protections, to capture a more complete picture of conservation and restoration in America?

To provide a complete representation of the State's efforts to conserve fish and wildlife resources, the Atlas must also capture the yet to be documented on-going stewardship efforts of ADF&G and the Boards of Fisheries and Game.

Existing on-going stewardship and conservation efforts in Alaska relevant to the Atlas, specific to ADF&G, are numerous. Such efforts include, for example, fish passage improvement, maintaining anadromous waters data, and revision to and publication of the *Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes* and its associated *Atlas*. Because of the importance of fish to Alaska's economy, lifestyle, and environment, these waters receive special protections to assure they continue to support abundant runs of fish. ADF&G also maintains active and comprehensive management and research programs to ensure fish and wildlife populations are "utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle," in accordance with Alaska's Constitution. Management and research of fish and wildlife is carried out by five divisions and sections in the department: Commercial Fisheries, Sport Fish, Subsistence, Habitat, and Wildlife Conservation. ADF&G also partners with state, federal, and municipal agencies, Alaska tribes, and other organizations to conduct research and monitor resources. The ongoing research, data collection, and restoration efforts of ADF&G are vital to the stewardship and conservation of Alaska's lands, waters, and resources.

The conservation management, restoration, and research efforts of ADF&G ensure the sustained-yield stewardship and conservation of the State's fisheries and wildlife resources over time. Alaska's rivers, lakes, and wetlands support an abundance of native fish that rely on the ability to move between habitats to grow and reproduce. Maintaining and restoring connectivity is important to maintain the populations of fish and other aquatic life. If designed properly, bridges and culverts can have little or no adverse effects on fish passage, but poorly designed or inadequately maintained culverts block or impede fish movements through many of these crossings. ADF&G is actively working with DOT&PF on culvert designs that minimize the impact to aquatic life and to replace transportation infrastructure that impedes fish passage. Current data for the on-going conservation efforts of the ADF&G Fish Passage Improvement Program and its partners indicate, to date, they have carried out 33 culvert replacement projects providing access to 78 river miles and 1,963 acres of lake habitat. This data quickly becomes outdated as efforts progress, leaving a data gap in conservation tracking efforts.

For the Atlas to be meaningful and provide accurate information to the public, it is critical to capture the on-going contributions of fisheries and wildlife stewardship accomplished through ADF&G conservation management, restoration, and research actions. Projects vary widely to meet management goals and ensure long-term, sustainable populations for beneficial uses such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Continuously updating data identifying these and similar on-going conservation contributions requires funding and resources to maintain records and document new stewardship and conservation efforts over time.

The Trust Land Office, functioning as an office within ADNR and a contractor to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (Trust) to manage its 1 million acres of land to maximize revenue for the Trust and its beneficiaries, believes several critical considerations were not addressed in EO 14008. Components in this action could negatively impact programs statewide providing services to Trust beneficiaries, Alaskans with behavioral health conditions and developmental disabilities, because it may effectively reduce the value of adjacent Trust-owned parcels of land.

The Trust is a state corporation that administers the Alaska Mental Health Trust, a perpetual trust, to improve the lives of Trust beneficiaries. The Trust Land Office (TLO) is contracted exclusively by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to manage its approximately one million acres of land to generate revenue to better serve its beneficiaries. Beneficiaries of the Trust include Alaskans who experience mental illness, developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and traumatic brain injuries. The majority of the Trust's annual budget is designated for grants, around \$24M a year, to beneficiary serving organizations across Alaska that help improve the lives and circumstances of Trust beneficiaries.

The TLO is statutorily mandated to manage Trust lands to maximize revenue returns for beneficiary programs. All decisions approving use of Trust lands and resources are made solely in the interest of the Trust and its beneficiaries in line with Trust principles and the Alaska Mental Health Enabling Act. The TLO also has a duty to protect and enhance the values of the Trust lands, and to manage them to ensure that revenue can be generated in perpetuity.


Many of the Trust's lands were selected because of their natural resource values (*e.g.*, lands, timber, oil and gas, minerals, and energy). The TLO has generated approximately \$265 million through its assets to provide funding to directly support the most vulnerable Alaskans. Conservation efforts that could prevent access to Trust lands would, cause harm to the Trust and its beneficiaries across the state. Further, the Trust has not received its full entitlement of lands due to the State entitlement that remains outstanding. This puts state land that has been carefully selected by the Trust in jeopardy of becoming a nonrevenue generating asset; again, directly impacting Alaskan Mental Health Trust beneficiaries. Finally, entities that financially invest in Trust land to engage in potential future revenue generation may be far less likely to invest in Trust lands should lands surrounding Trust lands become conservation areas, potentially impacting access to Trust lands. A core principle in the 30x30 initiative is to Conserve America's Lands and Waters for the benefit of All People. All people would include Alaskan Mental Health Trust beneficiaries.


The proposed action without the recognition of the purpose of Trust lands and impacts to Alaskan Mental Health Trust Authority beneficiaries has the potential to negatively impact the value of Trust lands, builds uncertainty in access to Trust lands, and impedes TLO's ability to generate revenues and to abide by the Alaska Mental Health Trust Enabling Act.

In Closing

The State appreciates the opportunity to comment on how DOI may develop an Atlas that best serves the public and reflects the well-established continuum of conservation actions in Alaska. We reiterate our request to be included as a partner in any further discussions, deliberations, or actions under the initiative. Furthermore, we continue to seek recognition of Alaska's significant and proportionally outsized contributions to conservation, and explicit acknowledgement of the unique federal laws, particularly ANILCA, applicable to federal conservation and land management in Alaska.

Respectfully,

Douglas Vincent-Lang 
Commissioner,
Department of Fish and Game

Corri A. Feige 
Commissioner,
Department of Natural Resources

Enclosures:

- 1) Conservation System Units and Other ANILCA Designations in Alaska
- 2) Fact Sheet: State of Alaska Legislatively Designated Areas

Cc:

Randy Ruaro, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor, State of Alaska
Brett Huber, Special Advisor, Office of the Governor, State of Alaska
Jason Brune, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Ryan Anderson, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

March 7, 2022
RFI Interagency Efforts to Develop the American Conservation
and Stewardship Atlas (Docket No. DOI-2021-0016)
Enclosure 1

Enclosure 1:
Conservation System Units and Other ANILCA Designations in Alaska

CONSERVATION SYSTEM UNITS AND OTHER ANILCA DESIGNATIONS IN ALASKA

includes overlapping designations such as Wilderness & Nat'l Wild and Scenic River (NWSR) segments

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve
Aniakchak River NWSR

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

Cape Krusenstern National Monument

Denali National Park and Preserve
Denali Wilderness

Gates of the Arctic Nat'l Park and Preserve
Gates of the Arctic Wilderness
Alatna River NWSR
John River NWSR
Kobuk River NWSR
N. Fork of the Koyukuk NWSR
Tinayguk River NWSR

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve
Glacier Bay Wilderness

Katmai National Park and Preserve
Katmai Wilderness
Alagnak River NWSR

Kenai Fjords National Park

Klondike Gold Rush Nat'l Historical Park

Kobuk Valley National Park
Kobuk Valley Wilderness
Kobuk River NWSR
Salmon NWSR

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
Jay S. Hammond Wilderness
Chilikadrotna River NWSR
Mulchatna NWSR
Tlikakila River NWSR

Noatak National Preserve
Noatak Wilderness
(w/small Nigu addition in 1996)

Sitka National Historical Park

Wrangell-Saint Elias Nat'l Park & Preserve
Wrangell-St. Elias Wilderness

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve
Charley River NWSR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge
Aleutian Islands Wilderness
Bering Sea Wilderness
Bogoslof Wilderness
Chamisso Wilderness
Forrester Island Wilderness
Hazy Islands Wilderness
Saint Lázaria Wilderness
Semidi Wilderness
Simeonof Wilderness
Tuxedni Wilderness
Unimak Wilderness

Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge

Becharof National Wildlife Refuge
Becharof Wilderness

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Mollie Beattie Wilderness
Ivishak River NWSR
Sheenjék River NWSR
Wind River NWSR

Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
Innoko Wilderness

Izembek National Wildlife Refuge
Izembek Wilderness

Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
Kenai Wilderness

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge

Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge
Koyukuk Wilderness

Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge
Nowitna River NWSR

Selawik National Wildlife Refuge
Selawik Wilderness
Selawik River NWSR

Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge

Togiak National Wildlife Refuge
Togiak Wilderness

Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
Andreafsky Wilderness
Andreafsky River NWSR
Nunivak Wilderness

Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge
Beaver Creek NWSR (also in White
Mountains Nat'l Rec Area)

US FOREST SERVICE

Misty Fjords National Monument
Misty Fjords Nat'l Monument Wilderness

Admiralty Island National Monument
Kootznoowoo Wilderness

Tongass National Forest (two column list)
Chuck River Wilderness *
Endicott River Wilderness
Kootznoowoo Wilderness, with
Young Lake addition *
Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wild.
Russell Fjord Wilderness
South Etolin Wilderness *
Stikine-LeConte Wilderness
Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness
West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness

Coronation Island Wilderness
Karta River Wilderness *
Kuiu Wilderness*
Maurille Islands Wilderness
Pleasant/Lemusurier/Inian Islands Wild.*
South Baranof Wilderness
South Prince of Wales Wilderness
Tebenkof Bay Wilderness
Warren Island Wilderness

Chugach National Forest
Nellie Juan-College Fjords (Congressionally-designated Wilderness Study Area) **
Iditarod National Historic Trail (see USB Folder B re: "National Trails" definition)

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Steese National Conservation Area **
Birch Creek NWSR

Gulkana River NWSR

White Mountains Nat'l Recreation Area **
Beaver Creek NWSR

Unalakleet River NWSR

Delta River NWSR

Iditarod Nat'l Historic Trail (Congressionally
designated 1978)

Fortymile River NWSR

ANILCA Sec. 1001/1004 wilderness study area
known as "Central Arctic Management Area" **

* wilderness areas added or expanded by the 1990 Tongass Timber Reform Act
** ANILCA designations that are not CSUs as defined in ANILCA Title I Section 102(4)

March 7, 2022
RFI Interagency Efforts to Develop the American Conservation
and Stewardship Atlas (Docket No. DOI-2021-0016)
Enclosure 2

Enclosure 2:

Fact Sheet: State of Alaska Legislatively Designated Areas

Fact sheet:

State of Alaska

Legislatively Designated Areas



Division of Mining, Land & Water
April 2020

The legislature has designated areas for special uses. Areas designated by the legislature include refuges, sanctuaries, critical habitat areas, ranges, special management areas, forests, parks, recreation areas, preserves, public use areas, recreation rivers, and recreational mining areas. The total acreage of land within the boundaries of these areas (excluding joint state/national refuges) is 11,999,887 acres.

The acreage figures below are only approximations of acreage of all lands, regardless of ownership, within the exterior boundaries of legislatively designated areas. Consult the referenced Alaska Statutes to determine the legal description and special management intent for each area. Many areas also have regulations and plans that govern uses within their boundaries.

State Wildlife Areas Total Acres (excluding State/National Refuges): 3,427,895

The following legislatively designated areas were established under Title 16, Chapter 20 of the Alaska Statutes to protect and preserve the natural habitat areas and game population or to enhance habitat for particular wildlife species. Most of these areas are managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

	<u>Statute</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Amended</u>	<u>Acres</u>
<u>Sanctuaries</u>				
McNeil River State Game Sanctuary	AS 16.20.160-170	07/18/1967	08/16/1972 01/01/1993 08/08/1995 06/11/1999	124,734
Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary	AS 16.20.150	06/15/1990		606
Walrus Island State Game Sanctuary	AS 16.20.090-140	04/13/1960		<u>162,353</u>
				Total: 287,693

Critical Habitat Areas (CHA)

Anchor River & Fritz Creek CHA	AS 16.20.605	08/28/1985	06/22/1990	18,581
Chilkat River CHA	AS 16.20.585	09/24/1972		4,797
Cinder River CHA	AS 16.20.560	09/24/1972		25,775
Clam Gulch CHA	AS 16.20.595	03/31/1976		4,102
Copper River Delta CHA	AS 16.20.600	09/28/1978		550,667
Dude Creek CHA	AS 16.20.610	05/13/1988		4,082
Egegik CHA	AS 16.20.565	09/24/1972	06/03/2003	8,254
Fox River Flats CHA	AS 16.20.580	09/24/1972		7,197
Homer Airport	AS 16.20.630	08/21/1996		296
Kachemak Bay CHA	AS 16.20.590	05/17/1974	04/14/1993 06/23/2014	229,620
Kalgin Island CHA	AS 16.20.575	09/24/1972		3,491
Pilot Point CHA	AS 16.20.570	09/24/1972		46,550
Port Heiden CHA	AS 16.20.555	09/24/1972		72,148
Port Moller CHA	AS 16.20.550	09/24/1972		131,269
Redoubt Bay CHA	AS 16.20.625	06/15/1989		170,880
Tugidak Island CHA	AS 16.20.615	06/07/1988		158,444
Willow Mountain CHA	AS 16.20.620	05/12/1989		<u>22,540</u>
				Total: 1,458,693

State Wildlife Areas (continued)

<u>Refuges</u>	<u>Statute</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Amended</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge	AS 16.20.031	02/27/1988		32,256
Cape Newenham State Game Refuge	AS 16.20.030(a)(15)	09/24/1972		14,068
Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge	AS 16.20.039	07/18/1979	05/30/1991 08/12/2015	1,772
Goose Bay State Game Refuge	AS 16.20.030(c)	05/30/1975		11,045
Izembek State Game Refuge	AS 16.20.030(a)(14)	09/24/1972		181,761
McNeil River State Game Refuge	AS 16.20.041	01/01/1993	08/08/1995 06/11/1999	131,104
Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge	AS 16.20.034	05/01/1976		3,749
Minto Flats State Game Refuge	AS 16.20.037	04/13/1988	09/18/2002 10/24/2004 07/01/2008	497,698
Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge	AS 16.20.032	05/30/1975	05/31/1985 06/25/2005 08/17/2015	29,056
Susitna Flats State Game Refuge	AS 16.20.036	09/06/1976	07/03/1984 01/01/1986	302,717
Trading Bay State Game Refuge	AS 16.20.038	09/22/1976	01/01/1986	162,693
Yakataga State Game Refuge	AS 16.20.033	08/15/1990 ¹		<u>93,539</u>
				Total: 1,461,458

State Range Areas

Delta Junction Bison Range Area	AS 16.20.300-320	08/01/1979		88,372
Matanuska Valley Moose Range	AS 16.20.340-360	08/30/1984		<u>131,679</u>
				Total: 220,051

State/National Refuges²

Aleutian Islands Refuge	AS 16.20.030(a)(1)	04/13/1960		3,987,539
Arctic National Wildlife Range	AS 16.20.030(a)(17)	09/24/1972		19,848,644
Bering Sea Refuge	AS 16.20.030(a)(2)	04/13/1960		240,421
Bogoslof Island Refuge	AS 16.20.030(a)(3)	04/13/1960		1,919
Chamisso Island Refuge	AS 16.20.030(a)(4)	04/13/1960		6,398
Clarence Rhodes National Wildlife Range	AS 16.20.030(a)(16)	09/24/1972		3,141,807
Forrester Island Refuge	AS 16.20.030(a)(5)	04/13/1960		30,337
Hazen Bay Refuge	AS 16.20.030(a)(6)	04/13/1960		15,948
Hazy Islands Refuge	AS 16.20.030(a)(7)	04/13/1960		5,674
Kenai National Moose Range	AS 16.20.030(a)(8)	04/13/1960		2,102,900
Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge	AS 16.20.030(a)(9)	04/13/1960		1,977,098
Nunivak Island Refuge	AS 16.20.030(a)(10)	04/13/1960		1,664,310
St. Lazaria Island Refuge	AS 16.20.030(a)(11)	04/13/1960		2,559
Semidi Islands Wildlife Refuge	AS 16.20.030(a)(12)	04/13/1960		257,000
Tuxedni Refuge	AS 16.20.030(a)(13)	04/13/1960		<u>114,862</u>
				Total: 33,397,416

¹ The Yakataga Special Management Area, created per Section 9, Chapter 143, SLA 1990, expired when the Yakataga Area Plan was approved on 04/03/95.

² Lands within the National Wildlife Refuge System were designated as State Game Refuges under Alaska Statute 16.20.030. Acreages are based on the boundaries of the listed national wildlife refuges at the time of the effective date of the state designation. Boundaries of several federal wildlife refuges have changed since the effective date, but the state refuge boundaries remain unchanged.

State Park Areas Total Acres: 3,357,393

The following legislatively designated areas were established under [Title 41, Chapter 21](#) of the Alaska Statutes to foster the growth and development of a system of parks and recreational facilities and opportunities in the state, for the general health, welfare, education, and enjoyment of its citizens and for the attraction of visitors to the state. These areas are managed by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

<u>Parks</u>	<u>Statute</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Amended</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Afognak Island State Park	AS 41.21.185-189	08/24/1994		49,444
Chilkat State Park	AS 41.21.110-120	05/06/1975 ³	08/07/1997	10,346
Chugach State Park	AS 41.21.120-125	08/06/1970	06/09/1987	501,133
Denali State Park	AS 41.21.150-153?	09/21/1970	09/06/1976 08/09/2015	323,428
Fort Rousseau Causeway State Historical Park	AS 41.21.190-194	04/02/2008	03/31/2010	68
Kachemak Bay State Park	AS 41.21.130-134	05/09/1970	09/12/1989	173,429
Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park	AS 41.21.140-143	05/25/1972	09/12/1989	198,397
Point Bridget State Park	AS 41.21.180-183	07/01/1988		2,732
Shuyak Island State Park	AS 41.21.170-178	07/12/1984	08/09/1997	96,145
Wood-Tikchik State Park	AS 41.21.160-167	06/29/1978	12/14/1985	<u>1,547,571</u>
				Total: 2,902,693

Marine Parks

Bettles Bay State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(1)	07/16/1983		679
Beecher Pass State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(17)	07/01/1986		680
Big Bear/Baby Bear Bays State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(33)	06/14/1990		2,040
Boswell Bay Beaches State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(20)	06/14/1990		3,047
Canoe Passage State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(21)	06/14/1990		2,507
Chilkat Islands State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(7)	07/16/1983		6,929
Dall Bay State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(18)	07/01/1986		960
Decision Point State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(22)	06/14/1990		761
Driftwood Bay State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(23)	06/14/1990		1,480
Entry Cove State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(24)	06/14/1990		1,200
Funter Bay State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(14)	07/01/1986		1,204
Granite Bay State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(25)	06/14/1990		3,268
Horseshoe Bay State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(9)	07/16/1983		1,196
Jack Bay State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(27)	06/14/1990		1,544
Joe Mace Island State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(15)	07/01/1986		61
Juneau Area Islands State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(34)	09/02/2008		4,267
Kayak Island State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(26)	06/14/1990		5,178
Magoun Islands State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(32)	06/14/1990		2,442
Oliver Inlet State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(2)	07/16/1983		560
Safety Cove State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(28)	06/14/1990		960
Saint James Bay State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(12)	07/16/1983		10,320
Sandspit Point State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(29)	06/14/1990		560
Sawmill Bay State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(3)	07/16/1983		2,320
Security Bay State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(19)	07/01/1986		1,960
Shelter Island State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(11)	07/16/1983	09/02/2008	3,057
Shoup Bay State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(4)	07/16/1983		4,556
South Ester Island State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(5)	07/16/1983		3,320
Sullivan Island State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(10)	07/16/1983		2,624
Sunny Cove State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(30)	06/14/1990		946
Surprise Cove State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(6)	07/16/1983		2,240

³ Originally designated as Battery Point State Recreation Area, effective 04/22/1970.

State Park Areas (continued)

	<u>Statute</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Amended</u>	<u>Acres</u>
<u>Marine Parks (continued)</u>				
Taku Harbor State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(13)	07/01/1986		1,271
Thoms Place State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(16)	07/01/1986		1,894
Thumb Cove State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(31)	06/14/1990		720
Ziegler Cove State Marine Park	AS 41.21.304(8)	07/16/1983		<u>720</u>
				Total: 77,471

Recreation Areas

Caines Head State Recreation Area	AS 41.21.430-445	05/16/1971	08/17/1975	6,273
Captain Cook State Recreation Area	AS 41.21.410- 426	08/17/1969	08/09/2015	2,030
Chena River State Recreation Area	AS 41.21.470-490	06/18/1967	08/11/1975 07/15/1981	252,820
Nancy Lake State Recreation Area	AS 41.21.450- 466	07/06/1966	04/22/1970 08/09/2015	22,476
Willow Creek State Recreation Area	AS 41.21.491- 496	06/07/1987	04/15/2003 05/27/2005 08/09/2015	<u>3,594</u>
				Total: 287,193

State Preserve

Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve	AS 41.21.610-630	07/01/1982	05/26/1986 10/28/2006	<u>44,959</u>
				Total: 44,959

Special Management Areas (SMA)

Kenai River SMA	AS 41.21.500-514	06/02/1984	06/02/1988 04/15/2003 07/01/2004 05/27/2005 07/23/2009 01/01/2015	<u>45,047</u>
				Total: 45,047

State Forest Areas

Total Acres: 2,280,872

The following legislatively designated areas were established under [Title 41, Chapter 15](#) or [Chapter 17](#) of the Alaska Statutes primarily for management of forest resources. These areas are managed by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry.

	<u>Statute</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Amended</u>	<u>Acres</u>
<u>State Forest</u>				
Southeast State Forest	AS 41.17.500	07/01/2010	09/08/2011	48,472
Tanana Valley State Forest	AS 41.17.400	07/23/1983	06/02/1988 05/12/1990 09/27/1996 11/06/2003 07/01/2008	1,811,400
				Total: 1,859,872

Resource Management Area (RMA)

Haines State Forest RMA	AS 41.15.300-330	07/01/1982	11/06/2003	421,000
				Total: 421,000

Other State Multiple Use Areas

Total Acres: 2,933,727

The following legislatively designated areas were established under [Title 41, Chapter 23](#) of the Alaska Statutes for special multiple use management of state public land and water resources by the Department of Natural Resources.

	<u>Statute</u>	<u>Effective</u>	<u>Amended</u>	<u>Acres</u>
<u>Public Use Areas</u>				
Ernie Haugen Public Use Area	AS 41.23.050-080	06/07/1988		935
Goldstream Public Use Area	AS 41.23.140-170	08/12/1990		3,171
Hatcher Pass Public Use Area	AS 41.23.100-130	09/01/1986	06/05/2003	5,169
Jonesville Public Use Area	AS 41.23.280-289	09/05/2018		17,748
Knik River Public Use Area	AS 42.23.180-230	08/28/2006		262,644
Kodiak Narrow Cape Public Use Area	AS 41.23.240-270	10/10/2007		46,902
Nelchina Public Use Area	AS 41.23.010-040	08/28/1985		<u>2,334,713</u>
				Total: 2,671,282

Recreation Rivers (RR)

Alexander Creek State RR	AS 41.23.500(1)	06/09/1988	04/14/1993	22,960
Kroto & Moose Creek State RR	AS 41.23.500(2)	06/09/1988		74,628
Lake Creek State RR	AS 41.23.500(3)	06/09/1988		64,014
Little Susitna River State RR	AS 41.23.500(4)	06/09/1988		17,464
Talachulitna River State RR	AS 41.23.500(5)	06/09/1988		52,799
Talkeetna River State RR	AS 41.23.500(6)	06/09/1988		<u>30,018</u>
				Total: 261,883

Recreational Mining Area

Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area	AS 41.23.600-620	08/14/1990		288
Petersville Recreational Mining Area	AS 41.23.630	05/31/1997	06/18/2014	<u>274</u>
				Total: 562