

## Instream Flow

### Goal

**Instream Flow.** Maintain water quantity and quality sufficient to protect the human, fish, and wildlife resources and uses of the region.

### Management Guidelines

**A. Stream Uses to Consider for In-stream Flow Reservation (General).** Streams and other waterbodies may be considered for instream flow reservations under AS 46.15.145.

Such reservations are intended to maintain a specified instream flow or level of water at a specified point on a stream or body of water, or a specified part of a stream, throughout the year or for specified times. The purposes of the reservation (defined in the statute) include: 1) protection of fish and wildlife habitat, migration, and propagation; 2) recreation and park purposes; 3) sanitary and water quality purposes; and 4) navigation and transportation purposes.

**B. Priorities.** No additional in-stream reservations of water are recommended within the planning area. The need for such reservations should be reevaluated should the plan be revised in the future. Proposals for major new developments requiring substantial water use or uses of water that will negatively impact instream flows needed to produce fish, sustain water quality, provide for navigation, and/or recreation should include an evaluation of the need for an instream water reservation or other forms of instream flow protection.

**C. Process for Determining Reservations.** Requests for instream water reservations will be adjudicated by the Department following the procedures identified in 11 AAC 93.141-147. In general, these procedures require establishing the management objectives of the waterbody, estimating the quantity of water seasonally available, determining the amount of water already appropriated, and projecting the instream flow requirements for the uses and resources to be protected.

**D. Other Guidelines Affecting In-stream Flow.** Several other guidelines will affect instream flow. See other sections of this chapter.