



Copper River Basin Area Plan Planning Update No. 2



Alaska Department of
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

Division of Mining, Land & Water

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Overview

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has completed the public scoping phase of the planning process for the Copper River Basin Area Plan (CRBAP). A total of 86 comments were received by the official close of the scoping comment period on April 29, 2016. Some comments were specific to an issue or use within the CRBAP, while others were more general in nature. A summary of the comments is provided below, however, you are encouraged to review comments received by the Department by clicking the "Public Scoping Comments" link at the top of the CRBAP home page or by clicking on the link at the end of the summary.

Comments received by the Department covered a variety of topics and issues in the CRBAP planning area. Significant topics that were repeatedly raised, and presented with opposing viewpoints, included motorized use and activities related to snow sports in Thompson Pass, proposed settlement and agricultural state land offerings, public access to the Copper and other rivers, subsistence throughout the planning area, and mineralized areas and mining activities in the Denali Highway corridor region. More specifically, of the 86 comments received, approximately 60 percent of the comments focused on motorized use in the Thompson Pass Special Use area, Heli Skiing & Helicopter Operations and the yearly Tailgate Alaska event. Of the remaining 40 percent, roughly half focused on motorized use either for or against on trails and state land across the entire planning area, but mostly in multi-use areas which tend to have competing use by recreational users and subsistence/hunting activities. Other issues brought up include, minerals/subsurface resources, protections for the Tangle Lakes area, water resources in the Willow Creek/Kenny Lake area, additional land classified as Agricultural lands, Forestry/Biomass and general comments that wish to conserve and protect the area while also allowing use patterns to continue and flourish. The full list of comments can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

What happens next?

Planning staff assigned to the CRBAP revision have recently been temporarily re-assigned to other ongoing planning efforts. This will delay the timeline for completion of the CRBAP. The CRBAP website has been updated to inform the public of anticipated changes to the CRBAP planning timeline. We anticipate the staff reassignment may result in an additional nine months to one year being added to the CRBAP revision schedule. Please check the planning [website](#) periodically for updates on the planning process.

Once staff return to working on the CRBAP revision, they will continue to gather information, and begin to develop an agency review draft using the information received during the scoping period, along with information gathered and produced from the agencies and planning staff. We estimate it will take several months to a year to complete the agency review draft due to the large geographical area (approximately four million acres of State land) and the diversity of uses, activities, and resources occurring on state lands. After agencies have had an opportunity to provide input on the draft plan, necessary changes will be made and a public review draft of the plan will be released for review and comment.

The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the Public Review Draft (PRD) for a period of at least 30 days and another round of public meetings to present and discuss the document will be held in several of the communities in the planning area.

How do I become involved in the process?

It is not too late to become involved in the planning process for the CRBAP. **You are encouraged to:**

- Familiarize yourself with the information provided on the state website for the CRBAP web address: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/crbap>
- Read the comments submitted during the scoping period, and;
- Attend future meetings and comment during official comment periods.

For information related to the planning process please contact:

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Visit the CRBAP website at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/crbap> to get updated information on this planning process.