

Material Sites

Goal

Land for State-Owned Materials Sites. Maintain in state ownership and make available to public and private users sufficient, suitably located materials sites to meet long-term economic needs of the area for material resources.

Avoidance or Minimization of Impacts. Material extraction operations are to be sited so that they avoid impacts to adjacent residential areas (noise, dust), environmental resources and sensitive habitats, and fish and wildlife populations.

Management Guidelines

A. Preferred Material Sites. When responding to a request for a material sale or identifying a source for materials, the highest priority should be given to using existing upland material sources. Using materials from wetlands, lakes, tidelands, and active or inactive floodplain rivers or streams should be avoided unless no feasible public upland alternative exists. As a general policy, sales or permits for gravel extraction will not be permitted in known fish spawning areas. Material sites shall be maintained in public ownership unless the management intent language for a specific management unit indicates that it may be appropriate for alternative uses.

B. Maintaining Other Uses and Resources When Siting, Operating or Closing Material Sites. Before materials are extracted, the adjudicator will ensure that the requirements of the permit or lease adequately protect other important resources and uses. The disposal of materials should be consistent with the applicable management intent statement and management guidelines of the plan. In some instances areas occupied by a material site may be appropriate for reuse for settlement or another form of development. When this occurs, this is noted in the 'management intent' of the affected unit and reuse of the parcel for the intended use is appropriate. If this occurs, the reclamation plan shall take this into consideration and account for the probable reuse.

C. Land Sales in Areas of High Material Potential. Generally, if a settlement area contains sand and gravel deposits, rock sources or other similar, high value material resources, a pit area should be identified during subdivision design and retained in state ownership for future use.

D. Screening and Rehabilitation. Material sites shall be screened from roads, residential areas, recreational areas, and other areas of significant human use. Sufficient land should be allocated to the material site to allow for such screening. Material extraction sites adjacent to the Parks Highway shall provide a vegetation buffer of 75 feet or more. Rehabilitation of the site shall follow the requirements of AS 27.19.020 and 11 AAC 97.250.

E. Protection Area Adjacent to Anadromous Waterbodies. A riparian buffer shall be provided adjacent to anadromous waterbodies, with the width being consistent with FRPA requirements. Generally, this will mean that a width of 150 feet will need to be provided adjacent to anadromous waterbodies. The adjudicator is to consult with ADF&G on the width of the protection area prior to issuing an authorization.

F. Coordination with Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Prior to granting authorizations for material sales, DNR should coordinate with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to determine applicable local land use requirements.

G. Other Guidelines Affecting Materials. Other guidelines will affect the use of material resources. See other sections of this chapter.