

Legislatively Designated Areas

Most of the state land within the planning boundary is situated in six Legislatively Designated Areas (LDAs), encompassing a total of 386,000 acres out of the 642,000 acres of state land within the plan boundary. About 43,500 acres are associated with state recreation rivers (Little Susitna SRR-17,464 acres) and state recreations areas (Nancy Lake and Willow Creek SRAs – 26,070 acres)⁸. The remainder (343,000 acres) is associated with the three state game refuges (SGR) within the plan boundary, which include Goose Bay, Palmer Hay Flats, and Susitna Flats. The Department is responsible for the administration of the two state recreation areas and the state recreation river and shares responsibility for the administration of SGRs. Where allowed by law, certain uses and actions may occur within SGRs and DNR is responsible for these authorizations, subject to review by the Commissioner, ADF&G.

LDAs are special purpose sites that are managed according to the requirements of the legislation specific to the site and to the general class of LDA⁹, and any subsequent management plans or regulations that implement the requirements of the legislation. The effect of the LDA designation is to reserve state land out of the public domain and use or protect it for the purposes stipulated in enabling legislation.

For these reasons, area plans do not apply to the types of LDAs in the planning boundary, except for the plan designation that is assigned, which is subsequently converted to a land classification in a Land Classification Order. Certain types of authorizations issued by the Department involve a disposal of state land and administrative regulation requires that the land, with certain exceptions, must first be classified. The State Game Refuges (L-01) are assigned the plan designation of Habitat and the State Recreation River (L-02), Public Recreation-Dispersed. These designations are not intended to provide a general management direction similar to the way that designations are applied in other parts of this plan, however. Management direction for authorizations within LDAs is provided either through the enabling legislation, state administrative regulation, or management plan. If management plans or administrative regulations are not available, the general management intent specific to the LDA or to the category of LDA are to be followed.

The LDAs that are the subject of this discussion are contained in many of the plan maps.

The management units that corresponds to the LDAs is L-01 (Habitat-343,000 acres in three SGRs) and L-02 (Public Recreation- 17,000 acres in one SRR).

⁸ The state recreation areas are managed by DPOR and no land use designation is required.

⁹ Article VIII, paragraph 7 of the State Constitution.