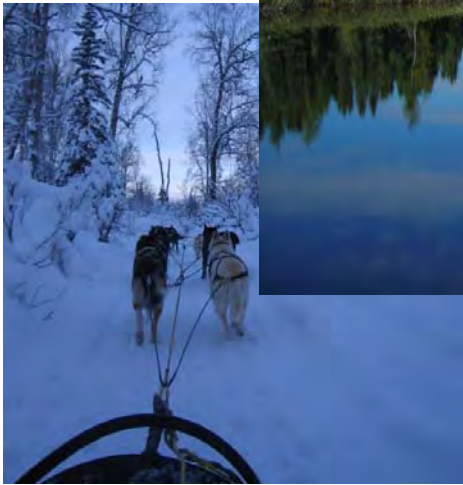
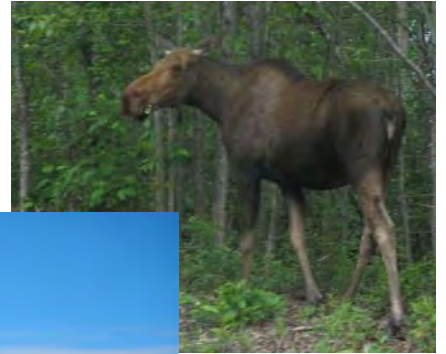


Southeast Susitna Area Plan

for State Lands



Adopted April 2008



Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land and Water
Resource Assessment and Development Section

Southeast Susitna Area Plan

(Revising the entire Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan and a portion of the South Parks Highway Subregion of the Susitna Area Plan)



This document can be found on the internet at:
dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/ssap

Adopted April 2008



Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land and Water
Resource Assessment and Development Section

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

- 400 WILLOUGHBY AVENUE
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1796
PHONE: (907) 465-2400
FAX: (907) 465-3886
- 550 WEST 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 1400
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3650
PHONE: (907) 269-8431
FAX: (907) 269-8918

The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources finds that the Southeast Susitna Area Plan meets the requirements of AS 38.04.065 and 11 AAC 55.010-55.030 for land use plans, and is hereby adopted. The Department of Natural Resources will manage state land consistent with this plan. The Southeast Susitna Area Plan supersedes the Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan, Kashwitna Management Plan, Deception Creek Land Use Plan, and that a portion of the South Parks Highway Subregion of the Susitna Area Plan.

The date of issuance for this decision shall be 4/28/08



Commissioner

4/28/08
Date

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX 115526
JUNEAU, AK 99811-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4100
FAX: (907) 465-2332

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game assisted the Department of Natural Resources in preparing the Southeast Susitna Area Plan. We appreciate the opportunity to represent fish and wildlife habitat, harvest and public use values during plan development. The Department will use this plan as guidance when reviewing proposed uses of state land in the planning area.



Denby S. Lloyd, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

26 Nov. 10
Date

Preface

Background and Acknowledgements

The preparation of the Southeast Susitna Area Plan was completed by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources with assistance from a number of representatives from agencies within and outside of the Department. The following representatives and contacts variously contributed text, edited, reviewed, and assisted in resolving issues with regard to the area plan. The project staff greatly appreciates their help and assistance.

DNR, Division of Mining, Land & Water (DMLW) Project Staff

Bruce Phelps, Resource Assessment and Development Section Chief
Ray Burger, Project Manager
Sean Conlon, Natural Resource Specialist
Ruth Booth, Natural Resource Technician

DNR, DMLW, Water Section

Gary Prokosch

DNR, DMLW, Land Sales Section

Jason Walsh

DNR, DMLW, Southcentral Regional Office

Sam Means

DNR Division of Agriculture

Steve Trickett

DNR Division of Forestry

Marty Freeman, Ken Bullman

DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Wayne Biessel

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Ed Weiss

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Frankie Barker

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Introduction and Background

Summary of Purpose of the Plan

The role of state land use plans was established by state statute (AS 38.04.005). It is the policy of the State of Alaska “...to establish a balanced combination of land available for both public and private purposes. The choice of land best suited for public and private use shall be determined through the inventory, planning, and classification processes...”

The plan determines management intent, land use designations, and management guidelines that apply to state lands in the planning area.

Description of the Planning Area

The Southeast Susitna Area Plan (SSAP) directs how the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will manage general state uplands, shorelands, tidelands, and submerged lands within the planning boundary. The following is a summary of the acreage to which the plan will apply:

Area	Acres
State-owned uplands	212,785
State-selected uplands	411
State-owned tidelands	<u>42,545</u>
Total Acreage ¹	<u>255,741</u>

NOTE: There are six Legislatively Designated Areas (LDA) within the planning area and they encompass approximately 386,000 acres. The SSAP establishes land use designations for 343,000 acres in three state game refuges and 17,000 acres in one state recreation river,

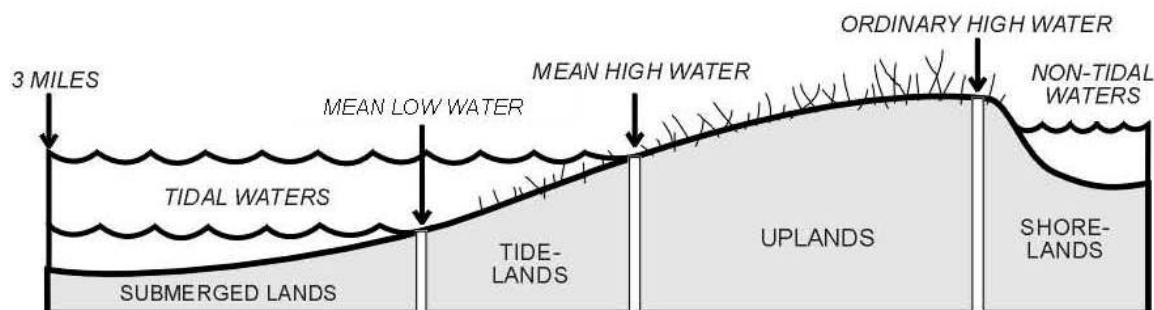
¹ Acreage related to legislatively Designated Areas not included.

but management intent is found in the statutes, regulations and management plans applicable to each LDA. The SSAP does not apply to the 26,000 acres in two state recreation areas. Refer to the LDA region description at the end of Chapter 3 for more details.

Submerged Lands, Tidelands, Uplands and Shorelands as Described in This Plan

Tidelands span the area from mean high water to mean low water; submerged lands reach from mean low water to a line three miles seaward from mean low water. Shorelands include the lands below ordinary high water in non-tidal areas.

Figure 1-1: Submerged lands, tidelands, uplands, and shorelands as described in this plan



Update of the Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan and a Portion of the Susitna Area Plan

The original Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan was prepared in the late 1970s and was adopted in 1982. The entire area of the original Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan² is within the planning boundary of the Southeast Susitna Area Plan (SSAP). The original Susitna Area Plan was adopted in 1985 and a portion of its South Parks Highway Subregion lies within the planning boundary for the SSAP. Since the original adoption of these two plans, much has changed in the Susitna Valley, with much of the area along the Parks Highway being extensively developed. A variety of economic and demographic trends has accelerated growth, and probably will continue to accelerate growth in this area. Another major change has been the marked decline in the inventory of state land. In the early 1980s the state was the principal land owner in the Valley but since that time its importance has decreased with much of its holdings being conveyed to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; Cook Inlet Region, Inc.;

² Subsequent to the adoption of the Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan (WSAP), two management plans were prepared that superseded the WSAP in their areas of application. These were the Deception Creek Land Use Plan and the Kashwitna Management Plan.

Mental Health Trust; and University of Alaska. This has resulted in a decreased and dispersed state land base, although significant holdings still remain in the far easterly and westerly parts of the planning area. For these and other reasons, revision of the 1982 plan was appropriate and was undertaken beginning in 2007. Area plans are intended to be updated on a 15 to 20 year schedule.

This revision supersedes and replaces the entire 1982 Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan³, the two area management plans (Kashwitna and Deception Creek), and the affected portion of the Susitna Area Plan. The Land Classification Order that accompanies this revision revises and supersedes all previous land classifications. Current mineral orders and leasehold location orders however remain in effect and are not modified by this revision.

Planning Area

The planning boundary of the Southeast Susitna Area Plan includes all state-owned and state-selected uplands, and all tidelands, submerged lands and shorelands within the area depicted on Figure 1-2 on Page 1 - 5. This area includes the cities of Houston, Wasilla, and Palmer and occupies portions of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The planning area extends from the intersection of the Talkeetna Spur Road and the Parks Highway in the north, to the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet in the south, and is bounded by the Susitna River in the west, the Matanuska River in the east, and the Hatcher Pass Management Plan in the northeast. Within this planning area are a number of large Legislatively Designated Areas (LDAs), which total 386,000 acres and include: the Willow Creek and Nancy Lake State Recreation Areas, the Palmer Hay Flats, Goose Bay, and Susitna Flats State Game Refuges, and the Little Susitna State Recreation River. The recommendations of this plan pertain primarily to the state-owned and state-selected land not within the LDAs, a total of 255,741 acres.

This area plan does not, however, apply to a specific area of state and borough land situated west of the Little Susitna River, east of the Susitna River, north of the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge, and south of the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area. This area is referred to as the Fish Creek management unit in the SSAP, and is to be managed under the DNR/Borough Fish Creek Management Plan (FCMP). Approximately 43,300 acres are encompassed by the FCMP, of which 14,859 acres are state-owned. Consult this management plan for plan designations, management intent, and management guidelines in the Fish Creek area.

³ Except for the Fish Creek and Moraine Ridge management units, which are managed under the Fish Creek Management Plan, adopted 2010

How the Plan is Organized

The plan has four chapters:

Chapter 1 includes a summary of the purpose of the plan, description of the planning area, how and why the plan was developed, what the plan does and does not cover, and a summary of plan actions.

Chapter 2 includes goals of the plan and guidelines that apply throughout the planning area. Guidelines are listed in 11 resource and land use categories. Guidelines are specific directives that will be applied to land and water management decisions as resource use and development occurs.

Chapter 3 includes an explanation of plan designations, general management intent for state land, descriptions of the eight planning regions, and a detailed listing of management units. It also provides a summary of management constraints and considerations based on existing plans, legislative designations and other management constraints that significantly affect resource management, and a description of navigability as it relates to state waters within the planning region.

The bulk of this Chapter, however, consists of the Resource Allocation Tables. State land in the planning area is divided into spatial units called ‘units’. These may either be tidelands or uplands and may consist both of small areas of state land, like a lot or tract within a state subdivision, as well as very large areas that have common location, access, use, or resource characteristics. There are 156 upland units and 3 tideland units. This table, for each unit, identifies the recommended land use designation, background and resource information, and management intent. These parcels correspond to the management units identified on the plan maps.

Chapter 4 discusses specific actions necessary to implement the plan. These include a description of how land use designations convert into classifications, a description of survivor designations and classifications, and a land classification order. Procedures for changing the plan are also discussed.

Appendices include a glossary and a land classification order.

Why This Plan Was Developed

The planning area is rich in natural resources, contains a mix of developed and undeveloped land, and there are competing demands for the use of state land. There are many different ideas about how these resources should be used or protected. Although some proposed uses might be in conflict with each other, many different uses can occur throughout the planning area while protecting vital resources, providing the uses are properly managed.

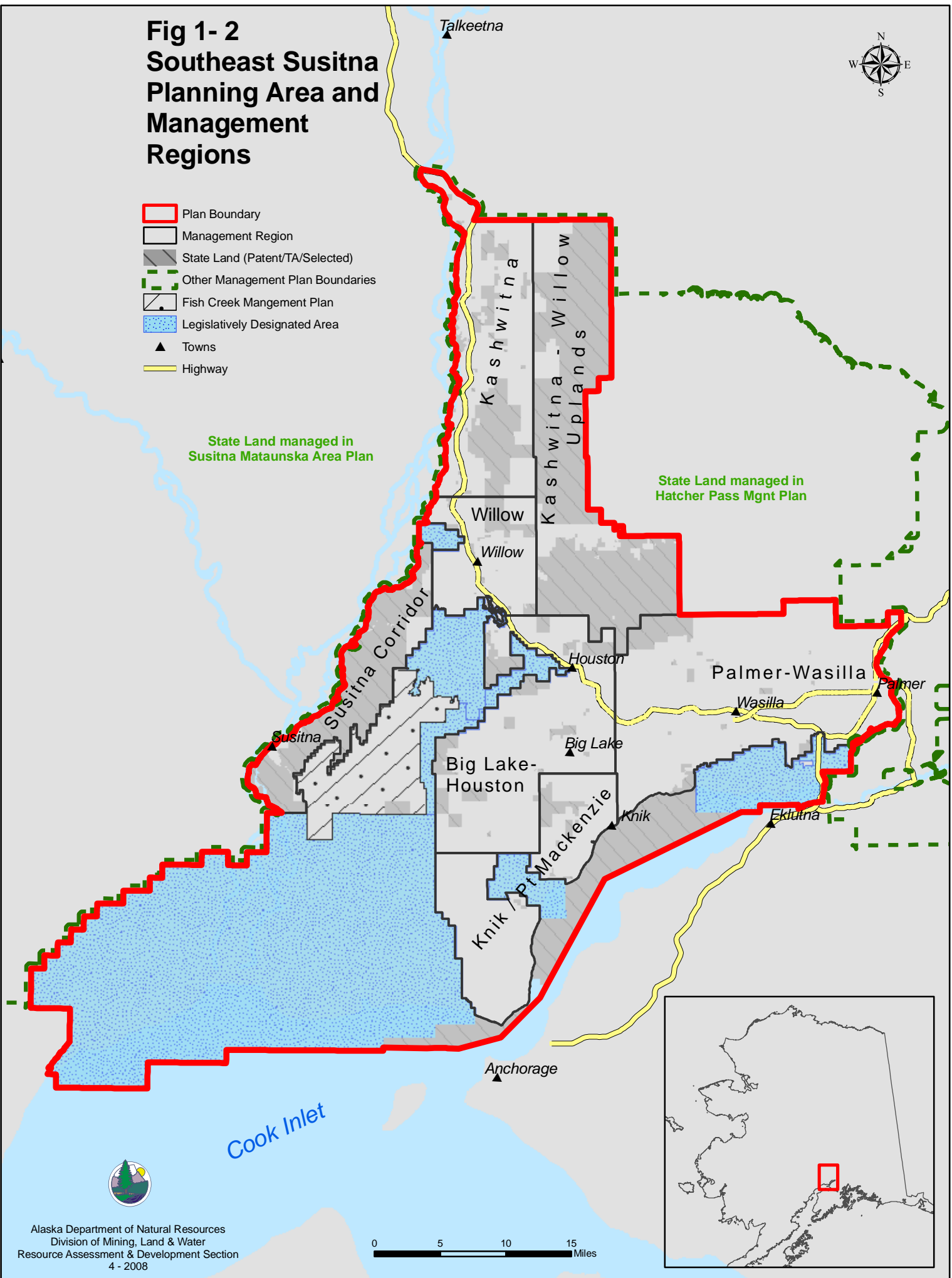
**Fig 1- 2
Southeast Susitna
Planning Area and
Management
Regions**



- Plan Boundary
- Management Region
- State Land (Patent/TA/Selected)
- Other Management Plan Boundaries
- Fish Creek Mangement Plan
- Legislatively Designated Area
- Towns
- Highway

State Land managed in
Susitna Matuska Area Plan

State Land managed in
Hatcher Pass Mgmt Plan



Cook Inlet



This plan establishes the land use designation for state land and describes their intended uses. The plan directs which state lands will be retained by the state and which should be sold to private citizens, used for public recreation, or used for other purposes. It also identifies general management guidelines for major resources and land uses within the planning area as well as guidelines for the development and use of resources for specific parcels.

With an area plan, state permits and permit review processes become more efficient for the government and the public. The area plan guides DNR decisions for leases, sales, and permits that authorize use of state lands. Preparation of land use plans for state lands (except for State Park System lands) is required under Title 38 of Alaska Statutes. DNR's actions will be based on the area plan.

The Mandate

The state is responsible for the management of those lands it owns and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is that agency specifically responsible for this management. There are over 1,000,000 acres of uplands within the planning boundary and over 40,000 acres of tidelands and submerged lands. Of the uplands, most state land is associated with Legislatively Designated Areas (386,000 acres) and only 213,000 acres is associated with general state land. This plan focuses on the management of the general state land, although plan designations are identified for some of the LDAs.

Alaska Statute (AS 38.04.065) requires the Commissioner of DNR to “adopt, maintain, and when appropriate, revise regional land use plans that provide for the use and management of state-owned land.” To ensure that these lands are properly managed, DNR has developed this plan for all state lands – uplands, shorelands, tide and submerged lands – in the planning area.

The planning process provides a means of openly reviewing resource information and public concerns before making long-term decisions about public land management. The planning process resolves conflicting ideas on land use and informs the public about what choices were made and why. Decisions are made on a comprehensive basis, rather than case-by-case, providing consistency and consideration of the wide diversity of resources and uses within the planning area. This process provides for more efficient use and protection of the area's resources.

What the Plan Will Do

The plan will help ensure that state resource management takes into account the sustained yield of renewable resources, that development is balanced with environmental concerns, and that public access to state land is provided. The plan encourages cooperation with other

landowners to better address conflicts caused by checkerboard land ownership patterns. Finally, the plan documents the state's intent for land management so that both public and private interests know how the state plans to manage lands over the long term.

How This Plan is Used

This plan is intended to manage state lands and resources within the planning area, and is the expression of how DNR will pursue this management. Much of the use of this plan is by the DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water. Adjudicators use this plan when reviewing and making decisions on authorizations for use of state land, including permits, leases, sales, conveyances, and rights-of-way. The DNR Division of Forestry and Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation also use this plan in the administration of their programs and activities.

Public Participation in Planning Process

The Southeast Susitna Area Plan is the product of over a year-long planning process conducted by the Division Mining, Land, and Water (DMLW) of the DNR; other divisions within DNR; state and federal agencies (primarily ADF&G); local government (primarily the City of Houston and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough); interest groups, and the public. Public meetings were held in the planning area from August through November of 2007. These meetings dealt with an explanation of the state planning process and the identification of local issues, which included both land use and resource management issues. The results of these discussions and meetings were incorporated into the Public Review Draft. A second round of meetings focused on the review of the Public Review Draft, which commenced in early 2008.

Process of Plan Preparation

The following process was used to develop this area plan:

- identify issues in the planning area;
- map and analyze resources and uses;
- conduct public meetings to identify land use issues;
- prepare the Public Review Draft (PRD) based in part on comments previously received from the public and from agencies;
- public reviews the PRD;
- prepare an Issue/Response summary of all public comments on the PRD;

- based on the results of the Issue/Response Summary and additional agency review, prepare the final plan;
- DNR Commissioner adopts the area plan as DNR's management intent for state lands in the planning area.

Who Developed the Plan?

The DNR planning staff directs the planning process, including data collection, drafting the plan, response to public and agency comments, and final plan preparation. A number of local, state, and federal agencies review the preliminary draft of the PRD and provide land use and resource recommendations that are valuable in refining initial plan recommendations. Following the review of public comments, DNR planning staff develops an issue response summary, which contains recommendations for specific revisions to the plan. The DNR Commissioner formally adopts the Southeast Susitna Area Plan following the review of public and agency comments on the PRD. The plan was adopted by the Commissioner on April 28, 2008.

Uses and Resources Within the Planning Area

Uses of State Land. The plan outlines management objectives for state land. This includes describing what resources and valid existing uses should be protected, and what uses are most suitable for development or protection on state land during the planning horizon.

State-selected Land and Land Susceptible to Navigation. Some lands have been selected but not yet been conveyed to the state. Other lands are under waterbodies that, if determined navigable, are state-owned. In both cases, the plan determines how to manage these lands if they are state-owned.

Land Sales. The state has offered land for sale to Alaskan citizens. The planning process reviewed the state land holdings to determine which undeveloped lands are suitable for settlement uses in the future.

Land Conveyance. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has completed its land selections under the Municipal Entitlement Act. Accordingly, this plan does not provide additional guidance to the municipal entitlement process as it applies to this Borough.

Roads, Trails, and Access. The plan considers access across state lands, including existing and proposed roads, trails, easements, and rights-of-way.

Mining. The plan reviews the mineral potential within the planning area and describes the statutory authorities that affect mining use. Because of the general lack of mineral potential within the planning area, the plan does not recommend the use of Mineral Closing Orders or Leasehold Location Orders. All state-owned lands are open to mineral entry, except for those areas that have been previously closed to mineral entry.

Recreation. Recreation is a popular use of state land. The plan proposes designations to manage lands for recreation in several locations where winter recreation is extensive. Many areas that are designated either Habitat or Water Resources are also widely used for winter recreation and this use is recognized in the management intent of a number of parcels.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest. The plan documents fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas and provides management intent and guidelines for these resources and uses.

Water Resources. DNR, through the DMLW, is responsible for allocating water resources on all lands within the state of Alaska. The plan designates areas to be managed for their water resource values and describes management guidelines for in-stream flow reservations. Areas with water resource values are primarily associated with the maintenance of wetlands, which are extensively distributed throughout the planning area.

What the Plan Won't Do

The Southeast Susitna Area Plan is not the only way in which land management goals are implemented. The area plan is coordinated with a variety of other programs and projects implemented by the DNR and other state agencies. There are some important issues that are not addressed in this plan:

Non-DNR Lands. This plan does not apply to municipal, private, University of Alaska, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, or Mental Health Trust lands. It only applies to those federal lands that have been selected for conveyance to the state.

Fish and Wildlife. Allocation of fish and game stocks and regulating methods and means of harvest are the responsibility of the state boards of Fisheries and Game.

Generally Allowed Uses (GAU). The area plan does not regulate activities that do not require a written authorization on state land, such as hiking, camping, boating, hunting, and fishing. Generally allowed uses are identified in 11 AAC 09.030 and 11 AAC 96; these sections also indicate the requirements, if any, affecting such uses.

Legislatively Designated Areas. The plan does not apply to state game refuges, recreation rivers, and recreation areas that are legislatively designated, although plan designations do apply to the game refuges and recreation river.

Decisions on Specific Applications. While this plan provides general management intent for state lands, the plan does not make decisions about specific land use authorizations. These decisions are made through the application review process. Land-use authorizations must, however, be consistent with the plan, and existing laws and regulations.

Actions by agencies other than DNR. The plan does not provide management intent for prescribing actions and policies for agencies and governments other than DNR.

Planning Period

This plan reflects land management decisions and allocations based on the best available information on the demand for use of state land and resources projected over the next 20 years. It is also based on a specific set of social, environmental, economic, and technological assumptions. The plan guides state land use and resource decisions for the next 20 years or until the plan is revised.

Summary of Plan Actions

Management Intent

The planning area consists of six regions that primarily contain uplands, one region consisting of tideland areas within Knik Arm, and a region that encompasses six LDAs. The regions are composed of state-owned and state-selected lands that are contiguous to each other, have similar characteristics, and are thought of as distinct parts of the local community. The plan presents management intent that explains the department's overall resource management objectives for each region and unit, and provides resource and use information for land managers. This information is presented in Chapter 3.

Land Use Designations

Each unit identifies one or more designations representing the uses and resources for which the area will be managed. Plan designations are identified and described in the first part of Chapter 3. The Resource Allocation Tables in the same Chapter contains the designations specific to individual units.

Management Guidelines

According to the Alaska Constitution, state lands are to be managed for multiple use. When potentially conflicting uses are designated in a parcel, the plan provides guidelines to allow various uses to occur without unacceptable consequences. Management guidelines for specific management units are given in Chapter 3. Guidelines that apply to the entire planning area are identified in Chapter 2.

Classifications

All state lands in the planning area will be classified consistent with the land use designations in this plan. Classifications made by the plan will be noted to the state's Land Status Plats. A table that shows how designations convert to classifications is located in Chapter 4. The Land Classification Order (LCO) that is to be adopted with this plan is included as Appendix B. The LCO actually enacts and imposes the classifications that are identified as designations in the area plan.

Summary of Plan Implementation and Modification

The plan is implemented through administrative actions such as leases, permits, land conveyances, and classification orders. The plan serves as the final finding for land classifications. Chapter 4 presents the details of plan implementation recommendations and procedures.

Economic and social conditions in Alaska and the planning area are sure to change and the plan must be flexible enough to change with them. The plan will be reviewed regularly to monitor progress in implementing the plan and to identify problems that may require amendment or modification.

Specific modifications may be made whenever conditions warrant them, though a request for these changes must follow certain procedures. The plan may be amended after approval by the Commissioner of DNR following public review and consultation with the appropriate agencies. Special exceptions and minor changes must follow certain procedures. See Chapter 4 for a more detailed description of procedures for plan modifications, amendments, special exceptions, and minor changes.

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Chapter 2

Areawide Land Management Policies

Introduction

This chapter presents land management policies for each of the major resources affected by the plan: fish and wildlife, forestry, materials, mineral resources, recreation and tourism, and water. It also presents management policies for several specific land management concerns: protection of fish and wildlife habitat, public and private access, timber harvest, settlement, shoreline and stream corridor management, and public access. These policies apply to state land throughout the planning area regardless of the land use designation.

This chapter consists of goals and management guidelines. Goals are the general condition the department is trying to achieve, and guidelines are specific directives that will be applied to land and water management decisions as resource use and development occurs.

Definitions

For definitions of terms commonly used in this chapter, see Appendix A, Glossary.

Goals

The following goals are for state lands in the planning area. Goals are general conditions that DNR attempts to achieve through management actions. The goals are listed alphabetically. No single goal has a priority over the others.

Economic Development. Provide opportunities for jobs and income by managing state land and resources to support a vital, self-sustaining and diverse local economy.

Environment and Habitat. Manage state land to protect natural ecosystems and wildlife habitats, and to avoid user conflicts.

Fiscal Costs. Minimize the needs for, and the fiscal cost of, providing government services and facilities such as schools and roads.

Public Health and Safety. Maintain or enhance public health and safety for users of state land and resources.

Public Use. Provide, plan, enhance, and manage diverse opportunities for public use of state lands, including uses such as hunting, fishing, boating and other types of recreation.

Quality of Life. Maintain or enhance the quality of the natural environment including air, land and water, and fish and wildlife habitat and harvest opportunities; provide opportunities to view wildlife and the natural environment; and protect heritage resources and the character and lifestyle of the community.

Settlement. Provide opportunities for private ownership and leasing of land currently owned by the state.

Sustained Yield. Maintain the long-term productivity and quality of renewable resources including fish and wildlife, agriculture, timber, and above-ground renewable energy resources.

Management Intent

Management intent for state land is expressed through statements of management emphasis identified on a unit specific basis. These statements are based on resource and use inventories, the review of existing and potential economic trends, state authorizations, existing plans and similar resource management documents, agency review and comment, and public participation.

General Framework of the Plan

- A.** State land within the planning area will be managed to allow for multiple use unless legislatively designated or a parcel of state land is less than 640 acres and managed under a management agreement by another state agency, or affected by 11 AAC 96.014.
- B.** State land will also be managed to protect access and public resources. Types of resources to be protected include, but are not limited to habitat, recreation, water quality, anchorages, watersheds, scenery and trails.
- C.** State land will remain open to mineral entry unless specifically closed. This plan does not recommend any areas to be closed to mineral entry nor to be managed under a leasehold location order. Consequently, all land within the planning area is open to entry, except for those scattered areas closed in previous mineral closing orders by DNR.
- D.** In management units where a primary use has been designated, activities and authorizations pertaining to that primary designated use may take precedence over other uses. Although there may be a priority for use in certain parcels, other uses may also be allowed if they do not preclude the primary use assigned to a management unit. This plan emphasizes minimizing land use conflicts through plan guidelines and intent rather than through

prohibitions. All other uses are initially presumed compatible with the primary use. However, if DNR determines that a use conflict exists and that the proposed use is incompatible with the primary use, the proposed use shall not be authorized or it shall be modified so that the incompatibility no longer exists (11 AAC 55.040 (c)).

E. This plan designates state lands in categories that are generally consistent with current use patterns and reflect the significant resources in the planning area.

F. This plan honors the intent of existing settlement agreements with the Mental Health Trust Authority and the University of Alaska. These settlement agreements as well as pertinent sections of state law shall prevail over the area plan, if inconsistencies exist.

Management Guidelines by Activity or Resource Value

The remainder of this chapter specifies guidelines that are specific directives to apply to management decisions. DNR will use these guidelines when considering issuing authorizations and conveyances or making management decisions on state lands. These guidelines will also apply to lands that are currently state-selected and ANILCA-filed when they are tentatively approved or patented into state ownership.

Chapter 2 guidelines apply to all state land covered by the SSAP unless the plan explicitly exempts some parcels or designations from a guideline or the resource or use for which a guideline is intended does not exist in the parcel in question. There are few such exemptions.

General Guidelines

A. All authorizations for use of state land within the planning area will be consistent with the management intent in this plan.

B. In considering authorizations for use of state land, DNR will adjudicate applications to:

- 1) Avoid, and if not possible, minimize damages to streambeds, fish and wildlife habitat, vegetation, trails, anchorages, and other resources;
- 2) Minimize conflicts between resources and uses; and
- 3) Protect the long-term value of the resource, public safety, and the environment.

C. If authorizations from other agencies are required, DNR will consider issuing a permit or lease contingent upon issuance of these other authorizations.

Other State Land

Parcels that are donated or acquired after the plan is adopted will be designated for the uses for which they were acquired or donated without an amendment to the plan. Lands that come into state ownership through other means will be designated and classified consistent with the designation identified in the applicable management unit or, if not so identified, according to the standards of the section, 'Applicability of Plan Designations and Classifications', in Chapter 4 *without* requiring an amendment to the plan.

Coordination and Public Notice

Goals

Coordination with Non-state Landowners. Coordinate the use of state land with that of private and other public landowners to provide for the optimal use, development, and protection of area resources.

Public Participation. Provide local governments, state and federal agencies, adjacent landowners, and the general public with meaningful opportunities to participate in the process of making significant land use decisions.

Management Guidelines

A. Notice for Decisions Requiring Public Notice (Under AS 38.05.945). As required by statute, public notice will be given for decisions involving the sale, lease, or disposal of (or interests in) land, property, or resources. Actions not involving a disposal of interest will require public notice in accordance with Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) procedures and with the requirements of AS 38.05.945. Notice will be given to parties known or likely to be affected by an action proposed by the state or an applicant to the state, including upland property owners of adjoining state tidelands or submerged lands.

B. Coordination with Local Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance and Platting Requirements. The comprehensive plan and zoning map/ordinance of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB or borough) are to be reviewed by DNR prior to issuing permits, leases, timber sales, or other forms of use authorizations. State subdivision plats will comply with borough platting requirements per AS 38.04.045(b).

C. Avoiding Conflicts with Adjacent Upland Owners. Before DNR issues a land use authorization on shorelands, DNR will require applicants to use areas that will reduce the likelihood of possible land use disagreements with upland owners. DNR will consider comments from private landowners and others before making a decision. DNR will retain the right to issue a land use authorization over the objection of adjacent landowners.

D. Authority of State Plans. State plans only affect state lands and federal lands that have been selected by the state for conveyance. They do not affect Borough, other state lands not affected by Title 38, other federal lands, or private lands.

The MSB has developed and will continue to develop local comprehensive plans for specific parts of the Borough. These are intended to identify preferred land use patterns and development stipulations. DNR reviews these plans in the course of developing management plans or area plans, and often makes use of their recommendations. However, while

community comprehensive plans can make recommendations for state lands within their planning areas, they cannot establish land use designations or other planning requirements for state land. State land use designations are decided on a regional basis through the state planning process and local plans do not supersede state plans for the use of state lands. See AS 38.04.065.

E. Other Guidelines Affecting Coordination or Public Notice. Several other guidelines may affect coordination or public notice. See other sections of this chapter.

Cultural Resources

Goal

Cultural Resources. The Alaska Historic Preservation Act establishes the state's basic goal: to preserve, protect, and interpret the historic, prehistoric, and archaeological resources of Alaska so that the scientific, historic, and cultural heritage values embodied in these resources may pass undiminished to future generations.

Management Guidelines

A. Cultural Resources Identification. Identify and determine the significance of cultural resources on state land through the following actions:

- 1) Cultural resources surveys conducted by qualified personnel;
- 2) Research about cultural resources on state land by qualified individuals and organizations; and
- 3) Cooperative efforts for planned surveys and inventories between state, federal, and local or Native groups.

B. Cultural Resources Protection. Protect significant cultural resources through the following actions:

- 1) The Office of History and Archeology (OHA) within DPOR reviews authorizations, construction projects or land uses for potential conflict with cultural resources. The office determines if there may be an adverse effect on heritage resources and makes recommendations to mitigate these effects.
- 2) Cooperating with concerned government agencies, Native corporations, statewide or local groups, and individuals to develop guidelines and recommendations on how to avoid or mitigate identified or potential conflict.
- 3) Consult with the certified local government sources (MSB Cultural Resources Specialist) where appropriate.
- 4) Buffers (50' or greater) shall be provided around significant cultural resources as part of the overall protection process when subdividing or otherwise using state lands.

C. Cultural Resource Surveys Prior to Land Offerings. If determined by OHA during an agency review of a proposed land disposal that a cultural survey may be required, further coordination between OHA and DMLW prior to the land disposal is warranted. Cultural surveys should be considered where OHA reported sites exist or where there is a high potential for such sites to exist. The extent and type of the cultural survey within the area of

the proposed land disposal shall be determined by OHA in consultation with DMLW. Detailed procedures exist governing when a survey is required and extent of the cultural resource survey and are to be consulted by DNR adjudicators.

D. Cultural Resources in Timber Management Areas. OHA will review proposals for timber management activities through the interagency review process for the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans for individual sales and provide comments and information about areas of concern within the review deadline. OHA will recommend archaeological surveys in timber sale areas with a high potential for cultural resources. Areas of reported historic, archaeological, or paleontological sites that retain historic integrity should not be disturbed. Timber operations shall not occur within 300 feet of the boundaries of known sites unless OHA determines, in consultation with the Division of Forestry, that certain activities can occur without significant adverse impacts to the cultural resource. OHA shall assess the extent and significance of the cultural resource and work with Division of Forestry to develop site-specific mitigation measures to protect the cultural sites while allowing timber management.

E. Cultural Resources Adjacent to Recreation Facilities. Recreation facilities that might subject cultural sites to vandalism because of the increased public use should not be placed adjacent to the cultural sites.

F. Heritage sites should be reported when found. The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) is an inventory of all reported historic and prehistoric sites within the State of Alaska and is maintained by OHA. The AHRS is used to prevent the destruction of cultural sites. By knowing of possible cultural remains prior to construction, efforts can be made to avoid project delays and prevent the destruction of cultural sites. While over 22,000 sites have been reported within Alaska, this is probably only a very small percentage of the sites which may actually exist but are as yet unreported. The AHRS is not complete or static, so heritage sites, when found, should be reported to OHA.

G. Other Guidelines Affecting Cultural Resources. Other guidelines will affect cultural resources. See other sections of this chapter.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Goals

Ensure Access to Public Lands and Waters. Ensure access to public lands and waters and promote or enhance the responsible public use and enjoyment of fish and wildlife resources.

Mitigate Habitat Loss. When resource development projects occur, avoid or minimize reduction in the quality and quantity of fish and wildlife habitat.

Contribute to Economic Diversity. Contribute to Alaska's economy by protecting the fish and wildlife resources which contribute directly or indirectly to local, regional, and state economies through commercial, subsistence, sport and non-consumptive uses.

Maintain and Protect Publicly Owned Habitat Base. Maintain in public ownership and protect habitat for fish and wildlife resource protection to supply sufficient numbers or a diversity of species to support commercial, recreational, or traditional uses on an optimum sustained yield basis; or protect a unique or rare assemblage of a single or multiple species of regional, state, or national significance.

Avoid the Introduction of and Reduce the Spread of Invasive Plant and Animal Species. State lands are to be managed to avoid or reduce the spread of non-native invasive animals and plants. This management shall be consistent with the applicable requirements of 11 AAC 34.

Management Guidelines

A. Mitigation. When issuing permits and leases or otherwise authorizing the use or development of state lands, DNR will recognize the requirements of the activity or development and the effects to habitat when determining stipulations or measures needed to protect fish, wildlife, or their habitats. The costs of mitigation relative to the benefits to be gained will be considered in the implementation of this policy.

All land use activities will be conducted with appropriate planning and implementation to avoid or minimize adverse effects on fish, wildlife, or their habitats.

DNR and ADF&G will enforce stipulations and measures appropriate to their agency, and may require the mitigation of any significant damage to fish, wildlife, or their habitats that may occur as a direct result of the party's failure to comply with applicable law, regulations, or the conditions of the permit or lease.

When determining appropriate stipulations and measures, the departments will apply, in order of priority, the following steps. Mitigation requirements listed in other guidelines in this plan will also follow these steps:

- 1) Avoid anticipated, significant adverse effects on fish, wildlife, or their habitats through siting, timing, or other management options.
- 2) When significant adverse effects cannot be avoided by design, siting, timing, or other management options, the adverse effect of the use or development will be minimized.
- 3) If significant loss of fish or wildlife habitat occurs, the loss will be rectified by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected area to a useful state.
- 4) DNR may consider requiring replacement with, or enhancement of, fish and wildlife habitat when steps 1 through 3 cannot avoid substantial and irreversible loss of habitat. ADF&G will identify the species affected, the need for replacement or enhancement, and the suggested method for addressing the impact. Replacement with or enhancement of similar habitats of the affected species in the same region is preferable. DNR will consider only those replacement and enhancement techniques that have either been proven to be, or are likely to be, effective and that will result in a benefit to the species impacted by the development. Replacement or enhancement will only be required by DNR if it is determined to be in the best interest of the state either through the AS 38.05.035(e) or permit review process.

B. Allowing Uses in Fish and Wildlife Habitats (Ha). The areas designated Habitat (Ha) in Chapter 3 of the plan were defined using the best available information when the plan was written. These data sources were of a generalized nature. Because of this and in order to be conservative in the delineation of habitat areas, Habitat designations encompassed the largest probable area. Thus, the wildlife and fishery information identified for specific management units in Chapter 3 may occupy either part or all of the area of a unit, and it is possible that part of a management unit designated Habitat may not contain the resource or habitat that was identified as requiring protection. In the granting of authorizations within areas designated Habitat, DNR adjudicators should attempt to acquire more detailed and more recent information pertaining to habitat values if there is some question as to the appropriateness of the use that is under consideration for authorization.

The resource that was used to make the determination that an area should be designated “Ha” is identified in the parcel descriptions contained in Resource Allocation Tables in Chapter 3 under the column, “Resources and Uses”. In some cases, there is only a single resource but in other instances, several resources exist, with these resources sometimes occupying differing portions of the parcel. The spatial distribution of habitat resources is described in the management intent language, if known. Units are to be managed to protect the resource(s) identified in these tables. The fish and wildlife associated with the Habitat designation are listed in the Glossary under the term ‘Habitat’.

Since there is a distinct seasonality associated with the critical life periods of certain species, seasonality shall be taken into consideration during project review and approval. Seasonality and critical life cycle stages are identified in ADF&G publications.¹ Thus, it may be possible that uses and facilities may be appropriate within areas designated Habitat if the seasonality criteria are satisfied by including mitigating measures in project design.

Upland uses that are not consistent with the types of uses associated with the approved designation or are not authorized in the management intent statement for a specific unit and that, if permitted, would result in the degradation of the resource(s) associated with areas designated "Ha", are to be considered incompatible with the plan's management intent and, specifically, with the "Ha" designation. Degradation of the resource might result from actions involving one or more of the following factors: dredging, filling, significant compaction of vegetation and sediment, alteration of flow patterns, discharge of toxic substances, or disturbance during sensitive periods. If there is a question as to whether a use would be appropriate or whether it would degrade a listed resource, DNR shall consult with ADF&G in making the determination of initial incompatibility.

Non-designated uses that cause significant adverse impacts to the resources identified within a given "Ha" parcel can be allowed if:

- DNR determines through new information or a more detailed analysis that the management unit in question does not possess those attributes characteristic of a Habitat designation as defined in the plan; or
- If DNR in consultation with ADF&G determines that the non-designated use can be made compatible and significant adverse impacts to the "Ha" area avoided with appropriate design, siting, and operating stipulations; or
- The use (project) is found consistent under the ACMP and significant adverse impacts are mitigated under Management Guideline A.

C. Allowing Uses Outside of Designated Fish and Wildlife Habitat Areas. Outside of areas designated Habitat, habitat-altering uses will be sited consistent with the management guidelines in this chapter, and the management intent and guidelines in Chapter 3.

D. Habitat Manipulation: General Requirements. Habitat restoration through water control, timber management practices, removal of pollution sources, or other measures may be used to improve habitat for certain fish and wildlife species where ADF&G determines that it is beneficial to the species or habitat and DNR determines that it is compatible with other primary uses.

¹ These publications include, but are not limited to the following: ADF&G Regional Habitat Guides and NOAA's Oil Spill Response Atlas. Note to DNR adjudicators: In the event that information is not contained in these publications, consult pertinent publications and coordinate with ADF&G and federal agencies with jurisdiction over species in question to determine seasonal windows and use patterns.

E. Habitat Manipulation: Management of Invasive Plant and Animal Species. The management of invasive plant and animal species is a significant concern within the planning area. The state is to manage its lands and waters to avoid the introduction of and reduce the spread of invasive non-native plants and animals, consistent with the requirements of 11 AAC 34. Although the strategic management plan for noxious and invasive plant species recognizes this as a statewide issue, in most instances this problem is best handled at the local level. The local Soil and Water Conservation District has a program in place that currently concentrates on surveying areas of infection and providing landowners with treatment options and Best Management Practices in an effort to manage these species. Contact them for more information.

F. Hatchery and Aquatic Farm Source Waters. To preserve the quality of an existing hatchery's water supply, uses should not be located on state land where they would risk reducing water quality or quantity below that needed by the hatchery.

G. Water Intake Structures. When issuing water rights for waters providing fish habitat, DNR will require that practical water intake structures be installed that do not result in entrainment or impingement of fish and will maintain instream flows needed to sustain existing fish populations. The simplest and most cost-effective technology may be used to implement this guideline.

Water intake structures should be screened, and intake velocities will be limited to prevent entrapment, entrainment, or injury to fish. The structures supporting intakes should be designed to prevent fish from being led into the intake. Other effective techniques may also be used to achieve the intent of this guideline. DMLW (Water Section) should be consulted to determine screen size, water velocity, and intake design if the intake structure is in fish habitat.

H. Alteration of the Riverine Hydrologic System. To the extent feasible, channelization, diversion, or damming that will alter the natural hydrological conditions and have a significant adverse impact on important riverine habitat will be avoided.

I. Threatened and Endangered Species. All land activities will be conducted consistent with state and federal Endangered Species Acts to avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of threatened or endangered species of plants or animals, to provide for their continued use of an area, and to avoid modification or destruction of their habitat. Specific mitigation recommendations should be identified through interagency consultation for any land use activity that potentially affects threatened or endangered species. Presently, only one species, the Cook Inlet beluga whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*) is listed as endangered by the National Marine Fisheries Service and they have identified a 'critical habitat area' for large portions of Cook Inlet.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Division of Ecological Services or the National Marine Fisheries Service will be consulted on questions that involve endangered species.

J. Eagles. Authorizations or disposals that potentially affect bald eagles will be consistent with the state and federal Endangered Species acts and the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 as amended. Applicable standards are drawn from a cooperative agreement signed by the U.S. Forest Service and the USFWS, or such subsequent standards that may be promulgated. These standards, however, may not be adequate in all circumstances, and the USFWS may determine that additional measures are necessary. In addition, meeting the guidelines does not absolve the party from the penalty provisions of the Bald Eagle Protection Act; therefore, the USFWS should be consulted when activities may affect bald or golden eagles.

- 1) **Siting Facilities to Avoid Eagle Nests.** Facilities determined by the USFWS to cause significant disturbance to nesting eagles will not be allowed within 330 feet of any bald eagle nest site, whether the nest is currently active or not.
- 2) **Activities Disturbing Nesting Eagles.** Activities the USFWS determines likely to cause significant disturbance to nesting eagles will be prohibited within 330 feet of active bald eagle nests between March 15 and August 31. Temporary activities and facilities that do not alter eagle nesting habitat or disturb nesting eagles, as determined by the USFWS, may be allowed at other times.

K. Moose Winter Concentration and Calving Areas. Portions of the planning area are important for moose calving and rutting, or are used as winter concentration areas. Calving typically occurs from May through June, depending upon location. Uses that are likely to produce levels of acoustical or visual disturbance sufficient to disturb calving, rutting, or post-calving aggregations that cannot be seasonally restricted should not be authorized in these areas. Uses may be authorized in these areas at other times of the year. DNR authorizations should include seasonal restrictions on activities that would produce significant acoustical or visual disturbance during sensitive periods.

Moose calving and rutting areas change over time. ADF&G should be consulted prior to issuing an authorization in an area suspected to contain such concentrations in order to better determine: 1) the location of calving and rutting areas; 2) when activities within these areas should be avoided; and 3) identify appropriate mitigation measures if no feasible or prudent alternative site exists. Refer to a management unit's 'Uses and Resources' section in the Resource Allocation Tables to determine whether the presence of a rutting or calving area is likely or if it is a winter concentration area.

L. Trumpeter Swan Nesting Areas. In trumpeter swan nesting areas, uses that would disturb nesting swans or detrimentally alter the nesting habitat should be avoided. The siting of permanent facilities, including roads, material sites, storage areas, and other forms of permanent structures should be avoided within one-quarter mile of known nesting sites. Surface entry should also be avoided within one-quarter mile of nesting sites between April 1 and August 31. Leases or permits may require seasonal restrictions on activities to avoid disturbance to swans. Consult with ADF&G and USFWS to identify current or potential

nesting habitat and to determine guidelines to follow and activities to avoid. The standards of Guideline M, 'Activities in Important Waterfowl Habitat', also apply. Refer to an upland management unit's 'Resources and Uses' section in the Resource Allocation Tables to determine if the presence of a nesting area is likely.

M. Activities in Important Waterfowl Habitat. In important waterfowl habitat, activities requiring a lease, permit, or development plan, and producing habitat disturbance or high levels of acoustical or visual disturbance from sources such as boat traffic, vegetation clearing, construction, blasting, dredging, and seismic operations, will be avoided during sensitive periods such as nesting, staging, or brood-rearing periods. Where it is not feasible and prudent to avoid such activities, other mitigation measures may be required to avoid significant adverse impacts or the activity may be denied. Consult with ADF&G to identify areas of important waterfowl in addition to those identified in the tidelands management units in this plan and to determine appropriate mitigation or avoidance measures.

N. Fish and Wildlife Enhancement on State Lands. Fish and wildlife enhancement activities on state lands, whether by ADF&G or other parties, will be consistent with the management intent for those lands. Enhancement activities likely to attract significant public use, including sport fishing use, will be designed and located to minimize the impact of additional public use on the existing recreation resources, including anchorages, campsites, and existing and intended wilderness values.

O. Protection of Fish and Wildlife Resources - Transportation Facilities. Important fish and wildlife habitats such as those described as riparian areas, fish and wildlife movement corridors, important wintering areas, and threatened or endangered species habitat should be avoided in siting transportation routes unless no other feasible and prudent alternatives exist. Location of routes and timing of construction should be determined in consultation with ADF&G.

P. Anadromous Stream Mouths within Tidelands. Anadromous stream mouths² shall be protected by a management zone. Only activities compatible with the protection or maintenance of anadromous habitats are to be authorized in a zone occurring within a 300 foot radius measured seaward from MHW at the mouth of these streams. Leases, disposals, and other authorizations should not be approved within this zone unless consultation with ADF&G determines that the proposal is compatible with the intent of protecting anadromous fish resources.

Q. Other Guidelines Affecting Fish and Wildlife Habitat. Other guidelines may affect the protection and management of fish and wildlife habitat. See other sections of this chapter.

² As identified in the Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes and its associated Atlas.

Forestry

The forest resources of the Southeast Susitna planning area are a mixture of White spruce and Paper birch in the upland areas with cottonwood and Balsam poplar in the lowland areas. Paper birch is the dominant species in this boreal forest type. White spruce has commercial value for sawlogs, houselogs, woodchips, and fuel. The commercial value of the Paper birch is for wood chips and fuel. Some trees with low defect also can be used as sawlogs providing wood for cabinets, bowls, and other products. Much of the birch within the Southeast Susitna is over 70 years old and contains a high percentage of rot or defect. There are some specialty markets for the cottonwood and Balsam poplar but for the most part these species have little commercial value at the present time in this area.

The Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17.060) sets standards for management of all state forest land for the management objectives of sustained yield and multiple use (AS 41.17.060(b) and (c)). AS 41.15.010-020 and .170(2) set standards for forest protection from fire and other destructive agents. These standards, including those for forest economics, reforestation, fish and wildlife habitat, scenic quality, and other use apply statewide. In addition, the following goals apply specifically to the SSAP area.

Goals

Personal Use Timber. Provide timber to meet the needs of Alaskans. Subject to limits of funding, staffing, and sustained yield, this program will be provided on a demand basis when the operational costs of administering this program are satisfactory.

Economic Opportunities. Provide for economic opportunities and stability in the forest products industry by allowing the use of state uplands in areas designated Forestry.

Support Timber Industry. Continue to perform reviews of private timber harvests for adherence to the Forest Practices Act and provide information and technical expertise in the management of forest resources to this industry.

Wildland Fire Suppression. DOF shall continue to provide wildland fire suppression within the planning area consistent with the requirements of the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan and with statute, which requires the protection of natural resources and certain cultural features.

Management Guidelines

Active programs for forest management, including timber harvesting, and wildland fire management are appropriate within the planning area. The following section lists area-specific guidelines for forest management and wildland fire management. In addition to these guidelines, forest management activities are subject to the requirements of the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act, the Susitna Forestry Guidelines, the biennial Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales for the Mat-Su Area, and any Forest Land Use Plan for a specific area. Opportunities for public comment are provided for each Five-Year Schedule and Forest Land Use Plan. Fire management activities are subject to AS 41.15 and the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan.

Another important component of the state forestry program within the planning area is fire management. A management guideline is included that describes the broad aspects of this program. The implementation of the state fire management program is identified and controlled in detail by the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan.

A. Timber Harvest Guidelines

- 1) All timber harvest activities must be compatible with the general management guidelines of this section and with the management intent statements and land use designations identified in specific management units of this plan found in Chapter 3. Systematic timber harvest programs are to be conducted in areas designated Forestry within the planning area. Forest harvest operations conducted on a parcel of state land intended for subdivision development by DNR can precede actual construction. However, these operations must be consistent with the subdivision plan for the parcel; consultation with DMLW is required before commencing operations.
- 2) All timber harvest operations will be conducted in accordance with the stipulations in the Forest Land Use Plan, the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17 & 11 AAC 95), the Susitna Forestry Guidelines, the Alaska Land Act (AS 38.05 & 11 AAC 71), and other pertinent state guidelines and laws. The Forest Practices Act provides statewide guidance and policy for managing forestry related activities. The specific layout and other site-specific requirements of a timber sale is addressed through a Forest Land Use Plan (FLUPs), which is prepared prior to any commercial timber harvest or sale (AS 38.05.112).

FLUPs developed for timber sale or harvests in the planning area are to be consistent with the Forestry Management Guidelines of this Chapter and the Management Guidelines specified for particular parcels in Chapter 3. FLUPs shall consider, in their preparation, the sensitive resources and wildlife, or any other significant factors, identified in the Management Guidelines for a parcel.

- 3) Land conveyed out of state ownership for the purpose of settlement, or another form of active land use, shall not be used for commercial timber harvest and sale. Subdivisions or disposals of state land by DNR shall preclude the sale of merchantable timber harvested on lots or parcels conveyed out of state ownership.

The format used to impose this restriction is at the discretion of the DMLW Regional Manager. This guideline is not intended to preclude the cutting of trees or other vegetation as part of the process of land clearing or site development.

B. Sort Yards. Sort yards will be constructed, sited, operated, and monitored in order to minimize the impact on state land and resources. The design, development, and use of these facilities shall be consistent with the Log Transfer Facility Siting, Construction, Operation, and Monitoring/Reporting Guidelines (October 1985), or successors to these standards that may be approved by DNR and ADF&G.

C. Timber Salvage From Rights-of-Way. Timber with commercial or personal use value should be salvaged from lands that are to be cleared for other uses such as roads, transmission lines, material sites, mining, and habitat enhancement projects (AS 41.17.083). The DMLW Regional Manager shall determine the amount and kind of material that is to be salvaged.

D. Personal Use Wood Harvest. When forested lands are available near communities and where personal use harvest is consistent with other purposes for which the land is being managed, DOF will provide wood products for personal use. This program will only be undertaken, however, if it can be effectively and efficiently administered by DOF.

E. Sustained Yield of Forest Resources. Forestland will be managed to guarantee perpetual supplies of renewable resources to serve the needs of all Alaskans for the many products, benefits, and services obtained from them. The annual allowable harvest will be calculated using a volume control method and will be based on the guidelines in Susitna Forestry Guidelines. Only areas designated 'Forestry' and 'General Use' (where the management intent statement for a parcel indicate that timber harvest is appropriate) in this plan are to be included as part of the sustained yield area and in the sustained yield calculation for stands within the SSAP planning area.

F. Salvage of Damaged Trees. Trees damaged due to wind throw, insect, or disease conditions may be salvaged on all land use designations unless management intent statements for specific management units in Chapter 3 specifically prohibit salvage harvest. A Forest Land Use Plan, if required, will provide the rationale for conducting the salvage harvest and describe how the action will not conflict with the management intent for each management unit.

G. Fire Disturbance. The intent of fire management is to identify where wildland fire can be allowed or prescribed burns can be used to reduce costs of fire suppression, reduce the risk of damaging fires, and maintain the natural diversity and productivity of forest stands. Fire suppression will be a priority near residential areas or other forms of active land use, high value recreation use areas, and areas with infrastructure development. Consistent with AS 41.15.010 and AS 41.15.020, DOF will protect forest resources from destructive agents commensurate with the values needing protection. However, where feasible, wildland fires will be allowed to burn and suppression will be limited to decreasing the long-term risk of

damaging fires and to maintaining the natural diversity of forest stands, stand ages, and habitat types. Where allowing wildland fire is not feasible, timber harvest, prescribed burns, and habitat enhancement techniques will be used to disturb the forest and maintain a natural range of forest types and stand ages. Specific fire suppression levels are identified in the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan.

H. Areas Appropriate for Timber Harvest and Maintenance of Timber Land Base.

Systematic programs of timber harvest are intended to (only) occur within areas that are designated Forestry, General Use (where the management intent authorizes such a use), within areas designated Settlement or Agriculture where timber harvest is supportive of settlement and agriculture, or for purposes of forest management (like forest health and wildfire management).

It is not intended that areas designated Forestry are to be redesignated for other purposes or that areas designated something other than Forestry are appropriate for re-designation to the Forestry designation. Changes of the types mentioned above will require a public hearing and public review process through a plan amendment.

I. Coordination with Borough Forest Management Plans and Programs. Prior to the preparation of the Five Year Sales Schedule and the development of a FLUP, DNR should coordinate with the Borough's forest management plan and program to obtain maximum efficiencies and avoid management conflicts over the harvesting of timber and with sensitive land uses.

J. Other Guidelines Affecting Forestry. Other guidelines will affect management practices for timber development support facilities and forestry. See other sections of this chapter.

Instream Flow

Goal

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

Management Guidelines

A. Stream Uses to Consider for Instream Flow Reservation (General). Streams, lakes, 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 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. Instream flow reservations have been established on Cottonwood Creek, Deception Creek, Little Susitna River and Willow Creek. Applications are pending adjudication for Fish and Meadow creeks. Instream flow reservations should be established over the planning period for Kashwitna, Sheep, Montana, Little Willow, Lily, Fish, Meadow, Wasilla, Spring, Threemile, Lucille, and Goose creeks, as well as the inlet stream of Nancy Lake. Other high value resource streams and lakes should be evaluated, where funding is available, and instream flow reservation applications should be prepared. 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 flow reservations are submitted to the Department for adjudication following the procedures identified in 11 AAC 93.141-147. In general, these procedures estimate the quantity of water seasonally available and review the amount of water already appropriated in consideration of the requested instream flows for the uses and resources to be protected.

D. Other Guidelines Affecting Instream Flow. Several other guidelines will affect instream flow. See other sections of this chapter.

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.

Recreation, Tourism, and Scenic Resources

Recreation is a significant use of state land within the rural parts of the planning area that are some distance from the Parks Highway, and occurs in both concentrated and dispersed forms. Areas of particularly high recreational use occur at public use sites and state recreation areas. Use is especially concentrated at boat launches that access the Susitna River, within the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area, and in both designated and undesignated campgrounds, and is associated with camping and sport fishing during the summer. Dispersed recreation use is somewhat more characteristic of the winter months with snowmachine use occupying areas of wetlands and the generally level terrain west of the Parks Highway. Significant snowmachine use also occurs east of the Parks Highway, with much of this use occurring in wetlands and other lowlands but also along trail systems that have developed over time to accommodate this use. Summer dispersed recreation is associated with sport fishing along the principal streams within the planning area, including the Little Susitna, and Susitna Rivers and with Montana, Sheep, and Willow Creeks. Hunting is a predominantly fall activity, usually associated with moose, and is common in the foothills of the Talkeetna Mountains, in the area accessed by Knik-Goose Bay Road, and in several state game refuges, including the Susitna Flats, Goose Bay, and Palmer Hay Flats.

Goal

Recreation Opportunities. Lands will be provided for accessible outdoor recreational opportunities with well-designed and conveniently located recreational facilities. In addition, undeveloped lands should be provided for recreation pursuits that do not require developed facilities. These opportunities shall be realized by:

- providing recreation opportunities on less developed land and water areas that serve multiple purposes such as habitat protection, timber management, and mineral resource extraction;
- assisting communities through cooperative planning, conveyance of state lands, and grants-in-aid for parks and trails within population centers;
- encouraging commercial development of recreational facilities and services through concession contracts, land sales, leases, and permits where public recreation needs can most effectively be provided by private enterprise, while minimizing environmental impacts and conflicts with the existing users of an area;
- protecting recreation resources including public access, visual resources, fish and wildlife important for recreation, and, where appropriate, the isolation and unique wilderness characteristics of the planning area;
- managing recreation to minimize user conflict, provide for a quality experience for all user groups, and protect the natural values and attributes of the area within which the recreation occurs; and,

- protecting ecosystems and habitat from damage caused by inappropriate recreation use.

Management Guidelines

A. Coordination with Other Landowners and Users of an Area. Recreation management, including the location and management of recreation facilities, will take into account the current and projected future uses of lands owned by local governments and private landowners, and should strive for compatibility with adjacent current and projected uses.

B. Roles of Different Public Land Owners in Providing Public Recreational Opportunities. Generally, the state's role is to retain and manage land supporting recreational opportunities of regional or statewide significance. The state and federal governments are most capable of providing recreational opportunities that require large land areas, while local government is generally best suited for providing and managing community recreation opportunities. To recognize local government's role in providing community recreation needs, the state may transfer state land designated Public Recreation-Dispersed (Rd) or state recreation sites within or near existing communities, if the municipality has parks and recreation powers and if this action is in the overall best interest of the state (AS 38.05.810). The selection of these sites shall be agreed to by local government and the state, and shall be contingent on the local government's commitment to develop and maintain the recreation uses, facilities, and values of these areas.

C. Public Use Sites. Uses that adversely affect public use sites or areas should not be authorized. Uses that are made available to the public, recreational or other sites (such as airstrip development or docks) may be authorized if consistent with the management intent for the public use site or area and if there is a demonstrated public need.

D. Private Commercial Recreation Facilities and Operations on State Land. Lodges or other private commercial facilities and operations designed to be run as, or to support, private commercial recreation facilities may be authorized if the facility or operation fulfills the conditions outlined in this section, conforms to the requirements of AS 38.05.850, AS 38.05.070 and .075 or AS 38.05.073, or a management plan is prepared in accordance with AS 41.21.302(c) authorizing the facility.

If so authorized, the facility or operation should be sited, constructed, and operated in a manner that creates the least conflict with natural values and existing uses of the area. The commercial facility and the use it generates should avoid significant adverse impacts on fish and wildlife habitat and existing uses of an area. For facilities supporting recreational fish and wildlife harvest, ADF&G should be consulted on the possible effects of increased harvest on fish and wildlife resources, and on established commercial, recreation, and subsistence users.

E. Commercial Recreation Leasing Processes. There are two processes for leasing state land for commercial recreational facilities – one process is described by AS 38.05.073, the other by AS 38.05.070 and .075. Unless Chapter 3 specifically requires the .073 commercial leasing process for a management unit, applications may be adjudicated under either process. DNR will determine the appropriate process on a case-by-case basis. ADOT/PF has its own leasing process that applies to land it manages in rights-of-way, airports, materials sites, and other lands and facilities it manages.

- 1) **The .070 / .075 Process.** The .070 / .075 process is simpler and faster, but it offers the state less flexibility in choosing the lessee and in structuring lease payments. It is generally suited to small projects with few anticipated impacts. The management intent for the parcel need not specifically state that this type of leasing is an allowed use for it to be authorized under this process.
- 2) **The .073 Process.** The .073 process is longer, but it allows submission of alternative proposals for a particular lease, requires more public involvement in reviewing a proposed lease, and offers the state more choices for structuring payments on the lease. The .073 process is generally suited to large projects that are likely to have significant impacts on surrounding areas. Under the .073 process, DNR will give public notice that it intends to solicit proposals for a lease. DNR will then prepare a “request for proposals” that must include specific information on the lease and must be advertised in state and local newspapers. Once a prospective lessee has been chosen, DNR must give public notice and hold public meetings on the preliminary decision to issue the lease.

For a .073 lease to be considered in a parcel, the plan must specifically allow for this type of leasing in a management unit before it can be authorized. Since no parcels are identified in this area plan specifically for commercial recreation leasing under the .073 process, a plan amendment will be required to accommodate this use.

DNR may impose eligibility standards, including proof of the developer’s financial backing and capability, experience in this type of development, ability to meet bonding or insurance requirements, and ability to comply with resource and environmental analysis requirements.

The .073 process requires that potential economic, social, and environmental impacts of the proposed project must be evaluated. DNR may require the prospective developer to fund additional studies; the studies must involve the appropriate state agencies, and ADF&G must approve any studies involving fish and game.

F. Permits and Leases Adjacent to Recreation Facilities. Upland uses may be allowed adjacent to public recreation facilities if the land manager determines that the two uses can be made compatible by design, siting or operating guidelines; or if the land manager determines there is no feasible and prudent alternative for the activity. This guideline also applies to sites reserved for future recreation facilities. The land manager’s determination will be made after consultation with the facility manager.

G. Protection of Resources. DNR, in its consideration of resources and in the management of state land, shall consider the impacts of such use upon fish and wildlife, habitat and soil degradation, and upon other forms of use that may occupy the area that is under consideration in the authorization. Uses that are not compatible with these uses and resources are to be made compatible through the use of stipulations. The ability of the Department to manage the subsequent activities that may result from the issuance of an authorization is to be taken into consideration in the adjudication of an application that requires a written determination by DNR.

H. Management of Recreation Use on State Lands. To the extent provided by law, DNR is to manage recreation use and activities to be consistent with state law and regulations generally, to enable a variety of uses and vehicles, while ensuring that adverse impacts to fish and wildlife species and habitats are avoided or minimized, and that user conflicts are avoided or minimized.

I. Consultation with ADF&G. Consult with ADF&G in the siting of facilities where impacts may occur to fish and wildlife species or to important habitats.

J. Other Guidelines that Affect Recreation, Tourism, and Scenic Resources. Other guidelines will affect recreation, tourism, and scenic resources. See other sections of this chapter.

Settlement

Background

The development of the Susitna Valley over the past 25 years has been characterized by extensive residential development. Most such development has occurred near or adjacent to the Parks Highway or in areas where the Matanuska-Susitna Borough or a private party, through the Borough platting process, has provided road access. It is likely that the next 25 years will see the further development of residential uses in the Susitna Valley, with the location and density of such uses the result of road access, favorable soils and terrain, and Borough platting requirements.

The Settlement designations in this revision of the Southeast Susitna Area Plan total approximately 26,587 acres or about 10% of the total state land inventory. Settlement areas primarily occur in the more accessible and better drained uplands in the Houston, Willow, Kashwitna, and Kashwitna Uplands regions. Reflecting the limited remaining state land there, there are relatively few settlement areas within the Palmer-Wasilla region, which also includes the Knik - Point MacKenzie subregion.

The application of the Settlement designation to a specific parcel resulted from the consideration of a number of factors. It was primarily based on whether it had reasonable access by road, water, or air, consisted of topography that would be suitable for development, and posed minimal conflict with recreation, scenic values, important fish and wildlife resources, or resource development. Compatibility with adjacent land uses and the plan designations used herein were also considered.

The MSB has developed and will continue to develop local comprehensive plans for specific parts of the Borough. These are intended to identify preferred land use patterns and development stipulations. DNR reviews these plans in the course of developing management plans or area plans, and often makes use of their recommendations. However, while community comprehensive plans can make recommendations for state lands within their planning areas, they cannot establish land use designations or other planning requirements for state land. State land use designations are decided on a regional basis through the state planning process and local plans do not supersede state plans for the use of state lands.

Goals

Private Land Ownership. Provide suitable public land for transfer to private ownership for settlement purposes. DNR will attempt to satisfy three settlement categories within the planning area:

- 1) **Seasonal residences for recreation.** DNR will offer land suitable for seasonal recreation use. This land will be provided as demand warrants, subject to the availability of funding. This category of land disposal is intended to provide land, often in remote locations, for recreational needs. No public facilities and services are intended to be provided.
- 2) **Year-round residences for community expansion.** DNR will offer accessible land suitable to meet the needs of existing communities. This category serves people whose principal place of residence and work is, or will be, in the area of the disposal. It also includes land disposals of commercial and industrial land to accommodate the expansion needs of communities. This land will be provided as demand warrants, subject to the availability of funding.
- 3) **Industrial or commercial development.** DNR will sell, lease, or protect for future use suitable land for private commercial and industrial uses. Within the SSAP planning area most land designated Settlement is intended for residential use. Relatively few parcels are suitable for possible commercial or industrial development and these are indicated in the Resource Allocation Table. If DNR sells the land, the timing of this disposal will depend on market demand and adequate funding.

Community, Social, and Aesthetic Values. In designing future disposals, DNR will maintain compatibility with the cultural lifestyle and aesthetic values of residents and users, and minimize undesired impacts on those values while considering the needs and demands of all state residents.

Protection of Critical Recreational Areas and Environmental Resources. Sensitive environmental features, habitat resource areas, and areas (or corridors) used by local residents for recreation will be taken into consideration in subdivision design and subdivisions should be developed to protect or maintain these features.

Fiscal Impacts. Land disposals should be sited and planned to minimize the costs of infrastructure and other services resulting from settlement. Disposals should be focused on areas of existing settlement; areas along the road system or a waterway that can be easily accessed by water transport; or areas where service requirements may be provided by local government or community organizations.

Coordination with Local Governments and Landowners. Where state land adjoins Borough land and where both areas are designated for Settlement, consideration should be given to the coordination of land disposal programs in order to achieve economies of scale and reduce infrastructure costs. Coordinate state land offering programs with similar programs of local governments and major landowners to best achieve common objectives.

Management Guidelines

A. Planning and Coordination

- 1) **Competition.** The state may compete with the private sector or local governments if necessary to satisfy demand, provide market choice, or moderate unreasonably high prices.
- 2) **Local Plans.** DNR will comply with provisions of the Borough comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance (if applicable) regarding the location and density of land development except to the extent that local requirements are inconsistent with a major overriding state interest.
- 3) **Coordination with Local Governments.** Where state land adjoins Borough land and where both areas are designated for Settlement, consideration should be given to the coordination of land disposal programs in order to achieve economies of scale and reduce infrastructure costs.
- 4) **Pacing.** Settlement offerings may be phased over 20 years, the life of this plan. The timing and extent of disposals will depend upon anticipated demand, availability of funding, the rate of community expansion, the availability of or costs to provide necessary infrastructure, and the particular land requirements of such expansion. Another factor may be whether the disposal will generate a demand for services that cannot be reasonably expected to be met by local government or community organizations.
- 5) **Areas Designated General Use.** The large areas of state land within the Southeast Susitna that are designated General Use (about 7,500 acres) are generally not suitable for development during the planning period. Most General Use areas are inaccessible and remote and generally unsuitable for development because of the presence of adverse topography, drainage, and extensive areas of wetlands that adjoin these areas. This makes the uplands within the General Use areas difficult to develop because of the costs and difficulty of road construction in the adjacent wetlands. For these reasons, residential development during the planning period in areas designated General Use is considered generally inappropriate except in those areas that adjoin parcels designated Settlement, where road access has been provided to adjoining properties, or for remote land disposals that are not dependent upon access.
- 6) **Ensure Access to Remote Settlements.** The state should continue to coordinate with the MSB on the identification and dedication of trailheads and trail easements that provide access to remote/recreational parcels off the road system. As part of the development of remote settlement areas, DNR should consider the provision of staging areas, parking areas, and/or trailheads in order to accommodate landowners parking vehicles and other equipment while accessing their remote parcels.

B. Types of Settlement Land and Land Offerings. The nature of state land available for private ownership is influenced by both the characteristics of land designated for settlement, and the type of land sales program that makes it available. The Southeast Susitna Area Plan designates certain lands for settlement and provides guidelines for land sales, but does not develop or require a specific land sales program.

Unlike other recent area plans, this plan does not designate a particular type of settlement pattern. In other area plans, a distinction is made between remote settlement and subdivision type settlement offerings. This approach is appropriate in large geographic areas where there is a mix of state land adjacent to communities and remote from such areas. The Bristol Bay Area Plan provides an example of this situation. This is not the case in the Southeast Susitna where most development will be fairly close to population centers and a developed road system, and it is expected that most state land will be offered as presurveyed lots. However, it is also possible that the remote eastern areas of the Kashwitna-Willow Uplands region may be suitable for remote staking. The decision as to which type of settlement pattern (presurveyed lots or remote staking) is appropriate is to be made on a case-by-case basis by DMLW.

C. Protection, Management, and Enhancement of Other Resources

- 1) **Protect Life and Property.** DNR should design and develop subdivisions to protect life and property. Sensitive areas such as wetlands or potentially dangerous areas such as areas with unstable soil, riverbanks subject to active stream erosion, or within floodways or floodplains, should be avoided in subdivision design or protected by retaining these areas in state ownership or restricting their use through developmental reservations or restrictions. Easements or plat notes can be used for this purpose in lieu of retaining land in state ownership.
- 2) **Protect and Manage Valuable Environmental Areas.** The state will provide, in its design of land disposals, an open space system to preserve important fish and wildlife habitats and natural areas such as shorelands, freshwater wetlands, and riparian lands. Where appropriate other design and management approaches may be used; these may complement an open space system or substitute for it, although preference should be given to the provision of an open space system.

These areas should be designed to provide the necessary linkage and continuity to protect or increase values for human uses and wildlife movements. In some places, large areas may be protected to provide adequate terrestrial habitat.
- 3) **Priority of Public Uses in Stream Corridors.** Within stream corridors, DNR will set a higher priority on protecting public use values than on providing opportunities for private ownership of land. Disposals near streams with important recreation value will be designed to protect riparian habitat and protect access to and along the stream for fishing, hiking, camping, and other recreational activities. Disposals near streams that have important fish or wildlife habitat or wildlife value will be designed to insure the protection of the habitat or wildlife.

In certain limited cases, it may be appropriate to provide land for private use, but such an action must be in the overall best interests of the state. Before lands are disposed of in stream corridors, DNR will assess existing and projected public use needs associated with the stream corridor, in consultation with other affected agencies and the public. Depending on the context, DNR may either protect these areas through retaining land in state or public ownership or through the imposition of a reservation of an interest in land for the maintenance of riparian values and access.

- 4) **Protect and Enhance Scenic Features.** DNR will design and develop subdivisions to protect or maintain unique geologic and scenic features such as cliffs, bluffs, or waterfalls. These areas should be avoided altogether or protected in subdivision design and development through the use of reservations or plat restrictions. Where scenic views exist, lots should be oriented to this feature.
- 5) **Mineral Closing Orders.** Generally, state upland parcels designated Settlement do not coincide with patterns of historical or potential mining activity in the planning area. Since little potential conflict is expected to exist, this plan does not create any new Mineral Closing Orders or Leasehold Location Orders. However, Mineral Closing Orders are recommended for use at the time that an area is being considered for disposal for purposes of settlement or other forms of development that would be inconsistent with mining activity. The timing of the closure is at the discretion of the Department, but should be early enough in the process to avoid the inadvertent staking of mining claims. The current Mineral Closing Orders affecting existing areas of settlement or proposed settlement will be retained.
- 6) **Timber Harvest.** Timber harvests are considered appropriate in areas designated Settlement if intended to support the costs of subdivision development, provide access to the subdivision, or provide ancillary facilities subject to the other requirements of the Forestry standards in this Chapter. Selective harvesting of timber before construction of the subdivision is considered appropriate, if authorized by the Regional Manager, DMLW. Land conveyed out of state ownership for the purpose of settlement, or another form of active land use, shall not be used for commercial timber harvest and sale. Subdivisions or disposals of state land by DNR shall preclude the sale of merchantable timber harvested on lots or parcels conveyed out of state ownership. The format used to impose this restriction is at the discretion of the Regional Manager, DMLW. This guideline is not intended to preclude the cutting of trees or other vegetation as part of the process of land clearing or site development.
- 7) **Protect and Enhance Recreational, Educational, and Cultural Opportunities.** DNR should determine the need for and retain appropriate areas for outdoor recreation, hunting, fishing, trails, campsites, boat launches, historic sites, and areas for scientific study. Areas for intensive and dispersed use will be preserved.

D. Design.

- 1) Provide State Land for Important Environmental and Resource Development Purposes.** DNR, as a general policy, should retain appropriate green belts, public-use corridors, water supply areas, riparian and coastal buffer areas, material sites, roads and other public facilities, as well as other open space to create a desirable land use pattern in developing areas. Where appropriate other design and management approaches may be used; these may complement retained areas or substitute for them.

Generally, however, subdivision design should provide for the creation of an open space system designed to protect or maintain important uses and values. Depending on the context, DNR may either protect these areas through retaining land in state or public ownership or through the imposition of a reservation of an interest in land for the maintenance of riparian values and access.

- 2) Cost of Public Services.** In accordance with AS 38.04.010, DNR will focus year-round settlement to areas where services exist or can be provided with reasonable efficiency. State land that is located beyond the range of existing schools and other necessary public services or that is located where development of sources of employment is improbable will be sited and designed to encourage seasonal use with sufficient separation between residences so that public services will not be necessary or expected. Wildfire management costs that result from settlement will be considered and minimized to the extent feasible.
- 3) Ensure Access.** DNR should ensure that legal, practical public access (roads, trails, or other options most appropriate to the particular situation) is identified and reserved to and within land offerings. However, the state is not legally obligated to construct roads. In instances where a subdivision or other development is to abut a major arterial, the location of driveway and main road access is to be coordinated with ADOT/PF and other approving agencies. Section line or other easements should not be relied on for access without field inspection of the practicality of such routes, where topography or other conditions might make the practicability of the section line location suspect. Identified access routes should be described in the land-offering brochure. Where needed to reduce the likelihood of conflicts with existing private owners, DNR may brush or flag public access routes to land offering projects.
- 4) Subdivision Design.** Subdivisions will be designed to preserve and enhance the quality of the natural setting and the recreational opportunities that make an area attractive to potential buyers. State subdivision design will take account of site limitations and opportunities such as slope, drainage, soils, erosion, riparian zone and coastal buffer, and other features to ensure that sites offered are buildable and can be developed without the need for extensive public infrastructure. DNR should review Borough subdivision requirements prior to the initiation of subdivision design. See also design requirements in C(1) and D(1), described previously.

E. Maintenance of State Land Base. Areas designated Settlement are intended to be used to provide a land base for DNR's long term land disposal program. This land is not to be converted to other designations or land use classifications except through a plan amendment and a public meeting.

F. Other Guidelines Affecting Settlement. Other guidelines will affect settlement. See other sections of this chapter.

Shorelands and Stream Corridors

Goals

Recreation. Provide opportunities for a variety of recreational activities within publicly owned stream and tideland corridors, including both wilderness and developed recreational activities.

Habitat. Protect fish and wildlife habitats along tidelands, lakeshores, stream corridors and wetlands.

Water Quality. Protect water quality to support domestic uses, fish and wildlife production, and recreational activities. Protect watersheds that supply community drinking water.

Water Dependent and Water Related Uses. Provide for needed water dependent and water related uses.

Management Guidelines

A. Alaska Clean Water Act (ACWA). In accordance with the ACWA program, DNR will work with the departments of Fish and Game and Environmental Conservation to protect and improve water quality, water quantity and fish habitat. Any development that impacts anadromous fish bearing waters or resident fish streams under AS 41.14.870 and .880 may require a permit from ADF&G.

B. Priority of Public Uses in Stream Corridors. DNR will place a higher priority on protecting public use values in stream corridors than on providing opportunities for private ownership or development of land. However, the department recognizes the demand for property along streams and will provide land for private purchase in some stream corridors. Prior to the disposal of stream corridor lands, DNR, in consultation with other affected agencies and the public, will assess existing and projected public use needs associated with the stream corridor. State land sales programs near streams having important recreation value will be designed to protect access to and along the stream for fishing, hiking, camping, and other recreational activities. Similarly, disposals near streams that have important fish or wildlife habitat or wildlife value will be designed to ensure the protection of the habitat and wildlife.

C. Public Access Adjacent to Waterbodies. Pursuant to AS 38.05.127, legal public access will be reserved in order to protect the public's right to travel to and along the shore of a waterbody without encouraging trespass. Permits, leases, and plans of operation for commercial and industrial uses, transportation facilities, pipelines and other water dependent uses may be authorized on state uplands adjacent to waterbodies if their activities are

consistent with the management intent for the area and if they maintain tideland and stream bank access, and protect important fish and wildlife habitat, public water supplies, and public recreation. Trails and other forms of non-motorized public access are generally considered to be appropriate within these areas, if they meet the conditions listed in 11 AAC 96.025.

Where feasible and prudent, there should be setbacks between these activities and adjacent waterbodies. The width of this setback may vary depending upon the type and size of the use, but must be adequate to maintain public access to and along riparian areas.

D. Protection of Land Adjacent to High Value Waterbodies. When the management intent for state land adjacent to waterbodies (including tidelands, streams, or lakes) is to protect wildlife habitat, anadromous or high value resident fish streams, or provide for intensive recreation uses associated with fishing, picnicking, hunting, camping, or other similar uses, the state should retain ownership of the adjacent uplands. Alternatively, to minimize on-going management responsibilities or for some other public purpose, a riparian buffer should be imposed. See Table 2-1 for requirements related to ‘riparian buffers’. In instances involving a land disposal, the area of a riparian buffer may be reserved as public open space to be maintained by a common interest association. Whichever method is chosen, they should be designed to minimize negative impacts on visual character, habitat value, water quality, and ensure public access.

State-owned buffers or riparian buffers may be retained along the full length of the waterbody or on segments of the waterbody determined to have high current or future use, public use, or to require habitat protection. If the intent is to provide forested wildlife habitat, the width and configuration of this buffer shall be determined prior to or during preliminary subdivision design or in the Forest Land Use Plan by DNR in consultation with ADF&G.

E. Retention of Access Easements Adjacent to Waterbodies. For waterbodies that are not anadromous and where the primary management intent is to protect the public’s right to travel or provide access for utilities, a public use easement under AS 38.05.127 (‘to and along’) should be imposed. The public rights retained in an easement shall be identified and noted in the DNR decision document and on the subdivision plat. In areas that may be sensitive to vehicular travel, the easement should be reserved for pedestrian access only. Access easements may be used in combination with state land that is to be retained for public use or for the protection of environmental resources. In these situations, easements may be used to provide access to areas of state retained sensitive land, or provide access corridors between lots or parcels within the subdivision.

F. Protection Easements and Setbacks to Non-Anadromous Waterbodies. Easements³ or building setbacks⁴ may be used in those instances where public recreation use is moderate or where sensitive habitat or other environmental resources exist but are not of the same importance as described under Management Guideline D. See the requirements for ‘Sensitive Environmental Areas’ in Table 2-1 to determine when an easement is to be applied. The purpose of the easement or setback should be noted in the Department decision document, and on the subdivision plat. Where a protection easement or setback is to be applied, vehicular use within the area of the easement is inappropriate and should not be authorized. Building setbacks may be used in lieu of a protection easement in those instances where it is not appropriate or necessary for the state to retain any easement rights *or* they may be used in combination with buffers, access easements, and protection easements. Building setbacks used in this fashion provide an added level of protection. See the requirements for ‘Building Setbacks’ in Table 2-1.

G. Lakeshore Public Access. A portion of the lakefront on lakes greater than 10 acres that have or may be expected to have public recreation and all inlets and outlets of lakes of this size and capable of sustaining year-round natural or stocked game fish species shall remain in public ownership for habitat protection and public recreation. Adequate public access to these lakes shall also remain in public ownership or is to be provided through section line or ‘to and along’ easements. The amount of public ownership may vary on a site specific basis, but, at a minimum, some portion of these lakes shall remain public. The size of the public reservation shall be appropriate to its expected long range recreational use and relative to the size of the lake. A width of 100’ or more measured from OHW is to be retained or protected through an easement along inlet and outlet streams. Public use sites on lakes of 10-20 acres shall have at least 4 contiguous acres reserved for public access. For lakes larger than 20 acres a public use site of at least 6 acres shall be provided. Units affected by this requirement are identified in the Resource Allocation Tables of Chapter 3.

H. Buffer, Easement, and Building Setback Widths

- 1) The width of state retained land, access and protection easements, and building setbacks adjacent to waterbodies (tidelands, lakes, streams) will vary, depending on whether the area is a retained parcel or imposed easement, and according to management intent and the specifics of the parcel under consideration. In addition, this width may vary along the area of the tideland, stream, or lake that is to be protected. Establishing widths, especially for publicly retained lands, will be based on the following considerations: recreational activities to be accommodated, floodway and floodplain widths, habitat protection and management objectives, visual quality, use compatibility, prevention of erosion, or retention of a significant hydraulic resource (like a wetland).

³ These areas are often referred to as ‘protection areas’ in the management units described in the Resource Allocation Tables on Chapter 3.

⁴ The Borough applies a setback of 75’ adjacent to waterbodies. Setbacks applied to state land shall at least be this width.

- 2) Although these widths may vary, the following criteria are provided to establish the minimum width that can be expected on various types of buffers, easements, and setbacks. They are specified here in order to establish some consistency in application and ensure a minimum level of resource and habitat protection or public access. Distances are measured landward from ordinary high water along streams and other inland waterbodies and from the line of mean high water adjacent to coastal waters. Because of the linear nature of streams and certain other habitat or hydraulic features, these minimum dimensions will apply to both sides of the feature that is to be protected. For example, the total protected area along a stream with a 100 foot setback would be 200 feet (100 feet each side).

If state land is to be retained, it may be preferable to retain a larger width, often 200 feet on each side. Widths greater than 200 feet may also be warranted, depending on the specific site characteristics and the importance of the habitat or resources to be protected.

- a) Riparian buffers on retained⁵ public land along anadromous and high value resident fish streams and waters: 100-150 feet along each side of the anadromous stream or water, consistent with FRPA requirements under AS 41.17.118. (Widths greater than this amount, up to 300 feet, may be authorized if, after consultation with ADF&G, it is determined that larger widths are necessary to protect fisheries, wildlife, or habitat).
- b) Buffers on other freshwater waterbodies on retained public land: 50 feet along each side of the stream or 50 feet along the shoreline of lakes.
- c) Protection easements⁶ used in areas of important environmental features: 50 feet on each side of important environmental features, such as high value wetlands. Distances greater than 50 feet (up to 100 feet) may be appropriate if the feature being protected is considered to be especially sensitive to disturbance and is considered a particularly high value resource; such features might include lacustrine and riverine wetlands, springs, salt licks, or geologic hazards requiring additional distance separation for public safety. Consult ADF&G if there is a question as to whether a width greater than 50 feet should be considered.
- d) Public access easements, including ‘to and along’ easements required under AS 38.05.127, or utility easements adjacent to tidelands, lakes, and streams: 50 feet.⁷
- e) Building setbacks: 100 feet adjacent to anadromous waterbodies and 75 feet adjacent to all other waterbodies. The use of a building setback is usually not required if a ‘riparian buffer’ is being imposed in an authorization. Riparian

⁵ In those instances where state land adjacent to an anadromous waterbody is not to be retained by the state, a non-development easement or buffer should be applied. Uses within these easements shall be as noted in the following table or as specified in regulation.

⁶ These areas are sometimes referred to as ‘protection areas’ in management unit descriptions in Chapter 3.

⁷ Other types of utility easements may be less than this width, depending on the purposes of the easement.

buffers preclude principal and most accessory structures within the riparian area; only water dependent uses are authorized in these areas. For more detail see 'riparian buffer' in Table 2-1.

I. Application Requirements for Easements and Buffers Along Waterbodies and Related Environmental Features. Table 2-1 specifies widths and other requirements for easements, buffers and public access in order to ensure consistency between authorizations along waterbodies and related environmental features. On a case-by-case basis, widths may be wider, in order to accommodate floodplain width, bank characteristics, size of the waterbody, extent of present or expected future public use, the need to protect important environmental features, or other relevant factors. Widths can be narrower on a case-by-case basis if it is determined that the harm intended to be avoided by the requirement is not likely to occur because of site-specific circumstances. However, the strip of land must be of sufficient width to allow for public access as well as to screen the waterbody from development, where possible, with an undisturbed strip of vegetation.

J. Filling or Leasing of Tidelands for Residential Uses or Structures. No filling or leasing for residential uses or structures shall be allowed. Access improvements on state tidelands and submerged lands for residential uses and structures, such as docks and boat haul outs, shall also not involve the use of fill.

K. Filling or Leasing of Tidelands for Non-Residential Uses and Structures. If consistent with the requirements of the Alaska Coastal Management Program or a Coastal District Plan, authorizations may be granted for the filling of state tidelands and submerged lands for those non-residential uses or structures that are water-related or water-dependent.

L. Other Guidelines for Shorelines and Stream Corridors. Other guidelines will affect shorelines and stream corridors. See other sections of this chapter.

Table 2-1: Application Requirements for Easements and Buffers Along Waterbodies and Related Environmental Features

Guideline/ Description	Minimum Width/ Measured From	Where it Applies	Primary Purpose	Guidelines
<p>1. Public Access (To and Along Easement)</p> <p>Adjacent to all navigable waters⁸</p>	<p>50 feet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Landward from ordinary high water line (OHW) ** Landward and seaward from mean high water line 	<p>Along:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Lakes * Streams ** Tidelands 	<p>Provide public access along navigable and other waterbodies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibited: Residential structures, fences, and other non-water-dependent structures that will obstruct passage. • ‘Along’ portion of ‘To and Along’ easement is to be continuous unless topography or land status prevents a continuous easement. • The ‘To’ portion of the ‘To and Along’ easement has a minimum width of 50 feet but may be increased to 60 feet or more if DNR determines that the need for increased public access to navigable and public waters may justify construction of a road along an easement. • A section line easement under AS 19.10.010 can function as a ‘To’ easement to the extent that the section line easement runs on state land and if the section line easement provides a practical route to the shore or river.
<p>2. Riparian Buffers</p> <p>(Sometimes referred to as ‘protection areas’ in Chapter 3 management unit requirements.)</p>	<p>100-150 feet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Landward from ordinary high water line ** Landward and seaward from mean high water line 	<p>Along:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Retained public land * Anadromous and high value resident fish streams and lakes. 	<p>Protect riparian areas adjacent to anadromous and high value resident fish streams and lakes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibited: Residential structures, fences, and other non-water-dependent structures that will obstruct passage or those uses that may be prohibited by state regulations. • Widths are to be consistent with FRPA requirements under AS 41.17.118. Widths greater than this, up to 300 feet, may be authorized if, after consultation with ADF&G, it is determined that larger widths are necessary to protect fisheries, wildlife, or habitat.
<p>3. Freshwater Waterbodies Buffer</p> <p>Adjacent to all ‘public waters’</p>	<p>50 feet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Landward from OHW along streams and lakes that are not covered in item #2 but are considered to be ‘public waters’ or from the edge of the waterbodies, including wetlands, that are to be protected. 	<p>Along freshwater waterbodies that are determined to be ‘public waters’.</p>	<p>Protect areas adjacent to freshwater waterbodies that are not important riparian areas but that may be important for other public purposes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibited: Residential structures, fences and other non-water dependent structures. • Imposed as a public easement with the previous prohibitions. • Can be imposed in instances where the To and Along Easement is not applicable if necessary to meet the ‘Primary Purpose’. • Areas greater than 50 feet may be imposed on a case-by-case basis.

⁸ See 11 AAC 51.035 for determination of Navigable and Public Water. See also 11 AAC 51.045 for easements ‘To and Along Navigable and Public Water’. Other waters may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Guideline/ Description	Minimum Width/ Measured From	Where it Applies	Primary Purpose	Guidelines
4. Sensitive Environmental Features Buffer	50 feet *** Measured from edge of sensitive environmental feature.	Areas of important environmental features. These may include hydrologic features (wetlands, marshes), sensitive habitat areas, or areas subject to geotechnical constraints.	Protect sensitive environmental features not otherwise protected under Public Access, Riparian Buffers, or Freshwater Waterbodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitive environmental features may include wetlands, important upland habitat, prominent scenic features, and the like. • The imposition of this requirement is discretionary. • Prohibited: Residential (or other) structures and associated out buildings but not including utilities or minor accessory structures. • Imposed as a public easement with the previous prohibitions or those prohibitions that may be set by state regulation. • Where this easement is imposed as part of a municipal entitlement action, this width is also 50 feet. • Areas greater than 50 feet may be imposed on a case-by-case basis.
5. Building setback Adjacent to all waters except anadromous and high-value resident fish waters (see guideline 6 below)	75 feet * Landward from ordinary high water ** Landward from mean high water	Non-anadromous and non-high-value resident fish: * Lakes * Streams ** Tidelands	Protect public values, including access, recreation, and water quality along all waterbodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This requirement is imposed where feasible and prudent, and necessary to protect public values along the stream. • Does not apply to exceptions listed at bottom of table. • The imposition of this requirement is discretionary. • Areas greater than 75 feet may be imposed on a case-by-case basis.
6. Building setback Adjacent to anadromous and high-value resident fish waters	100 feet * Landward from ordinary high water ** Landward from mean high water	Anadromous and high-value resident fish: * Lakes * Streams ** Tidelands	Protect riparian fish habitat, water quality, and recreation values along anadromous and high-value resident fish waters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This requirement is imposed where feasible and prudent and where necessary to achieve or protect the 'Primary Purpose'. The imposition of this requirement is discretionary. • Applies only to non-water-dependent uses. Does not apply to exceptions listed at bottom of table. • The setback shall remain vegetated to maintain habitat values and stream stability. • Incorporate measures to prevent adverse changes including erosion, turbidity, sedimentation, and temperature differences within the waterbody or adjacent wetlands.

Where widths apply: * Freshwater areas ** Tidally-influenced areas *** Sensitive Environmental Features

For the definition of *anadromous waters* and *high-value resident fish waters* (derived from AS 41.17.950) see the *Glossary* in Appendix A. Exceptions that apply to items 5 and 6 above: a) Structures such as docks, bridges, and culverts whose purpose is access to or across the stream or lake; b) Uses that must be in or adjacent to the waterbody in order to function, such as placer mining activities, fish culturing, water supply intakes, and similar uses.

Subsurface Resources

Goals

Opportunities for Mineral Exploration and Development. Provide opportunities through state land management for the exploration and development of mineral resources.

Economic Opportunities. Provide economic opportunities and stability by managing state lands for the efficient and environmentally sound:

- transfer of minerals from uplands to transport vessels;
- disposal of tailings;
- development of state land and submerged land mining sites; and,
- siting of infrastructure to support development of mineral resources.

Management Guidelines

A. Mineral Exploration. By statute, exploration for locatable minerals is allowed on all state lands. A land use permit is required under most circumstances. Hand prospecting and exploration activities generally do not require a permit. DNR may determine that some forms of access will not be allowed in specific areas to avoid resource damage.

B. Open to Mineral Location. By statute, all state lands are open to mineral location unless specifically closed. Where an area is open to mineral location, a miner has the right to stake a mining location regardless of the surface use designation or classification. Any adverse effects of mining on surface resources or uses will be managed through compliance with state laws and regulations and borough ordinances and management intent and guidelines in this plan. Reclamation activities are directed by the Mining Reclamation Act (AS 27.19) and regulations (11 AAC 97). (Note: Mineral entry on Alaska Mental Health Trust Land is not authorized without the prior approval of the Trust Land Office of DNR in accordance with 11 AAC 99. Mineral entry on land owned by the University of Alaska is not authorized without the prior approval of the University of Alaska, Land Management office.)

C. Reclamation of Mined Land. The reclamation of mining operations, including placer mining, must meet the reclamation standards given in AS 27.19. The reclamation law provides a standard that miners must meet during and after mining. The mining operation must be conducted in a manner that prevents unnecessary and undue degradation of land and water resources and requires that reclamation occur “contemporaneously” with the mining

operation. Regulation 11 AAC 97 (Mining Reclamation) details the specific requirements that must be followed. In designated habitat areas, annual reclamation will be required concurrent with mining. Reclamation will be required to restore degraded fish and wildlife habitat and prevent hazards to navigation.

D. Mining in Fish Habitat. When DNR issues a permit for mining in or adjacent to designated fish habitat, conditions of the permit will require any necessary measures, such as levees, berms, seasonal restrictions, and settling ponds that will allow the operation to meet water quality standards and statutes and regulations governing the protection of fish. Mining in fish habitat requires permits from DEC and ADF&G. Such permits are not required in marine waters or estuarine areas outside of the intertidal channel of specified anadromous fish streams. The intertidal channel is that portion of the bed and banks below the mean high water level. However, a Special Area Permit issued by ADF&G is required if the project is located within a legislatively designated area, including uplands, estuaries or tidelands. Since less than 50% of all anadromous streams are listed in the ADF&G Catalogue of Anadromous Waters, DNR should consult with ADF&G prior to the issuance of an authorization where stream channels are present.

E. Offshore Prospecting Permits (OPP). Under AS 38.05.250 an exclusive right to prospect for deposits of minerals offshore may be granted through authorizations issued by DNR. DNR determines what areas will be offered for offshore prospecting. If workable mineral deposits are found offshore, the permittee must apply for a lease in order to develop the mineral deposit. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has stated that it has initially determined mining in areas designated Habitat and estuarine areas to be a nonconforming use under the ACMP. ACMP procedures will be used to determine whether mining can be made a conforming use and, if mitigation is possible, determine the appropriate mitigating measures needed to protect fish and wildlife resource values.

F. Mineral Closures

- 1) **Background.** The decision to apply mineral location closures will be made by the Commissioner of DNR within the standards set by Alaska Statutes. AS 38.05.185(a) requires that the Commissioner determine that mining is incompatible with a significant surface use before an area can be closed to mining. The same section of the statute requires that the Commissioner determine that a potential use conflict exists before imposing leasing requirements for development of locatable minerals. The fact that an area is closed to new mineral location will not be cause for denying access across state land. Mineral closures do not affect valid existing mineral locations.
- 2) **Land Closed to Mineral Entry.** State mining law stipulates that mining must be determined to be in conflict with significant surface uses before an area can be closed to mineral entry. There is little correspondence between the location of state upland parcels designated Settlement and historical or potential mining activity in the planning area. Since little potential conflict is expected to exist, this plan does not create any new mineral closing orders or leasehold location orders. The current

Mineral Closing Orders will, however, be retained. These affect extensive areas within the planning boundary, including most legislatively designated areas, many areas of settlement, both current and proposed, forestry areas in the Kashwitna Uplands region, anadromous streams⁹, and the previously proposed capital site south of Deception Creek. To determine the location of areas closed to mineral entry in the planning area consult the DNR Alaska Mapper, available on-line at: mapper.landrecords.info.

Mineral Closing Orders are recommended for use at the time that an area is being considered for disposal for purposes of settlement or other forms of development that would be inconsistent with mining activity. The timing of the closure is at the discretion of DNR but should be early enough in the process to avoid the inadvertent staking of mining claims. (Note: Mineral entry on Alaska Mental Health Trust Land is not authorized without the prior approval of the Trust Land Office of DNR in accordance with 11 AAC 99. Similar requirements apply to land owned by the University of Alaska.)

G. Oil and Gas Resources. It is probable that oil and gas resources are present within the planning area. The planning and decision making processes for oil and gas development occur under a separate section of Alaska Statutes (AS 38.05.180) and these processes are not included as part of area plans. For this reason, the area plan does not make any development decisions related to these resources, and defers all decisions regarding licensing or leasing of oil and gas to DNR's existing licensing and leasing processes.

Oil and gas sales are not subject to the regional planning process; instead they follow the planning process identified under AS 38.05.180. The land use designations of the plan are multiple use in character and do not preclude oil and gas development.

H. Other Guidelines Affecting Subsurface Resources. Other guidelines will affect subsurface resources. See other sections of this chapter.

⁹ The following streams are affected by mineral closing orders: Montana Creek, Sheep Creek, Kashwitna River, Deception Creek, and the Little Susitna River and certain of its tributaries. Consult Alaska Mapper to determine the precise location of the closure.

Public Access

Goals

Trails. Maintain, enhance, or provide adequate access within areas of development and between areas of current or future development.

Public Access. 1) Maintain, enhance, or provide adequate access to public and private lands and resources. Provide for future trail and access needs, and protect or establish trail corridors to ensure continued public access. 2) Ensure adequate opportunities for the public's use of public resources of local, regional, and statewide significance.

Management Guidelines: General Public Access

A. Reservation of Public Use Easements. Before selling, leasing, or otherwise disposing of the land estate, DNR will reserve public use easements pursuant to the requirements of 11 AAC 51.015. This section of administrative code establishes when public access easements are to be reserved and the widths of these easements. Specific standards for section line easements are identified in 11 AAC 51.025 and for easements to and along navigable and public waters, in 11 AAC 51.045. These sections of Administrative Code shall be used as the basis for the reservation of public access easements in authorizations granted by DNR.

B. Retain Access. Improve or maintain public access to areas with significant public resource values by retaining access sites and corridors in public ownership; reserving rights of access when state land is sold or leased; or identifying, managing and legally validating RS 2477 (Revised Statute Section 2477) rights-of-way. RS 2477 rights-of-way within the planning area that are identified in AS 19.30.400 (d) or otherwise determined by DNR to qualify as RS 2477 trails are to be retained in state ownership or made a stipulation of approval ('subject to') in the transfer of state land. Standards for the vacation of easements are contained in 11 AAC 51.065. Information regarding RS 2477 rights-of-way easements can be found at the DNR web site: dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/trails/rs2477.

C. Access to Non-State Lands. Reasonable access will be provided across state lands to other public and private lands. Existing legal access will not be precluded unless equivalent access is available.

D. Management of ANCSA 17(b) Easements. The state will identify any new 17(b) easements as required and ensure that public access is maintained on existing 17(b) easements. These easements are intended to provide access through private Native lands to public lands and waters. They are reserved and managed by the federal government.

Generally, DNR will not accept management of 17(b) easements unless the state already actively manages a portion of the trail or easement, or state management will best protect public access to state lands. Information regarding ANCSA 17(b) easements can be found at the DNR web site: dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/trails/index.htm.

E. Access for Development. When an access route is constructed for resource development over state land, public access to mineralized areas, recreation, fish, wildlife, or other public resources should be retained. If the new resource facility is likely to be of limited duration and provides superior access to the current means of access, the state should retain the new facility for public access. If the new facility will not or should not provide public access, the current means of public access should be retained. The development of new trails should not displace current methods of access without providing alternative routes.

F. Limiting Access. Access to state lands may be curtailed at certain times to protect public safety, provide for the remediation of public use areas, allow special uses, and prevent harm to the environment, fish and wildlife. Public access may be limited because of the presence of fire management operations, timber harvest, high soil moisture content when vehicular traffic may cause damage to the base or sub-base, or sensitive populations of fish or wildlife.

G. Siting and Constructing Temporary and Permanent Roads or Causeways.

Temporary and permanent roads or causeways will, to the extent feasible and prudent, be routed to avoid vegetated tideflats, avoid streams and minimize alteration of natural drainage patterns, and avoid long-term adverse effects on water quantity or water quality. If a temporary road is routed through vegetated tidelands, clean fill will be required and construction methods, which facilitate removal of the fill, will be required. Temporary roads should be obliterated when no longer needed for their original purpose.

H. Joint Use and Consolidation of Surface Access. Joint use and consolidation of surface access routes and facilities should be encouraged wherever it is feasible and prudent to do so¹⁰. Surface access also should be sited and designed to accommodate future development and avoid unnecessary duplication.

I. Protection of the Environment. In the siting of public access facilities, consideration is to be given to the effect of the proposed project or improvement on the natural environment, fish and wildlife species, and habitats identified in a management plan or this area plan as significant. Consult with ADF&G where appropriate.

J. Coordination with Borough Recreational Trails Plan. DNR, in its review of authorizations, material sales, timber harvests, and land disposals, shall review the borough Recreational Trails Plan. Provision is to be made for the recreational trails identified in this plan.

¹⁰ Note: There are instances where access routes should not be consolidated; their purposes may be at odds with one another or one consolidated route cannot effectively provide access to resources required by the public.

Management Guidelines: Trails Within and Between Developing Areas

A. General. The following guidelines pertain to the siting and development of trails within developed or developing areas and between these areas. This is a more specific application of the general public use easement. These types of facilities provide movement areas for people and, if appropriate, wildlife. The width and siting of trail corridors depends upon their function and location. Easements are used to create an access corridor, similar to the more general public use easements described previously.

B. Requirement for Trails. The Department shall assess the need for public access before selling, leasing, or otherwise disposing of the land estate. If local access needs are identified through the adjudication and agency or public review process, access trails shall be reserved. This will occur through the retention of state land in public ownership or through the creation of a public use easement. Under either approach, the public is to have the right of access within the area of state land or the public use easement.

C. Ownership. The following factors shall be considered by DNR in making the decision to retain the access corridor under state ownership or to provide for public access through a public use easement:

- 1) If the access (usually a trail within a developed or developing area) is used as a neighborhood collector trail that connects to a public open space system or a trail of regional significance, access should be retained in public ownership.
- 2) If a trail is used as access by neighborhood residents, it should be dedicated to local government or established as an easement to an entity willing to accept maintenance and management responsibility. This would typically occur when the purpose is to establish access between lots or to improve pedestrian circulation within subdivision.
- 3) If the access provides a connection to other areas and is considered of regional or statewide significance, it should be retained in public ownership.

D. Width of Trail Corridors. The width of the access corridor¹¹ shall be determined according to its function and location:

- 1) Within developed or developing areas, access corridors shall not be less than 25 feet in width for pedestrian movement and not less than 40 feet if motorized movement (other than car or truck) can be expected in addition to pedestrian travel. In areas where topographic conditions restrict development, widths less than 40 feet may be considered.¹²

¹¹ An access corridor includes the tread of the trail and an area immediately adjacent to the tread.

¹² Note: These standards apply to motorized uses other than cars or trucks, or similar sized and types of vehicles. The standards of 11 AAC 51.015(d)(1)(D) apply when a 'neighborhood service road' is to be established or when a public use easement is to be used by cars or trucks. The width of this road or easement is not less than 60 feet.

- 2) In all other areas, the width shall vary with terrain, function, and the need for separation from other uses, but shall not be less than 50 feet.
- 3) Trails or other access facilities of statewide or regional significance shall not be less than 50 feet in width.

E. Trail Rerouting. Standards for the vacation and modification of trails are identified in 11 AAC 51.065. Rerouting of trails may be permitted to minimize land use conflicts, reduce duplication in trail routings, or minimize habitat destruction. If trails are rerouted, provision should be made for construction of new trail segments if warranted by type and intensity of use. Rerouting trails shall be done in consultation with affected private users and public agencies. Rerouted trails should allow the same uses and activities as the original trail. Reroutes should not interrupt access, and reroutes should be established, open and usable for the intended uses before the original route is closed. Closed routes should be blocked off and restored.

F. Alignment with Crossings. When it is necessary for power lines, pipelines or roads to cross trails, crossings should be at a 90-degree angle. Vegetative screening should be preserved at trail crossings.

G. Access to Trailheads. Coastal access across state tidelands to designated trail corridors that begin at the shoreline will be protected.

H. Iditarod Race Trail. Where the Iditarod Race Trail passes through an area that is to be offered for settlement or other development, the trail will be located and protected by a publicly owned corridor 200 feet wide (100 feet on either side of the centerline). The corridor width may be expanded to minimize potential land use conflicts, reduce impacts of the trail on adjacent land uses, or to incorporate authorized safety cabins and cultural and historic sites. Rerouting of the trail corridor may be permitted with the consultation of the State Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) and the Iditarod Trail Committee or similar body in place at the time. No permanent structures or equipment should be placed in the trail corridor if they could adversely affect the trail experience or access along the trail. Where necessary, trail crossings may be permitted to allow access to lands on both sides of the trail. Crossings should be limited to a few discrete areas rather than scattered crossings in many places along the trail. In areas where the trail has been used previously for transporting heavy equipment to mining claims, this use will not be restricted unless there is significant potential for damaging the trail. If damage to the trail cannot be avoided, a feasible and prudent alternative route should be used and/or the activity should be permitted at a time that does not interfere with the race or trail conditions.

I. The Iditarod National Historic Trail System (INHTS). There are several trails and historic sites within the planning area that were identified as part of the INHTS. Some of these trails and sites are well defined while others are not. Minimum trail widths are generally wider than those established for regional trails. For permits and leases along the

INHTS, the State OHA will be consulted in addition to other notice requirements. The State of Alaska and the U.S. Department of the Interior have signed a memorandum of agreement covering management of the INHTS under terms of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the trail system. The trail will be managed in a manner consistent with the agreement.

J. Other Guidelines Affecting Public or Trail Management. A number of other guidelines may affect public and trail access management. See other sections of this chapter.

Chapter 3

Land Management Policies for Each Management Unit

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Chapter 3

Land Management Policies for Each Management Unit

Introduction

This chapter presents specific land management policy for all state uplands, tide and submerged lands, and shorelands within the planning area. See Figure 1-2 for a map of the plan area. Information on state lands is organized by region, of which there are eight¹. The regions include Willow, Kashwitna, Kashwitna-Willow Uplands, Susitna Corridor, Big Lake-Houston, and Palmer-Wasilla, which also includes the subregion of Knik- Point MacKenzie. Two other regions are included: one that encompasses three tideland units for Knik Arm and one that includes the six Legislatively Designated Areas (LDAs) within the planning boundary. The regions generally correspond to the spatial boundary of Borough communities, to particular geographic areas or resources, or to LDAs.

Figure 1-2 shows the planning area and regions while Figure 3-1 provides an index to the 10 plan maps at the end of this chapter.

Within the planning area there are 213,196 acres of general state uplands and 42,545 acres of tidelands and submerged lands. Most state uplands, 386,000 acres, occur within LDAs, such as State Game Refuges and State Recreation Areas. Generally, area plans do not apply to LDAs, with management direction being provided through enabling legislation and subsequent management plans, although area plans classify these areas in order to enable certain types of authorizations to be issued. This plan's recommendations apply to the remaining areas of state-owned land scattered about the planning area that make up about 256,000 acres within 159 management units. Most of these uplands occur within the Houston/Willow/Kashwitna regions; there are few remaining tracts of state land within the more developed portions of the Borough within Wasilla, Knik, and Palmer. State tidelands and submerged lands are associated with the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet and with that portion of Cook Inlet adjoining the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge.

The management requirements of this area plan do not apply to non-state lands, which includes, in the context of this plan, University of Alaska lands, Mental Health Trust Authority lands, and other state-owned lands directly administered by the ADOT/PF and ADF&G.

¹ **The Southeast Susitna Area Plan does not specifically include recommendations for the Fish Creek-Moraine Ridge Region. A management plan for this Region was adopted by the state and the Borough in 2010; see Map 5.**

Organization of Chapter

The chapter is organized into the following sections:

- *Land Use Designations*, which describe the general management direction for specific parcels of state land.
- *Management Intent*, which consists of an explanation of how specific units of state land are to be managed. Management intent language gives additional specificity to the general management direction provided by the land use designations.
- *Plan Duration and Flexibility*, which indicates the planning period and requirements for plan amendment.
- *Regional Setting*
- *Regional and parcel specific management* direction for state land.

Land Use Designations

A land use **designation** recognizes uses or resources that are of major importance in a particular management unit. Unit designations are based on current and projected future use patterns and the most significant resources identified in each unit. DNR will manage activities in the unit to encourage, develop, or protect the uses or resources for which the unit is designated.

When the plan assigns a designation to a unit, the designation is accompanied by region-wide management guidelines and by management intent specific to that unit. These three pieces of information – designations, management guidelines, and statement of intent – promote the most beneficial use and set conditions for allowing for non-designated uses. All three components must be taken into consideration when making an authorization decision.

Primary designated use. Many units have a primary designated use (versus units designated General Use). Primary designated uses may take precedence over other uses. Generally, however, DNR allows multiple uses. DNR initially presumes that all other uses are compatible with the primary use. However, if DNR determines that a use conflict exists and that the proposed use is incompatible with the primary use, the proposed use shall not be authorized or it shall be modified so that the incompatibility no longer exists (from 11 AAC 55.040 (c)). The plan may assign a designation to ensure a future use that will best serve the public interest, even if that use is not imminent.

Co-designated use. Where a unit has two or more designated uses, DNR will avoid or minimize conflicts between designated uses by applying the management intent statement and guidelines for the unit, the regional intent, and the Chapter 2 guidelines from this plan together with existing statutes, regulations, and procedures. Only those co-designations that

are generally complementary to or compatible with each other are included in this plan. Co-designated uses should, therefore, be viewed as compatible unless specific conditions that exist at the time the Department is evaluating whether to grant an authorization indicate otherwise.

Designations Used in This Plan

Ag - Agriculture. Land that is agricultural or that, by reason of its climate, physical features, and location, is suitable for present or future agricultural cultivation or development and that is intended for present or future agricultural use.

F - Forestry. Land that is or has been forested and is suited for long-term forest management because of its physical, climatic, and vegetative conditions. This land will remain in state ownership. Approving authorizations in these areas will be conducted in compliance with the Coastal Development standards in the Alaska Coastal Management Act (6 AAC 80.040), the Forest Resources Practices Act, statutory requirements for Five-Year Schedules of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans, the Susitna Forestry Guidelines (or successor documents), and the specific management guidelines in the Forestry section of Chapter 2.

Gu - General Use. Land that contains one or more resource values, none of which is of sufficiently high value to merit designation as a primary use, or, because of the size of the parcel, a variety of uses can be accommodated with appropriate siting and design controls is designated General Use. This designation may also apply where there is a lack of resource, economic, or other information with which to assign a specific land use designation, and/or the lack of current demand implies that development is unlikely within the planning period.

Ha - Habitat. This designation applies to areas of varied size for fish and wildlife species during a sensitive life-history stage where alteration of the habitat or human disturbance could result in a permanent loss of a population or sustained yield of a species. This land will remain in state ownership except for areas where a tidelands conveyance to a municipality is allowed under AS 38.05.820 and AS 38.05.825. This designation applies to uplands, tidelands, and submerged lands and to areas within LDAs.

This land will be maintained in an undisturbed, natural state except for improvements related to public health, safety, habitat restoration or rehabilitation, and public recreation. Authorizations within areas designated Habitat are not to be considered appropriate unless consistent with the previous objectives. Utilities and roads may be appropriate with appropriate design if habitat functions can be maintained.

Ma - Materials. Sites suitable for extraction of materials, which include common varieties of sand, gravel, rock, peat, pumice, pumicite, cinders, clay, and sod. This land will remain in state ownership until the material on the site is no longer required for state purposes (such as road construction and maintenance, materials storage, and public or state facilities) after

which these lands may be used for alternative purposes. See the Resource Allocation Tables to identify the types of uses that might be appropriate to a specific parcel. These lands cannot be sold and cannot be used for an alternative use without redesignation of the area plan and reclassification, although some sites may be suitable for other uses after material resources are exhausted.

Pr - Public Facilities-Retain. These sites are reserved for a specific infrastructure to serve state interests. These units are classified Reserved Use Land and are not selectable by municipalities under state law (except under AS 38.05.810). Units designated “Public Facilities-Retain” will be retained in state ownership.

Rd - Public Recreation-Dispersed. This designation applies to those areas that offer or have a high potential for dispersed recreation or tourism and where desirable recreation conditions are scattered or widespread rather than localized. Developed facilities are generally not necessary other than trails, trail signs, primitive campsites, and other minor improvements. This land will be retained in public ownership in an undisturbed, natural state except for improvements related to public health, safety, or recreation. Authorizations within areas designated Public Recreation-Dispersed are not to be considered appropriate unless necessary for public health, safety or recreation. Utilities and roads may be appropriate with appropriate design if recreation functions can be maintained.

Rp - Public Recreation-Public Use Site (Developed). Areas used by concentrations of recreationists or tourists relative to the rest of the planning area or areas with a high potential to attract concentrations of people who recreate and tourists. These areas offer localized attractions or ease of access, and in many instances developed facilities. Examples include marinas, cabins, lodges, anchorages, scenic overlooks, road-accessible shore locations that are used for picnicking, sports, fishing, etc. The recreation and tourism uses for which these units are designated may be either public or commercial. This land will remain in state ownership unless otherwise noted in the management intent for the unit. The primary management intent for these sites is to protect the opportunity of the public to use these sites, and their public values for recreation. Many of these sites require additional management attention because of the use they are receiving.

Se - Settlement. This designation applies to state uplands suitable for sale, leasing, or permitting to allow private recreational or residential use. This designation will generally be used for areas appropriate for land offerings for residential uses. Unsettled or unsold land in the unit will be managed for uses compatible with settlement. This may include uses such as selling additional lots, laying out new subdivisions, identifying greenbelts through subdivisions, reserving materials sites for subdivision roads and building lots, placing easements on access routes, or reserving lots for community facilities and open space. Areas designated Settlement should be closed to mineral entry prior to sale. This land may be conveyed to municipalities and individuals.

Wr - Water Resources. This designation applies to areas of important water sources, watersheds, or hydropower sites. In this plan it also includes important wetland areas, the intent of which is to maintain these in an undisturbed, natural state. This land will be retained in state ownership in an undisturbed, natural state. Authorizations within areas designated Water Resources are not to be considered appropriate unless necessary for public health and safety. Utilities and roads may be appropriate with appropriate design if the integrity of wetland and water resource functions can be maintained essentially intact.

Wd - Waterfront Development. This designation applies to areas of tidelands, submerged lands, or shorelands for water-dependent or water-related facilities, usually for industrial or commercial purposes. Waterfront development includes: piers, wharves, harbors, mineral transfer facilities, seafood processing facilities, commercial recreation facilities, and other resource development support facilities except for activities related to forestry, which is covered by the Forestry designation. Approving authorizations in these areas will be conducted in compliance with the coastal development standards in the Alaska Coastal Management Act (6 AAC 80.040). This land may be available for conveyance to municipalities under AS 38.05.820 and AS 38.05.825 but cannot be sold to individuals.

Explanation of Mineral Designations

Except where state land is closed to mineral entry, DNR will treat mining as if it were a co-designated use, or a use that is compatible with the principal surface use. This is important to note because DNR plans usually do not apply mineral resource designations to large areas. The problems in locating and measuring subsurface resources make it difficult and potentially misleading for this plan to apply designations to subsurface resources in the same way they are applied to surface resources. Chapter 2, *Subsurface Resources*, also includes additional guidelines and a summary of statutes regulating mining and reclamation activities.

Management Intent

The plan provides management intent for both the resources and types of authorizations that are expected to occur within the planning area as well as for specific management units. Management intent essentially describes how the Department intends to manage a resource or management unit and may both describe what is intended to occur as well as what is not intended to occur. It may also specify specific management direction. Also, the plan can provide management guidance for a resource without designating it. For example, the plan may address the resource by providing management intent for a specific area or through areawide guidelines. In addition, other state, federal, or local regulations will determine the conditions for using undesignated resources.

In some cases, the management intent for a unit discourages specific uses because these uses may create conflicts with designated uses. **Discouraged uses** may be allowed if DNR determines that the use does not conflict with the management intent, designated uses, and

the management guidelines. Discouraged uses include activities that should not be authorized or will not be allowed if there are feasible and prudent alternatives. If DNR determines that the discouraged use conflicts with the management intent or designated uses, and cannot be made compatible by following the management guidelines, DNR would allow it only through a plan amendment.

In some cases the plan may also identify **prohibited uses**. These are uses that have significant conflicts with other uses or resources and will not be permitted without a plan amendment. Prohibitions are rare, because the plan seeks to minimize land use conflicts through plan guidelines and intent rather than through prohibitions. Management intent statements for each unit refer only to state management of state land. While these statements accommodate certain proposed uses on tidelands and submerged lands, there is no guarantee that other regulatory agencies will issue permits necessary for the proposed use. All proposed development uses referenced in the management intent statements are assumed to employ best management practices in siting and operating the proposed use.

Disposal or Retention in State Ownership. Certain land use classifications, by statute, allow land to be conveyed to municipalities under the municipal entitlement program². The same statute identifies those land classifications that may not be conveyed.³ Another portion of statute (AS 38.04.015) identifies the general public interests in retaining areas of state land in public ownership. These principles were applied in developing the recommendations for retention of state land that is identified for specific parcels.

In this plan, the land use designation is the general indicator of whether land should be retained in state ownership or made available for disposal. However, some units have management intent that precludes disposal although the designation and classification might otherwise allow disposal. When this occurs, this restriction is noted in the management intent statement specific to the management unit in the Resource Allocation Table. This includes units already under management by another state agency or that contain certain unique or sensitive uses or resources that merit retention by the state. In addition, units already under management agreements with other state agencies are usually not available for conveyance. In no case can DNR convey the subsurface estate to municipalities or individuals. Submerged lands, tidelands, and shorelands must be retained in state ownership unless law requires conveyance or the conveyance is to a political subdivision of the state. These conveyances are subject to the Public Trust Doctrine, described in this chapter.

² The Municipal Entitlement of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough will have been satisfied through implementation of recent entitlement decisions (2006) and as a result no further entitlement selections under AS 29 can occur.

³ AS 29.65.130 identifies those land use classifications that permit conveyance under the Municipal Entitlement Act. In this area plan, the designations of General Use and Settlement are considered appropriate for the conveyance of lands out of state ownership. These convert to the classifications of Resource Management Land and Settlement Land.

Tidelands, Submerged Lands and Shorelands. DNR will provide reasonable access across state tidelands to upland owners. Upland access across state tidelands, including developed access facilities, may be allowed within all land use designations where DNR determines the proposed facilities are consistent with the management intent and applicable guidelines of the plan. However, state tideland use designations do not give the public access rights to adjacent private uplands.

Management Guidelines

Most state lands will be managed for multiple uses. Exceptions are lands that will be offered for private lease or ownership, recreation sites that are less than 640 acres, and certain other areas that have unique habitat or public recreation values. When used, management guidelines specify requirements for the use of or development within a management unit. Apart from this, the plan establishes management guidelines in order to allow various uses to occur without serious conflicts. Management guidelines can direct the timing, amount, or specific location of different activities to make the permitted uses compatible. For example, the plan provides guidelines that require that land disposals must be designed to protect public access and recreational opportunities.

Duration and Flexibility of Plan

This plan guides land uses for the **next 20 years or until revised**, subject to periodic reviews, for areas with designations involving settlement, industrial or commercial uses, or other forms of economic uses including material extraction, timber harvest, or uses related to community or recreational development. Designations related to passive use designations, including habitat, harvest, undeveloped recreation, heritage, and water resources do not have a specific planning horizon. The area plan is intended to guide the management of land within the latter areas until the plan is formally revised. In some instances, areas designated General Use may not be appropriate for development within the planning period and, if so, this is indicated in the management intent language.

The land use designations shown on the maps in this chapter are intended to be flexible. DNR may permit uses not originally designated if DNR determines they are consistent with the management intent for the unit and consistent with applicable management guidelines.

Boundaries of land use designations shown on the plan maps may be modified through implementation activities, such as site planning or disposal, as long as modifications adhere to the intent of the plan and follow the procedures described in Chapter 4 under the section *Type of Plan Changes*.

Glossary

Definitions of terms used frequently in the plan are found in the *Glossary, Appendix A*.

Plan Structure

Plan Regions

The plan boundary of the area plan is wholly within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and encompasses the more central and developed portions of the Borough. This area includes the communities of Wasilla and Palmer, the Houston-Big Lake area, and the area west (to the Susitna River) and east (to the Hatcher Pass Management area) of the Parks Highway north to the intersection of the Parks Highway and the Talkeetna Spur Road. Within this area there are eight regions, or major geographic divisions. Regions are typically large geographic areas characterized by lands contiguous to each other and having generally similar characteristics. With the exception of one region, each contains state land for which the area plan provides guidance. One region encompasses the six LDAs within the planning boundary. In this instance, the plan does not provide management guidance other than to provide a plan designation for the LDAs, which is required in the event that the Department needs to issue leases or other authorizations that constitute disposals of state land. Except for the one Tideland region, the other regions contain both uplands and shorelands. Figure 1-2 in Chapter 1 depicts the plan boundary, the seven principle plan regions, and the LDAs.

At the time of this plan's preparation information on the Moraine Ridge-Fish Creek Region is not included. A separate Fish Creek Management Plan for this area was developed jointly with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and adopted in 2010.

Management Units

In the area plan, units of state uplands and tideland have been separated into smaller geographic units called management units. State resource management is specific to this level. Management units⁴ may be large or small but usually have generally similar attributes; or they may be specific legal units like a tract within a residential subdivision; or they may be a discrete area of state land affected by a management agreement that is to be administered for a public purpose, like a port, vehicle storage facility or airport. There are 156 upland units and three tideland units.

⁴ Management units are also sometimes referred to as 'units' or 'parcels' in this plan.

All units have a discrete identifying number (i.e., unit number). These are depicted on the plan maps and are included in the Resource Allocation Table. This number provides a cross-reference between the plan maps and the tables containing information about the parcel. The Table contains information on the resources found within the unit as well as plan designation, management intent, and, if required, management guidelines.

Unit numbers are preceded by an alpha character that represents a particular place or area, with the following convention being applied: 'P' represents Wasilla-Palmer ; 'S', Susitna Corridor; 'U', Kashwitna-Willow Uplands; 'H', Houston-Big Lake, 'W', Willow, and 'K', Kashwitna. 'T' is used for the Tideland Region and 'L', for Legislatively Designated Areas.

A specific convention is used to identify the various types of upland and tideland units. Upland units have a geographic identifier (a single alpha character that represents an area) followed by a two-digit identifying number. Tideland tracts have the geographic identifier of "T", followed by "T" indicating a tideland unit (for example TT-01). Tideland areas include both tideland and submerged lands.

Region Descriptions

The regions are described in this section of the plan. These descriptions are necessarily generalized and indicate only the general features or characteristics of an area and only give an overview of how the region is to be managed by the Department. In addition, there are short descriptions of the two somewhat unique regions that pertain to tidelands and Legislatively Designated Areas (LDAs). Because management intent for LDAs is established by legislation, information is necessarily limited and does not follow the following convention. Included in these descriptions for the major region are the following:

Background: This component provides a description of the planning boundaries and related geographic information.

State Lands: The distribution of state lands within the region is explained.

Physical Features: The general topography of the upland tracts is described.

Resources and Uses: The current uses of state land, both uplands and tidelands, as well as their resources, are described. Resources and uses include descriptions of recreational, settlement, habitat and harvest, water resources, and commercial timber.

Access: The principal mode(s) of access to state uplands are identified.

Management Constraints and Considerations: Local, state, and federal land and resource plans affecting the planning region are identified.

Management of State Land: This section describes the general way that state land, tidelands and uplands, are to be managed. This section is usually organized in a geographic basis. Note: *Specific management direction is contained in the Resource Allocation Tables.*

Plan Maps

There are ten plan maps that cover the Southeast Susitna Area Plan. They are found at the end of this chapter and Figure 3-1 provides an index. These maps indicate the plan boundary (external boundary of the area plan), the boundaries of the eight regions, and the boundaries of the individual management units.

The plan maps also show land ownership, unit numbers, and plan designations. It should be reemphasized that while the land use designations provide the general management intent for each unit, management intent and guidelines (both management unit and areawide) must be considered for a complete explanation of the management policy and requirements affecting particular units. This is essential in order to get a comprehensive understanding of the overall management intent contained in the area plan. The management guidelines contained in Chapter 2 are particularly critical and must be consulted in adjudication decisions affecting individual parcels of state land.

Land Status Depicted In Plan Maps

The maps in this chapter are not intended to be detailed land ownership maps. Instead, they are a representation of state and federal land records current to the date of plan preparation. Land status for upland parcels, including private, Native corporation, municipal, and federal are derived from the Department's Geographic Information System (GIS) land status coverage. This information is generalized and for this reason the land status for a particular land area can be misleading. For complete information, consult the land records of the Department of Natural Resources, federal Bureau of Land Management, Native corporations, and Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

The plan maps show general patterns of land ownership by color. This includes the various types of state land (general state land, LDAs, Mental Heath Trust Land, University of Alaska, and lands under management agreement to another state agency) as well as Borough and private lands. However, because of the way that GIS maps are created, which entails a decision hierarchy on what land status to represent in priority sequence, the colors that represent an ownership pattern may not coincide with the actual pattern of such ownership. The Department has tried to make general land status on the plan maps as accurate as possible, but the ownership patterns of other entities may be incorrect.

The location of state-owned or state-selected parcels is derived from information in the Department's land status records and the federal Master Title Plat. Both the status and spatial boundaries of these parcels are accurately represented at the time of plan preparation

(2008). However, because state land status changes with time, the same caution exists for these areas as for areas of non-state land. Both color and a distinct external boundary line indicate areas of state and state-selected land. If there is a conflict between the land status depicted by color and that indicated by a boundary line, the boundary line is correct. This line supersedes the color representations of land ownership.

Resource Allocation Table

Resource allocation Tables provide information on specific parcels and is related to the plan maps through the unit number. The table includes the land use designation and the land management intent for an each specific upland or tideland units. Essentially, the Tables detail the generalized description of state management intent included under the regional “Management Summary” for specific management units.

The tables are organized by Region and for each unit it gives the unit identification number; location by Township and Range; and size expressed in acreage. Also included is a description of the resources and uses of a parcel, the designation(s), management intent, and management guidelines.

More specifically, the policies and resource information contained in the tables include:

Unit number: Each parcel of state land has a unit number. Units are preceded with a letter indicating the Region that they are situated within; see previous description of ‘Management Units’.

MTRS: The Meridian, Township, Range, and Section of each parcel are indicated. In all cases the Seward Meridian applies. There may be more than one township and range, as when a parcel crosses township and/or range boundaries. Similarly, when the parcel encompasses more than one section, typical for large tracts, the affected sections are identified. The only exception to this convention is for the very large tracts associated with Forestry and Habitat designations; in these instances, only townships and range are given.

Acreage: The approximate acreage in each unit is indicated.

Plan Designation: Land use designations indicate the primary and co-primary uses and resources for each unit. Although most units are only affected by a single designation (primary), two compatible plan designations (termed “co-designations”) are sometimes specified. Where co-designations have been used, the uses reflected in the designations are believed to be generally compatible and complementary to each other.

Management Intent: This column indicates the management direction for a specific parcel. It is consistent with the recommended designation, but includes more information on how state land is to be managed. In some small-sized parcels, the management intent is likely to be brief since the designation itself is often sufficient to indicate the management intent.

This is not the case with large parcels, and, in these instances, the management intent statement is critical to an understanding of how the various resources within the parcel are to be managed. This section may also indicate if the parcel is to be retained in state ownership; if it is appropriate for transfer to a city, borough, or non-profit entity; and often describes those parcel resources that must be taken into consideration in land disposals or other forms of development or use. In some instances the development of a parcel is not appropriate during the planning period and, when this occurs, this is stated.

Resources and Uses: This column summarizes the resources and uses for which the unit is designated and which are considered important in the unit. It also provides a generalized description of the unit, and may indicate the presence (or absence) of certain other resources that are important to land management decisions. Typical among this type of information is whether the parcel contains a heritage site, a significant concentration of wildlife or habitat, the current use of the parcel, adjacent land ownership, and whether a state land use or a plan of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough affects the parcel.

Palmer-Wasilla Region

The Palmer-Wasilla Region occupies the more central, developed part of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Relatively few state land parcels are situated within this region and most of those have already been allocated to particular uses, like a state recreation site. This region also includes Knik-Point MacKenzie subregion, which is also characterized by few parcels of state land. Maps 6 through 9 depict this region.

Distribution and Characteristics

State-owned uplands are scattered throughout this region and total about 13,600 acres; which is the smallest acreage of state land by region within the planning boundary. Most of this land is generally level or gently rolling and contains a mix of both vegetated uplands and shrub type palustrine wetlands. There is, however, a block of about 5,500 acres that is situated in moderately to steeply sloping terrain near the base of Bald Mountain in the far northwestern part of the region. This area is heavily vegetated and a portion is important to the state's forest harvest base. Much of the state land is adjoined by either private or borough selected/owned land, most of which remains vacant although a significant amount contains residential uses. Where residential uses occur, access (roads and trails) and limited infrastructure (electrical, telephone) is often available. Other significant blocks of state land either adjoin the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge (SGR) or contain extensive areas of wetlands that are used seasonally for winter recreation. Both of these areas are typically flat and are isolated from other uses.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Access to these lands is either readily available or they can be accessed fairly easily through a combination of road and trail access.

Except for the areas adjacent to the Palmer Hay Flat SGR, the only significant wildlife species concentration occurs in the northwestern block where moose calving, rutting, and winter concentration areas are present. In areas adjacent to the Palmer Hay Flats SGR, there are areas of waterfowl and shorebird concentrations, which are seasonal in nature. Anadromous streams cross a few of the units within the region and, depending on location, contain king, silver, pink, sockeye, or chum migration, rearing, or spawning areas.

State land receives moderate to limited use, with the type of use reflecting the pattern of recreation activity in an area and whether facilities are associated with the state land. Most state land is used either to provide habitat protection or to areas for winter recreation (dog mushing, cross country skiing). Such use is necessarily dispersed and limited in amount.

Much more intense use is associated with state facilities which are state recreation sites, although the amount of acreage associated with this use is less than 100 acres. Limited uses of state land include its use as security facilities, experimental forests, or for gravel extraction.

Management Constraints

Several state and local management plans affect the planning area and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the Palmer-Wasilla Region. Only one state resource plan affected this region, the 1982 Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan, which is now superseded with this update. Local plans include the local land use plans of community councils within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Borough Comprehensive Plan, and the Borough Coastal Management Plan. The revision of the Coastal Management Plan is under review by the Department and has not been completed at the time of this writing. These plans provide management guidance of a general nature and helped in the formulation of recommendations.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. Most state land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation, which means that most land will be managed either for its habitat resources or recreational values. About 3,700 acres will be managed for these related purposes. (Note: 40,100 acres associated with LDAs will be managed in a similar fashion.) Portions of the state land (2,240 acres) in the northwestern part of the region will be managed for its forestry resources. These areas are an important part of the state's timber harvest base in the Susitna Valley. A few areas (563 acres), usually located next to streams, lakes, or adjacent to or within residential areas, are recommended for land disposal during the planning period. Consult the Resource Allocation Table and maps for specific recommendations.

There are two LDAs that are geographically located within this region; they include the Goose Bay and the Palmer Hay Flats SGRs, which total 40,100 acres. These areas are designated Habitat.

Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Palmer-Wasilla Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
P-01	Ha 3,640	Map 4 S018N002W: 1-4, 9-12.	Manage parcel to protect the moose calving, rutting, and winter concentration areas.	Parcel adjoins the Hatcher Pass Management Plan area to the north, and this unit has similar characteristics to those of the more northern area. Parcel is heavily vegetated and is moderately sloped except for deeply incised stream valleys. Small, scattered portions of the parcel are occupied by shrub type wetlands. Moose are present throughout the parcel. Calving, rutting, and winter concentration areas occur in the northern part of the unit and the remainder of the unit is important as a winter concentration area.
P-02	F 1,600	Map 4 S018N002W: 8-10, 16	Manage parcel consistent with Susitna Forest Guidelines and Forest Resources Practices Act. Provide mitigation measures to mitigate significant impacts on moose wintering concentration areas. Recreation use of this parcel is to be considered in a FLUP prepared by DOF. Significant trails are to be protected and recreational activity is to be accommodated in timber harvest design.	Parcel is heavily vegetated (boreal type forest) in parts with areas of shrub-type palustrine wetlands. Terrain varies from generally flat to moderately steep. Moose are present within unit and portions contain a known moose wintering concentration area. Parcel is part of the state’s sustained yield area for purposes calculating the annual allowable cut and is currently classified Forest Land. It is included in a Priority 1 area of the DNR Division of Forestry.
P-03	F 640	Map 4 S018N002W: 8, 17	Appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Settlement areas should avoid areas of wetlands, concentrating development in better drained, better soil types. Protect anadromous stream and Bench Lake. Maintain a 100’ protection area around lake and along anadromous stream. Maintain public access and provide a public use site on lake.	Bench Lake occupies central part of unit; parcel is generally flat except for a stream valley adjoining the northern inlet stream. Unit is heavily vegetated (boreal forest) in areas of better soils; other portions are occupied by shrub-type wetlands. Parcel is not included in a Priority 1 forestry area. The Little Susitna State Recreation River, a Legislatively Designated Area, is situated immediately south. State land important for forestry purposes is situated to north. Nancy Lake AWC #247-41-10100-2231-0010, provides habitat for coho and sockeye salmon, burbot, Dolly Varden, rainbow trout, whitefish. Northern pike also present.
P-04	Se 98	Map 6 S018N002W: 23	Settlement in Tracts B and C should be carefully evaluated given adjacent wetlands and residential land use patterns. If determined to be appropriate for land disposal, either avoid or ensure that wetland functions are retained. Vegetated buffers should be provided in areas that adjoin existing residential development. Tract A is not to be developed and is to be retained in state ownership.	Parcel consists of the remaining state land (Tracts A, B, and C) within ASLS 79-154. Tract A consists of a common area of 52 acres. Tract A is to be retained in state ownership and is not to be developed. Tracts B and C are occupy terrain that is flat and are composed of both uplands and wetlands. Residential land uses are situated some distance from this parcel.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
P-05	Gu 320	Map 6 S018N002W: 25	Unit is to operate as an experimental forest, consistent with the requirements of the ILMA (ADL 201911). If the Division of Forestry ceases to operate the experimental forest, this parcel converts in classification to Settlement.	Parcel is affected by an ILMA to Division of Forestry for the purpose of operating an experimental forestry.
P-06	Se 160	Map 7 S018N001W: 20	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period.	Parcel is in the process of being developed as a state subdivision (Chignaki Pond). It occupies a flat, well vegetated site having direct road access.
P-07	Pr 320	Map 7 S018N001W: 36	Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the ILMA (ADL 64415). If lease is terminated or ceases, the west one-half of this unit converts to the classification of Settlement.	Parcel is affected by an ILMA (ADL 64415) to DMVA (Alaska National Guard). West one-half of parcel is undeveloped. Reevaluate the use of this western area for settlement when the ILMA expires in 2015. Unit converts to the classification of Settlement when/if the lease terminates.
P-08	Pr 25	Map 7 S018N001E: 16	Manage unit consistent with land lease requirements. Public access for sportfishing needs to be maintained. Maintain 100' protection area adjacent to lake.	Parcel is affected by land lease application (ADL 216795) to DPOR for proposed Wolf Lake SRS located on the east side of Wolf Lake. Wolf Lake supports resident populations of Dolly Varden and is stocked with rainbow trout.
P-09	Pr 48	Map 7 S018N001E: 34	Manage unit consistent with ILMA requirements. Public access for sportfishing needs to be maintained. Maintain 100' protection area adjacent to lake.	Parcel is affected by ILMA (ADL 65710) to DPOR for the Finger Lake Wayside, located between Palmer and Wasilla. ADF&G stocks lake with rainbow trout, arctic grayling, king salmon and arctic char.
P-10	Pr 1,256	Map 6 S016N002W: 1, 2, 11, 12; S017N002W: 36	Manage unit consistent with requirements of Management Agreements and maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.	Parcel affected by Management Agreements (ADLs 215477, 225320, 227786) to ADF&G and is contiguous to Palmer Hay Flats SGR, the purpose of which is to create similar management authority and intent to the Palmer Hay Flats SGR. Cottonwood Creek, AWC# 247-41-10300, also flows through unit, supports Coho and sockeye salmon, Dolly Varden, rainbow trout. The Iditarod Trail crosses parcel.
P-11	Pr 8	Map 7 S017N001W: 9	Manage unit consistent with requirements of Management Right.	Parcel affected by Management Right to ADOT/PF (ADL 221535).

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
P-12	Pr 30	Map 7 S017N001W: 22	Manage unit consistent with requirements of Management Right.	Parcel affected by Management Right to DPOR (ADL 220647).
P-13	Se 185	Map 7 S017N002W: 36	Appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Settlement areas should avoid areas of wetlands, concentrating development in soil types with better drainage. Maintain a 100' protection area adjacent to Lucy Lake and along outlet stream.	Parcel is situated on the north side of Lucy Lake, directly north of an existing subdivision (EPF 220050). The unit is generally flat, consisting of isolated palustrine wetlands, wetlands adjacent to an inlet stream on the north side of Lucy Lake, and vegetated uplands adjacent to the lake. Road access exists at the western end of the parcel and immediately to the north; Knik Road is situated to the south. Lucy Lake outlet stream, AWC# 247-41-10300-2001, is anadromous downstream of the lake. Lucy Lake supports Dolly Varden and may support anadromous fish. Numerous tributaries to Lucy Lake are within the parcel and support Dolly Varden spawning; some have had fish passage restoration projects completed on them.
P-14	Pr 119	Map 7 S017N001W: 16	Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the ILMA.	Parcel affected by ILMA (ADL 201961) to ADOT/PF for use as a gravel extraction site and as a permanent maintenance station on Goose Bay Road. Indefinite term.
P-15	Pr 640	Map 7 S017N001E: 21, 22, 28	Manage unit consistent with requirements of the Management Rights and the warranty deed.	Affected by Management Rights agreement (ADLs 228846, 226116) between Nature Conservancy and ADF&G. Warranty deed to ADF&G precludes all uses except related to the Palmer Hay Flats SGR. Adjoins Palmer Hay Flats SGR.
P-16	Rd 80	Map 7 S018N001W: 18	If conveyed to state, retain parcel and manage for consistency with the statutory objectives of the Little Susitna State Recreation River.	Parcel is in state selection status. Unit is generally flat, has direct access to a residential road, and adjoins the Little Susitna River. Residential land uses are located nearby. Little Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10100, bisects unit as well as contains braids, sloughs and backwaters of the Little Susitna River. Supports coho, sockeye, king, chum, pink salmon as well as Dolly Varden. Tributary, Swift Creek, AWC# 247-41-10100-2305 occurs within unit. Little Susitna River a high recreational use river and unit is identified as Public Use Site # PU 1c.2 in the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan. A significant portion of the unit is also within the 100 year flood plain of the Little Susitna River.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
P-17	Se 80	Map 7 S018N001W: 20	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period following the termination of the agricultural lease.	Unit occupies level ground and has immediately access from Shrock Road. An agricultural lease (ADL 33716) currently affects the parcel and portions of the unit have been cleared, probably for agricultural purposes. Residential uses are situated immediately to the south and west. Conversion to settlement cannot occur until the current agricultural lease terminates. There are not apparent wetlands that occupy the unit, although several small drainages cross portions of the parcel.
P-18	Se 40.0	Map 6 S017N002W: 14	Unit is appropriate for land disposal during planning period.	Unit occupies a heavily vegetated, generally level parcel situated on a major road. This parcel is affected by ADL 229739, which identifies this parcel for pre-disposal as a residential subdivision. Lucille Creek may occupy a portion of the site. Part of the unit has previously been cleared.

Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Knik-Pt. MacKenzie Subregion

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
M-01	Rd 3,087	Map 8 S016N003W: 6, 15-19	Manage unit for dispersed recreation use and provide for continued use under Management Agreement as long as this remains valid. Protect RS 2477 and anadromous streams. Retain parcel in state ownership. Maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.	Parcel occupies a generally flat area consisting primarily of palustrine wetlands interspersed with vegetated uplands. It is affected by a Management Agreement (ADL 228636) which allows private entity to manage, develop, and maintain a system of winter recreation trails (primarily dog mushing). A qualified RS 2477 route (RST 118) and the Iditarod Trail cross portions of parcel. Goose and Fish Creeks, both anadromous streams, also affect the parcel.
M-02	Rd 240	Map 8 S016N003W: 16	Manage unit for dispersed recreation use. Protect RS 2477 and anadromous stream. Retain parcel in state ownership. Maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.	Generally flat parcel containing vegetated uplands interspersed by wetland areas, particularly adjacent to streams. Fish Creek, an anadromous stream, bisects the parcel. A qualified RS 2477 route (RST 118) and the Iditarod Trail cross portions of parcel. An extensive winter recreation area, primarily consisting of dog mushing trails, abuts this unit to the north.
M-03	Wr 400	Map 8 S016N003W: 21, 28	Manage unit for dispersed recreation use. Protect anadromous stream and wetlands. Retain parcel in state ownership.	Parcel occupies a generally flat area consisting almost entirely of palustrine wetlands. Fish Creek, an anadromous stream, crosses a small part of this parcel in section 28.
M-04	Wr 80	Map 8 S016N003W: 32	Manage unit for dispersed recreation use. Protect anadromous stream and wetlands. Retain parcel in state ownership.	Unit consists of generally flat terrain occupied by extensive wetlands. Goose Creek, an anadromous stream, and an easement (100') for an electric transmission line (ADL 63268) cross the parcel.
M-05	Se 90	Map 8 S015N004W: 12	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Provide a 200' protection area adjacent to the Goose Bay SGR. Retain or establish an access route into the SGR.	Unit is generally flat and vegetated and adjoins a lake situated to the west. An existing (60') gravel road is located to the southwest (ADL 228754). A pre-disposal action (ADL 226725) affects the unit, the purpose of which is to set aside state lands for eventual land disposal. Unit abuts Goose Bay SGR.
M-06	Pr 78	Map 8 S015N003W: 7, 8.	Unit is to be managed for public purposes consistent with the requirements of the lease.	Unit is affected by a Public and Charitable Lease to the state Division of Corrections for a minimum security prison and correction program (ADL 218069).
M-07	Pr 120	Map 8 S015N003W: 8, 9	Unit is to be managed for public purposes consistent with requirements of Management Agreement.	Parcel is affected by a Management Right agreement to ADOT/PF for an airstrip (ADL 203546).

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
M-08	Wr 200	Map 8 S015W004W: 23, 26	Unit is to be managed to maintain the hydrologic functions of the wetlands and its habitat values.	Consisting of two separate parts, this parcel is uniformly flat and consists almost entirely palustrine wetlands. It is situated directly south of the Goose Bay SGR.

Total state land within region (26 units) – 13,583 acres

Kashwitna-Willow Uplands Region

The Kashwitna-Willow Uplands Region occupies the undulating to hilly terrain situated east of the developed areas along the Parks Highway and the community of Willow. It also extends eastward to the Hatcher Pass Management Area along the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road, encompassing the areas immediately north and south of that road. The eastern boundary of this region coincides with the Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area and the plan boundary of the Hatcher Pass Management Plan. This area is generally undeveloped, is heavily forested, and a portion of the unit is an important part of the Department's forest inventory base for South-central Alaska. Although most of the area is heavily vegetated with upland vegetation characteristic of a sub-arctic boreal forest, wetlands are interspersed throughout this region. These typically occupy the lowlands and are characterized by generally flat terrain. Maps 1 and 2 depict this region.

Distribution and Characteristics

This is the largest of the regions having holdings of state land not situated within LDAs. Totalling nearly 108,000 acres, state land is generally contiguous within this region except for scattered private and Borough land east of Willow and along portions of the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road. Most land is generally level to gently rolling in the western part east of the Parks Highway and in the southern part south of the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road, and contains a mix of vegetated uplands and scrub or forest type palustrine wetlands. That portion of the region along the eastern and northern parts of the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road is, however, fairly mountainous and, depending on location, characterized by either forested and shrub vegetation or by alpine vegetation. Limited residential development occurs within this state land, with almost all of this occurring along the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road, although limited residential settlement adjoins it in the Kashwitna and Willow regions. State land is adjoined primarily by Matanuska-Susitna Borough land or private land. With few exceptions, this non-state land is either vacant or contains limited residential uses. Where residential development occurs, access (roads and trails) and limited infrastructure (electrical, telephone) may sometimes be available.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Except for areas along the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road, access to the lands within the region is either non-existent or limited. Limited access is provided through a series of local and regional trails.

Moose are generally present throughout the region and there are a number of winter concentration, rutting, and calving areas. Waterfowl are generally distributed throughout the region and swan nesting sites are present in a number of lakes. Lacking suitable habitat, Dall sheep and caribou are not present within the region. Anadromous streams cross a few of the units within the region and, depending on location, contain king, silver, pink, or chum migration, rearing, or spawning areas. Willow Creek, Montana Creek, and the Little Susitna River are regionally significant anadromous fish streams that cross through the region.

State land receives moderate to limited recreation use, with the type of use reflecting the local patterns of recreation activity. Given the dispersed character of state land, its main use is for winter recreation (dog mushing, cross country skiing), although limited summer trail and ATV use occurs, particularly during the fall hunting season. The primary streams (Montana, Willow, and Little Susitna) all receive intensive summer fishing use. Such use is necessarily dispersed and limited in amount, with most occurring outside of the region generally west of the Parks Highway. There is very limited agricultural use, but timber harvest is an important use on portions of state land in areas east of Houston. The forested areas within the region are important components of the Department's sustained yield inventory in South-central Alaska.

Management Constraints

Several state and local management plans affect the planning area and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the Palmer-Wasilla Region. Only two state resource plans affected this region, the 1982 Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan and the 1991 Kashwitna Management Plan, which are now superseded with this update. Local plans include the local land use plans of community councils within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Borough Comprehensive Plan, and the Borough Coastal Management Plan. These plans provide management guidance of a general nature and helped in the formulation of recommendations. The Enforceable Policies of the Coastal Management Plan were particularly pertinent.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. State land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation. One third of the state land in this region (38,516 acres) is designated Habitat (Ha) or Water Resources (Wr), both of which are protective designations. Areas designated Water Resources are associated with strips of land, sometimes as much as 0.5 miles in width, on each side of the principal anadromous streams of Willow and Montana Creeks, and the Little Susitna River. These areas are also co-designated Public Recreation-Dispersed (Rd), reflecting their recreational use. The vast bulk of the Habitat areas (24,600 acres) are situated on the large contiguous tracts of state land south of the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road and encompass significant areas important for moose winter concentrations and calving. Areas along the Willow-Fishhook

(Hatcher Pass) Road (2,300 acres) are designated Public Recreation-Dispersed, reflecting the importance of this area as an entranceway to the Hatcher Pass Management Area. Most of the remaining parts of the region are either designated Forestry (F) or Settlement (Se). Areas designated Forestry (56,447 acres) include the forested uplands in the central and easterly parts of the region. Settlement areas (9,713 acres) are situated south of the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road or are scattered throughout the more accessible, better situated and drained level areas throughout the region north and south of this road. Consult the Resource Allocation Table and maps for specific recommendations.

The SSAP supersedes both the Deception Creek Land Use Plan and the Kashwitna Management Plan. The former functioned as a management plan for the Deception Creek area east of Willow and south of the Hatcher Pass Road. It was adopted in 1989 as a component of the Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan. The latter primarily affected the Kashwitna-Willow Uplands Region, although portions extended into the eastern parts of the Kashwitna Region, most of which are now owned by the borough. The Kashwitna Management Plan amended the Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan (1982) and superceded that plan within the Kashwitna management unit. Since the Deception Creek or Kashwitna management plans have been replaced by the SSAP, only the area plan should be consulted for guidance in decision making.

Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Kashwitna-Willow Uplands Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
U-01	F 56,447	Map 1 S018N002W; S018N003W; S019N003W; S020N003W; S021N003W; S022N003W; S023N003W	<p>Manage unit consistent with requirements of Forestry section of Chapter 2 and with applicable Susitna Forestry Guidelines and Forest Practices Act requirements. Protect anadromous streams and moose winter concentration and rutting areas. Maintain the Central Mail Trail, Mail Trail Connector, and Willow Mountain Trail corridors. Other recreational areas and corridors may exist within this unit and a review to determine if other such uses exist should occur prior to or concurrent with Forest Land Use Plan preparation.</p> <p>DOF is to consult with DMLW prior to initiating any timber harvests in parcels adjacent to management units that are intended for another use. DOF needs also to coordinate with ADF&G on FRPA and FLUP requirements, especially adjacent to Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area.</p>	<p>This extensive unit, occupying nearly the entirety of the Kashwitna-Willow Uplands Region, consists of vegetated uplands containing extensive forest resources. Most of this area is occupied by upland spruce hardwood forest except along the drainages of Montana and Kashwitna Creeks, where a bottomland spruce-poplar forest predominates. The bottomland spruce-poplar forest contains white spruce, locally mixed with cottonwood and balsam poplar. Paper birch and quaking aspen also occupy areas within this forest type. The upland spruce-hardwood forest is a fairly dense, mixed forest composed of white spruce, Alaska paper birch, quaking aspen, black cottonwood, and balsam poplar. Numerous significant anadromous streams cross this unit in an east-west direction; they are not part of this unit and are included in a separate management unit, U-03. See U-03 for the management intent and guidelines for these anadromous streams, which include Montana, Kashwitna, and Willow Creeks. Portions of the unit contain both moose winter concentration and rutting areas.</p> <p>Portions of this unit, principally in townships S021N003W and S020N003W, contain multiple use trail system, some of which are managed by the Borough. These systems include the Central Mail Trail, Mail Trail Connector, and Willow Mountain Trail. These trails are depicted either on DNR status plats or in the Borough ‘Trail Guide’ map.</p> <p>This large area has been classified Forestry for over 25 years and constitutes, together with unit S-03 in the Susitna Corridor Region, a significant portion of the Division of Forestry’s sustained yield inventory in the Susitna Valley.</p> <p>Unit abuts Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area and also contains numerous anadromous fish streams in the Willow Creek, Deception Creek, Little Willow Creek, Kashwitna River, Sheep Creek, Goose Creek, Montana Creek and Little Susitna River drainages.</p>
U-02	Se 2,846	Map 1 S023N003W: 29-33	<p>Unit may be appropriate for land disposal during the planning period, depending on the availability of road access.</p> <p>Avoid or protect streams and adjacent wetlands in subdivision design.</p>	<p>Parcel occupies gently rolling terrain and is mostly vegetated with a mix of shrubs and trees. Several small streams cross the parcel and palustrine wetlands adjoin these streams. Borough land adjoins the parcel to the south. Road access is available within 0.5 miles.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
U-03	Wr, Rd 11,855	Map 1 Various	Manage this unit to protect and maintain the anadromous streams within this unit and their adjacent uplands. Except for required roads and utilities, safety, and recreational facilities, other forms of uses or structures, including timber harvest, are prohibited.	The major streams draining the Kashwitna-Willow Uplands Region are included within this unit. These streams include the following: Sheep, Kashwitna, Montana, Little Willow and Willow Creeks. In addition to the streams, adjacent uplands, often as much as 0.5 miles of either side of stream, are included within the unit. Each of these streams has an important run of salmon, and both Willow and Montana Creeks support important South-central sport fisheries.
U-04	Se 2,868	Map 1 S022N003W: 5, 7, 8, 17-20	Unit may be appropriate for a residential land disposal during the planning period. Road access to the residential subdivision to the west will be required, and this may affect the timing of development. Protect small streams and adjacent wetlands in subdivision design.	Parcel occupies gently rolling terrain and consists of vegetated uplands interspersed by isolated palustrine wetlands. A small stream occupies the central part of the parcel; there are several small lakes. Borough land adjoins this parcel to the west and south, portions of which have been developed as a residential subdivision with road access. The North Fork of Kashwitna Creek, a portion of which is included in unit U-03, adjoins this parcel to the east. This area is to remain undeveloped. Residential land uses exist immediately to the west of the unit in the Borough subdivision.
U-05	Wr, Rd 574	Map 2 S021N003W: 2	Manage this unit to maintain the protection of Little Willow Creek that begins in unit U-03.	Unit adjoins Little Willow Creek and is generally flat and heavily vegetated. No immediate access to parcel, and should be difficult to develop in the near term. The Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area adjoins this parcel to the east.
U-06	Ag, Se 790	Map 3 S020N003W: 19, 30	Unit is appropriate either for an agricultural/settlement disposal or residential disposal during the planning period. Protect central area of wetlands and the Roger Creek river system. Maintain the Talkeetna Mail – Central Trail Loop.	Parcel is generally flat and consists of a mix of vegetated uplands and shrub/forest palustrine wetlands, with the majority of the central area of the site occupied by wetlands. Agricultural uses occur immediately to the west of the parcel. Parcel is considered to have soils suitable for agriculture. Road access is available for southwest. The Talkeetna Mail – Central Trail Loop (ADL 228207), a public use easement, traverses the unit in a north-south orientation. The trail system is managed under a cooperative resource management agreement with the Borough (ADL 228819). The upper end of the Rogers Creek system occurs in this unit.
U-07	Rd 360	Map 3 S020N003W: 29, 30	Manage unit to protect habitat and recreation values. Maintain public use easement associated with Central Mail Trail. Except for required roads and utilities, safety, and recreational facilities, other forms of uses or structures, including timber harvest, are prohibited. Parcel is to be retained in state ownership.	Parcel is generally flat and heavily vegetated. Little Willow Creek and the ‘Central Mail Trail’, a major multiple use trail managed by the Borough, cross major portions of the parcel. Borough land adjoins the parcel immediately to south. See also unit U-06.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
U-08	Se 940	Map 4 S019N003W: 4, 5	<p>Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Protect anadromous stream (100' protection area) and wetlands in subdivision design.</p> <p>Consideration is to be given in subdivision design to the orientation of residential units to views (primarily to south) and to the maintenance of any recreation uses, although none are discernible currently (2008).</p> <p>DMLW is to consult with DOF prior to the initiation of any land disposals in this unit and within U-08. Timber harvest within the areas of settlement may be appropriate but must be compatible with the overall residential development plan and with development phasing.</p>	<p>This large parcel is situated immediately south of Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road, which is bordered by residential uses. Topography is generally level in the western part, coinciding in part with wetland areas, to moderately sloping in the eastern part. Upland areas are heavily vegetated. Two small drainages, one of which is anadromous stream 247-41-10200-2120-3020-4021 provides habitat for coho salmon, cross the parcel.</p>
U-09	Se 100	Map 4 S019N003W: 3	<p>Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. The trail is to be maintained. Rerouting of the ADF&G trail may be necessary in subdivision design.</p>	<p>Unit is moderately sloping and heavily vegetated, although there are a few palustrine wetlands. A 50' trail under ILMA to ADF&G affects the central part of the parcel, and is oriented in a north-south direction (ADL 46664). Residential uses and Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road are situated nearby (0.25 miles north).</p>
U-10	Se 261	Map 4 S019N003W: 1, 2	<p>Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Avoid or protect wetlands in subdivision design. Maintain a 50' protection area adjacent to lakes.</p>	<p>Parcel is irregularly configured, with Borough land surrounding it on all sides. It consists of gently rolling topography with vegetated uplands interspersed throughout by palustrine wetlands. Residential uses are nearby and parcel has road access. Contains several lakes.</p>
U-11	Se 5	Map 4 S019N003W: 1	<p>Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Maintain a 50' protection area adjacent to the lake.</p>	<p>Unit adjoins lake and is surrounded by Borough land. It is vegetated and has topography that is level to slightly sloped. Residential uses are situated nearby along road, about 0.5 miles distant. Some of the site contains palustrine wetlands.</p>
U-12	Se 1,889	Map 4 S019N003W: 10-12	<p>Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Maintain trail access; reroute if necessary. Development should be concentrated in upland areas; wetlands should be avoided or protected in subdivision design. Maintain a 50' protection area adjacent to lakes.</p>	<p>This large parcel consists of a mix of vegetated uplands, lakes, and wetlands, the latter predominating in its eastern part. Upland areas are heavily vegetated consisting of paper birch, black spruce, and occasional white spruce and cottonwoods. Parcel has been pre-identified by DNR for settlement/disposal (ADL 229577, Teakwood Lake Subdivision). A 50' primitive trail (ADL 46664) affects portions of the parcel.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
U-13	Ha 9,373	Map 4 S019N003W: 14-15, 22-24, 25-28, 34-36	Manage unit to protect moose winter concentration area, anadromous stream, and wetlands. Protect recreation and trail access.	This extensive parcel, except for a generally flat area in its northeastern part, is moderately to heavily sloped. It consists of both vegetated uplands and palustrine wetlands, with the latter predominating, particularly in the more level areas. It contains an extensive moose winter concentration area and is crossed by an anadromous stream. A 50' primitive trail (ADL 46664) affects portions of the parcel. Bullion Mountain Scenic Area is within this unit.
U-14	Se 15	Map 4 S019N002W: 6	Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. A 50' non-disturbance area affects the uplands adjacent to the lake.	Unit adjoins lake and Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road is nearby. Residential uses are nearby.
U-15	Ma 25	Map 4 S019N002W: 6	Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the ILMA. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Parcel is affected by a Public Use Permit (ADL 202813) for the extraction of gravel. Issued to ADOT/PF for the purpose of providing suitable gravel for local state road projects. Indefinite amount specified in FUP.
U-16	Rd 2,271	Map 4 S019N002W: 2-6	Manage unit for its public recreation values and retain in state ownership. Roads and utility lines are considered appropriate uses within the unit. Maintain the easements associated with the Willow Sled Trail and the transmission facility. Retain in state ownership.	This extensive parcel adjoins Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road in an east-west direction and functions as an entranceway into the Hatcher Pass area. It is heavily vegetated and is slightly to moderately sloped, depending on location. An electrical transmission line easement (ADL 44316) affects the area of the parcel south of the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road. Portions of the Willow Sled Trail (ADL 46665), a multi-use trail, crosses in a north-south orientation through section 5. Willow Creek AWC #247-41-10200-2120 bisects unit. Specific stream protection guidelines are required under existing plans.
U-17	Ma 108	Map 4 S019N002W: 2	Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the ILMA. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Parcel is affected by a Material Sale (ADL 223680) to ADOT/PF for the extraction of gravel for local road projects. <i>Note: Material Sale expired 7/01/90.</i> Willow Creek AWC #247-41-10200-2120 bisects unit. Specific stream protection guidelines are required under existing plans.
U-18	Ma 20	Map 4 S020N003W: 34	Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the Free Use Permit. Parcel is appropriate for alternative use(s) when gravel extraction ceases. Reclassification will be required in order to accommodate an alternative use.	Parcel is affected by a Free Use Permit to ADOT/PF (ADL 32188) for the purpose of excavating material for the construction of roads. Unit adjoins Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road. Specific stream protection guidelines are required under ILMA.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
U-19	Rp 52	Map 4 S020N003W: 36; S020N002W: 31	Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the P&C Lease.	Parcel is affected by a Public and Charitable (P&C) Lease to a non-profit entity (ADL 59832).
U-20	Gu 9	Map 4 S019N003W: 2	Manage unit consistent with requirements of ILMA. Upon termination of ILMA, consider alternative uses of parcel. Reclassification may be required in order to accommodate an alternative use.	Unit is affected by an ILMA for a communications site (ADL 227147).
U-21	Ma 46	Map 4 S019N002W: 5	Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the Free Use Permit.	Parcel is affected by a Free Use Permit (ADL 73305) to ADOT/PF for the purpose of extracting gravel for bridge reconstruction and the maintenance of Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road. Indefinite term. Specific stream protection guidelines are required under ILMA
U-22	Ha, Wr 16,715	Map 4 S019N002W; S018N002W: 6, 7	Manage unit to protect its habitat and water resource values. Maintain trail access.	This very large parcel consists of a mixture of very mountainous terrain characterized by alpine vegetation in its eastern part and by moderately sloping, heavily vegetated uplands in the western part. It adjoins the Hatcher Pass Management Plan (area) to the north and an area designated Public Recreation to the north. Moose winter concentration, rutting, and calving areas are distributed throughout much of this unit, particularly in its eastern part. An anadromous tributary of Deception Creek traverses portions of the unit as do portions of the Willow Sled trail, a multi-use trail.

Total state land within region (22 units) – 107,568 acres

Big Lake-Houston Region

The Big Lake – Houston Region occupies the more central, developed part of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, similar to Palmer-Wasilla region. Most land within this region is owned by non-state entities, including the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the private sector, and much of the state land that remains is associated with the Little Susitna State Recreation River (SRR) or the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge, which are both LDAs. The remaining state land is scattered throughout the region and tends to be situated in areas with limited access. Maps 3 through 6 depict this region.

Distribution and Characteristics

State uplands⁵, totaling approximately 17,000 acres, are scattered throughout the region with some amount of concentration occurring around the community of Houston and the area generally west of Big Lake. Most land is generally level or gently rolling and contains a mix of vegetated uplands and scrub or forested palustrine wetlands. Limited residential development surrounds most of this land, and much of the land within the two concentration areas adjoins the Little Susitna SRR. Most state land is either adjoined by either private land, land owned by Native corporations, or land managed or owned by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. With few exceptions, this non-state land is either vacant or contains limited residential uses. Several tracts are also situated within the Meadow Creek area; in these areas residential development is fairly significant. Where residential development occurs, access (roads and trails) and limited infrastructure (electrical, telephone) is often available.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Except for areas in the far southern part of the region, access to these lands is either readily available or they can be accessed fairly easily through a combination of road and trail access.

Wetlands and areas within the Little Susitna SRR contain areas where moose are generally present and may also contain moose calving and moose winter concentrations. Waterfowl are generally distributed throughout the region and swan nesting sites are present in a number of lakes. Lacking suitable habitat, Dall sheep and caribou are not present within the region. Anadromous streams cross a few of the units within the region and, depending on location, contain king, silver, pink, or chum migration, rearing, or spawning areas. The Little Susitna River is a regionally significant anadromous fish stream and passes through the center of the region.

⁵ Not including Legislatively Designated Areas, which total 320,000 acres within this region.

With the exception of the Little Susitna SRR, state land receives moderate to limited use, with the type of use reflecting the local patterns of recreation activity. Given the dispersed character of state land, its main use is for winter recreation (dog mushing, cross country skiing), although limited summer trail and ATV use is likely. Such use is necessarily dispersed and limited in amount. Much more intense use is associated with the Little Susitna SRR and with the adjacent Nancy Lake State Recreation Area, situated to the north of the region. The former receives considerable use during the summer, with the intensity of that use related to salmon runs. This area also receives considerable winter recreation use (ATV, dog mushing, and snow-machining).

Management Constraints

Several state and local management plans affect the planning area and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the Palmer-Wasilla Region. Only one state resource plan affected this region, the 1982 Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan, which is now superseded with this update. Local plans include the local land use plans of community councils within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Borough Comprehensive Plan, and the Borough Coastal Management Plan. These plans provide management guidance of a general nature and helped in the formulation of recommendations. The Enforceable Policies of the Coastal Management Plan were particularly useful.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. State land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation. The majority of state land (7,788 acres) is designated Settlement and is recommended for land disposal during the planning period. These areas adjoin current or projected residential areas and are relatively close to access and necessary infrastructure. It is not intended that all of this land be disposed of immediately. Before the development of state land becomes practicable, adjacent private and borough lands must be developed first, thereby providing access and infrastructure to state lands. The remainder of state land either designated General Use (4,082 acres), where no particular use could be discerned at this time, Public Recreation (844 acres) and Habitat (1,238 acres). Habitat areas are often associated with wetlands and areas adjacent to the Little Susitna SRR. Areas designated Public Recreation coincide with institutional uses or areas important for local recreational use. Consult the Resource Allocation Table and maps for specific recommendations.

There are two principle LDAs that are geographically located within this region: these include the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge (302,711 acres, designated Habitat) and the Little Susitna SRR (17,464 acres, designated Public Recreation). When these areas are included to determine overall state management within this region, almost all state land is associated with the LDAs, which are managed for habitat and public recreation purposes.

Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Big Lake-Houston Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
H-01	Se 800	Map 6 S018N004W: 9, 16, 23	Dispose of remaining lots either as individual lots or combined with a larger land disposal involving state land to the east and south. Protect anadromous stream; maintain a 150' protection area adjacent to stream(s).	<p>Parcel occupies an area of a previous land disposal involving over 35 lots of approximately 40 acres each. Although most of the subdivision lots have been conveyed out of state ownership, some remain in state ownership and these may be combined with a potential land disposal on adjacent state land to the south. Parcel is flat, vegetated, and some structures are present. The current Settlement designation needs to be retained in the event lots are returned to the state and are available for resale.</p> <p>Lake Creek AWC# 247-41-10200-2254, supporting coho and sockeye salmon, flows adjacent to the unit. Unit contains wetlands and tributaries connected to Lake Creek that likely support anadromous fish. AWC stream # 247-41-10200-2020-3130-4020, supporting pink, sockeye and coho salmon, flows through unit.</p>
H-02	Se 1,600	Map 6 S018N004W: 21, 22, 27, 28	Area is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Settlement is considered appropriate in upland areas, particularly those areas adjacent to the lakes that occupy this unit. Maintain 100' protection area adjacent to lakes and anadromous streams. Avoid wetlands or retain wetland functions in subdivision design.	Parcel, which is generally flat, consists of an extensive mixed wetlands/vegetated uplands area situated south of Nancy Lakes and immediately west of the Parks Highway. Several lakes are situated within the unit, and two anadromous streams cross portions of the unit. The main lake may be connected to the Little Susitna River and support anadromous fish. Portions of the unit may be susceptible for residential development. The Little Susitna State Recreation River is situated just south of this parcel.
H-03	Rd 640	Map 6 S018N003W: 23	Unit is to be managed consistent with the requirements of the PC Lease. If parcel is no longer used by the lessor and reverts to the state, the remaining area should be integrated with parcel H-02 and considered for settlement through a land disposal. If this occurs, the classification converts to Settlement.	Parcel is affected by a Public and Charitable Lease (ADL 55337) to the Boy Scouts of America.
H-04	Wr 720	Map 6 S018N003W: 28	Manage unit to preserve and protect the habitat and hydrologic values and functions of the wetlands.	<p>Occupying flat terrain, this parcel consists of a combination of vegetated upland clusters interspersed with palustrine wetlands. Portions of the uplands adjoin a lake. The Little Susitna SRR adjoins the parcel to the west and north and private land to the east.</p> <p>Wetlands and streams connected to AWC# 247-41-10200-2020-3130-4020 and Lynx Lake 247-41-10200-2020-3130-0020 may support anadromous coho, sockeye and pink salmon.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
H-05	Se 436	Map 6 S018N004W: 36; S018N003W: 31	Portions of this parcel, coinciding with the scattered vegetated uplands, may be suitable for a residential land disposal. Should this occur, consideration is to be given to the protection of the SRR and the wetlands in subdivision design. A 50' non-disturbance area affects the lake.	Parcel consists of a combination of islands of vegetated upland interspersed with palustrine wetlands. Portions of the uplands adjoin a lake and portions border the Little Susitna SRR. There is no immediate road access, and it is likely that development of this unit, should it occur, would have to wait until such access was provided, which would be from the private land to the east. The parcel is almost uniformly flat. A multiuse recreational trail crosses portions of this parcel (ADL 228206)
H-06	F 775	Map 4 S018N003W: 6, 7	Unit is to be managed for its timber values. Local and regional trails are to be maintained.	Unit is slightly to moderately sloping in the central part, but flatter in other parts. It is forested throughout except for scattered palustrine wetlands and wetland areas adjacent to a small stream. There is no immediate road access, but the parcel is within 1 mile of the Parks Highway. The area to the west of the unit is a previous state subdivision and the land to the south is owned by the Mental Health Trust. DOF indicates this parcel is contiguous with the DOF Zero Lake Management Block and is designated for limited timber sales for the small logger, which supply local sawmills.
H-07	Se 80	Map 4 S018N003W: 9	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period.	Parcel is moderately sloped and heavily vegetated (forested). There is no immediate road access but is within 1 mile of the Parks Highway. The unit is surrounded by Borough land.
H-08	Rd 60	Map 4 S018N003W: 16	Manage unit to preserve and enhance public recreation uses. Retain in state ownership.	Parcel occupies moderately rolling terrain and is heavily vegetated in its northern part. Southern portion of parcel is occupied by palustrine wetlands. A large lake adjoins parcel to northeast and a road provides access. This site is used for public recreation purposes.
H-09	Se 1,760	Map 6 S018N003W: 13-15, 24; S018N002W: 18	Area is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Protect anadromous stream and RST 95. Conserve areas of wetlands, focusing settlement in adjacent upland areas. Utilities and roads may cross wetlands. Maintain a 100' protection area adjacent to anadromous streams.	This large parcel consists of generally flat to moderately sloped terrain that is vegetated with shrubs and trees intermixed with wetlands. Access is available immediately to the south on a pioneer road. Little Susitna is situated immediately south of the unit, although upland portions of the SRR adjoin unit to southeast. An anadromous tributary of the Little Susitna River (see below) and a RS 2477 route (RST 95) traverse portions of the parcel. Unit contains portions of anadromous streams 247-41-10100-2271, 247-41-10100-2285, and 247-41-10100-2285-3031 which provide habitat for coho salmon; others may exist.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
H-10	Se 240	Map 5 S018N005W: 24	Area is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Protect anadromous streams and wetlands that adjoin it, with development focused within vegetated uplands. Maintain a 100' protection area adjacent to anadromous streams. Utilities and roads may cross wetlands.	Parcel is generally flat, consisting of palustrine wetlands adjacent to an anadromous stream(see below) that crosses part of the unit, and scattered, vegetated uplands. Little Susitna SRR adjoins unit to north and residential uses, part of a previous state subdivision (ASLS 84-50), to the south. West Papoose Lake is situated south of the unit. Unit contains portions of anadromous streams 247-41-10100-2150 and 247-41-10100-2150-3010 which provide habitat for coho salmon; connected wetlands, streams and lakes may also provide habitat.
H-11	Se 1,162	Map 5 S018N005W: 23, 24, 26	Portions of unit may be appropriate for development. A study to determine feasibility and the areas of possible disposal should precede a disposal decision. Consideration must be given to the protection of lakes and wetlands, and to the buffering from existing uses in subdivision design. A 100' protection area affects anadromous lakes and streams.	Unit is moderately rolling and vegetated, and situated immediately north of a remote lot subdivision near West Papoose Lake. Parcel encompasses a previous remote lot subdivision (ASLS 84-50). Notes: 1) the Settlement designation is applied to this unit since there is still state land within the subdivision and there is the possibility of reconveyance of remote lot parcels. 2) The acreage estimate includes areas of remote lots and therefore the amount of state land that remains is considerably less than that indicated. Unit contains portions of anadromous streams and lakes; western Papoose Twin Lake 247-41-10100-2150-3010-0010, stream 247-41-10100-2150-3010 and 247-41-10100-2150 which provide habitat for coho salmon; connected wetlands, streams and lakes may also provide habitat.
H-12	Ha, Wr 680	Map 5 S018N005W: 26, 33	Manage unit to protect wetlands. All uses, except those issued by permit or involving utilities, are prohibited.	Parcel consists of generally flat terrain occupied by extensive palustrine wetlands. There are a few areas of uplands. Adjoins the Little Susitna SRR on west and residential uses on north.
H-13	Se 442	Map 5 S017N005W: 25, 36	Area is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Within the southernmost parcel, the affect of the ADOT/PF transportation corridor should be taken into consideration prior to a decision being made on the suitability of a land disposal. Retain that portion of the unit that adjoins Papoose Twin Lakes as a public use site. Retain public access to lake. Protect anadromous stream and maintain a 100' protection area adjacent to it.	Unit consists of three separate parcels situated in sections 25 and 36. These are generally flat and consist of vegetated uplands interspersed with palustrine wetlands. Borough land is situated immediately to the south; Native land is situated to the east. Residential land uses exist near and at West Papoose Lake. Agricultural uses are also present. A small lake is situated in section 36. Road access is available immediately to the south and a 600' transportation corridor under ILMA (ADL 203838) to ADOT/PF bisects the parcel and is part of a road corridor that extends from Houston to Pt. MacKenzie. AWC stream # 247-41-10100-2100 meanders east to west through the southern half of this unit and provides habitat for coho salmon.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
H-14	Se 2	Map 6 S017N004W: 36	Alternative uses of this area are appropriate if/when the ILMA is terminated.	Parcel is affected by ILMA (ADL 209163) to Division of Forestry, but should be considered for an alternative use if ILMA is rescinded, which is expected.
H-15	Se 7	Map 6 S017N004W: 36	Area is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period.	Parcel occupies moderately sloping topography and is heavily vegetated throughout. Road adjoins unit. Residential development adjoins parcel to north; the state forestry site (H-14) is situated to the west.
H-16	Se 80	Map 6 S017N003W	Area is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Avoid or protect wetland functions in subdivision design.	Consisting of separate parts, the area occupied by the unit is generally flat and contains a mixture of both wetlands and vegetated uplands. Residential land uses are present nearby. Depending on location, road access either directly abuts the parcel or is nearby.
H-17	Se 20	Map 6 S017N003W	Area is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Protect lake, inlet stream, and wetlands in subdivision design. A 100' protection area applies to stream. Avoid construction in riverine wetlands.	Except for a steep area in its southern part, unit is generally flat and contains vegetated uplands. A road bisects the parcel from east to west. A lake occupies portions of the parcel, and a small, anadromous inlet stream (see below) is present that is adjoined by riverine wetlands. AWC stream # 247-50-10330-2050-3019-4011-5011 abuts to east; small lake within unit may be connected and provide habitat for coho salmon.
H-18	Se 776	Map 6 S017N003W: 16, 17, 20	Portions of this unit are appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Development within the area of the Meadow Creek floodplain and its adjoining wetlands shall be avoided. Protect anadromous stream and provide buffering from adjacent residential structures. Maintain a 200' protection area adjacent to Meadow Creek.	Parcel is generally flat and consists of vegetated upland areas interspersed with palustrine wetlands. It adjoins Meadow Creek on its north and south sides and is situated immediately north of Rocky Lake, an anadromous waterbody. Residential structures are situated on the northeast side of Rocky Lake, and the Rocky Lake State Recreation Site immediately adjoins Rocky Lake. The land use pattern in the vicinity consists of vacant land mixed with residential uses. Roads cross the parcel in a variety of locations. Meadow Creek, AWC stream # 247-41-10330-2050, meanders east to west through the heart of this unit and provides habitat for coho salmon.
H-19	Se 100	Map 6 S017N003W: 27	Area is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period.	Unit is generally flat and contains a mixture of vegetated uplands and palustrine wetlands. Residential land uses surround the parcel and road access and airport are nearby.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
H-20	Ma 160	Map 6 S017N003W: 31	<p>Unit is to be administered consistent with the ILMT requirements. Use of this parcel for residential settlement should be considered in the development of the site reclamation plan.</p> <p>If this road is not to be constructed or upon termination of the ILMT, the consideration of alternative uses is appropriate. When the ILMT is terminated, the classification converts to Settlement and reuse of the site for settlement should be carefully considered.</p>	<p>Parcel is affected by ILMT (46749) to ADOT/PF under ADL 225357. ILMT was issued for the construction of South Big Lake Road (1990). Unit is undeveloped and heavily vegetated, and is characterized by moderately sloping terrain. A public use right-of-way for the construction of the South Big Lake Road crosses the parcel. Parcel has immediate road access.</p>
H-21	Gu 1,280	Map 5 S016N005W: 11, 14	<p>Manage for multiple use, including timber harvest if determined appropriate in a Forest Land Use Plan. Portions of this unit may be appropriate for settlement in upland, vegetated areas when a specific route is chosen or if it is decided that the road is no longer needed. Reclassification of the parcel to Settlement will be required to enable the land disposal.</p> <p>The Forest Land Use Plan, in its preparation, shall evaluate the effect of potential timber harvests upon wetlands, streams, and other sensitive areas prior to authorization of a timber sale.</p> <p>If a timber sale is determined to be appropriate, DOF is to coordinate with DMLW. DMLW has a similar responsibility to consult with DOF if a land disposal is under consideration.</p> <p>Consult the Susitna Basin Recreation River Management Plan for specific requirements that may affect development adjacent to the Little Susitna River LDA.</p>	<p>Parcel is generally flat and contains a mix of vegetated uplands and palustrine wetlands. There are at least six lakes in the unit. A 600' transportation corridor under ILMA (ADL 203838) to ADOT/PF bisects the parcel in a north-south orientation and is part of a road corridor that extends from Houston to Pt. MacKenzie. May be appropriate for settlement in uplands areas once a specific route is chosen by ADOT/PF or it is decided that the road is no longer needed. Borough and University land adjoin the unit. Parcel is included in the DOF Priority 1 inventory and is part of the Division's sustained yield base for the Susitna Valley.</p> <p>AWC #247-41-10100-2100, an anadromous stream, flows through the northwest corner of the unit. Waters connected to this stream or to the Little Susitna River may also support anadromous fish. The Little Susitna River flows to the west of this unit.</p>
H-22	Gu 640	Map 8 S016N005W: 24	<p>Manage for multiple uses, including timber harvest if determined appropriate in a Forest Land Use Plan. The suitability of development for residential and other purposes should be evaluated when road access becomes available. Reclassification of the parcel to Settlement will be required to enable the land disposal. Maintain RST routes and protect existing trails. Maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.</p> <p>If a timber sale is determined to be appropriate, DOF is to coordinate with DMLW. DMLW has a similar responsibility to consult with DOF if a land disposal is under consideration.</p>	<p>Unit is generally flat and contains a mix of vegetated uplands and palustrine wetlands. This is an isolated parcel of state land; University and Borough land adjoin the parcel. There is no direct road access, although portions of the road system are within 1.5 miles. Agricultural uses occur to the south of the parcel. Parcel is included in the DOF Priority 1 inventory and is part of the Division's sustained yield base for the Susitna Valley. Two trails cross this unit, RST 118 and Susitna 70-12.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
H-23	Gu 920	Map 6 S016N004W: 7, 8	<p>Manage unit to protect wetlands, the anadromous stream, and its various tributaries. Portions of this unit may be appropriate for timber harvest. The Forest Land Use Plan, in its preparation, shall evaluate the effect of potential timber harvests upon wetlands, streams, and other sensitive areas prior to authorization of a timber sale.</p> <p>If a timber sale is determined to be appropriate, DOF is to coordinate with DMLW. The unit to the east (H-24) is designated Settlement and coordination between the two divisions is essential prior to either granting authorizations.</p>	<p>Unit occupies an area of extensive palustrine wetlands having few vegetated uplands. It contains an anadromous stream with an extensive tributary system, much of which occurs within the parcel. The parcel is generally flat. Parcel is included in the DOF Priority 1 inventory and is part of the Division's sustained yield base for the Susitna Valley.</p>
H-24	Se 283	Map 6 S016N004W: 8	<p>Portions of this unit are appropriate for land disposal during the planning period within upland areas. Development within wetlands and stream courses is to be avoided. A screening buffer between the area of land disposal and current, adjacent residential land uses is to be provided. A recreation public use site is to be retained in state ownership; a AS 38.05.127 easement affects the lake.</p> <p>DMLW must consult with DOF if a land disposal is under consideration. The unit to the west (H-23) is included within the DOF sustained yield base for the Susitna Valley.</p>	<p>Parcel is generally flat and contains a mix of palustrine wetlands and vegetated uplands. Some of the vegetated uplands adjoin Diamond Lake. Residential uses adjoin the western side of this lake. Road access is nearby, within this residential area. Diamond Lake is a stocked lake.</p>
H-25	Ha, Wr 160	Map 6 S016N004W: 12	<p>Manage unit to protect its habitat and water resource values. Accommodate dispersed recreational use.</p>	<p>Unit contains extensive palustrine wetlands. The area immediately to the east (Unit M-01) is under an ILMA to a non-profit organization for the purpose of maintaining winter recreation trails, which are used extensively for dog-mushing. This parcel is not part of the ILMA but adjoins it, and there may be similar recreational use of this parcel. Borough land surrounds the parcel.</p>
H-26	Rd 58	Map 8 S016N004W: 28	<p>Retain this parcel in state ownership and manage for its public recreation values. Protect trails and maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.</p>	<p>Parcel adjoins the southern shore of Jewel Lake. Although not developed as an improved road, access is available. Site is vegetated in part but also contains palustrine wetlands, some of which may be include standing water (ponds). Owing to location and poor access, there is little public recreation use of this parcel, although some trails pass through this parcel, including the Iditarod Trail. Borough land adjoins the unit to the east.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
H-27	Gu 1,242	Map 2 S016N005W: 17, 18	Manage unit for multiple uses. Parcel is not considered appropriate for development given its location, poor soils, and the presence of extensive wetlands. Maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width. Additionally, the unit is to be managed to protect the water resources and habitat present within the unit and that are related to the adjacent Susitna Flats State Game Refuge.	Unit occupies a flat, low-lying area characterized by extensive wetlands. There are at least three lakes present. A road bisects the parcel, providing connection to Susitna and Knik. This parcel occupies an area that would normally lie within the Fish Creek Management Plan area, but this management plan, for whatever reason, chose to exclude these sections from its planning boundary. Given the extensive distribution of wetlands, there is little possibility of development occurring on this parcel. The Iditarod Trail crosses parcel from east to west and the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge adjoins the unit.
H-28	Rd 80	Map 6 S017N003W: 17, 20	Manage unit for recreational uses and to protect the entranceway of Meadow Creek into Big Lake. A 200' riparian buffer affects Meadow Creek. Authorizations are to avoid wetland areas.	Parcel occupies an area occupied in its eastern parts by Meadow Creek, an anadromous stream, and by an extensive, associated palustrine (emergent) wetland complex. Areas situated to the west and generally adjacent to Big Lake are characterized by shrub and emergent wetlands. The entire unit occupies level terrain. Big Lake is an important recreation area.
H-29	Rd 5	Map 6 S017N003W: 16, 21	Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the ILMA.	Unit is affected by a ILMA (ADL 50071) to DPOR for public recreation use at the Rocky Lake Wayside. Contains campground and other recreational facilities. Adjoins Rocky Lake.
H-30	Ha 1,238	Map 6 S018N004W; 25, 35, 36	Manage unit for its habitat and public recreation values.	Parcel consists of wetlands and uplands arranged in a linear fashion. Portions of the uplands adjoin the Little Susitna SRR.
H-31	Pr 420	Map 6 S017N004W	Manage unit pursuant to ADL 18248. Retain in state ownership. Maintain riparian buffer on lakes and streams. Protect trails.	Unit is flat terrain dominated by wetlands. Three lakes are present. The Federal Aviation Administration maintains a Vortac transmitter site under permit ADL 18248 on this parcel.
H-32	F 480	Map 6 S018N003W	Manage unit consistent with requirements of Forestry section of Chapter 2 and with applicable Susitna Forestry Guidelines. Manage pursuant to ADL 220524. Protect habitat and recreation values on lakes, trails, and streams. Maintain 100' protection area (no cut) on lakes and streams.	Unit is moderately sloping, consisting of both forested uplands and wetland areas, with three streams crossing parcel. Zero Lake is on the eastern boundary. Unit is affected by lease ADL 220524 to the Division of Forestry. A road provides access from the Parks Highway.

Total state land within region (32 units) – 17,346 acres

Susitna Corridor Region

Extensive areas of state land remain within the Susitna Corridor Region. Totalling about 45,000 acres, it is distributed in a north-south orientation and occupies lowland riverine areas on the east side of the Susitna River. Much of this land is associated with forested areas immediately adjacent to the Susitna River and with wetlands bordering these areas to the east. This region contains a significant inventory of forested land important to the Division of Forestry's sustained yield inventory for South-central Alaska. Some limited agricultural use occurs. This region does not include the Susitna River. Land management and land use designations for the Susitna River is provided by the Susitna Area Plan. Maps 3 and 5 depict this region.

Distribution and Characteristics

Large blocks of contiguous state land occupy riverine areas immediately adjacent to the Susitna River as well as wetlands east of the forested areas. This is the second largest inventory of state land within the planning boundary, following only the Kashwitna-Willow Uplands region in size. Most of this land occupies generally level or gently rolling terrain, is almost completely vacant, and consists of two large contiguous tracts of spruce-poplar forest and both shrub and forested palustrine type wetlands. Lands owned by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough adjoin this area on the east side. There are few residential areas within the region, and these are situated at or near Red Shirt Lake.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Access to the land within the region is poor or nonexistent in its western part, where forested and wetland areas are prevalent. Relatively good road access is available to the northeastern part of the region, with three roads emanating from adjacent residential development and accessing this area. These roads, in turn, connect to the Parks Highway at Willow. A bridge over the Little Susitna River does not exist within this region and until it does it is unlikely that the state lands within the southern part of the region can be developed. There are no current plans to construct such a bridge.

Both wetlands and the forested uplands include areas where moose are generally present or that have winter calving areas. Waterfowl are generally distributed throughout the region and swan nesting sites are present in a number of lakes. Lacking suitable habitat, Dall sheep and caribou are not present within the region. Anadromous streams cross a few of the units within the region and, depending on location, contain king, silver, pink, or chum migration, rearing, or spawning areas. Extensive wetland areas exist within the region, with palustrine, lacustrine, and riverine types all being present, depending on location.

Because of its relatively remote location, state land receives moderate to limited use, with the type of use reflecting the local patterns of recreation activity. Given the dispersed character of state land, its main use is for winter recreation (dog mushing, cross country skiing), although limited summer trail and ATV use is likely. Such use is necessarily dispersed and limited in amount. Much more intense use is associated with the Little Susitna SRR and Nancy Lake State Recreation Area (SRA), both of which are situated to the east. The Little Susitna SRR receives considerable use during the summer, with the intensity of that use related to salmon runs. This area also receives considerable winter recreation use (ATV, dog mushing, and snow-machining). The Nancy Lake SRA receives both summer and winter use. The area of state land that is forested is part of the Division of Forestry's timber base, although no timber harvest operations are likely to occur in this area during the planning period. Areas west of Crystal Lake have experienced agricultural land sales and some limited agricultural operations have occurred. There may be additional development of agricultural uses in this area given that much of the agricultural land remains vacant.

Management Constraints

Several state and local management plans affect the planning area and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the Susitna Corridor Region. Only one state resource plan affected this region, the 1982 Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan, which is now superseded with this update. Local plans include the local land use plans of community councils within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Borough Comprehensive Plan, and the Borough Coastal Management Plan. These plans provide management guidance of a general nature and helped in the formulation of recommendations. The Enforceable Policies of the Coastal Management Plan were particularly useful.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. State land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation. Reflecting the significant presence of wetlands (palustrine, lacustrine, and riverine), most state land (26,754 acres) is co-designated Habitat and Water Resources. Much of the remainder (14,304) is designated Forestry, reflecting the forested resources in the region. The remainder is allocated to settlement (3,018 acres), with most of this occurring west of the two larger lakes that adjoin the region, Crystal and Red Shirt Lakes. Several previous state subdivisions have been developed in the Red Shirt Lake area, and the area northwest of Crystal Lake has experienced agricultural land sales. Consult the Resource Allocation Table and maps for specific recommendations.

Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Susitna Corridor Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
S-01	Rd 395	Map 3 S019N005W	Manage unit for its recreation values. Retain in state ownership.	Parcel occupies generally flat terrain and consists of vegetated uplands in its western part and palustrine wetlands in its eastern. It abuts the Susitna River and the Willow Creek State Recreation Area. The wetlands are extension of those that make up unit S-02. Road access is available within 0.5 miles.
S-02	Wr, Ha 21,930	Maps 3 and 5 S016N007W; S017N006W; S017N007W; S018N005W; S018N006W; S019N005W; S019N006W	Protect wetlands, anadromous streams, and habitat values. Maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.	This large unit extends throughout the region, consisting of extensive areas of palustrine wetlands mixed with riverine and lacustrine wetlands adjacent to certain streams and lakes. Moose winter calving areas are present and numerous anadromous streams exist. Contains portions of the Iditarod Trail.
S-03	F 14,304	Maps 3 and 5 S017N006W; S017N007W; S018N005W; S018N006W; S019N005W; S019N006W	Manage unit consistent with requirements of Forestry section of Chapter 2, applicable Susitna Forestry Guidelines, and FRPA standards. Protect wetlands, anadromous streams, and moose winter calving areas. Maintain a 200' undisturbed riparian protection buffer adjacent to the Susitna River and its braided channels. Maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.	<p>This large unit extends throughout most parts of the region, and consists of extensive stands of a spruce-poplar forest situated within riverine areas adjacent to the Susitna River. This tall, relatively dense forest system primarily contains white spruce, locally mixed with large cottonwood and balsam poplar on both level floodplains of the Susitna River and on low river terraces. Alaska paper birch and quaking aspen are also often present. The southern portions of this unit contain a moose winter calving area. This unit is adjacent to the main stem and braided channels of Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200, and provides habitat for Coho, Pink, Chum, King, Sockeye salmon and eulachon, Dolly Varden. The lower S-03 unit also contains anadromous streams AWC# 247-41-10200-2070 and 247-41-10200-2060 and tributaries that support coho salmon. Unit also contains portions of the Iditarod Trail.</p> <p>This large area has been classified Forestry for over 25 years and constitutes part of the primary core of the Division of Forestry's sustained yield inventory in the Susitna Valley.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
S-04	Se 569	Map 3 S019N005W: 22, 27	Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Protect inlet stream to larger lake and provide a public use site on lake; maintain a 100' protection area adjacent to the lake and the outlet stream. Consider recreational uses and values in subdivision design and maintain (or realign) recreational trails if found to be present. Particular attention is to be given to the winter recreational uses that occur in the northern part of this parcel, which may include the Iditarod Trail, when the restart occurs from Willow. Maintain public recreation access to lake. Protect wetlands in subdivision design.	Parcel occupies generally flat terrain and is occupied by vegetated uplands interspersed with some palustrine wetlands. Portions within sections 22 and the NE ¼ of 27 adjoins Vera Lake, an ADF&G stocked lake. Residential uses occupy parts of the larger lake abutting the eastern part of the unit. Road access is immediately available. An ILMA to ADOT/PF, to construct a road between Pt. MacKenzie and Houston, occupies portions of this parcel. The development of this road is problematic and is dependent on the results of the Knik Arm Bridge crossing feasibility studies and the current (2007) Fish Creek Management Plan, now being prepared. This area was previously classified Agriculture but the Division of Agriculture has subsequently determined that the soils are not suitable for this purpose. Wetland areas adjacent to this unit experience extensive recreational use during the winter.
S-05	Unit deleted			
S-06	Wr, Ha 116	Map 3 S018N006W: 11, 14, 15	Protect habitat and water resources values.	Unit occupies a relatively large, heavily vegetated island that is separated from the remainder of the region by a slough.
S-07	Se 1,232	Map 3 S018N005W: 5-8	Portions of unit may be appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Evaluate feasibility of additional subdivision activity prior to a disposal decision. Protect wetlands and maintain public use easement in subdivision design. A 100' protection area affects the anadromous stream.	Unit occupies a generally flat, vegetated area of uplands that, especially in its southern part, is interspersed with palustrine wetlands. A previous state subdivision (ASLS 76-29 occupies the central portion of the parcel. Residential uses are present. A 50' public use easement crosses portions of the unit (Big Swamp Trail; ADL 229107-E). There is no immediate road access. Borough land is situated immediately to the east. Unit contains anadromous stream, Rolly Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2070 and tributaries that support coho salmon.
S-08	Se 1,218 (Includes area of previous ASLS.)	Map 5 S018N005W: 17, 20, 28, 29, 32	Portions of unit may be appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Evaluate feasibility of additional subdivision activity in this unit prior to a final disposal decision. Protect wetlands and their functions. Maintain public access trails listed in 'Resources and Uses'.	Similar to unit S-07, parcel occupies a generally flat, vegetated area of uplands. Most wetland areas are situated in the adjacent unit, S-02, although parts of sections 20 and 29 contain palustrine wetlands. A previous state subdivision (ASLS 71-44) occupies a portion of section 32. Residential land uses are present. Red Shirt Lake is situated about 0.5 miles to the east. There is no immediate road access. Borough land is situated immediately to the east. RST 149, alternate Iditarod Trail route, and trails 70-22 and 70-4 traverse parcel.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
S-09	Ha, Wr 883	Map 5 S017N007W: 33; S016N007W: 4, 5, 8, 9	Protect fish and wildlife habitat and water resource values.	Unit occupies an island and is separated from the main body of the region by a slough. It consists of a central part of palustrine wetlands and upland areas within the remainder of the tract. Portions of the unit contain a moose wintering concentration area and a moose calving area.
S-10	Ha, Wr 3,825	Map 5 S016N007W: 3, 4, 9-11, 13- 15; S017N007W: 33, 34	Protect habitat, anadromous streams, wetlands, and water resource values.	Unit consists of primarily palustrine wetlands with some interspersed vegetated uplands, especially in the northern part. Portions of the unit contain a moose wintering concentration area and a moose calving area.
S-11	Ag 337	Map 5 S017N007W: 36	Unit is appropriate for agricultural land disposal during the planning period. Protect wetlands in subdivision design. Maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.	Unit consists of vegetated uplands interspersed with some palustrine wetlands. It is generally flat, has soils conducive to agriculture, and has been classified Agriculture for over 25 years. Contains portions of the Iditarod Trail.
S-12	Rd 42	Map 5 S016N007W: 14, 15	Unit is to be managed for public recreation purposes and retained in public ownership.	Parcel is situated on the Susitna River, contains upland vegetation, and is generally flat. It has been classified as Public Recreation-Dispersed for over 25 years.

Total state land within region (11 units) – 44,850 acres

Willow Region

The Willow Region is in the northern half of the planning area and encompasses the majority of the Willow Creek and Deception Creek drainages. The Parks Highway and Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road are the major arterial roads for the region, and the built up core of the community of Willow lies to the south and west of their intersection. There is a complex of lakes west of the Parks Highway and north of the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area (SRA) that is a developing residential area and the state has a few scattered parcels here. Most land within this region is owned by non-state entities, including the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the private sector, and much of the state land that remains is associated with the Legislatively Designated Areas, Nancy Lake and Willow Creek SRAs. See Map 3.

Distribution and Characteristics

State uplands, totaling approximately 6,000 acres, are scattered throughout the region with more than half lying in one large block north of the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road and Willow Creek and west of the Shirley Towne Bridge. Private land occupies the riparian area and state lands generally begin one half mile north of Willow Creek. A large block of borough land lies to the north. This state land is generally level or gently rolling and contains a mix of forested uplands and scrub or forested palustrine wetlands. There are some agricultural soils present.

There is a one square mile section of state land that lies one mile east of the Parks Highway across from Nancy Lake. Three lakes are present on this mostly forested land that also contains some palustrine wetlands. Large blocks of borough land are immediately north and south of this parcel.

A 494 acre piece of state land encompasses the Willow Airport and associated lands along the Parks Highway corridor. While most of this parcel is affected by the footprint of the airport there are some bordering lands that are forested and as yet undeveloped.

A few state parcels occupy forested riparian lands adjacent to Willow Creek State Recreation Area. The remainder of state lands are scattered parcels, 10-60 acres in size, exhibiting a mix of forest and wetlands. Most are found in proximity to the numerous lakes in the western half of this region and are on the edge of private residential development. Road access and some utilities are present or are within one mile of each parcel.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

The majority of the parcels of state land have road access. The remainder have trail access and/or are within one mile of a road. Some of the small state land parcels adjoining lakes are likely to be the only remaining public access points for these lakes and gain increasing importance as residential development occurs on non-state land.

Some of the larger pieces of state land, especially those along the north side of Willow Creek, provide movement corridors for moose and bear from the Talkeetna Foothills to the Susitna River corridor. The few scattered lakes in the eastern half of this region provide habitat for waterfowl including swans. Anadromous streams cross a few of the units within the region and, depending on location, contain king, silver, pink, or chum migration, rearing, or spawning areas. Willow and Deception creeks are regionally significant anadromous fish streams that pass through the center of the region.

Private and commercial recreation are important activities in this region. Fishing is the major summer recreation with human use dispersed on the state land within this region. The nearest concentrated use is in the adjacent Willow Creek State Recreation Area (SRA). In the winter, recreation turns to snow-machining, dog mushing, skiing and snowshoeing. There are extensive winter trail systems including the Emil Stancec Trails north of Willow Creek, the Haessler-Norris Trails between Deception Creek and the Parks Highway, and the West Gateway Trails criss-crossing the lands between the Parks Highway and the Susitna River. These trails mainly follow the waterways and wetland complexes and are so extensive as to touch almost all of the state land parcels in this region.

Management Constraints

Several state and local management plans affect the planning area and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the Willow Region. Only two state resource plans affected this region, the 1982 Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan and the 1989 Deception Creek Land Use Plan, which are now superseded with this update. Local plans include the Willow Area Trails Plan, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Plan and the Borough Coastal Management Plan. These plans provide management guidance of a general nature and helped in the formulation of recommendations. The Enforceable Policies of the Coastal Management Plan were particularly useful. The Willow Community Council began their comprehensive plan process in 2007 with results unavailable for this Southeast Susitna Area Plan.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. State land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation. The majority of state land (2,080 acres) is designated Settlement and is recommended for land disposal during the planning period. These areas adjoin current or projected residential areas and are relatively close to access and necessary infrastructure. It is not intended that all of this land be disposed of immediately. Before the development of some of this state land becomes practicable, adjacent private and borough lands must be developed first, thereby providing access and infrastructure to state lands. The remainder of state land is designated Water Resources (2,400 acres), Forestry (610 acres), Public Facilities (494 acres), Public Recreation (411 acres)⁶ or Materials (30 acres). The area designated for Habitat is a wetland area adjacent to the Willow Creek corridor. The Forestry area is a section of land in the southeast corner of this region that is adjacent to a much larger block of state land designated for forestry. Areas designated Public Recreation are parcels providing access to waterbodies that receive local recreational use. The Public Facilities designation applies to the area of the Willow Airport. Consult the Resource Allocation Table and maps for specific recommendations.

Two LDAs are geographically near or generally within this region: the Willow Creek SRA and Nancy Lake SRA, consisting of 3,594 and 22,476 acres, respectively.

⁶ In addition, two LDAs, which together total 26,070 acres, are in or near this region and are managed for public recreation purposes.

Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Willow Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
W-01	F 610	Map 3 S019N004W: 36	Manage unit consistent with requirements of Forestry section of Chapter 2 and with applicable Susitna Forestry Guidelines. Maintain public use easement on Windy Lake Loop. Protect habitat and recreation values on lakes, trails, and anadromous stream. Maintain 100' protection area (no cut) on lakes and a 50' protection area (no cut) on both sides of the Haessler-Norris Trails.	Unit is generally flat, consisting of both vegetated uplands and wetland areas. Upland areas are a spruce-hardwood mix. Three lakes are located within parcel, the largest being Windy Lake, AWC# 247-41-10100-2231-3050-4011-0010. The Haessler-Norris Winter Trail System, Windy Lake Loop Trail bisects parcel. There is no immediate road access to parcel, but it lies within 1.1 miles of Parks Hwy and 0.6 miles of minor road. Anadromous stream 247-41-10100-2231-3050-4011 crosses parcel. This parcel is closed to mineral entry (Mineral Closing Order 250).
W-02	Rd 45	Map 3 S019N004W: 34	Manage parcel for its recreational values. Retain in state ownership.	Unit is generally flat, consisting of both vegetated uplands and wetland areas and contains a heavily used winter recreational trail network. Frying Pan Lake is 0.1 miles to north and there is one small lake within parcel. Frying Pan Lake Trails (part of the Haessler-Norris Winter Trail System) run through eastern part of this parcel. This parcel is closed to mineral entry (Mineral Closing Order 250).
W-03	Rp 2	Map 3 S019N004W: 34	Unit is to be managed for public recreation. Retain in state ownership.	Unit is a forested point of land on Frying Pan Lake. This lake is used as part of the Haessler-Norris Winter Trail System. There is no immediate road access but parcel is within 0.4 miles of Parks Hwy and 0.4 miles of a minor road. Land surrounding lake is in Matanuska-Susitna Borough, University and other private ownership. This is the only remaining state land on this lake, which is used for public recreation purposes.
W-04	Rp 36	Map 3 S019N004W: 28	Manage unit consistent with the ILMA. Protect anadromous lake and stream. Retain public access.	Unit is adjacent to Nancy Lake and bisected by the Parks Highway and Old Parks Highway. Nancy Lake, AWC# 247-41-10100-2231-0010, provides habitat for coho and sockeye salmon, burbot, Dolly Varden, rainbow trout and whitefish. Northern Pike are also present. Anadromous stream Lilly Creek 247-41-10100-2231-3080 is on parcel. Unit is affected by an ILMA (ADL 37437) to Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation for the Nancy Lake Wayside. The parcel is part of the borough's Nancy Lake Northeast Shore Recreation Land Use District (RLUD).
W-05	Se 30	Map 3 S019N004W: 33	Unit may be suitable for settlement if access develops through adjacent private lands. Subdivision design should protect wetlands that connect to Nancy Lake SRA immediately to west and maintain its function as recreational open space for local residents.	Unit is half lake/wetland and half forested uplands. The only current access is by private road. Small lake used for recreational open space by immediate neighborhood residents.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
W-06	Rp 6	Map 3 S019N004W: 29	Unit shall remain in public ownership and be maintained as a recreation corridor that functions to connect the two lakes. Public access to and along both lakes is to be maintained.	Small forested parcel connects Honeybee Lake and Lynne Lake and is bisected by road, providing public access to lakes. Both lakes are stocked by ADF&G.
W-07	Unit deleted; not state land.			
W-08	Se 80	Map 3 S019N004W: 20	Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Subdivision design should protect wetland values and provide a public use site on and access to and along Jack Lake. If anadromous fish habitat is identified by ADF&G, it should be protected. Portion east of railroad will need access development.	Unit is mostly wetlands with intermittent strips of vegetation. It encompasses most of eastern shore of Jack Lake. While Jack Lake is not listed in the Anadromous Waters Catalog, it is hydrologically connected to Gene Lake, AWC# 247-41-10200-2120-3018-0010. The Alaska Railroad crosses through the northeast corner of the parcel. The Kelly Lake Loop Trail (part of the Haessler-Norris Winter Trail System) runs through southeastern portion of this parcel.
W-09	Rp 7	Map 3 S019N004W: 16	Unit is to be managed for public recreation. Retain in state ownership.	Unit occupies a forested peninsula on Stevens Lake, a popular recreation lake. This is the only remaining state land on this lake. It is School Trust land (SCH 45).
W-10	Wr 1,600	Map 3 S020N004W	Manage unit to protect and maintain its hydrologic values. Protect anadromous waters and trails.	This largely flat and consists of a mixture of vegetated uplands and wetlands. An extensive wetlands complex exists in portions of this parcel.
W-11	Pr 494	Map 3 S019N004W: 5-8, 17	Manage unit consistent with the Management Right and ILMAs to ADOT/PF. Wetland area west of Gene Lake and small parcels east of Willow Lake are to be managed for public recreational access. Protect anadromous waters and maintain trails. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit comprises area along Parks Highway corridor between Willow Lake and Gene Lake. It contains Willow Airport and portions of Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad. Talkeetna Trail runs through a portion of this unit. Most acreage is affected by ADOT/PF Mgt. Rt. ADL 227587 and ILMA ADLs 22488 & 40293. Remaining area is the wetland area west of Gene Lake, AWC# 247-41-10200-2120-3018-0010, and small parcels east of Willow Lake. There is also a small strip of land (ROW) along the section line at southern border of municipal entitlement (ADL 216873, now patented to MSB) that was not included in that ADL. Willow Lake, adjacent to this unit, is managed for floatplane access by ADOT/PF pursuant to an Interagency Land Management Transfer (ILMT) ADL 18500 issued to ADOT/PF in 1964.
W-12	Rd 50	Map 3 S019N004W: 5	Manage unit to be consistent with the recreation uses and values of the adjacent State Recreation Area. Retain in state ownership. Protect anadromous stream.	Unit occupies a forested area along an anadromous stream (247-41-10200-2120-3017), a tributary of Willow Creek. It adjoins Willow Creek State Recreation Area and lies one mile east of Parks Hwy. Access to this parcel requires the crossing of the Alaska Railroad right-of-way or Willow Creek.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
W-13	Rp 10	Map 3 S019N004W: 5	Manage unit to be consistent with the recreation uses and values of the adjacent State Recreation Area. Retain in state ownership. Protect anadromous stream.	Unit occupies a generally level, forested area near the mouth of Deception Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2120-3020. It adjoins Willow Creek State Recreation Area and the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road.
W-14	Ma 30	Map 3 S019N004W: 3	Manage material site consistent with Free Use Permit to ADOT/PF. Protect anadromous stream. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit occupies forested area adjacent to Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road and functions as a material site under permit to ADOT/PF (ADL 25125, issued in 1965 for an indefinite term). Portions of unit are within floodplain of Willow Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2120. Leasehold Location Order 11 applies to area.
W-15	Se 1,650	Map 3 S020N004W: 33-36	<p>Portions of this unit are appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Development of this large area should only occur after the development of a framework plan that identifies potential subdivision areas, areas that require protection, and a generalized development phasing plan. Development should be sequential, beginning at the southeastern part of the unit that accesses the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road. An open space system that is intended to be protected in subsequent subdivision development is to be provided in the framework plan. Consideration should be given to large lot design in a portion of the unit to allow for the harboring of animals. Subsequent subdivision development, in its general characteristics, is to conform to the framework plan. The public should be given an opportunity to comment on a draft plan.</p> <p>The framework plan and any subsequent subdivision designs should either avoid wetlands (or retain their functions), maintain trails (or realign them), and provide space for the recreational uses that occupy areas as opposed to specific trail locations.</p>	This unit comprises portions of several sections and is generally flat, consisting of both vegetated uplands and wetland areas. Portions of this parcel are susceptible to residential development. The intertie (ADL 213063) and RST 1691 (Herning Trail) run through unit. Portions of the Emil Stancec Winter Trail System occupy this unit. Leasehold Location Order 8 and Mineral Closing Order 343 affect portions of this unit. Section 36 is School Trust land (SCH-46).
W-16	Wr 800	Map 3 S020N004W: 28,33	Protect the water resource values of this wetland. Maintain trails. Protect anadromous waters.	Unit occupies area of wetlands along Rogers Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2130-3020, and an unnamed tributary to Willow Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2120-3017. Intertie ADL 213063 bisects unit. Portions of the Emil Stancec Winter Trail System occupy this unit.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
W-17	Se 320	Map 3 S020N005W: 36	<p>The northern portion of unit, that part above the bluff, is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period, except as noted below. Protect the viewshed from the adjacent SRA by using building setbacks and partially vegetated buffers, or similar techniques designed to protect the viewshed.”</p> <p>This portion of the unit will not be considered for land sales for three years following plan adoption to allow for the consideration of this site’s potential for a facility supporting the Iditarod Race. A best interest determination must find that it is in the best interest of the state to proceed with a land disposal for this purpose.</p> <p>The area south of the bluff is to be retained as open space and managed to be consistent with the recreational uses and values of the adjacent Willow Creek SRA. The southern area is to be retained as state land. Protect anadromous waters.</p>	<p>The unit occupies forested, level ground in the northern part above the bluff line. Its southern portion adjoins the Willow Creek State Recreation Area. Mineral Closing Order 539 affects this unit. Secondary roads come to northern edge of property. Portions of the Emil Stancec Winter Trail System are in this unit. Unit occupies section 36, School trust land (SCH-47).</p>
W-18	Rd 180	Map 3 S020N005W: 24	<p>Manage unit consistent with Management Right ADL 225812. Maintain the public use easement. Protect anadromous stream.</p>	<p>Most of parcel occupies a level, forested area along Little Willow Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2130. This property (OSL 1070) is currently managed according to a Management Right (ADL 225812) to ADF&G. A public right-of-way (ADL 225875) occupies part of the unit.</p>
W-19	Rd 75	Map 3 S020N004W: 36	<p>Manage unit for its recreational value. Preserve public access and protect the anadromous stream. Retain in state ownership.</p>	<p>This parcel occupies a mostly level, forested area along Willow Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2120, a major anadromous stream in the region. There is an instream flow reservation on Willow Creek (LAS 11562). A bridge situated within the geographic area of the parcel provides access to the remainder of the large unit to the north (W-15). Unit occupies section 36, School Trust land (SCH-46).</p>

Total state land within region (18 units) – 6,025 acres

Kashwitna Region

The Kashwitna Region is one of the largest regions in the planning area and, given the amount of state land, one of the most important. It encompasses the area north of the Willow community, occupying the area along the Parks Highway between the Little Willow River north to the Talkeetna Spur Road and the Susitna River Bridge. It extends west to the Susitna River and east to the foothills area, which, for the purposes of this plan, is defined by a township line at Range 3 (west). See Maps 1 and 2.

Distribution and Characteristics

The state-owned uplands are scattered throughout the region and total approximately 24,000 acres. About 15,600 acres are associated with large palustrine wetland complexes situated generally one mile east of the Parks Highway; these extend in a north-south direction for 6.5 miles and in a west-east direction for one to three miles. Another 6,500 acres of state land are associated with fairly level, isolated, well drained parcels that are situated in remote locations or, in some instances, near the large wetland complex or adjacent to roads. About 1,700 acres are associated with areas that are now used for active recreational use; this includes a number of parcels that are affected by Management Agreements to another state agency for either recreation or habitat protection, or both. Most recreational use is associated with sport fishing during the summer months in these parcels. However, it is likely that the large wetland complex is used during the winter months for recreation.

The terrain is relatively flat with an approximately equal mix of forested uplands and wetlands. The forested areas consist of a dense mix of birch and spruce trees that are moderately to heavily wooded. The wetlands vary from small pockets to large, open low-lying areas. Several drainages cross the region from the Talkeetna Mountains in the east and drain into the Susitna River in the west; these include Montana Creek, Goose Creek, Sheep Creek and Kashwitna River, all of which support anadromous fish. The major lakes in the region include: Kashwitna, Emil, Caswell, and Woman. Some of these sustain important waterfowl concentrations during migratory periods.

Access, Resources and Uses of State Land

Access to lands within this region occurs directly from the Parks Highway or from connecting roads to the highway. For parcels in more remote areas, immediate road access is not typically available and for this reason development of these parcels is problematic during the planning period.

Waterfowl, brown bear and moose are distributed generally throughout the region, although moose winter concentrations occur in the wetland areas. Dall sheep and caribou are not present in the region. Montana, Goose, Sheep and Kashwitna rivers are anadromous streams and cross a few of the units within the region. These streams and their tributaries contain anadromous fish.

State land receives moderate or limited use depending on the location and access, and is almost entirely related to recreation. The main use for remote parcels is generally winter recreation such as dog mushing or snow machining. Summer use is limited, and likely to be only hiking or ATV use. There may be some limited use of these lands for hunting. The primary streams in the region (Montana, Sheep, and Kashwitna) all receive intense summer fishing use. Such use is necessarily dispersed and limited in amount, although there is a high concentration of such use at public recreation sites particularly at the mouth of Montana creek. In addition to dispersed recreation, small amounts of state land are used for gravel extraction or have developed recreation sites that are used during the summer months.

Management Constraints

A number of state and local management plans were considered in the development of recommendations for the Kashwitna region. Local plans include the Willow Area Trails Plan, the 2005 Y Community Council Area Comprehensive Plan, and the Borough Comprehensive Plan. Three state resource plans affected this region, the 1982 Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan, a portion of the 1985 Susitna Area Plan, and the 1991 Kashwitna Management Plan, which are now superseded with this update.

Management Summary

State land within this region is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. Reflecting the substantial area occupied by wetlands, the bulk of state land (15,579 acres) is designated Water Resources and is to be managed to protect wetland values. Nearly 3,000 acres designated Settlement are considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. These generally consist of areas that are well drained forested uplands, which have existing or nearby road access. They adjoin current or expected areas of residential development, and some of these areas are close to road access and necessary infrastructure. State land that does not have a current use or is unlikely to be developed during the planning period use is designated General Use (3,103 acres). Typically these are isolated, remote parcels lacking road access and that, because of poor access and difficult terrain or the presence of intervening wetlands, are not expected to develop during the planning period. The Public Recreation designation, consisting of roughly 1,700 acres, is applied to those

areas under a Management Agreement and/or where public recreation now occurs and is widespread. The remaining 278 acres of state land are designated Materials Land (Ma) and include current gravel extraction operations or areas where such extraction is likely or is affected by a Management Right or similar authorization.

Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Kashwitna Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-01	Rd 36	Map 1 S024N005W: 24	Protect recreational values of unit. Authorizations other than public recreation are considered inappropriate. Retain in state ownership.	Unit occupies gravel bar and is generally flat and vegetated. It is situated adjacent to Susitna River and across a creek west of Parks Hwy. There is no immediate road access; access is by boat only. Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200, provides habitat for coho, pink, chum, king, sockeye salmon and eulachon, Dolly Varden.
K-02	Ma 179	Map 1 S024N005W: 25	Manage unit consistent with requirements of ILMA. When ILMA terminates reevaluate this unit for alternate use. Reclassification to an alternative use will be required.	Unit is situated adjacent to Susitna River and is heavily forested. There is no immediate road access. Unit is affected by ILMA (ADL 45666) to ADOT/PF as a material site. Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200, provides habitat for coho, pink, chum, king, sockeye salmon and eulachon, Dolly Varden.
K-03	Rd 232	Map 1 S023N004W: 6	If conveyed to state, protect recreational values of unit and Susitna River. Authorizations other than public recreation are considered inappropriate. Retain in state ownership.	Unit is situated adjacent to Susitna River, north of Montana Creek. Unit is heavily forested. Parcel is in selection status. There is no immediate road access. Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200, provides habitat for coho, pink, chum, king, sockeye salmon and eulachon, Dolly Varden.
K-04	Rd 100	Map 1 S023N004W: 7	If conveyed to state, protect recreational values of unit and Susitna River. Authorizations other than public recreation are considered inappropriate. Retain in state ownership.	Unit is situated adjacent to Susitna River, south of Montana Creek Recreation site. Unit is heavily forested. Parcel is in selection status. There is no immediate road access. Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200, provides habitat for coho, pink, chum, king, sockeye salmon and eulachon, Dolly Varden.
K-05	Se 77	Map 1 S023N004W: 5	That part of the unit west of Montana Creek is considered appropriate for land disposals during planning period. Protect Montana Creek and floodplain in subdivision design. A 200' protection area affects the area adjacent to Montana Creek. The area east of Montana Creek is not to be developed and is to be retained in state ownership.	Unit is located adjacent to the Parks Hwy with Montana Creek bisecting the unit. The portion west of Montana creek is somewhat flat and heavily forested. The remainder of the unit includes the Montana river, its flood plain, and an area that is heavily wooded. Montana Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2250, provides habitat for chum, coho, king & pink salmon.
K-06	Rd 56	Map 1 S023N004W: 5, 8	Protect recreational values of unit and Montana Creek. Authorizations other than public recreation are considered inappropriate. Retain in state ownership.	Unit is situated on Montana Creek upstream from a private campground and east of the Parks Highway. It contains a mix of shrubs and trees, with Montana creek bisecting the southern part of the unit. There is a small parking area in the southwest corner along the highway which is used as an access point to Montana creek. Montana Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2250, provides habitat for chum, coho, king & pink salmon.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-07	Se 11	Map 1 S023N004W: 8	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposals during planning period. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit is located along Montana Creek Road, just south of Montana Creek. The terrain is generally flat and consists of forested uplands. The creek has been rip-rapped in the area adjacent to the north side of Montana Creek Road. Montana Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2250, provides habitat for chum, coho, king & pink salmon.
K-08	Rd 45	Map 1 S023N004W: 7, 8	Manage unit for its public access and public recreation values, and consistent with the requirements the ILMA. Retain in state ownership.	Unit is located at confluence of Susitna River and Montana Creek and is affected by ILMA (ADL 221511) for Montana Creek State Recreation area which includes a private campground. Used heavily during summer months for sport fishing and general public recreation. Has road access. Contains 200' Alaska Railroad easement and bridge. Montana Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2250, and Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200 provides habitat for chum, coho, king & pink salmon.
K-09	Rd 18	Map 1 S023N004W: 8	Manage unit for its public recreation values. Retain in state ownership. Authorizations other than public recreation are considered inappropriate.	Unit is adjacent to Parks Highway and just south of a private campground. This unit is used heavily during summer months for parking access to Montana Creek. It is heavily vegetated. Montana Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2250, provides habitat for chum, coho, king & pink salmon.
K-10	Se 100	Map 1 S023N004W: 9	Unit is appropriate for land disposals during planning period. Development is to avoid the wetlands that adjoin the unit on the east. A 50' protection area between residential uses and this wetland area is to be provided. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit consists of densely forested uplands bordering a wetland complex. Road access exists along much of the unit. Winter trails exist at the edge of the wetlands, and it is believed that the wetlands on the adjacent unit (K-11) are used for winter recreation.
K-11	Wr 1,460	Map 1 S023N004W: 4, 9, 16	Protect wetlands and Goose Creek for the hydrologic and recreational values. Maintain Montana loop trail.	Unit has extensive palustrine wetlands with a few islands of forested uplands. Winter recreation occurs along the Montana loop trail. Road access is available at the northeast end of the unit. Goose creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2230, provides habitat for chum, pink, coho, king salmon and crosses the south end of unit.
K-12	Se 520	Map 1 S023N004W: 10, 15	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposals during planning period. Avoid wetlands and Goose Creek in subdivision design. The large wetland complex that in the west of the unit is to be maintained as undisturbed open space. Maintain easement for Willow-Healy Intertie. Maintain a 150' protection area adjacent to Goose Creek and its tributaries. Provide for public access and recreation along river corridor. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit contains forested uplands along the Herring-Question Creek trail. Goose Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2230 & 247-41-10200-2230-3022, trends north to south. Two forks of Goose Creek bisect unit at north end and again at the south end provides habitat for chum, pink, coho and king salmon. A tributary to Goose Creek, AWC#247-41-10200-2230-3144, also bisects unit at the north end, provides habitat for coho. The Willow-Healy Intertie (ADL 213063) bisects unit from the northeast to the southwest. Road access exists in northeast corner of unit. CIRI Native corporation lands are situated to the east and south.
K-13	Unit deleted			

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-14	Unit deleted			
K-15	Wr 40	Map 1 S023N004W: 22	Manage unit for public recreation values and retain in state ownership.	Unit is mostly palustrine wetlands. There is no immediate road access. The Willow-Healy Intertie (ADL 213063) crosses unit from north to south on the western side of unit. Unit is surrounded by CIRI Native Corporation lands.
K-16	Unit deleted			
K-17	Unit deleted			
K-18	Se 560	Map 1 S023N004W: 25, 36	Unit is considered appropriate for settlement during planning period. Protect wetlands. A 100' protection area affects the area adjacent to Caswell Creek. Provide for public access and recreation along river corridor.	Unit is moderately sloped, has well vegetated uplands and elongated wetlands. Caswell Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2190, is located in the southwest corner and provides habitat for coho salmon. Road access is nearby in the south and northwest corner. A pre-disposal action (ADL 229734) affects the northern portion of this unit.
K-19	Se 220	Map 1 S023N004W: 27	Unit is considered appropriate for settlement during planning period. Avoid or protect wetlands. Maintain easement for Willow-Healy Intertie. Maintain a 150' protection area adjacent to Sheep Creek. Provide for public access and recreation along river corridor.	Unit is a mix of wetlands and well drained forested uplands. The Willow-Healy Intertie (ADL 213063) crosses from north to south on the western side of unit. Unit contains Sheep Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2200 and provides habitat for chum, pink, coho, king salmon.
K-20	Unit deleted			
K-21	Unit deleted			
K-22	Wr, Rd 150	Map 1 S022N004W: 8, 17 S022N005W: 7, 18	Manage unit for its wetland and scenic values. Protect spring that is used by the public for drinking water.	Unit occupies level terrain consisting almost entirely of wetlands. A spring is located along the highway within the northwestern part of section 17 and is used extensively by the public. Both the Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad bisect portions of the parcel. This parcel is readily viewed from both the Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad and is also important in terms of its scenic values.
K-23	Wr 1,440	Map 1 S023N004W: 33, 34 S022N004W: 4, 9	Protect and maintain Sheep Creek and adjacent wetlands. Maintain Willow-Healy Intertie easement. Retain in state ownership.	Unit contains extensive wetlands, is sparsely vegetated and generally flat. Sheep Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2200, provides habitat for chum, pink, coho, king salmon, and crosses the unit in a north-south orientation. Road access exists in the south east corner. The Willow-Healy Intertie (ADL 213063) affects unit along the east side.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-24	Se 40	Map 1 S023N004W: 32	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period.	Unit is flat and heavily forested. There is residential use nearby and the Parks Hwy is 0.5 miles away. Road access is nearby to the north.
K-25	Unit deleted			
K-26	Unit deleted			
K-27	Se 200	Map 1 S022N004W: 4, 9	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Settlement should occur on forested uplands. Protect wetlands in subdivision design. Maintain 150' protection area adjacent to Sheep Creek. Provide for public access and recreation along river corridor.	Unit has large block of forested uplands adjacent to a substantial wetlands complex. Adjoins wetlands and Sheep Creek in unit K-23. Nearby lake has public access. Sheep Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2200, provides habitat for chum, pink, coho, and king salmon.
K-28	Se 120	Map 1 S022N004W: 9	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Settlement should occur on forested uplands. Avoid or protect wetlands in subdivision design. Maintain 150' protection area adjacent to Sheep Creek. Provide for public access and recreation along river corridor.	Similar to K-27 unit.
K-29	Se 190	Map 1 S022N004W: 8, 17	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Avoid or protect wetlands in subdivision design. Maintain 150' protection area adjacent to anadromous stream. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along the Parks Highway and Alaska Railroad.	Unit consists of level terrain vegetated with forested uplands. The area immediately to the west of this unit is occupied by wetlands (K-29B). Residential development has occurred to the east of the unit around Parker Lake. Both the Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad bisect portions of the parcel. This parcel is readily viewed from both the Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad and is also important in terms of its scenic values.
K-30	Wr 400	Map 1 S022N004W: 8	Protect and maintain wetlands.	Unit occupies a generally flat area consisting primarily of palustrine wetlands and small isolated islands of forested uplands.
K-31	Se 140	Map 2 S022N004W: 16	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Settlement should occur on forested uplands. Avoid or protect wetlands in subdivision design. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit is a mix of wetlands and forested uplands. Road access exists in both northwest and south portions of unit. The Willow-Healy Intertie (ADL 213063) affects the west side of unit. CIRI Native Corporation lands to the west and north. Borough lands are to the east.
K-32	Ma 99	Map 2 S022N004W: 20	Manage unit consistent with requirements of the ILMA. Alternative uses are appropriate if ILMA is terminated.	Unit is affected by ILMA (ADL 43689) to ADOT/PF as a material site for a road project from Willow Creek to the Susitna River. The Parks Hwy bisects the unit.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-33	Se 320	Map 2 S022N004W: 22	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Settlement should occur on the forested uplands along roadway. Avoid or protect creek and wetlands in subdivision design. Maintain 100' protection area adjacent to anadromous stream. Provide for public access and recreation along river corridor. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit consists of forested uplands surrounding a broad open wetland south of Hidden Hills road. A tributary to Caswell Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2190-3020, and trending east-west separates the wetlands from the uplands, and provides habitat for coho salmon. Several other tributaries in unit likely to provide habitat for anadromous and resident fish. CIRI Native Corporation lands are located to the east and south. Borough lands are located to the north and west.
K-34	Wr 40	Map 2 S022N004W: 22	Protect and maintain water resources.	Unit consists mainly of large open wetland with sparse vegetation. A creek crosses the northeast corner. Residential land uses are nearby and road access is available.
K-35	Rd 60	Map 2 S022N004W: 36	Manage unit for public recreation values and retain in state ownership.	Unit is located at the south end of the Caswell lakes subdivision. It is generally flat, densely forested and spans the Kashwitna river. There is road access from the north, west and the river.
K-36	Wr Rd 25	Map 2 S022N004W: 32	Protect and maintain water resources and wetlands. Provide for public access and recreation. Retain in state ownership. Maintain Alaska Railroad easement. A 100' protection area affects area adjacent to Caswell Creek.	Unit is located of the Alaska Railroad and is mostly wetlands with minor areas of forested uplands around the perimeter and contains Caswell creek. Caswell Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2190, provides habitat for coho salmon. There is no immediate road access. A 100' Alaska Railroad easement affects unit.
K-37	Gu 35	Map 2 S022N004W: 32	Manage unit for multiple uses. The suitability of development should be reevaluated if road access becomes available.	Unit is located east of the Alaska Railroad and contains densely forested uplands. There is no immediate or nearby road access. A 100' Alaska Railroad easement affects unit.
K-38	Rd 1,023	Map 2 S022N004W: Tract A	Protect recreational values of unit. Authorizations other than public recreation are considered inappropriate. Retain in state ownership.	Unit occupies area adjacent to the Susitna River west of Sheep Creek slough. The terrain is generally flat and heavily forested. There is no immediate road access. Sheep Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2200, and Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200, provide habitat for chum, pink, coho, and king salmon. Additionally, sockeye salmon, eulachon, and Dolly Varden are found in the Susitna River.
K-39	Rd 29	Map 2 S021N004W: 6	Manage unit consistent with requirements of the ILMA.	Unit is located at the confluence of the Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200 and Caswell Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2190, provide habitat for coho, pink, king, sockeye salmon, eulachon and dolly varden. Unit is affected by ILMA (ADL 224561) to ADF&G to develop a fishing access site. There is no immediate road access; access is by boat only.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-40	Rd 34	Map 2 S021N004W: 5	Manage unit for public recreation values and retain in state ownership. Maintain Alaska Railroad easement.	Unit consists of two parts. The Alaska Railroad splits the unit north to south and the Kashwitna River traverses the southern portion of the unit. The unit is densely forested. Kashwitna River, AWC #247-41-10200-2200 provides habitat for chum, pink, coho, king salmon and Dolly Varden.
K-41	Gu 640	Map 2 S021N004W: 3	Manage unit for multiple uses. The suitability of development should be reevaluated if road access becomes available.	Unit has large central block of forested uplands surrounded by palustrine wetlands. A creek system crosses the unit from east to west. 197 1/2 Mile Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2170 provides habitat for Coho salmon. Tributaries also likely support anadromous fish.
K-42	Wr 12,162	Map 2 S021N004W: 4, 9, 10, 14-17, 21-23, 26-29, 32-34 S020N004W: 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16	Manage unit to protect and maintain wetland and forest resources. Retain in state ownership. Maintain Willow-Healy Intertie easement.	Unit is part of a large wetland complex. There are mixed pockets of forested uplands and broad open wetlands. The Willow-Healy Intertie (ADL 213063) affects this unit. There is no available road access and none is planned. Several creeks cross this unit including: portions of 197 1/2 Mile Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2170; 196 Mile Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2170-3006; Little Willow Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2130; Stream, AWC #247-41-10200-2130-3036; Stream AWC #247-41-10200-2130-3021; Iron Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2130-3030; Rogers Creek Stream AWC #247-41-10200-2130-3020 providing habitat for a number of salmon species; coho, pink, chum and king.
K-43	Gu 773	Map 2 S021N004W: 10, 14, 15	Manage unit for multiple uses. The suitability of development should be reevaluated if road access becomes available.	Unit is a combination of elongated islands of forested uplands mixed with palustrine wetlands. This unit is relatively remote and there is no immediate, or nearby road access. 196 Mile Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2170-3006, flows along southern unit boundary and through eastern portion of unit and provides habitat for coho salmon.
K-44	Rd 59	Map 2 S021N005W: 13	Manage unit consistent with requirements of the Management Right.	Unit is located at the confluence of the Susitna river and Kashwitna River, and is managed by ADF&G under a Management Right (ADL 227841). Road access exists. Kashwitna River, AWC #247-41-10200-2200 provides habitat for chum, pink, coho, king salmon and Dolly Varden. Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200, provides habitat for coho, pink, chum, king, sockeye salmon and eulachon, Dolly Varden.
K-45	Se 80	Map 2 S021N004W: 19	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposals during planning period. Settlement should occur along the highway. Protect wetlands and maintain a 100' protection area adjacent to 197 1/2 mile creek. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit is split by the Parks Hwy. Forested uplands are situated close to the highway. Wetlands occupy the northwest and the southern portion of the unit. 197 1/2 Mile Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2170 which provides habitat for coho salmon bisects the unit east to west. Associated wetlands and tributaries also likely support anadromous fish.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-46	Gu 380	Map 2 S021N004W: 20	Manage unit for multiple uses. The suitability of development should be reevaluated if road access becomes available.	Unit is a mix of interspersed forested uplands and palustrine wetlands. 196 Mile Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2170-3006, flows through unit and provides habitat for coho salmon; a tributary also likely supports anadromous fish. An unnamed lake is situated in the north end.
K-47	Se 34	Map 2 S021N004W: 19	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposals during planning period. Maintain Alaska Railroad easement. Maintain 100' protection area adjacent to 196 Mile creek.	Unit is forested uplands situated in the southern and western half with the remaining lands as wetlands. 196 Mile creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2170-3006, traverses the northern portion of unit and provides habitat for Coho salmon. There is no immediate available road access but the Parks Hwy is less than a ¼ mile away. The Alaska Railroad is located along the eastern boundary.
K-48	Unit deleted			
K-49	Unit deleted			
K-50	Unit deleted			
K-51	Se 69	Map 2 S021N004W: 31	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposals during planning period. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit is located west along Parks Hwy and consists entirely of forested uplands. The Parks Hwy crosses the northeast corner. There is road access at the south end of the unit. This unit is affected by a pre-disposal (ADL 229512) as a potential future subdivision-Truly Kashwitna.
K-52	Gu 1,275	Map 2 S021N004W: 35, 36	Manage unit for multiple uses in the eastern part of unit that is not affected by the restriction which is described below. Land disposals are not considered appropriate. The area affected by this restriction is not to be developed and is to be retained in state ownership. The area generally within one-half mile of the creek center line is to be managed similar to unit U-03 in the Kashwitna region. See management intent for this unit; development within this area is inappropriate.	Unit is a combination of forested uplands and palustrine wetlands. There are two unnamed ponds within this unit. Little Willow creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2130, flows through the west half of unit and provides habitat for coho, chum, king and pink salmon.
K-53	Unit deleted			
K-54	Unit deleted			
K-55	Se 52	Map 3 S020N004W: 18	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposals during planning period. Protect wetlands and maintain 100' protection area adjacent to tributary.	Unit consists of two subunits that adjoin a 200' Alaska Railroad easement. The terrain is generally flat with a combination of forested uplands and palustrine wetlands, although the former predominate. There is no immediate road access but the Parks Hwy is less than ¼ mile away. An unnamed tributary to Little Willow Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2130-3021 provides habitat for coho salmon.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-56	Wr 37	Map 3 S020N004W: 18	Manage to protect wetlands and riverine area adjacent to tributary of Little Willow Creek.	Unit is generally flat with a combination of forested and wetlands, although the latter predominate. Adjoins a tributary of Little Willow Creek., which provides habitat for coho salmon (AWC #247-41-10200-2130-3021).
K-57	Unit deleted			
K-58	Se 34	Map 2 S020N004W: 6	No authorizations or disposals are permitted or allowed except by DO 142.	Unit is included in a Final Finding Decision (ADL 229606) that designates this unit as part of the Mental Health Replacement Lands. The unit is affected by Department Order (DO) 142. This land is subject to additional adjudication and may be conveyed to the Mental Health Trust.
K-59	Se 110	Map 2 S020N004W: 7	No authorizations or disposals are permitted or allowed except by DO 142.	Unit is included in a Final Finding Decision (ADL 229606) that designates this unit as part of the Mental Health Replacement Lands. The unit is affected by Department Order (DO) 142. This land is subject to additional adjudication and may be conveyed to the Mental Health Trust.
K-60	Se 39	Map 2 S020N005W: 12	No authorizations or disposals are permitted or allowed except by DO 142.	Unit is included in a Final Finding Decision (ADL 229606) that designates this unit as part of the Mental Health Replacement Lands. The unit is affected by Department Order (DO) 142. This land is subject to additional adjudication and may be conveyed to the Mental Health Trust.
K-61	Se 80	Map 2 S020N005W: 13	No authorizations or disposals are permitted or allowed except by DO 142.	Unit is included in a Final Finding Decision (ADL 229606) that designates this unit as part of the Mental Health Replacement Lands. The unit is affected by Department Order (DO) 142. This land is subject to additional adjudication and may be conveyed to the Mental Health Trust.

Total state land within region (47 units) – 23,823 acres

Tidelands and Submerged Lands

This region consists of the tidelands and submerged lands owned by the state within the planning area, which coincides in its southern boundary with the corporate boundary of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough as it adjoins the boundary of the Municipality of Anchorage. Not included within this region are the tidelands owned by private entities or the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, nor those situated within the three LDAs situated along the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet that contain tidelands (Goose Bay, Palmer Hays Flats, and Susitna Flats State Game Refuges). Most of the important habitat within the region occurs within the three state game refuges. See Maps 8 through 10.

Distribution and Characteristics

This very extensive area of tidelands and submerged lands occupies the area within the corporate boundary of the Borough, with the exceptions noted above. This area is important seasonally as a feeding area for beluga whales. Concentrations of shorebirds, waterfowl, and seabirds occur throughout the two management units, particularly within marshes and wetlands (most of which are situated with the three state game refuges). Extensive areas of emergent and estuarine wetlands are concentrated along the shore in areas with higher elevation not exposed to tides on a frequent basis.

Portions of this region experience relatively high volumes of ship traffic, generally associated with cargo movements to/from the ports in the Municipality of Anchorage and at Point MacKenzie. Recreational use of the tidelands is essentially limited to occasional boat use, usually associated with access to prime fishing and hunting areas, and to duck hunting on the tide flats during the fall.

Management Constraints

Several state and local management plans affect the planning area and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the tideland region. Local plans include the Borough Comprehensive Plan and its Coastal Management Plan.⁷ These plans provide management guidance of a general nature and helped in the formulation of recommendations. The Enforceable Policies of the Coastal Management Plan were particularly useful.

⁷ The Point MacKenzie Area Meriting Special Attention (AMSA) affects a very small area of tidelands within Knik Arm, but these areas are owned by the Borough and are therefore not included in this plan.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. State land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation. The smallest of the three tideland units (TT-03) is adjacent to borough tidelands at Pt. MacKenzie. It is designated Waterfront Development to accommodate port development. Tideland unit TT-02, designated Habitat, will be managed to protect its habitat values related to marshes and estuarine wetlands. The tidelands of this unit are similar in character to those found in the Palmer Hay Flats, which are situated immediately to the east. The largest tideland unit (TT-01), also designated Habitat, is to be managed to provide for multiple uses while protecting critical species (primarily beluga whale feeding areas) and important habitats associated with marshes and estuarine wetlands having shorebird or waterfowl concentrations. Authorizations are to ensure that impacts to beluga whale feeding areas, important during the summer months in certain areas, are to be avoided or reduced to acceptable biological levels. Concentration areas of seabirds, shorebirds, or waterfowl are to be avoided.

Resource Allocation Table for Tidelands and Submerged Lands

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
TT-01	Ha 35,929	Map 10 Various	<p>Multiple uses are allowed within this tideland parcel. Protect Beluga whale feeding and migration areas; consult US FWS and NMF prior to issuing authorizations.</p> <p>Proposed authorizations are to avoid estuarine wetlands and important recreation and fish and wildlife habitat. Impacts upon the adjacent Palmer Hay Flats LDA should be minimized or mitigated.</p>	<p>Parcel consists of a very large area of tidelands adjacent to the uplands of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. It primarily consists of regularly or irregularly exposed estuarine wetlands of generally unconsolidated sediments. Except for Beluga whale and anadromous fish passage, there few other significant resources associated with this tideland. The area of the Borough port and the route corridor for the proposed Knik Arm Crossing are not included within this tideland. They are located on municipally owned tidelands. Adjacent tidelands within the three state game refuges (Palmer Hay Flats, Goose Bay, and Susitna Flats) contain marshes and estuarine wetlands have plentiful seasonal concentrations of seabirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds.</p>
TT-02	Ha 3,963	Map 9 S016N002W: 11-17	<p>Manage to protect the habitat values. Authorizations should, in addition, consider and mitigate any adverse impacts upon the adjacent Palmer Hay Flats LDA.</p> <p>Proposed authorizations are to avoid estuarine wetlands and important recreation and fish and wildlife habitat. Impacts upon the adjacent Palmer Hay Flats LDA should be minimized or mitigated.</p>	<p>Parcel consists of an extensive area of tidelands west of the Palmer Hay Flats LDA. Consisting of both estuarine and palustrine (emergent) wetlands, this tideland area contains exposed marsh type vegetation similar to the type found in the LDA. Attributes of this wetland area are similar to those of the Palmer Hay Flats LDA. Important waterfowl and shorebird concentration area.</p>
TT-03	Wd 2,653	Map 10 S014N004W: 12, 13, 24 S014N003W: 7, 18, 19	<p>Manage this tideland area for waterfront development and accommodate port related development, roads, and utility corridors.</p> <p>Avoid areas of estuarine wetlands and summer feeding and migration areas of beluga whales.</p> <p>Tideland area is considered appropriate for conveyance to the MSB.</p>	<p>Tideland area is subject of application for conveyance of tidelands to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) under AS 38.05.825. The borough owns tidelands immediately adjoining this unit to the south.</p>

Total state land within region (3 units) – 42,545 acres

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.

Navigable Rivers and Lakes

Management Intent of Navigable Waterbodies

Background

The intent of the plan is to designate and provide management intent for the shorelands under all navigable waterbodies. There are so many navigable rivers and lakes in the planning area that it is not practical to state the management intent for each individual waterbody.

Therefore the plan identifies general management intent and designations for most of the waterbodies within the planning area. In some cases, however, specific designations are identified for a particular waterbody because of the size, uniqueness, or particular values and functions of a river or lake.

The term “shorelands” is defined as land belonging to the state which is covered by non-tidal water that is navigable under the laws of the United States up to the ordinary high water mark as modified by accretion, erosion, or reliction (AS 38.05.965). See Figure 1-1 at the beginning of Chapter 1 for a diagram that illustrates the differences between shore-lands, submerged lands, and uplands.

Shorelands are not identified on the plan designation maps. Identification of all such waterbodies is impractical on maps of the scale used in this plan. *The DNR records on navigability and hydrology must be consulted in order to determine whether a specific stream or lake is likely to be navigable.* These records are available in the Public Access and Assertion Defense unit in the Division of Mining, Land, and Water in Anchorage.

For further information on the state’s navigability policy, go to dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/nav/nav_policy.htm

Public Trust Doctrine

The Public Trust Doctrine provides that public trust lands, waters and living natural resources in a state are held by the state in trust for the benefit of all the people, and establishes the right of the public to fully utilize the public trust lands, waters, and resources for a wide variety of public uses. Each state has the authority and responsibility for managing these public trust assets to assure the public rights are upheld.

The Public Trust Doctrine applies whenever navigable waters or the lands beneath those waters are altered, developed, conveyed, or otherwise managed. It also applies whether the trust lands are publicly or privately owned. Shorelands below the ordinary high water mark

are considered public trust lands. In summary, all submerged lands – including tidelands out to the three-mile-limit and the beds of navigable lakes, streams and rivers – are all public trust lands.

The Alaska Constitution contains numerous provisions embracing principles of the Public Trust Doctrine that require the state to exercise authority to ensure that the right of the public to use navigable waters for navigation, commerce, recreation, and related purposes is protected. In Alaska, the Public Trust Doctrine extends beyond those submerged lands in which the state holds title to include all waters that are navigable. The state's waters are themselves reserved to the people for common use.

The Alaska Constitution (Article VIII, sections 1, 2, 3, 6, 13, and 14) and Alaska Statutes (38.05.127 and 38.05.128) contain some of the provisions, which are the legal basis for applying the Public Trust Doctrine in Alaska. In Alaska, this doctrine guarantees the public's right to engage in activities such as commerce, navigation, fishing, hunting, trapping, and swimming, while also providing for the protection of areas for ecological study.

The Alaska Constitution provides that “free access to the navigable or public waters of the state, as defined by the legislature, shall not be denied any citizen of the United States or resident of the state, except that the legislature may by general law regulate and limit such access for other beneficial uses or public purposes.” The Alaska Supreme Court has concluded “the provisions in Article VIII [of the Constitution] were intended to permit the broadest possible access to and use of state waters by the general public.” *Wernberg v. State*, 516 P. 2d 1191, 1198-9 (Alaska 1973). The Alaska legislature has broadly defined the navigable and public waters available for public use in AS 38.05.965. Moreover, the legislature has endorsed a broad interpretation of the Public Trust Doctrine in Article VIII of Alaska's Constitution in finding that:

“Ownership of land bordering navigable or public waters does not grant an exclusive right to the use of the water and any rights of title to the land below the ordinary high water mark are subject to the rights of the people of the state to use and have access to the water for recreational purposes or any other public purposes for which the water is used or capable of being used consistent with the public trust.” Sec. 1, Ch. 82, SLA 1985.

The legislature has also declared that the right to use state waters does not include the right to enter or trespass upon private lands. Nevertheless, with 99 percent of Alaska in public ownership at statehood, state laws regarding the transfer of land to private parties say the transfers must provide for public access to navigable waters. For instance, AS 38.05.127 implements the state's constitutional guarantee of access to navigable waters under Article VIII, Section 14. Under the statute, the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources must “provide for the specific easements or rights-of-way necessary to ensure free access to and along the body of water, unless the Commissioner finds that regulating or eliminating access is necessary for other beneficial uses or public purposes.” The State's

responsibilities to implement the Public Trust Doctrine are considered and used throughout this plan. Any management actions will be consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine as defined by the Alaska Constitution, statutes, court decisions, and public involvement.

Management Intent: Specific Rivers and Lakes

Because of their importance for recreation, water resources, and habitat, certain rivers and lakes are given specific use designations. The plan designations applied to shorelands are identical to those used for uplands, tidelands, and submerged lands. Note that the Susitna River, which forms the western boundary of the planning region, is not included within the SSAP and therefore is not designated or classified in this plan. The Susitna Area Plan 1985 provides management intent and designations/classifications for this body of water.

Rivers: Cottonwood, Deception, Goose, Kashwitna, Lilly, Lucille, Fish, Montana, Little Willow, Little Susitna, Rogers, Sawyer, Sheep, Wasilla, and Willow. These rivers/creeks are given the co-designation of Water Resources and Habitat. The plan designation of Habitat converts to the land classification of Wildlife Habitat and Water Resources to the classification of the same name. This co-designation only applies to that portion of rivers not within LDAs. Portions of Willow and Little Susitna River are within LDAs; the specific classifications that now apply to these LDA's are retained.

Lakes: Kashwitna, Cottonwood, Finger, Nancy, Wolf, Bruce, Benka, Carpenter, Kaulmach, Knik, Marion, Rocky, and Seventeenmile and lakes within the Kepler-Bradley State Recreation Area. These lakes are used for a variety of recreational purposes and are given the designation of Public Recreation-Dispersed.

Lakes: Anderson, Bench, Big, Blodgett, Caswell, Cloudy, Dry, Flat, Gene, Horseshoe, Kings, Little Beaver, Lynx, Lucille, Mirror, Rainbow, Stephen, Sunshine, Threemile, and Wasilla.. They are assigned the co-designation of Public Recreation-Dispersed and Habitat. These are lakes that have both recreation functions and are also anadromous.

Management Intent: Other Rivers and Lakes

Navigable Rivers and Lakes within LDAs.

Anadromous lakes or streams within LDAs are co-designated Public Recreation-Dispersed and Habitat. Lakes and streams that are not anadromous are designated Public Recreation-Dispersed.

All other Navigable Rivers and Lakes.

The designation and management intent for navigable waterbodies that cross or are surrounded by state land are the same as those of the upland tract, except that those portions of navigable, anadromous streams where spawning and rearing occur are designated Habitat¹⁰.

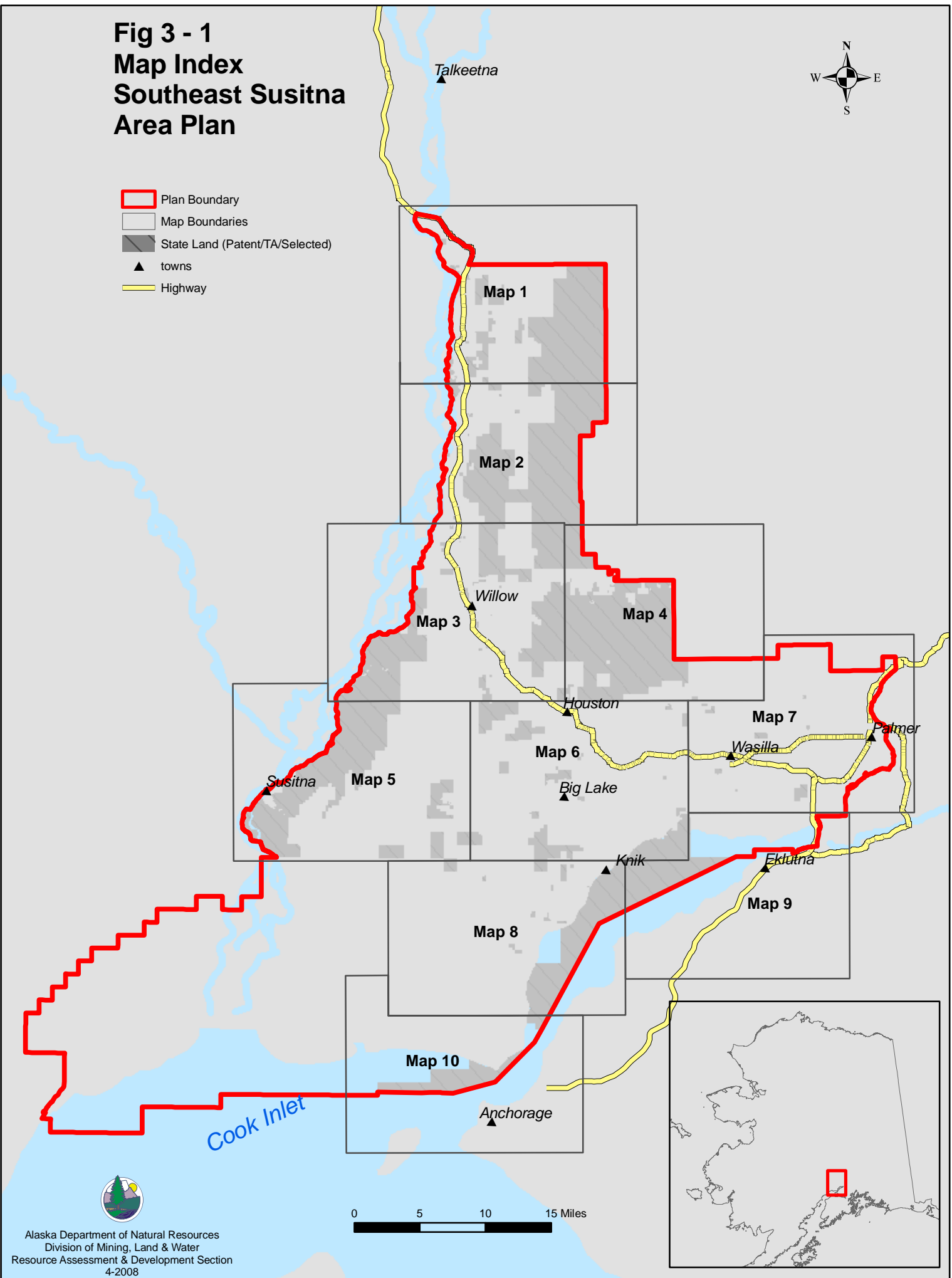
Navigable rivers and lakes that are not within general state land or LDAs are designated General Use. These waterbodies are to be managed to allow a diversity of uses consistent with the uses authorized on adjoining uplands in federal, private, or other state entity ownership (e.g. Mental Health, University, and state tracts quitclaimed to a state agency other than DNR). Upland uses are usually designated in an adopted land use or resource management plan, or can be inferred from the actual or planned use of the parcel.

¹⁰ Includes but is not limited to the following: Iron, No Name (inlet of Nancy Lake), Crocker, 196 Mile, 197 Mile, Caswell, Little Montana, Lake, and O'Brien Creeks.

Fig 3 - 1 Map Index Southeast Susitna Area Plan

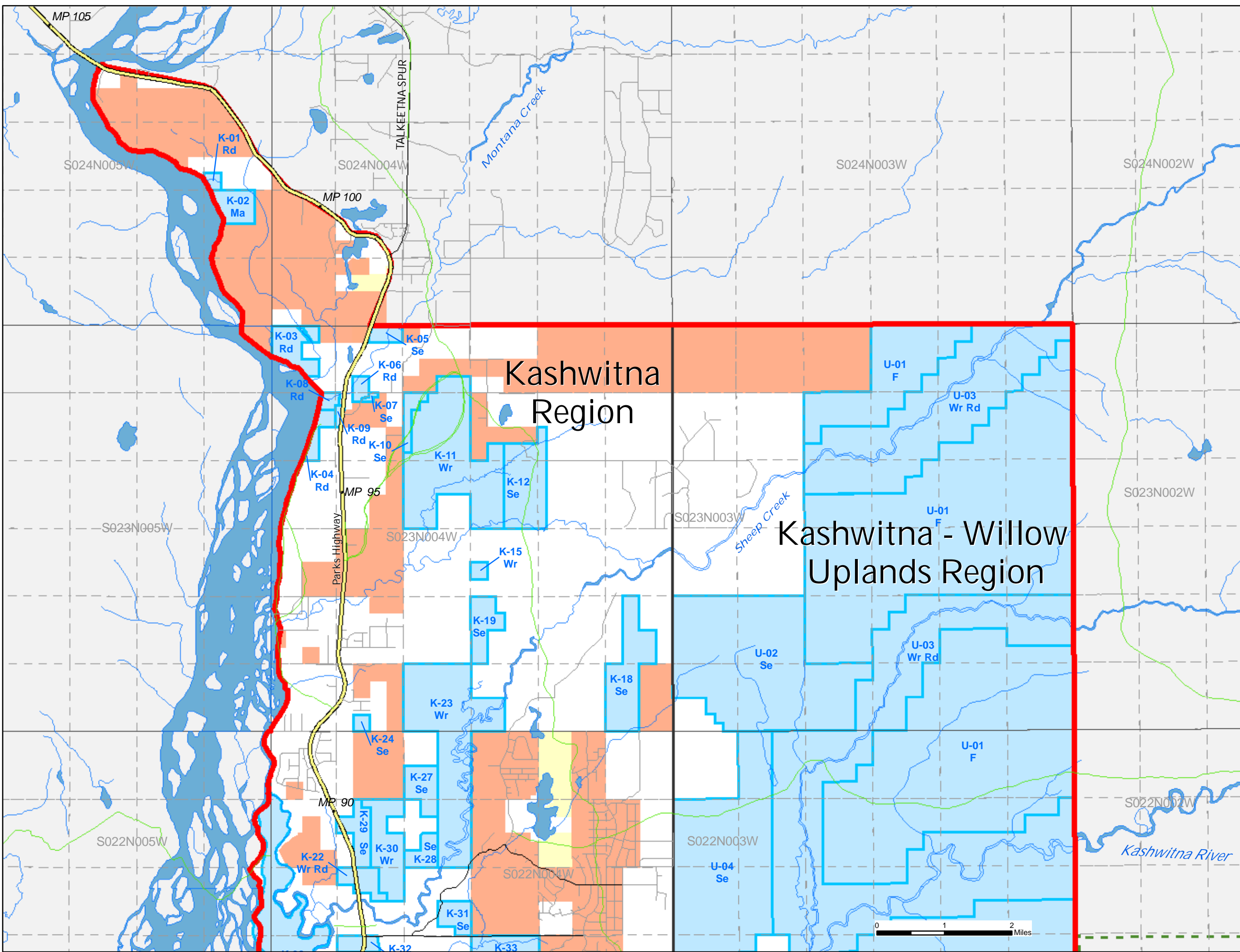


- Plan Boundary
- Map Boundaries
- State Land (Patent/TA/Selected)
- towns
- Highway



Map 1

Southeast Susitna Area Plan April 2008



- State Land (Patent/TA/Selected)
- Legislatively Designated Area
- Fish Creek Mangement Plan
- Borough Land *
- Mental Health Trust Land *
- University Land *
- Private / Other
- Management Region
- Plan Boundary
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- Township
- Highway
- Road
- Trail
- Iditarod Trail (Historic)
- Milepost (MP)

- Ag - Agriculture
- F - Forestry
- Gu - General Use
- Ha - Habitat
- Ma - Materials
- Pr - Public Facilities
- Rd/Rp - Public Recreation
- Se - Settlement
- Wd - Waterfront Development
- Wr - Water Resources

* Many of these lands may have been sold and are now private land.



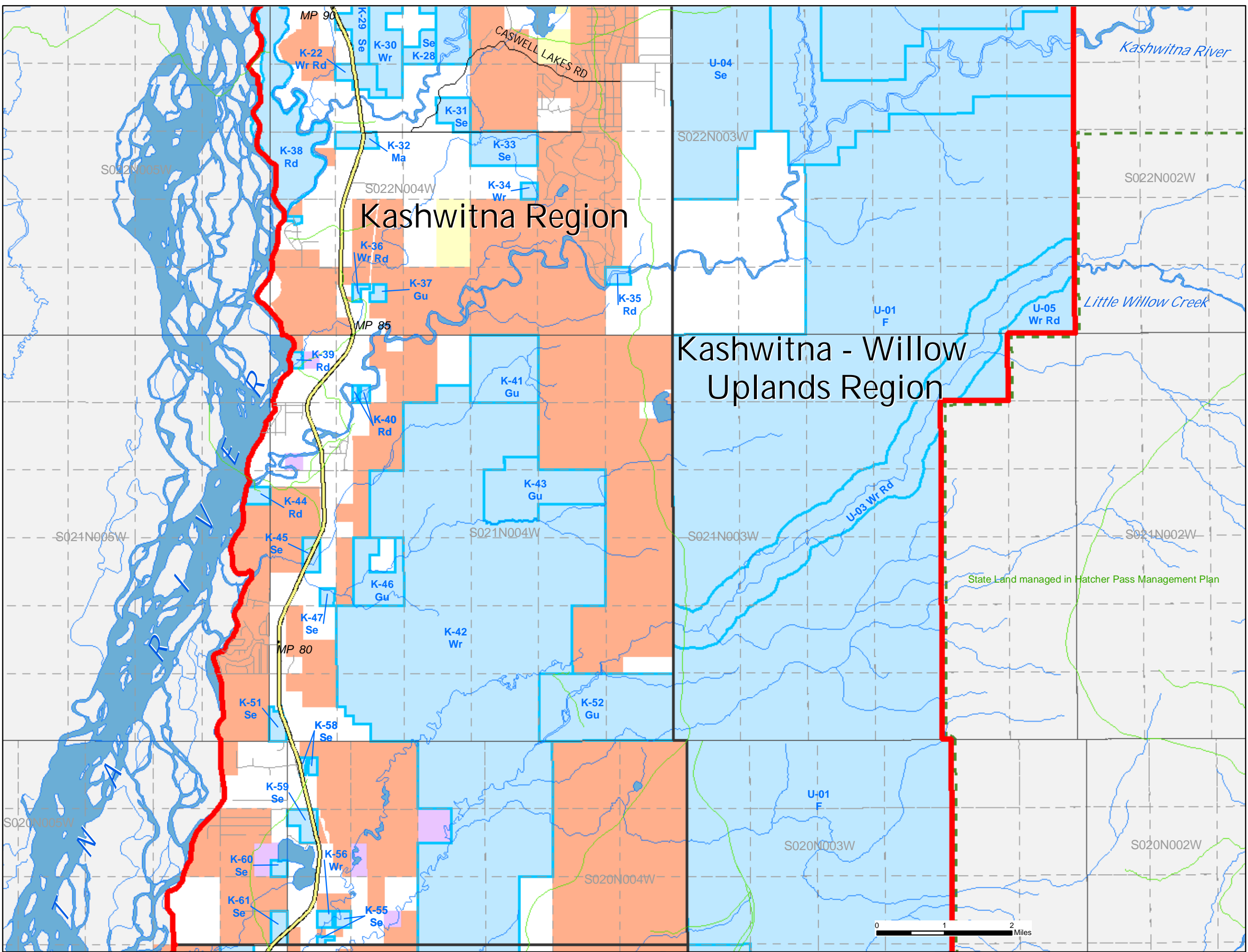
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Map 2

Southeast Susitna Area Plan April 2008



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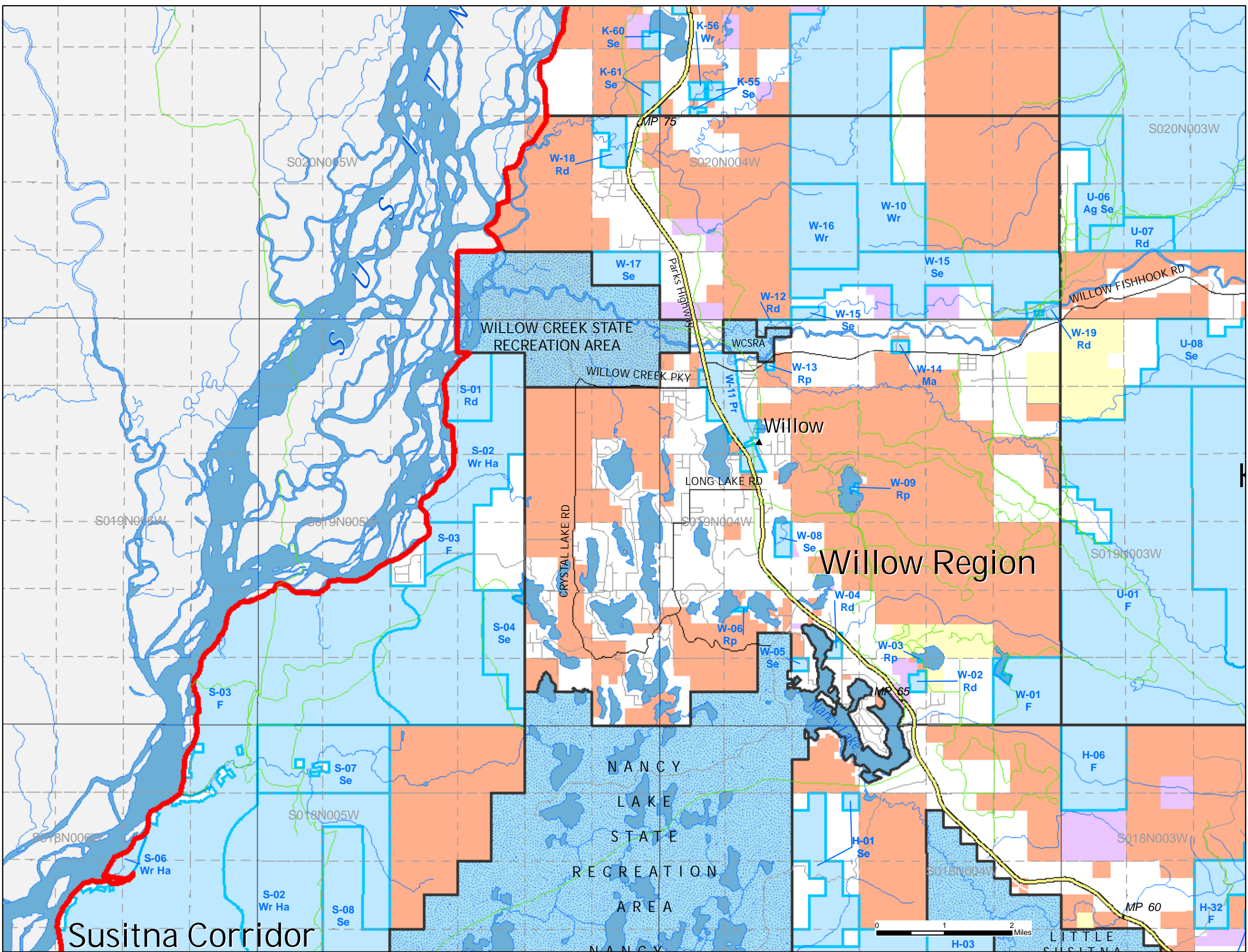


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Map 3

Southeast Susitna Area Plan April 2008



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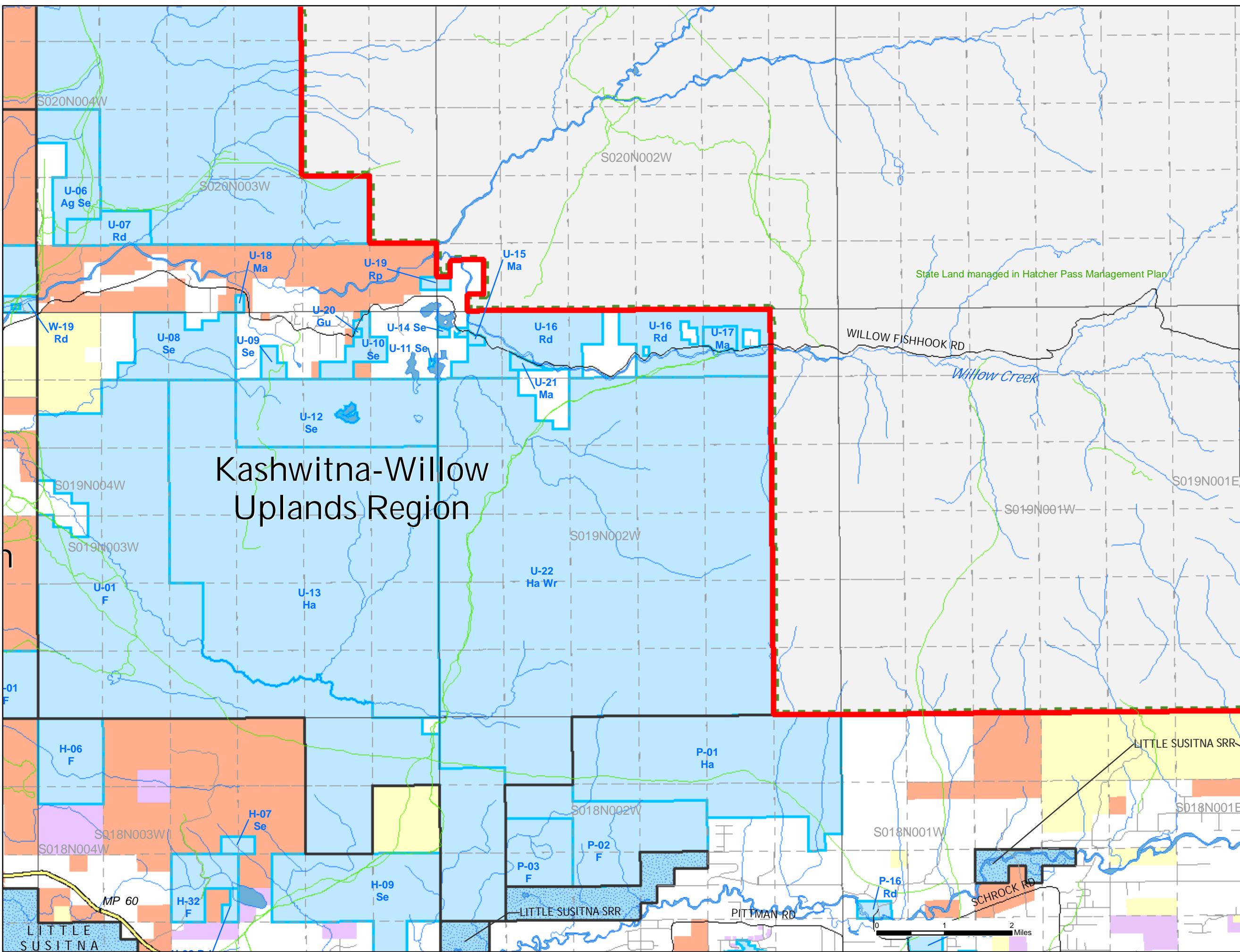
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Map 4

Southeast Susitna Area Plan April 2008



Kashwitna-Willow Uplands Region

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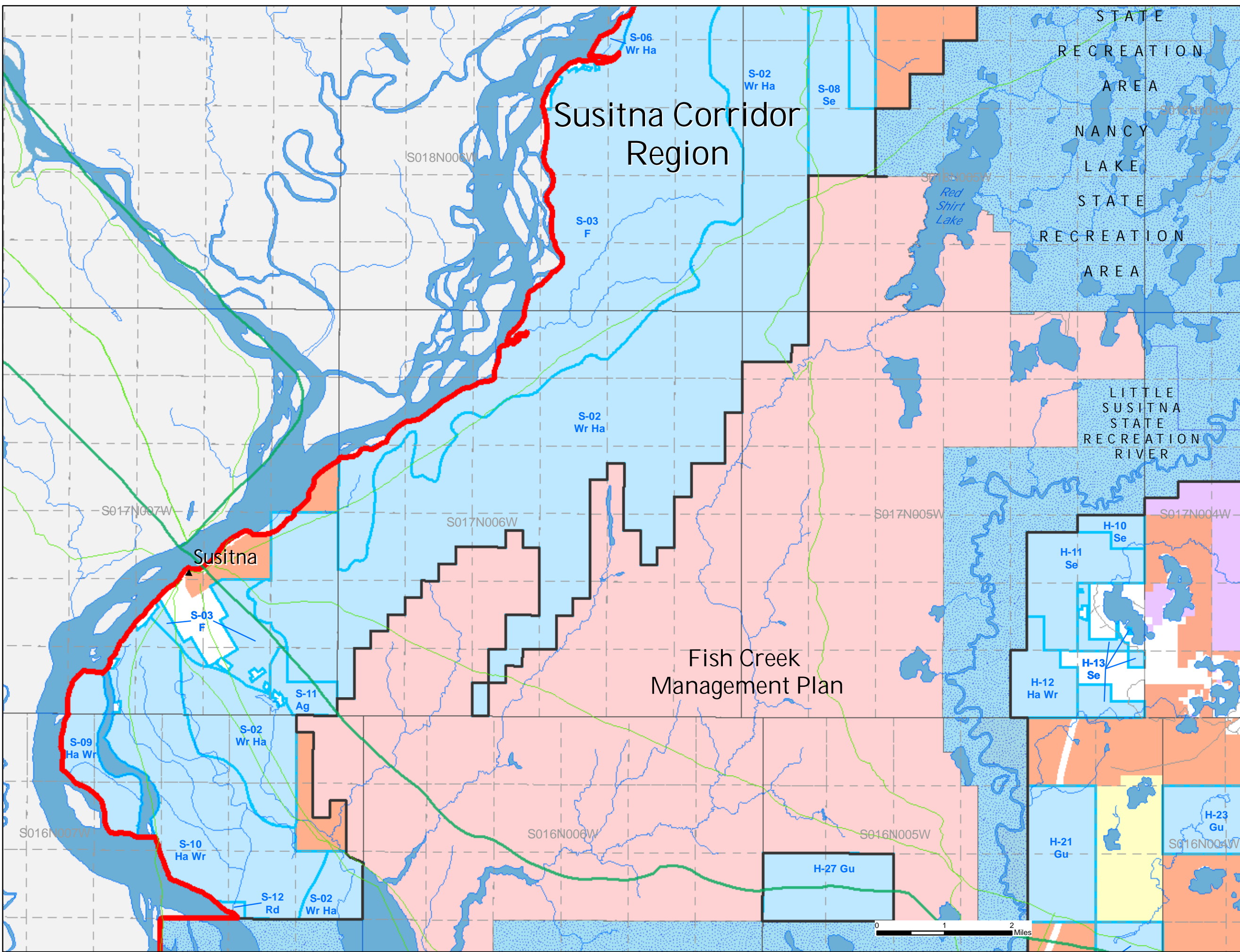


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Map 5

Southeast Susitna Area Plan April 2008



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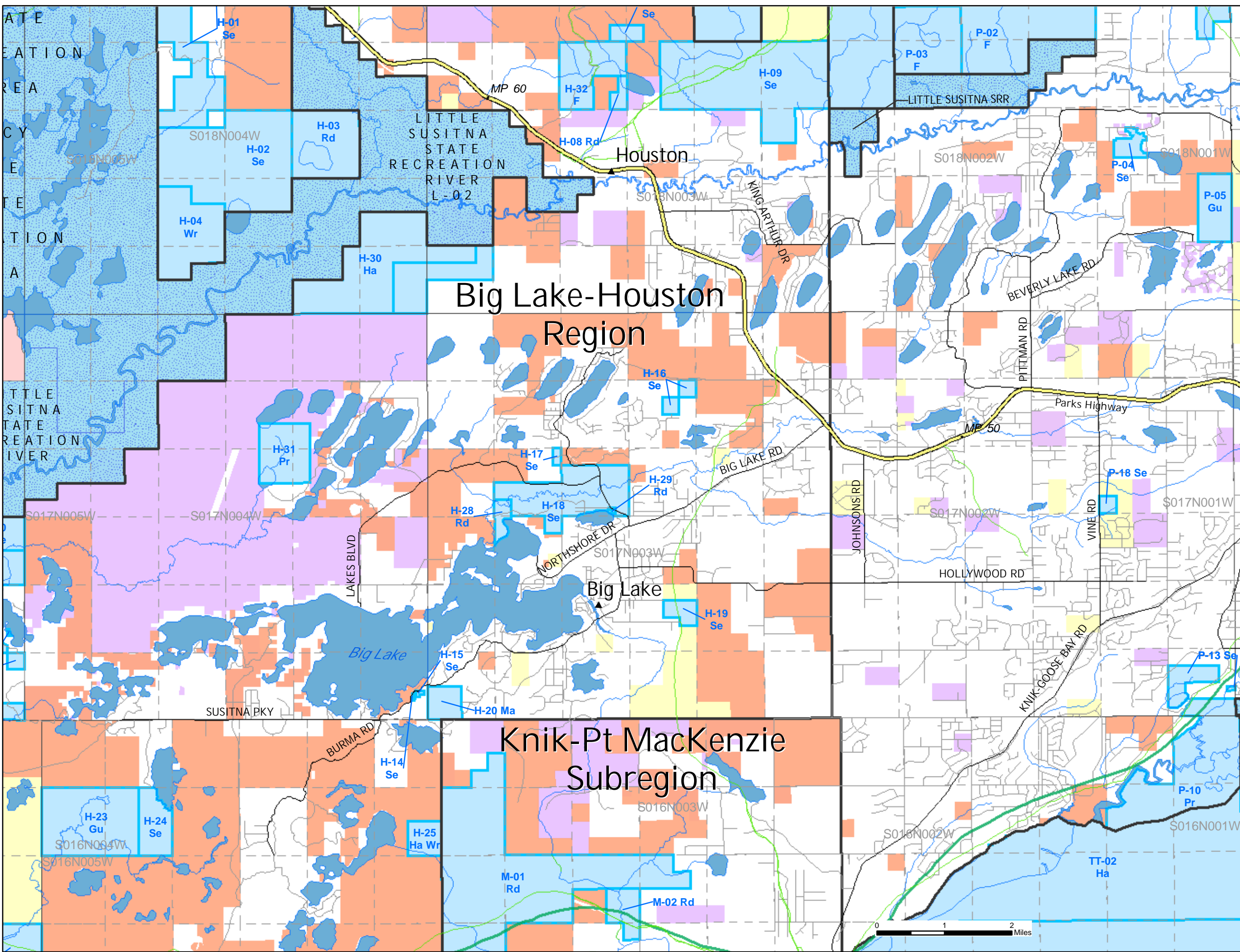
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Map 6

Southeast Susitna Area Plan April 2008



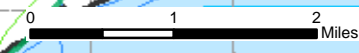
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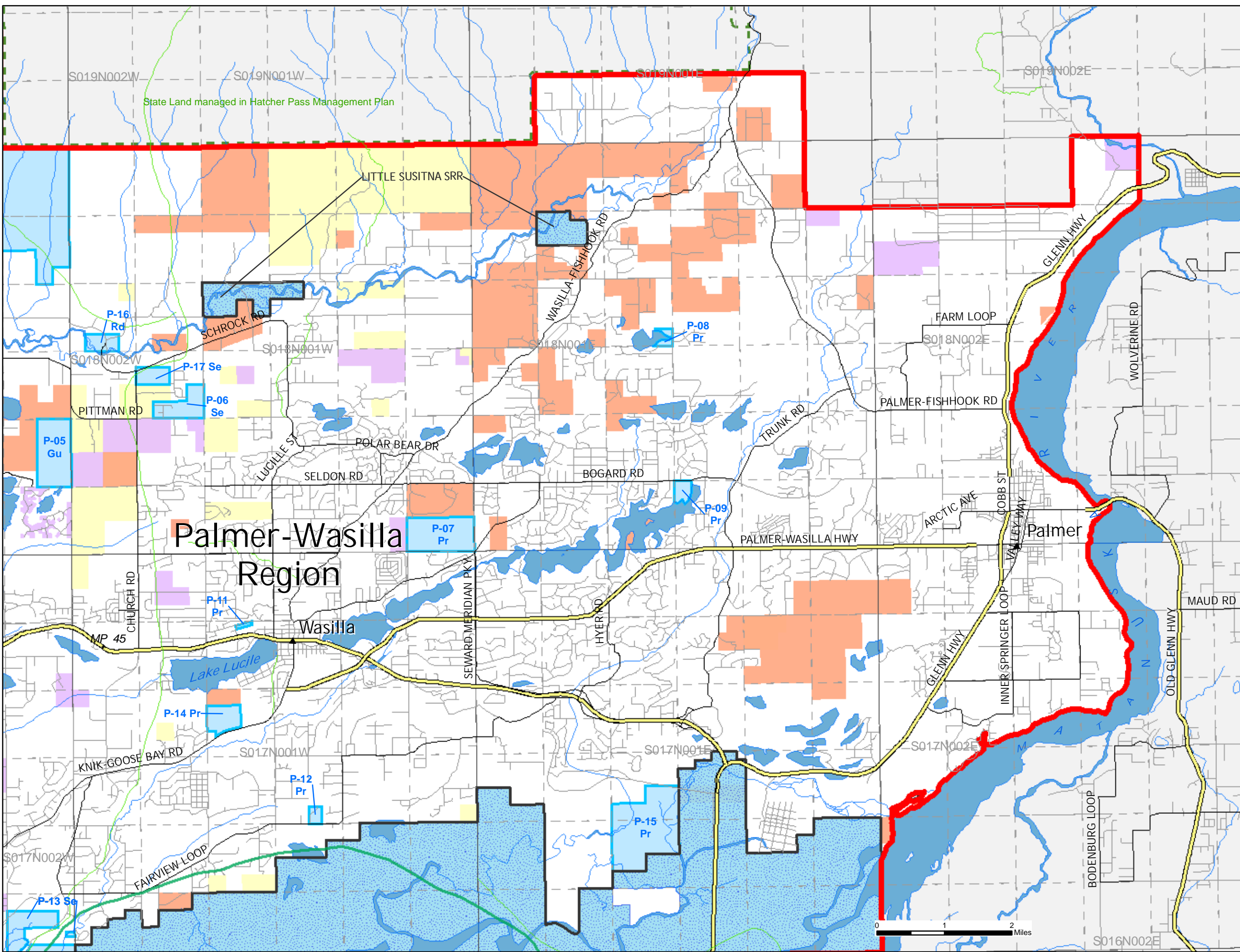


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Map 7

Southeast Susitna Area Plan April 2008



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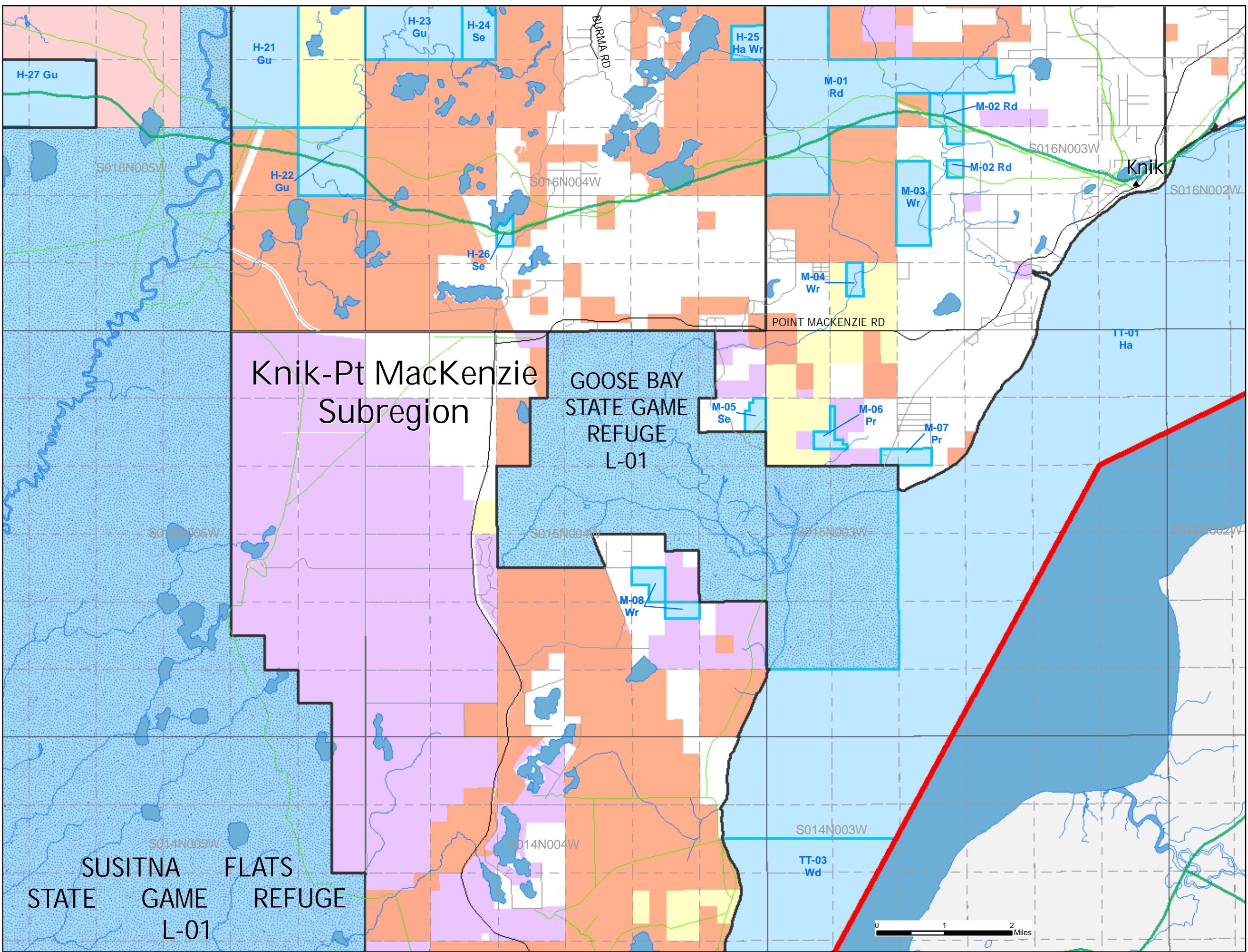
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Map 8

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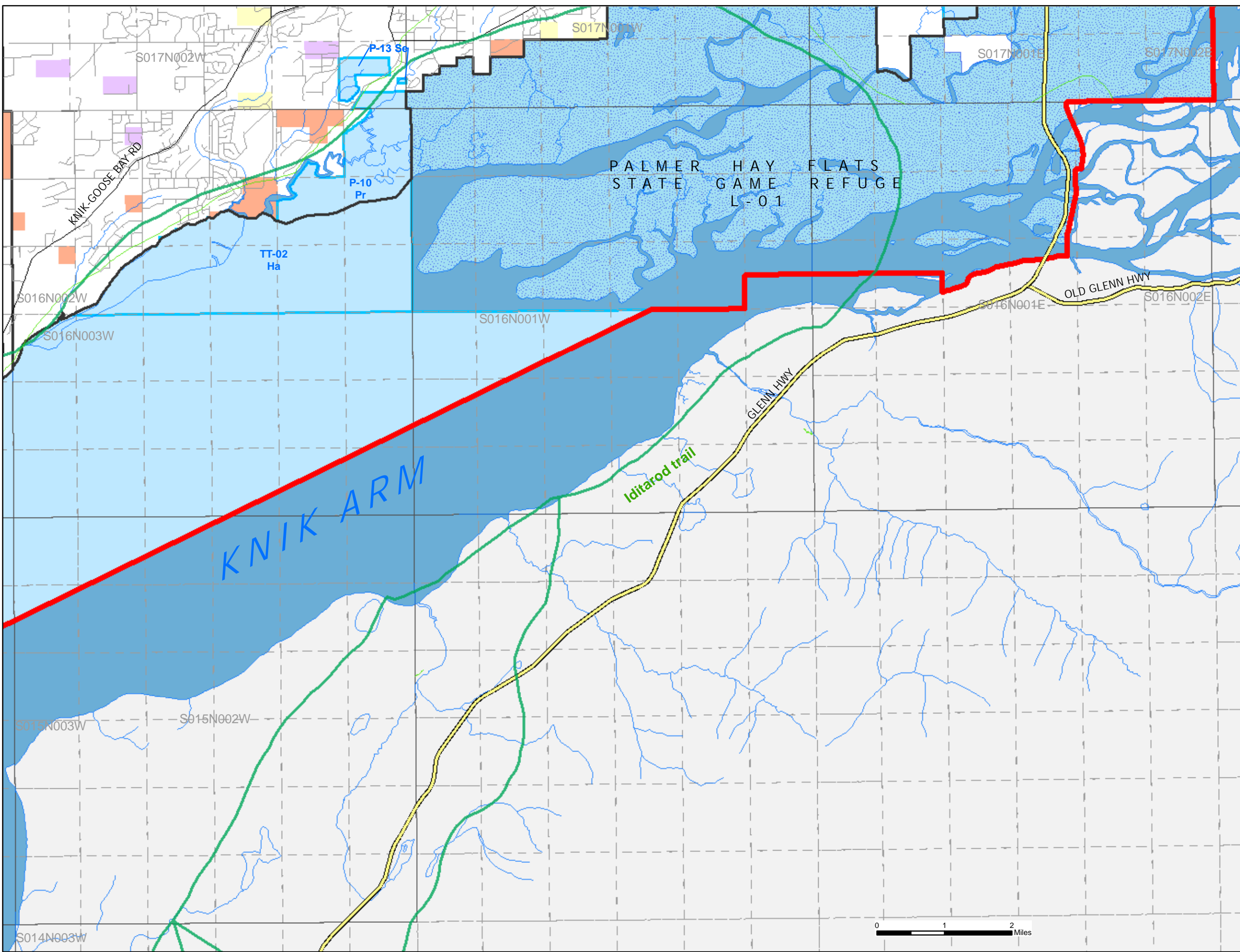
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Map 9

Southeast Susitna Area Plan April 2008



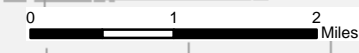
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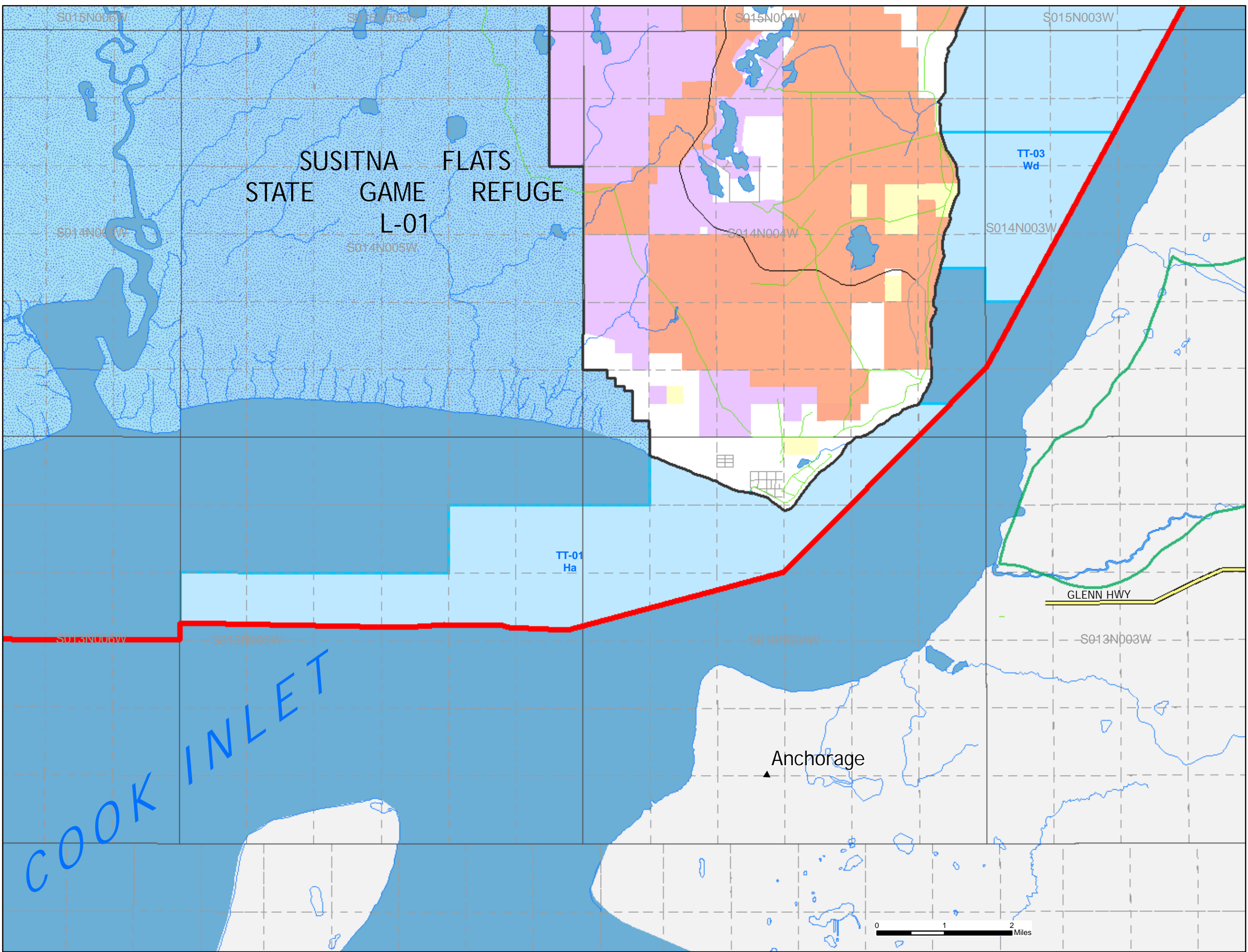


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Map 10

Southeast Susitna Area Plan April 2008



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Chapter 4

Implementation and Recommendations

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Chapter 4

Implementation and Recommendations

Introduction

This chapter includes information and recommendations necessary to implement plan goals, management intent, and guidelines. Information is included on the following:

- State Land Classification
- Relationship of Land Use Designations in the Plan to State Land Classifications
- Public Trust Doctrine
- Leasing of State Land
- Classification Order
- Applicability of Plan Designations/Classifications to State Lands not Identified in the Plan Text or Plan Maps
- Survivor Designations and Classifications
- Alaska Coastal Management Program
- Municipal Entitlement
- State Land Selections
- Mineral Orders
- Legislatively Designated Areas
- Types of Plan Changes

State Land Classification

To implement the plan on state lands, DNR must “classify” state lands to reflect the intent of “land use designations” made by this plan. State law requires that classification precede most conveyance or leasing of state uplands or tidelands. According to state statute classification means, “. . . the designation of lands according to their apparent best use.” It “. . . identifies the primary use for which the land will be managed . . .” but “. . . all other uses are initially presumed as compatible with the primary use.” For this reason, all plan classifications are intended for multiple uses. In this plan most management units are assigned a single, principle designation.

In some instances more than one designation is identified; these are termed “co-designations” and indicate that two (or more) uses are considered to be compatible within a specific management unit of state land. The General Use (Gu) designation is used occasionally in this plan, typically applying to the large management units where two or more uses are judged to be compatible within specific portions of the management unit. Compatibility of uses should be able to be achieved through distance separation, or siting and design techniques that should reduce or preclude the undesirable effects of a particular use.

Following is a list of land classifications, and their associated definitions in Alaska regulations (the Alaska Administrative Code – AAC), which will apply to state lands in the planning area as a result of plan adoption. DNR will manage state lands and resources consistent with these classifications and with the management directions given in Chapter 3 for specific management units of state land.

11 AAC 55.050. Agriculture Land. Land classified agricultural is land that, by reason of its climate, physical features, and location, is suitable for present or future agricultural cultivation or development and that is intended for present or future agricultural use.

11 AAC 55.070. Forest Land. Land classified forest is land that is or has been forested and is suited for forest management because of its physical, climatic, and vegetative conditions.

11 AAC 55.120. Material Land. Land classified material is land that is suitable for the extraction of common varieties of sand, gravel, stone, peat, clay, and other similar materials.

11 AAC 55.160. Public Recreation Land. Land classified public recreation is land that is suitable for recreation uses, waysides, parks, campsites, scenic overlooks, hunting, fishing or boating access sites, trail corridors, or greenbelts along bodies of water or roadways.

11 AAC 55.170. Reserved Use Land. (a) Land classified reserved use is land that:

- 1) is reserved for transfer to another governmental or non-governmental agency that is performing a public service;
- 2) is reserved for transfer through land exchanges; or
- 3) has been designated for a public facility.

(b) Nothing in this section requires classification of land identified for a future land exchange under AS 38.50.

11 AAC 55.200. Resource Management Land. Land classified resource management is either:

- 1) land that might have a number of important resources, but for which a specific resource allocation decision is not possible because of a lack of adequate resource, economic, or other relevant information; or for which a decision is not necessary because the land is presently inaccessible and remote and development is not likely to occur within the next 10 years; or
- 2) land that contains one or more resource values, none of which is of sufficiently high value to merit designation as a primary use.

11 AAC 55.202. Settlement Land. An upland area classified settlement is land that is, by reason of its physical qualities and location, suitable for year-round or seasonal residential or private recreational use or for commercial or industrial development.

11 AAC 55.215. Waterfront Development Land. Land classified waterfront development is tideland, submerged land, or shoreland that is suitable to be used for commercial or industrial activities such as fish processing, aquatic farming, mineral and log transfer facilities, or commercial recreation.

11 AAC 55.222. Water Resources Land. Land classified water resources is land encompassing watersheds or portions of watersheds and is suitable for such uses as water supply, watershed protection, or hydropower sites.

11 AAC 55.230. Wildlife Habitat Land. Land classified wildlife habitat is land which is primarily valuable for:

- 1) fish and wildlife resource production, whether existing or through habitat manipulation, to supply sufficient numbers or diversity of species to support commercial, recreational, or traditional uses on an optimum sustained yield basis; or
- 2) a unique or rare assemblage of a single or multiple species of regional, state, or national significance.

Relationship of Land Use Designations in the Plan to State Land Classifications

The classifications contain no specific land management directives; those directives are expressed through the use of land use designations in the plan, described in detail for individual regions and management units included in Chapter 3. However, the designations used in the area plan must be converted into land classifications outlined in state regulation (11 AAC 55) that reflect the intent of the plan.

Since plan designations are central to the management of state land in this area plan, knowledge of the amount of area associated with particular designations is important, allowing a comparison between the designated uses. Table 4-1 identifies the acreage

associated with the designations recommended in this plan, specified for upland and tideland management units. Descriptions of each of the following designations are also provided at the beginning of Chapter 3. Note: Acreages associated with plan classifications are given in Table 4-3.

Table 4-1(a): Acreages Associated with Upland Designations

Symbol	Designation	Acreage
F	Forestry	74,855
Wr/Ha	Water Resources/Habitat	44,309
Se	Settlement (includes 790 ac. Ag/Se)	26,248
Wr	Water Resources	19,379
Ha	Habitat	14,250
Wr/Rd	Water Resources/Public Recreation	12,603
Rd and Rp	Public Recreation –Dispersed and Public	9,475
Gu	General Use	7,514
Pr	Public Facilities-Retain	3,558
Ma	Materials	666
Ag	Agriculture	337
Total		213,196

Table 4-1(b): Acreages Associated with Tideland and Submerged Land Designations

Symbol	Designation	Acreage
Ha	Habitat	39,892
Wd	Waterfront Development	2,653
Total		42,545

NOTE: An undetermined amount of shoreland acreage has been designated in this plan. The 386,000 acres within the LDAs is not included in the table (343,000 acres are designated Habitat and 17,000 acres Public Recreation-Dispersed).

The conversion of land use designations used by this plan into state land classifications is indicated in the table below. These are intended to identify the allowable uses of a state upland or tideland area, consistent with the definitions described previously and with any management intent given in Chapter 3.

Table 4-2: Land Designations – Conversion to Classifications

Symbol	Designation	Classification
Ag	Agricultural	Agricultural Land
F	Forest	Forest Land
Gu	General Use	Resource Management Land
Ha	Habitat	Wildlife Habitat Land
Ma	Materials	Material Land
Pr	Public Facilities - Retain	Reserved Use Land
Rd	Public Rec. -Dispersed Use	Public Recreation Land
Rp	Public Rec. & -Public Use Site	Public Recreation Land
Se	Settlement	Settlement Land
Wd	Waterfront Development	Waterfront Development Land
Wr	Water Resources	Water Resources Land

Public Trust Doctrine

See the Management Intent for Navigable Rivers section at the end of Chapter 3.

Leasing of State Land

Under the authority of AS 38.05 and 11 AAC 58.300-.340, state land within the planning area is available for surface leasing, provided that the leasing is allowed under the classification and is consistent with the management intent set forth in this area plan.

Applications for uses of state land within the planning area will be considered by the Regional Manager, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water, Southcentral Region, Anchorage, Alaska.

Classification Order

State land is classified under the authority of AS 38.04.005, AS 38.05.300, and 11 AAC 55.010 -.280 according to the management intent set forth in this area plan.

Land Classification Order SC-08-001 classifies all state land within the plan area. See Appendix B. This Land Classification Order supersedes and replaces all previous classifications and classification orders affecting the planning area of the SSAP.

See also the section ‘Applicability of Plan Designations/Classifications to State Lands not Identified in the Plan Text or Plan Maps’, following. This section describes how lands inadvertently omitted in the Area Plan or acquired by the state subsequent to this revision are to be treated in terms of plan designation and classification.

Table 4-3 provides estimates of the acreage by classification for uplands and tidelands.

Table 4-3: Acres of State Lands Classified

Classification	Upland Acreage	Tideland and Submerged Land Acreage
Agricultural Land	337	
Forest Land	74,855	
Materials Land	666	
Public Recreation Land	9,475	
Reserved Use Land	3,558	
Resource Management Land	7,514	
Settlement Land (includes Ag/Se)	26,248	
Water Resources Land	19,379	
Water Resources/Public Recreation	12,603	
Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat	44,309	
Waterfront Development		2,653
Wildlife Habitat Land	<u>14,250</u>	<u>39,892</u>
Totals	213,196	42,545

NOTE: Acreage within the LDAs is not included in the table (343,000 acres are classified Wildlife Habitat and 17,000 acres Public Recreation).

Effect of SSAP upon Other DNR Plans

This revision supersedes and replaces the 1982 Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan, the two area management plans (Kashwitna and Deception Creek), and the affected portion of the Susitna Area Plan in the South Parks Highway region. Classifications in each of the areas previously affected by these plans are superseded by Land Classification Order SC-08-001 in this plan. It does not, however, affect the area of Fish Creek that is managed under the joint DNR-borough Fish Creek Management Plan and that was once part of the Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan.

Applicability of Plan Designations/Classifications to State Lands not Identified in the Plan Text or Plan Maps

This section deals with those lands that are not designated in the SSAP or classified in the Land Classification Order. Such lands include those state lands inadvertently omitted in the SSAP and those lands that may be acquired by the state in the future but not designated or classified in the Area Plan. The state has acquired and will continue to acquire isolated parcels of land through foreclosure, escheat, and other methods. The purpose of this section is to give direction to the designation of these lands by the Department when future issues of parcel classification and management arise.

The following guidelines of plan designation/classification and potential disposal out of state ownership are to apply:

- **Parcels in or near Existing Communities.** If the parcel is in or is immediately adjacent to an existing community or past state land offering, the designation of Settlement and classification of Settlement Land apply. Such land can be considered for disposal use unless it is appropriate as a site(s) for schools, material sites, roads, parks, or other similar public use. Unsold lots identified for disposal in existing subdivisions and lots that return to state ownership will be available for lease, sale, or conveyance. Tracts identified for community purposes in existing subdivisions will not be sold but may be conveyed to municipalities or homeowner associations if they are not needed for state purposes and community purposes will be protected.
- **Parcels near other State Land.** If the parcel adjoins or is surrounded by other state land, the designation of that area(s) applies. It is to be managed according to the management intent and guidelines applicable to the adjacent lands. Such lands can be considered appropriate for disposal if they are designated Settlement unless it is appropriate as a site(s) for schools, material sites, roads, parks, or other similar public use. They may also be conveyed to a municipality even if it is suitable for these public uses as long as the proposed uses are for comparable municipal (public) use.
- **Parcels not near Other State Land.** Parcels not near other state land or that occur within areas designated General Use are to be designated General Use and classified as Resource Management Land. These lands are to be managed according to the management intent and guidelines applicable to the adjacent lands. Disposal of these lands to the adjacent landowner may be appropriate but will require reclassification to Settlement Land.
- **Newly Acquired State Lands.** Lands that were acquired proactively through exchange, purchase, or other methods will be managed and classified consistent with the purposes for which they were acquired.
- **Other Lands.** If the designation/classification of a parcel of acquired or omitted state land cannot be adequately determined, the parcel is to be designated General Use and classified Resource Management Land.

Survivor Designations and Classifications

This revision of the SSAP replaces and supersedes all previous plan designation and land classifications (termed ‘survivor’) that affect the SSAP planning area. It does not replace or supersede Special Use Designations predating the approval of this revision.

Alaska Coastal Management Program

The Alaska Coastal Management Program will be implemented through the coastal consistency review process described in Title 46 of the Alaska Statutes and associated regulations at 11 AAC. Activities, federal activities, and activities that require a state or federal authorization within the coastal zone of the planning area must be conducted in a manner consistent with the standards of the Alaska Coastal Management Program and the enforceable policies of the four coastal district plans. Consult the Alaska Coastal Management Program web site at alaskacoast.state.ak.us for the coastal zone boundaries and enforceable policies of the Borough Coastal District Plan.

Municipal Entitlement

The Municipal Entitlement Act (AS 29.65) determines a municipal general grant land entitlement and identifies what lands are available for transfer to a qualifying municipality. The term “municipality” includes both incorporated cities and organized boroughs. The size of a municipality’s entitlement is generally 10 percent of the vacant, unappropriated, unreserved (VUU) state general grant land within the municipal boundaries. State general grant lands that meet the criteria of VUU land as defined in AS 29.65.130 (ie. classified as Agricultural, Grazing, Material, Public Recreation, Settlement, Resource Management, or unclassified land) may be appropriate for conveyance to municipalities with a remaining general grant land entitlement under AS 29.65.

The Borough is entitled to 355,210 acres of state land under the Municipal Entitlement program. Recent entitlement decisions (2006) have approved the conveyance of state land to the Borough that will fulfill the Borough’s entitlement acreage. Accordingly, this plan does not designate areas for selection under the Municipal Entitlement program.

State Land Selections

General Land Selections

Under the Statehood Act, Alaska is entitled to approximately 103 million acres of federal land. The selections made by the state in the planning area occurred under the ‘General Grant’ program, and nearly all have been either conveyed to the state through patent or are in TA (Tentative Approval) status, which gives management authority to the state. The areas noted as ‘state-selected’ land on the Plan Maps depict those areas of federal land selected for eventual conveyance to the state. Areas of state selections on the plan maps include, in addition to state selections proper, ANILCA topfiled selections and areas subject to Public Land Orders.

There may be areas of state selections that this plan has not identified. In these instances, land conveyed to the state is to be considered classified under this plan and land classification order. In those instances where a plan designation has not been assigned to a state selection, classifications are to be assigned according to the standards described in the section, “*Applicability of Plan Designations/Classifications to State Lands not Identified in the Plan Text or Plan Maps*”.

ANILCA Topfiled Lands

There are certain areas that are ‘topfiled’ by the state under the provisions of ANILCA legislation. These are selections made by the state that apply or ‘attach’ when Native regional or village selections are adjudicated by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), but it is uncertain how many of these selections will attach during the planning period. The amount of Native selections, in terms of acreage, greatly exceeds that allowed under their selection entitlement, and BLM does not require that these selections be prioritized, which would otherwise make it possible to adjudicate the lower ranked Native selections. The category of ‘State-Selected Land’ on Region Plan Maps includes areas of ANILCA topfiled selections in addition to areas of state-selected land.

Mineral Orders

Alaska Statute 38.05.185 requires the Commissioner of DNR to determine that mineral entry and location is incompatible with significant surface uses in order to close state-owned lands to mineral entry. This plan retains all existing mineral closing orders. However, additional mineral closing orders or leasehold location orders are not recommended since few conflicts should exist between mining and sensitive surface uses given the location of the mineral deposits and settlement areas. Settlement areas are not located within or adjacent to the areas of principal mineral deposits.

Legislatively Designated Areas

There are numerous existing Legislatively Designated Areas within and adjoining the planning area. These include state game refuges, state recreation areas, state recreation sites, public use areas, and a state recreational river. These special purpose areas encompass the principal recreational and habitat resources that require special management and additional LDAs are not recommended.

Types of Plan Changes

The various kinds of changes allowed in 11 AAC 55.030 are:

“A revision to a land use plan is subject to the planning process requirements of AS 38.04.065. For the purposes of this section and AS 38.04.065, a ‘revision’ is an amendment or special exception to a land use plan as follows:

An ‘**amendment**’ permanently changes the land use plan by adding to or modifying the basic management intent for one or more of the plan’s subunits or by changing its allowed or prohibited uses, policies, or guidelines. For example, an amendment might close to new mineral entry an area that the plan designated to be open, allow a land use in an area where the plan prohibited it, or allow land to be opened to homestead entry in an area that the plan designated for retention in public ownership.

A ‘**special exception**’ does not permanently change the provisions of a land use plan and cannot be used as the basis for a reclassification of the subunit. Instead, it allows a one-time, limited-purpose variance of the plan’s provisions, without changing the plan’s general management intent or guidelines. For example, a special exception might be used to grant an eligible applicant a preference right under AS 38.05.035 to purchase land in a subunit designated for retention in public ownership. A special exception might be made if complying with the plan would be excessively burdensome or impractical or if compliance would be inequitable to a third party, and if the purposes and spirit of the plan can be achieved despite the exception.

A minor change to a land use plan is not considered a revision under AS 38.04.065. A ‘**minor change**’ is a change that does not modify or add to the plan’s basic intent, and that serves only to clarify the plan, make it consistent, facilitate its implementation, or make technical corrections.”

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Appendix A Glossary

AAC. Alaska Administrative Code

Access. A way or means of approach. Includes transportation, trail, easements, rights of way, and public use sites.

ACMP. Alaska Coastal Management Plan

ADF&G. Alaska Department of Fish and Game

ADOT/PF. Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Agriculture. Land that is agricultural or that, by reason of its climate, physical features, and location, is suitable for present or future agricultural cultivation or development and that is intended for present or future agricultural use. Also refers to the plan designation of Agriculture or the land classification of Agricultural Land.

Anadromous waters. A river, lake or stream from its mouth to its uppermost reach including all sloughs and backwaters adjoining the listed water, and that portion of the streambed or lakebed covered by ordinary high water used by anadromous fish. Some, but not all anadromous waters are shown in “The Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes” (referred to as the Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC)) compiled by ADF&G and DNR or has been determined by ADF&G to contain or exhibit evidence of anadromous fish in which the anadromous portion of the waterbody extends up to the first point of physical blockage. See also AS 41.17.950(1).

Area Plan. A plan approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources under the authority of AS 38.04.065 that establishes the land and resource management policies for state land within a planning area. Such plans also assign land use designations to individual parcels of state land, which are subsequently converted to land use classifications in a Land Classification Order. When used in this plan, the term ‘Area Plan’ refers to the Southeast Susitna Area Plan.

AS. Alaska Statutes

Authorized Use. A use allowed by DNR by permit or lease.

Borough. Matanuska-Susitna Borough (also MSB)

Buffer. An area of land between two activities or resources managed and used to reduce the effect of one activity upon another.

Classification. See *Land use classification*.

Classification Order. See *Land Classification Order*.

Closed to mineral entry. Areas where the staking of new mineral claims is prohibited because mining has been determined to be in conflict with significant surface uses in the area. Existing mineral claims that are valid at the time of plan adoption are not affected by mineral closures.

Commissioner. The Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

DEC. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Department. Alaska Department of Natural Resources or DNR

Designated use. An allowed use of major importance in a particular management unit. Activities in the unit will be managed to encourage, develop, or protect this use. Where a unit has two or more designated uses, the management intent statement and guidelines for the unit; the Chapter 2 guidelines; and existing statutes, regulations, and procedures, will direct how resources are managed to avoid or minimize conflicts between designated uses.

Designation. See *Land use designation*.

Developed recreational facility. Any structure or facility that serves either public or private recreational needs.

Director. The division director of the state division responsible for managing state land. Most often, director refers to the Director of the Division of Mining, Land and Water; for lands administered by DPOR, director refers to the Director of DPOR.

Dispersed recreation. Recreational pursuits that are not site specific in nature, such as hunting, fishing, recreational boating or wildlife viewing.

DMLW. Division of Mining, Land and Water, a division of DNR

DNR. Alaska Department of Natural Resources

DOF. Division of Forestry, a division of DNR

DPOR. Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, a division of DNR

Easement. An interest in land owned by another that entitles its holder to a specific limited use.

17(b) Easement. Easement across Native corporation land reserved through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Uses of the easements are limited to transportation purposes and other uses specified in the act and in conveyance documents. Information on 17(b) easements may be found at the DNR website: dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/trails/17b/index.htm

Feasible. Capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, technical, and safety factors. [11 AAC 95.900(29)]

Feasible and prudent. Consistent with sound engineering practice and not causing environmental, social, or economic problems that outweigh the public benefit to be derived from compliance with the guideline. [6 AAC 80.900(20)]

Fish and wildlife. Any species of aquatic fish, invertebrates and amphibians, in any stage of their life cycle, and all species of birds and mammals, found in or which may be introduced into Alaska, except domestic birds and mammals. The term “area(s)” in association with the term “fish and wildlife” refers to both harvest and habitat areas.

FLUP. Forest Land Use Plan. FLUPs are prepared by the Division of Forestry and precede state timber sales.

Forest Resources and Practices Act (FRPA). That section of Alaska Statute (AS 41.17.010-.955) that deals with the use, management, and protection of forest resources within the State of Alaska. More formally described as the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act.

Forestry. Land that is or has been forested and is suited for long-term forest management because of its physical, climatic, and vegetative conditions. Also refers to the plan designation of Forestry or the land classification of Forest Land.

General Use. Uplands designated General Use provide some combination of settlement, timber, recreation, habitat or other values. When used in this plan, this designation refers to areas where resource information is insufficient to warrant a specific designation, development is unlikely during the planning period of 20 years, or where a number of uses can be accommodated. For specific General Use areas, see the management intent statement of the individual management units in Chapter 3.

Generally allowed use. An activity conducted on state land managed by the Division of Mining, Land and Water that is not in a special category or status. For the most part these uses are allowed for 14 days or less, and a permit is not required. See AAC 11 AAC 96.020.

Goal. A statement of basic intent or general condition desired in the long term. Goals usually are not quantifiable and do not have specified dates for achievement.

Guideline. A course of action to be followed by DNR resource managers or required of land users when the manager permits, leases, or otherwise authorizes the use of state land or resources. Guidelines also range in their level of specificity from giving general guidance for decision making or identifying factors that need to be considered, to setting detailed standards for on-the-ground decisions. Some guidelines state the intent that must be followed and allow flexibility in achieving it.

Habitat. Areas that serve as a concentrated use area for fish and wildlife species during a sensitive life history stage where alteration of the habitat and/or human disturbance could result in a permanent loss of a population or sustained yield of the species. This designation, when used, applies to localized areas having particularly valuable or sensitive habitat within the planning boundary. The “Ha” designation does not preclude human uses that are compatible with the following categories. Also refers to the plan designation of Habitat or the land classification of Wildlife Habitat Land¹.

Fish and wildlife categories used to identify “Ha” (Habitat) designations in this plan include the following:

- anadromous fish spawning and rearing areas in fresh water or brackish intertidal zones²
- estuaries important for rearing or schooling of anadromous fish
- waterfowl and/or shorebird concentration areas
- bear concentration areas (including concentrations by season)
- moose winter concentration or calving areas
- important wildlife migration corridors, including nearshore migration routes

High value resident fish. Resident fish populations that are used for recreational, personal use, commercial, or subsistence purposes (from AS 41.17.950(10))

ILMA or ILMT. See Interagency Land Management Agreement/Transfer.

¹ The term ‘Habitat’ has a meaning that is specific to this plan. A more general definition of habitat is “The location or environment where an organism (or a thing) is most likely to be found.” This more specific meaning is applied to be consistent with the intent of 11 AAC 55.230, which provides a definition of ‘Wildlife Habitat Land’. See p. 4-3.

² Generally this occurs at the mouth of anadromous fish streams to a depth of -40 feet at mean lower low water. The exact location of this area may vary, however, and an analysis to refine the exact configuration may be justified if significant to a permit decision by DNR.

Improvements. Buildings, wharves, piers, dry docks, and other similar types of structures permanently fixed to the uplands, tidelands, or submerged lands that were constructed and/or maintained by the applicant for business, commercial, recreation, residential, or other beneficial uses or purposes. In no event shall fill be considered a permanent improvement when placed on the tidelands solely for the purposes of disposing of waste or spoils. However, fill material actually utilized for beneficial purposes by the applicant shall be considered a permanent improvement. [11 AAC 62.840]

Instream flow. An instantaneous flow rate of water through a stream during specified periods of time, from a designated location upstream to a designated location downstream.

Instream flow reservation. The legal water reservation for instream uses such as fish, wildlife, recreation, navigation, and water quality.

Interagency Land Management Agreement/Transfer (ILMA/ILMT). An agreement between DNR and other state agencies that transfers some land management responsibility to these other agencies.

Land Classification Order. An order approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources that classifies state land into specific land use categories (AS 38.04.065). The Land Classification Order in this Area Plan classifies all state lands within the planning area according to the land use designations assigned to specific management units.

Land disposal. Same as Land offering, defined below; except that land disposal areas referenced in Chapter 3 may include lots reserved for lease or sale for public, commercial, or industrial facilities.

Land offering. Transfer of state land to private ownership as authorized by AS 38.04.010, including fee simple sale and sale of agricultural rights. They do not include leases, land use permits, water rights, rights-of-way, material sales, or other disposals of interest in lands or waters. (See also, Land disposal.)

Land use classification. Land classification identifies the general purposes for which state land will be managed. All classification categories are for multiple use, although a particular use may be considered primary. Land may be given a total of three classifications in combination.

Land use designation. A category of land allocation determined by a land use plan. Designations identify the primary use(s) of state land. Other land uses may occur if they don't significantly detract from or impair the designated use(s). For example, public recreation can occur on land designated for forest management or water resources. Chapter 4 sets out how the land use designations of this plan will be classified according to 11 AAC 55.

Leasable minerals. Leasable minerals include deposits of coal, sulfur phosphates, oil shale, sodium potassium, oil and gas.

Lease. A Department of Natural Resources authorization for the use of state land according to terms set forth in AS 38.05.070-105.

Legislatively Designated Area (LDA). An area set aside by the state legislature for special management actions and retained in public ownership. Examples are State Game Refuges and State Recreation Areas.

Locatable minerals. Locatable minerals include both metallic (gold, silver, lead, etc.) and non-metallic (feldspar, asbestos, mica, etc.) minerals.

Management intent. Statements that define the department's near and long-term management objectives and the methods to achieve those objectives. As most often used in the plan, they pertain to specific management units.

Management region. In this area plan, refers to spatial areas of generally similar use or geographic characteristics. There are 8 of these within the area plan boundary.

Materials. "Materials" include but are not limited to common varieties of sand, gravel, rock, peat, pumice, pumicite, cinders, clay and sod. Materials may also refer to the designation of Materials or the land classification of Materials Land.

Mean high water. The tidal datum plane of the average of all the high tides, as would be established by the National Geodetic Survey at any place subject to tidal influence [from 11 AAC 53.900(14)]. Mean high water is the dividing line between uplands and tidelands.

Mean low water. The tidal datum plane of the average of all the low tides, as would be established by the National Geodetic Survey at any place subject to tidal influence [from 11 AAC 53.900(16)].

Mean lower low water. The tidal datum plane of the average of the lower of the two low waters of each day, as would be established by the National Geodetic Survey at any place subject to tidal influence [from 11 AAC 53.900(17)]. Mean lower low water is the "zero tide line".

MSB. Matanuska-Susitna Borough (or borough)

Mineral Closing Order (MCO). Mineral closing orders close state lands (mineral estate) to mineral entry. All state lands are open for the prospecting and production of locatable minerals unless the lands are specifically closed to mineral entry. The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources may close land to mineral entry if a finding has been made that mining would be incompatible with **significant surface use** on state land [AS 38.05.205]. A significant surface use of the land has been interpreted by DNR to include not only residential and commercial structures, but also fish and wildlife habitat, recreational, and scenic values.

Mineral entry. Acquiring exploration and mining rights under AS 38.05.185-38.05.275.

Mineral Opening Order. An order approved by the Commissioner that opens state land to mineral entry.

Mineral Order. An order approved by the Commissioner that either closes or opens land to mineral entry. The use of this term is fairly recent. Previously the Department issues mineral opening orders or mineral closing orders. Reference in this plan is to ‘mineral closing order’ since this is the instrument that was used by the Department to close areas within the planning area and since state status plats make reference to ‘Mineral Closing Orders’.

Mining. Any structure or activity for commercial exploration and recovery of minerals, including, but not limited to resource transfer facilities, camps, and other support facilities associated with mineral development. The term “mining” does not refer to offshore prospecting.

Mining claim. Rights to deposits of minerals, subject to AS 38.05.185-38.05.275, in or on state land that is open to claim staking may be acquired by discovery, location and recording as prescribed in AS 38.05.185-38.05.275. The locator has the exclusive right of possession and extraction of the minerals lying within the boundaries of the claim, subject to AS 38.05.185 -38.05.275.

Minor Change. A minor change to a land use plan is not considered a revision under AS 38.04.065. A minor change is a change that does not modify or add to the plan’s basic intent, and that serves only to clarify the plan, make it consistent, facilitate its implementation, or make technical corrections. [11 AAC 55.030]

Multiple use. Means the management of state land and its various resource values so that it is used in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the people of Alaska, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; it includes:

- a) the use of some land for less than all of the resources, and
- b) a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the short-term and long-term needs of present and future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific, and historic values.
[AS 38.04.910]

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Refers to a division of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Native-owned land. Land that is patented or will be patented to a Native corporation.

Native-selected land. Federally owned land that is selected by a Native corporation but not yet patented.

Navigable. Used in its legal context, it refers to lakes and rivers that meet federal or state criteria for navigability. Under the Equal Footing Doctrine, the Alaska Statehood Act, and the Submerged Lands Act, the state owns land under navigable waterbodies.

Ordinary high water mark. The mark along the bank or shore up to which the presence and action of the nontidal water are so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to leave a natural line impressed on the bank or shore and indicated by erosion, shelving, changes in soil characteristics, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or other distinctive physical characteristics [from 11 AAC 53.900(23)].

Permanent use. A use that includes a structure or facility that is not readily removable.

Permit. A Department of Natural Resources authorization for use of state land according to terms set forth in 11 AAC 96.

Planning period. Refers to the length of time that the plan covers, which is 20 years. However, the area plan and the land use classifications that derive from the plan remain valid until the area plan is revised.

Policy. An intended course of action or a principle for guiding actions; in this plan, DNR policies for land and resource management include goals, management intent statements, management guidelines, land use designations, implementation plans and procedures, and various other statements of DNR's intentions.

Primary use. See Designated use.

Prohibited use. A use not allowed in a management unit because of conflicts with the management intent, designated primary or secondary uses, or management guideline. Uses not specifically prohibited nor designated as primary or secondary uses in a management unit are allowed if compatible with the primary and secondary uses, the management intent statements for the unit, and the plan's guidelines. Changing a prohibited use to an allowable use requires a plan amendment.

Public Trust Doctrine. A doctrine that requires the state to manage tidelands, shorelands, and submerged lands for the benefit of the people so that they can engage in such things as commerce, navigation, fishing, hunting, swimming, and ecological study. (See also Chapter 3.)

Public use. Any human use of state land, including commercial and non-commercial uses.

Recreation. Any activity or structure for recreational purposes, including but not limited to hiking, camping, boating, anchorage, access points to hunting and fishing areas, and sightseeing. “Recreation” does not refer to subsistence hunting and fishing.

Region. A spatial unit used in area plans to describe major geographic areas within the plan boundary. Often regions occupy state lands that are contiguous or are generally close to each other and that may have similar resource and use characteristics. In this plan, there are eight regions: six regions that encompass upland areas, one that covers tidelands and submerged lands, and one that refers to Legislatively Designated Areas.

Resource management. A land classification used for lands which are presently inaccessible or remote and may have a number of resources, and where the lack of adequate resource, economic or other relevant information combined with the unlikelihood of resource development within the next 20 years makes a specific resource allocation decision unnecessary. The plan General Use designation converts to the classification of Resource Management.

Retained land. Uplands, shorelands, tidelands, submerged lands, and water that are to remain in state ownership.

RS 2477. Revised Statute 2477 from the Mining Act of 1866, which states that “The public right-of-way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public use, is hereby granted.” Information on RS 2477s can be accessed at the DNR website: dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/trails/rs2477

Right-of-way. The legal right to cross the land of another.

Secondary use. A use of lesser importance than the primary use in a particular management unit. Secondary uses are not used in the Southeast Susitna Area Plan.

SCRO. Southcentral Regional Office of the Division of Mining, Land and Water, Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

Settlement. The sale, leasing, or permitting of state lands to allow private recreational, residential, commercial, industrial, or community use. May also refer the designation of Settlement or the land classification of Settlement Land.

Shall. Same as “will.”

Shoreland. Land belonging to the state that is covered by navigable, nontidal water up to the ordinary high water mark as modified by accretion, erosion or reliction. (See definition of Navigable.) Shorelands are generally lake bottoms or the beds of navigable rivers and streams (See Figure 1-1, Chapter 1.)

Should. States intent for a course of action or a set of conditions to be achieved. Guide-lines modified by the word “should” state the plan’s intent and allow the manager to use discretion in deciding the specific means for best achieving the intent or whether particular circumstances justify deviations from the intended action or set of conditions. A guideline may include criteria for deciding if such a deviation is justified. (See Types of Plan Changes, Chapter 4.)

State land. A generic term meaning all state land, including all state-owned and state-selected uplands, all shorelands, tidelands and submerged lands. See also definitions of state-owned land and state-selected land as well as definitions for shorelands, tidelands, and submerged lands. Refer to Figure 1-1 in Chapter 1 for a graphical depiction of these areas. ‘State Land’ excludes lands owned by the University of Alaska, the Mental Health Trust Authority, or by state agencies that have acquired through deed.

State-owned land. Land that is patented or will be patented to the state, including uplands, tidelands, shorelands, and submerged lands.

State-selected land. Federally owned land that is selected by the State of Alaska, but not yet patented nor TAed (Tentative Approval) by the Bureau of Land Management.

Submerged lands. Land covered by tidal waters between the line of mean low water and seaward to a distance of three geographic miles or as may hereafter be properly claimed by the State. (See definition of Tidelands and Figure 1-1, Chapter 1.)

Subsistence. From the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act (ANILCA) [PL 96-486, Sec. 803]. The customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation; for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of non-edible byproducts of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption; for barter or sharing of personal or family consumption; and for customary trade.

Suitable. Land that is physically capable of supporting a particular type of resource development, avoids or minimizes impacts to the natural environment, and is compatible with adjacent land uses and adopted land use plans.

Sustained Yield. The definition of sustained yield as applied to forest resources in this plan corresponds to AS 41.17.950(27) and as it applies to land related issues, to AS 38.04.910(12).

Temporary use. A use that is one year or less in duration requiring a state permit. Any structure associated with the use must be readily removable.

Tidelands. Lands that are periodically covered by tidal waters between mean high water and mean low water. (See Figure 1-1, Chapter 1.)

Unsuitable. Land that is physically incapable of supporting a particular type of resource development (usually because that resource doesn't exist in that location).

Uplands. Lands above mean high water (See Figure 1-1, Chapter 1.)

Viewshed. An area of land, water, and other environmental elements that is visible from a fixed vantage point. In urban or regional planning viewsheds tend to be areas of particular scenic or historic value that are deemed worthy of preservation against development or other change. The preservation of viewsheds is a goal in the designation of open space areas, green belts, and community separators.

Water Resources. Refers to the plan designation of Water Resources or the land classification of Water Resources Land.

Water-dependant. From 6 AAC 80.900(17): “water-dependent” means a use or activity which can be carried out only on, in, or adjacent to water areas because the use requires access to the water body.

Water-related. From 6 AAC 80.900(18): “water-related” means a use or activity which is not directly dependent upon access to a water body, but which provides goods or services that are directly associated with water-dependence and which, if not located adjacent to water, would result in a public loss of quality in the goods or services offered.

Wetlands. Includes both freshwater and saltwater wetlands. “Freshwater wetlands” means those environments characterized by rooted vegetation which is partially submerged either continuously or periodically by surface freshwater with less than 0.5 parts per thousand salt content and not exceeding three meters in depth. “Saltwater wetlands” means those coastal areas along sheltered shorelines characterized by salt tolerant, marshy plants and large algae extending from extreme low tide which is influenced by sea spray or tidally induced water table changes.

Will. Requires a course of action or a set of conditions to be achieved. A guideline modified by the word “will” must be followed by land managers and users. Deviation from plan designations, management intent, or management guidelines requires a plan amendment. (See Chapter 4- Types of Plan Changes).

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER

Land Classification Order No. SC-08-001

- I. Name: Southeast Susitna Area Plan (SSAP)
- II. The classifications in Part III are based on written justification contained in one of the following plans:


Area Plan: **Southeast Susitna**
Adopted (x) Revised () Dated 4/28/08

Management Plan:
Adopted () Revised () Dated _____

Site Specific Plan:
Adopted () Revised () Dated _____

III. Legal Description	Acreage	Acquisition Authority	Existing Classification	Classification by this action
See plan maps SSAP 2008	639,000		Willow Sub-Basin AP 1982 and Susitna AP 1985	See plan maps SSAP 2008

- IV. This order is issued under the authority granted by AS 38.04.065 and AS 38.05.300 to the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. The above described lands are hereby designated and classified as indicated. Nothing shall prevent the reclassification of these lands if warranted in the public interest.

Classified: 
Commissioner, Department of
Natural Resources

Date: 4/28/08

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