

Recreation, tourism, and scenic resources

A. Coordinate with other landowners

Recreation management, including the location and management of recreation facilities, will take into account the current and likely management by the City and Borough of Yakutat, the U.S. Forest Service, and private landowners, so as not to unnecessarily duplicate facilities and to provide opportunities where facilities do not exist.

B. Location of public recreation facilities

1. **Preferred locations.** Recreation facilities, including campsites, mooring buoys, recreation trails, public use cabins, and other facilities for the general public, are needed in these situations:
 - a. when overuse is damaging the environment; or
 - b. to direct public use and activities away from inappropriate areas; or
 - c. to accommodate conflicting uses; or
 - d. to facilitate and encourage additional public recreational use; or
 - e. for public safety; or
 - f. to direct public recreational use to and through areas with high scenic and recreation values.
2. **Inappropriate locations.** Recreation facilities are not appropriate where the management intent is to maintain the natural condition of the area free from additional concentration of recreation users or significant evidence of human use. Unless the management intent of this plan indicates otherwise, tidelands adjacent to designated National Forest and National Park wilderness areas are in this category.

C. Locating mooring buoys

Mooring buoys will not be located:

1. in existing natural anchorages unless they would increase the capacity or reliability of the anchorage (for example, make it reliable in different wind or wave conditions); or
2. adjacent to frequently used campsites, unless intended as a part of the campsite development; or
3. where they may interfere with commercial fishing; or
4. in areas that will conflict with state parks or federal wilderness management objectives; or
5. in or adjacent to sensitive habitats, such as eelgrass beds, unless they will help preserve the habitat by minimizing the use of anchors.

D. Location and suitability of commercial recreation facilities

Commercial recreation facilities (including onshore and floating lodges, tent camps, or other facilities) may be authorized where allowed in the management intent and guidelines outlined in Chapter 3, and where they fulfill the following conditions:

1. **Impacts on other users.** The commercial facility and the use it generates will avoid, to the extent feasible and prudent, significant adverse impacts on the amount and quality of existing resource uses. It is recognized that a quantitative determination of the effects of the proposed facility will rarely, if ever, be possible, but an assessment of impacts should use information available from DNR, DFG, the Department of Commerce and Economic Development, Department of Environmental Conservation, the upland owner, or other sources to determine the following:
 - a. The number of commercial recreation leases, permits, and facilities that already exist on state and other lands in that management unit and adjacent management units and the amount of use they generate;
 - b. Management intent and guidelines of this or subsequent plans for the unit;
 - c. Management objectives for nearby non-state lands (to the extent this information is available);
 - d. For facilities supporting recreational fish and wildlife harvest, DNR should consult DFG concerning the effect of increased harvest on the fish and wildlife resource, and on established commercial and community harvest users;
 - e. The existing amount of public use, if this information is readily obtainable.
2. **Siting, design, construction, and operation.** The commercial recreation facility will be sited, designed, constructed, and operated in a manner that avoids significant adverse impacts to natural resources and existing uses of the area. To the extent feasible and prudent, lodges should be sited to be visually and acoustically hidden from main travel routes, frequently used anchorages, locally or regionally important campsites, and frequently used recreation areas. Float lodges should not be sited more than one per bay except where DNR intends to concentrate uses in order to minimize conflicts with existing use.
3. **Upland access to floatlodges.** Where upland access to a float lodge is anticipated, the float lodge will be located where there is legal upland access to the site.

E. Authorizations adjacent to existing recreation facilities

Activities may be allowed adjacent to recreation facilities, such as public use cabins, lodges, or fuel stops, if DNR determines that the two uses can be made compatible by design, siting or operating guidelines; or if there is no feasible and prudent alternative for the activity. This guideline also applies to sites reserved for future recreation facilities. DNR's determination should be made after consultation with the recreation facility manager.

F. Minimize visual impact of facilities

Facilities on state uplands and tidelands should be located and designed to blend in with the natural surroundings. DNR may apply stipulations to a proposed development plan in order to accomplish this guideline. DNR should consider location, size, color, materials, requirements for vegetative or topographic screening, or other measures as appropriate.

G. Recreation area viewshed protection

DNR authorizations should minimize significant adverse impacts to the viewsheds of existing recreation sites by placing appropriate conditions or restrictions in Forest Land Use Plans²², plans of operations, and permits. The first 500 feet of the coastal fringe of timber and seaward beaches and tidelands are important for recreation activities and viewshed quality. Other recreation sites meriting viewshed protection include, but are not limited to: rivers used for recreation, hunting and fishing, DNR-authorized hunting and fishing guide camps, and routes for hiking and camping along beaches. Due deference will be given to DPOR when identifying limits and impacts to viewsheds and visual quality objectives.

H. Existing recreation areas adjacent to waterbodies

DNR should minimize significant adverse impacts to recreation use and aesthetic values when authorizing activities within 300 feet of the ordinary high water mark of a waterbody with existing recreation use.

I. Accommodate potential recreation sites

Recreation and tourism use in the planning area is growing. Only existing recreation sites have been identified. As new information becomes available on use and recreation growth patterns, DNR will consider additional measures to accommodate and enhance recreation and tourism opportunities. When authorizing activities, DNR will consult with DPOR and the Division of Tourism for recommendations.

J. Development of a cabin and trail system west of the Duktoth River

State lands west of the Duktoth River will accommodate the development of a "hut-to-hut" cabin and trail system, including a base lodge and overnight cabins. The cabin and trail system will require DNR authorizations for the use of state land.

²² For timber harvest under ADL 223456, the university's Annual Operating Plan rather than a FLUP will be the means means to implement this guideline.