

# Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan

## Public Review Draft





# Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan

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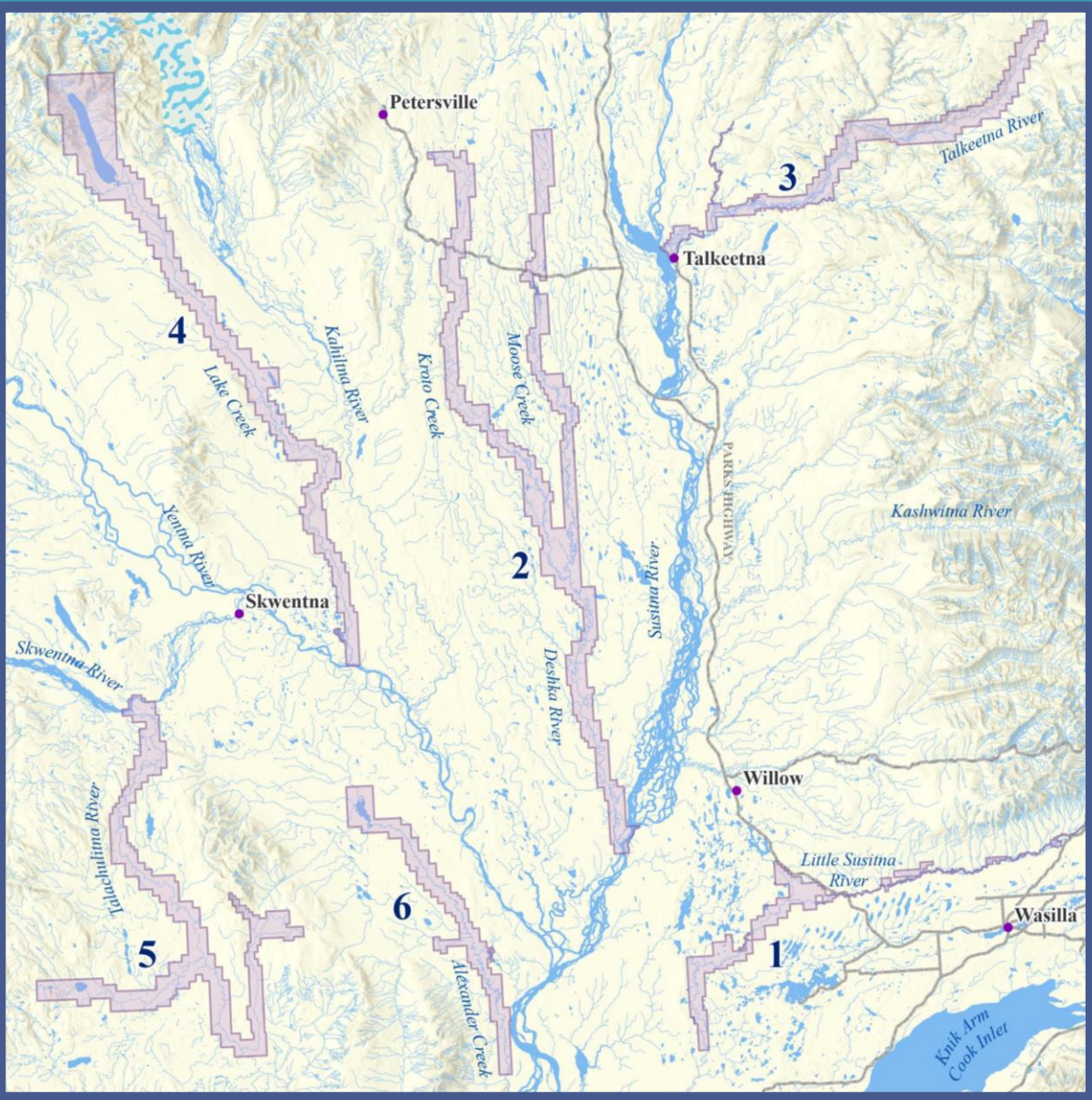
Recreation Rivers Act of 1988  
(AS 41.23.400-510):

The primary purpose for the establishment of the six recreation rivers is their maintenance and enhancement for recreation





# Recreation Rivers Management Area

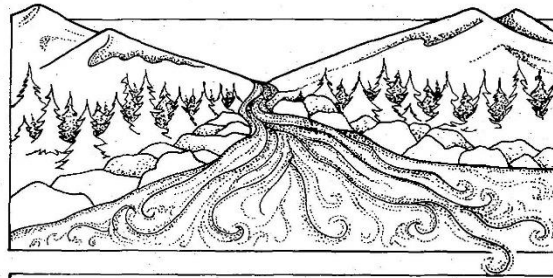


- Six Rivers
  1. Little Susitna River
  2. Deshka River (Moose/Kroto Creeks)
  3. Talkeetna River
  4. Lake Creek
  5. Talachulitna River
  6. Alexander Creek
- 460 River Miles
- Mile-wide corridors totaling 260,000 acres

# Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan

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- Original plan adopted in 1991
- This revision kicked off with scoping in May of 2022 after the advisory board was reconstituted at the end of 2021



DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF LAND  
LAND & RESOURCES SECTION

## SUSITNA BASIN RECREATION RIVERS MANAGEMENT PLAN



AUGUST 1991

# Planning Process

## 1 Identify Issues

Initiated Scoping May 2022  
Scoping Public Meetings Summer 2022

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## 2 Gather Information

Throughout

## 3 Prepare & Evaluate Land Use Alternatives

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## 4 Prepare Draft Plan

## 5 Public Review of Draft Plan

Public Meetings Scheduled  
Comment Period open until 3/5/2024

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## 6 Prepare Final Plan

## 7 Approve Final Plan

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## 8 Legislature Reviews Plan

## 9 Adopt & Implement Plan

9

# What The Plan Will Do:

Two light blue wavy lines that resemble water ripples, positioned below the title and above the list of bullet points.

- Provide for the maintenance and enhancement for recreational uses on the six Recreation Rivers.
- The plan determines how these six rivers will be managed over the long term by providing guidelines to land managers for issuing authorizations.
- Recommends actions to meet the current and future needs of the public.
- Provides relevant resources and information on which DNR can base decisions.

# What The Plan Will Not Do:



- Affect methods, means, and allocation of fish and wildlife harvest.
- Address oil and gas leasing.
- Affect subsurface resources except through mineral closing orders or leasehold location orders.
- Change laws and regulations.
- Address non-state lands.

# How The Plan Is Organized



Chapter 1: Introduction & Background

Chapter 2: Areawide Plan & Water Management Policies

Chapter 3: Land & Water Management Policies for Each  
Management Unit

Chapter 4: Implementation



# Chapter 2: Areawide Plan & Water Management Policies

## Examples:

- Public Use Sites
- Special Management Areas
- Riparian Management Areas
- Recreation
- Commercial
- Boat Access
- Shoreline Development



# Chapter 2: Areawide Plan & Water Management Policies

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## Examples:

- Adjusted dock standards
- Barrels will no longer be permitted in dock construction
- Updated erosion control guidance

# Chapter 3: Land & Water Management Policies for Each Management Unit

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Specific management intent & guidelines for each unit and subunits

Major changes include:

- Updated data to reflect changes in the corridors
- Changes to public use sites & special management areas



# Example: 6c. Alexander Lake Subunit

## 6c. Alexander Lake Subunit

### Background

Miles of River/River Characteristics, RM 38.3 to RM 44.0

Alexander Lake is about 2.5 miles long and 0.5 miles wide. The terrain around the lake is flat. Contiguous wetlands make up at least 90 percent of the area within the subunit. Well-drained sites are mostly in private ownership.

### Land Ownership

State	5,007 acres
Private & Other	95 acres
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,102 acres</b>

### Wildlife

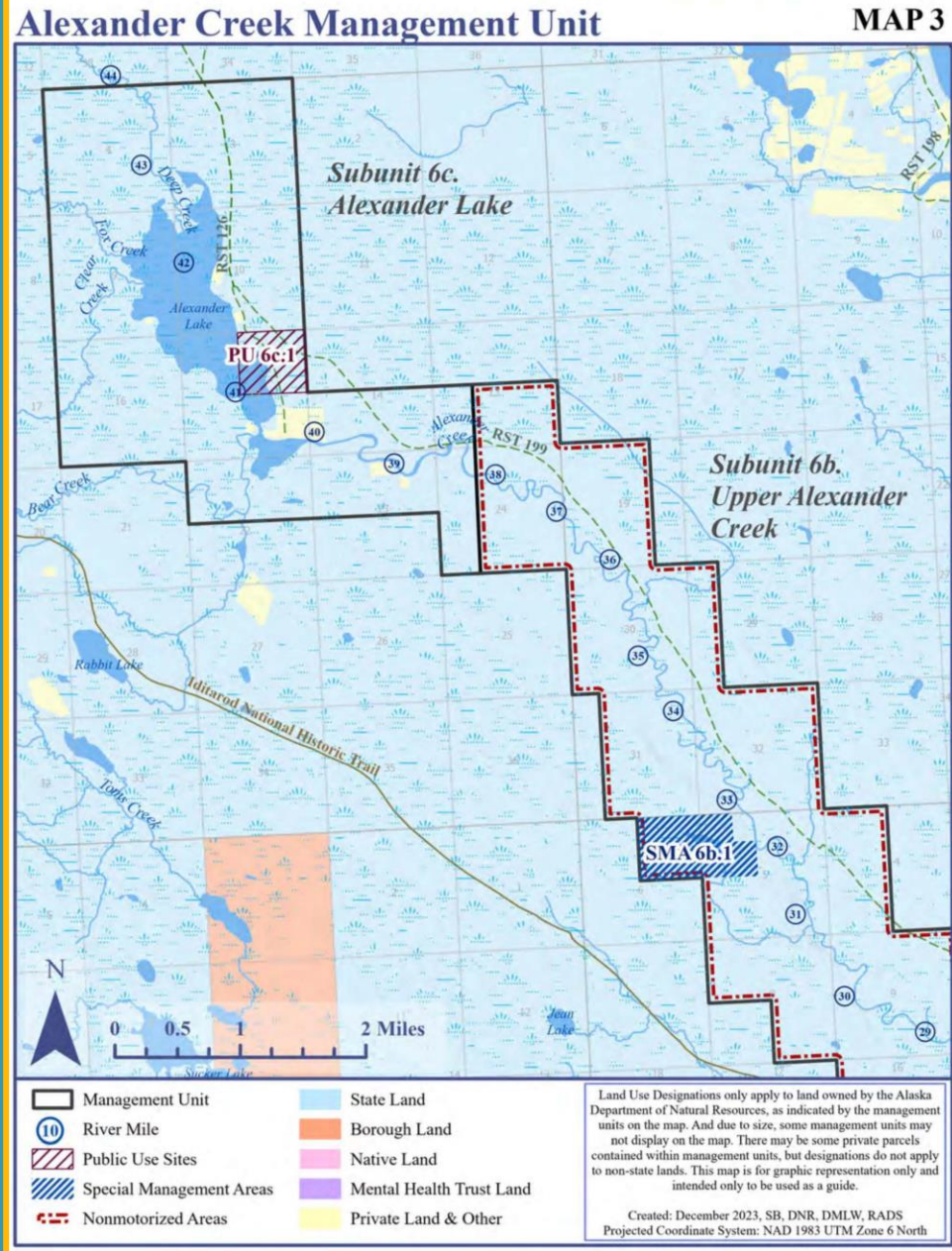
In recent surveys, trumpeter swans have been observed along Alexander Creek and adjacent lakes/ponds. Active bald eagle nests have not been sighted in recent surveys in this subunit.

### Invasive Species Concerns

The Division of Agriculture has been working to eradicate the invasive aquatic plant, *Elodea* from Alexander Lake since 2018. Full eradication in Alexander Lake is challenging due to the many inflows into the lake that make maintaining a specific concentration of herbicide difficult. Reintroduction is also a challenge from the inflows but also from anthropogenic sources such as boats, floatplanes and gear. The Division of Agriculture anticipates full eradication in the next few years.

ADF&G began a northern pike suppression program in 2011. Crews have been gillnetting side sloughs in the spring, targeting, and removing northern pike. To date, ADF&G has removed over 30,000 northern pike from Alexander Creek. Unfortunately, Alexander Creek provides ideal habitat for pike, and Alexander Lake/Sucker Lake at the headwaters are completely dominated by northern pike. ADF&G plans to continue implementation of aggressive pike removal in the watershed.

### Development





# Chapter 4: Implementation

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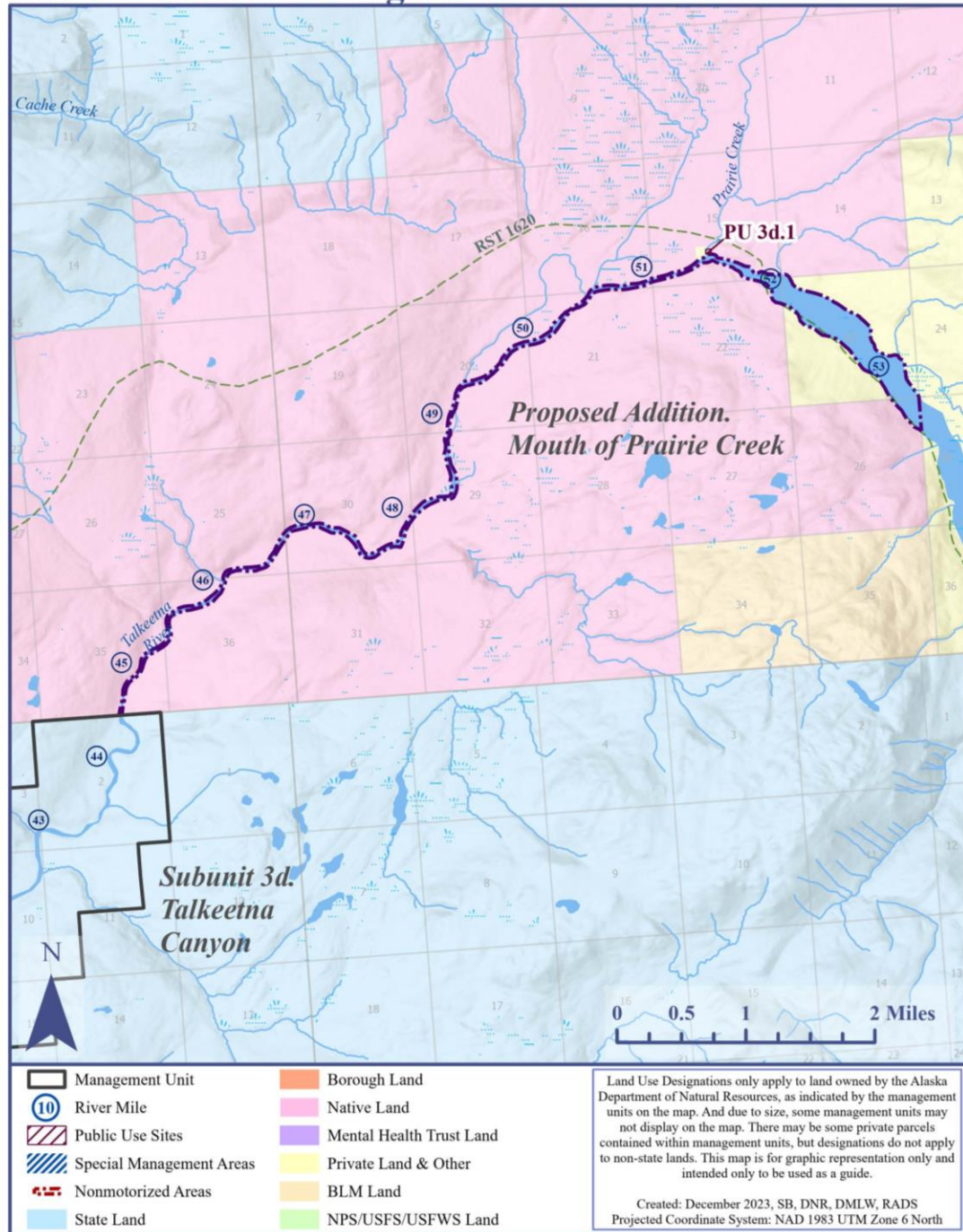
- Updated agency implementation responsibilities based on current and future actions.
- Changed proposed additions.





# Proposed Additions

- Removed some proposed additions due to changes in land ownership and use
- Retained recommendations to:
  - Correct overlap between Nancy Lake State Rec Area and the Recreation Rivers Corridor
  - Proposed addition at Mouth of Prairie Creek





# Public Meetings

<u>AREA</u>	<u>DATE &amp; TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<b>Talkeetna</b>	Tuesday, January 30, 2024 5:00-7:00 PM	Talkeetna Public Library
<b>Anchorage</b>	Wednesday, January 31, 2024 12:00-2:00 PM	Robert Atwood Room (104) Robert B. Atwood Building
<b>Virtual</b>	Wednesday, January 31, 2024 5:30-7:00 PM	Microsoft Teams (see project webpage for more info)
<b>Wasilla</b>	Thursday, February 1, 2024 5:15-6:45 PM	Wasilla Public Library

# Send Comments To:

Recreation Rivers Planning  
Department of Natural Resources  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1050  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Email: [recreationrivers@alaska.gov](mailto:recreationrivers@alaska.gov)

To receive full consideration, comments must  
be received by **Tuesday, March 5, 2024.**

For more information visit:

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/mgtplans/susitna-revision>

