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## APPENDIX G

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# *Priorities for Implementation of the Recreation Rivers Management Plan*

Following are priorities for DNR and the Division of Land and Water to implement the plan. These are intended to provide general guidance and are subject to obtaining adequate funding and other agency priorities.

### Priority 1

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#### **1. Education Program**

- A. Develop public education program, pamphlets, videos, etc. in cooperation with the MSB, DF&G, user groups, and others.
- B. Prioritize the placement of informational and interpretive signs, and contract for their design and construction.

#### **2. New Regulations**

- A. Promulgate the following regulations necessary to institute a commercial-use permit program:
  - 1. Regulation to authorize DNR to issue commercial-use permits, and conditions for revocation or suspension.
  - 2. Regulation to establish fees for commercial-use permit: in-state operator fees and higher fees for out of state operators.
  - 3. Regulation which allow the director of DLW to waive all or a portion of fees for recreation related permits.
  - 4. Regulation to allow operators to preform in-kind services, in lieu of fees.
- B. Promulgate regulations to change generally allowed activities

1. Regulation establishing a 4-day camping limit in the planning area between May 15 - August 25, and penalties for non-compliance.

2. Regulation establishing a 4-day limit on boat and equipment storage (other than in designated storage areas) between May 15 - August 25, and establish penalties for non-compliance.

C. Promulgate the following regulations necessary to implement and enforce non-motorized and no-wake areas within the planning area:

1. Regulation establishing non-motorized and no-wake areas.

2. Regulation outlining penalties for non-compliance with non-motorized and no-wake areas.

3. Regulation requiring a permit for all motorized access to private land or active mining claim that crosses state land or water closed to motorized use, and to allow operation of motorized vehicles including boats, aircraft, helicopters and ground vehicles in non-motorized areas by governmental agencies for the purpose of law enforcement, emergency search and rescue, medical evacuations, etc., and penalties for non-compliance.

D. Other

1. Regulation prohibiting littering or bringing waste or refuse into the area for disposal, and penalties for non-compliance.

2. Regulation prohibiting the disturbance, damage, defacement, or removal of state property, facilities, or signs.

**3. Commercial-Use Permit Program** Develop and initiate a commercial use permit program. Monitor compliance, collect and account for fees. Monitor commercial use to provide baseline information that may be useful if limitations are considered in the future.

#### **4. Adjudicate Applications**

A. Adjudicate pending land applications based on plan guidelines.

B. For rivers with sufficient data, complete applications for instream flow reservation (if funding allows).

- C. Work with FAA and DOT to initiate study of floatplane landing area at the mouth of the Deshka.
- D. Address wheelplane access issues at mouth of the Deshka, close unauthorized airstrip, consider options for a public airstrip.
- E. Designate boat storage areas.

**5. Volunteer Program** Coordinator position to work with user groups and commercial operators on litter patrols, maintenance programs, etc. (Work with commercial operators to pick up litter in lieu of fees).

## Priority 2

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### **1. New Regulations** Promulgate the following regulations:

- A. Regulation to allow closures and other use management techniques to provide the land manager flexibility and responsiveness to changing conditions (see plan).
- B. Regulation prohibiting littering or bringing waste or refuge into the area for disposal and penalties for non-compliance.
- C. Regulation to prohibit private bridges across selected streams.
- D. Regulation to increase the fee structure for summer temporary camps in corridors.
- E. Regulation defining conditions for which a permit for winter use is required and penalties for non-compliance.
- F. Regulation to prohibit floating facilities and penalties for non-compliance.
- G. Regulation prohibiting mooring buoys on the Recreation Rivers and penalties for non-compliance.

### **2. Administrative**

- A. Enter into a cooperative management agreements with the DOPOR, DF&G, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to manage the lower Little Susitna River. Enter into cooperative management agreement with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for the mouth of the Deshka River.

- B. Develop land acquisition and land exchange priorities(e.g., Bulchitna, Neil, and Judd lakes public access, conservation easements).
  - C. Initiate a Trails Action Plan to review trail proposals, and decide on need and suitability of trails. In consultation with MSB and DFG, designate special purpose trails to provide new recreation opportunities or resolve conflicts between users.
  - D. Develop public facility development priorities, and contract for their design and construction.
- 3. Trespass Abatement** Work with the Department of Law to remove trespass developments and close unauthorized open dumps.
- 4. Discharge of Weapons** Seek commissioner's determination on whether the use discharge of weapons at the mouth of the Deshka constitutes a threat to public safety. If so, implement restrictions on the discharge of weapons at mouth of Deshka between June 15 and August 31.
- 5. Data Needs** If funding allows, work with DGGs and DF&G to compile data needed to complete in-stream flow reservation applications. Jointly file instream flow application with DFG. DLW will adjudicate the application.

## Priority 3

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### 1. New Regulations

- A. Regulation requiring a permit for organized events or assemblies and a permit for any promotional or entertainment event.
  - B. Regulation establishing procedures for awarding use of public use cabins.
  - C. Regulation to allow the department to restrict camp fires to fire rings or grills in certain areas.
  - D. Regulations to prohibit the marking of natural objects within 100 feet of the rivers and to establish penalties for non-compliance.
- 2. Public Use Cabin Program** Institute a public use cabin program. Select trespass cabin(s) for conversion or determine where new cabins will be built. Monitor reservations, collect fees, maintain facilities.

**3. Whitewater Monitoring Program** Develop and implement a monitoring and voluntary trip scheduling program for the Talkeetna River Canyon to observe changes in campsite encounters and evaluate need for a permit system. Secondly monitor use on Lake Creek and the Talachulitna River.

**4. Education** Announce each year when there is adequate snowcover for ORV use through news releases, etc.

**5. Facility Development**

A. Repair drop-off platform on Alexander Lake (if funding allows).

B. Construct cabins for field staff near DF&G camps on the lower Deshka River and on the Yentna River at mouth of Lake Creek (if funding allows).

C. Develop primitive public facilities (privies, hardened campsites, fire-rings, and primitive boat launches).

