
GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are specific directives that will be applied to management decisions. DNR will use criteria included in the guidelines when considering permit or lease applications on

state land. All Chapter 2 guidelines, whether or not specifically indicated, apply to all state land in the Recreation Rivers. For additional guidelines, see *Management Guidelines* for each unit and sub-unit in Chapter 3.

PUBLIC USE SITES

Goals

Public Use. Protect and enhance public recreation use and enjoyment of public use sites.

Protect Values. Protect the public recreation value of these sites.

Management Guidelines

Public use sites are sites on state land and water that have been identified as particularly important for public access, fishing, camping, or other recreation or public use. The management intent is to protect the opportunity for the public to use these sites, and to protect the public value of the sites. Seventy-three (73) public use sites have been identified in the Recreation Rivers. When uplands are in borough or private ownership, the public use site and its guidelines apply only to the land below ordinary high water. See the unit maps in Chapter 3 that show these sites. Appendix I lists all sites.

Several guidelines in Chapter 2 apply to these sites. For example, commercial camps that remain for more than four days in the summer are not allowed in public use sites. Improvements such as public facilities, docks, boat ramps, and public airstrips may be allowed. Camping may be restricted to identified sites if a campground is constructed or if designated campsites are identified. Public use sites, because of their high value for public use, will receive higher levels of management attention than other less heavily used areas.

The list of sites is based on the best available information. As use patterns change and more information becomes available, new sites are likely to be identified and existing sites deleted. DNR should work with the Recreation Rivers Advisory Board and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to identify additional sites. Additions or deletions from the list of the public use sites requires a "Minor Change" to the plan. See *Procedures for Plan Review, Modification, and Amendment* in Chapter 4. Also see *Public Use Sites* in Chapter 2.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

Goals

Access. Accommodate reasonable access improvements to support uses on private and state lands located in these areas.

Improvements on Private Land. Allow reasonable improvements on state lands to support uses of private lands.

Management Guidelines

Special management areas are areas on state land and water where specific developments are proposed or where clusters of private land are located. Their designation as special management areas acknowledges these circumstances, and the need for a different management intent for levels of development and recreation experiences than surrounding public land. There are fifteen (15) special management areas shown in Map 2.1 and in the unit maps in Chapter 3. Appendix I includes a list of all special management areas. Special management areas are located in Class I.

areas. Special management areas will be managed as Class II areas. Motorized access is allowed in these areas even when they are located along non-motorized river segments. When uplands are in private or borough ownership, the special management area only includes the land below ordinary high water and the water column. Additions to or deletions from the list of special management areas require a "Plan Amendment." See Procedures for Plan Review, Modification, and Amendment in Chapter 4. Also see *Special Management Areas* in Chapter 3.

RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT AREAS

Goals

Opportunities for Development. Accommodate opportunities for small scale developments and access improvements for public, commercial, and agency use.

Shoreline Vegetation. Maximize the amount of shoreline remaining in a natural timbered or vegetated state.

Habitat. Maintain the functional integrity of fish and wildlife habitat at no less than existing levels of productive capability.

Scenery. Protect and maintain the scenic qualities of rivers, lakes, and their viewsheds.

Shorelands. Minimize disturbance of lands below ordinary high water and associated with wetlands and floodplains.

Uplands. Minimize the degradation of the land adjacent to the rivers and lakes which may have deleterious effects on water quality, stream flow, and hydrology.

Public Use. Protect and maintain public uses of the rivers, shorelines, and associated riparian areas.

Safety. Protect the public from hazardous structures or channel modifications in or over the river, or along the shoreline.

Structures. Ensure the long-term public use of the Recreation Rivers by minimizing the construction of long-term habitable private facilities on state lands. These include cabins for private use, trapping cabins, remote cabins, and unauthorized cabins.

Water Quality and Quantity. Protect riparian areas which are groundwater recharge areas, regulate water flow, retain floodwaters, purify water, reduce sediment and nutrient loads, and are the basis for food chains.

Consolidate Improvements. Consolidate permanent structures, when feasible and prudent, to areas where there are already significant improvements on both public and private lands.

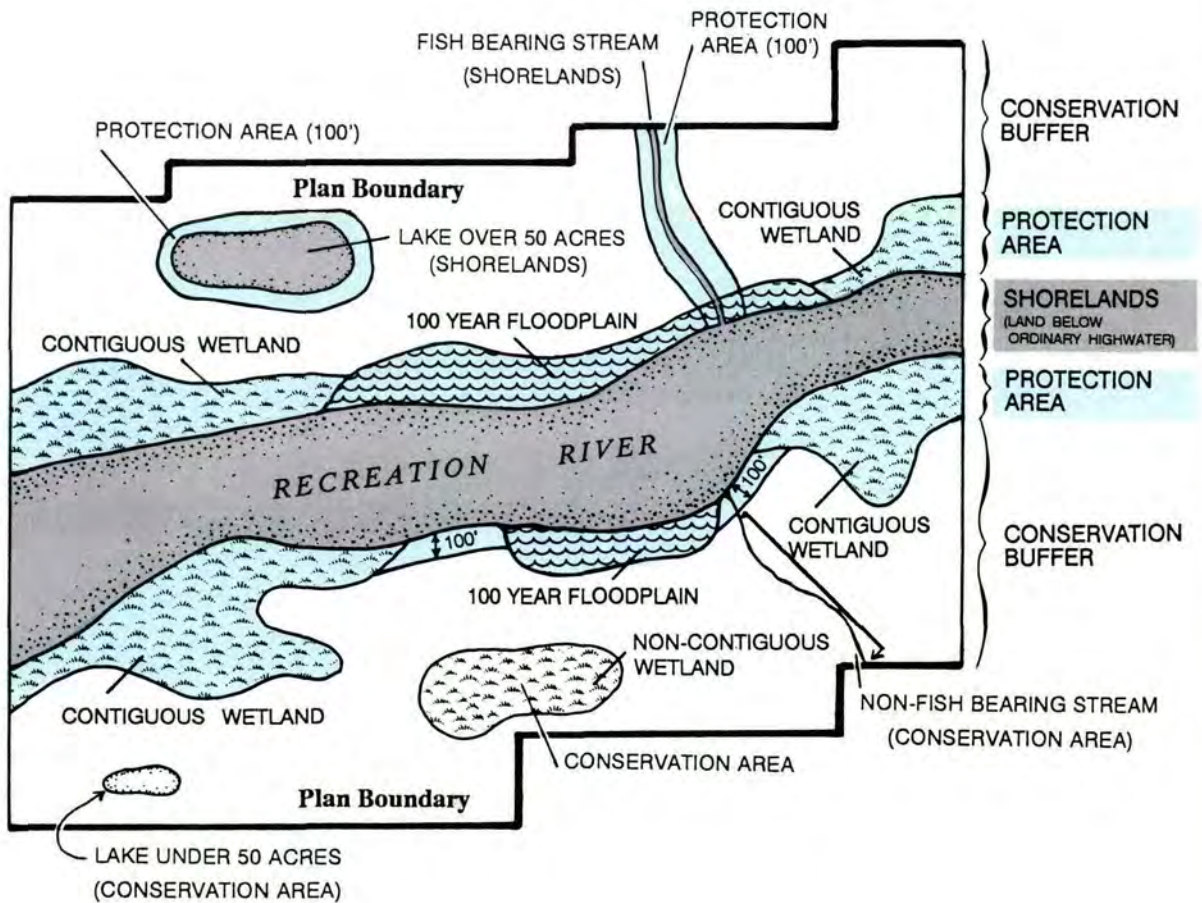
Management Guidelines

Riparian Management Areas. Riparian management areas include three areas: land and water below ordinary-high-water, protection areas, and conservation areas. Special guidelines apply to these areas. Activities in riparian management areas shall be authorized consistent with the U.S. Army Corps Section 404 process where it applies. Maps showing the floodplains and wetlands that help delineate these areas are in Appendix H (under a different cover).

SUSITNA BASIN RECREATION RIVERS MANAGEMENT PLAN

RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT AREAS

FIGURE 2.1



Land and Water Below Ordinary High Water

Description: This includes water and land-below-ordinary-high-water on navigable river channels, lakes over 50 acres, and fish-bearing streams. Ordinary high water is 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, indicated by erosion, shelving, changes in soil characteristics, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or other distinctive physical characteristics [from 11 AAC 53.900(23)].

Intent. The management intent for the land below ordinary high water or in the waterbody is to protect the water quality and quantity, fish and wildlife habitat, hydrologic regime, riparian ecosystem, and recreation uses of the river. In general, only those activities that are water-dependent should be allowed below or within 100 feet of ordinary high water. These activities are defined as those that must have direct access or proximity to, or be located in, the water to fulfill their purpose.

Protection Area

Description: The protection area includes contiguous wetlands, the 100-year floodplain, or 100 feet from the ordinary high water mark, whichever is greater (see Figure 2.1). Contiguous wetlands are defined as wetlands which have a visible surface water connection with the six Recreation Rivers or their tributaries. The 100-year floodplain is the point to which the six rivers or their tributaries will flood, on the average, once every 100 years or that area that has a one-percent chance of being flooded in any given year. The minimum 100-foot width of the protection area applies to all navigable or fish-bearing waterbodies and to lakes over 50 acres.

There are some guidelines in the plan that apply only to development within one-hundred foot buffers along waterbodies. They apply to activities such as commercial camps, storage of large volumes of petroleum products, and material sales. A 75-foot, rather than one-hundred foot, setback ordinance applies to all borough and private lands.

The wetlands shown in Appendix H (under a separate cover) were mapped by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The maps only show wetlands in the Recreation Rivers. The definition (see glossary in Appendix A) used is from the National Wetlands Classification System.

For purposes of this management plan, wetlands are further divided into two classes. Contiguous wetlands have a visible surface water connection with the Recreation Rivers or their tributaries. Non-contiguous wetlands have no apparent surface-water connection. Actual wetlands may vary from those shown in the plan addendum. Wetland and non-wetland areas less than two acres are not shown. Field verification may be necessary in some instances.

There may be exceptions where the minimum protection area is wider (e.g. high banks with low soil stability or forest susceptibility to windthrow). The minimum width of the protection area along navigable waters, fish-bearing streams, and lakes over 50 acres should be expanded in sloping areas as follows:

<u>Average Side Slope</u>	<u>Minimum Buffer Width</u>
20-40%	125'
40% or greater	150'

In forested areas, the minimum protection area should be widened as necessary to increase resistance to windthrow in areas subject to strong winds.

Intent: The primary intent of guidelines applying to the protection area is to minimize disturbance to rivers and their associated ecosystems so that they may maintain their function in a dynamic natural state, thus enabling the fish and wildlife resources to maintain critical life functions and productivity.

In the protection area, few activities which would degrade the integrity or function of the riparian zone, floodplain, contiguous wetlands, or the adjacent waterbodies will be allowed. Only those uses which are water-dependent should be allowed within 100 feet of or below ordinary-high-water. Uses may also include bridges, roads, and utilities that must cross rivers as long as they are constructed consistent with the *Upland Access*

guidelines. Water-dependent uses are defined as those that must have direct access or proximity to, or be located in, the water to fulfill their purpose. When located in the floodplain, uses and structures must also comply with the borough flood damage prevention ordinance.

Conservation Buffer

Description: The conservation buffer includes all the land in the Recreation Rivers that is located outside the protection area and above ordinary-high-water mark. This also includes non-contiguous wetlands that are not directly connected by surface waters with the Recreation Rivers or their tributaries and located outside the 100-year floodplain. Also included in this area are lakes under 50 acres and non-navigable, non-fish bearing streams.

Intent: The purpose of the conservation area is to provide a vegetative shield for critical resources in the protection area. Removal of natural vegetation in this area should be minimized. Without the pollution dissipation function provided by the conservation buffer, the inner protection area would be vulnerable to degradation.

Modifications to Floodplain and Wetland Maps. Floodplains and wetlands are shown in *Appendix H, Wetlands and Floodplains in the Recreation Rivers*. Rivers are dynamic and floodplains and wetlands may change. In addition, there may be cases where the map scale does not accurately depict these areas. If field verification or other sources of information indicate errors in the wetland and floodplain boundaries in the appendix to the plan, changes may be made through a "Minor Change" to the plan. See *Procedures for Plan Review, Modification, and Amendment* in Chapter 4.

UPLAND DEVELOPMENT

Management Guidelines

General Guidelines. The following general guidelines should be applied to development one-hundred feet or more landward from ordinary high water in the Recreation Rivers:

1. *Vegetation.* Removal of vegetation shall be limited to the minimum necessary to accomplish the allowed use.
2. *Disturbance.* Surface disturbance, particularly in the protection areas, shall be minimized.
3. *Fill.* Fill shall be limited to that needed for the structural integrity of the project.
4. *Revegetation.* Disturbed soil areas shall be revegetated as soon as feasible and prudent after disturbance and no later than the next growing season. Natural revegetation is acceptable if the site is suitable and will revegetate itself within the next growing season.
5. *Contours.* Pre-existing contours should be maintained when feasible and prudent.

6. *Consolidation.* Joint use and consolidation of facilities will be encouraged wherever it is feasible and prudent to do so. Facilities shall be designed and sited to accommodate future development and avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities. The feasibility of using an existing facility shall be evaluated before the construction of a new facility is authorized.

7. *Ordinances.* Projects in the floodplain shall comply with the borough floodplain hazard protection ordinance which requires engineering plans prior to construction.

Resource Management Camps. Resource management camps are facilities established for resource or recreation management, or for scientific study. They are generally constructed by natural resource agencies such as DNR or DFG, the borough, or non-profit groups such as the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association and the University. Resource management camps must be authorized by a land use permit.