

Adopted December 1997 (Published November 1998)

Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Land Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation In conjunction with Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Habitat & Restoration Division Kenai Peninsula Borough









# KENAI RIVER Comprehensive Management Plan

## Adopted December 1997 (Published November 1998)

Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Land Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation in conjunction with Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Habitat & Restoration Division Kenai Peninsula Borough

#### Equal Opportunity Is For Everyone

The State of Alaska Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation receives federal funds from the National Park Service. Regulations of the US Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination in the departmental Federally Assisted Programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should write to:

Director, Equal Opportunity Program US Department of the Interior National Park Service PO Box 37127 Washington, DC 20013-7127

#### ADOPTION ORDER

#### KENAI RIVER COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

#### (REVISED, DECEMBER 1997)

The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources finds that the Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan dated December 10, 1997, satisfies the requirements of AS 41.21.500-514 and does hereby adopt it as the policy of the Department of Natural Resources for state land management, permitting, and other departmental programs and activities within the area of the Plan Boundary. This Management Plan supersedes the previous Management Plan dated October, 1986.

Sohn Shively

12/15/97 Date

Commissioner Department of Natural Resources

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page Reference for Significant Issues & Topics	. iii
List of Acronyms	. iv

#### Chapter 1 - Introduction and Scope of Plan

1.0	Kenai River Comprehensive Plan	
1.1	Reasons for Plan Revision	
1.2	StatutoryAuthority	
1.3	Plan Study Area and Plan Boundary	
1.4	Enabling Legislation, Legislative History	
1.5	Relationship to Other Plans	
1.6	Plan Development Process	
1.7	Role of Kenai River Advisory Board and Technical Working Group	
1.8	Mental Health Trust Land	
1.9	Plan Organization	ļ

#### Chapter 2 - Background Information

1.0	Introduction
2.0	Natural Conditions
	Description of River Reaches within River Segments
2.2	Fish & Wildlife
2.3	Recreation

## **Chapter 3 - Planning Issues**

	Why Revise the Plan?
3.1	Fish and Wildlife Habitat
3.2	Recreation
3.3	Environment
3.4	Land Use
3.5	Enforcement, Education and Funding 31

### **Chapter 4 - Study Area Recommendations**

4.1	Integrated, Comprehensive Approach to River and Watershed Management	. 33
4.2	Scope of Areawide Recommendations	. 33
4.3	Areawide Goals and Objectives	. 33
4.4	Relationship to Goals and Objectives	. 34

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

4.5	Areawide Recommendations	
	4.5.1 Recreation	34
	4.5.1.1 Water Based Recreation	35
	4.5.1.2 Upland Recreation Facilities	42
	4.5.2 Habitat	57
	4.5.3 Land Use	65
	4.5.4 Land Management	69
	4.5.5 Environment	
	4.5.6 Financial	86
	4.5.7 Enforcement/Regulation/Permitting	87
	4.5.8 Public Education	91
	4.5.9 Planning and Research	92
	4.5.10 Data Collection and Information Management	
	•	

## **Chapter 5 - River Segment Recommendations**

5.1	Introduction	Э
5.2	Kenai River Mainstem: Goals	00
5.3	River Segments and River Reaches	00
	5.3.1 Lower River	)2
	5.3.2 Middle River	)4
	5.3.3 Upper River (Including Kenai Lake) 10	)6

## **Chapter 6 - Plan Implementation**

6.0	Introduction
6.1	Implementation Recommendations 113
6.2	Plan Review, Modification and Amendment Procedures
6.3	Annual Review of Implementation Recommendations 122

### Appendices

A.	Plan Boundary	
	Plan Units (State)	
C.	Permitting Procedures	l
D.	Permitting of Instream Structures D-	1
E.	Memorandum of Understanding E-:	l
F.	Leasehold Location Order #20 F-1	l
G.	Special Land Use Designation	1
H.	Kenai River Special Management Area Statute 41.21.502 H-	1

# Page Reference to Significant Issues & Topics

Note to user: The following is a list of the main issues and topics that the public associates with the Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan. It does not identify all of the topics and issues, and the reader is referred to the main text for detailed descriptions.

apter 1: Introduction &	
3	Plan study area and plan boundary
9	Mental Health Trust Land, management of
apter 4: Study Area Re	commendations
36-37	Rental boats
37-38, 87-89	Enforcement
38	Drift areas
39	Change to horsepower limits
40	Operation of boats and other vehicles
40-41	Sport fishing guides
42	Vessel overcrowding
42-43	Upland recreation facilities
57, 61-65	Habitat restoration projects
59, 68-69	Public access
60-61	Permitting of in-stream structures
67	Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan
67	Zoning adjacent to Kenai River
75, 79	Incorporation of state land within KRSMA
79	Incorporation of state waters within KRSMA
79-80	Mineral closure and leasehold location order
83-84	Timber harvest activities
85-86	Wetlands
86-87	Financial (river use fee)

ter o. raver beginent recommendations		
100	Kenai River Mainstem	
102-104	Lower River	
104-106	Middle River	

# List of Acronyms

## Agency

Local:

КРВ	Kenai Peninsula Borough ('Borough' in Plan)

State:

DNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish & Game
ADOT/PF	Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
DOPOR	Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DNR)

#### Federal:

US COE	US Army Corps of Engineers
US EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
USGS	US Geological Survey
USFS	US Forest Service
US FWS	US Fish & Wildlife Service

#### Other:

KRSMA	Kenai River Special Management Area
KRAB	Kenai River Advisor Board ('Advisory Board' in Plan)
KRCMP	Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan
KAP	Kenai Area Plan