MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD

Chairperson – Ed Strabel – District 6
Vice Chair – Roy Wahl – District 4
Pat Owens – District 1
Chris Wilson – District 2
Jessica Kelsch – At Large 2
John Harris - District 3
VACANT – At Large 3
Nickel LaFleur– At Large 1
David Palmer – At Large 4
Cindy Bettine - District 5
Thomas Phillips - District 7

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING **July 27, 2020**
Assembly Chambers **6:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. February 24, 2020

VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORT

A. Hugh Leslie, Recreation & Library Services Manager

VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – 3 minutes per person

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Crevasse Marine Trail Discussion

B. Avigation Easement Report

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Notices

i. Jonesville Public Use Area State Land Management Plan

B. Agency/Organization Report

i. Brian Largeant – Jonesville Public Use Area Plan

C. Land Nomination Discussion

X. VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

XII. MEMBER COMMENTS

XIII. NEXT MEETING

- August 24, 2020

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD

Chairperson – Ed Strabel – District 6
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David Palmer – At Large 4
Cindy Bettine - District 5
Thomas Phillips - District 7

DRAFT MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING **February 24, 2020**
Lower Level Conference Room **6:00 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mr. Strabel at 6:02 pm.

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Members Present: Ms. Owens, Mr. Wahl, Ms. Bettine, Mr. Strabel, Mr. Phillips, Ms. LaFleur, Ms. Kelsch, Mr. Palmer

Mr. Harris arrived at 6:15 pm

Members Absent and Excused: Mr. Wilson

Guests Present: Wes Hoskins, Brian Largent

III. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

Mr. Phillips nominated Mr. Strabel and Mr. Wahl as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, respectively.

Motion: Ms. Bettine moved to unanimously elect Mr. Strabel as Chairperson, Mr. Palmer, 2nd. All in favor.

Motion: Ms. Bettine moved to unanimously elect Mr. Wahl as Vice Chairperson, Mr. Palmer, 2nd. All in favor.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Mr. Phillips moved to accept the agenda as written, Mr. Palmer, 2nd. All in favor.

V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Strabel led the pledge of allegiance.

VI. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. December 9, 2019

Motion: Mr. Phillips moved to accept the minutes as written, Mr. Palmer, 2nd. All in favor.

VII. BOROUGH STAFF REPORT

A. Hugh Leslie, Recreation & Library Services Manager

Mr. Leslie spoke about the start to the hiring season for summer employees.

Mr. Leslie reminded the Board about the meeting concerning the Wasilla Creek Headwaters restoration project.

Mr. Leslie updated the Board on the status of the Palmer pool renovation.

Mr. Leslie updated the Board that the broken gate at GPRA was in the process of actually getting fixed.

Mr. Leslie noted that although the Board has had many conversations concerning multi-use trails in Crevasse Moraine, the borough still has not had anyone from the public reach out to raise concerns. Mr. Hoskins noted that Marie from Corvus Designs might be a good facilitator for any user group meetings planned by the Borough as she had also participated in greenbelt meetings.

Mr. Leslie noted that Backcountry Horsemen are currently working with Land Management staff to set up a trail care agreement with the Borough.

Mr. Leslie said he would update the Board on the status of the Palmer Airport planning committee. Ms. Kelsch and Mr. Palmer both agreed to participate, when necessary, in the meetings.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – 3 minutes per person

None

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC NOTICES

The Board discussed Public Notice MSB007557 and requested that it be added to March's agenda.

B. AGENCY/ORGANIZATION REPORT

i. Brian Largent – Jonesville Public Use Area Plan

Mr. Largent spoke to the Board about the proposed Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan, it's goals and possible next steps.

XI. VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS

None

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

A. FY21 Department Head Requested Budgets

XIII. MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Harris – So long to Mr. Barber, welcome Ms. Kelsch

Ms. Bettine – Bill 204 in the State Senate, add topic to March's agenda

Mr. Phillips – Excited to see the progress on the Jonesville management plan and eventually hopes to support it via a resolution from the Board

Ms. LeFleur – Thanked Mr. Largent for the information

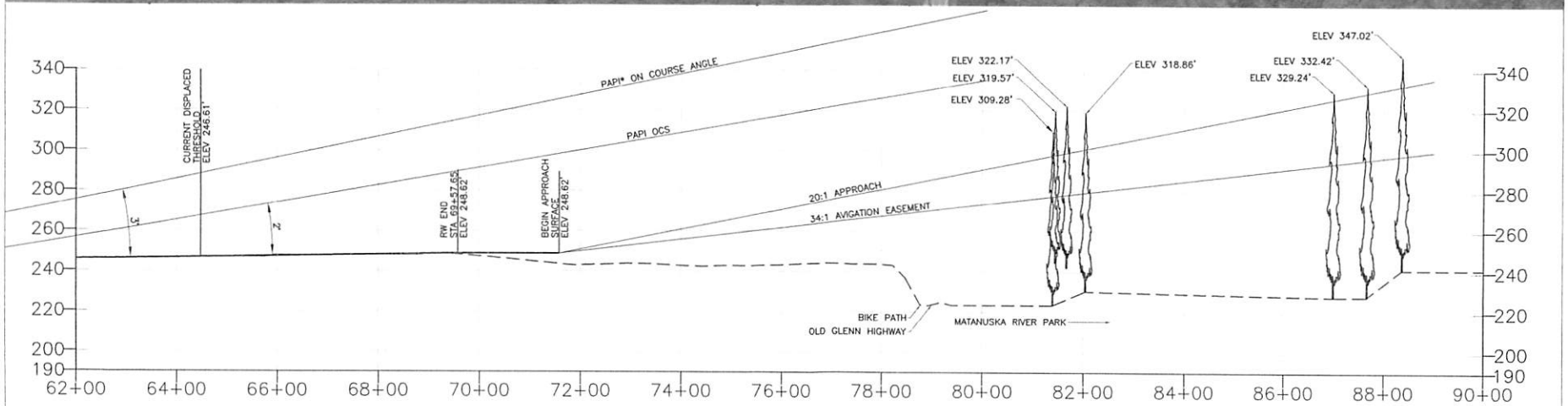
Mr. Palmer – Advocated for a rifle range and appropriate management as it pertains to Jonesville and requested information as to how best to thank Mr. Barber for his service

XIV. NEXT MEETING

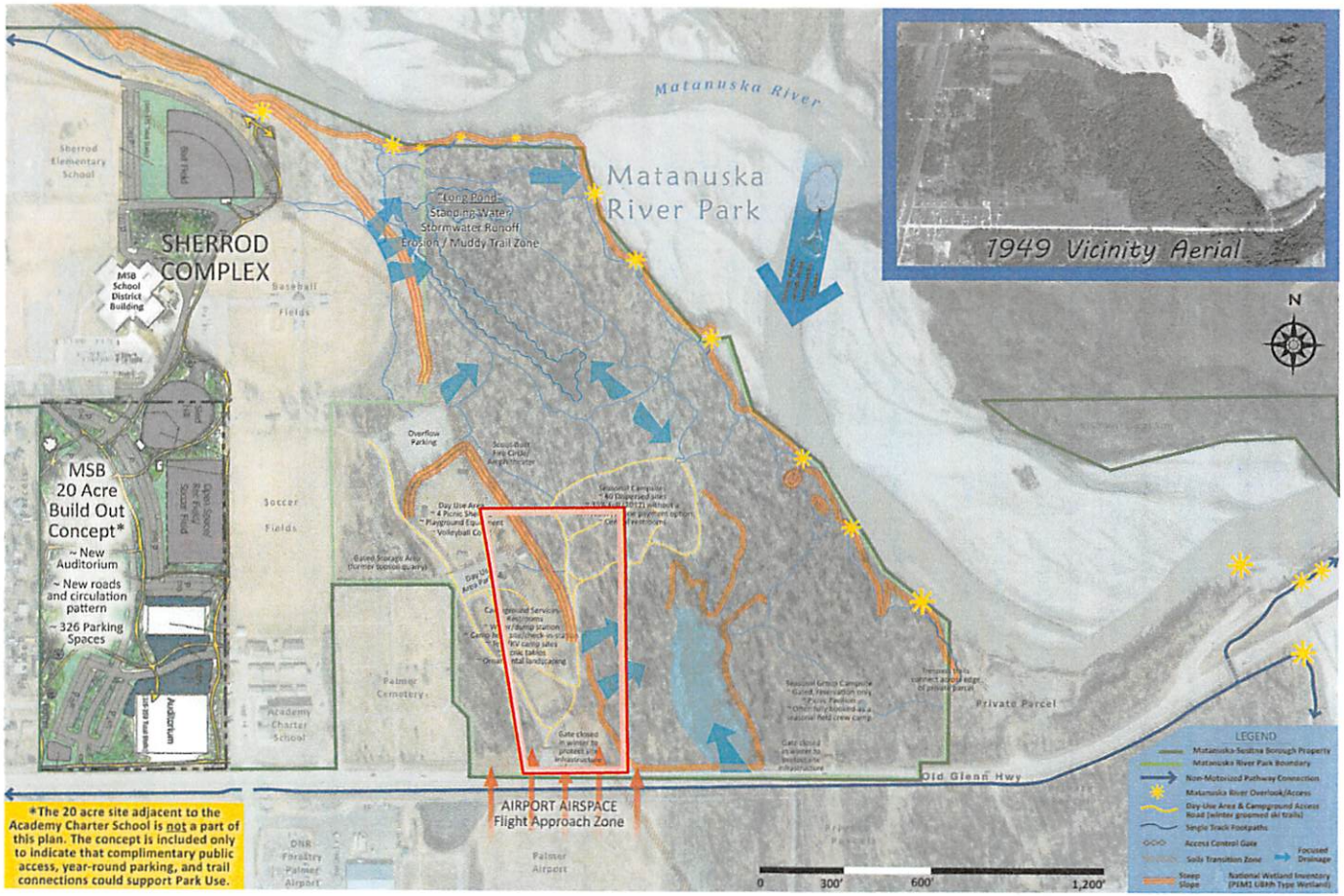
- March 23, 2020

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Palmer, 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm



* PAPI IS A VISUAL LANDING AID THAT SHOWS PILOTS THE SAFE APPROACH TO THE DISPLACED THRESHOLD



*The 20 acre site adjacent to the Academy Charter School is not a part of this plan. The concept is included only to indicate that complimentary public access, year-round parking, and trail connections could support Park Use.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
Community Development
Land Management Division
350 East Dahlia Avenue
Palmer, Alaska 99645
lmb@matsugov.us

PUBLIC NOTICE

Type: State Land Management Plan – Jonesville Public Use Area –

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB), Land & Resource Management Division is assisting the Community of Sutton and the State of Alaska with drafting a management plan for the recently created Jonesville Public Use Area (JPUA). The JPUA is located off the end of Jonesville Mine Road in Sutton, off the Glenn Highway. The State Legislature created the JPUA through passage of Alaska Statutes 41.23.280 – 41.23.289. These statutes set out the purposes of the JPUA and the uses and activities allowed within the area. The designation of the public use area sets the stage for the management plan, which is available for public review. The draft management plan is consistent with the statutes and regulations applicable to state land use plans. The management plan will be presented to the Borough Assembly, the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, and Commissioner of the Department of Fish of Game for adoption. The management plan, once approved, will guide management actions and public use and activities for the JPUA for the next 20 years.

Please submit comments during the public review period. The draft plan is available for download at: https://sites.matsugov.us/JSL/. The goal is to improve visitors' experience at the Jonesville Public Use Area and to protect what we all love about it.

Open Houses to discuss the draft Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan are scheduled for:

July 7, 2020, 6:30-8pm at Sutton Elementary School, 11672 Wright Way, Sutton, AK
July 21, 2020 6:30-8pm at the Dorothy Swanda Jones Building (Borough Building), 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, AK

More information on the process and the public use area can be found at: https://sites.matsugov.us/JSL/. Supporting material is available for public inspection during normal business hours on the 2nd floor of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough building in the Land Management Division or by visiting the Public Notice Section on the Borough's web page www.matsugov.us. Public comment is invited on this request. If you have any comments please email, mail or deliver them to the borough offices at the address indicated above, no later than **July 31, 2020**. If you have questions about this request: call Emerson Krueger at 861-7867 between 8:00-5:00 or you can send an e-mail to ekrueger@matsugov.us.

Comments: _____

_____

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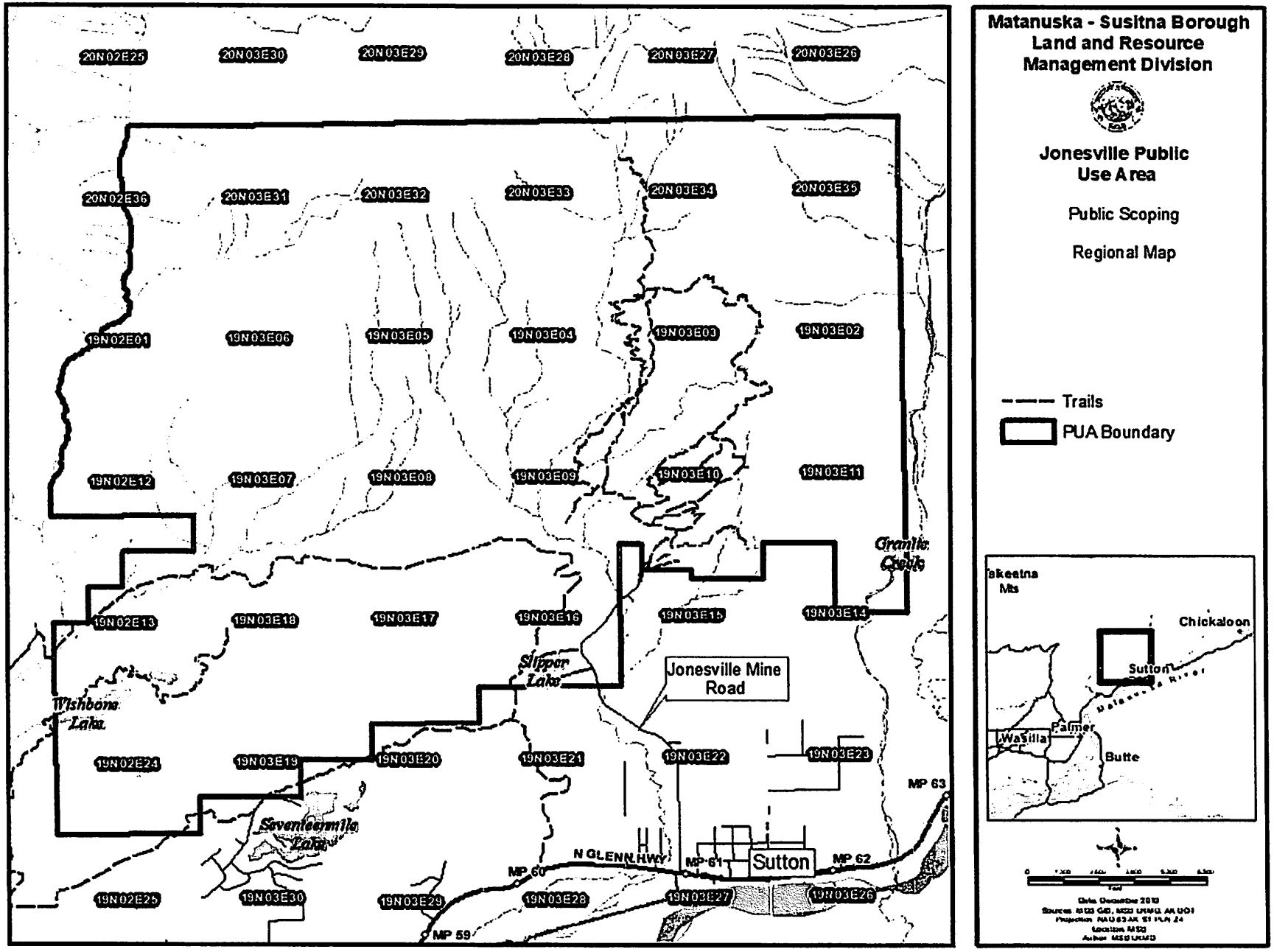
_____

Signature: _____


Matanuska - Susitna Borough
Land and Resource
Management Division
Jonesville Public
Use Area
Public Scoping
Regional Map
Trails
PUA Boundary
20N02E25
20N03E30
20N03E29
20N03E28
20N03E27
20N03E26
20N02E36
20N03E31
20N03E32
20N03E33
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19N03E27
19N03E26
Granite Creek
Slipper Lake
Wishbone Lake
Seventeenmile Lake
Jonesville Mine Road
N GLENN HWY
Sutton
MP 59
MP 60
MP 61
MP 62
MP 63
Chickaloon
Sutton
Palmer
Wasilla
Butte

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
Community Development Department
350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645
Phone (907) 861-7869
E-mail: lmb@matsugov.us

DEPARTMENT REVIEW REQUEST

DATE: July 10, 2020

TO:

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
___ Code Compliance
___ Platting
___ Planning
___ Permit Center
___ ROW Coordinator

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
_X_Recreational Services
___ Land Management

EMERGENCY SERVICES
___ STA 6-5, EMS Deputy Director
___ STA 5-1, Fire Code Official

CAPITAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT
___ Project Management
___ Engineering

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
___ O & M

FROM: LAND MANAGEMENT DIVISION, contact Nancy Cameron 861-7848

SUBJECT: Land Nomination for inclusion in future land sales

TRS: 20N03W31 TAX ID: 20N03W31A009 TAX MAP: WC05

MSB Land & Resource Management has received a nomination of Borough land for inclusion in future land sales. The property map and detail is attached for reference. This parcel is adjacent to the Willer-Kash Trailhead and is utilized by the public from the trailhead for access along Willow Creek.

Before a parcel can be included, it must be classified and approved by the Planning Commission prior to Assembly approval. If so approved, the parcel must first be offered under Competitive Sealed Bid to the general public. Nomination does not provide any advantage for, or vest any interest to, the nominee. This review is your opportunity to speak to the nomination.

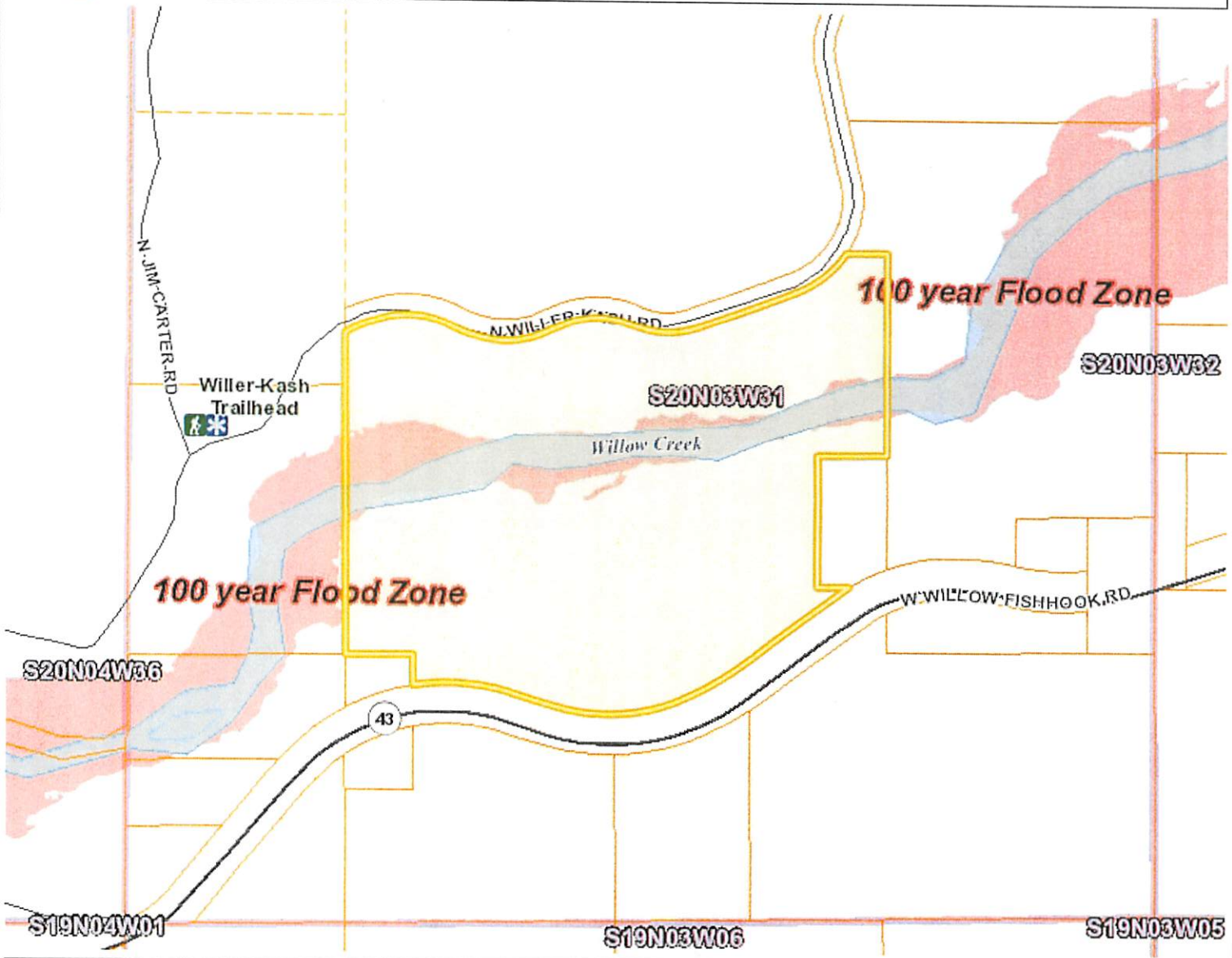
PLEASE RETURN COMMENTS NO LATER THAN JULY 27, 2020.
Thank you for your review and consideration of this request.

_____

_____

[ ] No objection. Dated: _____

Matanuska-Susitna Borough



Legend

- Road Mileposts
- Roads
  - Highway
  - Major Road
  - Medium Road
  - Minor Road
  - Primitive Road
  - Private Road
- Alaska Railroad
- Mat-Su Borough Boundary
- Incorporated Cities
- Parcels
- Government Lot Lines
- Lakes and Rivers
- Streams
- 100 year Flood Zone
- Section Lines

1: 18,056

0.6 0 0.28 0.57 Miles

WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere

© Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Reported on 06/02/2020 01:46 PM

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

This map is solely for informational purposes only. The Borough makes no express or implied warranties with respect to the character, function, or capabilities of the map or the suitability of the map for any particular purpose beyond those originally intended by the Borough. For information regarding the full disclaimer and policies related to acceptable uses of this map, please contact the Matanuska-Susitna Borough GIS Division at 907-861-7858.

Notes

This map was automatically generated using Geocortex Essentials.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Real Property Detail for Account: 20N03W31A009

Site Information

Account Number	20N03W31A009	Subdivision	
Parcel ID	33197	City	None
TRS	S20N03W31	Map WC05	Tax Map
Abbreviated Description (Not for Conveyance)	TOWNSHIP 20N RANGE 3W SECTION 31 LOT A9		

Site Address	17245 N WILLER KASH RD

Ownership

Owners	MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH	Buyers	
Primary Owner's Address	350 E DAHLIA AVE PALMER AK 99645-6488	Primary Buyer's Address	

Appraisal Information

Year	Land Appraised	Bldg. Appraised	Total Appraised
2020	$80,700.00	$0.00	$80,700.00
2019	$80,700.00	$0.00	$80,700.00
2018	$80,700.00	$0.00	$80,700.00

Assessment

Year	Land Assessed	Bldg. Assessed	Total Assessed[1]
2020	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
2019	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
2018	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00

Building Information

Building Item Details

Building Number	Description	Area	Percent Complete

Tax/Billing Information

Year	Certified	Zone	Mill	Tax Billed
2020	Yes	0043	::	::
2019	Yes	0043	17.209	$0.00
2018	Yes	0043	17.129	$0.00

Recorded Documents

Date	Type	Recording Info (offsite link to DNR)

Tax Account Status [2]

Status	Tax Balance	Farm	Disabled Veteran	Senior	Total	LID Exists
Current	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	No

Land and Miscellaneous

Gross Acreage	Taxable Acreage	Assembly District	Precinct	Fire Service Area	Road Service Area
100.90	100.90	Assembly District 007	10-045	035 Willow FSA	020 Greater Willow RSA

[1] Total Assessed is net of exemptions and deferments.rest, penalties, and other charges posted after Last Update Date are not reflected in balances.

[2] If account is in foreclosure, payment must be in certified funds.

Last Updated: 6/2/2020 12:00:30 AM

JONESVILLE PUBLIC USE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Public Review Draft

June 2020

Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Community Development Department

Chapter 1: Introduction and Background

Contents

Summary of Purpose 1-1
The Planning Area 1-1
The Public Use Area 1-2
Why the Plan Was Developed 1-3
How the Plan Was Developed 1-4
How the Plan Will be Used 1-4
What the Plan Will and Will Not Do 1-5
Relationship to Other Plans and Agreements 1-5

Summary of Purpose

The Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan (Plan) describes how the land within the Jonesville Public Use Area (JPUA) will be managed for the 20-year life of the plan. The plan also provides specific guidance for the management of different uses in the JPUA, particularly recreation. Since access within the JPUA is such an important issue, the plan includes guidance on the management of present and future trails. It also outlines a process for addressing trail issues in the future in a more comprehensive manner. The plan also makes recommendations for facilities such as campgrounds, parking areas, and shooting ranges. Regulations that apply to the PUA are being developed and are included in Appendix C. The plan also proposes additional regulations that, if promulgated, will provide additional tools for managing the area. Once signed by the Commissioner, the plan becomes the policy and basis for decision making by Department of Natural Resources.

The Planning Area

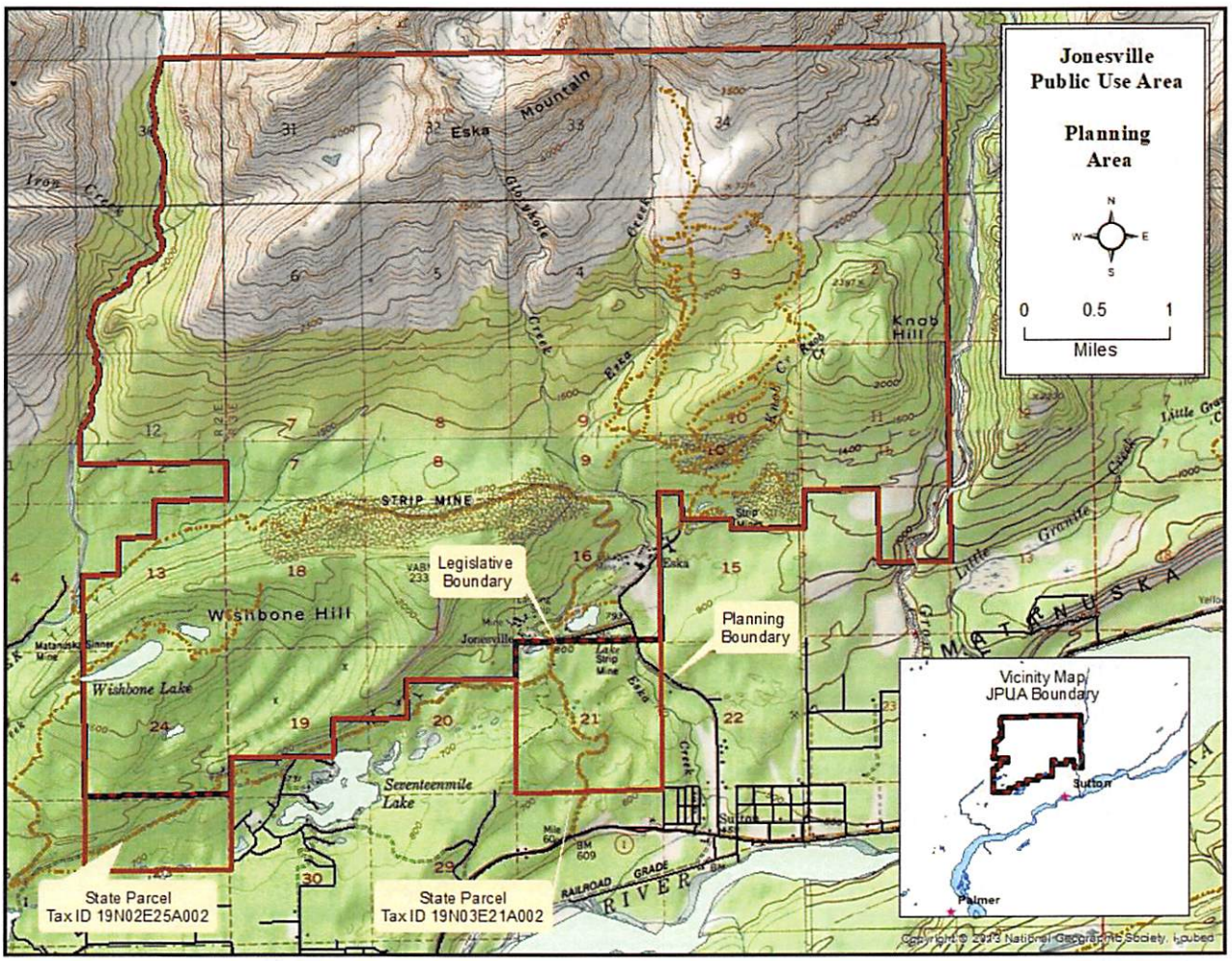
The planning area includes the legal boundary established by statute for the PUA in addition to two parcels of land adjacent to the PUA. Both of these parcels are owned by the state. See the following map for a depiction of the Plan boundary.

The planning area includes the legal boundary established by statute for the PUA, including:
(1) Township 19 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian
Section 1: That portion easterly of Moose Creek
Section 12: That portion of Nl/2, Nl/2SW1/4, and Nl/2SE1/4 easterly of Moose Creek
Section 13: NEl/4, SE1/4NW1/4, and 51/2
Section 24: All;
(2) Township 19 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian
Section 2-11: All
Section 14: NEl/4
Section 15: Nl/2NE1/4 and the North 960 feet of the East 1,815 feet of the NWl/4 for each Record of Survey filed as 86-BSRS P.R.D.
Section 16: -18 All
Section 19: NEl/4, El/2NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4, NW1/4SE1/4, and Government Lots 1, 2, and 4
Section 20: Nl/2NE1/4, Nl/2NW1/4, and SW1/4NW1/4;
(3) Township 20 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian Section 36: That portion easterly of Moose Creek;
(4) Township 20 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian Section 31-35: All

The Public Use Area

The Jonesville Public Use Area consists of 14,614 acres in the Jonesville Road, Eska Road and Seventeen Mile Lake areas to the North and West of Sutton, AK and as listed in Legislation creating the Public Use Area.

Public use is subject to valid existing rights. The vacant and unappropriated state-owned land and water and the state land and water acquired in the future that lie within the following boundaries described in this section are designated as the Jonesville Public Use Area. This land is reserved for all uses compatible with their primary function as public use land and is assigned to the Department of Natural Resources for control and management, in keeping with the approved Public Use Area Management Plan.



Jonesville Public Use Area Planning Boundary

Why the Plan Was Developed

Located north of the Glenn Highway near MP 57 through 62 makes the Jonesville Public Use Area a highly accessible recreation spot for a large portion of the Alaska public to enjoy within a 1-2 hour drive. With over 16,000 acres of rugged countryside, lakes, creeks and waterfalls, abundant wildlife and established trails, the area has long provided a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

Unfortunately, the area has become a gathering ground for some who behave in destructive, unsafe, and/or are engaging in illegal activities to the extent many families have reported they will not access the area out of fear for their safety. Significant funds have been spent over the last decade in an attempt to encourage safe, family-centered activities. The lack of active management has resulted in the majority of the improvements being decimated or marred by lawless behavior. Most summer weekends, over 1,000 people decend on the town of Sutton to camp, ride ATVs, burn cars, dump trash, and party at Jonesville. The result of over 20 years of these lawless, unmanaged activities has destroyed public lands in this area and is negatively affecting the local community. A brief summary of the bad behaviors includes:

- Indiscriminate shooting threatens visitor and neighboring homes;
- Trees have been cut down by gunfire;
- Spent ammo casings lie in piles around shot up abandoned burnt vehicles;
- Explosions from improvised explosives occur at all hours without warning;.
- Human fecal matter litters the area;
- Portable outhouses were dumped into Slipper Lake polluting it, and have been removed; and
- Piles of syringes along with trailer loads of discarded trash frequently litter the area.

Most significantly, the tragic death of Adam Malaby may have been avoided with appropriate regulation, enforcement, and use of an approved shooting range. These growing and continuing issues provided the major impetus for creating the PUA beginning in 2016, which garnered significant public support culminating in signing into law CSHB 6 to add sections AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 to the existing Alaska Statute 41.23. This legislation specifies its purposes, provides direction for the management of uses and resources, directs DNR to develop a plan and regulations to implement the plan, and grants enforcement authority to DNR and authorizes it to develop penalties for the violation of laws and regulations that apply within the PUA.

This public support also resulted in volunteer community cleanup events that have been highly attended by individuals and user groups, including donating the use of heavy equipment, and have made great strides in removing significant amounts of trash and many vehicles. This effort, however, has not reduced the activity creating this debris and will never be a substitute for a regulated and enforced public use area.

In spite of the existing problems documented above, many types of users currently utilize the area for personal recreation such as hiking, ATV riding, snowmachining, horseback riding, school outings, shooting, camping/RVing, hunting, fishing, and trapping. This plan will enable all these and other groups to continue to use the area with cooperatively established guidelines and boundaries for safe and concurrent recreational activities.

This Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan is the next step in securing this wild, beautiful area for the use of Alaska's citizens and visitors by providing appropriate future funding, responsible state and community management, legitimate and regular policing, as well as equitable regulation and appropriate separation of all allowable activities.

How the Plan Was Developed

This plan was developed following an extensive public involvement process with input from State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) management and a planning team. The planning team consisted of community members, National Parks Service, and Matanuska Susitna Borough (MSB) representatives. DNR indicated it did not have sufficient resources to participate in the planning process.

Public meetings were held to educate and inform the public on the PUA and the planning process. The scoping meetings allowed the public to identify issues, suggest how to address these issues, provide information about the area, and to exchange ideas with planning team members. Three scoping meetings were held in the beginning of 2020. Public meetings were held twice a month for two years at the Sutton Public Library, from 2018 through 2020.

During the public process, resource information was collected and reviewed. Land status within and adjacent to the area was researched. Agency staff members provided information regarding resources and impacts within and adjacent to the area. Planning team meetings provided agency representatives and members of the public opportunities to discuss issues and provide input into the identification of issues and possible solutions and proposed management actions.

How the Plan Will be Used

This plan has five primary functions:

- Provide overall guidance to management decisions that will have to be made for the area. Actions taken by the implementing agencies must be consistent with the plan.
- Recommend facilities to meet current and future needs of the public.
- Identify compatible and incompatible uses on which to base management guidelines and recommendations.
- Provide resource and use information to base future decisions.
- Provide the public with a meaningful opportunity to determine the future management of the PUA.

What the Plan Will and Will Not Do

The plan **will:**

- Provide for the management of state land as provided in the implementing legislation (AS 41.23.280-41.23.289).
- Supersede all current management direction now provided in the *Susitna Matanuska Area Plan* and the *Matanuska Valley Moose Range Management Plan* where these area plans include areas within the Jonesville Public Use Area (JPUA).
- Reclassify all state lands within the PUA previously classified in area plans.
- Address the management of certain lands adjacent to the JPUA. These lands are within the planning area, but are not within the boundary of the PUA.
- Address trails management and other natural resource protection measures in the PUA.
- Recommend parcels for acquisition by the State.
- Recommend lands for inclusion in the PUA.
- Recommend shooting area designations.
- Provide the basis for development of regulations necessary to implement the plan.

The plan **will not**:

- Apply to lands owned by private individuals, Native corporations, Mental Health Trust (MHT), or federal lands other than those identified in the plan.
- Affect the authorities of ADF&G to manage fish and game or ADF&G harvest regulations.

Relationship of JPUA Statutes to Other Statutes

The legislation that created the JPUA intends to perpetuate and enhance general public recreation and public enjoyment of fish and wildlife and to address the impacts of that use on fish and wildlife and their habitat within the PUA. All management actions by the implementing agency must be consistent with Alaska Statutes at AS 41.23.280-41.23.289. In the absence of more specific guidance contained in AS 41.23.280-41.23.289, the other provisions of Title 38 (general resource management) and Matanuska-Susitna Borough Code Title 17 (zoning) apply. That is, state land is to be managed consistent with AS 41.23.180-41.23.230, Title 38 and Title 17; except where the specific requirements of AS 41.23.180-41.23.230 apply. In addition, other provisions of state and federal laws and borough code may also apply to the area.

Relationship to Other Plans and Agreements

Land management within the Jonesville Public Use Area (JPUA) has previously been represented in state, federal, and Matanuska-Susitna Borough plans and statutes. This includes the Alaska Division of Mining, Land and Water administrating the federal funded *Abandoned Mine Land* (AML) program.

State Plans

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) develops plans at three levels: Statewide, Area, and Management. The *Statewide Natural Resources Plan* develops ADNR's long-term goals and objectives for resource management. Area plans are developed to determine the resource uses that will occur on public lands. Management plans are developed to coordinate the site-specific resource development actions.

Currently, state plans applicable to the JPUA are the *Susitna Matanuska Area Plan* (ADNR 2011) and the *Matanuska Valley* Moose *Range* (MVMR) plan enacted in 1984 (AS 16.20). The MVMR plan, in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, was established to "maintain, improve, and enhance moose populations and habitat and other wildlife resources" and also to "perpetuate public multiple use" including recreation and natural resource extraction in compliance with the *Alaska Surface Coal Mining Control and Reclamation Act.* The JPUA management plan was written to support the overarching goals of the MVMR Plan. For example, this plan includes goals, objectives, and management guidelines to reduce the negative effects of recreation on the fish and wildlife habitat in the public use area. This directly supports the overarching goal of the MVMR Plan.

Federal Plans and Documents

The federal *Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act* was signed into law on August 3, 1977, to regulate surface coal mining and reclamation nationwide. In May of 1983, the State of Alaska took primacy of the *Abandoned Mine Lands* (AML) program funded by the AML Trust Fund, which is administered by the Federal *Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.* Federal funds used for reclamation have been extended by Congress until September 30, 2022.

There is no federal land identified within the JPUA that would be under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management *Ring of Fire* resource management plan.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Plans

The *Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Development Plan* (2005) consists of a variety of plans addressing Borough and community needs and issues. The plans generally fall into one of the following categories:

- State and Federal plans
- Borough Regional plans
- Community plans
- Specialty or Functional plans

The Borough-wide comprehensive plan provides general goals and policy recommendations to help guide future development. To further this purpose the *Matanuska-Susitna Borough Coastal Management Plan* (2006) was developed to reflect local concerns and the *Alaska Coastal Management Act Standards.*

At the community level, the Sutton Community Council acts as an advisory board to the Borough, and community members are represented by the *Sutton Comprehensive Plan* (2009) to provide a balance of interests in comprehensive planning efforts. One recommendation from the Sutton plan

that applies to the Jonesville Public Use Area is to *Encourage a balance between motorized and non-motorized use, particularly in the sensitive areas.*

In addition, the Sutton plan recognizes the need to maintain and operate public facilities in the Jonesville PUA including restrooms and trash cans. The plan calls for lake access improvements for Slipper and Coyote Lakes.

The Sutton plan also includes the following recommendations that apply to the PUA:

- Manage and protect public safety and health at public facilities and recreation areas.
- Encourage the Borough, state, and private stakeholders to take an active role in the planning, construction, maintenance and operation of the facilities and trails.
- Encourage enforcement of regulations and laws that address nuisance, noise, trash, vandalism and other criminal activity.
- Solicit input from the Sutton Community Council and trail users.
- Support private contracts between the Borough, state, and other governmental and private entities to build, monitor and maintain facilities.
- Seek possible opportunities such as park hosts for these facilities.
- Identify opportunities for public and private partnerships for the appropriate location and development of organized shooting opportunities. Such facilities should be conditionally permitted to allow adequate input on safety, hours of operation, lighting, etc.

The Borough has planning and land use authority delegated from the State of Alaska. The Borough can adopt land use regulations to implement this plan once its adopted by the Borough Assembly.

Chapter 2: Goals and Management Guidelines

Contents

Introduction 2-1
Definitions 2-1
  Goals 2-1
  Management Guidelines 2-1
Overall Management Direction 2-1
Access 2-3
Commercial Use 2-4
Coordination 2-4
Facilities 2-6
Fees 2-7
Fish and Wildlife Habitat 2-7
Forestry 2-13
Health and Safety 2-14
Heritage/Cultural 2-17
Materials 2-19
Mitigation 2-19
Goal 2-20
Management Guidelines 2-20
Parcel Acquisition 2-21
Public Use Sites 2-22
Recreation 2-24
Subsurface Resources 2-28
Trails 2-31
Waterbodies 2-36

Introduction

Management plans are intended to accomplish certain purposes. In the case of this plan, the objective is to identify a more specific management direction for the Jonesville Public Use Area (JPUA), while implementing the statutory purposes of the legislation described in AS 41.23.280-41.23.289. A more specific management direction is intended to provide guidance to the implementing agencies for the management of this important public recreational and ecological area. Management direction is usually expressed through goals and management guidelines.

To implement the overall intent of statutory purposes of the JPUA, this chapter presents goals and land management guidelines for major resources and uses. These include: access; commercial use; coordination; facilities; fees; fish and wildlife habitat; forestry; health and safety; heritage/cultural; materials; mitigation; parcel acquisition; public use sites; recreation; subsurface resources; regulations, trails; and, waterbodies.

Definitions

Goals

Goals are general desired conditions that the implementing agencies attempt to achieve through management actions.

Management Guidelines

Management guidelines are intended to provide specific management direction for decisions the implementing agencies make about the planning area. Guidelines range from giving general guidance for decision-making to identifying specific factors that need to be considered when making on- the-ground-decisions. In particular, implementing agencies will use the guidelines when adjudicating applications for the use of state lands within the planning area. In most cases, these guidelines can be implemented through the authorization of applications for proposed uses or through agency actions. In other cases, the State and Borough may promulgate regulations to ensure that these guidelines can be implemented and are enforceable.

Overall Management Direction

The Jonesville Public Use Area (JPUA) will be actively managed by the State and Borough. Some activities require land use authorizations, while other activities are generally allowed. There are also area-wide prohibited uses that are enforced through citation. Ideally, the implementing agencies will have full-time land managers dedicated to handling day-to-day management actions within the JPUA. The land managers would serve as the contact person for issues that arise within the JPUA, and would regularly spend time in the field meeting with recreational users, maintaining signs and informational kiosks, and coordinating enforcement activities. The land managers would also network with local, state, and federal agencies to achieve management objectives outlined in the management plan.

Management guidelines are being considered for the Draft JPUA Management Plan that are intended to provide specific management direction for the area. These guidelines can range from general guidance for decision-making to identifying specific factors that need to be considered when making on-the-ground decisions. The State and Borough may eventually develop regulations to ensure that these guidelines can be implemented and are enforceable.

The plan's overall management direction puts its focus on maintaining and enhancing public safety, public education, access and recreational opportunities for public and commercial users, protection of fish and wildlife habitat, and perpetuation of law enforcement throughout the entire area.

- AS 41.23.280-289 (HB6)
- Generally Allowed Uses on State Land
- Jonesville PUA Regulations

Enforcement

This plan includes the guidelines with which the State and Borough will use to develop a comprehensive law enforcement strategy for the Jonesville Public Use Area (JPUA). A key component of the guidelines may result in the strategy involving overtime patrols by the Alaska State Troopers and Wildlife Troopers. For many years a variety of unlawful activities have occurred on lands throughout the Jonesville and Slipper Lake areas, including but not limited to, resource degradation, vehicle burnings, garbage dumping, hazardous waste disposal, vandalism, underage drinking, litter, reckless target shooting, and tree cutting. To get better compliance from users of the area, the committee has prioritized the recommended law enforcement on five key fronts, 1) regular State Trooper patrols, 2) rules that are enforceable through ticket citations, 3) on-site public education/outreach, 4) signage, and 5) annual community cleanup events.

The State and Borough encourages everyone enjoying our state lands to act responsibly and adhere to area-wide rules. Groups or individuals found violating land-use rules will be subject to citation(s).

If you witness a crime taking place, call 9-1-1 to report the offense. Know your location, and be prepared to tell dispatch your name and contact information. Not knowing your exact location makes it difficult for dispatch to locate the crime scene. If the crime involves a vehicle(s) try to get a license plate(s) numbers and a good description of the violators (describe colors, make, model, clothes colors, hats, size, age, etc.). Safety first, never put yourselves in harm's way to get information. If you feel like you're in danger, then leave the scene immediately and find help.

•Citable Offenses (fines)
•Investigation Report
•Target Shooting Restrictions (map)
Nothing in this or subsequent chapters or appendices in this document is intended to limit access for administration/management activities, enforcement, or for public safety within the PUA.

Access

Background

Securing and maintaining public access to the Jonesville public use area (PUA) is critical to the continued use of the area. Currently, the Jonesville Mine Road, a State maintained road, provides the primary access into the area.

Aircraft access within the PUA could occur on an unmaintained airstrip near Slipper Lake.

A map or maps showing land ownership, roads and trails (indicating widths and designated uses) that have reserved public right-of-way should be created for public distribution.

The Jonesville Mine Road access is sufficient for the current use of the Jonesville PUA. Still, considerations should be made for potential routes that will support the anticipated increase in use. An additional public road (or two) into the area would help disperse users and decrease user conflicts.

Goal

- Maintain existing road and trail access to and within the PUA.
- Provide for future development of access roads and trails to promote the enjoyment of the PUA by the public.
- Pursue public rights-of-way on roads and trails that currently provide important public access to the PUA.
- Create a map suitable for public distribution that shows the Jonesville PUA and surrounding area, and include land ownership, overlain with the access roads and trails that have a public right-of-way.

Management Guidelines

- Access to the PUA should be evaluated, and public use easements should be dedicated or acquired as necessary.
- Document and protect existing legal public access into and through the PUA.
- Evaluate public access to and within the PUA for safety improvements such as speed limits and signage.
- Public access into the PUA that also provides access to private property should be restricted 25mph. Recreational use of the access should be restricted to transiting the area for PUA access.

Commercial Use

Background

Active commercial use has yet to be recognized within the Public Use Area, but should be anticipated. Potential operators could provide a variety of recreational opportunities, including but not limited to hunting, fish and wildlife viewing, and fossil hunting. They can also provide needed services such as garbage collection, sanitation, shooting range operation, overnight accommodations, and food and beverage service.

Goal

- Authorize those commercial operations that are consistent with the purposes for which this area was designated.

Management Guidelines

- The implementing agency may authorize commercial uses in any area of the PUA. Authorizations for commercial use are subject to the requirements of the management plan.
- The implementing agency will ensure that public access is not restricted or limited through land use authorizations issued for commercial activities.
- Land use authorizations for permanent or semi-permanent facilities for commercial use should not be issued in locations that are high-value destinations for the recreating public or where sensitive habitats or resources are present.
- Commercial uses within the PUA that may help alleviate the negative effects of public recreation and lawlessness should be encouraged.
- Commercial uses within the PUA should be responsible in part for the upkeep and maintenance of the recreation amenities.

Coordination

Background

There are many areas of overlapping federal, state, and borough jurisdictions within the PUA. Borough code applies within the PUA. The State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land & Water, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, the Office of History and Archaeology, Division of Abandoned Mining Lands, Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency maintain jurisdiction in all or a portion of the PUA at the state and federal level. These entities typically have authority over a specific use or resource, but taken together, they can greatly affect what can occur. In general terms, these agencies control or affect, to some degree, the types of uses that can occur within the PUA, as well as the types and location of development. Cook Inlet Regional, Inc., University of Alaska, Alaska Mental Health Trust, as well as private landholdings are affected by either being located adjacent to or on an

access route to PUA. State and Mental Health Trust subsurface estate has the possibility to support future mineral extraction.

Because of the interlocking nature of these authorities, it is necessary to coordinate with a variety of local, state, and federal agencies. It is likely that the two areas of focus will include permitting requirements for new development and violations of laws or regulations. While few developments currently exist within the PUA, recommendations for the development of facilities are included so that the projects will be reviewed with other agencies at their conceptual stage. It is also likely that violations of local, state, and federal regulations may occur, and it is intended that the implementing agency will coordinate with regulatory agencies to determine how to best deal with these issues. Some of the current activities in the PUA may constitute violations of solid and hazardous waste disposal laws and regulations. Other activities may be contributing hazardous fluids and substances to the ground, waterbodies, and the air. Federal, state and local agencies maintain their jurisdiction regarding these violations and activities.

Goals

Coordinate with local, state and federal agencies having jurisdiction within the PUA on the siting and development of future projects.

Management Guidelines

- The implementing agency will coordinate with appropriate federal, state, and local agencies to permit new development.
- Proposed projects will go through the appropriate Best Interest Finding review if required under DNR regulations (AS38.05.035(e)).
- Activities below the Ordinary High Water Mark of fish-bearing water will require consultation with ADF&G and may require specific authorizations.

Goal

Reduce the illegal discharge of solid waste, hazardous waste, and other pollution

Management guidelines

- Work with appropriate agencies to identify and address violations of environmental laws, regulations, or ordinances.
- Consult with these agencies on implementation and enforcement programs that have been determined through interagency review to be necessary.
- Contact appropriate federal, state, and local agencies regarding potential violations of soil, water & air quality.

Facilities

Background

No developed facilities exist within the Jonesville Public Use Area. Facilities can be important for maintaining and enhancing uses and for mitigating the impacts of users on fish and wildlife and their habitats. The type of facility development can have major impacts on the type, level and, safety of the public use of the area. Upgraded roads and trails and camping facilities will increase the level and duration of use. The benefits of facilities include a reduction in human waste and litter as well as increased accessibility to the area.

Goal

Develop facilities in areas that will maintain and enhance use, access, and public safety and will serve a significant concentration of users.

Management Guidelines

- Facilities should be developed at major access points where use or access can be enhanced, or where the presence of facilities will decrease impacts to local residents, fish, wildlife and other special habitats.
- Facilities should be located to reduce the potential for land use conflicts
    - Develop quite recreation amenities such as campgrounds, hiking, biking, and equestrian trails in a way to minimize interaction and visibility from motorized trails.
- Multiple parking areas should be developed based on anticipated use.

Goal

Develop facilities that will maintain and enhance use while avoiding or minimizing the effects on local residents, fish and wildlife.

Management Guideline

- Development of facilities should not occur in identified sensitive habitats unless the purpose is for educational, informational, accessibility or management purposes or a feasible alternative does not exist.

Goal

Coordinate with subsurface estate owners and mineral lease/permit holders in the layout and development of permanent recreation facilities to minimize the potential disruptions from mineral extraction activities.

Management Guideline

- Facilities should be developed in areas with low potential for future mineral extraction activities.

Fees

Background

The planning process included an evaluation of the institution of a fee program to pay for facilities and management of the PUA. The plan recommends that a fee schedule be implemented. It is intended that fees collected under this program will be used for management of the PUA and the maintenance of its facilities.

Goal

Provide funding necessary for the development and maintenance of facilities, and the management of the PUA.

Management Guidelines

- A fee schedule should not be implemented for use of a facility until such facilities are developed.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Background

The Jonesville Public Use Area includes the alpine habitat of the Talkeetna Mountains near the headwaters of Eska Creek down to the benchlands above the Matanuska River. The terrain varies from hilly forests and opens wet and dry meadows to sub-alpine and alpine tundra at higher elevations. The PUA supports a wide variety and abundance of habitat consisting of two general areas: the benchlands above the valley floor and the sub-alpine/alpine habitat. The benchlands comprise approximately 52 percent of the total land area, while sub-alpine/alpine comprises the remaining 48 percent.

The benchlands above the Matanuska River within the PUA are dominated by coniferous, deciduous, and mixed forests and woodlands, riparian areas, shrublands, wetlands, streams, lakes, grasslands, and a variety of tundra plant communities.

The streams, lakes, and wetlands of the benchlands provide rich habitat for many fish and wildlife species, including salmon, waterfowl, moose, bear, wolves, and many small furbearers. Lakes and wetlands, within the PUA, are used for resting and staging during the spring and fall migrations of waterfowl and shorebirds. A number of these waterfowl stay in the PUA to nest, rear broods, or use available habitat for the summer. Waterbodies in the PUA are important habitat for resident and anadromous fish populations. Eska Creek was listed in the Alaska Anadromous Waters

Catalog in 2019 as used for spawning and rearing habitat by Coho, Sockeye and Chum salmon. Moose Creek forms a majority of the Western boundary of the PUA. Moose Creek provides important habitat for Coho, Chum, King, Pink, and Sockeye salmon. A branch of Moose Creek cuts northeast through Section 13, Township 19 North, Range 02 East within the PUA, and is listed as spawning habitat for Coho Salmon. Granite Creek, which crosses through the southeastern corner of the PUA, is listed as supporting Chum, Coho, King, and Pink salmon. Resident fish found within the area include rainbow trout, arctic grayling, three-spine stickleback, nine-spine stickleback, and the longnose sucker.

The sub-alpine and alpine habitat is used by many species, including bear, moose, sheep, and goats. The lower elevations of the sub-alpine are commonly used by moose and bear for forage and rearing young. While goats and sheep tend to use the alpine habitat, sheep are commonly found at lower elevations at several locations in the PUA. Wolves are known to be in the benchlands of the PUA. Other wildlife species reported to occur within the area include wolverine, coyote, land otter, fox, marten, beaver, mink, weasel, lynx, hare, red squirrel, porcupine, varies species of ptarmigan, and spruce grouse. Important raptor species are likely to use the area including peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon, bald eagle, and golden eagle. Raptors are reported to nest, hunt, and migrate through the PUA.

Many members of the public indicated that current uses are negatively affecting wildlife.

AS 41.23.180-41.23.230, provides direction to the implementing agencies for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat. This statute requires the implementing agencies to "perpetuate and enhance" the enjoyment of fish and wildlife, and to "protect and maintain" habitats for fish, wildlife and, migratory waterfowl nesting so traditional use may continue. Several areas of sensitive habitat within the PUA have been identified. These include waterfowl nesting areas, fish spawning and rearing locations, and moose calving concentration areas. These areas have been determined to merit increased management priority to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife and other sensitive habitats.

AS 41.23.200(d)(2) specifically addresses off-road motor vehicle trails and requires the State to "make accommodations that will provide the shortest possible route to avoid critical habitat." Thus, the statutes envisioned both continued protection and use of the habitats and provided specific direction to the State where critical habitat was found.

Because the enabling statutes for the PUA did not define "critical habitat," this plan uses a definition that developed for other public lands in South Central Alaska that recognizes the implied importance of this type of habitat as opposed to other habitat types. DNR and ADF&G Statutes (particularly Titles 16 & 38) do not contain a definition of critical habitat; however, statutes specific to state Critical Habitat Areas (AS 16.20.500) suggest that critical habitat areas are areas that are crucial to the perpetuation of a fish or wildlife species. This plan's definition of critical habitat for the PUA embodies this concept and is found in Appendix A.

To better understand habitat types within the PUA, the planning team reviewed resource data and information developed by state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and

individuals[1]. Based on the information, data, and planning team discussions, the plan identifies areas of habitat that require special management attention. These areas have been identified as "sensitive habitat" and include swan and loon nesting sites, waterfowl nesting areas, fish spawning and rearing locations, and moose calving concentration areas.

These areas have been determined to merit increased management focus in order to avoid or minimize impacts to fish and wildlife and other sensitive habitats. The definition of sensitive habitat is included in Appendix A.

For the purposes of this plan, "critical habitat" is primarily distinguished from "sensitive habitat" within the PUA in that critical habitat is essential for the perpetuation of a fish and wildlife species; while sensitive habitat is important for a species of fish and wildlife during a particular life stage. A key distinction between "sensitive" habitat as designated by this plan and "critical" habitat for purposes of AS 41.23.200(d)(2) is that the former term is not tied, or limited, to determining the necessity of re-routing existing off-road motor vehicle trails. Therefore, the "sensitive" habitat designation can be used prospectively as a planning tool, for example, to determine where new trails should not be allowed in the first instance. By contrast, AS 41.23.200(d)(2) restricts the function of a "critical" habitat finding to the re-routing of existing trails.

After the review of available resource data, information, the plan identifies "sensitive habitat" but concluded that there are currently no areas of critical habitat within the PUA. This determination does not preclude a future determination of critical habitat during the more specific Trails Management Process. If the implementing agencies determine during the process, in consultation with ADF&G, that critical habitat is present, trails will be re-routed or accommodations otherwise made to avoid the critical habitat.

Goal

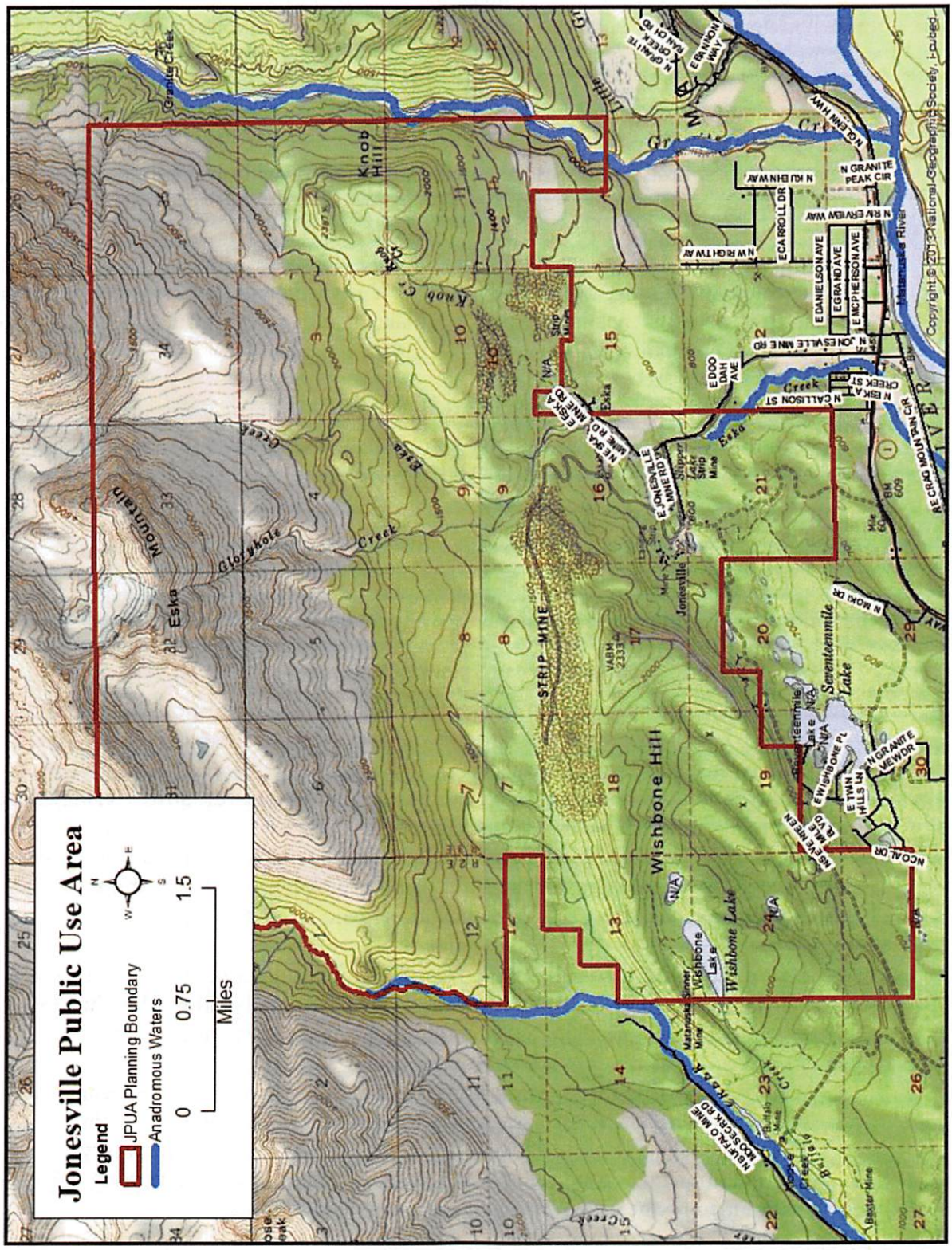
Protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat while allowing for continued recreational use.

Management Guidelines

- All new, upgraded, expanded, or rerouted trails or facilities within the planning area should be sited and designed to avoid impacts to fish and wildlife and their habitats. If impacts to these habitats cannot be avoided, they should be minimized.
- All trails and developed facilities should be sited and developed to minimize impacts to anadromous water bodies. Stream crossings should be developed generally perpendicular to the streamflow.
- Within 100 feet of an anadromous water body, excluding the Eska Creek and shore lands of Eska Creek, trails should not be developed parallel to the ordinary high watermark. See the map on the following page for a depiction of anadromous waters.

[1] Information reviewed includes: ADF&G data showing habitat ranges of various fish and wildlife species, included as appendices to the management plan. ADF&G assessment of the Matanuska Moose Range. ADF&G Catalogue of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing of Migration of Anadromous Fishes.

- The implementing agencies will initiate educational programs to inform the public of species and habitats that are susceptible to disturbance by recreational use. It is intended that the implementing agency will install informational signs at major access points; to provide information regarding sensitive fish and wildlife habitats including raptors, and waterfowl nesting habitat, the location of nest sites and importance of the incubation and rearing period, the potential for disturbing these species through recreational use, and recommendations for minimizing impact to species and their habitat. These signs should be placed at principle access points. Effectiveness of education and signage will be re-evaluated in 5 years from the effective date of the plan. In the event that these techniques are not found effective after a period of monitoring, regulatory controls may be necessary.


Jonesville Public Use Area
Legend
JPUA Planning Boundary
Anadromous Waters
0
0.75
1.5
Miles
Wishbone Hill
Wishbone Lake
Seventeenmile Lake
Knob Hill
Eska Mountain
STRIP MINE
Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

- The implementing agency should evaluate the feasibility of annually locating and signing swan and loon nesting habitat. To accomplish this, the implementing agency will, subsequent to plan adoption:

  - Engage in discussions with ADF&G, non-profit conservations groups, or other third party stakeholders to determine their interest and ability to identify and sign active swan and loon nesting sites. Because of limited resources in DNR, it is believed that the most effective means of ensuring that identification occurs on a periodic basis is to involve these groups in this effort. If this interest and capabilities exist, DNR will provide support to the selected group in the annual identification and signing process. In addition to signing, DNR will develop a map that identifies sensitive habitat locations, including nesting areas, and make it along with educational materials, available to the public.

- As new information regarding fish and wildlife populations becomes available from ADF&G, the implementing agency should re-evaluate the habitat in the PUA to determine if areas could be identified as sensitive habitat.

- The implementing agency should consult with ADF&G to determine if uses are affecting fish or wildlife and their habitats.

- The following guidelines apply to uses requiring authorization from DNR.

  - Authorizations that potentially affect bald eagles will be consistent with the state and federal Endangered Species Acts and the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 as amended. Applicable standards are drawn from a cooperative agreement signed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and other federal agencies, or such subsequent standards that may be promulgated. These standards, however, may not be adequate in all circumstances, and the USFWS may determine that additional measures are necessary. In addition, meeting the guidelines does not absolve the party from the penalty provisions of the Bald Eagle Protection Act; therefore, the USFWS should be consulted when activities may affect bald or golden eagles.

    - **Siting Facilities to Avoid Eagle Nests.** Facilities determined by the USFWS to cause significant disturbance to nesting eagles will not be allowed within 330 feet of any bald eagle nest site, whether the nest is currently active or not.

    - **Activities Disturbing Nesting Eagles.** Activities the USFWS determines likely to cause significant disturbance to nesting eagles will be prohibited within 330 feet of active bald eagle nests between March 15 and August 31. Temporary activities and facilities that do not alter eagle-nesting habitat or disturb nesting eagles, as determined by the USFWS, may be allowed at other times.

  - Portions of the PUA are important for moose calving concentration areas.

Calving typically occurs from May through June, depending upon location. Uses that are likely to produce levels of acoustical or visual disturbance sufficient to disturb calving or post-calving aggregations that cannot be seasonally restricted should not be authorized in these areas. Uses may be authorized in these areas at other times of the year. DNR authorizations should include seasonal restrictions on activities that would produce significant acoustical or visual disturbance during sensitive periods.

Moose calving areas change over time. ADF&G should be consulted prior to issuing an authorization in an area suspected to contain such concentrations to determine better: 1) the location of calving areas; 2) when activities within these areas should be avoided; and 3) identify appropriate mitigation measures if no feasible or prudent alternative site exists.

- In waterfowl nesting habitat, activities requiring a lease, permit, or development plan, and producing habitat disturbance or high levels of acoustical or visual disturbance from sources such as boat traffic, vegetation clearing, construction, blasting, dredging, and seismic operations, should be avoided during sensitive periods such as nesting, staging, or brood-rearing periods. Where it is not feasible and prudent to avoid such activities, other mitigation measures may be required to avoid significant adverse impacts. Consult with ADF&G to identify areas of important waterfowl in addition to those identified in the Plan and to determine appropriate mitigation or avoidance measures.

Forestry

Background

The total area within the PUA consists of alpine tundra, sub-alpine shrub, and lower elevation boreal forest types. Which includes areas that have been disturbed by mining and reclamation, which has generated successive forest stands and left exposed mineral surfaced areas.

Due to the contrast of elevation and landscape, the PUA can be described by five general vegetation types: alpine tundra, shrub thickets, treeless bogs, open low growing forests, and closed spruce-hardwood forests. Native trees covering the area include white spruce, black spruce, birch, cottonwood, and aspen.

Alpine tundra is predominately barren with local tundra dominated by mountain flora, low heath shrubs, prostrate willows, and dwarf herbs.

Shrub thickets of alders, willows, and dwarf birch cover areas in the sub-alpine and lower elevation sites, dominating some of the riparian and disturbed surface localities.

Treeless bogs represent wet areas of sedges and grasses, usually with an abundance of willows, alders, and widely spaced black spruce. They are common and scattered throughout the whole area.

Low growing, open forests consist primarily of black spruce but often interspersed with birch, willow, and treeless bogs typically found on north slopes. Trees are slow-growing and relatively small in diameter.

Closed spruce-hardwood forests are tall to moderately tall closed forests of white and black spruce, birch, aspen, and cottonwood. These forest stands grow on moderate to well-drained soils.

Throughout the sub-alpine and lower elevations of the PUA, forest stands vary by dominant, predominant, and mixed tree species, age class, and canopy cover. Older stands in the area typically are mixed spruce and hardwoods, except low growing, open dominant spruce stands, and successive dominant hardwood stands generated from soil disturbance.

All forest cover provides wildlife habitat, including successive forest growth introduced by wildland fires, timber harvesting, and reclamation. As defined by multiple-use, the PUA under wise resource management can sustain these occurrences and also provide the benefit of recreational activities.

Timber harvesting should require a management plan for forest health, sustained yield, and wildlife enhancement.

Goals
Identify forest cover types and volumes

Identify and prioritize wildlife habitat areas
Develop a timber management plan for harvest, wildlife enhancement, and wildfire mitigation.

Management Guidelines

- The Division of Forestry may conduct timber removal for such administrative purposes as timber salvage, habitat manipulation, fire fuel reduction, forest health protection, or other purposes as determined appropriate by the implementing agency. Such operations may occur throughout the PUA.

Health and Safety

Background

Some members of the public avoid using the PUA during certain times or in certain areas because of unlawful activities taking place or activities that are conducted in an unsafe manner. Others, while continuing to use the area, do not feel safe while these unlawful or unsafe uses are occurring. These types of uses are, for the most part, concentrated within a small area of the PUA, mostly near the upper and lower access roads off of North Jonesville Mine Rd. and surrounding Slipper Lake.

If it were not for regular cleanup efforts of residents, individuals, stakeholder groups, the State, and the Borough, the PUA would have a much larger accumulation of trash than it currently does.

Over the years, dozens of vehicles have been abandoned in the PUA. These vehicles are often burned and potentially hazardous substances such as oil, battery acid, and gasoline leach into the soil and water bodies. Other trash is brought into the area for disposal, whether it is household waste, for shooting practice, or left after parties and at campsites. To add to this problem, throughout the summer and fall camps are set up, and because of the large number of users in a relatively small area and the lack of sanitation facilities, human waste and toilet paper are evident throughout the western portion of the planning area. Many of these campsites become too unsightly or unsanitary to attract campers. Additionally, some boaters on Slipper Lake use motors larger than necessary for such a small, shallow lake resulting in potential hazards to other boaters and users.

Unlawful activities have become prevalent in portions of the PUA. These activities are primarily located in the Slipper Lake area but are also widespread in lower concentrations. For example, large parties, particularly on weekends, are common with underage drinking, operating vehicles while intoxicated, unsafe shooting, use, and selling of illicit drugs, bonfires, and fireworks. Injuries are not uncommon.

Solutions to many of the issues described above include an increased agency field presence and additional law enforcement with the assistance of the Department of Public Safety; educating the public on resources and impacts; working with the District Attorney's on accepting cases from within the PUA; and, working closely with members of the public and users of the PUA. Regulations may need to be promulgated to ensure that the efforts of field and enforcement staff are effective in achieving compliance with PUA regulations.

Goal
Provide a safe environment for recreation and eliminate the discharge of litter and hazardous materials.

Management Guidelines

- Develop regulations to address issues related to public use, health, and safety.
- Develop sanitary and waste disposal facilities in areas of concentrated use, such as parking and camping areas.
- Prohibit the burning of materials that will contribute to waste or litter in the PUA.
- Develop and employ educational strategies to change behavior.
- Evaluate safety improvements for trails, including speed limits and signage.

Goal
Address safety concerns related to the discharge of firearms, boat use, and unsafe or unlawful activities.

Management Guidelines

- The implementing agencies should restrict shooting in heavily used areas and areas with nearby residences.
- Shooting areas with specified hours of operation should be designated within the planning area. Areas will be located where shooting can occur safely and where impacts to fish and

wildlife habitat are minimized. Although the implementing agency will identify and designate areas for shooting range development, local groups interested in the operation of a shooting range would probably apply to DNR for the development and operation of a facility.

- The implementing agency will evaluate where to locate a developed area for recreational shooting. Following the adoption of the management plan, the implementing agency will evaluate the areas shown on the following map to determine the feasibility of constructing and maintaining shooting facilities. The implementing agency will designate time of use restrictions for shooting areas.
- The implementing agency should restrict motor size/type for boats operating on Slipper Lake to that appropriate for the lake.
- The implementing agency should seasonally restrict the use of motorized boats, snowmobiles, and OHV's on Slipper Lake and establish a seasonal speed limit around Slipper Lake to provide safe recreational opportunities.
- Develop measures that will preclude large unregulated events that often result in lawless activities, damage to the PUA, and threats to public safety.
- Discharge of explosives and/or fireworks will be prohibited unless authorized by DNR.
- Develop and employ educational strategies to change behavior.

Goal

Increase agency and law enforcement presence in the PUA and draft regulations that are necessary to implement the plan and manage state resources.

Management Guidelines

- Initiate and continue agency field presence in the PUA.
- Continue to work with the Department of Public Safety to enforce state statutes and regulations.
- Continue to work closely with users of the PUA to obtain information on violations of local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
- Obtain authority to issue bailable citations as appropriate for all applicable violations.

Goal

Increase public safety by reducing the potential for wildfires.

Management Guideline

- Develop regulations to prevent wildfires that limit where fires may be built, how big they may be, and what types of materials may be put in them.

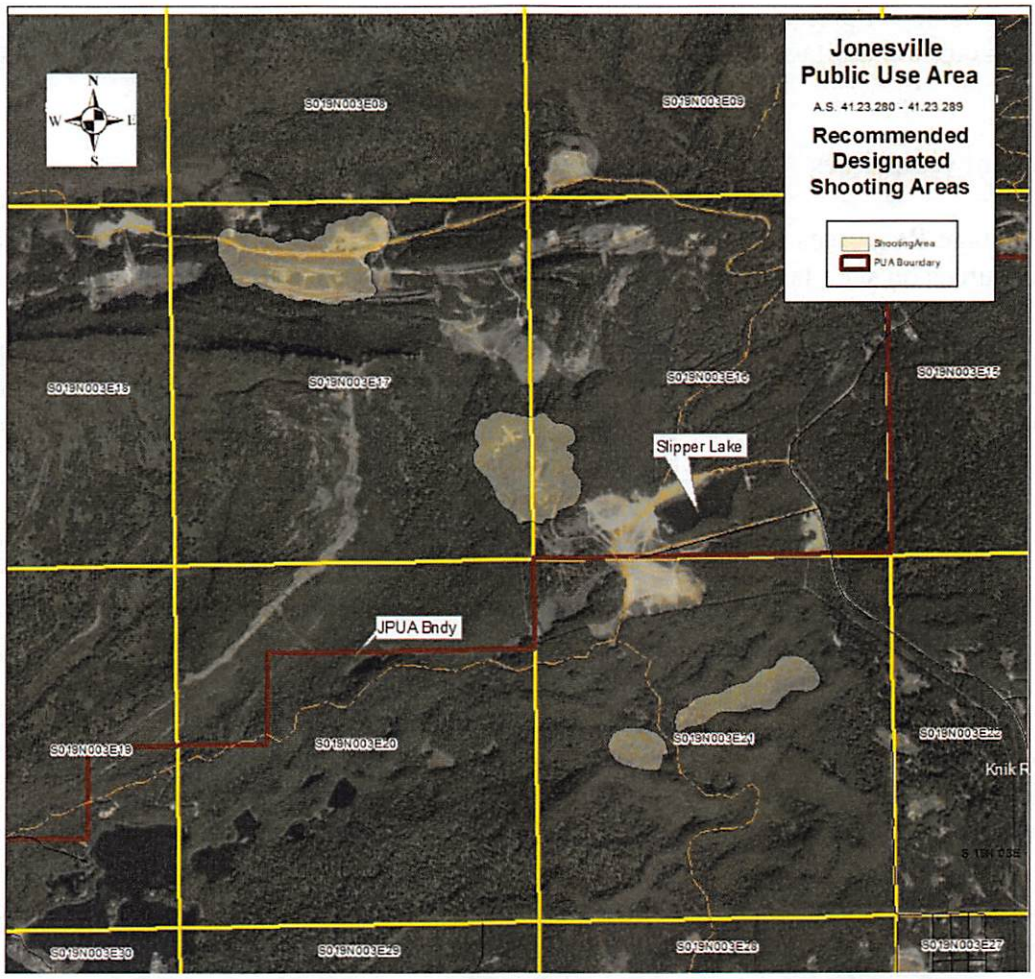
- Initiate and continue agency field presence in the PUA.

Goal

Increase public safety by establishing a vehicular (ATVs, snow machines, OHVs, motorcycles, bicycles) use management plan. Specifically, the plan will ensure that vehicular use is designated for appropriate areas based on environmental and safety factors at trail sites.

Management Guidelines

- Develop regulations to restrict vehicular traffic activities from interfering with pedestrian activity on specific trails, trail areas, camping areas, etc. to prevent accidents and conflict of interests.
- Initiate and continue agency field presence in the PUA.



Heritage/Cultural

Background

The Alaska Historic Preservation Act (AS 41.35.010) states:

> "It is the policy of the state to preserve and protect the historic, prehistoric, and archeological resources of Alaska from loss, desecration, and destruction so that the scientific, historic, and cultural heritage embodied in these resources may pass undiminished to future generations. To this end, the legislature finds and declares that the historic, prehistoric, and archeological resources of the state are properly the subject of concerted and coordinated efforts exercised on behalf of the general welfare of the public in order that these resources may be located, preserved, studied, exhibited, and evaluated."

The Matanuska River Valley has been used extensively by Native Alaskans and early European settlers. Artifacts related to Alaska Natives and early non-native settlers exist in the PUA.

Goal

The Alaska Historic Preservation Act establishes the state's basic goal: to preserve, protect, and interpret the historic, prehistoric, and archaeological resources of Alaska so that the scientific, historic, and cultural heritage values embodied in these resources may pass undiminished to future generations.

Management Guidelines

- Heritage Resources Identification. Identify and determine the significance of all heritage resources on state land through heritage resource surveys or inventories.

  These should be conducted by the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA), contingent on funding, in areas this agency determines to have a high potential to contain important heritage sites and for which there is insufficient information to identify and protect these sites. This effort can be supplemented through:

  - Research on heritage resources on state land by qualified individuals and organizations; and
  - Cooperative efforts for planned surveys and inventories between state, federal, local, and/or Native groups.

- Heritage Resources Protection. Significant heritage resources within the PUA should be protected through the review of proposed projects by OHA as part of the process. If OHA determines that there may be an adverse effect on heritage resources, OHA will provide recommendations to minimize these effects.

- The Office of History and Archeology should be contacted during the initial planning phase of any project that involves a ground-disturbing activity.

- Recreation Facilities Adjacent to Heritage Resources. Recreation facilities that might make heritage sites more susceptible to damage and disturbance because of increased public use should not be placed adjacent to the heritage sites without mitigating measures. Prior to new construction or modification of existing routes, or facilities, the OHA should be contacted to determine if historical, archeological, or pre-historic site(s) are reported. This data set is continually being updated and, should be consulted on all proposed projects.

- Reporting of Heritage Sites. Staff will report the presence of new heritage sites to OHA. OHA will add this information to the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) database. The AHRS database is an inventory of all reported historic and prehistoric sites within the State of Alaska.

Materials

Background

Significant quantities of materials, including sand, gravel, and rock, are found in the PUA. The extraction of materials may be permitted in the PUA.

Goal

Provide opportunities to extract materials where that activity will minimize impacts to recreational use or fish and wildlife habitat.

Management Guidelines

- Material extraction operations are an allowed use and can be authorized by DNR where such operations will not adversely affect recreational activities, fish, or wildlife habitat.

- Authorizations issued by DNR shall include stipulations to avoid or minimize impacts to fish and wildlife, their habitats, and recreational uses. Access to recreational areas shall not be impaired.

- Material extraction authorizations issued by DNR should, where possible, ensure that such activities are not conducted in high-use recreation areas. Timing restrictions should be considered in these authorizations. Access to recreational areas shall not be impaired.

- Material extraction operations should be conducted in such a manner that prevents unnecessary and undue degradation of the land and water resources.

- Material sites should not be located near residential areas and other areas of high human use. Sufficient land should be allocated to the material site for such screening.

- Following the cessation of use, material sites shall be rehabilitated according to AS 27.19.020 and 11 AAC 97.250.

- Before granting authorizations for materials sales, DNR should coordinate with the Borough to determine applicable supplemental zoning requirements.

Mitigation

Background

When issuing permits or leases or otherwise authorizing the use or development of state lands, the implementing agency will recognize the requirements of the activity or development and the benefits it may have to uses and habitats when determining stipulations or measures needed to protect fish and wildlife or their habitats. When an authorization may result in significant adverse

impacts to fish and wildlife or their habitats, The implementing agency will consult with ADF&G. The costs of mitigation relative to the benefits to be gained will be considered in the implementation of this policy.

The implementing agencies will enforce stipulations and measures and will require the responsible party to remedy any significant damage to fish and wildlife or their habitats that may occur as a direct result of the party's failure to comply with applicable law, regulations, or the conditions of the permit or lease.

Goal

Minimize impacts of authorized activities on fish, wildlife, and their habitats.

Management Guidelines

- When determining appropriate stipulations and measures, the implementing agency will apply the following steps in order of priority, Mitigation requirements listed in other guidelines in this plan will also follow these steps.

    1. Avoid anticipated, significant adverse effects on fish and wildlife, or their habitats through siting, timing, or other management options.
    2. When significant adverse effects cannot be avoided by design, siting, timing, or other management options, the adverse effect of the use or development will be minimized.
    3. If significant loss of fish or wildlife habitat occurs, the loss will be rectified, to the extent feasible and prudent, by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected area to a useful state.
    4. The implementing agency will consider requiring replacement with other areas with like resource values or enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat when steps 1 through 3 cannot avoid substantial and irreversible loss of habitat. ADF&G will identify the species affected, the need for replacement or enhancement, and the suggested method for addressing the impact. Replacement with or enhancement of similar habitats of those affected species in the same region is preferable. The implementing agency will consider only those replacement or enhancement techniques that have been proven to be or are likely to be effective, and that will result in a benefit to the species impacted by the development. Replacement or enhancement will only be required by the implementing agency if it is determined to be in the best interest of the public either through the Best Interest Finding process AS 38.05.035(e) or permit review process. The replacement may include

structural solutions, such as creating spawning or rearing ponds for salmon, creating wetlands for waterfowl. Or nonstructural methods, such as research or management of the species affected, legislative or administrative allocation of lands to a long term level of habitat protection that is sufficiently greater than that which they would otherwise receive, or fire management to increase habitat productivity.

Parcel Acquisition

Background

This plan identifies several parcels as priorities for acquisition. Parcel one, the CIRI parcel crossed by Seventeen Mile Lake Trail that provides access to the western portion of the PUA. It is the most developed access route into the western portion of the PUA and is heavily affected by motorized recreational use.

Parcel two, the Coyote Lake Recreation Site, is owned by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough located within the southeastern corner of the PUA. Access across this parcel is from the Eska Mine Road, an unmaintained road that is nearly impassable. It receives high levels of motorized use and is heavily impacted. This parcel is the site of a former recreation area developed by the Borough in the last 1990s. The site has not been actively managed for over 15 years.

Goal

- Maintain access to the PUA through the acquisition of access sites and/or public easements in selected areas.

Management Guidelines

- All acquired lands will be recommended to the Legislature for inclusion in the PUA.
- Until they are included in the PUA, all acquired lands will be recommended as a SUA and will be managed consistent with the intent, guidelines, and recommendations for the PUA.
- SUA designations will only apply to lands acquired by the state.
- The state will work with MSB to acquire the Coyote Lake Recreation Site.
- Over time and based upon need, other private lands that provide or are capable of providing access to the PUA will be considered for acquisition from willing sellers[2].

[2] Currently there are no additional private parcels identified for acquisition. DNR will only purchase private land from willing sellers.

- The implementing agency should acquire legal access through any parcels commonly crossed by existing trails to access the PUA.

Public Use Sites

Background

Public Use Sites are sites on state and borough land and water that have been identified as particularly important for public access, recreation, camping, fishing, or other recreation or public use. These sites have high public value and therefore, should receive a higher degree of management attention. The designation of these sites in this management plan serves to recognize the importance of these areas for continued public use. One public use site is identified in this plan: Slipper Lake. The Slipper Lake Public Use Site should be expanded to include the old Coyote Lake Recreation Site when the state acquires the land. See the map on the following page.

As use patterns change and information becomes available, new sites may be designated and included in the plan. Such additions will be at the discretion of the implementing agency. The procedures for a "special exception" are to be followed in plan revisions.

Goal

Identify areas that have high public use values and manage them to preserve that use and their recreation values.

Management Guidelines

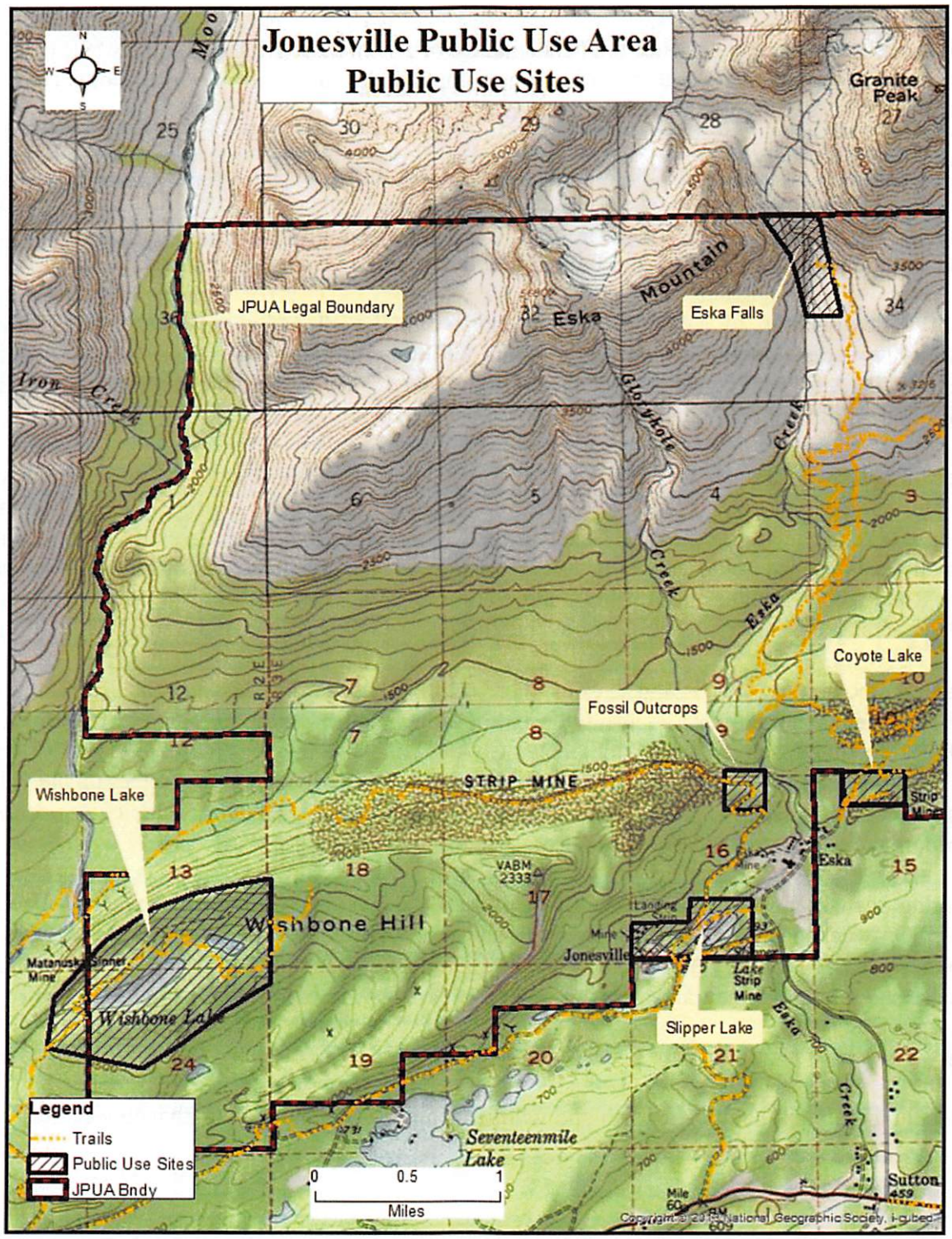
- The following Public Use Sites are designated in the plan: Slipper Lake, Coyote Lake, Fossil Outcrops, Eska Falls, Wishbone Lake (others?). The subsequent management guidelines apply to the site and will be included in the second phase of regulations to be developed by the implementing agencies. Camps may remain in one place for up to seven days before they must be disassembled and moved to another location at least one mile away. A person may not relocate a camp, structure, or facility to a site within one mile of the initial site for at least four consecutive days.

- Commercial camps can be authorized within a public use site for up to seven consecutive days. A commercial camp may not relocate to a site within one mile of the initial site for at least four consecutive days. Long-term commercial camps greater than seven consecutive days are not authorized.

- Improvements such as public facilities, docks, and boat ramps can be authorized.

- Within a Public Use Site, camping may be restricted to a campground, identified campsites, or within a certain distance of a developed facility when a facility is

developed[3]. The implementing agency will restrict the recreational discharge of weapons in public use sites to protect public safety.



[3] Camping outside of a Public Use Site remains subject to restrictions provided in Generally Allowed Uses of State Land.

Recreation

Background

With the increased populations of the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) and the MSB over the years, so has the use of the Jonesville Mine/Slipper Lake area. As a result, more users are competing for the resources available in this area.

OHV use related to recreation, hunting, and fishing has increased significantly in the Jonesville Mine area in recent years. As a result, numerous trails have been created, and areas that previously received little or no motorized use are now seeing frequent use; this has resulted in numerous trails being created across wetlands, water bodies, and environmentally sensitive areas.

See the following map, for a depiction of wetlands within the JPUA. Because of the increased use, conflicts have developed between users. While additional trails provide more opportunities to access the PUA for some, others are displaced. Developed non-motorized recreation opportunities are limited within the public use area.

Recreational use patterns have predictable spatial and temporal characteristics and seasonality of use. During the hunting and fishing seasons, use increases across the entire PUA but is highest during weekends and holidays. Areas such as the Moose Creek and Eska Creek drainages, which normally see little use, see frequent use as hunters access the area in search of moose. Jonesville Mine Road receives higher use during fishing and moose hunting season. The use of expansive wetland areas increases too as hunters traverse these areas while moose and waterfowl hunting.

Outside of the hunting and fishing seasons, there is limited use during the week, and use is highest on the weekends and holidays. During these times, the Slipper Lake Parking and Camping Area is often filled to capacity. The parking area at Coyote Lake also receives increased use. OHV use is high in the vicinity of the Jonesville Mine area and progressively decreases further up the valley in the direction of Eska Falls. Low to moderate levels of OHV and highway vehicle use occurs at Wishbone Lake.

Shooting is frequent at many locations, but primarily occurs at existing user-created "shooting areas." On weekends, as evening approaches and more individuals arrive in the PUA, unlawful activities become more frequent. Such activities include the wrecking and burning of automobiles, reckless shooting, and underage drinking.

Goal

Protect and maintain habitats for fish and wildlife while perpetuating and enhancing recreational use.

Management Guidelines

- The Trails Management Process[4] (TMP) should identify trails that have significant negative impacts on fish and wildlife habitat. The impacts of these trails should be minimized through re-routing, spatial and/or temporal restrictions, or in some cases, closure of trails.

- The TMP should identify opportunities to develop new trails within the planning area to maintain or enhance motorized and non-motorized use. These trails should be developed consistent with the following guidelines:
    - New trails within the planning area will be developed as sustainable trails. They should be sited to avoid sensitive areas and be designed to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife and their habitats.
    - If new facilities or trails cannot avoid sensitive areas including waterfowl nesting habitat, fish spawning and rearing areas, moose calving concentration areas, or swan or loon nesting areas, they should be designed and developed to minimize adverse impacts to these resources.

- The implementing agency will identify particularly sensitive habitats and provide management guidelines and recommendations that will avoid or minimize impacts to these habitats. See Trails and Fish and Wildlife Habitat sections.

- Current and expected future increases in OHV and highway vehicle uses should continue on the designated motorized trails. See the following map for an illustration of the designated trails. This area should be managed for increasing use levels. Except for impacts related to rutting and ground disturbance, uses in the area described above remain subject to all local, state, and federal authorities for other impacts associated with their use.

Goal

Provide for the protection and use of wetlands.

Management Guidelines

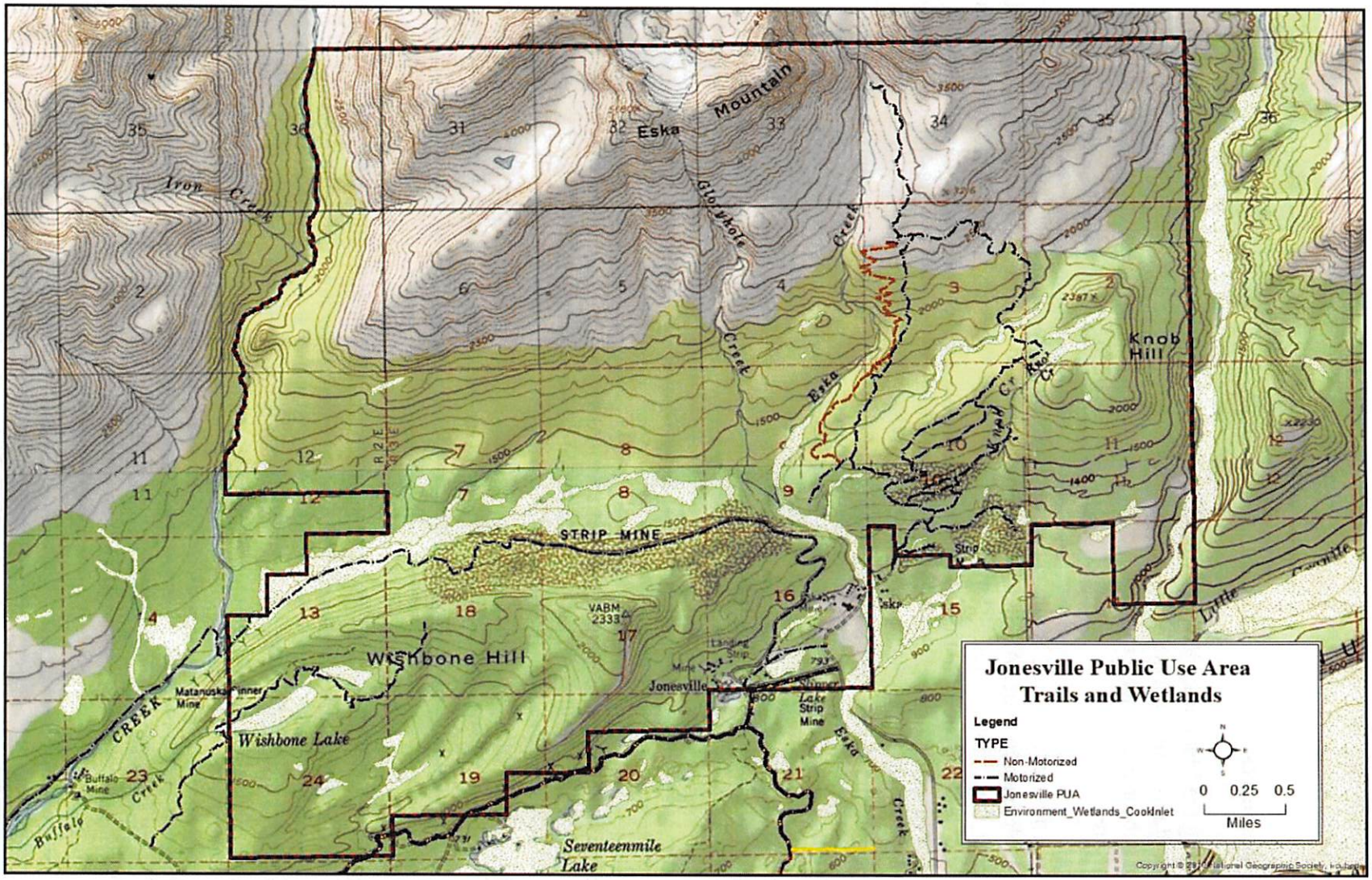
- Redundant trails or trails determined by the implementing agency to have significant negative impacts on wetland functions should be closed to use. The closure of trails will be based upon the results of the TMP.

- New trails in wetlands should be avoided, but if no reasonable alternative location exists, they should be developed in a manner that minimizes impacts to the wetlands. In all cases, such trails should be developed as sustainable trails.

- Recreational public facilities and projects should avoid wetlands and areas of sensitive fish and wildlife habitat.

[4] The Trails Management Process is described in detail in Appendix D.

- The PUA should be evaluated for the presence of low functioning disconnected wetlands that serve no significant water quality or habitat function. This type of wetland could be a suitable location to which motorized traffic could be directed for "mud bogging".


Jonesville Public Use Area
Trails and Wetlands
Legend
TYPE
Non-Motorized
Motorized
Jonesville PUA
Environment_Wetlands_CookInlet
0 0.25 0.5
Miles
Eska Mountain
Iron Creek
Gloryhole Creek
Eska Creek
Knob Hill
STRIP MINE
Wishbone Hill
Wishbone Lake
Jonesville
Seventeenmile Lake
Buffalo Creek
Matanuska Pinner Mine
Buffalo Mine
Little Granite

Subsurface Resources

Background

Oil and Gas Resources

The area is along the Matanuska River north of Anchorage and Palmer and sits at the base of the Talkeetna Mountains. This area is not known to be a source of oil or gas. Other than the statewide reservation of subsurface mineral rights, no known oil or gas activity is known to be scheduled or ongoing in the area.

State land, with few exceptions, is subject to oil and gas exploration and development, either through area-wide leasing under AS 38.05.180 or by exploration licensing under AS 38.05.131. It should be noted that mineral closing orders under AS 38.05.185 do not apply to oil and gas exploration and leasing, nor do they preclude reasonable surface access to these resources. However, rights reserved under AS 38.05.125, may not be exercised until provision is made for payment for all damages sustained by the landowner (AS 38.05.130). In addition, geophysical exploration permits issued under 11 AAC 96 will conform to the maximum extent possible with the management guidelines in the plan, but are not prohibited.

Decisions regarding leasing for oil and gas and other energy resources will not be addressed in this plan. Oil and gas lease sales are specifically not subject to this planning process and follow the requirements of AS 38.05.180.

Coal Resources

There are active subsurface leases in the subject area. Any coal removal activities will take place according to the Alaska Surface Coal Mining Control and Reclamation Act AS 27.21.

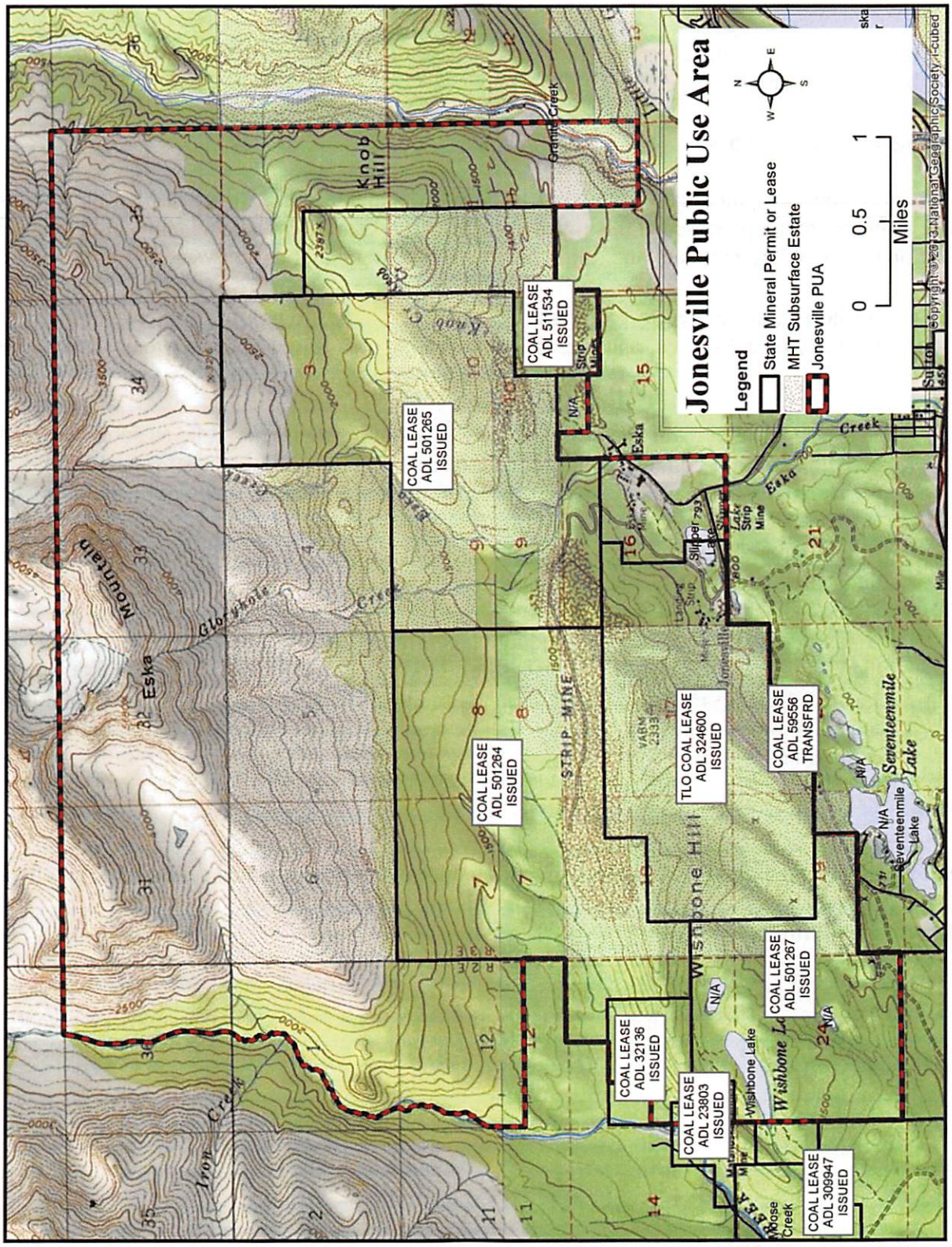
The Evans Jones Coal Mine operated between 1920 and 1968 in Sutton, where it produced over five million tons of coal. Much of the mine area is currently under various stages of active reclamation under the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Act, largely as a result of coal fires in the area.

It is estimated that 131 million tons of coal remain in the area in and around Jonesville Mine. Therefore it is possible and likely that coal removal may begin at some time in the future.

The map on the following page illustrates the location of the current state and Mental Health Trust coal leases as well as the location of the Mental Health Trust subsurface estate.

Locatable Minerals

Locatable minerals (gold, silver, copper, and others) may be found in the PUA. State land in the PUA is open to mineral entry, but mining has not occurred due to the sparse occurrence of locatable minerals.


Jonesville Public Use Area
Legend
State Mineral Permit or Lease
MHT Subsurface Estate
Jonesville PUA
0 0.5 1
Miles
COAL LEASE ADL 511534 ISSUED
COAL LEASE ADL 501265 ISSUED
COAL LEASE ADL 501264 ISSUED
TLO COAL LEASE ADL 324600 ISSUED
COAL LEASE ADL 59556 TRANSFRD
COAL LEASE ADL 501267 ISSUED
COAL LEASE ADL 32136 ISSUED
COAL LEASE ADL 23803 ISSUED
COAL LEASE ADL 309947 ISSUED
Knob Hill
Eska Mountain
Wishbone Hill
Seventeenmile Lake
Wishbone Lake
Granite Creek
Iron Creek
Glory Hole Creek
Eska Creek
STRIP MINE
Slipper Lake
Moose Creek
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Goal

Provide for the development of subsurface resources while protecting recreation, fish, and wildlife and the habitats that they depend upon.

Management Guidelines

Because of the low potential for the area to contain locatable minerals, additional closures to mineral entry are not proposed at this time. Nonetheless, all current mineral closing and leasehold location orders will remain, and the following management guidelines apply.

- Authorizations issued by DNR shall include stipulations to minimize impacts to fish and wildlife, their habitats, and recreational uses. Access to recreational areas shall not be impaired.

- Subsurface authorizations issued by DNR should, where possible, ensure that such activities are not conducted in high-use recreation areas. Timing restrictions should be considered in these authorizations. Access to recreational areas shall not be impaired.

- Mining operations should be conducted in such a manner that prevents unnecessary and undue degradation of the land and water resources.

- Areas of mining operations, including placer mining, shall be reclaimed consistent with the requirements of DNR. Materials sales, land use permits, and plans of operation will specify measures necessary to return land used in mining operations to a useful condition. In habitat areas, annual reclamation will be required concurrently with mining or material extraction.

Goal

Strategically locate public facilities and improvements away from potential future mineral leases.

Management Guideline

- The Mental Health Trust Land Office owns subsurface estate within the PUA. Development of public recreation amenities shall take into consideration the potential Mental Health Trust mineral lease development and avoid potential future conflicts.

Trails

Background

The Eska Strip Mine Trail (RST 1420), provides unmaintained public access from the north end of Jonesville Mine Road to the old Eska mine site in Section 10, Tl9N, R05E, S.M. The Eska Creek Falls Hiking Trail provides legal public access for the pedestrian route to the Eska Creek Falls area, starting in Section 9, T19N, Range 3 East, S.M. and ending in Section 34, T20N, ROSE, S.M.

The State of Alaska is adjudicating public use easements ADL 229485 A, B, C, D, and E, for several trails that begin west of the Jonesville Public Use Area and end near Slipper Lake and the airstrip.

Some individuals access the Jonesville PUA by using trails, new and old, that begin on or cross private lands. These lands are located south, east, and west of the PUA and are owned by individuals, as well as the Alaska Mental Health Trust, University of Alaska, and Cook Inlet Region, Inc. The use of these trails should either be legally established - if the access is deemed important to the public's enjoyment of the area - or the trails should be blocked at the PUA boundary to not encourage and condone trespass on private land.

The implementing agency will initiate a Trails Management Process (TMP) to identify existing trails and assess the level of impact on resources. The implementing agency will consult with ADF&G to assess the level of impact on fish, wildlife, and their habitat related to recreational use. The TMP will also identify where additional trails are needed to enhance recreational user opportunities or reduce impacts on fisheries and wildlife habitat. The first phase of this process will address trails in the benchlands within the PUA. The second phase will address trails in the sub-alpine and alpine areas.

Goals

- Maintain and enhance recreational opportunities while protecting fish, wildlife, and their habitats.
- New trails within the planning area should be developed as sustainable trails[5].
- New trails and facilities should be sited and designed to avoid or minimize impacts to fish and wildlife and their habitats as well as future mineral leases.
- Primary trails accessing the PUA from adjacent lands should be reserved as public easements to ensure future access, in the event that the state does not acquire ownership of these lands.
- The Trails Management Process should identify existing primary trails providing access to the PUA and reserve them as public easements. All new trails authorized by DNR will be reserved and designated for specific purposes.

[5] A trail that conforms to its terrain and environment is capable of handling its intended use without serious degradation.

- Trailhead maps and signage should be developed to reduce trespass onto neighboring private land from trails within the PUA.

Management Guidelines

- Through the TMP, the implementing agency will provide an inventory of trails, and provide an assessment of trail conditions. This assessment will identify existing trails that may have significant impacts on fish and wildlife habitat, particularly within waterfowl nesting areas, fish spawning and rearing areas, and moose calving concentration areas. Trails in wetland areas or other sensitive areas will be assessed to determine if they are having an unacceptable level of impact on the wetlands. Trails impacting other state resources will also be assessed.

- Based on those assessments, existing trails determined to be negatively impacting fish, wildlife, habitat, or other state resources may be closed, re-routed, or have another use or time restriction.

- The implementing agency will identify potential new trails (non-motorized and motorized) for development and identify existing trails consistent with this plan that can be developed to a higher standard or expanded. Trails may also be identified for reservation as public easements for specific purposes.

- Not all existing routes within the PUA will be identified as a trail. Routes resulting from single-vehicle passage or infrequent use by highway and off-highway vehicles may not be identified as a trail by the implementing agency.

- Main access trails should be improved and upgraded to support increased use.

- Dedicate easements over the existing trails for which an application to DNR has already been submitted.

- Individuals may nominate new trails, and DNR may accept applications and adjudicate applications to develop new trails or to re-route, or expand existing trails. DNR may reserve easements on trails developed with an authorization.

- DNR may consider Trail Management Agreements with organizations or individuals for the maintenance of trails or segments of trails.

- When siting a new trail, or re-routing an existing trail adjacent to an anadromous water body, DNR will consider the impact associated with the use of that trail.

- All trails (new and upgraded, expanded or re-routed) or facilities within the planning area should be sited and designed to avoid impacts to fish and wildlife and their habitats. If impacts to these habitats cannot be avoided, they should be minimized.

- All trails and developed facilities should be sited and developed to minimize impacts to anadromous water bodies. Stream crossings should be developed generally perpendicular to the streamflow.

- Within 100 feet of an anadromous water body, trails should not be developed parallel to the ordinary high watermark. The following map illustrates the mapped anadromous streams.

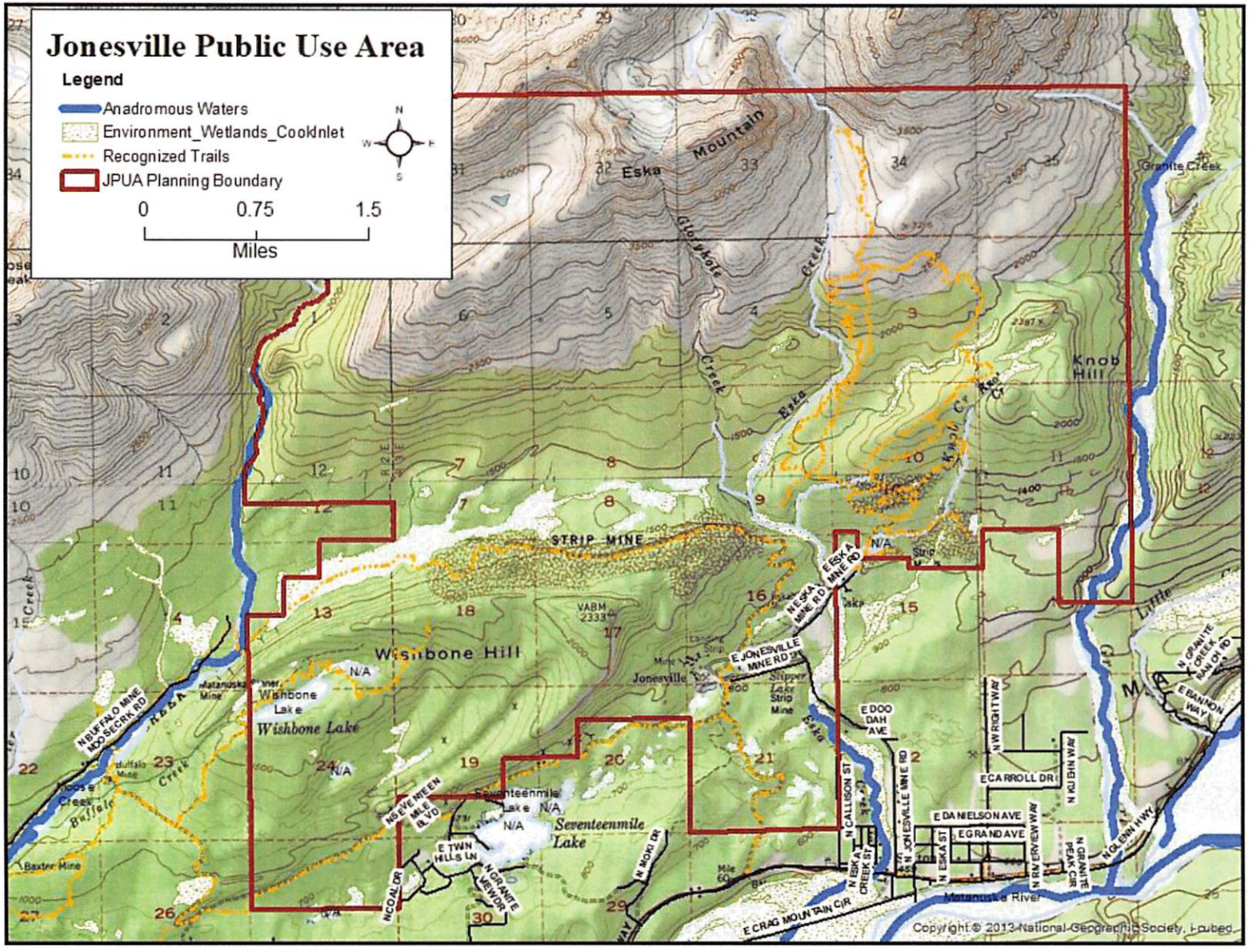
- New trails proposed within or adjacent to waterfowl nesting habitat, fish spawning, and rearing areas, moose calving concentration areas, or swan or loon nesting areas should be sited and developed to avoid impacts to these areas. If these identified sensitive areas cannot be avoided, the impacts on these areas should be minimized.

- Following standard procedures for adjudication of easements, the public will be allowed to review and comment on recommendations involving the establishment of easements.

- Trailhead maps and signage should be developed to reduce potential trespass onto neighboring private land from trails within the PUA.

- Evaluate how to accommodate the demand for more non-motorized trails for biking, hiking, and horseback riding.

- Parking areas should be developed for each user group with distinct and separate parking facilities.


Jonesville Public Use Area
Legend
Anadromous Waters
Environment_Wetlands_CookInlet
Recognized Trails
JPUA Planning Boundary
0
0.75
1.5
Miles
N
W
E
S
Eska Mountain
Glacier Creek
Eska Creek
Knob Hill
Granite Creek
STRIP MINE
Wishbone Hill
Wishbone Lake
Seventeenmile Lake
Jonesville
Matanuska River
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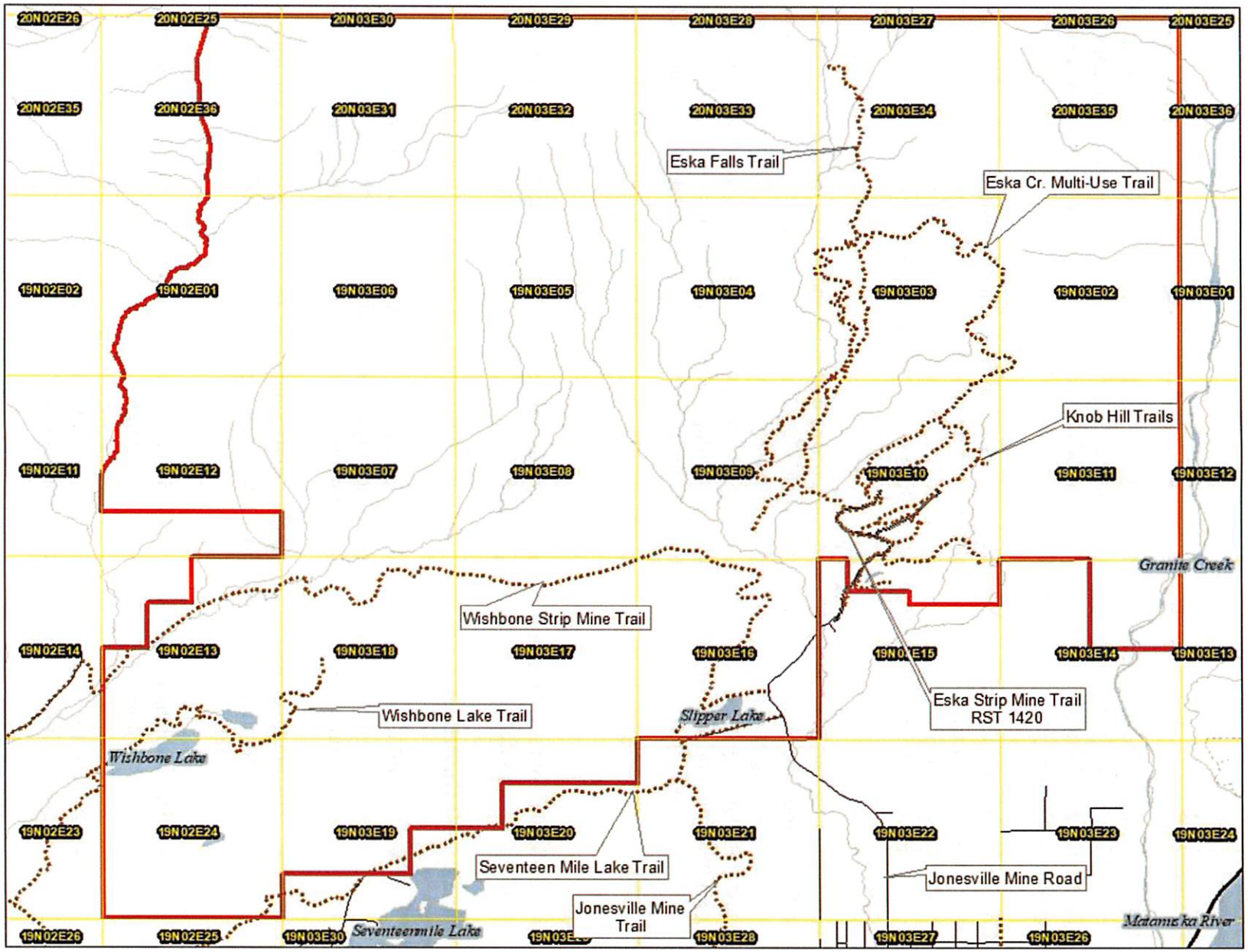
20N02E26
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20N03E33
20N03E34
20N03E35
20N03E36
Eska Falls Trail
Eska Cr. Multi-Use Trail
19N02E02
19N02E01
19N03E06
19N03E05
19N03E04
19N03E03
19N03E02
19N03E01
Knob Hill Trails
19N02E11
19N02E12
19N03E07
19N03E08
19N03E09
19N03E10
19N03E11
19N03E12
Granite Creek
Wishbone Strip Mine Trail
19N02E14
19N02E13
19N03E18
19N03E17
19N03E16
19N03E14
19N03E13
Eska Strip Mine Trail
RST 1420
Wishbone Lake Trail
Slipper Lake
Wishbone Lake
19N02E23
19N02E24
19N03E19
19N03E20
19N03E21
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19N03E23
19N03E24
Seventeen Mile Lake Trail
Jonesville Mine Road
Jonesville Mine
Trail
Seventeenmile Lake
Matanuska River
19N02E26
19N02E25
19N03E30
19N03E28
19N03E27
19N03E26

Waterbodies

Background

Waterbodies provide important habitat for fish and wildlife. The productive fish spawning and rearing habitat contributes to the upper Cook Inlet commercial fishery and supports a popular Coho salmon fishery. Waterbodies are used by motorized and non-motorized users for recreation, hunting, and fishing and as access to other areas.

Conflicts between users of water bodies exist at some locations. One site where user conflicts may occur is at Slipper Lake. This small water body is frequently used for family-oriented recreation, primarily swimming. The use of motorized vehicles or boats on this small waterbody presents a safety hazard for swimmers. ATV traffic on the shore of Slipper Lake also poses safety concerns for recreating families.

Members of the public commented on uses occurring on Upper and Lower Coyote Lake. During ice-free periods, these two lakes are typically used for non-motorized recreation; however, limited motorized boating use does occur and is primarily related to access for fishing and hunting. Watercraft typically operating on Slipper Lake includes canoes, kayaks, and small boats with low horsepower motors. The wetlands connected to Slipper Lake, Coyote Lake, and Wishbone Lake have been identified as sensitive waterfowl nesting habitat and provide habitat for duck and grebe nesting.

Goal

Provide for the continued use of water bodies while avoiding/minimizing impacts to resources and providing for the safety of the recreating public.

Management Guidelines

- Use of water bodies should be unrestricted unless that use is determined by the implementing agency to be significantly impacting fish and wildlife or their habitats, public safety, or to provide or maintain a certain recreational experience.

- The implementing agency should draft regulations to maintain current recreational opportunities and protect loon, duck, and grebe nesting on Slipper Lake and the connected wetlands.

- The implementing agency should consult with ADF&G to determine if uses are impacting fish, wildlife, and their habitats.

- If use is found to have significant negative effects as determined by the implementing agency, it should be restricted or prohibited.

- The implementing agency should propose regulations to address concerns on Eska Creek, Granite Creek, and Moose Creek and in associated drainage areas.

Chapter 3: Management Guidelines, Recommendations, and Public Use Sites for each Management Unit

Contents

Unit Description 3-1
Management Intent 3-1
Management Guidelines 3-1
Management Recommendations 3-1
Facilities Recommendations 3-3
Public Use Sites 3-3
Unit A – Jonesville State and Borough Land 3-3
- Unit Description 3-3
- Land Ownership 3-3
- Access 3-3
- Recreational Use 3-3
- Fisheries Habitat 3-4
- Wildlife Habitat 3-6
- Commercial Use 3-6
- Facilities 3-6
- Trails and Easements 3-6
- Cultural and Historical 3-7
- Issues 3-8
- Management Intent 3-9
- Management Guidelines 3-10
- Management Recommendations 3-11
- Facilities Recommendations 3-11
- Public Use Sites 3-12
- Land Use Designation 3-12
- Allowed/Prohibited Uses 3-12

Chapter 3: Management Guidelines, Recommendations, and Public Use Sites for each Management Unit

Introduction

The PUA consists of approximately 14,574 acres of state land and 40 acres of borough land. The state land and borough land are in one management unit. The following map depicts the management unit for the PUA. Management units should be further delineated based on land use, recreation patterns, and topography when future development and management changes the fabric of the PUA.

This chapter provides a detailed description of the management unit, including the uses occurring within it as well as its resources (recreation, wildlife, habitat, minerals, cultural/historical). The chapter also includes management guidelines and recommendations for management and facilities. The information for the unit follows the format provided below.

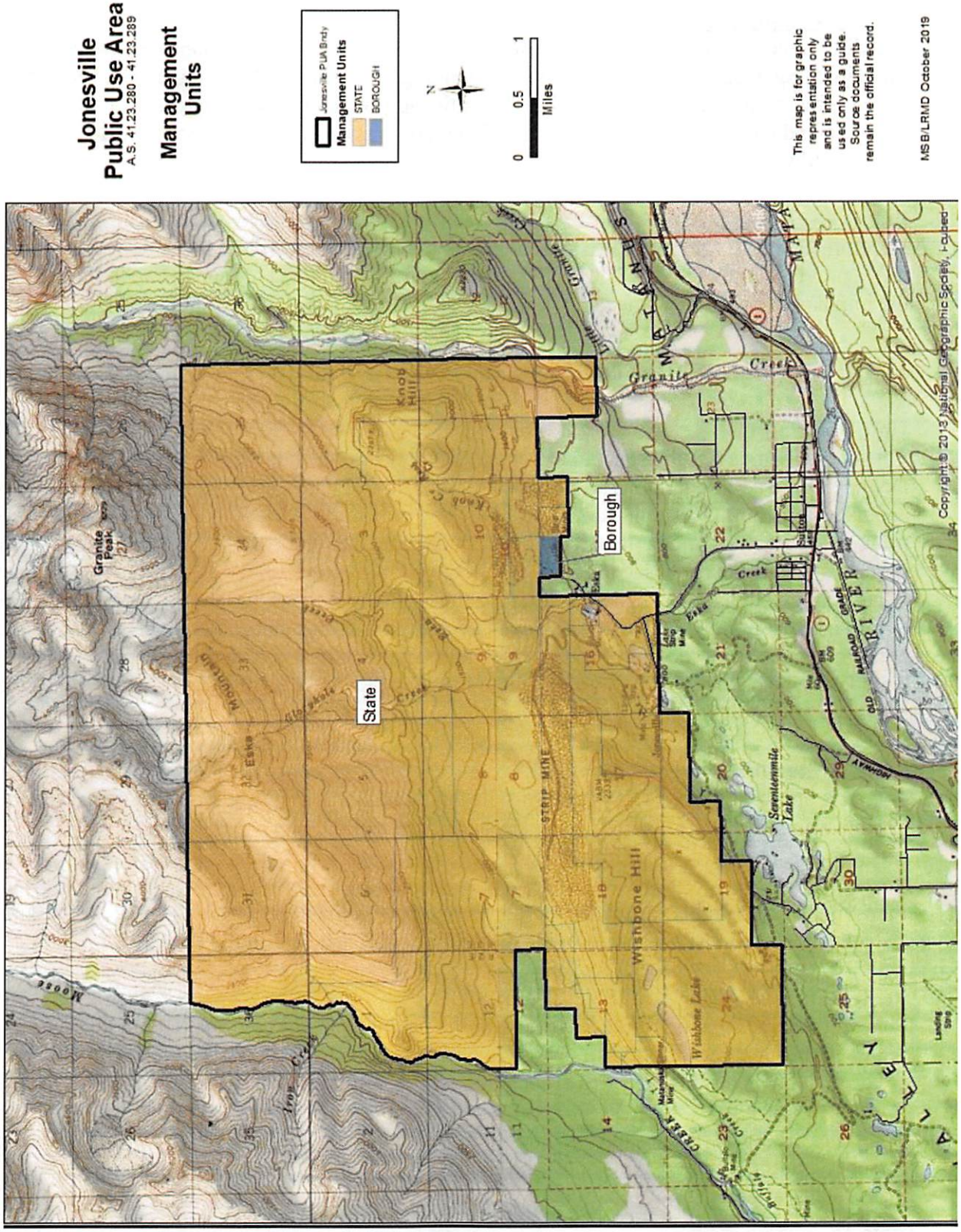
This chapter also provides recommendations for the management of adjacent general state land. They are provided as a framework for consistent management approaches.

Unit Description
Unit descriptions include background information on land status, access, use, facilities, and trails, and easements. The Unit Description also discusses issues that are affecting management.

Management Intent
The management intent provides a desired future condition for each of the units consistent with the purposes of the PUA. Specific management guidelines and recommendations follow the management intent.

Management Guidelines
Consistent with the intent for the unit, management guidelines direct the current and future management decisions by the implementing agency. Management guidelines involve specific courses of action that are consistent with and are necessary for the implementation of the management intent of the unit. Together with management intent, they represent the plan's management policy. Certain guidelines necessary to implement the plan will be adopted as regulation (see Appendix C for regulations that will be necessary to implement the plan).

Management Recommendations
Management recommendations identify additional actions the implementing agency *may* take to implement the plan. These include recommendations about the development of roads and trails or stream crossings and land acquisition.


Jonesville
Public Use Area
A.S. 41.23.280 - 41.23.289
Management
Units
Jonesville PUA Bndy
Management Units
STATE
BOROUGH
N
0
0.5
1
Miles
This map is for graphic representation only and is intended to be used only as a guide. Source documents remain the official record.
MSB/LRMD October 2019
State
Borough
Granite Peak
Knob Hill
Wishbone Hill
Wishbone Lake
Seventeenmile Lake
Granite Creek
Eska Creek
Iron Creek
Moose
STRIP MINE
RIVER
Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

Facilities Recommendations
Facilities recommendations are described in certain areas of the management unit. The implementing agency may develop them as funding allows or facilitate third party requests to develop them on a case-by-case basis. Facilities are recommended in areas where they will maintain and enhance uses. Facilities are also recommended to minimize the impacts of users on fish and wildlife and their habitats.

Public Use Sites
Recommendations for public use sites, or areas for which a specific management direction or use is provided, are included. These areas will receive a high level of management direction by the implementing agency since they are associated with higher levels of public use.

Unit A – Jonesville State and Borough Land

Unit Description
This unit encompasses the state and Borough lands within the boundary of the public use area. Delineation of additional units within this unit will likely be necessary as the area is developed and use intensifies. This unit extends from the end of Buffalo Mine Road, east of Moose Creek nearly six miles east to Granite Creek. It is bounded by the OHWM of the Moose Creek on the northwest and follows the section lines parallel to Granite Creek on the east side. The dominant features of this unit are the benchlands above the Matanuska River and the alpine and subalpine terrain around Eska Mountain. The Eska Creek drainage and its tributaries are the dominant hydrologic feature of the unit. Moose Creek and Granite Creek are on the western and eastern boundaries, respectively. See the map on the following page for an illustration of the Jonesville *Management Plan Unit.*

Land Ownership
There are approximately 14,754 acres of state land within this unit. The Borough owns 40 acres of land around Coyote Lake in the southeastern corner of the unit.

Access
Jonesville Mine Road is the primary road used to access the area. Seventeen Mile Lake Trail and Wishbone Strip Mine Trail provide the primary trail access into the PUA.

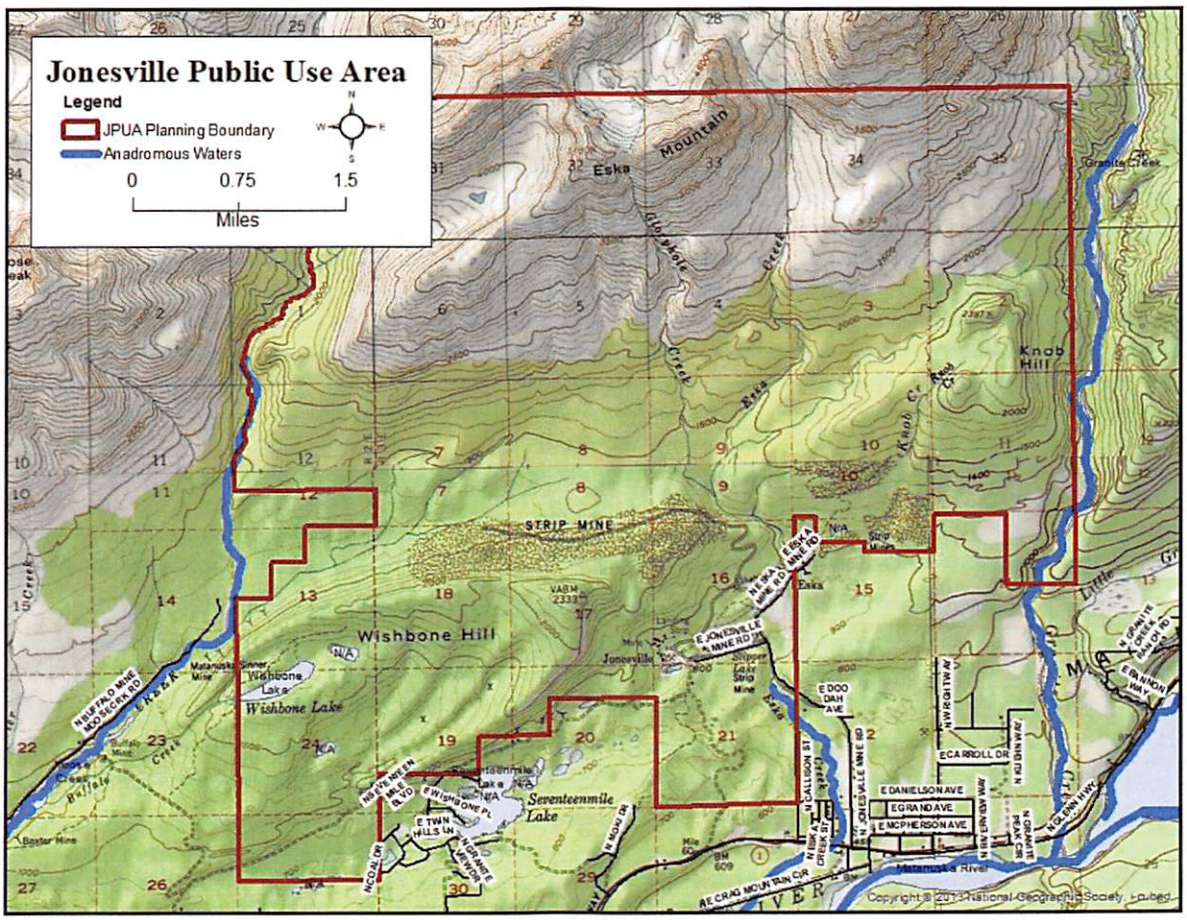
Recreational Use
This unit receives the highest levels of use in the planning area. Moderate to high levels of use occurs in this unit year-round, but primarily on weekends. Both non-motorized and motorized use occurs; however, the majority of recreational use is motorized.

Non-motorized uses in the unit include hiking, fishing, boating, camping, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, biking, swimming, and hunting. This unit is the gateway for many users to access state land to the north, east, and west. When ice and snow conditions permit, the area receives a variety of uses, including snowshoeing, winter biking, and skiing. Non-motorized boating occurs during the ice-free periods on the Slipper Lake. The creeks in and around the unit do not usually permit the use of canoes, kayaks, or rafts.

Motorized uses include highway and OHV operation as a means of access for fishing, hunting, trapping, camping, wildlife viewing, photography, and for recreation. Motorized boat use is uncommon on the Slipper Lake. OHV use occurs primarily on the numerous trails throughout the unit. During winter months, frozen ground conditions allow for increased motorized recreational opportunities and access.

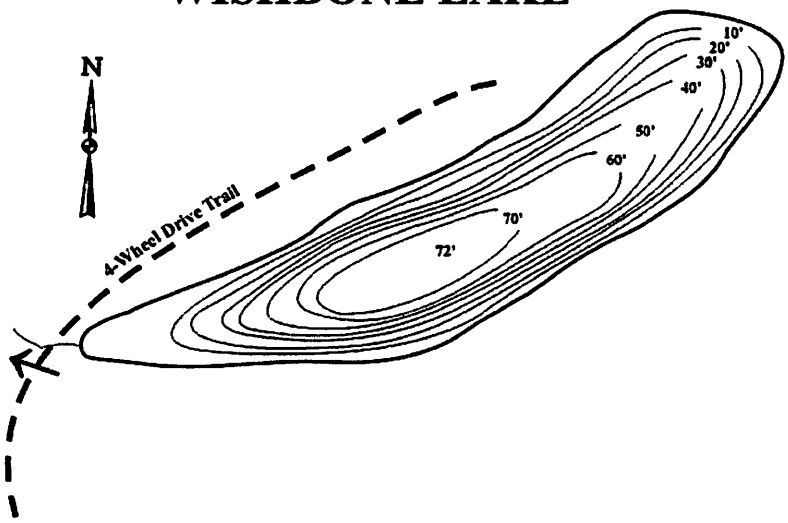
Fisheries Habitat

Eska Creek is the primary water body in this unit; however, Slipper Lake is important as a popular fishing destination. Eska Creek, Moose Creek, and Granite Creek provide habitat for resident fish species and are cataloged by ADF&G as anadromous streams. Coho, sockeye, and chum salmon are present, and coho salmon spawn in portions of these streams. While the portion of Eska Creek that has been documented to support anadromous fish lies outside the boundaries of the PUA, the protections applicable to anadromous streams are recommended for the entire watercourse. See the following Map, *Anadromous Streams and Waterbodies* for a depiction of those streams included in ADF&G's catalog of waters important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fish.



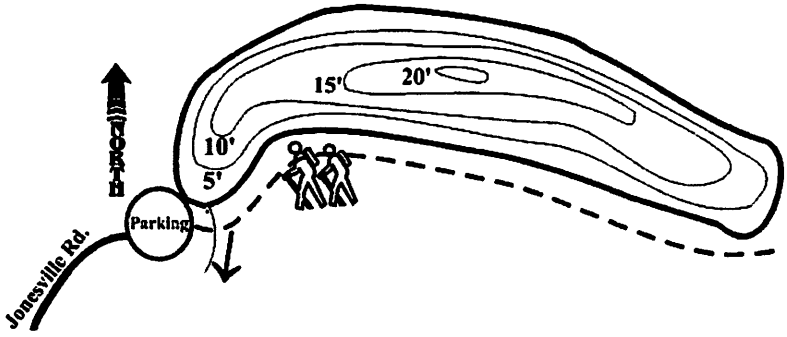
Wishbone Lake, located in the southwestern corner of the PUA, was first stocked by Fish and Game with rainbow trout in 1993. The lake has been stocked in most odd-numbered years with trout with the latest stocking happening in 2019.

WISHBONE LAKE

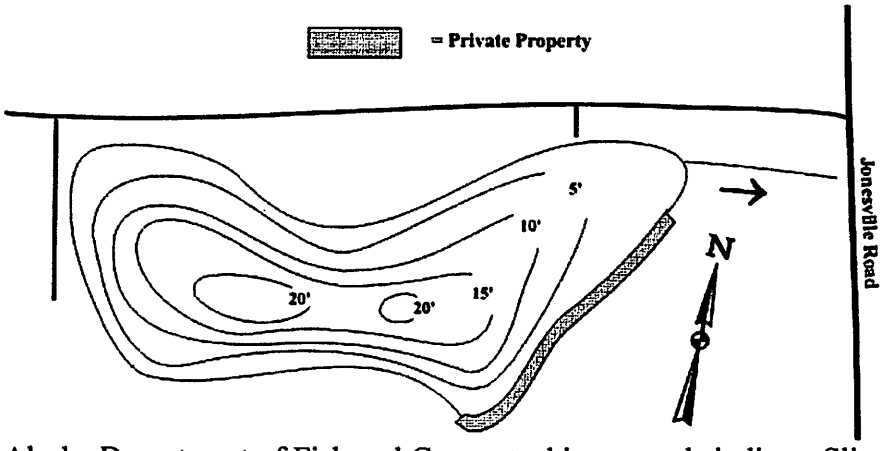


Similarly, Coyote Lake, located in the southeastern corner of the PUA, has been stocked by Fish and Game with rainbow trout. Stocking has recently occurred nearly every year since 2012.

COYOTE LAKE



SLIPPER (ESKA) LAKE



Alaska Department of Fish and Game stocking records indicate Slipper Lake has been annually stocked with Rainbow Trout since 1999. Stocking this lake began in 1992. The lake has a primitive boat launch.

Wildlife Habitat
See the section on Fish and Wildlife Habitat on page 2-8 for a detailed description. Given the corresponding boundaries of the PUA and this unit, this resource description is the same.

Commercial Use
It is unknown if this unit receives any amount of commercial use. Currently, no land-use authorizations for temporary or permanent commercial facilities have been issued by DNR in this unit. Commercial uses may include OHV, flightseeing, and ATV tours. Hunting and fishing guides may operate in this unit.

Facilities
The only developed facility is the primitive campground near Slipper Lake.

Trails and Easements
Numerous trails exist in the Unit. The primary trails in this unit are the Jonesville Mine Trail (ADL 52715, ADL 2181, ADL 229485-B), Seventeen Mile Lake Trail, (ADL 229485-B, ADL 52715) and the Elks Lake Trail (ADL 229485-D). The Premier Mine Trail (ADL 229485-C, ADL 56975, ADL 52715) enters the PUA from the west coming from Moose Creek, connecting to the Seventeen Mile Lake Trail.

The Premier Mine Trail (ADL 229485-C, ADL 56975, ADL 52715) enters the PUA from the west coming from Moose Creek, connecting to the Seventeen Mile Lake Trail.

The Wishbone Strip Mine Trail (ADL 20618, ADL 229485-E) is partially within a public access road right-of-way issued to the Evan Jones Coal Company in 1963. This trail may also overlap the Premier Mine Trail.

Eska Creek Falls Trail (ADL228840) was surveyed and issued a public use easement in 2004. Eska Strip Mine Trail (RST 1420) runs about 1.5 miles from the end of Jonesville Mine Road and is a legislatively designated multi-use trail.

These trails are the only recognized trails within the unit. The trails are not completely within easements. It appears some trespass occurs on several of the trails. The E. Jonesville Mine Trail may be in trespass approximately over one-third of a mile

Knob Hill Trail, overlapped to some degree by the Eska Creek Falls Multi-Use do not appear to be within easements and although the trails are heavily used and have been in place for decades.

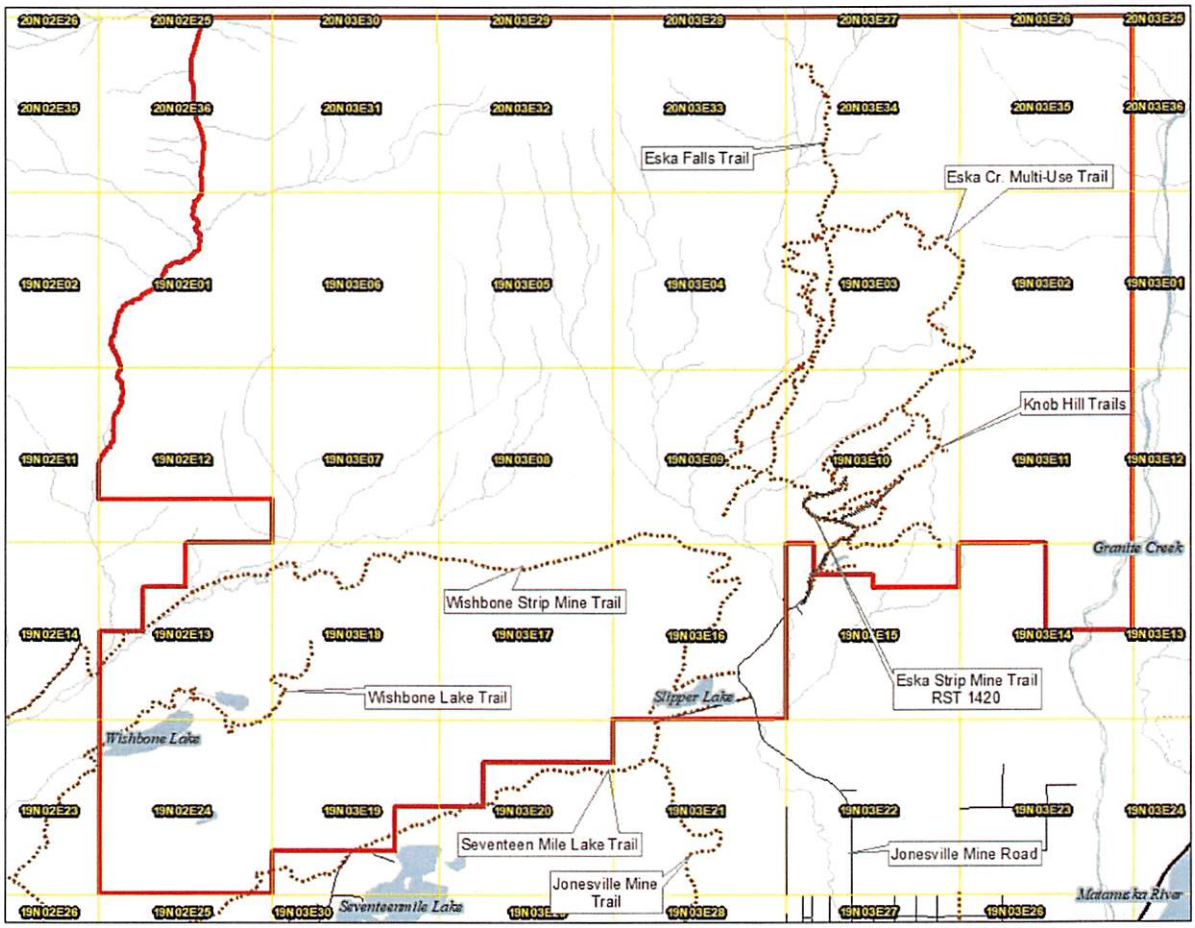
The Matanuska-Susitna Borough submitted an application in 2005 to DNR for public use easements on the recreation trails in this unit. Trails included in the application are the Wasilla Creek Headwaters Trail, the Seventeen Mile Lake Trail, the Premier-Baxter Mine Loop Trail, The Elks Lake Trail, and the Wishbone Hill Strip Mine Trail.

ADL 229485-B: Seventeen Mile Lake Trail: 5.85 Miles 35.45 Acres Located Within: T19N R2E Sections 24, 25, 26 Seward Meridian T19N R3E Sections 16, 19, 20, 21 Seward Meridian

ADL 229485-C: Premier-Baxter Mile Loop Trail: 6.59 Miles 39.94 Acres Located Within: T19N R2E Sections 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 34 Seward Meridian [not in JPUA]

ADL 229485-D: Elks Lake Trail: 3.00 Miles 18.18 Acres Located Within: T18N R2E Sections 1, 2 Seward Meridian T19N R2E Sections 26, 35 Seward Meridian

ADL 229485-E: Wishbone Hill Strip Mine Trail: 2.46 Miles 14.91 Acres Located Within: T19N R2E Sections 13, 23, 24 Seward Meridian T19N R3E Section 18 Seward Meridian
While these trails are recognized in the Borough Recreational Trails Plan (2016) more research is needed to determine if public use easements have been dedicated.



Cultural and Historical

Resources related to native cultures and the early non-native settlement may be present. Artifacts related to occupancy and use of the area may be located in the PUA. The historic coal mining activities and efforts to reclaim the old coal mines have disturbed a significant portion of the PUA. However, there are areas with high probability in the sub-alpine and alpine areas where significant cultural and historic resources may be present.

Coal was first discovered in the area in the late 1800s. The first mining began in 1916 at the Doherty Mine, which supplied coal to the newly formed Alaska Railroad. To secure a constant

supply of coal, the federally directed Railroad Commission opened the Eska Mine. It operated it until a major private mine; Evan Jones could meet railroad demand. The Evans Jones Coal Mine operated between 1920 and 1968 in Sutton, AK, where it produced over five million tons of coal. The area affected by coal mining (referred to as the Jonesville Mine) has been largely reclaimed.

The sedimentary rock bodies associated with the coal-bearing layers of the Chickaloon Formation and the Matanuska Formation include an abundance of terrestrial plant and marine fossils. There are nearly 350 geologic references for the Matanuska Coal Field listed in Alaska Coal – A Bibliography, 1982 (Julia Triplehorn) which should be referenced for more information.

Small samples of plant fossils can be collected, but they cannot be sold. And if it is a rare find, it must be turned over to authorities. Fossils of invertebrates, such as insects, crabs, clams and snails, can also be collected as long as they are common and only taken in small quantities. These must not be sold.

Issues

The primary issues are unsafe and unlawful activities, high levels of use, and trespass on private land that is occurring.

This unit receives a high level of use that is unlawful or that constitutes a threat to public safety. This type of use is facilitated by the relative ease of access to this unit from the Glenn Highway and the Seventeen Mile Lake and Jonesville Mine trails. Difficulty in accessing the PUA by two-wheel drive patrol cars has hampered efforts to increase law enforcement patrols. Dangerous and/or reckless discharge of firearms, destruction of private and public property, and the wrecking and burning of automobiles are a few of the major problems identified by the public. Many users have indicated that they do not feel safe recreating while individuals are shooting in the area. Several individuals indicated they had people unknowingly shooting at them while they were recreating.

Many members of the public cited a lack of law enforcement in the area as a major issue.

The second issue affecting management in this unit is the high levels of use, primarily around Slipper Lake. Because of the ease of access to this unit and its close proximity to the major population centers of Alaska and the community of Sutton, this unit receives the highest levels of use. The majority of users access this unit by means of a motorized highway and off-highway vehicles. Many users of this area recreate with OHV's on the numerous user-created trails developed in the forest and subalpine areas as well as on the recognized trail. Land in this unit is highly valued by motorized users for recreation and access to adjacent state land for hunting and fishing. The high level of use is causing impacts to the existing trails in addition to displacing some users from those same trails. Some users suggested they are displaced from the area because of conflict with other user groups on trails. Others suggested that trail rutting and debris on the trails made them unusable for some methods of non-motorized travel.

A general concern is how the increased use may be negatively affecting water quality in the area. Increased camping with no sanitary method of human waste disposal, along with increased shooting with no lead containment or cleanup, is degrading water quality. Dumping household trash, electronics, and junk vehicles are also negatively affecting water quality.

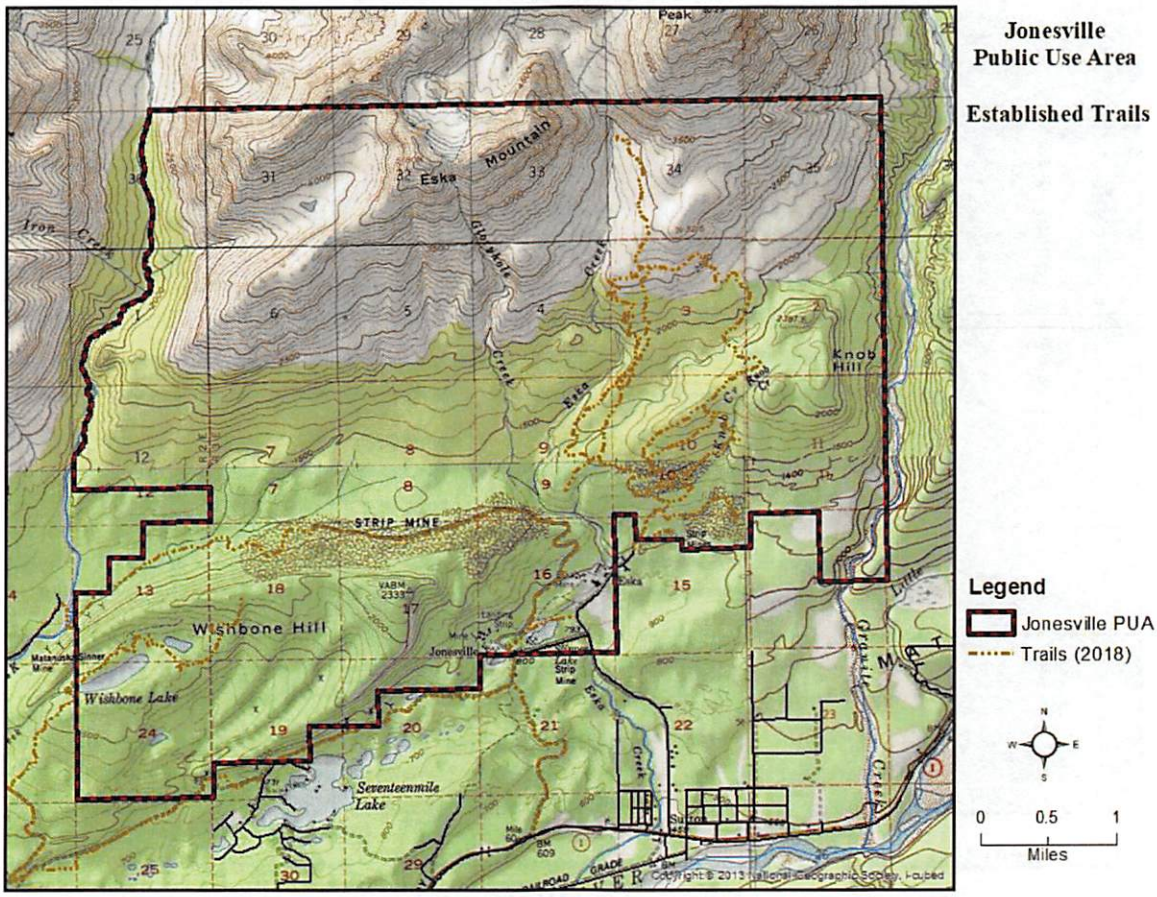
There are other issues concerning this unit that apply to the entire public use area. These area-wide issues are summarized in Chapter 2 rather than in every unit.

Management Intent

The management intent for the Jonesville Unit is to manage for high levels of public use, particularly at proposed parking and camping areas. Recreational opportunities will be enhanced by applying management guidelines directed specifically to this unit and the entire public use area. The unit will be managed to provide the full spectrum of public uses and increased use in the future while minimizing impacts of use on fish and wildlife habitat and protecting public safety. Facilities are proposed to be constructed at key locations that will enhance the public's enjoyment of the area, protect public safety, and minimize impacts on fish and wildlife habitats. The implementing agency will address trail use impacts to identified sensitive fish and wildlife habitats through the TMP described in Appendix D. A few key facilities, once constructed, along with active management and enforcement, will greatly enhance public safety and enjoyment in the PUA.

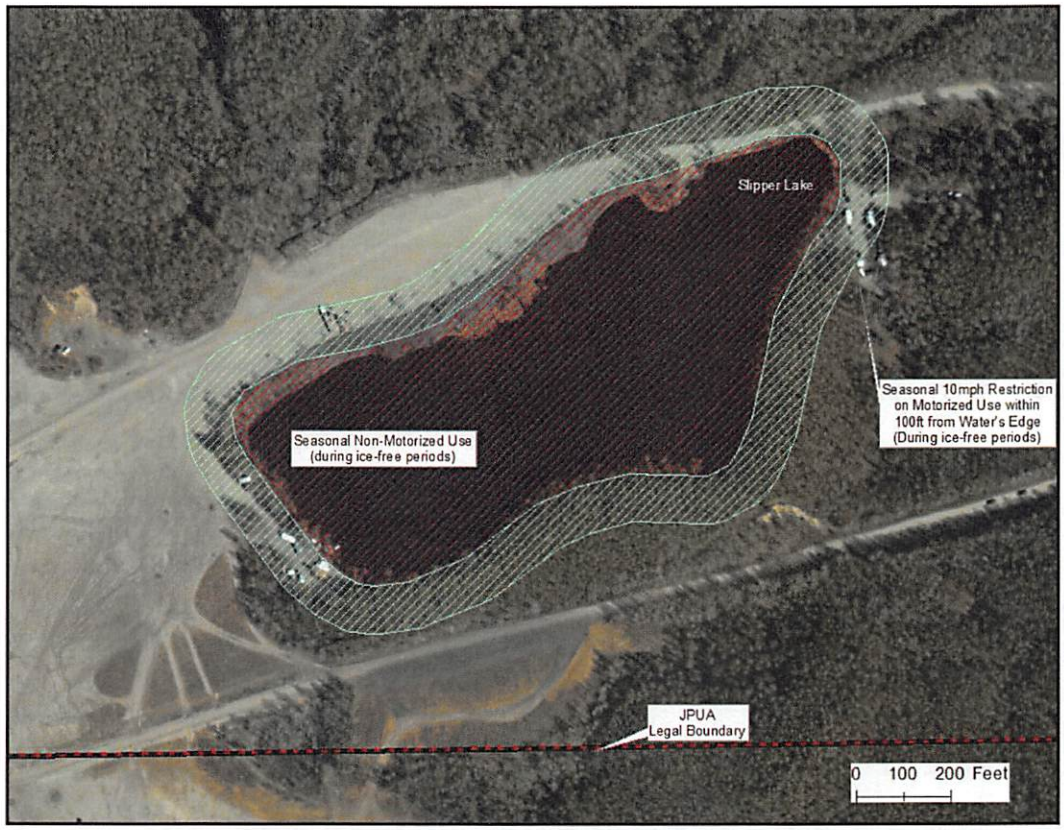
It is intended that OHV and highway vehicle use continues on the forested uplands adjacent to the Slipper Lake area and the remaining forested uplands with established trails. See the following Trails Map for a depiction of the established trails in this area. Increasing levels of such use are also considered appropriate. This plan has concluded that the continuation of these uses is appropriate in these areas and that rutting and ground-disturbing impact from these uses have minimal and an acceptable level of impact on the identified area. The TMP will address the potential impacts associated with the use of trails in all areas of the unit. Except for impacts related to rutting and ground disturbance, uses in the area described above remain subject to all local, state, and federal authorities for other impacts associated with their use.

This plan is committed to improving access along Wishbone Strip Mine Trail, Seventeen Mile Lake Trail and along that portion of the Knob Creek Trail used to access the trailhead for the Eska Creek Falls Trail from the end of East Eska Mine Road. The implementing agency will improve access into the PUA from East Eska Mine Road through road/trail upgrades and/or new road construction. These access improvements will be a top priority of the implementing agency because they will aid our enforcement strategy. These improvements will be reserved through easements, and they will provide needed access to law enforcement personnel and agency staff.



Management Guidelines

- The portions of the established trails on state land will be surveyed and reserved as a public easement to DNR as multiple-use trails.
- Motorized use on the waters of Slipper Lake will be prohibited during ice-free periods. Additionally, motorized use of the land within 100 feet of the shoreline of the lake will be seasonally restricted to no more than 10 miles per hour during ice-free periods. See *Proposed Waterbody Restrictions* on the following Map.
- Develop a non-motorized trail from the area of the Slipper Lake Parking lot to the Eska Falls trail. The implementing agency will explore available funding sources and will, in cooperation with local groups, work to secure this funding to identify a route and build this new trail for non-motorized users. The new trail will be reserved as a non-motorized easement to DNR.
- Develop a hiking trail to the top of Wishbone Hill.
- Develop a hiking trail from Seventeen Mile Lake to the top of the cliffs to the north.



Management Recommendations[1]

- The implementing agency should work with ADF&G to identify stream crossing locations that will minimize impacts to resources, including fish and wildlife, and the recreating public.
- Trail management objectives will be developed for all designated trails.

Facilities Recommendations[2]

- A camping facility will be developed at Slipper Lake; this camping area should provide restrooms. A day-use area should be built as a separate facility.
- Segregated camping facilities should be developed to accommodate different user groups:
    - RV with ATV campground
    - Tent with ATV campground
    - Tent with no ATV campground
    - Remote campground with only trail access
    - The initial campground should include a spot for a camp host
- A shooting range should be constructed, and recreational shooting should be restricted to the range. Following the adoption of this plan, sites will be evaluated for shooting ranges. Shooting range development should conform to appropriate best management practices.
- An equestrian center and staging area should be developed.

[1] In the Recommendations that follow, the words "may," "will," and "should" are used. "Will" requires a management action by the implementing agency; "should" indicates the intent to pursue a specific course of action given the availability of funds and the resolution of permitting issues. "May" means the same as "should." See *Glossary* in Appendix A for a definition of terms.

[2] "Should" indicates the intent to pursue development of a facility subject to availability of funds and the resolution of the permitting agency.

- A day-use area away from Slipper Lake should be developed in a more natural forested portion of the area.
- Sanitation facilities may be constructed in the area of the parking and/or camping facilities at Slipper Lake. These facilities should consist of toilets, picnic tables, fire grates, and bear-resistant trash receptacle(s).
- Sanitation facilities should be constructed at Eska Creek Falls Trailhead. The development of these facilities is dependent upon adequate staffing and funding for site planning and development.
- Time and use restrictions for facilities will be developed at the time they are constructed.
- Trailheads should be developed at major take-off points for designated trails in the PUA. Trailhead facilities should be designed to accommodate major user groups, such as longer, pull-through parking stalls for motorized and equestrian trail users. Trailhead maps should be installed that clearly show the PUA boundary to help reduce trespass. Separate parking areas for motorized users and equestrians should be provided. Amenities to facilitate each use should be included, such as an earthen ramp for unloading ATVs, hitching posts, and rock rings for horses.
- In the future, an evaluation of a potential area suitable for organized off-road obstacles could determine if there is a location in the PUA that could better serve the OHV user groups.

Public Use Sites
No public use sites are established.

Land Use Designation
All state land is co-designated Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat. All state land will be retained in public ownership.

Allowed/Prohibited Uses
All land uses (including commercial recreation) may be authorized except for uses/activities that are designated as "prohibited" in Chapter 4, page 4 - 4. Uses may be allowed if they are consistent with the legislation, pertinent state laws, regulations, and management guidelines.

Chapter 4: Implementation

Introduction 4-1
General Management of PUA Lands 4-1
Access to Public Lands 4-1
Trails Management Process 4-2
Jonesville Special Use Areas 4-2
Amendments to Current Area Plans 4-4
Land Classification Order 4-4
Enforcement 4-5
Title 38 Requirements 4-5
Authority of Management Plan 4-5
Allowed and Prohibited Uses 4-6
Proposed Regulations 4-6
Fees 4-7
Other Lands 4-7
Navigable Waterbodies 4-13
Coordination with Other Agencies 4-14
Procedures for Plan Review, Modification, and Amendment 4-14
Recommended Future Studies 4-15

Chapter 4: Implementation

Introduction

This chapter provides the basis, more specifically, for the management of uses and resources within the PUA. It describes the management actions necessary to implement components of the plan. It also explains the relationship between the plan, proposed regulations, and those regulations that will be promulgated subsequent to the adoption of the plan. It also describes the relationship between this planning document and other existing state, federal, and Borough plans. The procedures for plan review and amendment are also included.

General Management of PUA Lands

The implementing agency will implement the Jonesville Management Plan based on authorities as described in AS 41.23.280-280, Title 38 of the Alaska Statutes and associated regulations. This plan serves as the basis for the management of uses and resources within the PUA planning boundary.

All state lands will be managed consistent with the purposes provided in AS 41.23.280 and with the more specific guidance provided in this plan. DNR has already adopted regulations addressing significant issues of public safety. Additional regulations necessary to implement management guidelines in the plan will be developed subsequent to plan adoption.

Access to Public Lands

The implementing agency will ensure access to the PUA from adjacent state land through public easements, management agreements, or other mechanisms. Access along the E. Jonesville Mine Trail near the Glenn Highway will be reserved as a public easement (ADL 2181, ADL 229485-B, and ADL 52715). Similarly, access along the Elks Lake Trail will be reserved as a public use easement (ADL 229485-D). The established trails within the PUA on state land will be reserved as public easements. The implementing agency will work with neighboring property owners potentially impacted by public trails into the PUA to dedicate easements necessary to provide continued public access.

Trails Management Process

The implementing agency will initiate a Trails Management Process after the approval of this plan to identify existing trails and assess the level and impact of current use on fish, wildlife, and their habitat. The implementing agency should consult with ADF&G to determine if uses are having significant negative effects on fish and wildlife. The TMP will also identify where additional trails are needed to enhance recreational user opportunities or reduce negative effects on fisheries and wildlife habitat.

Details of the TMP are included in Appendix D.

Jonesville Special Use Areas

Certain lands, while not included in the PUA legal description, should be managed in a manner consistent with the PUA when the State or Borough acquires them or they become available for the implementing agency to manage. These parcels, or portions of parcels, are located adjacent to the JPUA; but were not included in the legal boundary of the PUA.

The first parcel is 60 acres of state land within the S½ NE¼ NE¼ and the SE¼ NE¼ of section 23, T 19 North, R 02 East, Seward Meridian.

The second parcel is 320 acres of land in the N½ of section 25, T 19 North, R 02 East, Seward Meridian.

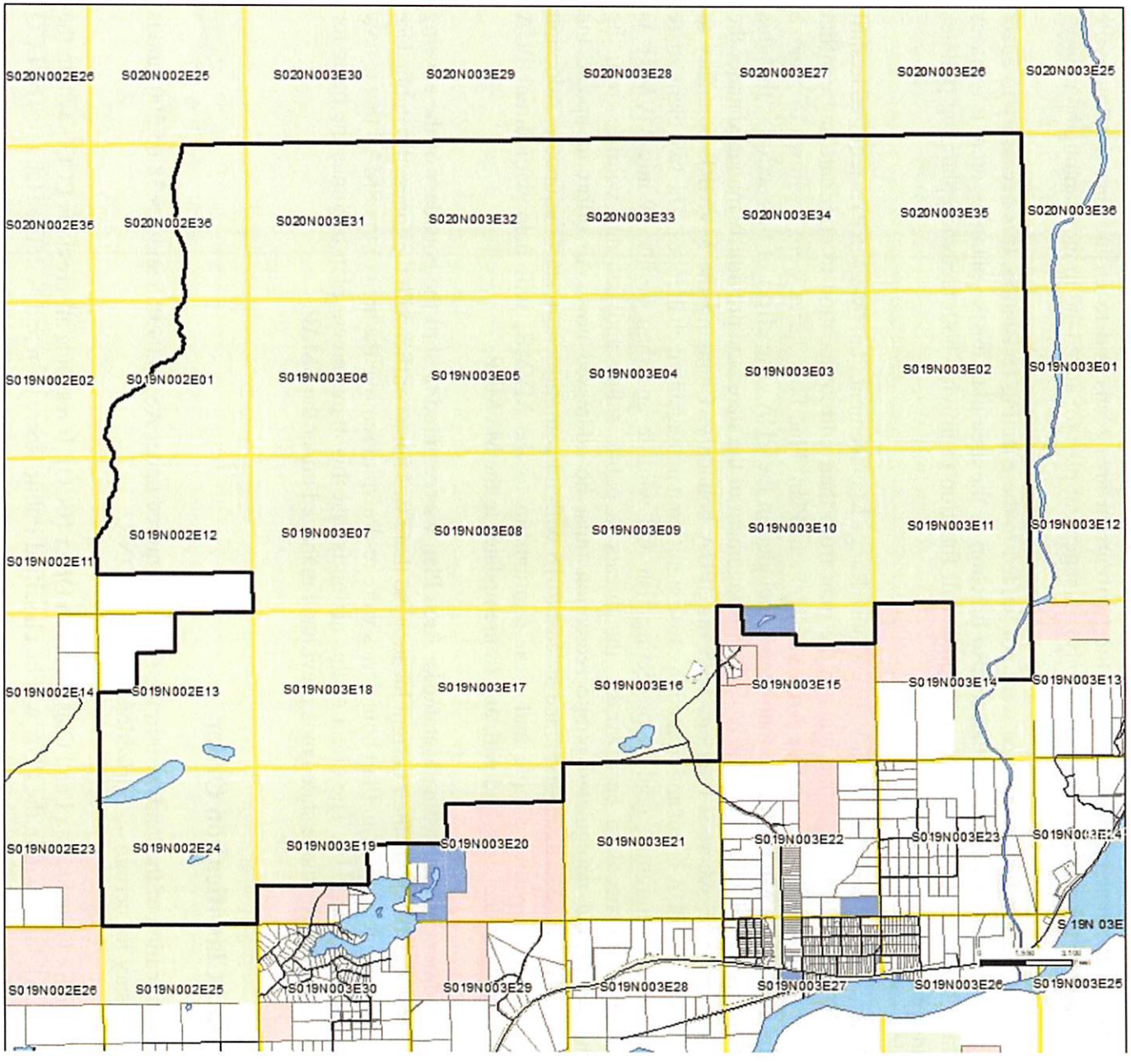
The third and fourth parcels comprise 640 acres of land in section 21, T 19 North, R 03 East, Seward Meridian.

The fifth parcel is 160 acres of land in the SE¼ of section 14, T 19 North, R 03 East, Seward Meridian.

These lands are owned by the State but were withheld from the PUA. There may come a time in the future when the reasons these lands were excluded from the PUA are no longer valid.

These parcels are proposed to be designated as Special Use Areas (SUA's) because of their proximity to the PUA and levels of use related to the PUA. These parcels should be managed in accordance with this plan and the proposed regulations to protect public safety and protect fish and wildlife and their habitat.

Parcels one, two, three, four, and five are proposed for designation as SUA's if appropriate. Any existing SUA will be amended to include these additional parcels. All of these parcels are to be managed consistent with the management direction provided in this plan for Unit A. Management recommendations and policies developed through the plan will apply to state lands within the boundary of the PUA and the proposed SUA's. See the following *General Land Status* for a depiction of the parcels mentioned above.



Jonesville Public Use Area

A.S. 41.23.280 - 41.23.289

Ownership

PUA Boundary
General Ownership
STATE
BOROUGH
NATIVE CORP
PRIVATE
UNIVERSITY

MSB/LRMD January 2019

Amendments to Current Area Plans

When adopted, the Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan will function as the land use plan for the area of the PUA under AS 38.04.065 authorities. Currently, land within the PUA is included in both the Susitna Matanuska Area Plan (SMAP), and the Matanuska Valley Moose Range Management Plan and both plans provide some level of management guidance.

Included in Appendix F are amendments to the Susitna Matanuska Area Plan and the Matanuska Moose Range Management Plan. Amendment of these plans is required to reconcile discrepancies between the management plan and the two current area plans and to ensure that the Jonesville Management Plan functions as the (only) management plan for state land in the planning boundary.

Since AS 38.04.065 authorities were not voided in the enacting legislation, it is necessary to enact the Jonesville Management Plan to also function as the area plan for the planning area. It replaces the two current plans but, when adopted, will function to provide both areawide planning policies and plan designations.

Amendment of the Matanuska Valley Moose Range Management Plan (MVMRP) is required to shift the boundary of the existing units in the plan from their current location to eliminate any conflict with the Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan. Plan boundaries were re-drawn to remove the area of the Moose Range that is now included in the PUA. The effect of this action is that this management plan becomes the basis for management of the state land previously managed under the Moose Range, where it overlaps with the JPUA boundary. Changing the MVMRP boundary to exclude the JPUA is not anticipated to cause significant management challenges. The two plans share the same overarching goal of protecting fish and wildlife and their habitat. While MVMRP is outdated and needs to be rewritten, the threats to public safety and fish and wildlife from the increasing and unregulated public recreation must be addressed now. An effort to update the MVMRP has been discussed since at least 2016 with no commitment to start the update. Adoption of this plan, with a simple and clear relationship to the MVMR, will help with initial PUA management decisions and with any future updates to the MVMRP.

Amendment of the Susitna Matanuska Area Plan was required to shift the boundary of the existing units in the plan from their current location, so there was not a conflict with the Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan. Plan boundaries were re-drawn to remove the area of the SMAP that is now included in the PUA. The effect of this action is that this management plan becomes the basis for management for those state lands previously managed under the SMAP.

Land Classification Order

Classification of the lands within the PUA is required under AS 38.04.065 and AS 38.05.300, and is necessary for certain authorizations issued by DNR.

Appendix G includes a Land Classification Order (LCO). It rescinds all previous LCO's within the PUA. All lands within the PUA will be classified Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat. The LCO

consolidates and supersedes all the various LCO's that preceded this planning effort. Prior LCO's classified the area as Public Recreation, Wildlife Habitat, and Resource Management. The new LCO is based on the enactment of the Jonesville Management Plan as the foundation for land use planning required under AS 38.04.065(b) and for classification under AS 38.05.300.

Enforcement

The implementing agencies should work with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and local law enforcement agencies to carry out law enforcement responsibilities within the Public Use Area. A Reimbursable Services Account to DPS could be established to pay for enforcement activities conducted by DPS within the KRPUA. The Reimbursable Services Account must be doubled to expand coverage to JPUA. The DNR may pursue authorizing employees as peace officers within the PUA; this authority was granted through AS 41.23.210. Appropriate training and policy will be developed prior to DNR employees becoming designated peace officers.

This plan includes regulations to address many issues identified through the public process (see Appendix C for regulations). These regulations directly resulted from input received during meetings and public comment periods. Additional regulations necessary to implement the plan will be developed subsequent to the adoption of the plan.

Title 38 Requirements

The legislation enacting the PUA mandated the creation of this plan to act as the basis for management. It did not, however, rescind Title 38 authorities related to public lands management. These authorities apply to the PUA except where a conflict exists between the enabling legislation, regulations, or specific guidelines contained in the management plan. In these instances, the management plan controls. This management plan has been written to avoid such conflicts, so it is envisioned that this situation will occur rarely.

All lands within the planning area are managed consistent with Alaska Statutes contained in Title 38, applicable regulations in 11 AAC, and existing policies except as they are amended or superseded by this planning document and subsequent regulations.

Authority of Management Plan

DNR management plans, once adopted, are the legally binding policy for the management of state land and resources, and they direct permitting, leasing, and other decisions made by DNR. Staff must follow DNR management plans when adjudicating authorizations for the use of state land. Further guidance on the implementation of this policy is attached.

Plans adopted by the Borough Assembly under MSB 15.24.030 (Comprehensive Plans and Purpose) provide the basis for implementing land use regulations. The Borough could adopt land use regulations to support implementation of this plan once its been adopted by the Borough Assembly.

Allowed and Prohibited Uses

All uses that are consistent with administrative regulations and the management guidelines of this plan are allowed. Land disposals and timber harvest (commercial and private[1]) are prohibited.

Proposed Regulations

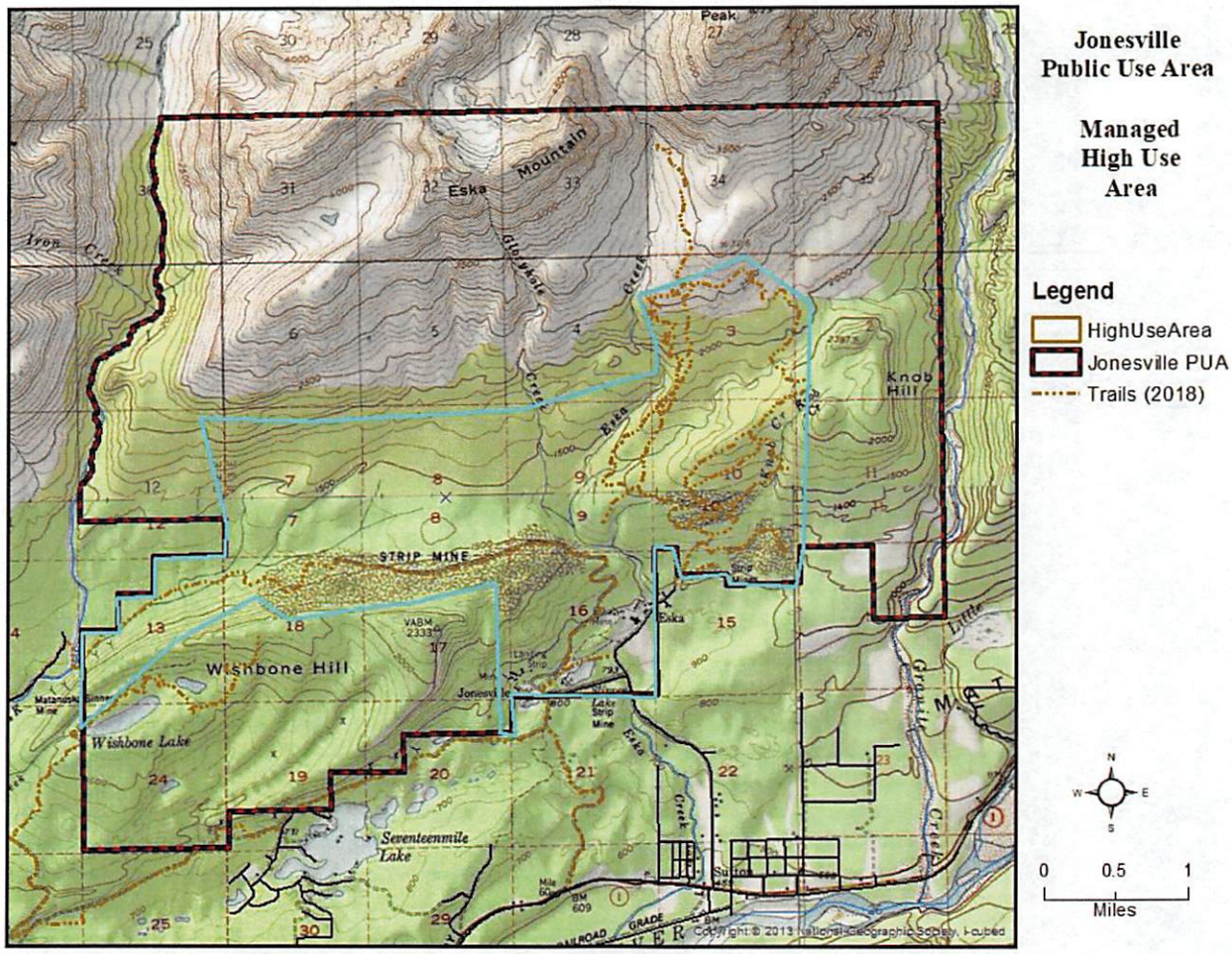
Phase one regulations must be adopted for the PUA. They should address issues of great public concern identified throughout the planning process. These regulations were discussed concurrently with the planning process and are consistent with the management intent, guidelines, and recommendations in this plan.

After the adoption of the management plan, phase two regulations will be developed. Phase two regulations are those regulations that are derived from the Jonesville Management Plan and are necessary to implement the plan. These regulations will be developed to address issues at discrete locations or areas. The implementing agency may consider additional or modify existing regulations in the future to address impacts to resources, public safety, or changes in public use. These regulations will undergo a separate public notice and review period after the final plan is adopted.

Regulations necessary to implement this plan include:

- Prohibition of vehicles (on and off-highway) on the Eska Creek Falls hiking trail and all future designated non-motorized trails.
- Establishment of the days and hours of operation for shooting range(s) and only allowing recreational shooting at developed shooting ranges.
- Prohibition of motorized use on Slipper Lake from May 1 to September 30.
- Limit speed of motorized vehicles within 100 feet of the water of Slipper Lake to 10 mph or less from May 1 to September 30.
- Restrictions on motorized use, camping, and discharge of firearms within public use sites.
- Amend regulations to allow ground disturbance and rutting in excess of 6 inches for the area managed for high use depicted on the following map.
- Additional regulations may be developed through a public process as needed by DNR for the management of the PUA to include but not limited to unauthorized activities at public-use sites, stream crossing violations, and commercial use violations.
- Limitation of speed on Seventeen Mile Lake Trail.
- Prohibition on recreational shooting off range within the high use area.
- Restrict camping throughout the JPUA to no more than seven consecutive days.

[1] Except for the types of forest management identified in the Forestry section of Chapter 2.

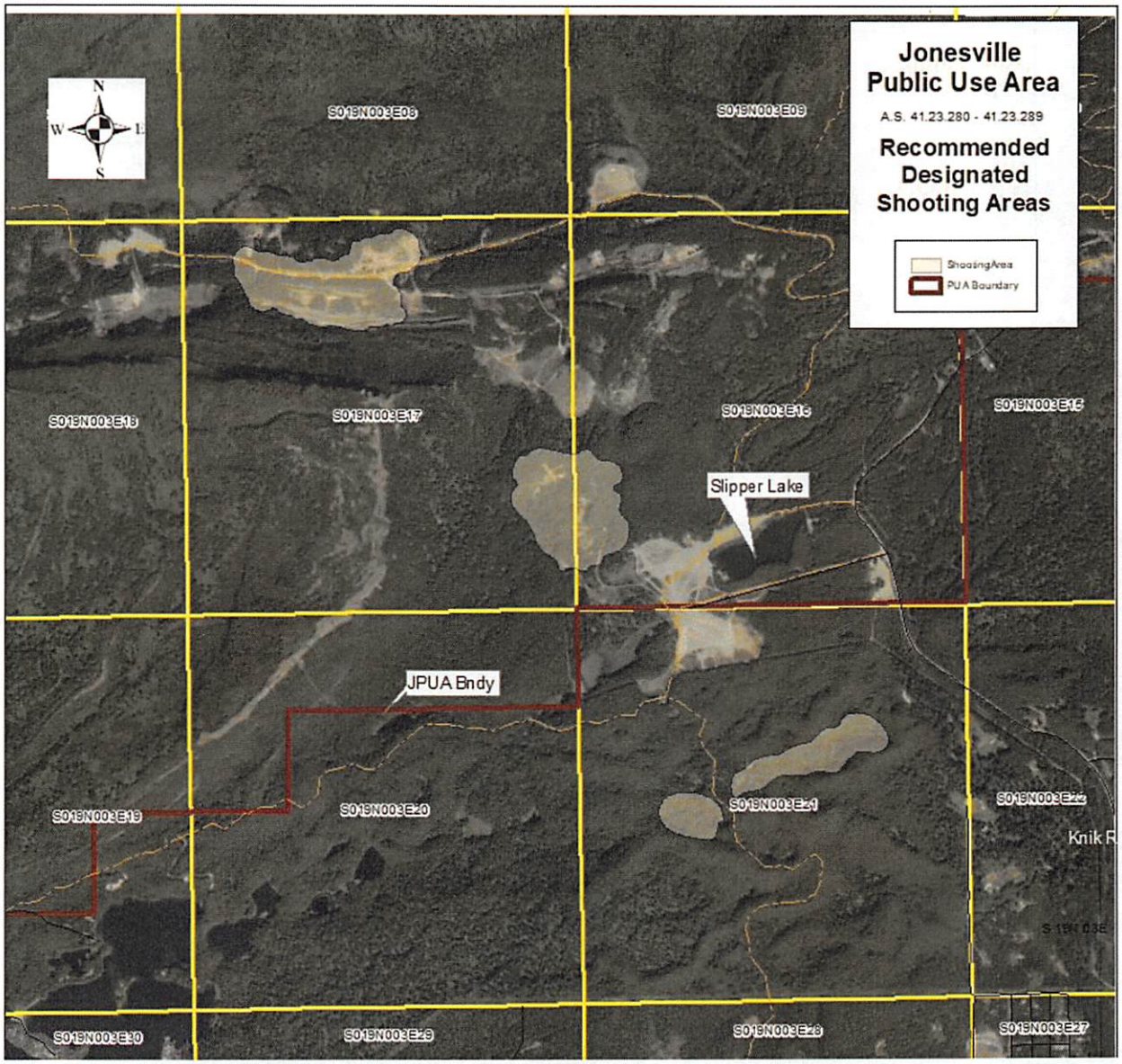


Fees

This plan supports the institution of a fee program to pay for facilities and management of the PUA. The implementing agency will recommend to the Legislature that a fee schedule be implemented for development and subsequent management of facilities and the ongoing management of the PUA. A fee schedule should not be implemented until such facilities are developed.

Other Lands

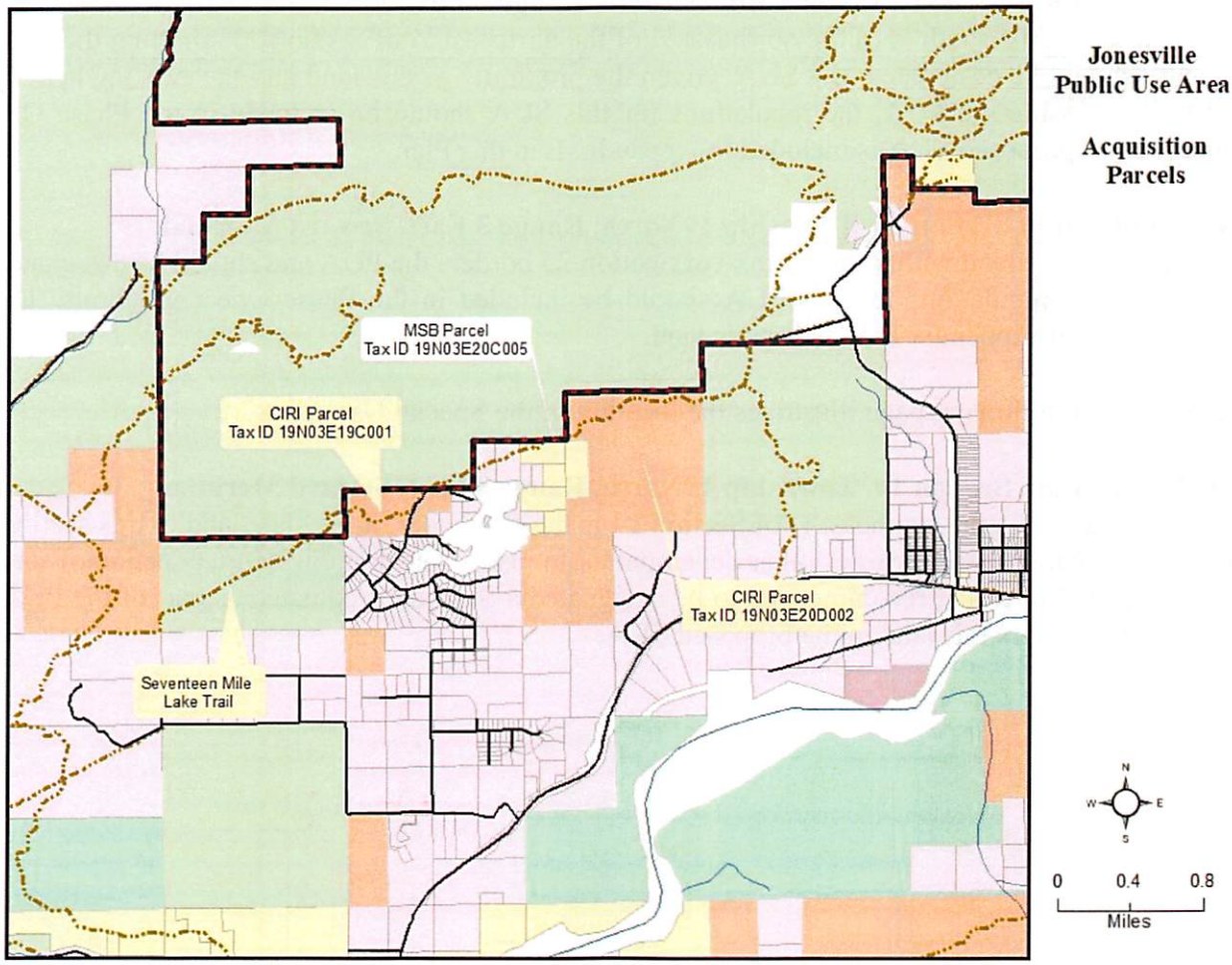
There are state, borough, and private-owned lands adjacent, but not within the legal boundaries of the PUA, that may have high levels of use and impacts associated with the PUA. The state owns thousands of acres of such lands on the eastern, northern, and western boundaries of the Public Use Area. The state owns 1,080 acres of such land along the southern boundary of the PUA The MSB owns approximately 45 acres of land adjacent to the southern boundary of the PUA where the Seventeen Mile Lake Trail enters the area. The Mental Health Trust may own land along the boundary of the area. Cook Inlet Regional Inc owns two parcels near the borough parcels also crossed by Seventeen Mile Lake Trail. Two private parcels are crossed by the trail.



The map shown above shows recommended locations for the development of shooting facilities. The northern location will provide suitable topography to shield the highest used areas in the PUA from the noise. The backdrop of the former strip mine would also provide significant baffles for firing lanes. The southern locations are more likely to be accessible year-round, although the noise from the shooting may be more noticeable from the high use areas. Development of a shooting range is the highest priority for facility improvements.

Lands crossed by the Seventeen Mile Lake Trail should be acquired and included in the PUA. Preserving and improving the Seventeen Mile Lake Trail is one of the most important improvements that could be made to support public access into the PUA and to support public recreation in the area.

The plan stipulates how the state land is to be managed and makes recommendations for these lands. In each instance, the intent is to provide consistent management for highly used lands adjacent to the PUA. Until they are included in the PUA, all acquired lands will be recommended as a SUA and will be managed consistent with the intent, guidelines, and recommendations for the PUA.



The following recommendations pertain to state, Cook Inlet Regional Inc, MSB, and private land outside of the legal boundaries of the PUA. These parcels of land adjoin the PUA and are currently used by the public for recreation and access, and the parcels essentially function as part of the PUA. For this reason, and to provide uniformity of management, their acquisition is recommended. These recommendations are mandatory on state land, but discretionary on MSB, CIRI, and private land until the parcels in question are conveyed to the state through the Replacement Land Process which is an agreement between DNR and the Mental Health Trust Authority as to how to deal with land conveyed in error to the Trust Authority. See the section on Parcel Acquisition in Chapter 2 for additional information related to these lands.

State Land within Section 21, Township 19North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian

State land within Section 21, Township 19N, Range 3E should be designated as a SUA. SUA designations are placed on sites and areas identified for more intensive management by the implementing agency. This designation should restrict some uses that would otherwise be classified

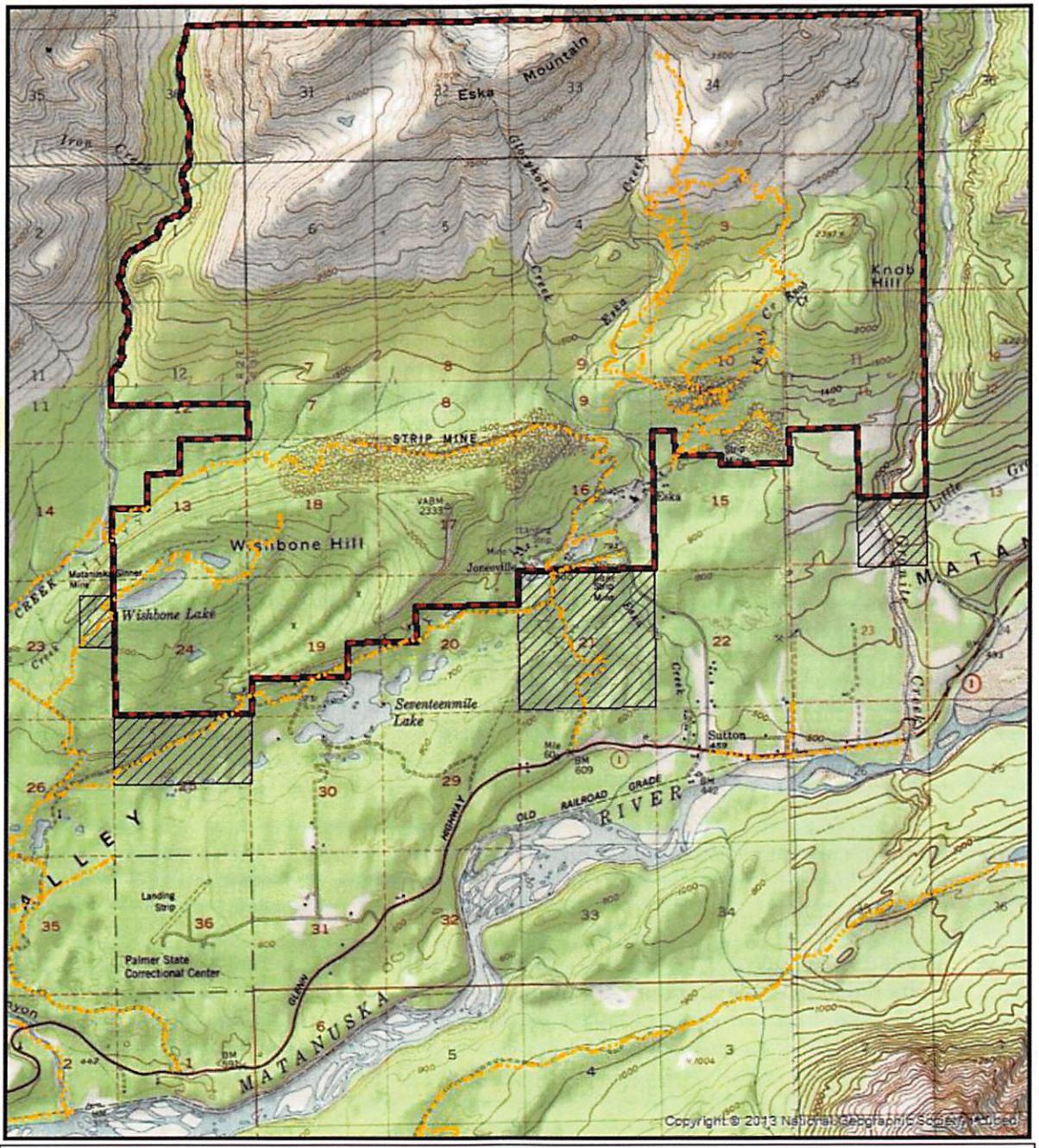
"generally allowed" under 11 AAC 96.020. The regulations for this SUA should be included in Phase One regulations. A proposed SUA is included in Appendix E in this plan. Recreational shooting should be restricted to designated shooting areas, from 8 am to 8 pm. Motorized use should be limited to established trails.

State Land within Section 23, Township 19North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian
State land within the south ½ of the northeast ¼ of the northeast ¼ of Section 23, abutting the PUA boundary should be designated as a SUA. Given the proximity of this land and the existing heavily used trail accessing the PUA, the regulations for this SUA should be included in the Phase One regulations. A proposed SUA is included in Appendix E in this Plan.

State Land within Section 25, Township 19North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian
Similarly, the state land within the north ½ of Section 25 borders the PUA and should be designated as a SUA. The regulations for this SUA should be included in the Phase One regulations. The proposed SUA in Appendix E includes this land.

The map on the following page illustrates the location of the Special Use Areas.

State Land within Section 14, Township 19North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian
The state land within the southeast ¼ of Section 14 is the remainder of the state land in this section. There are no natural boundaries or other development to justify keeping this quarter section of state land out of the PUA. It is recommended to be designated a SUA and regulated as part of the PUA. Appendix E includes this land in the proposed SUA.



Jonesville Public Use Area

AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289

Proposed Jonesville Special Use Areas
Map E-1

Legend

- Trails
- Proposed JSUA Lands
- JPUA Bndy

0 0.5 1
Miles

N W E S

Page E-3

Management Recommendations

- This land will be managed consistent with the management guidelines of the entire PUA, the unit-specific guidelines for Unit A. See Appendix E for specific management of land to be included in the SUA.
- This land will be recommended to the Legislature to be included in the legal boundary of the PUA.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Lands

The borough-owned land adjacent to the boundary of the PUA is not addressed in any of the land management plans of the Borough. Seventeen Mile Lake Trail is a regional access point to Jonesville. Borough parcel Tax ID 19N03E20C005 should be managed for public recreation. If necessary, a public use easement should be designated over the existing trail. This management intent is consistent with the legislatively designated purposes of the PUA and the management guidelines contained in the management plan. These lands should be designated as a SUA.

Management Recommendations

- The state should work with MSB to acquire the Parcel Tax ID 19N03E20C005. If this land is acquired, it is recommended that it be included in the legal boundary of the PUA and managed consistent with the PUA.
- Until the State acquires this land, DNR will work cooperatively with the MSB to ensure that facility development and other significant action that the Borough may undertake are coordinated with the eventual use of this land as part of the PUA.
- Once acquired by the State, this land will be managed consistent with the management guidelines of the entire PUA as well as the unit-specific guidelines for Unit A. The proposed SUA should include all acquired parcels. See Appendix E for specific management of land included in the SUA.
- Parking, camping and sanitation facilities may be developed at the Coyote Lake area after DNR has acquired those lands from MSB. The type and location of these facilities will be determined following a site assessment and design process.
- The borough parcel, Tax ID 19N03E20C005, will be recommended to the Legislature to be included in the legal boundary of the PUA.

CIRI Land

Because of its location and the possibility of trespass, trails in the vicinity should be redirected away from the CIRI land east of the PUA.

Management Recommendations

- Any existing trails outside legal easements leading onto CIRI owned land should be re-routed away from CIRI property.
- Trailhead signage should clearly demarcate the boundaries of the public land and caution against trespassing outside legal easements.

- Established trails in legal easements or on public land should be shown on trailhead maps and wayfinding signage.

Private Parcel
Some users access the PUA across private parcels of land adjacent to the PUA, including the private parcels on the north shore of Seventeen Mile Lake. These privately-owned parcels are currently used by many individuals in trespass. Other private parcels provide access to the PUA, but none have been identified for acquisition at this time.

Management Recommendations

- The state may purchase the private parcels or access rights across these parcels, on the north shore of Seventeen Mile Lake; this will only be done if willing sellers offer the parcels or access easement. If these parcels are purchased they will be managed consistent with the management guidelines of the entire PUA as well as the unit-specific guidelines for Unit A. The proposed SUA will include these parcels. See Appendix E for specific management of land included in the SUA.
- These lands will be recommended to the Legislature to be included in the legal boundary of the PUA.

Other Land Not Identified in this Plan
There may be additional land adjacent to the PUA identified for acquisition in the future. The state will only acquire land from willing sellers. The acquisition of any additional land is dependent upon adequate funding. The state may accept donations of land that will enhance use and access to the PUA.

Management Recommendations

- Once acquired by the State, the land will be managed consistent with the management guidelines of the entire PUA as well as the unit-specific guidelines for the adjacent unit. The proposed SUA will be amended to include all acquired parcels. See Appendix E for specific management of land included in the SUA.
- Land acquired to enhance access, and use of the PUA will be recommended to the Legislature to be included in the legal boundary of the PUA.

Navigable Waterbodies

This management plan is based upon the Public Trust Doctrine, which provides for access, movement and commerce on water bodies that are navigable. Under this doctrine, and the Equal Footing Doctrine applied in the Statehood Act, the state owns and manages all navigable water bodies (including the water column and the bed of the waterbody). This plan does not identify any navigable waters within the PUA. This notwithstanding, shorelands within the Jonesville are under state ownership and management. A complete description of the Public Trust Doctrine is included in Appendix H.

Coordination with Other Agencies

The implementing agency will coordinate activities with other state, federal and borough agencies as appropriate and necessary. Projects proposed within the planning area will be consistent with state, federal and borough requirements of law, ordinance, and code. Every effort should be made to coordinate with ADF&G on habitat improvements and moose population projects in the MVMR.

Procedures for Plan Review, Modification, and Amendment

Categories of management intent, policies, implementation actions, and management guidelines of this plan may be changed if conditions warrant. The plan will be updated periodically in response to new data or changing resource conditions or uses.

The various kinds of changes allowed in 11 AAC 55.030 are:

- "A revision to a land-use plan is subject to the planning process requirements of AS 38.04.065. For the purposes of this section and AS 38.04.065, a 'revision' is an amendment or special exception to a land use plan as follows:
    - An 'amendment' permanently changes the land use plan by adding to or modifying the basic management intent for one or more of the plan's subunits or by changing its allowed or prohibited uses, policies, or guidelines. For example, an amendment might close to new mineral entry an area that the plan designated to be open, allow a land use in an area where the plan prohibited it, or allow land to be opened to homestead entry in an area that the plan designated for retention in public ownership.
    - A 'special exception' does not permanently change the provisions of a land-use plan and cannot be used as the basis for a reclassification of the subunit. Instead, it allows a one-time, limited-purpose variance of the plan's provisions, without changing the plan's general management intent or guidelines. For example, a special exception might be used to grant an eligible applicant a preference right under AS 38.05.035 to purchase land in a subunit designated for retention in public ownership. A special exception might be made if complying with the plan would be excessively burdensome or impractical or if compliance would be inequitable to a third party, and if the purposes and spirit of the plan can be achieved despite the exception.
    - A minor change to a land-use plan is not considered a revision under AS 38.04.065. A 'minor change' is a change that does not modify or add to the plan's basic intent, and that serves only to clarify the plan, make it consistent, facilitate its implementation, or make technical corrections. Authority: AS 38.04.065, AS 38.04.900, AS 38.05.020, AS 38.05.300."

Recommended Future Studies

Management of recreational use and protection of fish and wildlife and their habitat may require periodic study and monitoring. The actions listed below will allow the implementing agency to assess the effectiveness of management guidelines and regulations to ensure management remains adaptive to changing use patterns or changing resource conditions. They will provide a base of knowledge on existing fish and wildlife populations and will allow the implementing agency to assess the effectiveness of management actions. All recommended studies and monitoring are subject to acquiring necessary funding and staffing. Recommended studies include:

- Continue to gather baseline data on resources, habitat, and fish and wildlife populations. This data will be collected from ADF&G and other available scientific literature. Baseline data gathering would allow agency staff to learn more about the habitat requirements and use patterns of the fish and wildlife resources throughout the PUA.
- Initiate a user survey to determine the type, levels, and location of use within the PUA. A user survey could also provide information on changing use patterns or if conflict situations exist elsewhere. The survey may include a section that addresses commercial use within the PUA.
- After the adoption of the plan, the implementing agency will work with ADF&G to monitor fish and wildlife, impacts to resources, and effectiveness of management actions. The intent is to determine if significant deleterious impacts are occurring to fish and wildlife, or other resources related to use in the PUA. Should monitoring indicate that these types of impacts are occurring, the agencies will work together to develop timely and appropriate strategies to address the deleterious impacts.
- If necessary, the implementing agencies will seek additional funding to carry out additional studies on impacts of use on fish and wildlife resources, habitat, and other state resources.

Appendix A: Glossary

This glossary includes definitions and terms used in the plan and on maps.

AAC. Alaska Administrative Codes

ADF&G. Alaska Department of Fish and Game

AHRS. Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

Anadromous Fish Stream. A river, lake or stream from its mouth to its uppermost reach including all sloughs and backwaters adjoining the listed water, and that portion of the streambed or lakebed covered by ordinary high water used by salmon to spawn.
Anadromous streams are shown in "The Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Salmon" (referred to as the Anadromous Fish Stream Catalog) compiled by ADF&G.

Area Plan. Prepared by DNR, area plans allocate resources and identify allowed and prohibited uses on state lands including uplands, tidelands, and submerged lands.

AS. Alaska Statutes

Authorized Use. A use allowed by DNR by permit, lease, or other mechanism.

BLM. Bureau of Land Management

Boat or Watercraft. A device that is used or designed to be used for the movement of people or goods in or on the water, whether manually or mechanically propelled, but does not include personal floatation devices or other floats such as inner tubes, air mattresses, or surf boards.

Camp or Camping. To use a vehicle, tent, or shelter, or to arrange bedding or both, with the intent to stay overnight.

Campground. An area developed and maintained by the Division of Mining Land and Water which contains one or more campsites.

Classification. Land classification identifies the purposes for which state land will be managed. All classification categories are for multiple use, although a particular use may be considered primary. Land may be given a total of three classifications in combination.

Commercial. An action or operation that generates income from the buying, selling, renting, bartering, or trading goods or services.

Commercial Recreation. Recreational uses of lands, waters, and resources for business or financial gain, such as guided sport fishing, guided and outfitted sport hunting and guided recreation.

Critical Habitat. For the purposes of implementing AS 41.23.200(d)(2) within the Knik River Public Use Area, critical habitat is defined as habitat that is essential to the perpetuation of a species of fish or wildlife within the Knik River Public Use Area.

DNR. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Developed Recreational Facilities. These include any of the following: sanitary structures including trash receptacles, campground, picnic area, rest area, visitor information center, swim beach or area, trailhead, and parking area.

Division. The Division of Mining, Land & Water **DMLW.** Same as "Division." See "Division."

DOF. Division of Forestry

DPOR. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Easement. An interest in land owned by another that entitles its holder to a specific limited use or purpose.

17(b) Easement. An easement across Native corporation land reserved under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA). Uses of the easements are limited to transportation purposes and other uses specified in the act and in conveyance documents.

Facilities. Includes buildings, parking areas, camping areas, a boat launch area or ramp, shelters/cabins, and sanitary facilities.

Facility Recommendations. A recommended type and character of facility consistent with the plans intent that allows the manager to use discretion in deciding the specific means for best achieving the intent based on particular circumstances and further site analysis.

Feasible. Capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, technical, and safety factors.

Fish and Wildlife. Any species of aquatic fish, invertebrates, and amphibians, in any stage of their life cycle, and all species of birds and mammals, found or that may be introduced in Alaska, except domestic birds and mammals.

Fish Spawning and Rearing Area. Area identified as important for fish spawning and rearing.

Goal. A statement of basic intent or general condition. Goals are not quantifiable and do not have specific dates for achievement; they are long-term in orientation.

Habitat. Areas that serve as a concentrated use area for fish and wildlife species during a sensitive stage of life, where alteration of the habitat and /or human disturbance could result in a permanent loss of a population or sustained yield of a species.

Leasable Minerals. Leasable minerals include deposits of coal, sulfur phosphates, oil shale, sodium potassium, oil, and gas.

Legislatively Designated Area. An area set aside by the state legislature for special management actions and retained in public ownership.

Locatable Minerals. Includes both metallic (gold, silver, lead, etc.) and non-metallic (feldspar, asbestos, and mica, etc.) minerals.

Management Area. An area established around identifiable features or resources used to reduce the effect of an activity or use on the feature or resources.

Management Guidelines. A specific course of action that must be followed when a DNR manager permits, leases, or otherwise authorizes use of state lands or resources. Guidelines range from giving general guidance for decision-making or identifying factors that need to be considered, to setting detailed standards for on-the-ground-decisions. Some guidelines state the intent that must be followed and allow flexibility in achieving it.

Management intent statement. The statements that define the department's near and long- term management objectives and the methods to achieve those objectives.

Management Recommendation. A recommended course of action that is consistent with the plan's intent that allows the resource manager to use discretion in deciding the specific means for best achieving the intent. Deviation from management recommendations requires written justification.

Management Unit. Lands that are similar topographically and have similar use patterns; in this plan there are eight units described herein.

Materials. Includes sand, gravel, rock, peat, pumice, cinders, clay, and sod.

May. Same as "should." See "should."

MHT. Mental Health Trust

Mining. Any structure or activity for commercial exploration and recovery of minerals, including, but not limited to resource transfer facilities, camps, and other support facilities associated with mineral development. The term "mining" does not refer to offshore prospecting.

Mining claim. Rights to deposits of minerals, subject to AS 38.05.185-38.05.275, in or on state land that is open to claim staking may be acquired by discovery, location and recording as

prescribed in AS 38.05.185-38.05.275. The locator has the exclusive right of possession and extraction of the minerals lying within the boundaries of the claim, subject to AS 38.05.185 -38.05.275.

MSB. Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Moose Calving Concentration Area. An area identified as having a higher density of moose calving than the surrounding habitat.

Multiple use. Means the management of state land and its various resource values so that it is used in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the people of Alaska, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; it includes:

a) the use of some land for less than all of the resources, and
b) a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the short-term and long-term needs of present and future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific, and historic values. [AS 38.04.910]

Native-owned land. Land that is patented or will be patented to a Native corporation.

Native-selected land. Federally owned land that is selected by a Native corporation but not yet patented.

Navigable. Used in its legal context, it refers to lakes and rivers that meet federal or state criteria for navigability. Under the Equal Footing Doctrine, the Alaska Statehood Act, and the Submerged Lands Act, the state owns land under navigable waterbodies.

Off Highway Vehicle. A recreational-type off-road or all-terrain vehicle with a curb weight of up to 1,500 pounds, including a snowmobile and four-wheeler.

OHA. Office of History and Archaeology, a Section of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

OHV. Off Highway Vehicle

OHWM. Ordinary High Water Mark

Ordinary High Water Mark. That line on the shore of a non-tidal river or stream that reflects the highest level of water during an ordinary year and is established by fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as clear, natural line impressed on the bank; shelving; changes in the character of the soil; destruction of terrestrial vegetation; the presence of litter and debris; or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding area.

Policy. An intended course of action or a principle for guiding actions; in this plan, DNR policies for land and resource management include goals, management intent statements, management guidelines, land use designations, implementation plans and procedures, and various other statements of DNR's intentions.

PLO. Abbreviation of Public Land Order. A PLO is withdrawal federal land from the public domain for specific purposes. In the PUA, PLO 3324 is a federal land withdrawal for the purpose of protecting public recreation values

Primitive Recreational Facility. Any structure that is not one of those listed under Developed Recreational Facility. These include user created airstrips, boat launches, or camping areas/sites.

PUA. Jonesville Public Use Area

SCRO. Southcentral Regional Office

Sensitive Habitat. Habitat determined by DNR to be important for a particular life stage of fish and wildlife. They are usually localized in an area and are usually characterized by a greater number and density of species than in adjacent areas. In the context of this plan, these areas are to receive a higher level of management than other habitat areas. If significant deleterious impacts occur to this habitat, local distribution level impacts may occur.

Serious Degradation. This term is used to refer to the amount of degradation that occurs on trails. It is meant to describe a serious deficiency in the tread of a trail, which is usually associated with specific, severe trail damage causing the tread of the trail to deteriorate to the point where it cannot be safely used by the public or where that use is seriously compromised.

Shoreland. Land belonging to the state that is covered by navigable, nontidal water up to the ordinary high water mark as modified by accretion, erosion or reliction. (See definition of Navigable.) Shorelands are generally lake bottoms or the beds of navigable rivers and streams.

State land. A generic term meaning all state land, including all state-owned and state- selected uplands, all shorelands, tidelands and submerged lands. See also definitions of state- owned land and state-selected land as well as definitions for shorelands. 'State Land' excludes lands owned by the University of Alaska, the Mental Health Trust Authority, or by state agencies that have acquired through deed.

State-owned land. Land that is patented or will be patented to the state, including uplands, tidelands, shorelands, and submerged lands.

SUA. Special Use Area

Sustainable Trail. A trail that conforms to its terrain and environment, is capable of handling its intended use without serious degradation. These typically do not require extensive re-routing and re-building of current trails.

Swan and Loon Nesting Habitat. The area of habitat that supports active nesting of trumpeter swans and loons.

Shall. Same as "will." See "will."

Should. States intent for a course of action or a set of conditions to be achieved. Guidelines modified by the word "should" state the plan's intent and allow the manager to use discretion in deciding the specific means for best achieving the intent or if the particular circumstances justify deviations from the intended action or set of conditions. See Directors Policy File 06- 01 for guidance.

TMP. The Trails Management Process

Trail. A trail has an identifiable tread and evidence of repeated use. In the PUA, DNR will identify trails that will be managed consistent with the TMP.

Tree. For the purposes of this plan, "tree" means a woody perennial plant with a single, well-defined stem, a definite crown shape, and a diameter at breast height of 5.0 inches or greater.

Trespass. To enter upon land without authorization from the landowner.

Trespass structure. A permanent or temporary structure built on land owned by the State of Alaska without benefit of an authorization by DNR.

Unit. See Management Unit.

Uplands. Lands above mean high water, ordinary high water mark, or lands that do not meet the definition of a wetland.

Use Level. A representation of the level of use occurring in a unit. Three use levels are provided in the plan. They are low, moderate, and high.

USFWS. United Stated Fish & Wildlife Service

Waterfowl Nesting Area. Areas of waterfowl nesting habitat adjacent to waterbodies.

Wetlands. Means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.
Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas.

Wildlife. All species, especially mammals, lining is a natural undomesticated state.

Will. Requires a course of action or a set of conditions to be achieved. A guideline modified by the word "will" must be followed by DNR land managers in the issuance of authorizations and other decisions. Deviation from plan designations, management intent, or management guidelines

modified by "will" requires a plan amendment. (See Chapter 4- Types of Plan Changes). See Directors Policy File 06-01 for guidance.

Appendix B: Proposed Regulations

Adopted and Proposed Regulations

There are two sets of regulations that relate to the management of land uses and resources in the Public Use Area. Certain of the recommendations in this plan can only be implemented through regulations. Recommendations that will require regulations are included in this appendix so that the linkage between the two are apparent.

Phase 1 regulations should be adopted for the Jonesville Public Use Area once the management plan has been approved. These regulations address many of the serious issues identified by the public early in the planning process.

Regulations necessary to implement the plan are summarized in the Phase 2 Regulations below. Consistent with statute, Phase 2 Regulations will be developed through a public process with an opportunity to review and provide comments on draft regulations. DNR may determine that additional regulations are necessary at some future date for management of the PUA consistent with this plan, statute, or regulation.

Phase 1 Regulations to be Adopted

11 AAC 96.016. Designated public use areas

(e) Within the Jonesville public use area as described in AS 41.23.286

1. a person may not leave a vehicle unattended for more than 72 hours;
2. a person may not transport a non-functional vehicle into the area;
3. without prior written authorization from the department, a person may not
   (A) operate a vehicle in excess of 10,000 pounds curb weight for private or commercial activity;
   (B) operate a vehicle in excess of 1,500 pounds curb weight on the Eska Creek Falls Motorized Trail, as depicted on the map entitled Eska Creek Falls Motorized Trail, dated June 15, 2020 and adopted by reference; or
   (C) operate a motor vehicle on the Eska Creek Falls Hiking Trail as depicted on the map entitled Eska Creek Falls Hiking Trail, dated June 14, 2020, and adopted by reference;

4. a person may not operate a vehicle in a manner that results in disturbance of wetlands or the organic mat to a depth greater than six inches without prior written authorization from the department; in this paragraph,

   (A) "organic mat" has the meaning given in 11 AAC 95.900;

   (B) "wetlands" has the meaning given "freshwater wetlands" in 11 AAC 112.990;

5. an open fire is subject to the requirements of 11 AAC 95.410 and 11 AAC 95.450; a person may not have an open fire larger than four feet in diameter except on open and non- vegetated areas at least 100 feet from forested land without prior written authorization from the department;

6. a person may not burn or cause to burn a wooden pallet, a vehicle, a structure, household or commercial refuse, construction debris, or non-naturally occurring materials;

7. a person may not place, dump, or discard waste or refuse;

8. a person may not place, dump, discard, or release hazardous substances, including those contained within appliances, batteries, automotive fluids, and electronic devices; in this paragraph, "hazardous substance" has the meaning given in AS 46.03.826;

9. a person may not construct or maintain a structure other than a temporary structure authorized under this chapter, and may not abandon a structure;

10. a person may not cut, collect, or harvest a dead standing or live tree without prior written authorization from the department; in this paragraph, "tree" means a woody perennial plant with a single, well-defined stem, a definite crown shape, and a diameter at breast height of five inches or greater;

11. subject to 11 AAC 96.020(a) (5)(E), a person may not erect a camp, structure, or facility, whether occupied or unoccupied, for more than 14 consecutive days for private personal use without prior written authorization from the department, and must move the camp, structure, or facility and all equipment at least two miles away at the end of the 14-day period; a person may not relocate a camp, structure, or facility to a site within two miles of the initial site for at least 96 consecutive hours;

12. a person may not, without prior written authorization from the department, discharge a firearm for purposes of target practice at a

    (A) target other than one made from wood, paper, clay, or like material; or

    (B) tree or other plant, whether live or dead, or at a target affixed to or placed on a tree or other plant;

13. a person may not discharge a firework;

14. except for the purposes of lawful hunting or trapping, a person may not discharge a firearm on or within the following without prior written authorization of the department:

i. within the boundary of the Jonesville Public Use Area, as defined in AS 41.23.230 except within a designated shooting facility;

15. except for the purposes of lawful hunting, fishing, and trapping, a person may not repeatedly approach fish or wildlife in a manner that results in the animal altering its behavior;

16. a person may not construct, develop, improve, widen, brush, or otherwise create a road or trail without prior written authorization from the department; and

17. a person may not damage, deface, destroy, or remove public property, or property leased or rented by the department or local government.

(f) Within the Jonesville public use area as described in AS 41.23.280, a person who fails to obtain or comply with the terms, conditions, or limitations of a permit required under (b)(1) or (4) of this section or registration required under (b)(2) of this section, or who engages in a use or activity prohibited under (c) of this section is subject to citation and penalty under AS 41.23.289.

Phase 2 Regulations

Phase two regulations are those regulations that are necessary to implement the plan. These draft regulations directly result from management guidelines contained in the JPUA Management Plan. Following the adoption of the plan, these regulations will be proposed through the regulation process and will go through an additional public review process before they are adopted.

- Prohibition of vehicles (on and off-highway) with a curb weight greater than 1,500 pounds on the Wishbone Hill Hiking Trail.
- Establishment of the days and hours of operation for shooting range(s).
- Prohibition of motorized use on Slipper Lake from May 1 to September 30.
- Limit speed of motorized vehicles within 100 feet of the water of Slipper Lake to 10 mph or less May 1 to September 30.
- Restrictions on camping and discharge of firearms within public use sites.
- Amend regulations to allow ground disturbance and rutting in excess of 6 inches for the area managed for high use depicted on Map 2-3 of the Plan.
- Additional regulations may be developed through a public process as needed by DNR for the management of the PUA to include but not limited to unauthorized activities at public use sites, stream crossing violations, and commercial use violations.

Appendix C: Trails Management Process

Jonesville Public Use Area Trails Management Process

Introduction

OHV use related to recreation, hunting and fishing has increased significantly in the Jonesville area in recent years. As a result, numerous trails have been created and areas that previously received little or no motorized use are now seeing frequent use. Some of these trails have been developed in sensitive fish and wildlife habitat areas. Others have been developed in wetlands, where repeated use results in degradation of the soil and development of multiple routes. DNR seeks to address trails impacts to wetlands and sensitive habitat through a comprehensive Trails Management Process (TMP).

Trails Management Process

The TMP will address existing and newly developed trails in the Jonesville Public Use Area (PUA). The TMP will provide an inventory of all trails to be managed by DNR, and provide an assessment of trail conditions and their effects on fish and wildlife habitat. The assessment will identify trails that have significant negative effects on fish and wildlife habitat, particularly waterfowl nesting areas, moose calving concentration areas, and fish spawning areas. Trails in wetland areas will be assessed to determine if they are having significant effects on soils and hydrology. Trails impacting other state resources will also be assessed.

Based on those assessments, existing trails determined to have significant negative effects on fish and wildlife habitat, or other state resources, may be closed, be re-routed, or face seasonal restrictions. These actions are consistent with the statutory mandate to protect fish and wildlife habitat so traditional use of the fish and wildlife populations can continue.

Through the TMP, DNR will identify potential new trails (non-motorized and motorized) for development. DNR may also identify existing trails that can be developed to a higher standard or expanded. Trails may also be identified for reservation as public easements for specific purposes. These actions are consistent with the statutory mandates to maintain and enhance recreation and to provide for a full spectrum of recreational opportunities.

The TMP will not address motorized and non-motorized uses that are allowed by regulation off of trails. Examples of this type of use include game retrieval, recreational use off existing trails, and recreation off trails when snow and frost conditions permit. In general, the effects associated with this type of use do not persist from year to year, and are minor in nature. These uses are subject to regulations at 11AAC 96.015(c). Trails associated with these uses will not be classified through this process.

DNR may accept and adjudicate applications to re-route, designate, develop, or expand trails. DNR may reserve limited use easements on trails developed consistent with Department authorizations.

All new trails authorized by the Department will be reserved through public easements, and be developed as sustainable trails. Sustainable trails are capable of handling the intended use without serious environmental degradation. By following landscape contours, utilizing terrain features, and shedding water, sustainable trails require minimal maintenance over the long term.

The foundation of trail sustainability focuses on initial trail design to maximize the resilience of the trail to use-related impacts, minimize resource degradation, and maximize user enjoyment. While initial construction costs may be more for sustainable trails because the tread length is often longer to meet controlled grade limits, reduced future maintenance costs should compensate for those initial investments. Integral to sustainability is a sound trail plan to meet user needs and desires within the trail location environment. This planning is the core for any successful trail project.

Trails Management Process Policy

Intent

This Trails Management Process is intended to be used for all classified trails in the PUA. The process provides direction and design parameters for trail planning, construction, maintenance, and condition assessment. Trail managers will implement the process following adoption of the PUA Management Plan with the following benefits in mind:

1. Maintaining and enhancing opportunities for the recreating public.
2. Manage use through proper planning, design and construction of trails.
3. Ensure long-term savings in maintenance costs.
4. Demonstrate that DNR is committed to managing uses, and the associated impacts, so future generations are able to enjoy the resources of the PUA.

Goals

The following goals will guide DNR in management of trail resources in the PUA:

1. Establish Trail Management Objectives for individual trails and trail segments.
2. Implement a standardized trail classification system, including general criteria and design parameters.
3. Support the creation of sustainable trails.
4. Develop an effective and efficient procedure for trail inventory and assessment.
5. Standardize trail terminology that is consistent with other public land management agencies throughout the state.

Process
The following text provides the general process that DNR will follow in the classification and assessment of trails in the PUA.

1. **Trail Management Objectives**
   Trail Management Objectives (TMOs) are defined as the documentation of the intended purpose and management strategies of a trail based upon the management plan or management intent of an area. TMOs document the Trail Class, Designed Use, Design Parameters, and other trail-specific considerations for both planned and existing trails. A trail may have different TMOs for sections of the trail that are or will be managed differently. TMOs are very helpful in providing information for subsequent trail planning, management, and reporting. Each classified trail should have TMOs identified based upon the unit's management or trail plan.

2. **Trail Classification System**
   The Trail Classification System is intended to provide uniform principles for trail classification, maintenance, marking, design, and construction. The Trail Classification System adopted by DNR is a close adaptation of the National Trail Classification System being formally adopted by most federal land management agencies, and therefore will be a major step forward in applying consistent terminology and management guidance on trails in the PUA. This system is based on identifying the Type and Class of an existing or planned trail.

   Only two Trail Types are referenced in this process: Terra (Standard) Trails, and Water Trails. Each trail is further separated into one of five Trail Classes, ranging from least developed (Trail Class 1) to most developed (Trail Class 5). General criteria are supplied to define Trail Classes applicable to all system trails. Trail Classes are further refined through Trail Design Parameters that offer construction specifications by the type of Designed Use, such as hiker, bicycle, ATV, motorized and non-motorized boating and snowmobile. Trail Design Parameters provide guidance for the assessment, survey and design, construction, repair, and maintenance of trails, based on the Trail Class and Designed Use of the trail.

3. **Sustainable Trails**
   A Sustainable Trail is defined as a trail that conforms to its terrain and environment, is capable of handling its intended use without serious degradation, and requires minimal maintenance.

   Trail "Sustainability" is a fairly new and progressive concept that is being discussed broadly within the national trails community. Certain design concepts that are time-tested, sound, and fairly simple, form the essential elements of sustainable design, while best management practices are currently being developed to guide overall trail management.

   Sustainable trails are guided by trail management objectives (TMOs) and constructed to design parameters that support intended use without impact to the

surrounding environment, which contributes to user enjoyment and protection of resources. Trail alignment and grades conform to the local terrain, while erosion is minimized and the tread stabilized. Sustainable trails integrate well into the environment and do not negatively impact the ecological integrity of the environment.

This process mandates that a sustainable trails be incorporated as follows:

- New Trails: All new trails will be built as sustainable trails.
- Existing Trails: As existing trails are repaired or re-routed, they may be upgraded using the Sustainable Trails Framework.

4. **Develop a Means for Trail Inventory and Assessment**
   Before trail maintenance and repair strategies can be fully developed, an assessment of trails and their condition must be made, based on the TMOs identified for the trail. While TMOs provide a vision for future trail conditions, Trail Assessments offer an accurate snapshot of existing conditions and what is needed to meet Design Parameters identified by TMOs. The difference between TMOs and Trail Assessments will help determine repair costs.

   Trail inventories and assessments require that detailed data be collected for each trail. There are several data collection methods being used in Alaska, from simple pen and paper technologies to sophisticated GPS/data-logger programs. Various methodologies will be reviewed during planned assessments and options will be considered based on their cost effectiveness and ease of use. No specific method is recommended at this time.

5. **Trail Terminology**
   Terminology referenced in this process has been adopted from many sources including the U.S. Forest Service, DNR, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, and the Alaska Parks and Recreation Association. Uniform terminology will also greatly benefit the application process for State Park's Recreational Trail Grant program or other grant and funding sources.

Trail Classification System Criteria
The trail classification used in this process is adopted from sources including the U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The five Trail Classes range from least developed (Trail Class 1) to most developed (Trail Class 5):

- Trail Class 1: Minimal/Undeveloped Trail
- Trail Class 2: Simple/Minor Development Trail
- Trail Class 3: Developed/Improved Trail
- Trail Class 4: Highly Developed Trail

- Trail Class 5: Fully Developed Trail

Trail Classes are an inventory convention used to identify applicable Design Parameters. Trail Class descriptors reflect typical attributes of trails in each class. Trail-specific exceptions may occur for any Trail Class descriptor, provided that the general intent of the corresponding Trail Class is retained. There is a direct relationship between Trail Class and Managed Use: one cannot be determined without consideration of the other. There can be only one Trail Class identified per trail or trail segment. The Trail Class for each trail or trail segment will be based on applicable land management plan direction, trail-specific decisions, and other related direction. The appropriate Trail Class should be determined at the trail- specific level. Apply the Trail Class that most closely matches the trail's TMOs.

Trail prescriptions describe the desired management of each trail, based on management plan direction. These prescriptions take into account protection of sensitive resources and other management guidelines and recommendations. To meet prescription, each trail is assigned an appropriate Trail Class (1-5). These general categories are used to identify applicable Trail Design Parameters and basic indicators used to help determine construction and/or maintenance costs. These classes have been adapted from the U.S. Forest Service. The General Criteria below define each Trail Class and are applicable to all system trails. Trail Class descriptions define "typical" attributes, and exceptions may occur for any attribute.

Trail Attributes	Trail Class 1 *Minimal/Undeveloped Trail*	Trail Class 2 *Simple/Minor Development Trail*	Trail Class 3 *Developed/Improved Trail*	Trail Class 4 *H[redacted]Developed Trail*	Trail Class 5 *Fully Developed Trail*
General Criteria Physical Characteristics to be Applied to all Designated Trails					
Tread & Traffic Flow	Tread intermittent and often indistinct May require route finding Native materials only	Tread discernible and continuous, but narrow and rough Few or no allowances constructed for passing Native materials	Tread obvious and continuous Width accommodates unhindered one-lane travel (occasional allowances constructed for passing) Typically native materials	Tread wide and relatively smooth with few irregularities Width may consistently accommodate two-lane travel Native or imported materials May be hardened	Width generally accommodates two-lane and two-directional travel, or provides frequent passing turnouts Commonly hardened with asphalt or other imported material
Obstacles	Obstacles common Narrow passages; brush, steep grades, rocks and logs present	Obstacles occasionally present Blockages cleared to define route and protect resources Vegetation may encroach into trailway	Obstacles infrequent Vegetation cleared outside of trailway	Few or no obstacles exist Grades typically <12% Vegetation cleared outside of trailway	No obstacles Grades typically <8%
Constructed Features & Trail Elements	Minimal to non-existent Drainage is functional No constructed bridges or foot crossings	Structures are of limited size, scale, and number Drainage functional Structures adequate to protect trail infrastructure and resources Primitive crossings and fords	Trail structures (walls, steps, drainage, raised trail) may be common and substantial Trail bridges as needed for resource protection and appropriate access	Structures frequent and substantial Substantial trail bridges are appropriate at water crossings Trailside amenities may be present	Structures frequent or continuous; may include curbs, handrails, trailside amenities, and boardwalks Drainage structures frequent; may include culverts and road-like designs

Trail Attributes	Trail Class 1 *Minimal/Undeveloped Trail*	Trail Class 2 *Simple/Minor Development Trail*	Trail Class 3 *Developed/Improved Trail*	Trail Class 4 *Highly Developed Trail*	Trail Class 5 *Fully Developed Trail*
General Criteria Physical Characteristics to be Applied to all Designated Trails					
Signs	Minimum required Generally limited to regulation and resource protection No destination signs present	Minimum required for basic direction Generally limited to regulation and resource protection Typically very few or no destination signs present	Regulation, resource protection, user reassurance Directional signs at junctions, or when confusion is likely Destination signs typically present Informational and interpretive signs may be present	Wide variety of signs likely present Informational signs likely Interpretive signs possible Trail Universal Access information likely displayed at trailhead	Wide variety of signage is present Information and interpretive signs likely Trail Universal Access information is typically displayed at trailhead
Typical Experience	Natural, unmodified	Natural, essentially unmodified	Natural, primarily unmodified	May be modified	Can be highly modified Commonly associated with Visitor Centers or high-use recreation sites

Appendix D: Special Use Area Designation

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING LAND, AND WATER

JONESVILLE SPECIAL USE AREA

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is establishing a Special Use Area (SUA) to regulate certain activities on five parcels of state land totaling 1,180 acres. The first parcel is 60 acres of state land within the S½ NE¼ NE¼ and the SE¼ NE¼ of section 23, T 19 North, R 02 East, Seward Meridian. The second parcel is 320 acres of land in the N½ of section 25, T 19 North, R 02 East, Seward Meridian. The third and fourth parcels comprise 640 acres of land in section 21, T 19 North, R 03 East, Seward Meridian. The fifth parcel is 160 acres of land in the SE¼ of section 14, T 19 North, R 03 East, Seward Meridian. These lands are depicted on the accompanying map titled *Proposed Jonesville Special Use Areas*. These lands are hereinafter, referred to as Jonesville Special Use Area (JSUA), adjacent to the boundary of the Jonesville Public Use Area (PUA), and created under (AS 41.23.280-289). This SUA creates this area and restricts specific uses on state lands and waters within the designated area.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION
All interests in the uplands in Seward Meridian, Township 19 North, Range 2 East, Section 23, S½ NE¼ NE¼ and SE ¼; Township 19 North, Range 2 East Section 25, N½; Township 19 North, Range 3 East, Section 21, All; Township 19 North, Range 3 East, Section 14, SE¼.

AUTHORITY
AS 38.05.020

BACKGROUND
These parcels have been identified for designation as a special use area as they are owned by the state. The identified parcels are functionally part of the PUA and receive high use levels and impacts associated with use of the PUA. A management plan and regulations have been developed for the PUA, and these regulations manage uses and activities in the PUA and are also applicable to the JSUA, except for enforcement, which can only occur in the PUA.

The accompanying map illustrates the five parcels that will be included in the JSUA.

PURPOSE
A SUA is a designation placed on certain land identified as having special resource values(s) needing protection. The result of this designation is to restrict specific activities that would otherwise be considered "generally allowed" under 11 AAC 96.020.

These lands are being designated as the JSUA because they currently receive high levels of use related to the PUA, have several main access routes into the JPUA, and receive

high levels of impacts related to use of the PUA. The identified lands are located adjacent to the boundary of the JPUA, and are functionally a part of the PUA. It is the intent of this designation to manage these lands in conjunction with the adjacent Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan to insure comprehensive management of the lands affected by recreational use in the Jonesville area.

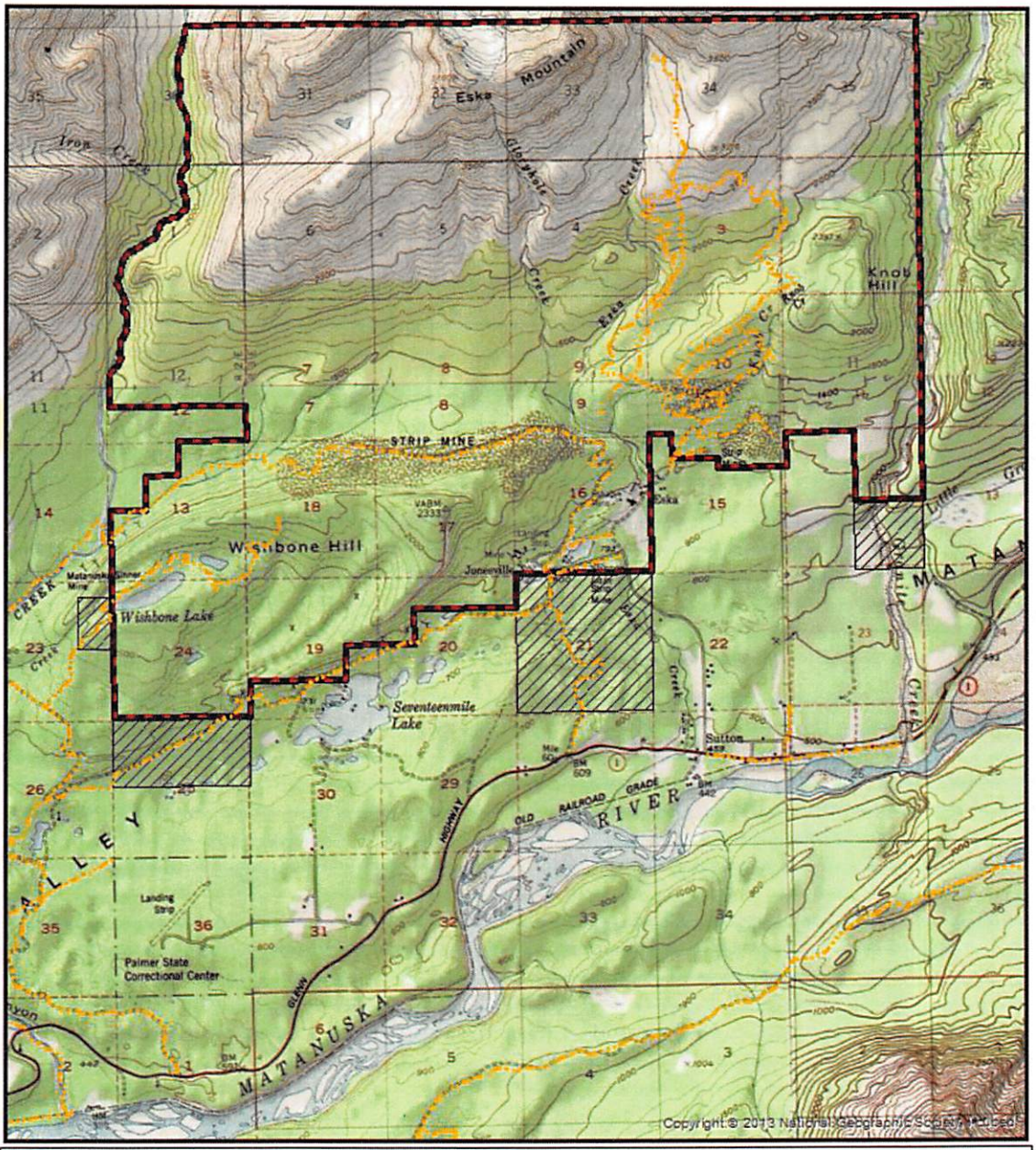
RESTRICTED USES AND ACTIVITIES

The restrictions detailed in 11AAC96.015(d) and regulations developed subsequent to the adoption of the Management Plan shall also apply to those lands described in the JSUA.

DESCISION

I find these actions to be consistent with the Department of Natural Resources management authority, the management intent of the Jonesville Public Use Area, the JPUA Management Plan, and with the draft regulations intended to manage the JPUA. These actions are in the overall best interest of the State.

Director Division of Mining, Land and Water Department of Natural Resources State of Alaska	Date



Jonesville Public Use Area

AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289

Proposed Jonesville Special Use Areas
Map E-1

Legend

- Trails
- Proposed JSUA Lands
- JPUA Bndy

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Page E-3

Appendix E: Plan Amendments

(Note: Because a plan is affected by the Jonesville PUA Management Plan, the Matanuska Valley Moose Range Management Plan had to be revised. The plan amendments follow.)

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER

Matanuska Valley Moose Range Management Plan
Amendment for
Jonesville Public Use Area
(LCO SC-XX-XXX)

Background

The Matanuska Valley Moose Range Management Plan (MVMRP) was adopted in October 1986 and has guided the management of State land throughout much of the Matanuska Valley, including the Jonesville area. In 2017, the Jonesville Public Use Area (PUA), encompassing approximately 14,614 acres of State land was established as a Legislative Designated Area under AS 41.23.280-289. This legislation required the preparation of a management plan by the DNR Commissioner, the intent of which is to provide a detailed management strategy for State land within the PUA.

The boundary of the PUA overlaps portions of the Western Subunit of the MVMRP. Because the PUA provides a more detailed approach to state land management in this area and because the legislature intended for the PUA to guide state land and resource management in this area, it is appropriate to amend the MVMRP. The PUA management plan will function as a state land use plan in this area as well as provide an overall management approach to the use and management of State land. That is, the Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan (Plan) is to provide both the area management policies and management guidelines that are typically contained in Chapter 2 of such plans and the plan designations and management intent statements that are characteristic of Chapter 3.

This amendment does not affect Leasehold Location Orders or Mineral Orders in place before the enactment of the PUA. Land Classification Order SC-XX-XXX accompanies this Amendment, reclassifying the entirety of the PUA area to the co-designation of Public Recreation Land and Wildlife Habitat Land.

Current Plan Requirements

Within the MVMRP the Western Subunit is currently designated Wildlife Habitat. The MVMRP management intent recommends that these areas be managed to protect and improve fish and wildlife habitat while allowing public recreation opportunities to continue. A portion of the affected area is recommended for legislative designation as state recreation area.

Proposed Amendment

The boundary of the MVRMP is amended to exclude those lands that are within the MVMRP (Western Subunit) that coincide with lands in the PUA. The lands within these townships are now part of the PUA. Where the Plan overlaps the MVRMP (Western Subunit), this

amendment rescinds all current MVMR management plan requirements and recommendations, and functions as the land use plan under AS 38.04.065 for this area.

The management intent, plan designations, and management guidelines for these lands is described in detail within the Plan; this management plan shall function as the management strategy for these lands.

LCO SC-XX-XXX classifies land within the PUA as Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat. Reclassification is necessary since this Plan will function as a state land use plan as well as the management plan. This LCO is based upon the plan designations contained in the Plan, which co-designates state land as Public Recreation-Dispersed and Habitat.

Alternatives Considered
Two alternatives were considered in the drafting of this amendment:

A. Null Alternative – status quo. The MVMRP would continue to be used as the guiding management document for the PUA.
B. Amendment of MVMRP as outlined by this plan amendment. This alternative will provide more detailed management guidance to the Department in decisions for the PUA.

Recommendation
Alternative B is the preferred course of action. The amendment to the MVMRP is necessary to clarify and direct the specific management of PUA lands. Alternative A has been given due consideration and has been determined not to provide the necessary management directions necessary for the PUA under AS 41.23.230.

Evaluation of AS 38.05.065 (b) Requirements
This section of Statute requires that certain factors be considered as part of a plan 'revision'. These factors have all been considered and are summarized as follows:

Multiple Use and Sustained Yield: Multiple Use and sustained yield, as stipulated in AS 41.23.230, has been given due consideration in this amendment. A detailed analysis can be found in the main body of the PUA plan.

Evaluation of physical, economic, and social factors: A thorough evaluation of these factors has taken place as a primary aspect of the development of the PUA plan and this amendment.

Planning and Classification for Settlement: Settlement has been determined to not be compatible with AS 41.23.230. Settlement of any portion of the PUA would create potential conflicts of surface uses and goes against the legislative directives.

Land Inventory: A land inventory was prepared as part of this plan amendment and as part of the PUA. Land Status maps as well as accompanying land statistics can be found in the Knik River Public Use Area Management Plan.

Alternative Present and Future Uses: These uses were considered as part of the directive in AS 41.23.280. This area has been designated as a public use area by the legislature.

Adjacent non-state lands: The adjacent lands include private, borough, and native lands. All of the adjacent land uses have been considered and deemed compatible and adjacent landowners have been invited to participate in the planning process.

Potential Conflicts between mining and surface uses: Several mining claims / mineral leases are within the PUA. These uses are compatible with, and will not be excluded by, the management plan. There are no foreseen conflicts of uses in this regard.

Public Participation: the public is being given several opportunities to comment on this proposal in conjunction with the proposed PUA management plan.

Approved

_____

Commissioner Date
Department of Natural Resources
State of Alaska

_____

Commissioner Date
Department of Fish and Game
State of Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER

LAND CLASSIFICATION ORDER NO. SC-XX-XXX

I. Name: Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan within the former area of the Matanuska Valley Moose Range Management Plan.

II. The classifications in Part Ill are based on written justification contained in the adopted Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan and the plan amendments to the Matanuska Valley Moose Range Management Plan dated

Area Plan: Matanuska Valley Moose Range Management Plan (Specifically, the former areas within the management plans that are now managed under the Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan.)
Adopted (X) Revised () Dated October 1986

Management Plan: Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan
Adopted (X) Revised () Dated _____

Site Specific Plan:
Adopted ( ) Revised ( ) Dated ____

III.

Legal Description	Acreage	Acquisition Authority	Existing Classification	Classification by this action
See plan maps[1]	**14,574**		**Wildlife habitat, coal, forest**	**Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat**

IV. This order is issued under the authority granted by AS 38.04.065 and AS 38.05.300 to the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. The above described lands are hereby designated and classified as indicated. All previous classifications are superseded by this LCO. Nothing shall prevent the reclassification of these lands if warranted in the public interest.

Classified:_____ Date:_____
Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources

[1] Note: 'plan maps' refer to the maps in the Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan

Appendix G: Public Trust Doctrine

The Public Trust Doctrine provides that public trust lands, waters and living resources in a state are held by the state in trust for the benefit of all the people, and establishes the right of the public to fully utilize the public trust lands, waters, and resources for a wide variety of public uses. Each state has the authority and responsibility for managing these public trust assets to assure the public rights are upheld.

The Public Trust Doctrine applies whenever navigable waters or the lands beneath those waters are altered, developed, conveyed, or otherwise managed. It also applies whether the trust lands are publicly or privately owned. Public trust lands are generally those lands below navigable waters, with the upper boundary being the ordinary high water mark. Tidelands, shore lands of navigable lakes and rivers, as well as the land beneath oceans, lakes and rivers are usually considered public trust lands.

The Alaska Constitution contains numerous provisions embracing principles of the Public Trust Doctrine that require the state to exercise authority to ensure that the right of the public to use navigable waters for navigation, commerce, recreation, and related purposes is protected. In Alaska, the Public Trust Doctrine extends beyond those submerged lands in which the state holds title to include all waters that are navigable. The state's waters are themselves reserved to the people for common use.

The Alaska Constitution (Article VIII, sections 1, 2, 3, 6, 13, and 14) and Alaska Statutes (38.05.127 and 38.05.128) contain some of the provisions, which are the legal basis for applying the Public Trust Doctrine in Alaska. In Alaska, this doctrine guarantees the public's right to engage in activities such as commerce, navigation, fishing, hunting, trapping, and swimming, while also providing for the protection of areas for ecological study.

The Alaska Constitution provides that "free access to the navigable or public waters of the state, as defined by the legislature, shall not be denied any citizen of the United States or resident of the state, except that the legislature may by general law regulate and limit such access for other beneficial uses or public purposes." The Alaska Supreme Court has concluded "the provisions in Article VIII [of the Constitution] were intended to permit the broadest possible access to and use of state waters by the general public." Wernberg v. State, 516 P. 2d 1191, 1198-9 (Alaska 1973). The Alaska legislature has broadly defined the navigable and public waters available for public use in AS 38.05.965. Moreover, the legislature has endorsed a broad interpretation of the Public Trust Doctrine constitutionalized in Article VIII in finding that:

- "Ownership of land bordering navigable or public waters does not grant an exclusive right to the use of the water and any rights of title to the land below the ordinary high water mark are subject to the rights of the people of the state to use and have access to the water for recreational purposes or any other public purposes for which the water is used or capable of being used consistent with the public trust." Sec. 1, Ch. 82, SLA 1985.
- The legislature has also declared that the right to use state waters does not include the

right to enter or trespass upon private lands. Nevertheless, with 99 percent of Alaska in public ownership at statehood, state laws providing that the transfer of land to private parties also provide for public access to navigable waters have had broad effect. For instance, AS 38.05.127 implements the state constitutional guarantee of access to navigable waters under Article VIII, Section 14. Under the statute, the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources must "provide for the specific easements or rights-of-way necessary to ensure free access to and along the body of water, unless the Commissioner finds that regulating or eliminating access is necessary for other beneficial uses or public purposes". The State's responsibilities to implement the Public Trust Doctrine are considered and used throughout this plan. Any management actions will be consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine as defined by the Alaska Constitution, statutes, court decisions, and public involvement.

These statutes and concepts are considered and used throughout this plan. Any management actions will be consistent with the public trust doctrine as defined by the Alaska Constitution, statutes, court decisions, and public involvement.

Appendix H: Legislation

Sec. 41.23.280. Purpose of AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289.

The purpose of AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 is to establish the area described in AS 41.23.280 as the Jonesville Public Use Area. The Jonesville Public Use Area is established to

(1) protect, maintain, perpetuate, and enhance year-round general public recreation;

(2) protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat so that the public may continue to enjoy traditional uses of the Jonesville Public Use Area;

(3) provide opportunities for the public to enjoy the area through a spectrum of public uses, including the maintenance and enhancement of off-road vehicle and non-motorized recreational opportunities for the public; and

(4) allow
   (A) continued mineral exploration and development activities;
   (B) motorized access to private property, including property in which a person has a subsurface right, in the Jonesville Public Use Area; and
   (C) additional public uses of the area determined by the commissioner to be compatible with this section.

Sec. 41.23.282. Management.

(a) The commissioner is responsible for the management of the surface and subsurface estate of the Jonesville Public Use Area consistent with the purposes of AS 41.23.280. After adequate public hearings, the commissioner may designate incompatible uses and shall adopt and may revise a management plan for the Jonesville Public Use Area to the extent workload permits. The management plan must include provisions for the enforcement of the plan and compliance with the requirements of the plan. The commissioner shall consult with the Department of Fish and Game in the adoption and revision of the management plan.

(b) The commissioner of fish and game, the Board of Fisheries, and the Board of Game are responsible for the management of fish and game resources and the public use of fish and wildlife in the Jonesville Public Use Area consistent with the purposes of AS 41.23.280.

(c) The Jonesville Public Use Area may not be managed as a unit of the state park system.

(d) The state may not acquire by eminent domain privately owned land within the boundaries described in AS 41.23.286 for inclusion in the Jonesville Public Use Area. However, the state may acquire privately owned land located within the boundaries described in AS

41.23.286 by purchase, exchange, or otherwise for inclusion in the Jonesville Public Use Area.

Sec. 41.23.284. Incompatible uses.

(a) Except as provided in this section, the commissioner may prohibit or restrict uses determined to be incompatible with the purposes of the Jonesville Public Use Area under AS 41.23.280 within the state-owned land and water described in AS 41.23.286.

(b) Nothing in AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 prohibits the Department of Fish and Game from engaging in rehabilitation, enhancement, and development of fish and wildlife habitat within an area described in AS 41.23.286 that is consistent with the purposes stated in AS 41.23.280.

(c) The commissioner may not restrict

(1) lawful fishing, hunting, or trapping rights allowed under a regulation of the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game within the Jonesville Public Use Area;

(2) the use of weapons, including firearms, in the Jonesville Public Use Area, except in locations where the commissioner determines that the use of weapons constitutes a threat to public safety; or

(3) lawful mineral exploration and development activities within the Jonesville Public Use Area.

(d) The commissioner shall

(1) allow the Jonesville Public Use Area to be used for activities that

(A) are compatible with the reasons for establishing the public use area in AS 41.23.280; and

(B) include operating all-terrain vehicles on trails or in areas designated or constructed for their use, aircraft, and watercraft; snowmachining, horseback riding, hiking, bicycling, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, skijoring, camping, hunting, fishing, trapping, wildlife viewing, photography, berry picking; and, where permitted, rifle and pistol ranges, parking of vehicles, and lawful mineral exploration and mining; and

(2) recognize the existing off-road motor vehicle trails and the access those trails provide within the Jonesville Public Use Area, make accommodations that will provide the shortest possible route to avoid critical habitat, conduct trail rehabilitation in a way that minimizes damage, maintain and enhance off-road motor vehicle options and opportunities in the Jonesville Public Use Area, and provide for responsible use of the public use area.

(e) The commissioner of public safety and the commissioner of fish and game shall have necessary access to the Jonesville Public Use Area for fish and game management, research, and enforcement purposes.

(f) If the commissioner determines that a use is incompatible with one or more other uses in a portion of the Jonesville Public Use Area, the commissioner shall state in the management plan adopted or revised under AS 41.23.282

(1) each determination of incompatibility;

(2) the specific area where the incompatibility is determined to exist;
(3) the time within which the incompatibility is determined to exist; and
(4) the reasons for the determination of incompatibility.

Sec. 41.23.286. Jonesville Public Use Area.

Subject to valid existing rights, the vacant and unappropriated state-owned land and water and the state land and water acquired in the future that lie within the following boundaries described in this section designated as the Jonesville Public Use Area, are reserved for all uses compatible with their primary function as public use land, and are assigned to the department for control and management:

(1) Township 19 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian
Section 1: That portion easterly of Moose Creek
Section 12: That portion of N1/2, N1/2SW1/4, and N1/2SE1/4 easterly of Moose Creek
Section 13: NE1/4, SE1/4NW1/4, and S1/2
Section 24: All;

(2) Township 19 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian
Section 2: All
Section 3: All
Section 4: All
Section 5: All
Section 6: All
Section 7: All
Section 8: All
Section 9: All
Section 10: All
Section 11: All
Section 14: NE1/4
Section 15: N1/2NE1/4 and the North 960 feet of the East 1,815 feet of the NW1/4 for each Record of Survey filed as 86-85RS P.R.D.
Section 16: All
Section 17: All
Section 18: All
Section 19: NE1/4, E1/2NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4, NW1/4SE1/4, and Government Lots 1, 2, and 4
Section 20: N1/2NE1/4, N1/2NW1/4, and SW1/4NW1/4;

(3) Township 20 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian
Section 36: That portion easterly of Moose Creek;

(4) Township 20 North, Range 3 East, Seward Meridian
Section 31: All
Section 32: All
Section 33: All

Section 34: All
Section 35: All.

Sec. 41.23.288. Enforcement authority.

(a) In the Jonesville Public Use Area described in AS 41.23.286, the following persons are peace officers of the state for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 and regulations under AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289:
    (1) an employee of the department or another person authorized by the commissioner;
    (2) a peace officer, as that term is defined in AS 01.10.060.
(b) A person designated in (a) of this section may, when enforcing the provisions of AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 or a regulation adopted under AS 41.23.280-41.23.289,
    (1) execute a warrant or other process issued by an officer or court of competent jurisdiction;
    (2) administer or take an oath, affirmation, or affidavit; and
    (3) issue a citation or arrest a person who violates a provision of AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 or a regulation adopted under AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289.
(c) A citation issued under (b) of this section must comply with the provisions of AS 12.25.175 - 12.25.230.

Sec. 41.23.289. Penalty.
(a) A person who violates a provision of, or regulation adopted under, AS 41.23.280 - 41.23.289 is guilty of a violation as defined in AS 11.81.900.
(b) The Supreme Court shall establish by order or rule a schedule of bail amounts for violations under (a) of this section that allow the disposition of a citation without a court appearance.