

# Appendices

Appendix A.....	A - 1
Glossary .....	A - 1
Appendix B.....	B - 1
Land Classification Order No. SC-09-003.....	B - 1
Appendix C.....	C - 1
Mineral Order No. 1107.....	C - 1
Map C-1: Request for Mineral Closure Order – Archangel Management Unit ....	C - 3
Map C-2: Request for Mineral Closure Order – Independence Management Unit	C - 5
Appendix D.....	D - 1
Revision to Regulations .....	D - 1
Appendix E.....	E - 1
Public Participation Process Overview .....	E - 1
Appendix F.....	F - 1
Snow Avalanche Hazard.....	F - 1
Appendix G.....	G - 1
Land Classification Order No. SC-09-003A01.....	G - 1

## Appendix A Glossary

**AAC.** Alaska Administrative Code

**Access.** A way or means of approach. Includes transportation, trail, easements, rights of way, and public use sites.

**ACMP.** Alaska Coastal Management Plan

**ADF&G.** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**ADOT/PF.** Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

**Anadromous waters.** 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 waters are shown in “The Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes” (referred to as the Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC)) compiled by ADF&G and DNR.

**Area Plan.** A plan approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources under the authority of AS 38.04.065 that establishes the land and resource management policies for state land within a planning area. Such plans also assign land use designations to individual parcels of state land, which are subsequently converted to land use classifications in a Land Classification Order. When used in this plan, the term ‘Area Plan’ refers to the Southeast Susitna Area Plan.

**Authorization.** As applied in the Hatcher Pass Management Plan, authorization refers to those decisions made by DNR that involve the disposal of state land or an interest in state land. This also includes the issuance of rights-of-way authorizations that are functionally irrevocable. It does not include land use permits or authorizations related to mining, where authorization occurs through different processes.

**AS.** Alaska Statutes

**Authorized Use.** A use allowed by DNR by permit or lease.

**Borough.** Matanuska-Susitna Borough

**Buffer.** An area of land between two activities or resources managed and used to reduce the effect of one activity upon another.

**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.

**Classification Order.** *See Land Classification Order.*

**Closed to mineral entry.** Areas where the staking of new mineral claims is prohibited because mining has been determined to be in conflict with significant surface uses in the area. Existing mineral claims that are valid at the time of plan adoption are not affected by mineral closures.

**Commissioner.** The Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

**Conditionally Allowed.** Conditionally Allowed means that a use may be allowed in a DNR adjudicatory decision if the use is consistent with the management intent of the unit in which it occurs and is otherwise consistent with state and DNR requirements for such uses.

**Co-Designated Use.** *See 'Designated Use'.* Co-designated uses are uses of equal value within a specific management unit. Most of the management units in the 2010 Plan utilize co-designations, recognizing that there are several uses of generally equal value in a given geographic area, each of which must be protected and maintained in department management actions.

**DEC.** Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

**Department.** Alaska Department of Natural Resources or DNR

**Designated use.** An allowed use of major importance in a particular management unit. Activities in the unit will be managed to encourage, develop, or protect this use. Where a unit has two or more designated uses, the management intent statement and guidelines for the unit; the Chapter 2 guidelines; and existing statutes, regulations, and procedures, will direct how resources are managed to avoid or minimize conflicts between designated uses.

**Designation.** *See Land Use Designation.*

**Developed Facility.** A 'developed facility' include a campground, picnic area, visitor information center, trailhead, parking area, and developed ski area (whether Nordic or Alpine), and similar facilities, as generally defined in 11 AAC 21.990(6).

**Developed Trail.** A linear route managed for human-powered, stock, or Off-Road Vehicles forms of transportation or for historic or heritage values. Characteristically, such routes are used frequently, are situated within designated areas, and have been developed and/or maintained by a governmental or not-for-profit entity. A ‘developed trail’ is neither a primitive or social trail.

**Director.** The division director of the state division responsible for managing state land. Most often, director refers to the Director of the Division of Mining, Land and Water; for lands administered by DPOR, director refers to the Director of DPOR.

**Dispersed recreation.** Recreational pursuits that are not site specific in nature, such as hunting, fishing, recreational boating or wildlife viewing.

**DMLW.** Division of Mining, Land and Water, a division of DNR.

**DNR.** Alaska Department of Natural Resources

**DOF.** Division of Forestry, a division of DNR.

**DPOR.** Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, a division of DNR.

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

**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 in or which may be introduced into Alaska, except domestic birds and mammals. The term “area(s)” in association with the term “fish and wildlife” refers to both harvest and habitat areas.

**Forestry.** Land that is or has been forested and is suited for long-term forest management because of its physical, climatic, and vegetative conditions. Also refers to the plan designation of Forestry or the land classification of Forest Land.

**Generally allowed use.** An activity conducted on state land managed by the Division of Mining, Land and Water that is not in a special category or status. For the most part these uses are allowed for 14 days or less, and a permit is not required. See 11 AAC 96.020.

**Goal.** A statement of basic intent or general condition desired in the long term. Goals usually are not quantifiable and do not have specified dates for achievement.

**Guideline.** A course of action to be followed by DNR resource managers or required of land users when the manager permits, leases, or otherwise authorizes the use of state land or resources. Guidelines also range in their level of specificity 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.

**Habitat.** Areas that serve as a concentrated use area for fish and wildlife species during a sensitive life history stage where alteration of the habitat and/or human disturbance could result in a permanent loss of a population or sustained yield of the species. This designation, when used, applies to localized areas having particularly valuable or sensitive habitat within the planning boundary. The “Ha” designation does not preclude human uses that are compatible with the following categories. Also refers to the plan designation of Habitat or the land classification of Wildlife Habitat Land.

**Hatcher Pass Road.** Refers to the entirety of this road within the planning area.

**ILMA or ILMT.** See Interagency Land Management Agreement/Transfer.

**Improvements.** Buildings, wharves, piers, dry docks, and other similar types of structures permanently fixed to the uplands, tidelands, or submerged lands that were constructed and/or maintained by the applicant for business, commercial, recreation, residential, or other beneficial uses or purposes. In no event shall fill be considered a permanent improvement when placed on the tidelands solely for the purposes of disposing of waste or spoils. However, fill material actually utilized for beneficial purposes by the applicant shall be considered a permanent improvement. [11 AAC 62.840]

**Interagency Land Management Agreement/Transfer (ILMA/ILMT).** An agreement between DNR and other state agencies that transfers some land management responsibility to these other agencies.

**Land Classification Order.** An order approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources that classifies state land into specific land use categories (AS 38.04.065). The Land Classification Order in this management plan classifies all state lands within the planning area according to the land use designations assigned to specific management units.

**Land disposal.** Same as Land offering, defined below; except that land disposal areas referenced in Chapter 3 may include lots reserved for lease or sale for public, commercial, or industrial facilities.

**Land use designation.** A category of land allocation determined by a land use plan. Designations identify the primary use of state land. Chapter 4 sets out how the land use designations of this plan will be classified according to 11 AAC 55.

**Lease.** A Department of Natural Resources authorization for the use of state land according to terms set forth in AS 38.05.070-105.

**LDA or Legislatively Designated Area.** An area set aside by the state legislature for special management actions and retained in public ownership. Examples are State Game Refuges and State Recreation Areas.

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

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

**Management Unit.** In this management plan, refers to spatial areas of generally similar use or geographic characteristics. There are 10 of these within the management plan boundary.

**Materials.** "Materials" include but are not limited to common varieties of sand, gravel, rock, peat, pumice, pumicite, cinders, clay and sod. Materials may also refer to the designation of Materials or the land classification of Materials Land.

**MCO.** See Mineral Closing Order.

**Mineral Closing Order (MCO).** Mineral closing orders close state lands (mineral estate) to mineral entry. All state lands are open for the prospecting and production of locatable minerals unless the lands are specifically closed to mineral entry. The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources may close land to mineral entry if a finding has been made that mining would be incompatible with **significant surface use** on state land [AS 38.05.205]. A significant surface use of the land has been interpreted by DNR to include not only residential and commercial structures, but also fish and wildlife habitat, recreational, and scenic values.

**Mineral entry.** Acquiring exploration and mining rights under AS 38.05.185-38.05.275.

**Mineral Opening Order.** An order approved by the Commissioner that opens state land to mineral entry.

**Mineral Order.** An order approved by the Commissioner that either closes or opens land to mineral entry. The use of this term is fairly recent. Previously the Department issues mineral opening orders or mineral closing orders. Reference in this plan is to 'mineral closing order' since this is the instrument that was used by the Department to close areas within the planning area and since state status plats make reference to 'Mineral Closing Orders'.

**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.

**Minor Change.** 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. [11 AAC 55.030]

**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]

**Ordinary high water mark.** The mark along the bank or shore up to which the presence and action of the nontidal water are so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to leave a natural line impressed on the bank or shore and indicated by erosion, shelving, changes in soil characteristics, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or other distinctive physical characteristics [from 11 AAC 53.900(23)].

**Permanent use.** A use that includes a structure or facility that is not readily removable.

**Permit.** A Department of Natural Resources authorization for use of state land according to terms set forth in 11 AAC 96.

**Planning period.** Refers to the length of time that the plan covers, which is 20 years. However, the management plan remains valid until it is revised.

**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.

**Primary use.** See Designated use.

**Prohibited use.** A use not allowed in a management unit because of conflicts with the management intent, designated primary or secondary uses, or management guideline. Uses not specifically prohibited nor designated as primary or secondary uses in a management unit are allowed if compatible with the primary and secondary uses, the management intent statements for the unit, and the plan's guidelines. Changing a prohibited use to an allowable use requires a plan amendment.

**Public use.** Any human use of state land, including commercial and non-commercial uses.

**Recreation.** Any activity or structure for recreational purposes, including but not limited to hiking, camping, boating, anchorage, access points to hunting and fishing areas, and sightseeing. "Recreation" does not refer to subsistence hunting and fishing.

**RS 2477.** RS 2477 stands from Revised Statute 2477 from the Mining Act of 1866, which states that "The public right-of-way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public use, is hereby granted. Information on RS 2477s can be accessed at the DNR website: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/trails/index.cfm>

**Retained land.** Uplands, shorelands, tidelands, submerged lands, and water that are to remain in state ownership.

**Right-of-way.** The legal right to cross the land of another.

**Secondary use.** A use of lesser importance than the primary use in a particular management unit. Secondary uses are not used in the Hatcher Pass Management Plan, although a management unit may have two or more co-designations, which means that both designated uses are of equal value within a management unit. Management actions must be consistent with the maintenance of both uses.

**SCRO.** Southcentral Regional Office of the Division of Mining, Land and Water, Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

**Settlement.** The sale, leasing, or permitting of state lands to allow private recreational, residential, commercial, industrial, or community use. May also refer the designation of Settlement or the land classification of Settlement Land.

**Shall.** Same as "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 whether particular circumstances justify deviations from the intended action or set of conditions. A guideline may include criteria for deciding if such a deviation is justified. (See Types of Plan Changes, Chapter 4.)

**State land.** A generic term meaning all state land, including all state-owned and state-selected uplands, all shorelands, tidelands and submerged lands. Refer to Figure 1-1 in Chapter 1 of the Southeast Susitna Area Plan for a graphical depiction of these areas. As used in this plan, it refers to state-owned and state-selected uplands and shorelands. ‘State Land’ excludes lands owned by the University of Alaska, the Mental Health Trust Authority, or by state agencies that have been acquired through deed.

**State-owned land.** Land that is patented or will be patented to the state, including uplands, tidelands, shorelands, and submerged lands. As used in this plan, it refers to state-owned and state-selected uplands and shorelands. ‘State Land’ excludes lands owned by the University of Alaska, the Mental Health Trust Authority, or by state agencies that have been acquired through deed.

**State-selected land.** Federally owned land that is selected by the State of Alaska, but not yet patented nor TAed (Tentative Approval) by the Bureau of Land Management.

**Step-Wise Plan.** A trail development and management plan that is drafted and implemented for the Hatcher Pass Management planning area in addition to this management plan. In the context of this plan, this term generally refers to any future trail plans developed or accepted by the Mat-Su Borough.

**Suitable.** Land that is physically capable of supporting a particular type of resource development.

**Temporary use.** A use that is one year or less in duration requiring a state permit. Any structure associated with the use must be readily removable.

**Unsuitable.** Land that is physically incapable of supporting a particular type of resource development (usually because that resource doesn’t exist in that location).

**Uplands.** Lands above mean high water (See Figure 1-1, Chapter 1 in Southeast Susitna Area Plan.)

**Viewshed.** Viewsheds are surfaces visible from a viewpoint on a road corridor or from marine waters.

**Wetlands.** Includes both freshwater and saltwater wetlands. “Freshwater wetlands” means those environments characterized by rooted vegetation which is partially submerged either continuously or periodically by surface freshwater with less than .5 parts per thousand salt content and not exceeding three meters in depth. “Saltwater wetlands” means those coastal areas along sheltered shorelines characterized by salt tolerant, marshy plants and large algae extending from extreme low tide which is influenced by sea spray or tidally induced water table changes.

**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 land managers and users. Deviation from plan designations, management intent, or management guidelines requires a plan amendment. (See Chapter 4 – Plan Modification).

## Appendix B

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

### Land Classification Order No. SC-09-003

- I. Name: **Hatcher Pass Management Plan (2010)**
- II. The classifications in Part III are based on written justification contained in one of the following plans:

Area Plan:  
Adopted ( ) Revised ( ) Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Management Plan: **Hatcher Pass Management Plan**  
Adopted ( ) Revised (x) Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Site Specific Plan:  
Adopted ( ) Revised ( ) Dated \_\_\_\_\_

III. Legal Description	Acreage	Acquisition Authority	Existing Classification	Classification by this action
See plan text, maps HPMP 2010	294,919	GS	HPMP 1986	See plan text, maps HPMP 2010 See Appendix B-1

- 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. Nothing shall prevent the reclassification of these lands if warranted in the public interest.
- V. This classification supersedes and replaces all previous classification orders within the planning area of the Hatcher Pass Management Plan.

Classified:   
Commissioner  
Department of Natural Resources

Date: 11/17/10

Effective Date: 1/10/2011

# Appendix C

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF MINING, LAND, AND WATER

### Mineral Order No. 1107

  x   Closing Lands to Mineral Entry             Opening Lands to Mineral Entry

- I. Name: Archangel and Independence units: Hatcher Pass Management Plan
- II. Reason for Mineral Order: This mineral order is based on the attached Commissioner's Administrative Finding and applicable statutes.

III. Authority: AS 38.05.185 and AS 38.05.300(b).

III. Location and Legal Description: Lands to be closed under this order include two areas within the Independence, Archangel, and Reed Lakes/Little Susitna management units in the Hatcher Pass Management Plan and as depicted on the attached maps.

IV. Mineral Closing: This mineral order is subject to valid existing rights and is issued under the authority granted by AS 38.05.185 – AS 38.05.275 to the Department of Natural Resources. In accordance with AS 38.05.185(a), I find that the best interests of the State of Alaska and its residents are served by closure of the land described in this mineral closing order to entry under the mineral location and mining laws of the State of Alaska. The above-described lands are hereby closed to entry under the locatable mineral and mining laws of the State of Alaska.

Concur:   
 Dick Mylius, Director  
 Division of Mining, Land & Water

11/17/2010  
 Date

Approved:   
 Tom Irwin, Commissioner  
 Department of Natural Resources

11/17/10  
 Date

1/10/2011  
 Effective Date

**PROPOSED DRAFT FINDING OF THE COMMISSIONER  
MINERAL ORDER 1107 (CLOSING)  
INDEPENDENCE, ARCHANGEL and REED LAKES/LITTLE SUSITNA  
MANAGEMENT UNITS  
HATCHER PASS MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposes to close to new mineral entry approximately 180 acres of state land located in the Archangel and Independence management units of the Hatcher Pass Management Plan (2009).

Recent changes to the Hatcher Pass Management Plan have recommended the development of recreation facilities within this portion of the Archangel and Reed Lakes/Little Susitna management units of the Hatcher Pass Management Plan. These facilities are intended to support both winter and summer recreation activity. Mineral entry and development are inconsistent with this use and therefore the standards for mineral closure under AS 38.05.300 are met. The closure of land in this area totals 130 acres.

A small area within the Independence Mine State Historic Site is now open to mineral entry; areas surrounding this small area are closed to entry. This area needs to be closed in order to protect the historical and cultural values associated with the Independence Mine State Historic Site. Mineral entry and development are inconsistent with this use and therefore the standards for mineral closure under AS 38.05.300 are met. The closure of land in this area totals 50 acres.

For this reason, the Commissioner finds that closing state lands to future mineral entry, to expedite the development and continued use of recreation facilities, is appropriate. The amount of land closed under this mineral order is approximately 180 acres.



Tom Irwin, Commissioner  
Department of Natural Resources

11/17/10  
Date

1/10/2011  
Effective Date

**Map C-1: Request for Mineral Closure Order – Archangel Management Unit**

**Map C-2: Request for Mineral Closure Order – Independence Management Unit**

# Appendix D<sup>1</sup> Revision to Regulations

## 11 AAC 96.014(B)(3)

### HATCHER PASS MANAGEMENT PLAN AREA

#### Special use land

(a) This section lists sites and areas of state land that the department has designated, after public notice under [AS 38.05.945](#), as special use land. The department has determined that these sites and areas of land have special scenic, historic, archeological, scientific, biological, recreational, or other special resource values warranting additional protections or other special requirements. Unless otherwise provided in (b) of this section, special requirements applicable to special use land are in addition to requirements applicable to state land under [AS 38](#) and this title.

(b) For the following sites and areas that have been designated as special use land, corresponding special requirements apply as follows:

.....

(3) for the Hatcher Pass Special Use Area, ADL number 223585, generally described as those lands designated by [AS 41.23.130](#) and certain lands described in the Hatcher Pass Management Plan, as shown on the maps entitled *Hatcher Pass Special Use Area Maps 1 and 2*,<sup>2</sup>, dated September 30, 2011, and adopted by reference.

---

<sup>1</sup> Note: Appendix D represents proposed draft regulations that are to be submitted and adjudicated through the APA. The final regulations will probably be similar to Appendix D, but may differ in details. Note also that Appendix D reflects the recommendations of the plan adopted by the DNR Commissioner and differ from those draft regulations contained in the Public Review Draft (PRD). Copies of the PRD are available at RADS, DMLW.

<sup>2</sup> This map is not included since regulations go through a separate review and approval process. However, the eventual map will, depending on the results of public review, be the same as or similar to Map 2-3 'Land Status, Topography', and Recommended Motorized Closures' and as more fully depicted in the management unit maps of each of the affected units: (Map 3-7, Independence Unit; Map 3-8, Archangel; Map 3-9, Reed Lakes / Little Susitna; Map 3-10, Mile 16; and Map 3-11, Government Peak).

- (A) in the Mile 16, Government Peak, and Independence units and in portions of the Reed Lakes / Little Susitna and Archangel units [IN THE UPPER LITTLE SUSITNA VALLEY AND THE REED VALLEYS AND LAKES], as depicted on the *Hatcher Pass Special Use Area Map 1 as 'Non-Motorized (Year)'*, except for designated roads and parking areas, motorized vehicle use, including landing aircraft, is prohibited, except that the department may issue a permit for motorized vehicle use for mineral development, commercial recreation, trail construction or maintenance, and other uses preformed by the department related to the management of the Hatcher Pass area if the department determines that the use would not substantially interfere with recreational use of the area or with the management intent of a unit as described in the Hatcher Pass Management Plan;
- (B) Within the Bald Mountain Ridge Habitat Area, as depicted on the *Hatcher Pass Special Use Area Map 1 as 'Non-Motorized (Summer)'*, motorized vehicle use, including landing aircraft, is prohibited between May 1 and August 1; during that period, the department may issue a permit for motorized vehicle use for mineral development, trail construction or maintenance, or another special use, including uses performed by the department in its management of the Hatcher Pass area, if the department determines that the use would not negatively affect tundra bird nesting;
- (C) in the Summit Lake State Recreation Site, the High Glacier Peaks, portions of the Independence, Archangel and Reed Lakes / Little Susitna units, as depicted on the *Hatcher Pass Special Use Area Map 1 as 'Non-Motorized (Summer)'*, except for designated roads and parking areas, motorized vehicle use is prohibited between May 1 and October 1 of each year, except that the department may issue a permit for motorized vehicle use for mineral development, road or trail construction or maintenance, and other uses preformed by the department related to the management of the Hatcher Pass area, if the department determines that the use would not substantially interfere with recreational use of the area or with the management intent of a unit as described in the Hatcher Pass Management Plan; and
- (D) In the Summit Lake State Recreation Site, the High Glacier Peaks, the Government Peak, the Independence, and portions of the Archangel and Reed Lakes / Little Susitna units, as depicted on the Hatcher Pass Special Use Area Map 1, motorized vehicle use is prohibited between October 2 and April 30 each year; except that
  - (i) snowmobile use is allowed once snow depth is sufficient to protect underlying vegetation as determined by the department; in this sub-paragraph snowmobile has the same definition as in S 28.29.250(10) and
  - (ii) the Department may issue a permit for motorized vehicle use for mineral development, road or trail construction or maintenance, commercial recreation, and other uses performed by the Department of Natural Resources related to the management of the Hatcher Pass area, if the Department determines that the use would not adversely affect fragile tundra and soils and is consistent with the management intent of a unit as described in the Hatcher Pass Management Plan;
- (E) in the High Glacier Peaks, the Government Peak, Independence, Mile 16, portions of the Archangel and the Reed Lakes / Little Susitna units, as shown on the *Hatcher Pass Special Use Area Map 2*, dated September 30, 2011 and adopted by reference, the use and discharge of a firearm is prohibited except for the purpose of lawful

- hunting; within the Independence State Mine Historical Park, Summit Lake State Recreation Site, the Northern and Southern Development areas in the Government Peak unit, within one quarter mile of a road, or the area between Archangel Road and the Motorized Winter Corridor situated within the Reed Lakes / Little Susitna unit, ending at mile 2.5 of Archangel Road, the discharge of a firearm for any purpose is prohibited.
- (F) In the Summit Lake State Recreation Site, the High Glacier Peaks, the Government Peak, the Independence, the Mile 16, the Archangel and Reed Lakes / Little Susitna units, as depicted on the Hatcher Pass Special Use Area Map 2, camping is not allowed except within
- (i) Officially designated or marked areas, or
  - (ii) An area adjacent to and along any trail or road right of way to a distance of one quarter mile.

## Appendix E

# Public Participation Process Overview

An extensive Public Participation Process was conducted over a two year period in order to identify issues important to the public and to obtain their comments and recommendations on the plan revision. Over 20 meetings were held with the public and over 2,000 comments were received during the planning process. Nearly all of the comments received focused on recreational use. The involvement of the public helped shape the recommendations made in this plan. Although outlined in Chapter 1 of this plan, the following provides a more detailed overview of the planning process that DMLW.

### Review Existing Plan

The 1986 Management Plan was reviewed to determine what needed to be revised and what aspects were still working and could be retained. This review indicated that the plan needed to be almost completely revised, particularly to make it clear how a management unit was to be managed, the allowed and prohibited uses in each unit, and to restructure the Government Peak unit to fit with the current thinking about Alpine ski development, which differs greatly from what was assumed in the 1989 Plan Amendment, which focused on the development of a ski resort within that unit. The spatial boundaries of this planning area were also reviewed and resulted in the expansion of the plan boundary to incorporate the Kashwitna river drainage and High Glacier Peaks area.

### Gathering Information about the Planning Area

The effected state and borough agencies were contacted to inform them about the planning process and to invite their participation. DMLW, DPOR and the Mat-Su Borough were the entities primarily engaged in the planning process. Land ownership records were reviewed and resource data was analyzed to determine what the current use recreational use patterns or where resources were located, such as recreation, mining, habitat, and forestry. It was determined that the planning area was mainly used for recreation and historically for mining in certain areas.

### Identification of Public Issues

Public involvement was extensive throughout the process. The public was initially notified in February 2009 about the plan revision and invited to participate in the planning process and were noticed for all subsequent meetings and open houses. A webpage providing background on the plan development was created and continually updated throughout the

## *Appendix E: Public Participation Process Overview*

planning process. Numerous public and focus group meetings were held and public was encouraged to submit comments throughout the plan revision. Public comments focused on recreational issues, specifically motorized and non-motorized recreation, particularly on the 'east side' of the planning area.

### Preparation of an Agency Review Draft (ARD) of the plan

A draft of the plan was developed for agency review that was based on the results of the land research, information provided by various agencies, and the public input that was provided through written comments and public meetings. Multiple agencies were involved in the review of the Hatcher Pass Management Plan, including: the DNR Southcentral Region Office, DPOR, ADF&G, and the Mat-Su Borough. After comments and recommendations were received from those agencies, changes to that document were made, where appropriate, and it was revised into a draft for public review.

### Preparation of Public Review Draft (PRD) and Comment Period

The Public Review Draft was released on March 1, 2009 to the public and a 60 day public comment period was provided. During that time, multiple public and focus group meetings were held and over 1,400 public comments were received. Nearly all of those comments pertained to recreational use, generally motorized and non-motorized users, with a few comments on mining.

### The Issue Response Summary and Final Plan

An Issue Response Summary was developed and released to the public on November 24, 2010. This document addressed the concerns and recommendations the public provided in their written comments and to the statements they made during public meetings. It also identified revisions to the plan where appropriate. Those revisions were extracted into a simplified document or "List of Approved Revisions", which identified specific changes to the plan. The Issue Response Summary and PRD together constituted the final plan.

### Adoption by DNR Commissioner and Request for Reconsideration

The PRD and Issue Response Summary, specifically the List of Approved Revisions, constitute the final plan, which was adopted by the Commissioner on November 17, 2010.

After the plan adoption, a 20 day period in which the public could request the reconsideration of the plan was provided. This gave the public an additional opportunity to provide recommendations and to identify issues that they felt were not adequately addressed during the planning process. After review of those requests the Commissioner ultimately chose to uphold the adoption of the plan, with minor changes, which included adding a winter motorized corridor within the southeast of the Bald Mountain / Hillside Unit.

## **Public Meetings and Comments**

Public involvement and comments were encouraged throughout the planning process, and there were two official public comment phases. The first phase is referred to as the Public Scoping Phase. It occurred early in the planning process and helped to identify the issues

that were important to the public prior to drafting of the plan. The second phase was the Public Review Draft Phase, which occurred after a draft of the plan had been released to the public for review and comment. Written comments that were submitted and public statements provided at public meetings during this phase can and did result in modifications to the final plan. Specifically, public comments resulted in the modified approach to winter recreational motorized closures on the ‘east side’ of the planning area that differed from the recommendations that were included in the Public Review Draft.

**Public Scoping Phase**

The Public Scoping Phase for this plan began on March 1, 2009 and ended on February 28, 2010. Below are two tables that provide the number and types of meetings and public comments that were received during that time:

Public Scoping Meetings:

<b>Type of Public Scoping Meeting</b>	<b>No. Meetings</b>	<b>No. Signed In</b>
Community Council / Advisory Board	3	67
Focus Group	13	234
Public Meeting	2	143
<b>Total Meetings and Participants:</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>444</b>

Public Scoping Meeting Statements:

Members of the public and group representatives were given the opportunity to provide statements during the Public Meetings. They provided statements of their own or on behalf of recreational user groups. There were 42 Public Statements made at the public meetings.

Public Scoping Comments:

<b>Method of Comment Submission</b>	<b>Amt. Received</b>
Focus Group Meeting Questionnaires	85
Public Meeting Questionnaires	30
Comments by Mail	31
Comments by Email	88
Online-Entry Comments	326
<b>Total:</b>	<b>560</b>

### Public Review Draft Phase

The Public Review Draft Phase of this plan began on March 1, 2010 and ended on May 5, 2010. Below are two tables that provide the number and types of meetings and public comments that were received during that time:

#### Public Review Draft Meetings:

Type of Public Scoping Meeting	No. Meetings	No. Signed In
Community Council / Advisory Board	1	112
Public Meeting	3	153
<b>Total Meetings and Participants:</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>265</b>

#### Public Review Draft Meeting Statements:

Members of the public and group representatives were given the opportunity to provide statements during the Public Meetings. They provided statements of their own or on behalf of recreational user groups. There were 67 Public Statements made at the public meetings.

#### Public Review Draft Comments:

Method of Comment Submission	Amt. Received
Public Meeting Submissions	6
Comments by Mail	27
On-Line Entry Comments	402
Form Letter Comments	1022
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1457</b>

#### Requests for Reconsideration

There were also 40 comments and requests for reconsideration after the adoption of the plan which resulted in an additional recommendation in the final plan for a second motorized corridor in the Bald Mountain / Hillside Unit.

# **Appendix F**

## **Snow Avalanche Hazard**

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

## Land Classification Order No. SC-09-003A01

I. Name: **Classification Change to Accompany Plan Amendment to Government Peak Unit, Hatcher Pass Management Plan.**

II. The classifications in Part III are based on written justification contained in one of the following plans and as explained in the Plan Amendment affecting the area of Government Creek in the Government Peak management unit.

Area Plan:  
Adopted ( ) Revised ( ) Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Management Plan: **Hatcher Pass Management Plan**  
Adopted ( ) Revised (x) Dated 11/17/2010

Site Specific Plan:  
Adopted ( ) Revised ( ) Dated \_\_\_\_\_

III. Legal Description	Acreage	Acquisition Authority	Existing Classification	Classification by this action
Sec 29: all w. OHW Government Creek	273	GS	Pub Rec HPMP 2010	Pub Rec/Habitat
Sec 20: w. OHW Government Creek	20	GS	Pub Rec HPMP 2010	Pub Rec/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. Nothing shall prevent the reclassification of these lands if warranted in the public interest.

V. This classification supersedes and replaces LCO SC-09-003 as it relates to this area.

Classified:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 3/12/12  
Commissioner  
Department of Natural Resources

The date of issuance of this decision is five working days from the date of approval.