

DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF LAND
LAND & RESOURCES SECTION

SUSITNA BASIN RECREATION RIVERS MANAGEMENT PLAN



AUGUST 1991

SUSITNA BASIN

RECREATION
RIVERS

MANAGEMENT PLAN

AUGUST 1991

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF LAND
LAND AND RESOURCES SECTION

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

IN COOPERATION WITH
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

WITH ASSISTANCE FROM
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

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The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources finds that the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan meets the requirements of AS 41.23.400-510 for the Recreation Rivers and AS 38.04.065 and 11 AAC 55.010-.030 for land use plans. The Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan is hereby adopted. The Department of Natural Resources will manage state lands within the planning area consistent with this plan. The Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan amends and supersedes the Susitna Area Plan and the Willow Subbasin Area Plan where these plans overlap with the Recreation Rivers described under AS 41.23.500.

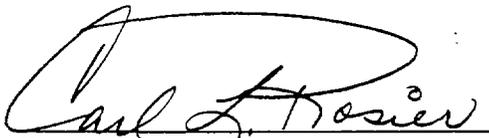


Harold C. Heinze, Commissioner
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

6/28/91
Date

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game assisted the Department of Natural Resources in preparing the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan. We appreciate the opportunity to represent fish and wildlife habitat, harvest, and public use values during the development of the plan. The Department of Fish and Game will use the plan as guidance when implementing its authorities and when reviewing and commenting on proposed uses of state lands in the planning area.



Carl L. Rosier, Commissioner
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

7/5/91
Date

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 90-156 (sub) *AM*

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH APPROVING THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE SUSITNA BASIN RECREATION RIVERS MANAGEMENT PLAN WITH SOME REQUESTED CHANGES.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough recognizes the importance of management of the Six Recreation River Corridors for a variety of resources and uses including fish and wildlife, recreation, economic use, the enjoyment of the public, multiple use of the uplands, and the accommodation of access; and

WHEREAS, representatives from the City of Houston and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough have been involved in reaching a compromise on the boating restrictions proposed within the Final Draft of the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the representative from the City of Houston has agreed to the proposed boating restrictions within the Final Draft of the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the management intent of State lands within the Recreation River Corridors will have a direct effect on both Borough and private lands dependent on access across or through the corridors; and

WHEREAS, the Final Draft of the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan includes stipulations which do not appear to be consistent with management for a variety of resources.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough approves the Final Draft of the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assembly of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough requests that the following changes be made to the Final Draft of

the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan prior to adoption by the Alaska State Legislature:

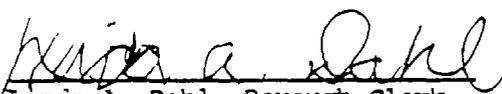
1. The following statement be eliminated from the Plan. "Non-Motorized areas. Roads and both types of vehicular trails may be built in non-motorized areas if they are built with public funds or if there is a state or public interest." The stipulations for roads within Class I areas are sufficient without adding this restriction.

2. The following statement be eliminated under guidelines for construction of utilities. "Utilities which serve only a few users, are not publicly regulated utilities, and cross waterbodies that receive high public use should not be authorized." The guidelines for construction of utilities are sufficient without this additional restriction.

Adopted by the Assembly of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, this 5 day of February, 1991.


Dorothy A. Jones, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


Linda A. Dahl, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

PLANNING TEAM, ADVISORY BOARD, PLANNING STAFF, TECHNICAL ADVISORS, & COMMUNITY ADVISORS

The Recreation Rivers Management Plan was prepared by a multidisciplinary planning team and advisory board. The planning team included representatives from state agencies, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and the City of Houston. The advisory board included representatives of 11 user groups and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Planning staff from the Land and Resources Section and the Southcentral Regional Office of the DNR Division of Land coordinated the work of these two groups. National Park Service staff served as technical advisors through the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program. The planning team, advisory board, planning staff, and technical advisors are listed below.

PLANNING TEAM

DIVISION OF LAND, SOUTHCENTRAL REGIONAL OFFICE
Allan Samet, Mike Sullivan, and Keith Quintavell

DIVISION OF PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION
Dennis Heikes

DIVISION OF FORESTRY
Jim Eleazer and Bill Beebe

DIVISION OF MINING
Mitch Henning

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
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DIVISION OF OIL & GAS
Kris O'Connor

DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL & GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS
Stan Carrick and Bill Long

DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
**Kim Sundberg and Technical Advisors: Larry Engel, John Westlund, Dimitri Bader,
Glen Seamans, and Christopher Estes**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
Keven Kleweno and Dan Wilkerson

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES
Roger Maggard

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
John Duffy, Marcy Martin, and Chuck Kaucic

CITY OF HOUSTON
Freelon Stanberry

ADVISORY BOARD

OTHER RECREATIONAL USERS

Noel Kopperud (Chair)

CONSERVATION

Cliff Eames (Vice-Chair)

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Pat Burden and Drew Sparlin

SPORT FISHING

David Law

SPORT HUNTING

Edward Grasser and Ron McAlpin

SUBSISTENCE

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FOREST PRODUCTS

Richard Tindall

MINING

Allen Bingham

POWERBOAT USERS

Donald Sherwood

RECREATION-ORIENTED COMMERCIAL USERS

Charles Heath

PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THE CORRIDORS

Carl Dixon

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH DESIGNEES

Bob Stickle and Dorothy Jones

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION

Paul Campbell and Delbert Hanrath

TECHNICAL ADVISORS

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, RIVERS AND TRAILS CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Jack Mosby (Program Manager), Doug Whittaker, Lynn Anderson, and Thetis Smith.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES STAFF

DEPARTMENT STAFF

Harold Heinze (Commissioner), **Rod Swope** (former Commissioner), and **Lenny Gorsuch** (former Commissioner)

DIVISION OF LAND STAFF

Gary Gustafson (Division Director), **Ron Swanson** (Section Chief/Division Director), **Veronica Gilbert** (Regional Manager)

PROJECT STAFF

Bruce Talbot (Project Manager), **Leah Wedmore** (Assistant Project Manager), **Lisa Paerels** (Assistant Project Manager), **Martha Welbourn** (Unit Manager), **Alice Iliff**, **Odin Brudie**, **Yvonne Goldsmith**, **Robert Loeffler**, and **Amy Reidell**

COMMUNITY ADVISORS

SKWENTNA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Mick Booth

TRAPPER CREEK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Steve Hanson

CITY OF PALMER

David Soulak, Manager

CITY OF WASILLA

John Stein, Mayor

WILLOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Joe Tweedy

TALKEETNA

Arthur Mannix

FISHHOOK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Don Rothermel

ALEXANDER CREEK

Cathy and Paul Gabbert

U. S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program provides planning assistance to communities, non-profit organizations, and state and local agencies involved in river or trail conservation efforts. Their invaluable assistance in the Recreation Rivers planning process is the result of a request from the Department of Natural Resources. The National Park Service involvement in the planning process was in three key areas: 1) inventory and assessment of the rivers resulting in recreation resource, use pattern, and trend data; 2) design and analysis of a survey of river users resulting in a better understanding of public preferences and attitudes; and 3) in hydrologic studies resulting in a report on in-stream flow needs for recreation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Recreation Rivers Planning Team, Advisory Board, and staff would like to thank the following individuals for their help:

Diane Dusek, Susan Peck, Robin Hall, Elaine Thomas, and Mario Ayerdis for preparing the maps, figures, and tables for the plan and related publications.

Amy Reidell, Odin Brudie, and Yvonne Goldsmith for their assistance with the user surveys, resource assessment, aerial photos, and other plan-related products.

Alice Iliff, Rob Walkinshaw, and Bob Loeffler for assistance formulating the planning process, and editing.

Ron Swanson and Martha Welbourn for assistance formulating the planning process, writing, editorial comments, assistance at meetings, and a multitude of plan-related issues.

Pearl Reamer, Gloria Weinberger, Debbie Chubin, Kaye Fegert, Emilie Beasley, Judy Samsal, Shelly Sanderford, Michelle Zenor, Rae Dowrick, Rose Bowden, Colleen Rutledge, and Jenny Otteson for assistance with typing, mailing lists, and mailings.

Kevin Delaney, Larry Bartlett, Durrand Cook, Steve Albert, Dave Rutts and Kelly Hepler from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for providing information on fish, wildlife, and recreation resources.

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Sue Fisler, Al Meiners, Dale Bingham, Walter Ward, and Dan Hourihan with the DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DOPOR) for their helpful advice on recreation management. **Steve Klinger** with DOPOR, office of History and Archaeology for his research on heritage resources.

Mike Farmer, Kassarina, Serena and Yingdi Wang for assistance with a multitude of tasks including mapping, mailing lists, summarizing revenues, and GIS digitizing.

Sheila Gottehrer and Karen Newton from the Office of the Governor, Division of Boards and Com-missions, for setting up the Advisory Board.

Thetis Smith with the National Park Service for editing the plan resource assessment.

Jon Hall and Tom Jennings with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for mapping wetlands and providing aerial photography.

Ken Thomas and Holly Stephens for volunteering their time to gather information on recreation resources.

Jim Kerr with the University of Alaska, Institute of Social and Economic Research for data processing and analysis of the plan alternatives survey.

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