



Family Camping at the South Rolly Campground.

**REGIONAL
RECREATION PROVIDERS**

REGIONAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND PROVIDERS

STATE OF ALASKA

The major provider of outdoor recreational opportunities in the region including Nancy Lake State Recreation Area is the State of Alaska. Opportunities include using developed campgrounds, picnic areas, interpretive centers, lakes and trails, for picnicking, camping, hunting, fishing, boating and hiking. The state also provides undeveloped open-space for wildlife habitat, allowing recreationalists to pursue photography, bird-watching, and nature study.

Alaska Division of Parks

1. Rocky Lake SRS, East and South Big Lake SRSs, Finger Lake SRS, and Kepler-Bradley SRA. These smaller sized units of the State Park System provide day-use and overnight facilities on freshwater lakes in the region. Picnicking, boating, swimming and fishing are popular activities at these sites.
2. Willow Creek State Recreation Site. This unit contains day-use and overnight facilities along the creek shoreline. Although the creek is closed to the taking of salmon at this site, some sport fishing does occur. Picnicking and camping are popular activities.
3. Independence Mine State Historic Park. This historic park, located in the popular Hatcher Pass area, portrays the mining era. Interpretive displays and preservation of original buildings offer unique opportunities in the region for historic commemoration.
4. Chugach State Park. This accessible, wilderness park encompasses many of the spectacular mountain areas in the background of Anchorage. A mixture of developed facilities and untouched wilderness, provide an ample supply of outdoor recreational opportunities.

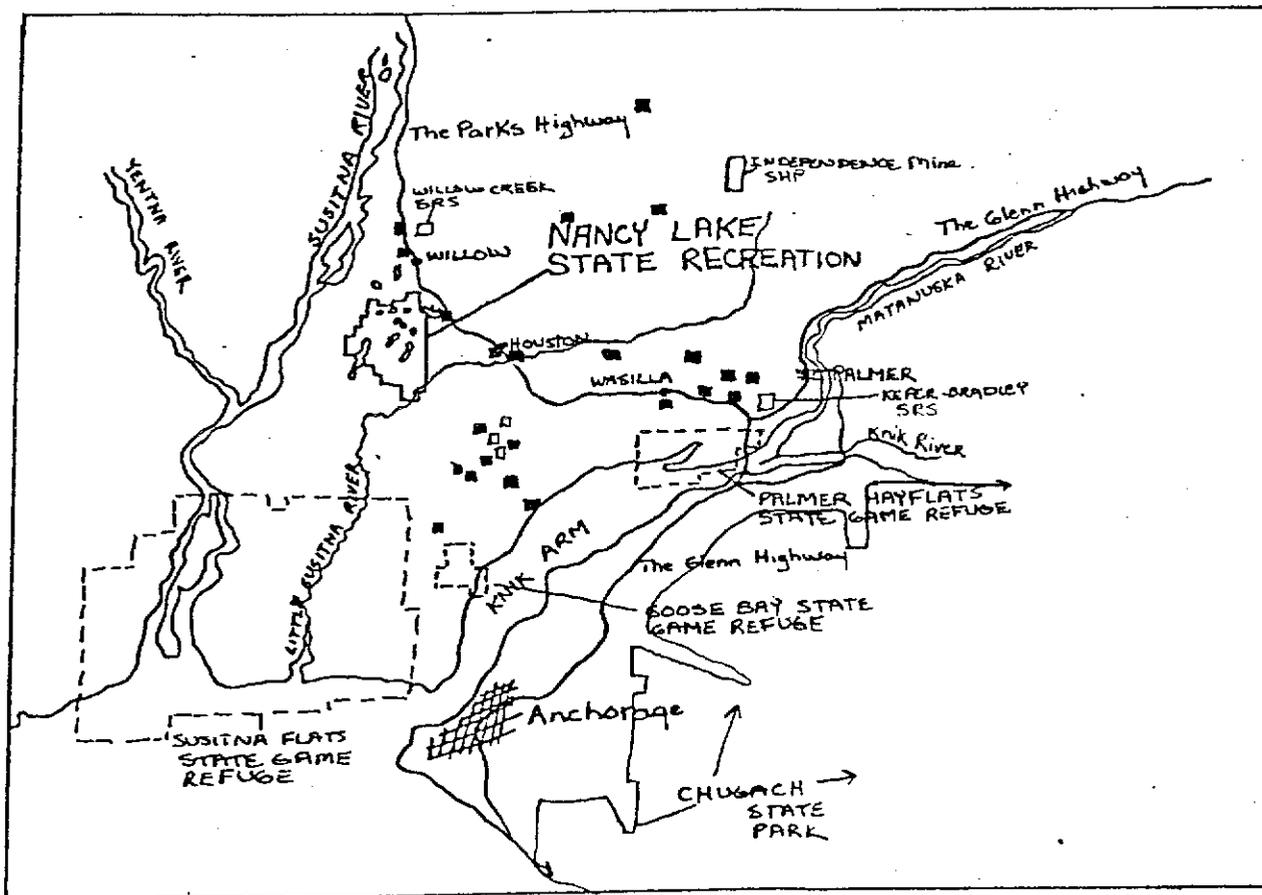
Alaska Division of Fish and Game

1. State Game Refuges. The Susitna Flats State Game Refuge, Goose Bay State Game Refuge, and Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuges. These areas of generally undeveloped open-space are designated as areas essential to wildlife and fisheries resources. Hunting, photography, bird-watching and nature study are popular activities.
2. The ADF&G is interested in protecting access to lakes and streams, and will only stock lakes when public access is guaranteed.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

The parks and recreational powers of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough include levying taxes, maintaining staff and designating areas for recreational purposes. Currently the goal of the borough is to maintain public access to recreational areas. A trial program has been initiated. The Borough manages a recreation site on Long Lake. A high priority for recreational management in the Borough includes stream corridors which are accessible from the Parks Highway, including the Little Susitna River and Willow Creek.

FIGURE 7: REGIONAL RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES



- State Game Refuges
- - - State Park Units
- Non-state Recreation Areas and Campgrounds

CITY OF HOUSTON AND WASILLA

The City of Houston has the only municipal operated campground in the region. The campground is located 15 miles south of Willow and borders the Little Susitna River and Parks Highway. The City of Wasilla manages a day-use recreation area along Wasilla Lake.

PRIVATE SECTOR

Individuals operating private outdoor recreational facilities are located throughout the region. Guiding and flying services, campgrounds, boat launching, fishing and camping supply stores, and equipment rental services are dispersed throughout the vicinity. Private winter lodges and cross-country skiing centers are also growing in the region due to reliable snow conditions. The private sector provides a variety of public services related to recreation opportunities including showers, fuel, stores, food, and supplies.

NANCY LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA OPPORTUNITIES

Although there are many areas within the region that offer some of the opportunities readily available at NLSRA, no other recreation area offers the diversity as NLSRA.

At its present level of facility development and management, NLSRA provides people with the opportunities to

- camp in developed campground sites;
- picnic at scenic overlooks;
- partake in a canoeing adventure along the interconnected lake system with developed portage trails and backcountry campsites;
- fish for a variety of freshwater species;
- hike along a self-guided nature trail;
- ski on a series of groomed loop trails;
- mush through spruce forests and frozen waterways on cleared trails;
- snowmachine on trails with reliable snowfall; and
- partake in ranger-guided interpretive programs.

Upon completion of the development and management recommendations in the NLSRA Master Plan, even more opportunities will be available within the single unit. Recreationalists will be able to pursue opportunities to

- hike, ski, mush, snowmachine, and snowshoe along even more miles of developed and specialized all-season trails;
- use the 75 person group camp for sharing outdoor recreation experiences with large groups;
- view Denali from high ridgeline towers;

hike along additional guided nature trails;
participate in newly developed programs guided by park rangers; and
stay in public cabins located throughout the recreation area.

Looking at an overall regional perspective, NLSRA provides water based recreational opportunities, with a moderate intensity level of development, and accessible back-country. The recreation area does not provide the high intensity, over-developed type of water based activity.

PUBLIC RECREATION ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES

An issue is a topic of concern which needs a solution. An objective, is the means for solving the problem. Below are the issues addressed; followed by the objectives to be met by implementation of this master plan.

Issues:

1. User Group Conflicts. In many areas of the state, including NLSRA, there are conflicts between different types of user groups. Motorized and non-motorized outdoor recreationalists often disagree upon methods of regulating activities and have difficulties in sharing resource space. The NLSRA master plan will address the issues of user rights, safety concerns and separation of user groups as a management technique, with the hopes of resolving conflicts between snowmachiners, skiiers and dog mushers; motorboat users with canoeists, and airplane and three-wheeler users with people accessing lake areas by foot.
2. Providing Access. NLSRA has been accessed traditionally through the main park entrance, airplane landings on four major lakes, the railroad, and private roads which were used prior to 1966. Additional access to NLSRA has been requested by individuals owning land within the recreation area and developers on the western boundary. Some interested parties feel that any increased access to NLSRA will destroy its "quiet, natural beauty". The master plan will deal with all issues of access to resolve these conflicts.
3. Resource Management. NLSRA is an area of vast natural resources which require proper regulations and management to maintain the species number and diversity. Issues need to be resolved including decisions about fish and wildlife enhancement programs, forest production techniques, hunting and trapping regulations, gravel extraction permits and other land use management decisions.

4. Recreational Trespass. There are over 300 acres of private land within NLSRA. It is often difficult for recreationalists to distinguish between public park lands and private inholdings. Park visitors are frequent trespassers. Options for proper management techniques and the purchase of private lands need to be reviewed to resolve conflicts between landowners and park users.

5. Other Issues:

The needs of special populations.
Location of power transmission lines.
Preservation of archaeological resources.
State competition with private recreation providers.
Pursuing alternative energy sources.
Needs and influences of large population centers.
Extent of specialized facility development.

Objectives:

1. To develop facilities whose size, design, location, number and groupings consider long-term maintenance and operation costs.
2. To locate facilities in relation to each other and to natural features so as to maximize visitor's options for diversity, variety and enjoyment of the natural surroundings.
3. To retain the area's quiet, natural beauty, the attribute most sought by NLSRA visitors, while providing recreational opportunities most appropriate to NLSRA and most desired by the public.
4. To mitigate potential conflicts between private and public use of NLSRA.
5. To maintain water quality at or above its present level.
6. To employ management practices and carry out development that minimizes impact on wildlife and vegetation.
7. To initiate a pilot project within NLSRA to design, construct and administer a concession contract for public recreation cabins.
8. To initiate management techniques which resolve outdoor recreation user group conflicts.

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9. To develop and implement resource management techniques which maintain species diversity and numbers.
 10. To maximize management efficiency through the use of volunteers, campground hosts, concessionaires, and fee schedules.
 11. To help stimulate the local economy through the investment of the private sector in providing visitor services and attractions outside of the recreation area.