

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Goal

Commenter #	Comment
057	Page 20, Paragraph 2, Sentence 1: Two suggested edits. Delete "(SCORP)" because the acronym is not used and therefore unnecessary. Remove it from the glossary too. Also, add the word "visitors" before "knowledge" so it is clear whose knowledge needs to be increased. Page 20, Paragraph 3, Sentence 2: Is "enlightened" a little condescending? How about "aware" or "informed?"
071	We would especially like to see the education and outreach objectives of the plan implemented and to see State Park rangers and technicians providing education in the classroom, in the communities whose residents recreate in the park, and to visitors. Kachemak Bay State Park is a tremendous natural resource with a diversity of opportunities to experience and learn about the forest and marine ecosystems of Southcentral Alaska. We have been fortunate to have Roger McCampbell as a ranger with a keen intrest in public outreach and education but he has been unable to serve this important public function due to the pressing nature of maintenance and visitor management needs.
086	Second paragraph, last line: Add "and natural & cultural" in front of resources. Paragraph 2, sentence 2: make parks more culturally relevant. Same sentence - regarding enlightened: Are they really "not enlightened" - the bigger question is how can we make state parks relevant to diverse cultures that are not currently using parks - make parks relevant.
091	Emphasize VISITORS GAIN APPRECIATION THROUGH EDUCATION. Add emphasis on reducing need for regulation by providing Safety, share the resource, respect for other users, recreation courtesy, and Outreach to attract non-users to the Parks.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective I

Commenter #	Comment
029	We need Kachemak Bay State Park Visitor Center Information Office in Homer - east to find and user-friendly (i.e., at least an INFORMATION KIOSK and/or info office in multi-agency building).
055	Develop one or more action strategies under Objective I that explicitly address upgrades and design standards required under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Where trails and facilities are addressed, prioritize maintenance of existing infrastructure over new construction.
057	Good strategies!
086	* There is no action strategy @ the web - effective website & links to it from other popular outdoor rec websites is vital! Only 1 logo! 2 logos is confusing - adopt eagle logo - retire the shield. Strategies 2, 7 & 8 are highest priority.
091	Prioritize: 7, 8, 9, 5, 6, 3, 1, 4, 2.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective I - Strategy 1

Commenter #	Comment
035	Second priority.
082	Item #1 has a focus on 'printed' materials, and although I think they could definitely be improved (I'm always amazed that the northern office still uses the same, very old trail handouts!), there should be more emphasis on eliminating paper products and prioritizing digital information and easy to migrate web pages.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective I - Strategy 2

Commenter #

Comment

081

I completely agree that there must be more community and legislative outreach.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective I - Strategy 3

Commenter #	Comment
035	Third priority.
082	Item #3 is interesting, and as a member of the Chugach Citizen's Advisory Board, we are about to host our second annual 'legislative briefing'. I'd be curious to know the method of 'delivery' that would be most effective for our legislator's though!

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective I - Strategy 4

Commenter #	Comment
035	Forth priority.
082	Item #4 is interesting, and as a member of the Chugach Citizen's Advisory Board, we are about to host our second annual 'legislative briefing'. I'd be curious to know the method of 'delivery' that would be most effective for our legislator's though!

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective I - Strategy 5

Commenter #

Comment

047

The sentence should read, "...family oriented recreation, cultural resource stewardship..."

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective I - Strategy 6

Commenter #	Comment
035	I disagree with requiring co-sponsorship as a permit condition---change it to "request".

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective I - Strategy 7

Commenter #	Comment
035	The statement "all fees come back to parks" is misleading because the Legislature has been forcing greater revenue generation while decreasing general fund contributions, resulting in an increase in maintenance backlog for the last several years.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective I - Strategy 8

Commenter #	Comment
018	Does the Alaska State Parks or Department of Natural Resources have a journal? Some states do and it is a valuable tool in educating the public and gaining advocates. If DNR could take it on it would still provide a forum for the state parks and might not impact your budget so much. You might consider expanding the state parks annual pass to include 50% off on camping, and a subscription to the magazine or journal. It might encourage more participation by the public, especially if it is billed as a "Friend of the State Parks" pass.
035	First priority.
048	Add chambers of commerce.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective II

Commenter #	Comment
018	The plan should also somehow emphasize development of public knowledge and support of state parks. This might be done by re-establishing viable interpretive programs, television programs and spots, newspaper and magazine articles, educational outreach programs in the schools. I would suggest going beyond the hunter and boating safety programs, and developing programs which focus on resources and their value and support to the community. It is not only important for the public to support the parks, future users (school children) need to be tuned in. Don't forget the home schooled children. It is best if there are education specialists to go in as presenters. Providing lesson plans for the teachers doesn't work very well as their plates are already too full. I have previous experience with a program through D.A.R.E., where we provided a law enforcement ranger to go into the schools as a presenter. The entire theme of his presentation was to provide recreation activities as an alternative to drugs and alcohol. We were able to get corporate sponsorship from BassPro, a large sporting goods company based in Springfield, Missouri. They even provided several special "D.A.R.E. motor boats" for use in the programs. The program expanded throughout the Midwest Region of the National Park Service, and has been ongoing now for fifteen years.
025	Need more education in the parks. I miss the days when we could go to a park and know there would be a Saturday night program by the Ranger. The staff seems too busy to take this on any more and our children are losing the role models in the parks. I recommend funding be sought to implement education and interpretation in the parks - both in the outdoor settings like campgrounds and on trails, as well as in the school systems during the school year.
045	In Kachemak Bay State Park maintenance is the priority. In addition, build more educational trails and facilities - i.e. natural trails, a place for exhibits, workshops and speakers.
047	It should read, "Create connections to the outdoors, Alaska's history, and opportunities for discovery..."
052	Education through public programs is also an important link to the public. Schools should be welcomed to parks to provide valuable touchstone experiences for student education during cleanup days and other volunteer opportunities. The community is an integral stakeholder for Alaska State Parks and its future health lies with youth and the future generations.
072	The division is uniquely positioned to promote the marine parks system in Prince William Sound and Southeast Alaska, as well as the many canoe passages through lake and river systems throughout the state. Also, please consider a feature like "Trail of the Month" on the division's website. This trail could also be advertised through popular media in the regular feature, and would expose the public to new or little used trails, serve to get the word out on trail safety and etiquette, and help disperse trail use.
086	Strategy 3 is highest priority.
091	Include ADA development. Prioritize: 2, 1, 4, 3.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective II - Strategy 1

Commenter #	Comment
057	Can we add "and health benefits" for this strategy?
082	Item #1 is not very clear, how does a state agency conduct a marketing campaign (other than tourism)? It's hard for me to see how this might be accomplished without assistance from Tourism.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective II - Strategy 2

Commenter #	Comment
035	Third priority.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective II - Strategy 3

Commenter #	Comment
035	First priority.
043	You may want to consider something we kicked around a few years back which was an Alaska Trails Top Ten for hikers and issue a certificate of recognition to those completing them- some way to create a support group for the trails system.
057	Yes! Excellent strategy.
080	I really want to support the recognition for needs for sustainable, legal trails for diversity of users and for obtaining access rights where needed. I think there was something also for a database of trails that would be available online.
082	I'd prioritize item #3 - of course, this could and should be integrated and based on the GIS.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective II - Strategy 4

Commenter #	Comment
035	Second priority.
048	Any trails outside of state park units that may be published in trail brochures for each park must be carefully researched and given the go ahead from local communities before they are shown on a public map. For example there are many local trails south of Denali State Park that should not be on a state published map.
057	Extremely important. We should be ashamed of the trail maps we have for the public. This ties in with the strategy for GIS mapping - where do we mention the need to GPS all of our trails and backcountry facilities?

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective III

Commenter #	Comment
048	Add a 7th item: Increase staffing to ensure there is adequate education, interpretation and outreach.
057	Can we mention "and promote the health benefits of recreation" to this objective?
080	Thank you for the consideration given to Outreach, Education, and Interpretation. This is a major way to increase visibility, but also to encourage sustainable and courteous use of resources, including trails.
086	Strategies 2 & 3 are highest priority.
091	Add 1: initiate and lead celebration of 50 year statehood anniversary.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective III - Strategy 1

Commenter #	Comment
077	I just wanted to reiterate the need for an interpretive plan that would guide the implementation of a large part of the Strategic Plan. The vision, themes and visitor services that would be addressed in an interpretive plan would provide the foundation and the guidance for implementing connected portions of the Strategic Plan. Consistency of image and delivery of education and interpretive materials are integral parts of the Strategic Plan that need the guidance and structure that would be provided by a broad spectrum interpretive program.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective III - Strategy 2

Commenter #	Comment
035	Second priority.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective III - Strategy 3

Commenter #	Comment
035	First priority.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective III - Strategy 4

Commenter #

Comment

093 Interpretive content being truthful and recognizing our broad history, not just some Birkenstock shot at it.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective IV

Commenter #	Comment
035	Order as listed is fine.
057	Add a strategy that addresses, "Provide technical advice and consultation on trail development guidelines and standards to ensure users are cognizant of best management practices." Or some such.
066	Add new Action Strategy: Build a stronger and more comprehensive Trails Section within the Division. Segregate trail grant administration from statewide trail coordinator duties. Become a statewide resource for all types of trail use, with a greater emphasis on OHV motorized use and the development of OHV parks. Develop a cadre of in-house technical expertise that will help the Division become a model for sustainable trail management.
091	Mention above and add interpretation of Alaska's long history of Subsistence life style, hunting, trapping history.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective IV - Strategy 2

Commenter #	Comment
028	In addition to creating a trails inventory team that would be used state-wide, I recommend that State Parks consider developing a specialty trails layout and design team. Trails layout requires a special skill set. One that is well versed in sustainable trail design considerations. Poorly layed out trails increase maintenance costs, have greater environmental impacts and reduce user enjoyment. Lay out is a specialty, it requires a high level of training, experience and investment in time on site. State parks should make a commitment not to allow trails to be built that are not laid out to sustainable standards and "certified" by a highly experienced trails specialist.
070	Our organization supports and promotes responsible tourism which involves "leave no trace" principles, responsible wildlife viewing, and low-impact business practices such as recycling and energy conservation. State parks should be leaders in education and practices in all of these areas.
072	We would like to see the State of Alaska continue to employ their planning and design staff for projects like the recent Deep Creek/Anchor River Off-Road-Vehicle Trails Assessment completed for the Kenai Peninsula.
073	The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation should be a leading state resource for the public, other state, federal and local agencies to acquire information and guidance on sustainable trail use design, layout, construction and maintenance.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective V

Commenter #	Comment
035	Order as listed is fine.
047	We would like to see a statement regarding the importance of protecting Alaska cultural heritage (e.g. the illegal removal of artifacts and disturbance of historic buildings and archaeological sites) while enjoying the outdoors throughout Alaska.
051	Provide adequate trash receptacles and/or educate the public better about the carry-out ethic. In heavily used areas, especially the easily accessible ones, suffer from thoughtless pollution and trashing (for example the fishing areas at Buskin River and Pasakshak River in Kodiak).
070	In Kachemak Bay State Park, more education about bear-safe hiking, camping, and waste disposal is urgently needed, along with bear-resistant food and waste disposal containers for use at camping facilities within the park.
082	I'd like to see a statement about pursuing environmental awareness by researching and recommending policy to reduce and/or eliminate emissions, noise, trash etc....State parks should take the lead in adopting latest technologies and opportunities to maintain the environment within the park system.
090	Outreach and education objectives outlined in the plan should go a long way towards State Parks improving its visibility with both residents and non-residents. However, in order to meet these objectives while at the same time keeping costs low and keeping sustainability a priority, we suggest an expansion of Objective V, with emphasis on low-impact activities when park use and facilities are advertised. An education campaign that stresses responsible behavior such as low-impact camping and proper disposal of human waste would save money in the long run, and improve the quality of everyone's experience. First-time users are likely to be particularly in need of such education.

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective V - Strategy 1

Commenter #	Comment
076	At ITN, our organizational scope includes motorized and non-motorized users as well as users of "water trails." We would like to see Alaska State Parks continue to administer boating and ORV safety programs.
086	Can't a similar strategy be developed for snomos using Snotrac?

PRD Comments - Outreach, Education and Interpretation - Objective V - Strategy 2

Commenter #	Comment
019	Add Avalanche Awareness training to outdoor recreation education as well as Trail Etiquette, trail building/maintainance.
035	I suggest a video on safe and courteous use of motorized and non-motorized vehicles on rivers and trails (idea that was strongly supported by Rep. Mike Kelly at the recent strategic plan public meeting in Fairbanks).
048	Add "education to minimize user conflicts, respect for critical habitat, wildlife and othr user groups." Snowmobilers are destroying the Denali State Park experience for all other users.
057	Spell out acronym ATV. Use OHV with it to cross agency protocols. Add these acronyms to the glossary.
085	How would these programs be funded? Change "interpretative" to "interpretive", a more accepted spelling.