PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

CHUGACH STATE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

May 2011

Public Review Draft

Chugach State Park Management Plan

Written comments can be mailed, emailed or faxed to the addresses below. To receive full consideration, comments must be received no later than:

4:30pm AST, Friday, September 9, 2011

Comments submitted become public information under AS 40.25.110-40.25.125

Send comments to:
Monica Alvarez
Department of Natural Resources
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1050
Anchorage, AK 99501-3579

Phone: 907-269-8145
Fax: 907-269-8915
Email: monica.alvarez@alaska.gov

May 2011

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Cover photos courtesy of:
Bull Moose Fight by: Donna Dewhurst
Northern Lights Rainbow by: Larry Anderson
Falls Creek- Turnagain by: Stephen Nickel
Bird Ridge by: Wayne Todd
Lupine At Chugach and Eklutna Lake by: Jeff Nelson
Evening Beaver Ponds by: Jim Wood

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction 1
Chapter 2: Park Goals and Objectives 9
Chapter 3: Natural and Cultural Resources 11
Natural History.....11
Cultural History 25
Chapter 4: Park Use and Issues.....29
Recreational Use and Trends 29
Nonrecreational Uses 30
Land Management 30
Resource Management.....33
Funding 35
General.....36
Chapter 5: Areawide Management Direction and Guidelines 39
Land Use Designations 39
Guidelines for Activities & Facilities Within
Land-Use Designations In Chugach State Park 45
Watershed Management.....59
Vegetation Management.....60
Fish and Wildlife Management.....61
Trail Management 62
Infrastructure Development and Management.....62
Proposed Park Additions, Land Acquisitions, and Boundary Adjustments 64
Management Agreements.....67
Management and Staffing Efficiencies 72
Chapter 6: Management for Each Unit 75
Eklutna - Peters Creek Planning Unit 75
Eagle River Planning Unit 87
Ship Creek Planning Unit 97
Hillside Planning Unit.....103
Turnagain Arm Planning Unit.....113
Chapter 7: Implementation 127
Appendix A: Glossary.....131
Appendix B: Statutes & Regulations for Chugach State Park.....137
Appendix C: Boundary Adjustment Package for Chugach State Park 147
Appendix D: Plants, Mammals, Fish and Birds of Chugach State Park.....149
Appendix E: Planning Units & ADF&G Special Management Areas.....155
Appendix F: Bibliography 157

Tables

Table 5.1: Resource Management....46
Table 5.2: Public Uses....49
Table 5.3: Other Uses....54
Table 5.4: Facilities....55
Table 5.5: Commercial Uses....57

Figures and Maps

Figure 1: Generalized Land Ownership....5
Figure 2: Planning Units....7
Figure 3: Geology....19
Figure 4: Vegetation....21
Figure 5: Anadromous Fish & Large Game Distribution....23
Figure 6: Land Use Designations....43
Map 6.1: Eklutna-Peters Creek Unit....83
Map 6.2: Eklutna-Peters Creek Unit....85
Map 6.3: Eagle River & Ship Creek Units....95
Map 6.3: Eagle River & Ship Creek Units....101
Map 6.4: Hillside Unit....111
Map 6.5: Turnagain Arm Unit....123
Map 6.6: Turnagain Arm Unit....125