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Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Advisory Board being reactivated

(Anchorage, AK) - The dormant Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Advisory Board (SBRRAB) is being reactivated to review the 30-year-old Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan.

The board will meet virtually on Dec. 20 to begin reorganization. The meeting will be from 2-4 p.m. on Microsoft Teams and there will also be a teleconference option. For meeting details, including a link to join and a teleconference number, go to <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=204729>. There will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting.

The SBRRAB has been inactive since the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan was adopted in June 1991. It is being reconstituted at the request of Gov. Mike Dunleavy. A new 13-member board was appointed by the Governor in November.

The board's function is to advise the Department of Natural Resources regarding any revisions to the management plan and regulations affecting use and management of designated rivers. The six designated recreation rivers that are included in the plan include Alexander Creek, Deshka River (Kroto Creek / Moose Creek), Lake Creek, Little Susitna River, Talachulitna River and Talkeetna River.

"It is important that area management plans work effectively and don't create barriers to balanced land use," said DNR Commissioner Corri Feige. "In this case, the nearly 30-year-old plan, which was intended to allow for thoughtful recreational use and development of the plan area, is actually creating conflicts of use and making management highly problematic.

"I thank everyone who has stepped forward to be a part of the Advisory Board," she added.

The board has designated seats representing multiple interest groups, including the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Here is a list of new board members appointed by Gov. Dunleavy in November and the group they represent:

- Mining - Aaron Benjamin, Talkeetna
- Subsistence – Nancy Conklin, Alexander Creek

- Forest Products – Tim Dabney, Chugiak
- Sport hunting – Mike DeMaria, Wasilla
- Sport fishing – Thomas “Bruce” Knowles, Wasilla
- Powerboat users – Israel Mahay, Talkeetna
- Private property owners – Mike Overcast, Anchorage
- Recreationally oriented commercial users – Yelverton “Jody” Payton, Willow
- Conservation – Emma Pokon, Anchorage
- Commercial fishing – Donald Redick, Wasilla
- Other recreational users – Joseph Wright, Eagle River
- Mat-Su Borough Planning Commission – Chris Elder, Big Lake
- Mat-Su Borough Mayor designee – Stephanie Nowers

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