

Corri A. Feige
Commissioner

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Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Draft North Slope Area Plan available for public comment

(Anchorage, AK) – The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has produced, and is seeking public review and comment on, a draft of the blueprint that will guide activity on state land and waters on the North Slope for the next 20 years.

The North Slope Area Plan will classify approximately 12 million acres of state-owned and state-selected lands, and define management intent for all state lands and water inside the planning area, which includes most of the North Slope Borough and adjacent areas.

“The North Slope is a unique and vital part of the state of Alaska, and I’m proud that DNR has worked so hard in cooperation with residents and other interested parties to produce an area plan to guide management of these lands, while protecting their special qualities far into the future,” said DNR Commissioner Corri A. Feige.

The plan will classify land in categories according to their most appropriate uses, including material land, oil and gas land, resource management land, public recreation land, settlement land, transportation corridor land, water resources land and wildlife habitat land.

The area plan recognizes the state’s multi-use approach to land management, focusing on the statewide significance of the area’s oil and gas resources, unique fish and wildlife habitat, and important cultural and traditional land uses, Feige said.

DNR develops area plans to involve residents and other stakeholders in producing plans that offer general guidance on how state land in the planning area can be used in the best interests of the state, as mandated by state law and the Alaska Constitution.

The area plan does not authorize any specific projects, nor does it apply to federal, Native, borough or other non-state lands, Feige noted.

DNR invites the public to review and offer comments on the draft plan. DNR will accept comments through the Division of Mining, Land and Water online comment portal at: <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/comment/>; via email at nsmp.comments@alaska.gov, via fax to (907) 269-8915, or by letter or in-person delivery to Kelsey Anderson at 550 W. Seventh Ave., Ste. 1050, Anchorage, AK 99501-3579.

DNR must receive public comments by July 15. Comments on the draft plan may result in changes before the commissioner adopts a final plan. A digital copy of the plan is available at DNR's website, at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/nsap/prd/>

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