



For Immediate Release: June 9, 2022

Public invited to help plan Susitna Basin “Recreation Rivers” use

(Anchorage, AK) – In 1988, the Alaska Legislature, recognizing the high public value and need for active management, passed the Recreation Rivers Act (AS 41.23.400-41.23.510) to establish certain land and waters as “recreation rivers” to maintain and enhance the water ways for Alaskans to enjoy. Six rivers were designated:

- Little Susitna River
- Deshka River (Kroto Creek / Moose Creek)
- Talkeetna River
- Lake Creek
- Talachulitna River
- Alexander Creek

The Act directed the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to prepare a management plan to include long range guidelines and management practices for the rivers. The original Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan was completed and adopted in August of 1991 and provides management intent for each river segment, guidelines for recreational and commercial use, and guidelines for issuance of leases and permits on state land. This plan was completed with the assistance of a Governor appointed Advisory Board with 13 designated seats for different user interest groups. The board has been inactive since the Plan was adopted in 1991 but was reconstituted by Governor Mike Dunleavy in November 2021.

Much has changed in the 30 years since the original plan was adopted that needs to be identified and addressed. Therefore, DNR is initiating a plan revision process. Planning is a way of sorting through concerns and the many possibilities for using the river corridors. Developing plans can be challenging because people have differing ideas of how land and waters can best be used – and not all desired uses are compatible in the same place at the same time. Through this planning process, we will work to find solutions with the greatest benefits for all Alaskans. Public involvement is essential to ensure that future actions are not only consistent with the agency mission and the

enabling legislation, but also present a shared vision for the future of the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers.

Alaskans are invited to become part of this planning effort by assisting DNR in identifying the range of issues that should be addressed during this effort and later by reviewing and commenting on draft documents. Public workshops will be held to gather information and discuss issues. The following workshops have been scheduled:

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|--|
| Talkeetna | June 15, 2022 6:00-8:00 PM | Talkeetna Public Library |
| Anchorage | June 29, 2022 12:00-2:00 PM | Robert Atwood Room (104) Robert B. Atwood Building |
| Wasilla | June 30, 2022 4:30-6:30 PM | Wasilla Public Library |
| Virtual | August 2, 2022 1:00-3:00 PM | Microsoft Teams (visit the project website for more info) |

Written comments are encouraged during this initial scoping stage and can be submitted by mail or email to the address below. Additionally, DNR has created a questionnaire to help inform development of this plan. To access the questionnaire visit: <https://arcg.is/OuKLiK>. Responses to the questionnaire and scoping comments must be received no later than Aug. 15, 2022.

Contact: Shelby Burrige
Email: Recreationrivers@alaska.gov
Phone: (907) 269-8593
Mail: Recreation Rivers Management Planning
550 West 7th Ave, Suite 1050
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3579

For more information and updates on the plan process, visit:
<https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/mgtplans/susitna-revision/>

###