

Waterbodies

Background

Waterbodies provide important habitat for fish and wildlife. The productive fish spawning and rearing habitat contributes to the upper Cook Inlet commercial fishery and supports a popular coho salmon fishery. Waterbodies are used by motorized and non-motorized users for recreation, hunting and fishing and as access to other areas.

Conflicts between users of waterbodies exist at some locations. Many users indicated that a potentially dangerous situation exists between motorized and non-motorized boaters on McRoberts Creek, due to limited sight distances and narrow stream channels. Another site where user conflicts occur is at Manmade Lake. This small waterbody is frequently used for family oriented recreation, primarily swimming. Use of motorized vehicles or boats on this small waterbody presents a safety hazard for swimmers.

Members of the public commented on uses occurring on Jim Lake. During ice-free periods, Jim Lake is typically used form non-motorized recreation. Limited motorized boating use does occur and is primarily related to access for fishing and hunting. Watercraft typically operating on Jim Lake includes canoes, kayaks, and small boats with low horsepower motors. The wetlands connected to Jim Lake have been identified as sensitive waterfowl nesting habitat and provide habitat for duck and grebe nesting.

Goal

- Provide for the continued use of waterbodies while mitigating impacts to resources and providing for the safety of the recreating public.

Management Guideline

- Use of waterbodies should be unrestricted unless that use is determined by DNR to be significantly impacting fish and wildlife or their habitats, public safety or to provide or maintain a certain recreational experience.
- DNR should propose regulations to address safety concerns on a segment of McRoberts Creek and on Manmade Lake.
- DNR should draft regulations to maintain current recreational opportunities and protect loon, duck and grebe nesting on Jim Lake and the connected wetlands.
- DNR should consult with ADFG to determine if uses are impacting fish, wildlife and their habitats.
- If a use is found to have significant negative impacts as determined by DNR, it should be restricted or prohibited.