

Approved Revisions Knik River Public Use Area Management Plan

(Underlined text is added, text in () is deleted)

Plan-wide change(s)

Subject	Page	Revision
Anadromous waterbody authorities moved to ADF&G	Various	Revise: (Office of Habitat Management and Permitting) to <u>ADF&G, Division of Habitat.</u>

Chapter 1

Subject	Page	Revision
Summary of Purpose	1-1	Add: "...will manage state lands <u>for the 20year life of the plan</u> within the Knik River Public Use Area."
Function of Plan	1-9	Delete second from last bullet in "The plan will" section.

Chapter 2

Subject	Page	Revision
Introduction	2-1	Delete last full sentence.
Overall Management Direction	2-2	Revise: "These (policies) <u>goals and guidelines...</u> "
Access Background	2-3	Revise: "...lands on the <u>northeast</u> side..."
Commercial Use Background	2-5	Revise: "Currently, two operators <u>are permitted to...</u> "
Commercial Use	2-5	Revise first management guideline to read: " <u>DNR may authorize commercial uses in any area of the PUA; however, commercial uses at the terminus of the Knik Glacier should be restricted to the southern end of the moraine. Authorizations for commercial use are subject to the requirements of the management plan.</u> "
Coordination Background	2-6	Revise second sentence to read: "...Environmental Conservation, <u>ADF&G Division of Habitat, DPRO Office of History and Archeology, US Army Corps...</u> "
Coordination Guidelines	2-6	Revise guideline to "DNR will (work) <u>coordinate</u> with..."

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Coordination Guidelines	2-6	Add guideline: “Activities below the OHWM of fish bearing water will require consultation with ADF&G and may require specific authorizations.”
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Background	2-10	The following text will be added to the second paragraph: “The extensive lakes and wetlands within the PUA are used for resting and staging during the spring and fall migrations of waterfowl and shorebirds. A number of these waterfowl stay in the PUA to nest, rear broods, or use available habitat for the summer.”
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Background	2-10	Revise sentence to “... abandon their nest sites, <u>young</u> , or cygnets.”
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Guidelines	2-11	Revise guideline to “All <u>new, up-graded, expanded, and re-routed trails</u> or...”
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Guidelines	2-11	Add the following text to management guideline on pp. 2-11: “ <u>Effectiveness of education and signage will be re-evaluated in 5 years from the effective date of the plan.</u> ” In the event that these <u>techniques are not found effective after a period of monitoring, regulatory controls similar to the ones initially recommended may be necessary.</u> ”
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Guidelines	2-11	<p>Add the following management guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Authorizations that potentially affect bald eagles will be consistent with the state and federal Endangered Species acts and the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 as amended. Applicable standards are drawn from a cooperative agreement signed by the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), or such subsequent standards that may be promulgated. These standards, however, may not be adequate in all circumstances, and the USFWS may determine that additional measures are necessary. In addition, meeting the guidelines does not absolve the party from the penalty provisions of the Bald Eagle Protection Act; therefore, the USFWS should be consulted when activities may affect bald or golden eagles.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Siting Facilities to Avoid Eagle Nests.</u> <u>Facilities determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to cause significant disturbance to nesting eagles will not be allowed within 330 feet of any bald eagle nest site, whether the nest is currently active or not.</u> ○ <u>Activities Disturbing Nesting Eagles.</u> <u>Activities the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines likely to cause significant disturbance to nesting eagles will be</u>

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		<p><u>prohibited within 330 feet of active bald eagle nests between March 15 and August 31. Temporary activities and facilities that do not alter eagle nesting habitat or disturb nesting eagles, as determined by the USFWS, may be allowed at other times.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Portions of the PUA are important for moose calving concentration areas. Calving typically occurs from May through June, depending upon location. Uses that are likely to produce levels of acoustical or visual disturbance sufficient to disturb calving or post-calving aggregations that cannot be seasonally restricted should not be authorized in these areas. Uses may be authorized in these areas at other times of the year. DNR authorizations should include seasonal restrictions on activities that would produce significant acoustical or visual disturbance during sensitive periods.</u> <p><u>Moose calving areas change over time. ADF&G should be consulted prior to issuing an authorization in an area suspected to contain such concentrations in order to better determine: 1) the location of calving areas; 2) when activities within these areas should be avoided; and 3) identify appropriate mitigation measures if no feasible or prudent alternative site exists.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>In trumpeter swan nesting areas, uses that would disturb nesting swans or detrimentally alter the nesting habitat should be avoided. The siting of permanent facilities, including roads, material sites, storage areas, and other forms of permanent structures should be avoided within one-quarter mile of known nesting sites. Surface entry should also be avoided within one-quarter mile of nesting sites between April 1 and August 31. Leases or permits may require seasonal restrictions on activities to avoid disturbance to swans. Consult with ADF&G to identify current or potential nesting habitat and to determine guidelines to follow and activities to avoid.</u> • <u>In waterfowl nesting habitat, activities requiring a lease, permit, or development plan, and producing habitat disturbance or high levels of acoustical or visual disturbance from sources such as boat traffic, vegetation clearing, construction, blasting, dredging, and seismic operations, should be avoided during sensitive periods such as nesting.</u>

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		<p><u>staging, or brood-rearing periods. Where it is not feasible and prudent to avoid such activities, other mitigation measures may be required to avoid significant adverse impacts. Consult with ADF&G to identify areas of important waterfowl in addition to those identified in the Plan and to determine appropriate mitigation or avoidance measures.</u></p>
Forestry Background	2-12	Revise sentence to “Birds use (them) <u>this habitat</u> for nesting...”
Forestry Guidelines	2-13	Revise guideline by deleting (but shall not be located in the Rippy Non-motorized Area is a feasible alternative location exists).
Health and Safety Guidelines	2-15	Revise guideline by adding “...proposed by DNR <u>for Phase II Regulations and Phase I Regulations previously adopted by DNR.</u> ”
Health and Safety Guidelines	2-15	Revise guideline to read: “Shooting areas with specified hours/ <u>days</u> of operation...”
Health and Safety Guidelines	2-15	Revise fourth guideline from bottom to read: “ <u>Following the adoption of the Management Plan, DNR will evaluate the Maud Road and Pavilion areas to determine the feasibility of construction of shooting facilities. It is intended that at least one of these sites will be developed over the next five years, subject to the availability of funding.</u> ”
Health and Safety Guidelines	2-15	Delete guideline that addresses a segment of McRoberts Creek.
Heritage Cultural	2-19	Revise first guideline to read: “...Office of History and Archeology (OHA), <u>contingent on funding</u> , in areas...”
Heritage Cultural	2-19	Add guideline: “The Office of History and Archeology should be contacted during the initial planning phase of any project that involves a ground disturbing activity.”
Materials Guidelines	2-21	Revise first guideline to read: “...habitat, (or) wetlands, <u>or heritage or cultural resources.</u> ”
Materials Guidelines	2-21	Revise second guideline to read: “...their habitats, <u>heritage or cultural resources</u> , and recreational uses.”
Parcel Acquisition Background	2-25	Delete second to last sentence that begins “Based on a...”
Parcel Acquisition Guidelines	2-25	Revise guideline to read: “The (existing) SUA designation...”
Public Use Sites Background	2-27	Revise sentence to read: “(There are four) <u>Two</u> public use sites are identified in this plan: (Lower Knik Flats,) Jim Lake <u>and</u> Jim Creek (, and Knik Glacier).” Additionally, the Jim Lake Public Use Site will be expanded to include the overlook on the bluff at the north

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		end of the lake.
Public Use Sites Guidelines	2-27	Revise first guideline to read: “The following Public Use Sites are designated in the plan: Jim Lake and Jim Creek. The subsequent management guidelines apply to these sites and will be included in the second phase of regulations to be developed by DNR.”
Public Use Sites Guidelines	2-28	Revise second guideline to read: “Within a Public Use Site, camping may be restricted to a campground, identified campsites, or within a certain distance of a developed facility when a facility is developed.” A footnote will be added to this text that will read: “Camping outside of a Public Use Site remains subject to restrictions provided in Generally Allowed Uses of State Land.”
Public Use Sites Map 2-2	2-29	Update map to indicate expanded Jim Lake Public Use Site and Jim Creek public Use Site.
Recreation Background	2-31	Revise sentence to read: “ <u>Developed</u> non-motorized recreational opportunities...”
Recreation Background	2-31	Add a footnote following fourth paragraph with the following text: “ <u>All levels of use discussed in this plan are relative to others use levels occurring in the PUA. A formal study of use was not conducted.</u> ”
Recreation Guidelines	2-32	Revise guideline to read: “See Trails and (Wildlife and Fish) <u>Fish and Wildlife</u> sections (below).”
Subsurface Resources Background	2-40	Revise sentence in Locatable Minerals section to read: “There are(a) 32 active mining claims...”
Trails Guidelines	2-41	Revise first guideline to read: “ <u>Through the TMP, DNR will provide an inventory...</u> ”
Trails Guidelines	2-42	Revise guideline to read: “When (sighting) <u>siting</u> a new trail...”
Trails Guidelines	2-42	Add Management Guideline that reads: “Following standard SCRO procedures for adjudication of easements, the public will be allowed to review and comment on recommendations involving the establishment of easements.”
Waterbodies Goal	2-43	Revise goal to read: “...use of waterbodies while (mitigating) <u>avoiding/minimizing</u> impacts to resources...”

Chapter 3

Subject	Page	Revision
Unit A Unit Description	3-6	Revise sentence to read: “...access for fishing, hunting, <u>trapping, camping, wildlife viewing, photography,</u> and for recreation.
Unit A Guidelines	3-9	Revise first guideline to read: “...10 miles per hour <u>during ice free periods.</u> ”
Unit A Management Recommendations	3-9	Revise third recommendation to read: “DNR should work with (the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting and) ADF&G to identify stream...”
Waterbody Restrictions Map 3-2	3-11	Update map to reflect restrictions carried forward in the Plan.
Unit B Unit Description	3-14	Revise sentence to read: “...access the area for hunting, (and) fishing, <u>trapping, camping, wildlife viewing, photography,</u> (as well as) <u>and other forms of recreation.</u> ”
Unit B Guidelines	3-17	Delete fifth guideline and replace with: “ <u>Implement an education and signage program to address safety concerns for both Jim and McRoberts creeks. Signs will be posted at major access points into the PUA depicting Jim and McRoberts creeks and will advise boaters of the sometimes narrow and winding nature of these waterbodies. Signs will contain information on the common types of watercraft, and seasonality of use. Additional signs may be posted at the major entry points to Jim and McRoberts creeks.</u> ”
Unit B Guidelines	3-17	Revise sixth guideline to read: “ <u>Motorized access on Jim Lake and associated wetlands will be restricted to not more than 10 horsepower for watercraft seasonally from April 15 to August 9 annually. The 10hp restriction will be lifted beginning August 10 through April 14 annually.</u> The area affected by this horsepower restriction for watercraft is indicated in Map 3-2, pp.3-11.”
Unit B Guidelines Rippy Trail Development	3-17 & 3-18	Delete both existing management guidelines and insert new guidelines as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>“DNR will designate a multi-use (motorized and non-motorized) trail on the current Rippy Trail alignment extending from the Jim Lake parking area to the wetlands of Chain Lake, east of Jim Creek. The trail will include the commonly used spur routes that go to specific locations (i.e. campsites, scenic viewing opportunities, and hunting locations). The Rippy Trail will be upgraded to sustainable trail standards.”</u> • <u>“Vehicles with a curb weight of greater than 1,500 pounds are prohibited from using the Rippy Trail.”</u> • <u>“It is intended that a new non-motorized trail will be</u>

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		<u>developed generally parallel and upslope of the existing Rippy Trail. Extensions of this new trail may be appropriate to access campsites, viewpoints, or to connect with other trails.</u>
Rippy Non-motorized Area Map 3-3	3-19	Delete map.
Unit B Management Recommendations	3-21	Revise recommendation to read: “DNR (should) <u>will</u> work with (OHMP and) ADF&G, <u>Habitat Division</u> in the identification...”
Unit C Unit Description	3-23	Revise sentence in Access section to read: “(A few) <u>Some</u> individuals utilize aircraft...”
Unit C Management Intent	3-25	Revise sentence to read: “The management intent for the (Lower) <u>Upper</u> Knik Flats Unit...”

Chapter 4

Subject	Page	Revision
Allowed and Prohibited Uses	4-4	Revise last sentence to read: <u>Land disposals and timber harvest (commercial and private¹) are prohibited.</u>
Proposed Regulations	4-5	<p>Revise regulations necessary to implement plan to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Prohibition of vehicles (on and off-highway) with a curb weight greater than 1,500 pounds on the Rippy Trail.</u> • <u>Establishment of the days and hours of operation for shooting range(s).</u> • <u>Prohibition of motorized use on Manmade Lake from May 1 to September 30.</u> • <u>Limit speed of motorized vehicles within 100 feet of the water of Manmade Lake to 10 mph or less May 1 to September 30.</u> • <u>Restrict horsepower of boat motors to 10 horsepower from April 15 to August 9 annually.</u> • <u>Restrictions on camping and discharge of firearms within public use sites.</u> • <u>Amend regulations to allow ground disturbance and rutting in excess of 6 inches for the area managed for high use depicted on Map 2-3 of the Plan.</u> • Additional regulations may be developed through a public process as needed by DNR for the management of the PUA to include but not limited to unauthorized activities at public use sites, stream crossing violations, and commercial use violations.
Other Lands	4-8	Revise Mental Health Trust section to read: “(Based on a 1994 Settlement Agreement between the Trust and the State, this parcel is to be returned to the State.) Because of its location and heavy recreation use, this parcel is included within the PUA planning boundary <u>and is recommended for acquisition by DNR.</u> ”

Appendices

Appendix A	A-1 to A-6	<p>Add the following to glossary:</p> <p><u>“Habitat.</u> <u>Areas that serve as a concentrated use area for fish and wildlife species during a sensitive life history stage where alteration of the habitat and /or human disturbance could result in a permanent loss of a population or sustained yield of a species.”</u></p> <p><u>“Serious Degradation.</u> <u>This term is used to refer to the amount of degradation that occurs on trails. It is meant to describe a serious deficiency in the tread of a trail, which is usually associated with specific, severe trail damage causing the tread of the trail to deteriorate to the point where it cannot be safely used by the public or where that use is seriously compromised.”</u></p>
Appendix B	B-1	Update Anadromous Waterbody map to include newly designated area of Upper Jim Creek.
Appendix C	C-1 to C-9	Revise to include list from Chapter 4, pp. 4-5 and Phase I Regulations adopted by DNR.
Appendix E	E-1 to E-3	Revise to include signed Special Use Area Designation.
Appendix F	F-1 to F-6	Revise to include signed Plan Amendments.
Appendix G	G-1	Revise to include signed Land Classification Order.