

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT & DEVELOPMENT SECTION

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

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September 26, 2008

RE: Knik River Public Use Area Management Plan Adoption

Dear Alaskan:

On September 25, 2008 the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) re-issued the decision to adopt the Knik River Public Use Area Management Plan (Plan). No changes have been made to the original decision. The re-issuance was necessary because the email address provided in the original adoption letter for aggrieved parties to submit a Request for Reconsideration had been deactivated. The inability to access the commissioner's appeal email account may have prevented some individuals from submitting a Request for Reconsideration. Re-issuance of the adoption decision opens the Reconsideration period for another 20 days and enables those who may have been unable to Request Reconsideration to do so. Requests for Reconsideration that were received by the DNR within the original September 24, 2008 deadline remain valid. Requestor's do not need to re-submit their requests during the new Reconsideration period; however they may do so if they wish.

This Plan provides the basis for the management of ~ 260,000 acres of state land and water within the Public Use Area under the authority AS 41.23.190, and for those state lands that are included within the plan boundary but not within the boundary established by AS 41.34.230. The Plan is also adopted as the Land Use Plan for the Public Use Area under the authority of AS 38.04.065 and 11 AAC 55.010-55.030. The Plan supersedes the Susitna Area Plan and the Prince William Sound Area Plan for the area covered by the Plan. The Department of Natural Resources will manage state land and water within the plan boundary consistent with the Plan under the authorities of AS 38.04.065 and AS 41.23.190, and will classify these lands consistent with Plan designations.

A Public Review Draft (PRD) of the Plan was released for a comment period that ended on May 2, 2008. DNR received a total of 735 written comments from individuals, organizations, businesses, and agencies. A total of 61 individuals provided oral comments during public meetings held in Anchorage, Butte, and Wasilla. Following review of these comments, DNR made several revisions to the Plan. Revisions focused mainly on management guidelines, but also included direction related to signage and education and clarification of plan text among other changes.

DNR has compiled an **"Issue Response Summary"**; documenting issues identified by DNR and the response and corresponding recommended changes to the Plan. These plan changes are compiled in an **"Approved Revisions"** summary document that, together with the PRD, form

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the basis of the final adopted Plan. In adopting the Plan, the Commissioner also approved **Plan Amendments** for the Prince William Sound Area Plan and Susitna Area Plan and a **Land Classification Order** that classifies land consistent with Plan designations for the Public Use Area. A **Special Use Area** designation has been adopted by the Director of the Division of Mining, Land & Water for land currently owned by the state, and for lands recommended for state acquisition once title is conveyed to the state. All of these documents can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/planning> or at www.knikriver.alaska.gov .

If you would like a copy of any document to be mailed to you, or for questions please contact me at the address, phone or fax number or by email listed below.

Sincerely,



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A person affected by this decision may request reconsideration, in accordance with [11 AAC 02](#). Any reconsideration request must be received by October 15, 2008 and may be mailed or delivered to Tom Irwin, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, 550 W. Seventh Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; faxed to 1-907-269-8918, or sent by electronic mail to dnr.appeals@alaska.gov. If reconsideration is not requested by that date or if the commissioner does not order reconsideration on his own motion, this decision goes into effect as a final order and decision on October 27, 2008. Failure of the commissioner to act on a request for reconsideration within 30 days after issuance of this decision is a denial of reconsideration and is a final administrative order and decision for purposes of an appeal to Superior Court. The decision may then be appealed to Superior Court within a further 30 days in accordance with the rules of the court, and to the extent permitted by applicable law. An eligible person must first request reconsideration of this decision in accordance with 11 AAC 02 before appealing this decision to Superior Court. A copy of 11 AAC 02 may be obtained from any regional information office of the Department of Natural Resources.