

**STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER**

**Susitna Area Plan Amendment
for
Knik River Public Use Area
(LCO SC-07-002)**

Background

The Susitna Area Plan (SAP) was adopted in June 1985 and has guided the management of State land throughout much of the Susitna and Matanuska Valleys, including portions of the Knik River area, since that time. In 2006 the Knik River Public Use Area (PUA), encompassing approximately 148,895 acres of State land, was established as a Legislative Designated Area under AS 41.23.180-230. This legislation required the preparation of a management plan by the DNR Commissioner, the intent of which is to provide a detailed management strategy for State land within the PUA.

The boundary of the PUA overlaps portions of the Glenn Highway Subregion (Units 2e, 3b, 3c) and the Chugach Subregion (Units 1a, and 1d) of the SAP. Because the PUA provides a more detailed approach to state land management in this area and because the legislature intended for the PUA to guide state land and resource management in this area, it is appropriate to amend the SAP. The PUA management plan will function as a state land use plan in this area as well as provide an overall management approach to the use and management of State land. That is, the Knik River Public Use Area Management Plan (Plan) is to provide both the area management policies and management guidelines that are typically contained in Chapter 2 of such plans and the plan designations and management intent statements that are characteristic of Chapter 3.

In addition to this amendment, portions of the Prince William Sound Area Plan (PWSAP) overlap with the boundary of the PUA. The PWSAP will be amended concurrently with this Plan Amendment.

This amendment does not affect Leasehold Location Orders or Mineral Orders in place before the enactment of the PUA. Land Classification Order SC-07-002 accompanies this Amendment, reclassifying the entirety of the PUA area to the co-designation of Public Recreation Land and Wildlife Habitat Land.

Current Plan Requirements:

Within the SAP the Glenn Highway and Chugach Subregions are currently designated Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat. The SAP management intent recommends that these areas be managed to protect and improve public recreation opportunities while protecting the general quality of fish, waterfowl and wildlife habitat. A portion of the affected areas is recommended for legislative designation as state recreation area.

Proposed Amendment:

The boundary of the SAP is amended to exclude those lands that are within the SAP (Glenn Highway Subregion, Units 2e, 3b, 3c and Chugach Subregion, Units 1a, and 1d) that coincide with lands in the PUA. The lands within these townships are now part of the PUA. Where the Plan overlaps the SAP (Glenn Highway Subregion, Units 2e, 3b, 3c and Chugach Subregion, Units 1a, and 1d), this amendment rescinds all current SAP land use plan requirements and recommendations, and functions as the land use plan under AS 38.04.065 for this area.

The management intent, plan designations, and management guidelines for these lands is described in detail within the Plan; this management plan shall function as the management strategy for these lands.

LCO SC-07-002 classifies land within the PUA as Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat. Reclassification is necessary since this Plan will function as a state land use plan as well as the management plan. This LCO is based upon the plan designations contained in the Plan, which co-designates state land as Public Recreation – Dispersed and Habitat.

Alternatives Considered:

Two alternatives were considered in the drafting of this amendment:

- A. Null Alternative – status quo. The SAP would continue to be used as the guiding management document for the PUA.
- B. Amendment of SAP as outlined by this plan amendment. This alternative will provide more detailed management guidance to the Department in decisions for the PUA.

Recommendation:

Alternative B is the preferred course of action. The amendment to the SAP is necessary to clarify and direct the specific management of PUA lands. Alternative A has been given due consideration and has been determined not to provide the necessary management directions necessary for the PUA under AS 41.23.230.

Evaluation of AS 38.05.065 (b) Requirements:

This section of Statute requires that certain factors be considered as part of a plan 'revision'. These factors have all been considered and are summarized as follows:

Multiple Use and Sustained Yield: Multiple Use and sustained yield, as stipulated in AS 41.23.230, has been given due consideration in this amendment. A detailed analysis can be found in the main body of the PUA plan.

Evaluation of physical, economic, and social factors: A thorough evaluation of these factors has taken place as a primary aspect of the development of the PUA plan and this amendment.

Planning and Classification for Settlement: Settlement has been determined to not be compatible with AS 41.23.230. Settlement of any portion of the PUA would create potential conflicts of surface uses and goes against the legislative directives.

Land Inventory: A land inventory was prepared as part of this plan amendment and as part of the PUA. Land Status maps as well as accompanying land statistics can be found in the Knik River Public Use Area Management Plan.

Alternative Present and Future Uses: These uses were considered as part of the directive in AS 41.23.230. This area has been designated as a public use area by the legislature.

Adjacent non-state lands: The adjacent lands include private, borough, federal, and native lands. All of the adjacent land uses have been considered and deemed compatible and all adjacent land owners have been invited to participate in the planning process.

Potential Conflicts between mining and surface uses: Several recreational mining claims are within the PUA. These uses are compatible with, and will not be excluded by, the management plan. After analysis of the minerals and mineral potential in the area, and discussion with DNR Mining Section, it has been determined that there is no commercial potential for mining within this area. There are no foreseen conflicts of uses in this regard.

Public Participation: the public is being given several opportunities to comment on this proposal in conjunction with the proposed PUA management plan.

Approved


Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
State of Alaska

Date Sept. 25, 2008

**STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER**

**Prince William Sound Area Plan Amendment
for
Knik River Public Use Area
(LCO SC-07-002)**

Background

The Prince William Sound Area Plan (PWSP) was adopted in June 1988 and has guided the management of State land throughout the Prince William Sound area since that time. In 2006 the Knik River Public Use Area (PUA), encompassing 148,895 acres of State land, was established as a Legislative Designated Area under AS 41.23.180-230. This legislation required the preparation of a management plan by the DNR Commissioner, the intent of which is to provide a detailed management strategy for State land within the PUA.

The boundary of the PUA overlaps Management Unit 6, the “Lake George” area, of the PSWP. Because the PUA provides a more detailed approach to state land management in this area and because the legislature intended for the PUA to guide state land and resource management in this area, it is appropriate to amend the boundary of the PWSP. The PUA management plan will function as a state land use plan in this area as well as provide an overall management approach to the use and management of State land. That is, the PUA Management Plan is to provide both the area management policies and management guidelines that are typically contained in Chapter 2 of such plans and the plan designations and management intent statements that are characteristic of Chapter 3.

In addition to this amendment, portions of the Susitna Area Plan (SAP) overlap with the boundary of the PUA. The SAP will be amended concurrently with this Plan Amendment.

This amendment does not affect Leasehold Location Orders or Mineral Orders in place before the enactment of the PUA. Land Classification Order SC-07-002 accompanies this Amendment, reclassifying the entirety of the PUA area to the co-designation of Public Recreation Land and Wildlife Habitat Land.

Proposed Amendment:

The boundary of the PWSP is amended to exclude those lands that are within Management Unit 6 Lake George Unit (S15N06E, S15N05E, and S15N04E) that coincide with lands in the PUA. The lands within these townships are now part of the PUA. Where the Plan overlaps Management Unit 6 Lake George Unit (S15N06E, S15N05E, and S15N04E), this amendment rescinds all current PWSAP land use plan

requirements and recommendations, and functions as the land use plan under AS 38.04.065 for this area.

The management intent, plan designations, and management guidelines for these lands is described in detail within the Plan; this management plan shall be the guiding management document for these lands.

SC-07-002 classifies land within the PUA as Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat. Reclassification is necessary since this Plan will function as a state land use plan as well as the management plan. This LCO is based upon the plan designations contained in the PUA, which co-designates state land as Public Recreation – Dispersed and Habitat.

Alternatives Considered:

Two alternatives were considered in the drafting of this amendment:

- A. Null Alternative – status quo. The PWSP would continue to be used as the guiding management document for the three townships that now are within the PUA.

- B. Amendment of the PWSP boundary as outlined by this plan amendment. This alternative will provide more detailed management guidance to the Department in decisions for the PUA.

Recommendation:

Alternative B is the preferred course of action. The amendment to the PWSP boundary is necessary to clarify and direct the specific management of PUA lands. Alternative A has been given due consideration and has been determined not to provide the management directions necessary for the PUA under AS 41.23.230.

Evaluation of AS 38.05.065 (b) Requirements:

This section of Statute requires that certain factors be considered as part of a plan ‘revision’. These factors have all been considered and are summarized as follows:

Multiple Use and Sustained Yield: Multiple Use and sustained yield, as stipulated in AS 41.23.230, has been given due consideration in this amendment. A detailed analysis can be found in the main body of the PUA plan.

Evaluation of physical, economic, and social factors: A thorough evaluation of these factors has taken place as a primary aspect of the development of the PUA plan and this amendment.

Planning and Classification for Settlement: Settlement has been determined to not be compatible with AS 41.23.230. Settlement of any portion of the PUA would create potential conflicts of surface uses and goes against the legislative directives.

Land Inventory: A land inventory was prepared as part of this plan amendment and as part of the PUA. Land Status maps as well as accompanying land statistics can be found in the appendix of the PUA plan.

Alternative Present and Future Uses: These uses were considered as part of the directive in AS 41.23.230. This area has been designated as a public use area by the legislature.

Adjacent non-state lands: The adjacent lands include private, borough, federal, and native lands. All of the adjacent land uses have been considered and deemed compatible and all adjacent land owners have been invited to participate in the planning process.

Potential Conflicts between mining and surface uses: Several recreational mining claims are within the PUA. These uses are compatible with, and will not be excluded by, the management plan. After analysis of the minerals and mineral potential in the area, and discussion with DNR Mining Section, it has been determined that there is no commercial potential for mining within this area. There are no foreseen conflicts of uses in this regard.

Public Participation: the public is being given several opportunities to comment on this proposal in conjunction with the proposed PUA management plan.

Approved



Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
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Date Sept. 25, 2008