



November 10, 2014

Re: Release of the Public Review Draft of the Petersville Recreational Mining Area (PRMA) Management Plan and Extension of the Public Comment Period

Dear Alaskan,

The Mining Section of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) released the Public Review Draft (PRD) of the Petersville Recreational Mining Area Management Plan (management plan) for public review and comment on September 26, 2014. The original comment deadline was October 31, 2014. Due to limited public input, DNR has extended the public comment period until **December 12, 2014**.

A management plan is required for this legislatively designated area by Alaska Statute 41.23.630. DNR intends to adopt the management plan and once adopted, this plan will serve as the basis for the management of state land and waters within the recreational area for the next 15 to 20 years or until revised. A copy of the management plan, including a map, can be found on the Mining Resources Section webpage: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/>.

The PRMA is located several miles north of Petersville, Alaska as depicted on the plan map. The PRMA consists of one 274 acre unit that contains 17 closed federal mining claims. Originally, the PRMA was larger (487 acres) and designated as two separate units. However, the southern unit was removed from the PRMA via legislation (HB 135) on June 18, 2014. The management plan contains no recommendations for the southern unit.

The management plan provides guidance about the methods of mining and equipment permitted within the PRMA, stipulations for the protection of habitat and other restrictions relevant to recreational use of the area, consistent with uses that are generally allowed under 11 AAC 96.020 -.025. No new areas are closed to mineral entry and no new restrictions are recommended on mining activities in the plan. This plan will **not** affect borough, federal, Mental Health Trust, Municipal, University, Native, private, or other non-state lands and will not affect oil and gas lease sales or gas only lease sales. The plan does not include a Land Classification Order because the PRMA was classified for "minerals" within the 2011 Susitna Matanuska Area Plan (LCO SC-09-002). The plan does not require a Mineral Closing Order because the area was closed to mineral entry through Alaska Statute 41.23.630 upon inception in 1997.

The State would like your input on the Public Review Draft. Your written comments are encouraged during this public comment period and must be submitted, in writing, on or before **December 12th, 2014** by mail, email, or fax using the contact information below. Comments may also be hand delivered until 5:00 PM, AST, December 12th, 2014 to the address below. To review and download an electronic version of the PRD, including the plan map please visit our webpage at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/>. For additional information contact:

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The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aides, services, or special modifications to submit a comment should contact the person indicated above or contact the state TDD number (907)269-8411 at least seven days (7) before the comment deadline to arrange accommodations.