

# Chapter 2

## Areawide Land Management Policies

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# 1 Chapter 2

## 2 Areawide Land Management Policies

### 3 Introduction

4  
5 This chapter presents land management policies for each of the major resources affected by  
6 the plan: agriculture, fish and wildlife, forestry, materials, mineral resources, recreation and  
7 tourism, cultural features, and water. It also presents management policies for several  
8 specific land management concerns: protection of fish and wildlife habitat, public and  
9 private access, timber harvest, settlement, and shoreline and stream corridor management.  
10 These policies apply to state land throughout the planning area regardless of the land use  
11 designation.

12  
13 This chapter consists of goals and management guidelines. Goals are the general condition  
14 the department is trying to achieve, and guidelines are specific directives that will be applied  
15 to land and water management decisions as resource use and development occurs.

### 18 Definitions

19  
20 For definitions of terms commonly used in this chapter, see Appendix A, Glossary.

### 23 Goals

24  
25 The following goals are for state lands in the planning area. Goals are general conditions that  
26 DNR attempts to achieve through management actions. The goals are listed alphabetically.  
27 No single goal has a priority over the others.

28  
29 **Economic Development.** Provide opportunities for jobs and income by managing state land  
30 and resources to support a vital, self-sustaining, diverse local economy.

31  
32 **Environment and Habitat.** Manage state land to protect natural ecosystems, sensitive  
33 species, and wildlife habitats.

34  
35 **Fiscal Costs.** Minimize the needs for, and the fiscal cost of, providing government services  
36 and facilities such as schools and roads.

37  
38 **Public Health and Safety.** Maintain or enhance public health and safety for users of state  
39 land and resources.

1 **Public Use.** Provide, plan, enhance, and manage diverse opportunities for public use of state  
2 lands, including uses such as hunting, fishing, boating and other types of recreation.

3  
4 **Quality of Life.** Maintain or enhance the quality of the natural environment including air,  
5 land and water, and fish and wildlife habitat and harvest opportunities; provide opportunities  
6 to view wildlife and the natural environment; and protect heritage resources.

7  
8 **Recreation.** Protect recreational resources including public access and visual resources, and  
9 manage recreational activities to minimize user conflict, while providing for a range of  
10 recreational experiences on state land managed for multiple uses.

11  
12 **Settlement.** Provide opportunities for private ownership and leasing of land currently owned  
13 by the state.

14  
15 **Sustained Yield.** Maintain the long-term productivity and quality of renewable resources  
16 including fish and wildlife, agriculture, and timber.

17  
18  
19 **Management Intent**

20  
21 Management intent for state land is expressed through statements of management emphasis  
22 identified on a unit specific basis. These statements are based on resource and use  
23 inventories, the review of existing and potential economic trends, state authorizations,  
24 existing plans and similar resource management documents, agency review and comment,  
25 and public participation.

26  
27  
28 **General Framework of the Plan**

29  
30 **A.** State land within the planning area will be managed to allow for multiple use unless  
31 legislatively designated<sup>1</sup>, or a parcel of state land is less than 640 acres and managed under a  
32 management agreement by another state agency, or affected by 11 AAC 96.014 (Special Use  
33 Land).

34  
35 **B.** State land will also be managed to protect access and public resources. Types of  
36 resources to be protected include, but are not limited to habitat, recreation, water quality,  
37 anchorages, watersheds, scenery and trails.

38  
39

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<sup>1</sup> Typically, LDAs refer to state game refuges, state parks, and the like, that are withdrawn from the public domain and are managed as special purpose sites. However, certain LDAs may be managed for multiple use, although they have been withdrawn from the public domain. Within the planning area, the Tanana Valley State Forest is an example of such types.

1 **C.** State land within the general domain will remain open to mineral entry unless specifically  
2 closed. This plan does not recommend any areas to be closed to mineral entry, although it  
3 does recommend a leasehold location orders, which would affect newly designated  
4 settlement areas as well as existing settlement areas that are not now closed (2014) to mineral  
5 entry. No new mineral closing orders are recommended. Except for those areas now closed  
6 to mineral entry or affected by leasehold location orders, all other state land within the  
7 planning area is open to entry.  
8

9 **D.** In management units where a primary surface use has been designated, activities and  
10 authorizations pertaining to that primary designated use may take precedence over other uses.  
11 Although there may be a priority for use in certain parcels, other uses may also be allowed if  
12 they do not preclude the primary use assigned to a management unit. This plan emphasizes  
13 minimizing land use conflicts through plan guidelines and intent rather than through  
14 prohibitions, although prohibitions are sometimes identified. All other uses are initially  
15 presumed compatible with the primary use. However, if DNR determines that a use conflict  
16 exists and that the proposed use is incompatible with the primary use, the proposed use  
17 should not be authorized or the use should be modified so that the incompatibility no longer  
18 exists (11 AAC 55.040 (c)). Except in areas closed to mineral entry, subsurface uses are  
19 considered an allowable use but must take into consideration the effects upon surface uses.  
20

21 **E.** This plan designates state lands in categories that are generally consistent with current  
22 use patterns and reflect the significant resources in the planning area.  
23

24 **F.** This plan honors the intent of existing settlement agreements with the Mental Health  
25 Trust Authority and the University of Alaska. These settlement agreements as well as  
26 pertinent sections of state law and regulation shall prevail over the area plan, if  
27 inconsistencies exist.  
28

29 **G.** DNR, in its consideration of resources and in the management of state land, shall  
30 consider the impacts of such use upon fish and wildlife, habitat and soil degradation, and  
31 upon other forms of use, including recreation, which may occupy the area that is under  
32 consideration in an authorization. Uses that are not compatible with these uses and resources  
33 are, if the use is nonetheless determined appropriate, to be made compatible to the extent  
34 feasible and prudent through the use of stipulations. The ability of the Department to manage  
35 the subsequent activities that may result from the issuance of an authorization is to be taken  
36 into consideration in the adjudication of an application that requires a written determination  
37 by DNR.  
38  
39

## 40 **Management Guidelines by Activity or Resource Value**

41

42 The remainder of this chapter specifies guidelines that are specific directives to apply to  
43 management decisions. DNR will use these guidelines when considering issuing  
44 authorizations and conveyances or making management decisions on state lands. These

1 guidelines will also apply to lands that are currently state-selected and ANILCA topfiled  
2 when they are tentatively approved or patented into state ownership.  
3

4 Chapter 2 guidelines apply to all state land covered by the ETAP unless the plan explicitly  
5 exempts some parcels or designations from a guideline or the resource or use for which a  
6 guideline is intended does not exist in the parcel in question. There are few such exemptions.  
7  
8

### 9 **General Guidelines**

10  
11 **A.** All authorizations for use of state land within the planning area will be consistent with  
12 the management intent in this plan.  
13

14 **B.** In considering authorizations for use of state land, DNR will adjudicate applications to:  
15

- 16 1. avoid, or if not possible, minimize damage to streambeds, fish and wildlife habitat,  
17 vegetation, trails, anchorages, and other resources;
- 18 2. minimize conflicts between resources and uses; and
- 19 3. protect the long-term value of the resource, public safety, and the environment.  
20

21 **C.** If authorizations from other agencies are required, DNR will consider issuing a permit or  
22 lease contingent upon issuance of these other authorizations.  
23  
24

### 25 **Other State Land**

26  
27 Parcels that are donated or acquired after the plan is adopted will be designated for the uses  
28 for which they were acquired or donated without an amendment to the plan. Lands that come  
29 into state ownership through other means will be designated and classified consistent with  
30 the designation identified in the applicable management unit or, if not so identified,  
31 according to the standards of the section, ‘Applicability of Plan Designations and  
32 Classifications’, in Chapter 4 without an amendment to the plan or to the Land Classification  
33 Order adopting this plan revision. This same process applies to those parcels of state land  
34 that may be missed during the plan preparation process and have subsequently identified as  
35 state land.  
36