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Reservations of Water

Goal

Reservation of Water. Maintain water quantity and quality sufficient to protect the overall ecosystem integrity and as well as the human, fish, and wildlife resources and uses of the region.

Management Guidelines

A. Stream Uses to Consider for Instream Flow Reservation (General). Streams, lakes, and other waterbodies may be considered for reservations of water under AS 46.15.145. Such reservations are intended to maintain the rate or volume of flow for one or a combination of purposes: 1) protection of fish and wildlife habitat, migration, and propagation; 2) recreation and park purposes; 3) sanitary and water quality purposes; and 4) navigation and transportation purposes.

B. Priorities. Instream flow reservations have been established on the Wood River and Nenana River (see http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mapguide/wr_intro.htm). Proposals for new developments requiring substantial water use or uses of water or that have the potential to negatively impact instream flows needed to produce fish, sustain water quality, provide for navigation, and/or recreation, should include an evaluation of the need for an instream water reservation or other forms of instream flow protection.

C. Process for Determining Reservations. Applications for instream flow reservations are submitted to the Department for adjudication following the procedures identified in 11 AAC 93.141-147. In general, these procedures estimate the quantity of water seasonally available and review the amount of water already appropriated in consideration of the requested instream flows or levels of water for the purposes to be protected.

D. Other Guidelines Affecting Instream Flow. Several other guidelines will affect instream flow. See other sections of this chapter.