



EASTERN TANANA AREA PLAN

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

Meeting Structure:

- 20 min. Map and material review
- 20 min. Welcome, staff introductions, and presentation
- 10 min. Process related question and answer period
- 60 min. Facilitated topic discussions (30 min at each station)
- 10 min. Summary and wrap up

RULES TO THE MEETING

- Be respectful and courteous to others
- Do not interrupt others that are speaking
- Please hold questions until after the presentation

EASTERN TANANA AREA PLAN

For State Lands

*(Revising the eastern portion of the
Tanana Basin Area Plan)*

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS
April 2009

Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land & Water
Resource Assessment & Development Section



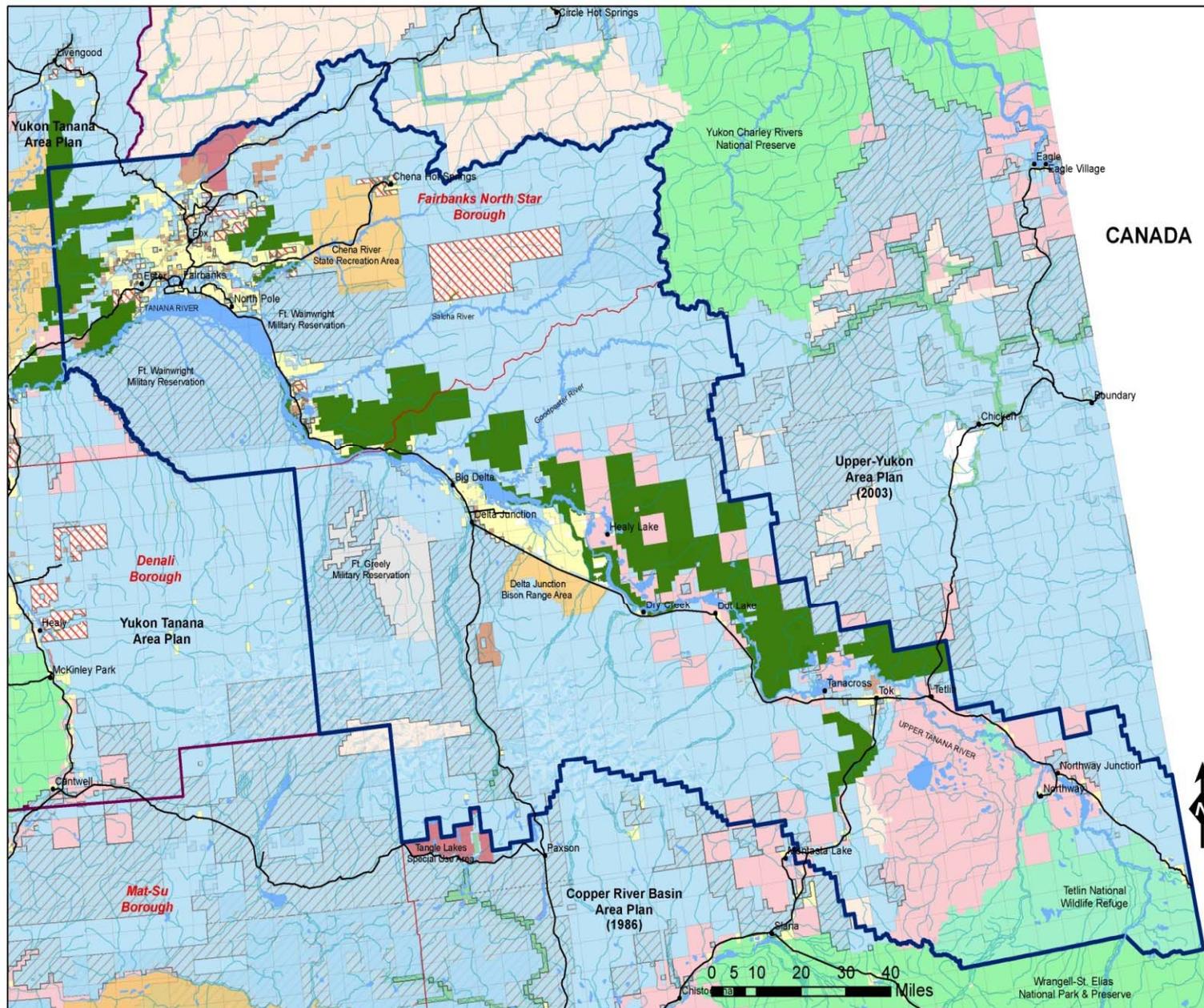
PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

- DNR is revising the Tanana Basin Area Plan (TBAP) through the development of two plans: the Eastern Tanana Area Plan (ETAP), and the Yukon Tanana Area Plan (YTAP)
- This meeting will focus on the Eastern Tanana Area Plan
- We are here to provide the public with information about the planning process, answer questions, and most importantly encourage the public to provide written comments on how you use the state lands and how you would like to see them used in the future

NOTE:

This Revision only affects state-owned and selected lands

The Planning area contains approximately 6.5 million acres of state owned and selected lands and over 1 million acres of LDA(s)



EASTERN TANANA AREA PLAN

(Revising the eastern portion of the Tanana Basin Area Plan)

General Land Status
2009

Boundaries/Roads

- Roads
- Eastern Tanana Area Plan
- Yukon-Tanana Area Plan
- Borough Boundary
- Boundary

Land Status/Management

- Tanana Valley State Forest (LDA)
- Legislatively Designated Area
- State Special Use Area
- State Land
- State Selections (including topfiles)
- Mental Health Trust Lands
- University Lands
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. National Park Service
- BLM
- Military
- NWR - US Fish and Wildlife
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Native Land
- Private and Municipal Lands



Produced by
DNR DMLW RADS
April 2009

NOTE:

This map is a graphic representation of general land status in the area and is intended to be used only as a guide.

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 6N



TOPICS COVERED

- Why have an area plan?
- What are the reasons for this revision?
- Why is TBAP being revised as two plans?
- Who uses an area plan?
- What an area plan does and does not do
- Components of an area plan
- What has happened so far?
- Steps in the planning process
- Will the plan address the railroad extension and the proposed gasline?
- What happens next?
- Our Website
- How to provide comments



WHY HAVE AN AREA PLAN?

Constitutional Mandate for Natural Resources:

- Article VIII, Section 1 of the Alaska State Constitution states: “It is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest.”



WHY HAVE AN AREA PLAN?

Statutory requirement:

- Alaska Statute 38.04.005 (a) states: “In order to provide for maximum use of state land consistent with the public interest, it is the policy of the State of Alaska to plan and manage state-owned land to establish a balanced combination of land available for both public and private purposes. **The choice of land best suited for public and private use shall be determined through the inventory, planning, and classification processes...**” (emphasis added)
- Alaska Statute 38.04.065 (a) states: “...**the commissioner shall, with local governmental and public involvement under AS 38.05.945, adopt, maintain, and, when appropriate, revise regional land use plans that provide for the use and management of state-owned land.**” (emphasis added)

WHY HAVE AN AREA PLAN?

➤ **DNR Mission Statement:**

Develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest

- The Department uses area plans as the basis of management for state land and resources
- Better and more informed decision making for DNR adjudicators
- Planning provides a way to sort through the numerous possibilities of using state land
- Provides the opportunity for the public to participate in decision-making process



REASONS FOR THE TBAP REVISION

- Identified as a high priority for the Department
- Original area plan was adopted over 20 years ago,
- Policies identified in Chapter 2 are outdated and reference programs no longer administered by DNR such as the homesteading program, and public use cabins
- Changes in land ownership patterns related to:
 - Settlement agreements (University and Mental Health Trust),
 - Land disposal programs,
 - State and Native land conveyances,
 - Municipal entitlements



REASONS (CONTINUED)

- Outdated land classifications, some from the early 80's
- The 1991 TBAP has been amended over 50 times
- Many remnant and unplanned parcels of state land exist.
- Provide a sufficient land base for the state land disposal and agricultural programs
- The need for consistency in DNR management policies and area plan formats.



WHY IS TBAP BEING REVISED AS TWO PLANS?

- Due to staff resources and workload within the Resource Assessment and Development Section of DNR.
- The area of the existing TBAP is very large and includes approximately 22 million acres of land in total including over 15 million acres of state owned and selected lands. Normally DNR will not prepare area plans of this size, due to the magnitude of the effort.



YUKON - TANANA AREA PLAN

EASTERN TANANA AREA PLAN

(Revising the Tanana Basin Area Plan)

General Land Status 2009

Boundaries/Roads

-  Yukon-Tanana Area Plan
-  Eastern Tanana Area Plan
-  Borough Boundary
-  Roads

Land Status/Management

-  Tanana Valley State Forest
-  Legislatively Designated Area
-  Special Use Area
-  State Land
-  State Selection
-  U.S. Forest Service
-  U.S. National Park Service
-  BLM
-  Military
-  NWR - US Fish and Wildlife
-  Wild and Scenic Rivers
-  Native Land
-  Private and Municipal Lands
-  Mental Health Trust Lands
-  University Lands

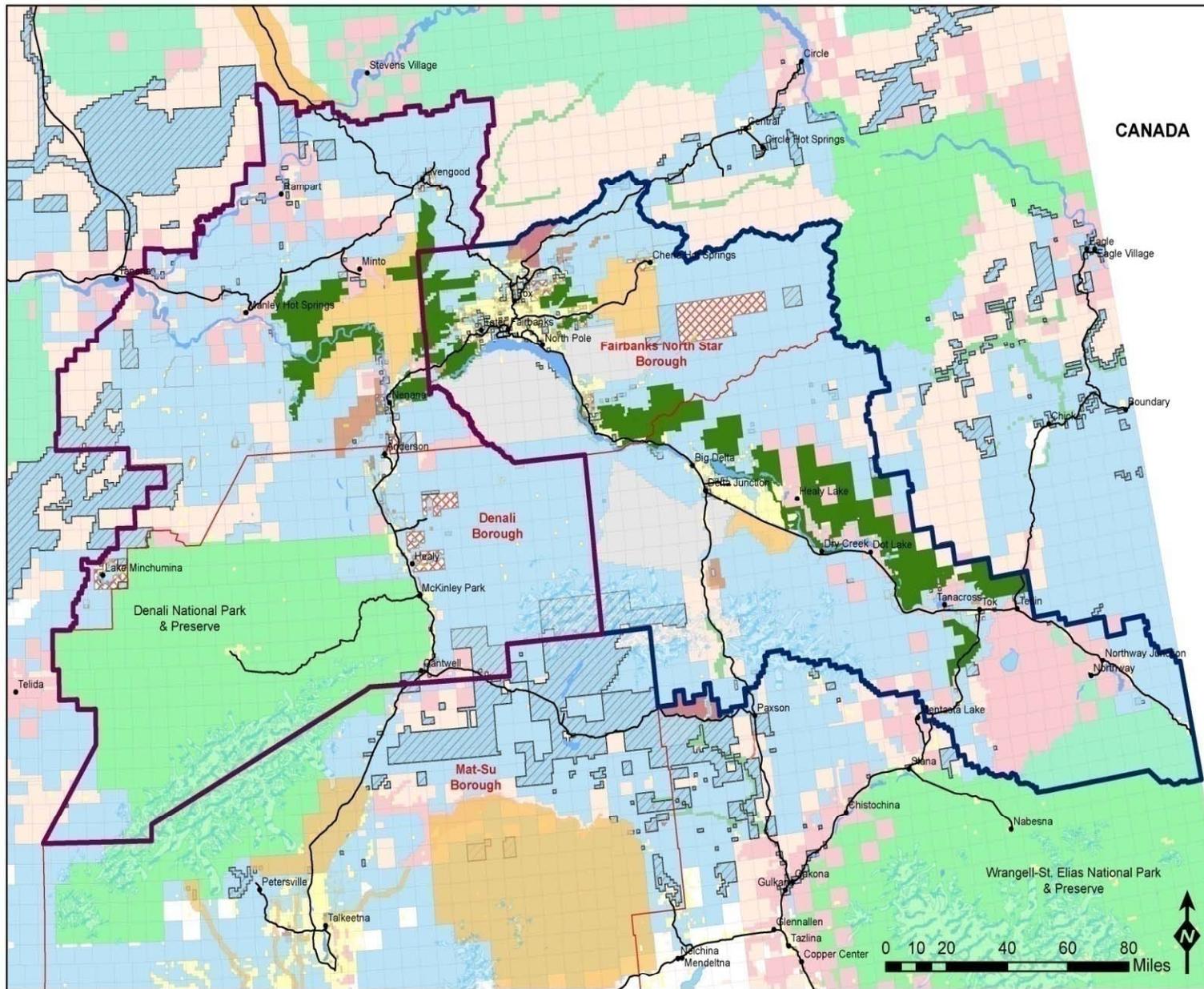


Produced by
DNR DMLW RADS
March 2009

NOTE:

This map is a graphic representation
of general land status in the area
and is intended to be used only as a guide.

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 6N



WHO USES AN AREA PLAN?

- Primarily used by DNR for management of state lands and resources. Including state personnel such as:
 - ADNR Permit adjudicators and leasing staff
 - Divisions within the Department
 - ADF&G project review staff
- Also used by members of the public, interest groups and Industry



WHAT THE PLAN DOES

- Serves as the basis for the management of state land and waters within the planning area
- Provides management direction for DNR decisions on state land
- Provides management intent, land use designations, and management guidelines for specific geographic regions
- Allocates land uses and thereby resolves land use conflicts, and where appropriate provides conditions for uses to make them compatible
 - Designates areas for active use (Forestry, Settlement, Material Sites)
 - Designates areas for protection (Habitat, Water Resources, Public Recreation)
- Identifies land to be retained or disposed



WHAT THE PLAN DOESN'T DO

- Does not apply to private, University, Mental Health Trust, Borough, or Federal Lands
- Does not apply to state parks, refuges, and critical habitat areas (except classifications)
- Does not address allocation, regulation, or harvesting of fish and wildlife stocks (an ADF&G function)
- Does not address site specific issues (boating, camping, hiking, fishing, or facility development)
- Does not provide a comprehensive inventory of land ownership
- Does not regulate “Generally Allowed Uses” on state lands



COMPONENTS OF AN AREA PLAN

- **Chapter 1** – Introduction, background and scope
- **Chapter 2** – Area wide Land Management Policies for resources and uses
- **Chapter 3** – Unit Specific Land Management Policies
 - Designation explanation
 - Region Descriptions
 - Resource Allocation Tables: plan designations and management intent for specific geographic areas
- **Chapter 4** – Implementation and Recommendations - Relationships and recommendations or actions to implement the plan



WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR?

- Review of existing data and identify additional data needs
- Gathering information, land inventory and identification of issues and detailed mapping and GIS analysis
- Developed a website that includes planning related material, background and maps
- Preparation of Scoping Meetings and noticing through:
 - Online Public Notices
 - Scoping flyers mailed to all local post offices for display
 - Postings in community centers and around town
 - Meeting information and ETAP details emailed or mailed to approximately 300 individuals, stakeholder groups, and agencies
 - Display ads in Fairbanks Daily News Miner
 - Media Releases
 - Public Service Announcements



THE PLANNING PROCESS

1. **Gather Information.** Information is collected about natural resources, present land use, land ownership, local history and economy
2. **Identify Issues.** Public Scoping Meetings are held to learn about local interests and issues with state lands. This also helps to get the word out that the planning process has begun. (spring/summer2009)
3. **Prepare Public Review Draft.** Using resource information and public and agency comments
4. **Public Review Period.** The Public Review Draft is made available, and public meetings are held to discuss the draft, receive comments, and identify parts that may need to be changed.
5. **Prepare Final Draft.** The plan will be finalized based on public comments and internal direction provided by leadership in DNR.
6. **Adoption by Commissioner of DNR.** Signs the plan which then guides management decisions on state land in the planning area



WILL THE PLAN ADDRESS THE
PROPOSED GASLINE AND
RAILROAD EXTENSION?

Yes and No



PROPOSED GASLINE AND RAILROAD EXTENSION

- The area plan will not determine the locations of the railroad extension or the gasline routes. This is done through the EIS and permitting processes
- The plan will however acknowledge proposals for the facilities and provide management intent language to facilitate their development
- Language will be included to preserve public access and may provide guidance for review or issuance of certain authorizations that may affect these projects
- If a known route(s) has been identified at time of writing, a corridor will likely be designated as Transportation Corridor Land



RAILROAD EXTENSION

- Preferred routes that cross various land ownership patterns have been shown on the Federal Surface Transportation Board EIS maps
- AS 42.40.460 provides DNR with the legal framework for a reservation and conveyance process, specifically for the reservation of a 500ft transportation corridor, although only 200ft would be conveyed to the railroad as determined appropriate through the process
- Public access points across the proposed corridors are being identified through a separate agency and public review process



PROPOSED GASLINE

- No applications have been submitted for a state Right of Way Lease and no exact locations or timeframes have been given
- It may basically follow the TAPS line to Delta, and be buried in general
- NRO have been issuing permits for preliminary field studies, generally geotechnical in nature
- JPO will begin the Right of Way Lease process once an application has been filed



WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION

- State Contacts:
 - Railroad Extension
 - Don Perrin, Office of Project Management, DNR
907-269-7476
 - Jeanne Proulx, Northern Region Office, DNR
907-451-2722
 - Proposed Gasline
 - Joint Pipeline Office, DNR



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IN THE PLANNING PROCESS?

- The public scoping period for comments will end June 5, 2009
- Following the close of the comment period all comments will be read and reviewed.
- A planning update will be developed to inform individuals, stakeholder groups, and agencies on the results of the public scoping process.
- A **Public Review Draft** of the plan will be developed considering agency and public comments.

Due to the size of the area, it could take at least 12 months before a draft plan is ready for public review.



WEBSITE

PLEASE VISIT OUR PLANNING WEBSITE FOR
UPDATED INFORMATION

www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/planning



Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land & Water
Resource Assessment & Development Section

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS

Your written comments are encouraged during this planning phase and **should be submitted by 5:00pm June 5, 2009** by mail, email, fax or on our website. Although there will be several “official” periods when public comments are sought, please feel free to contact us at anytime regarding this planning process. Contact information is provided below. To provide comments online go to: www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/planning

Send comments to:

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Fax: 907-269-8915

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land & Water
Resource Assessment & Development Section

FACILITATED DISCUSSIONS

60 MINUTES
(30 MINUTES AT EACH STATION)



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