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# 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: fish and wildlife, forestry, materials, mineral resources, recreation and tourism, and  
7 water. It also presents management policies for several specific land management concerns:  
8 cultural resources, protection of fish and wildlife habitat and harvest areas, grazing, instream  
9 flows, public and private access, timber harvest, settlement, shoreline and stream corridor  
10 management, and public access. These policies apply to state land throughout the planning  
11 area regardless of the land use 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.

16

### 17 Definitions

18

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

20

### 21 Goals

22

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

26

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

29

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

32

33 **Public Health and Safety.** Maintain or enhance public health and safety for users of state  
34 land and resources.

35

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

1 **Quality of Life.** Maintain or enhance the quality of the natural environment including air,  
2 land and water, and fish and wildlife habitat and harvest opportunities; and protect heritage  
3 resources and the character and lifestyle of the community.  
4

5 **Settlement.** Provide opportunities for private ownership and leasing of land currently owned  
6 by the state.  
7

8 **Sustained Yield.** Maintain the long-term productivity and quality of renewable resources  
9 including fish and wildlife, and timber.  
10

## 11 **Management Intent**

12

13 Management intent for state land is expressed through statements of management emphasis  
14 identified on a unit specific basis. These statements are based on resource and use  
15 inventories, the review of existing and potential economic trends, state authorizations,  
16 existing plans and similar resource management documents, agency review and comment,  
17 and public participation.  
18

## 19 **General Framework of the Plan**

20

21 **A.** State land within the planning area will be managed to allow for multiple use unless  
22 legislatively designated or a parcel of state land is less than 640 acres and managed under a  
23 management agreement by another state agency.  
24

25 **B.** State land will also be managed to protect access and public resources. Types of  
26 resources to be protected include, but are not limited to habitat, recreation, water quality,  
27 anchorages, watersheds, scenery and trails.  
28

29 **C.** State land will remain open to mineral entry unless specifically closed. This plan does  
30 not recommend any areas to be closed to mineral entry nor to be managed under a leasehold  
31 location order. Consequently, all land within the planning area is open to entry, except for  
32 those scattered areas closed in previous mineral closing orders by DNR.  
33

34 **D.** In management units where a primary use has been designated, activities and  
35 authorizations pertaining to that primary designated use may take precedence over other uses.  
36 Although there may be a priority for use in certain parcels, other uses may also be allowed if  
37 they do not preclude the primary use assigned to a management unit. This plan emphasizes  
38 minimizing land use conflicts through plan guidelines and intent rather than through  
39 prohibitions. All other uses are initially presumed compatible with the primary use.  
40 However, if DNR determines that a use conflict exists and that the proposed use is  
41 incompatible with the primary use, the proposed use shall not be authorized or it shall be  
42 modified so that the incompatibility no longer exists (11 AAC 55.040 (c)).  
43

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

3  
4 **F.** This plan honors the intent of existing settlement agreements with the Mental Health  
5 Trust Authority and the University of Alaska. These settlement agreements shall prevail over  
6 the area plan, if inconsistencies exist.

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

9  
10 The remainder of this chapter specifies guidelines that are specific directives to apply to  
11 management decisions. DNR will use these guidelines when considering issuing  
12 authorizations and conveyances or making management decisions on state lands. These  
13 guidelines will also apply to lands that are currently state-selected and ANILCA-filed when  
14 they are tentatively approved or patented into state ownership.

15  
16 Chapter 2 guidelines apply to all state land covered by the NWAP unless the plan explicitly  
17 exempts some parcels or designations from a guideline or the resource or use for which a  
18 guideline is intended does not exist in the parcel in question. There are few such exemptions.

### 20 **General Guidelines**

21  
22 **A.** All authorizations for use of state land within the planning area will be consistent with  
23 the management intent in this plan.

24  
25 **B.** In considering authorizations for use of state land, DNR will adjudicate applications to:

- 26  
27 1. minimize damages to streambeds, fish and wildlife habitat, vegetation, trails,  
28 anchorages, and other resources;
- 29 2. minimize conflicts between resources and uses; and
- 30 3. protect the long-term value of the resource, public safety, and the environment.

31  
32 **C.** If authorizations from other agencies are required, DNR will consider issuing a permit or  
33 lease contingent upon issuance of these other authorizations.

### 35 **Other State Land**

36  
37 Parcels that are donated or acquired after the plan is adopted will be designated for the uses  
38 for which they were acquired or donated without an amendment to the plan. Lands that come  
39 into state ownership through other means will be designated and classified consistent with  
40 the designation identified in the applicable management unit or, if not so identified,  
41 according to the standards of the section, 'Applicability of Plan Designations and  
42 Classifications', in Chapter 4 without an amendment to the plan.