

PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

# Northwest Area Plan Revision

*For State Lands*

May 2008

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



# MEETING STRUCTURE

- Welcome and materials available
- Presentation
- Questions and comments

# REVISION OF AREA PLAN

- Revises 1989 Northwest Area Plan
- About 5 million acres of new selections since 1989
- Only affects state-owned and state-selected lands

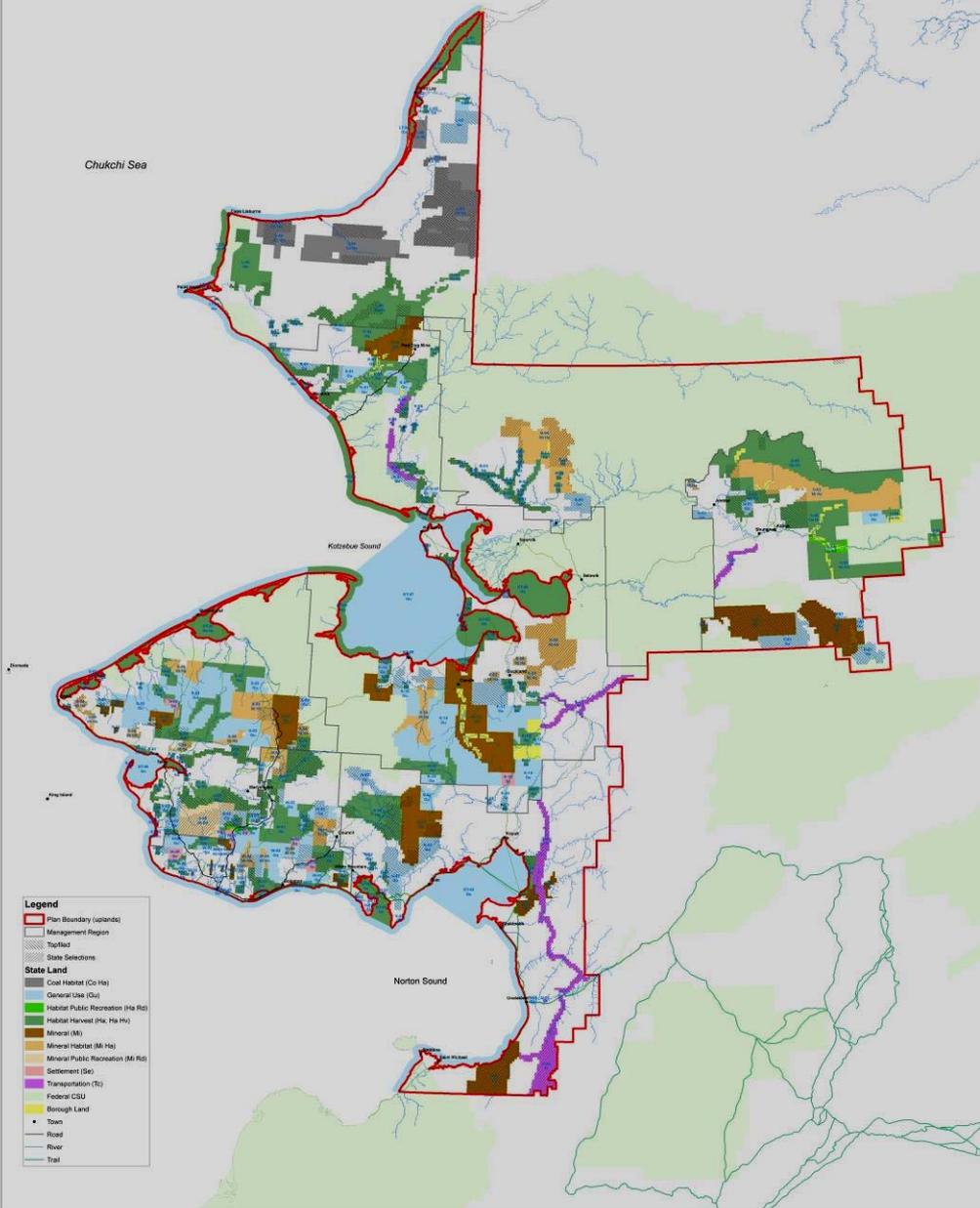


# Northwest Area Plan Public Review Draft

Chukchi Sea

## Legend

-  Plan Boundary (uplands)
-  Management Region
-  Topfiled
-  State Selections
- State Land**
-  Coal Habitat (Co Ha)
-  General Use (Gu)
-  Habitat Public Recreation (Ha Rd)
-  Habitat Harvest (Ha; Ha Hv)
-  Mineral (Mi)
-  Mineral Habitat (Mi Ha)
-  Mineral Public Recreation (Mi Rd)
-  Settlement (Se)
-  Transportation (Tc)
-  Federal CSU
-  Borough Land
-  Town
-  Road
-  River
-  Trail



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# TOPICS COVERED

- What is an area plan?
- Why have an area plan?
- Reasons for this revision
- What an area plan does and does not do
- Public Review Draft Process
- Components of an area plan
- Planning Area and Management Regions
- Land Use Allocation
- What happens next?
- How to provide comments
- Website

# WHAT IS AN AREA PLAN ?

➤ Definition: A land use plan that establishes the basis for decision making on land use and resources on state lands and waters within a specific geographic area called a 'plan boundary.' It deals with the allocation of land uses and the use of state resources, except for oil and gas resources, which are controlled by a different statute.

# WHY HAVE AN AREA PLAN ?

- State area plans are a requirement under Alaska Statute (AS 38.04.065)
- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) uses them for management of state land and its resources
- Planning provides a way to sort through the numerous possibilities for the use of state land
- Provides the opportunity for the public to participate in decision-making, at the policy level, for state lands and waters

# REASONS FOR THIS REVISION

- Existing area plan is almost 20 years old
- About 5 million acres of new selections
- Over 2 million acres in original plan is no longer state
- New information about coal and mineral resources
- New information on Western Arctic Caribou Herd
- Need to revise the plans so they can be used more effectively by DNR in its management of land and resources

# WHAT THE PLAN REVISION DOES

- Will serve as the basis for the management of state land and waters within the plan boundary
- Provides management direction for DNR for decisions on state uplands, shorelands and tidelands
- Provides management intent, land-use designation and management guidelines for specific geographic regions
- Allocates land uses and thereby resolves land use conflicts
- Identifies land to be retained or disposed

# WHAT THE PLAN REVISION DOES NOT DO

- Apply to Federal, Borough, Native or other private lands
- Address allocation, regulation, or harvesting of fish and wildlife stocks
- Address site specific issues ( boating, camping, hiking, fishing, or facility development)
- Provide a comprehensive inventory of land ownership
- Regulate “Generally Allowed” uses on state land

# EXAMPLES OF GENERALLY ALLOWED USES

- Hiking, skiing, travel by horse or dog sled
- ATV or Recreational vehicle use
- Landing aircraft
- Brushing of trails
- Hunting, fishing, trapping
- Recreational gold mining
- Picking berries or mushrooms
- Using dead wood for fires and cooking
- Temporary camps of less than 14 days
- Placing buoys, docks, or boat haulouts for upland owners

# THE PROCESS SO FAR

- ✓ **Gathered Information and Conducted Research**  
Regarding natural resources, past and present land uses, land ownership. Began analysis and formulation of planning units
- ✓ **Held Public Scoping Meetings and Consultation**  
Obtained information and identified issues and concerns
- ✓ **Agency Review**  
Acquired information and identified agency positions
- ✓ **Prepared a Draft Plan**
- **Issued a Draft Plan for Public Review**  
The public now has the opportunity to comment on the draft plan.

# COMPONENTS OF AN AREA PLAN

- **Chapter 1** – Introduction
  - Background
  - Summary of Plan Actions
- **Chapter 2** – Areawide Land Management Policies
  - Goals
  - Management Policies: covers resources and uses
- **Chapter 3** – Land Management Policies for geographic areas
  - Designation explanation
  - Region Descriptions
  - Resource Allocation Tables: plan designations and management intent for specific geographic areas
- **Chapter 4** – Implementation and Recommendations

## Chapter 2: Areawide Land Management Policies

- Provides goals and management policies for specific areas and resources within the planning boundary
  - Minerals: Establishes standards and procedures for mining on state land
  - Settlement: Establishes standards and procedures for siting and design of subdivisions and remote settlement areas
  - Fish and Wildlife: Establishes specific standards and protection requirements for caribou, moose, waterfowl habitat and anadromous streams
  - Cultural Resources: Establishes standards and procedures for identifying cultural resources
  - Shorelands and Stream Corridors: Establishes standards for stream and lake protection. Requires setback distances on streams and lakes

# Chapter 3: Land Management Policies for geographic areas

## ➤ Designations

## ➤ Region Descriptions

- A general description of region boundaries and physical features
- Distribution of state land
- Current resource use

## ➤ Resource Allocation Table

- Provides information and land use designation for specific parcels
- Includes management intent
- Related to plan maps through a unit number

# DESIGNATIONS USED IN THIS PLAN

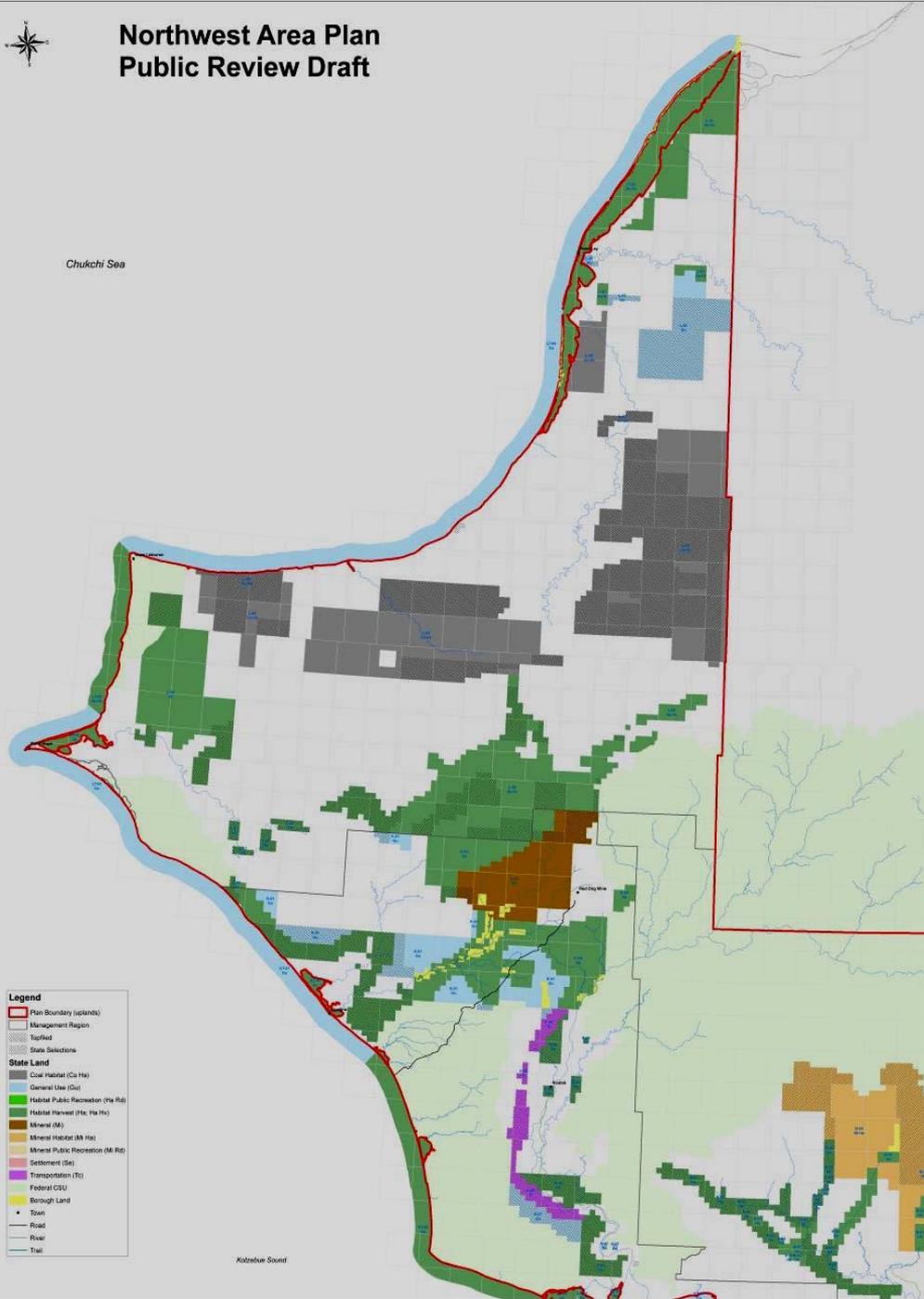
- Habitat (Ha) – Designation applies to areas used by fish and wildlife species during a sensitive life-history stage
  - Harvest (Hv) - Fish and wildlife harvest areas where alteration of habitat could permanently limit sustained yield
  - Minerals (Mi) – Areas with mineral potential and mining is considered an appropriate use
  - Coal (Co) – Areas with coal potential and coal mining is considered an appropriate use
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- General Use (Gu) – Land that contains one or more resource values, none of which is of sufficiently high value to merit a primary designation. General Use may also apply to large parcels that can accommodate a variety of uses
- Public Rec-dispersed (Rd) – applies to areas where recreation is dispersed and widespread
- Settlement (Se) – Land which may be suitable for sale, leasing or permitting to allow private recreational or residential use
- Transportation corridor (Tc) – Land identified for the location of easements for transportation, pipelines or utility corridors



# Northwest Area Plan Public Review Draft

Chukchi Sea



- Legend**
- Plan Boundary (islands)
  - Management Region
  - State Selections
  - Topfied
  - State Land
    - Coal Habitat (Ca Ha)
    - General Use (Gu)
    - Habitat Public Recreation (Ha Rp)
    - Habitat Harvest (Ha Hc, Ha Hs)
    - Mineral (M)
    - Mineral Habitat (M Ha)
    - Mineral Public Recreation (M Rp)
    - Settlement (Se)
    - Transportation (Tc)
    - Federal CEU
    - Borough Land
  - Town
  - Road
  - River
  - Trail

Kotzebue Sound



# Northwest Area Plan Public Review Draft



Kobuk Valley  
Natl Park

Selawik Natl  
Wildlife Refuge

Koyukuk Natl  
Wildlife Refuge

Kotzebue Sound

**Legend**

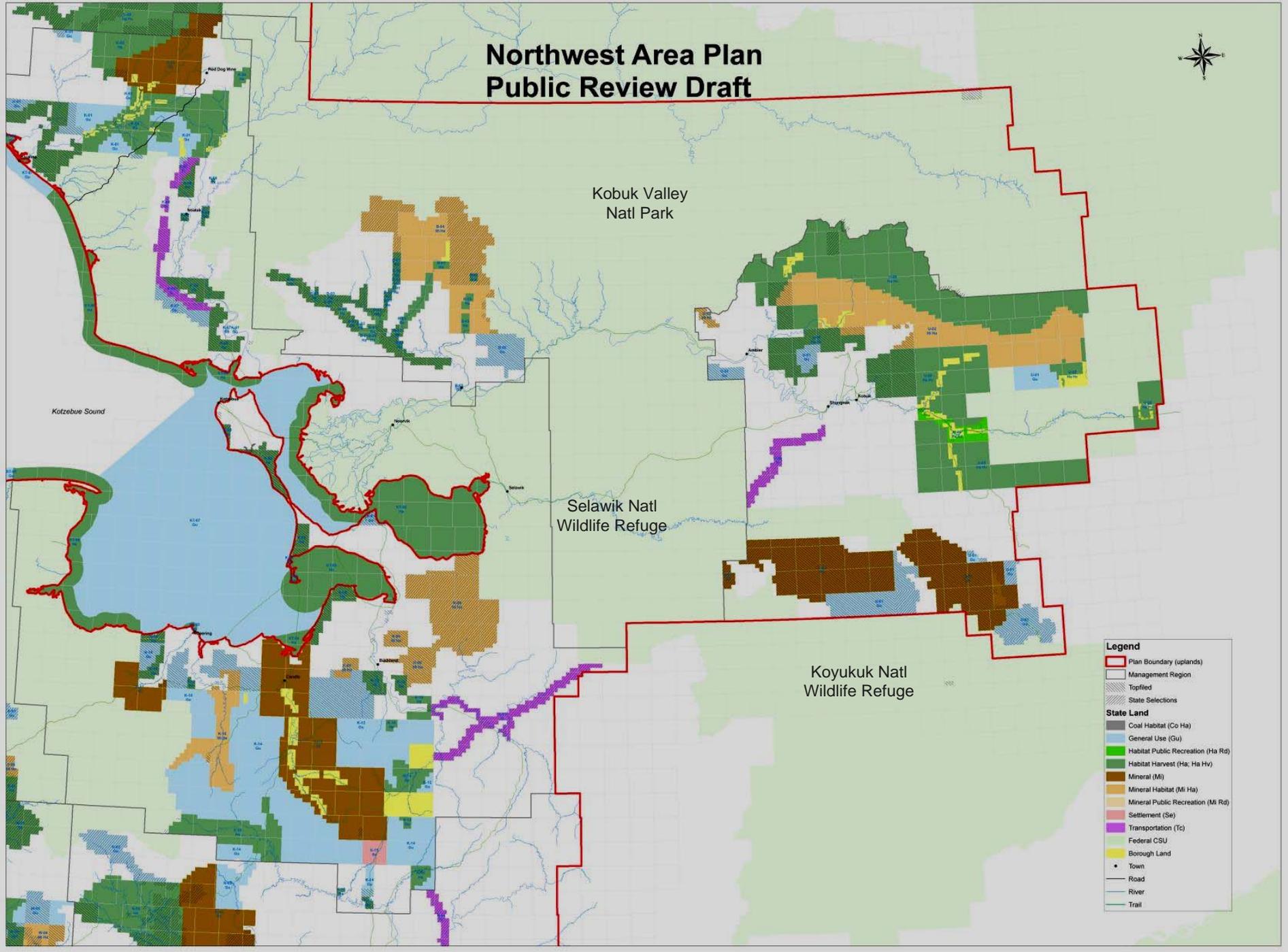
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- State Selections

**State Land**

- Coal Habitat (Co Ha)
- General Use (Gu)
- Habitat Public Recreation (Ha Rd)
- Habitat Harvest (Ha; Ha Hv)
- Mineral (Mi)
- Mineral Habitat (Mi Ha)
- Mineral Public Recreation (Mi Rd)
- Settlement (Se)
- Transportation (Tc)
- Federal CSU
- Borough Land

**Other Symbols**

- Town
- Road
- River
- Trail





# Northwest Area Plan Public Review Draft

Chukchi Sea

Bering Land Bridge  
Nat'l Preserve

Katzebue Sound

Bevix Wagon

Bara Wagon

Chukot

White Wagon

Koyuk

Norton Sound

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King Island

# UPLAND ACRES DESIGNATED

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Acreage (K = thousand)</b>
Ha	Habitat	2,745 K
Ha, Hv	Habitat and Harvest	1,831 K
Ha, Rd	Habitat and Public Recreation	59 K
Co, Ha	Coal and Habitat	1,137 K
Mi, Ha	Mineral and Habitat	1,735 K
Mi, Rd	Mineral and Public Recreation	175 K
Mi	Mineral	1,907 K
Gu	General Use	3,249 K
Tc	Transportation Corridor	570 K
Se	Settlement	113 K
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13,521 K</b>

# TIDE & SUBMERGED ACRES DESIGNATED

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<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Acreage (K = thousand)</b>
Ha	Habitat	1,021 K
Ha, Hv	Habitat and Harvest	517 K
Gu	General Use	3,956 K
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5,494 K</b>

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# SETTLEMENT-ACRES PER OFFERING

➤ Peace River	800 ac.
➤ Nuluk Shelter	800
➤ Nome River	2000
➤ Jasper Creek	500
➤ Casadepaga	1200
➤ Sinuk River	1500
➤ East Fork	1600
➤ Salmon Lake North	200

# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT ?

## Public Review Draft

The public now has the opportunity to comment on the draft Revision. Deadline to receive comments is 5:00pm Monday, June 9, 2008

## Prepare Final Revision

Review agency and public comments and if necessary revise portions of the plan

## Revision Approval

The Commissioner of DNR approves and signs the Revision

## Request for Reconsideration

Opportunity to request reconsideration from the Commissioner

## Print Document and Update Mapping and Land Records

## Implement the Revision through Authorizations

The Revision will guide management decisions for state lands in the planning area

# WEBSITE

[www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/planning](http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/planning)



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# HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS

To receive full consideration, comments on the  
Public Review Draft must be received before:

**5:00 P.M. Monday June 9, 2008**

**Send comments to:**

Ray Burger

Department of Natural Resources

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1050

Anchorage, AK 99501-3579

*or*

**Fax:** (907) 269-8915

*or*

**Email:** [ray.burger@alaska.gov](mailto:ray.burger@alaska.gov)

# QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS



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