

# RECREATION, TOURISM, & SCENIC RESOURCES

## Goals

### RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Provide areas with unmodified natural landscapes, conveniently located public recreation areas, well designed, maintained, and safe recreation facilities; and opportunities to appreciate Alaska's history and diverse cultures.

- Develop, through a state park system, through management of other state lands and tidelands, through cooperation with other agencies, nonprofit groups and landowners, a system of parks, recreation areas, trails, historic parks, rivers, and areas of unchanged scenic landscape, that provide a wide range of year-round outdoor recreation opportunities for all ages, abilities, and use preferences near population centers and major travel routes. Foster cooperation with other agencies, nonprofit groups, and landowners in the management of the state park system and of other state lands and tidelands for recreation.
- Provide recreation opportunities on land and water areas that serve multiple purposes such as habitat protection, timber management, and mineral resource extraction.
- Assist communities through cooperative planning, conveyance of state lands, and grants-in-aid for parks and trails within population centers.
- Encourage commercial development of recreational facilities and services through concession contracts, land sales, leases, loans and technical assistance where public recreation needs can most effectively be provided by private enterprise while minimizing environmental impacts.

### RECREATION RESOURCE PROTECTION

Alaska's natural and cultural resources are the foundation of Alaska outdoor recreation and they must be protected. Soil, forests, prehistoric and historic sites and objects, fish and wildlife habitat and populations, scenic areas and access to open space must be preserved if Alaska's scenic and recreation values are to be maintained for future generations. Long-term public appreciation of Alaska's natural and human history and perpetuation of Alaska's distinctive identity can be accomplished through the following actions.

- Protect the recreation resources that the public comes to see and use including public access, visual resources, and, where appropriate, the isolation and unique wilderness characteristics of Prince of Wales Island.
- Protect and portray natural features of regional or statewide significance and cultural features representative of major themes of Alaska history in historic sites, parks, and preserves of the State Park System.

- Assist other land management agencies and nonprofit groups to perpetuate natural and historic features on non-state lands, in community park systems, and on private property by providing technical assistance and grants-in-aid.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Tourism has grown dramatically since statehood and is now the state's third largest industry; its economic potential has just begun to be realized. Areas developed and managed primarily for outdoor recreation and the appreciation of scenic, fish and wildlife, and historic values fulfill expectations of tourists. The influx of tourism dollars creates many jobs and services for Alaska residents. Recreation and tourism employment can be increased by the following.

- Rehabilitate and maintain recreation resources that enable greater appreciation of Alaska's natural, scenic, and historic resources.
- Increase the number of attractions through additions to the Alaska State Park System and the management of other state lands to protect natural, scenic, recreation, and historic resources.
- Develop cooperative interagency information centers for visitors.
- Maintain fish and wildlife populations that meet the public demand.
- Assure adequate opportunities for the full spectrum of developed and undeveloped recreation opportunities appropriate for Prince of Wales Island. Opportunities should be available in appropriate areas at a reasonable price. This goal should be achieved considering the use and plans of all land owners: private, federal, and state.

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## **Management Guidelines**

### **A. COORDINATION WITH OTHER LANDOWNERS**

Recreation management, including the location and management of recreation facilities, will take into account the current and likely management by the USFS and private landowners, so as not to unnecessarily duplicate facilities and to provide areas where facilities do not exist.

### **B. PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES**

**1. Public Use Cabins.** A system of public use cabins should be established in state parks and on other state lands. The department will develop administrative procedures for managing a state public use cabins program, set priorities for cabin sites, and seek a budget for construction, maintenance and program management. The department will also seek cooperation with municipal or federal governments or nonprofit organizations for construction and management of cabins. The locations will be consistent with management intent and guidelines of the plan.

## 2. Location of Recreation Facilities

**a. Preferred Locations.** Recreation facilities, including public use cabins, minimum development campsites, mooring buoys and other low intensity facilities for the general public, are needed in these situations: 1) when overuse is damaging the environment; 2) to direct public use and activities away from inappropriate areas; 3) to accommodate conflicting uses; and 4) to encourage additional public use by expanding the campsite or anchorage capacity consistent with the plan's management intent.

**b. Inappropriate Locations.** Recreation facilities are not appropriate where the management intent is to maintain the natural condition of the area free from additional concentration of recreation users or significant evidence of human use. Unless the management intent indicates otherwise, tidelands adjacent to designated USFS wilderness areas are a part of this category.

## 3. Design Recommendations

**a. Public Use Cabins.** Public use cabins will be located to maintain scenic values and avoid or minimize conflicts with other important resources including frequently used travel routes, anchorages, and campsites.

**b. Mooring Buoys.** Mooring buoys will not be located: (1) in existing natural anchorages unless they would increase the capacity or reliability of the anchorage (for example, make it reliable in different wind or wave conditions); (2) adjacent to frequently used campsites, unless intended as a part of the campsite development; (3) where they may interfere with commercial fishermen including drift net, purse seine, or set net operations; (4) in areas that will conflict with state or federal wilderness management objectives; or (5) in or adjacent to sensitive habitats, such as eelgrass beds, unless they will help preserve the habitat by minimizing the use of anchors.

## C. COMMERCIAL RECREATION FACILITIES ON STATE LAND

Lodges (including floating lodges), tent camps, or other private facilities designed to be run as private recreation facilities may be authorized if the facility meets the management intent and guidelines outlined in Chapter 3, it fulfills the conditions outlined in this guideline and it is in the public interest as determined through a written finding by the land manager or a management plan prepared in accordance with AS 41.21.302(c). In addition, Chapter 3 prohibits commercial recreation facilities in certain areas.

Floating commercial recreation facilities must also meet the Planning and Coordination guidelines on page 2-7. In implementing those guidelines, the land manager should give special consideration to the concerns of the upland owner through the process outlined in guideline A, *Upland Owner Participation*, page 2-7.

**1. Recreation Opportunities.** Commercial recreation development adds to or enhances available recreation opportunities;

**2. Impacts on Other Users.** The commercial facility and the use it generates will avoid significant negative impacts on the amount and quality of existing uses including fish and wildlife harvest. It is recognized that a quantitative determination of the effects of the proposed facility will rarely, if ever, be possible, but an assessment of impacts should use information as available from DNR, ADF&G, the upland owner, or other available sources to determine the following:

- a. The number of commercial recreation leases, permits, and facilities that already exist on state and, if available, on other land in that unit and the amount of use they generate.
- b. Management intent and guidelines of this or subsequent plans for the unit.
- c. Management objectives for nearby non-state lands (to the extent this information is available).
- d. For facilities supporting recreational fish and wildlife harvest, ADF&G should be consulted concerning the effect of increased harvest on the fish and wildlife resource, and on established commercial, recreation, and subsistence users.
- e. Other information and analysis as available including that documenting the existing amount and quality of public use including the harvest of fish and wildlife resources.

**3. Siting, Design, Construction, and Operation.** The facility will be sited, designed, constructed, and operated in a manner that creates the least conflict with natural values and traditional uses of the area. To the extent practical, floatlodes should be visually and acoustically hidden from main travel routes, frequently used anchorages, regionally important campsites, and frequently used recreation areas (see also guideline D, *Scenic Resources*, page 2-39). In addition, floatlodes should not be sited more than one per bay except where it is the land manager's intent to concentrate uses in order to minimize conflicts with existing use.

Final authorization for the facility will be given only after consultation with ADF&G and DPOR.

**4. Upland Access to Floatlodes.** Where the need for upland access to the floatlodes is anticipated, the floatlodes will be located where there is legal upland access to the site.

**5. Leases for Floatlodes.** See Floating Residential Facilities guideline M, *Authorizations for Floating Residential Facilities*, page 2-19.

#### **D. SCENIC RESOURCES**

Facilities on state uplands and tidelands should be located and designed to blend in with the natural surroundings. Permit or lease stipulations to accomplish this guideline may be attached to a development plan to address location, size, color, materials, requirements for vegetative or topographic screening, or other measures as appropriate.

**E. PERMITS & LEASES ADJACENT TO RECREATION FACILITIES**

Tideland activities may be allowed adjacent to public recreation facilities, including public use cabins, lodges, or fuel stops, if the land manager determines that the two uses can be made compatible by design, siting or operating guidelines; or if the land manager determines there is no feasible and prudent alternative for the activity. This guideline also applies to sites reserved for future recreation facilities. The land manager's determination will be made after consultation with the facility manager.

**F. DEVELOPED RECREATION FACILITIES IN CRUCIAL HABITATS**

Based on available information, developed recreation facilities are initially determined incompatible within mapped crucial fish and wildlife areas. A specific proposal for a developed recreation facility might be considered for compatibility based on its design or on new habitat information.

**G. OTHER GUIDELINES AFFECTING RECREATION, TOURISM, & SCENIC RESOURCES.**

Other guidelines will affect recreation, tourism, and scenic resources. See in particular the following sections of this chapter:

- Coordination and Public Notice
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest Areas
- Forestry
- Materials
- Public and Private Access
- Settlement
- Shorelines and Stream Corridors
- Subsurface Resources
- Trail Management

