

Susitna Matanuska Area Plan

For State Lands

*(Revising a majority
of the 1985 Susitna Area Plan)*

August 2011



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

PURPOSE OF MEETING

- To identify major changes to Public Review Draft
 - To provide overview of plan
 - To explain reconsideration process
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STRUCTURE OF MEETING

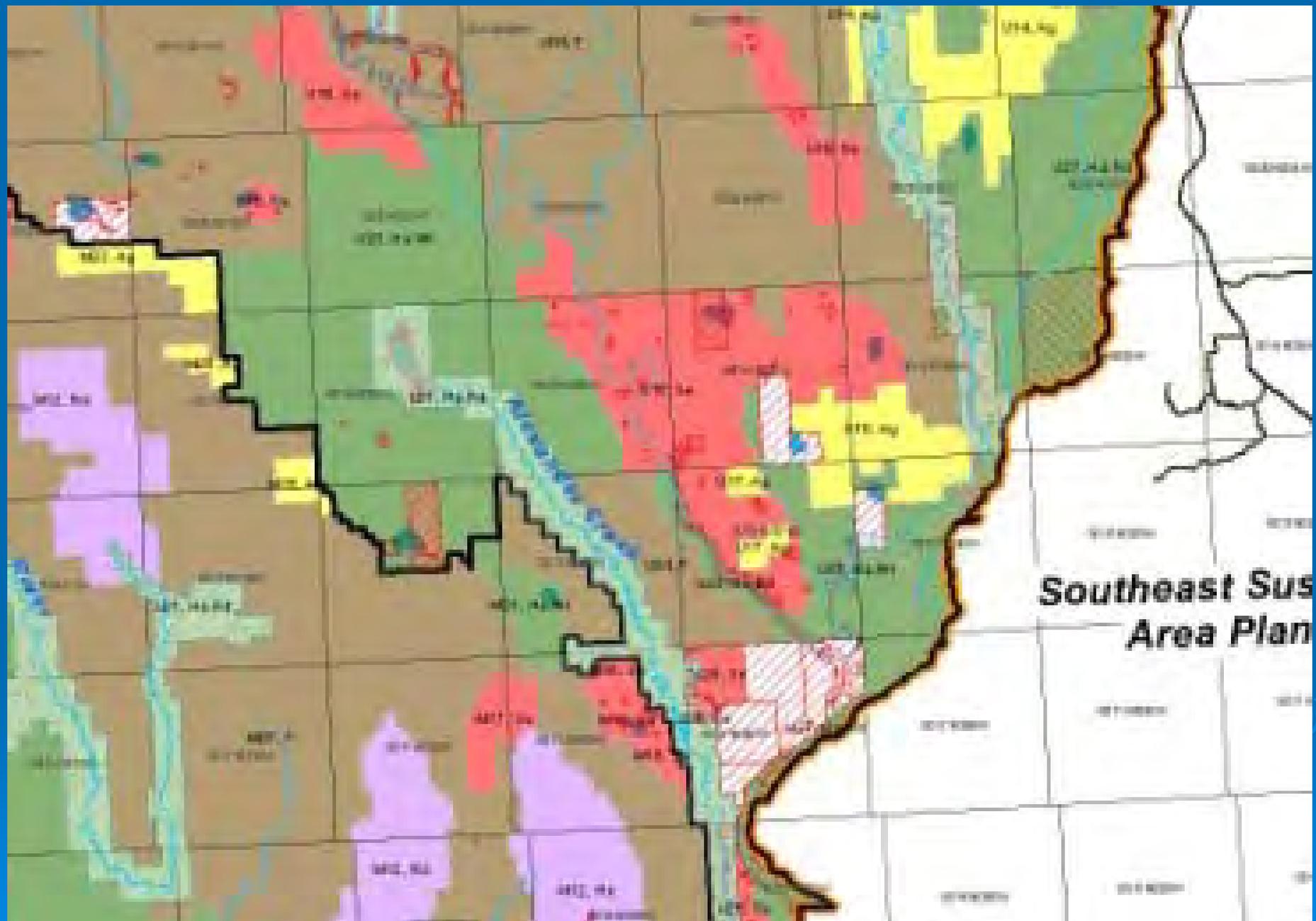
- Intended to be an information meeting on plan changes
- Presentation followed by open house
- Testimony will not be taken

RECONSIDERATION PROCESS

- Reconsideration Process: 20-day period wherein public can request reconsideration of decision
- This is not a review period; a 100-day review period was provided during plan development.

PLAN OVERVIEW

- Plan provides basis for DNR management of state land.
- Affects mostly authorizations (not generally allowed uses)
- Plan identifies area wide policies for major land uses/resources
- Identifies specific land use designations and management intent for units of state land.
- Covers 9 million acres of state land



Southeast Susquehanna Area Plan

STATUS OF PLAN (WHERE ARE WE)

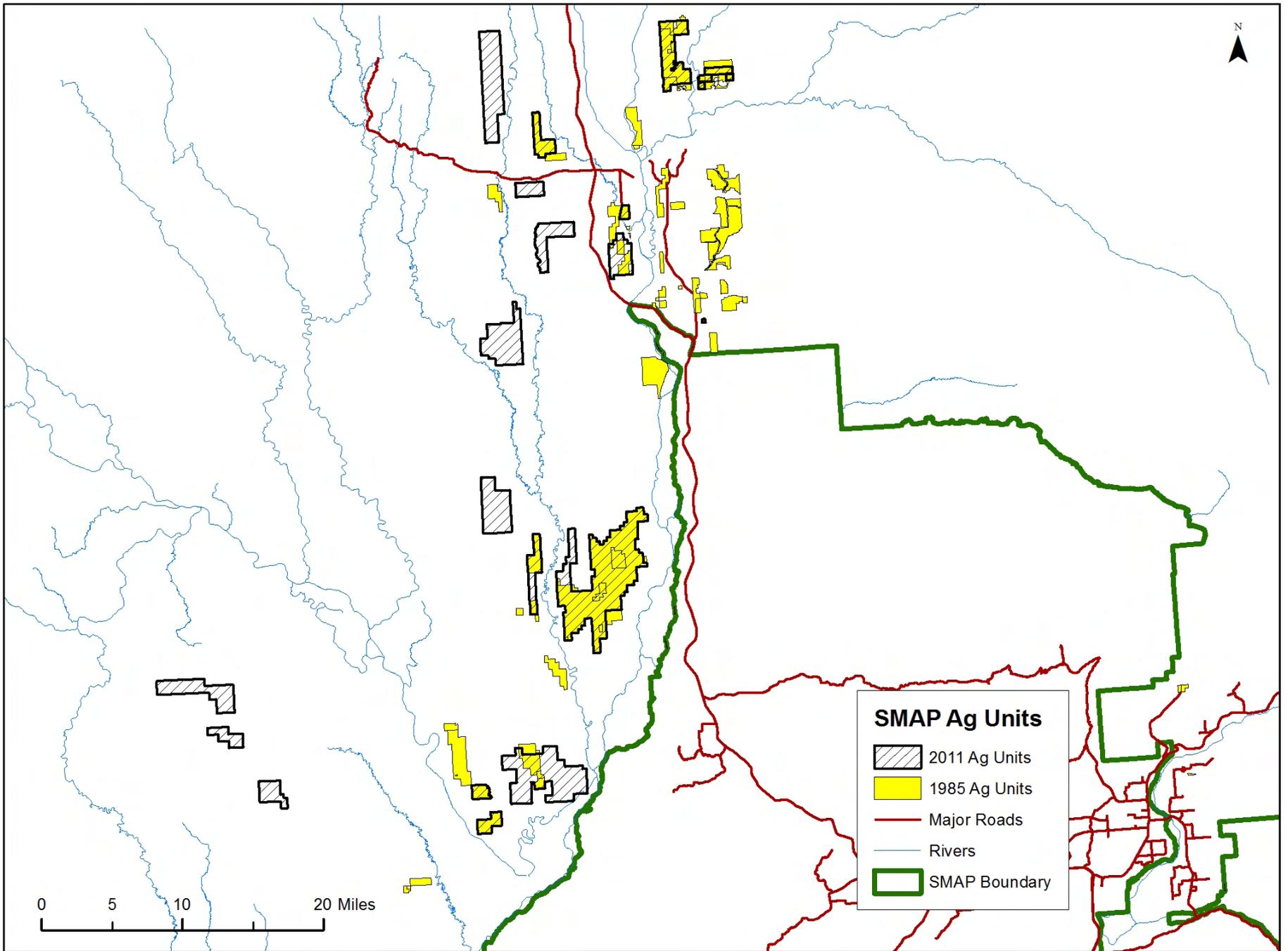
- Public Review Draft published February 23, 2010
- Public review period: until June 4, 2010
- Staff reviewed comments; prepared Issue Response Summary
- Plan delayed because of review process of Hatcher Pass Management Plan
- Commissioner adopted plan August 11, 2011
- Reconsideration period underway (until September 6, 2011)

CHANGES TO PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT (PRD)

- Issues identified and responded to in Issue Response Summary, provides rationale and detail
- List of Approved Revisions describes all revisions to PRD approved by the commissioner

AGRICULTURE

ISSUE	RESPONSE	PLAN REVISION
Plan does not conform to ag regulations.	Concur.	Plan revised to reflect revised regs.
Need to protect ag land, even if only needed in future.	Concur.	Revised to establish a 20-yr inventory of ag land.
Redesignation of Settlement land to Ag land.	Settlement land uses exist in most areas identified for Ag.	No change.
Need for more Ag land.	Concur; acreage increased from 55.7k to 72.1k, unit U18 expanded.	Plan revised to identify additional ag land.

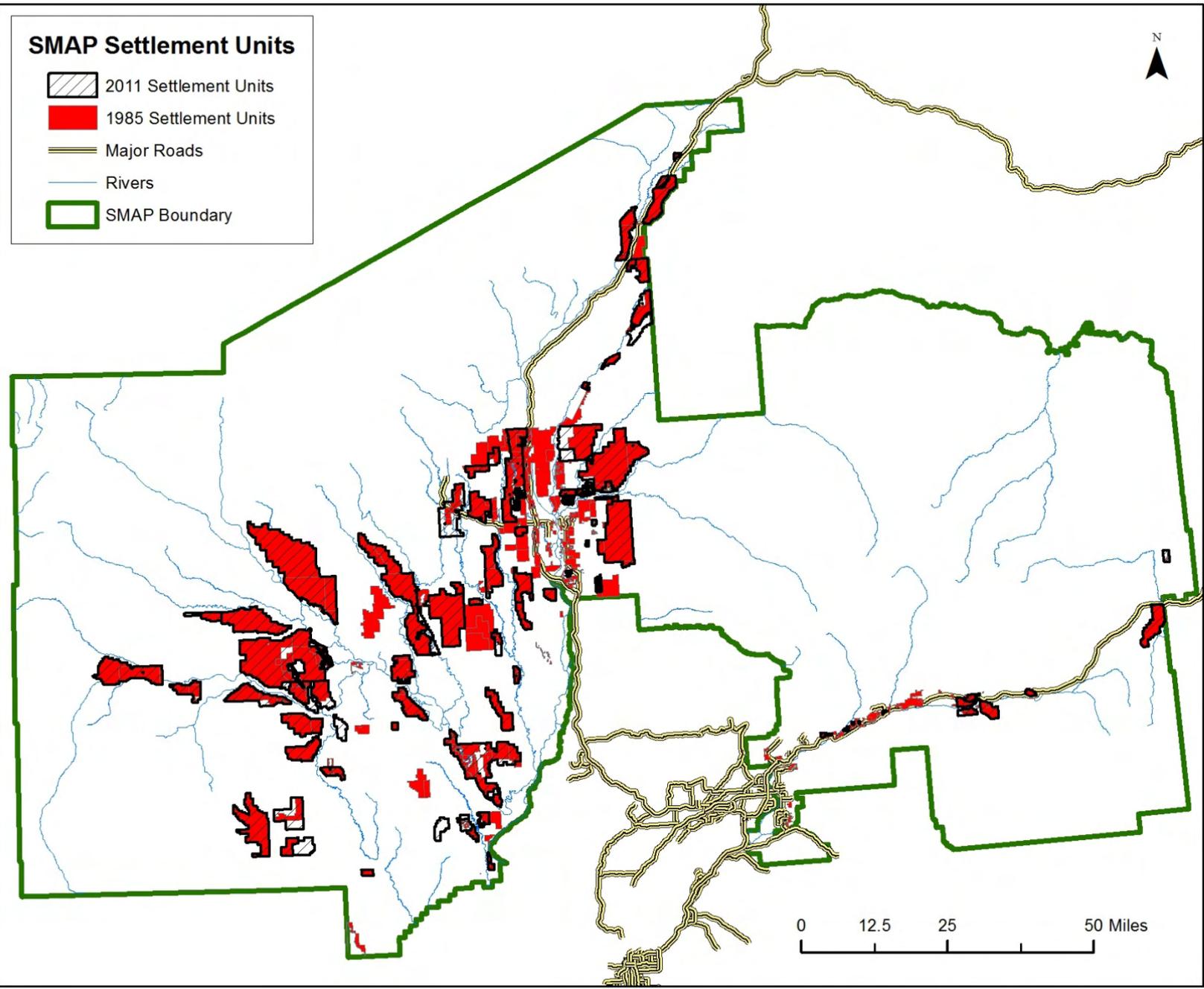


SETTLEMENT

ISSUE	RESPONSE	PLAN REVISION
No need for additional settlement areas.	Existing settlement areas retained; no major increase in settlement (STL).	Guideline added to limit development to 20% of STL acreage.
Prohibit land sales within existing settlement areas.	Did not concur. Land sales have occurred over past 20 yrs and should continue.	No change.
Redesignate from Settlement to Habitat land.	Did not concur. Settlement areas have current settlement and areas do not exhibit characteristics of Habitat areas.	No change.
Need to have opportunity to comment on potential land sales at early stage.	Concur. Process being developed by Land Sale Section.	No plan revision required.

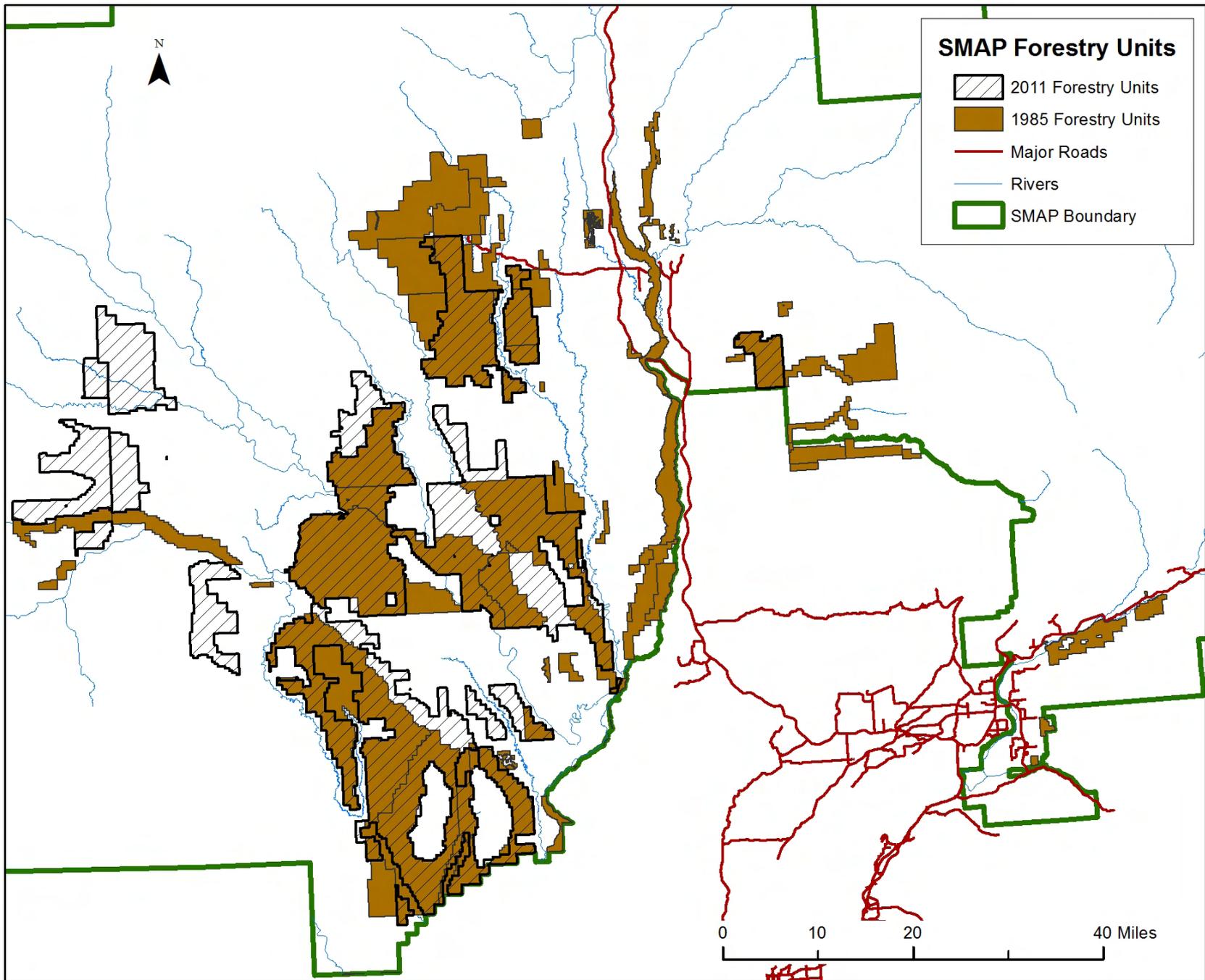
SMAP Settlement Units

-  2011 Settlement Units
-  1985 Settlement Units
-  Major Roads
-  Rivers
-  SMAP Boundary



TIMBER/FOREST MANAGEMENT

ISSUE	RESPONSE	PLAN REVISION
Inventory inadequate to designate forest lands.	Present inventory has progressed sufficiently to delineate forest.	No change.
Too much/ too little land designated forestry.	Reduced acreage from 1985 plan but it reflects actual resource.	No change.
Susitna Forestry Guidelines (SFG) retain/ eliminate.	Since Forest Resources and Practices Act now guides many aspects of timber harvest the plan recommends a Forest Resource Mgt. Plan should replace the SFG .	No change.
State Forest establishment and size.	Appropriate to recommend with legislature making final determination.	No change.



PUBLIC ACCESS

ISSUE	RESPONSE	PLAN REVISION
Need to preserve public access.	Concur. Retain Section Line Easements (SLEs) to preserve road corridors. Increase buffers on waterways .	Guidelines added to preserve SLEs. Buffer widths increased.
Ensure access to and within area west of Susitna River.	Concur. State intends for future access development but location not identified (uncertainty).	Guideline added to identify bridge and road access as appropriate.
Wetland damage due to ORVs / Some areas should be roadless.	Traditional access protected by AS 38.05.200 and controlled as a Generally Allowed Use.	Beyond scope of plan.
Regional trails need more protection.	Concur. These trails should be retained and protected by buffers.	Guidelines added to increase buffers.

SHORELANDS / RECREATION

ISSUE	RESPONSE	PLAN REVISION
Increase area of protection on major streams.	Concur. Increase to 200-300'.	Revised to indicate increased protection area for each major stream.
Better protect riparian areas.	Concur. Increased riparian area and develop more specific standards.	Riparian areas identified for protection by mgt. unit. Established DMLW standards for riparian areas.
Recognize recreation value of major streams and better protect these areas for recreation – not just habitat.	Concur.	Plan revised to require retention of areas in most land use designations, minimum of 200' in disposal areas.
Identify more State Recreation Rivers (SRR).	Partial concurrence. Better left to Rec River Plan update, but recognized that portions of rivers might be appropriate for designation.	Revised to indicate the potential for legislative designation of SRR and intent to identify additional areas in SRR Plan update.

Land Use	2011 SMAP Acreage	1980's Acreage
Agriculture	72,137	55,729
Settlement	709,049	806,618
Forestry	687,823	776,191
General Use	1,326,373	256,537
Habitat, Water Resources	5,054,434	6,127,231
Public Recreation	83,634	122,143
Materials	2,593	2,085
Minerals, Coal	938,786	783,020
Reserved Use	2,306	239,177
Total	8,879,372	9,169,312

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

- This is the reconsideration period, not plan review (AS 44.37.011(d) and 11 AAC 02.020).
- Requests must be specific, explain reason for request, and must identify solution.
- Requests must be received by September 6, 2011

MORE INFORMATION

Public Review Draft (PRD), Issue Response Summary, List of Approved Changes on DNR website

dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/sumat/

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