

Susitna Matanuska Area Plan

For State Lands

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

February 2010



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

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
- Components: chapter 2
- Components: chapter 3
- Planning Area and Management Regions
- What happens next?
- How to provide comments
- Website

WHAT IS AN AREA PLAN ?

➤ A land use plan that establishes the basis for decision making on land use and resources for state lands and waters within a specific geographic area. 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 ?

- Required by legislation (AS 38.04.065) and regulation (11 AAC 55)
- Used by DNR for management of state land and its resources
- 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, at the policy level, for state land and waters

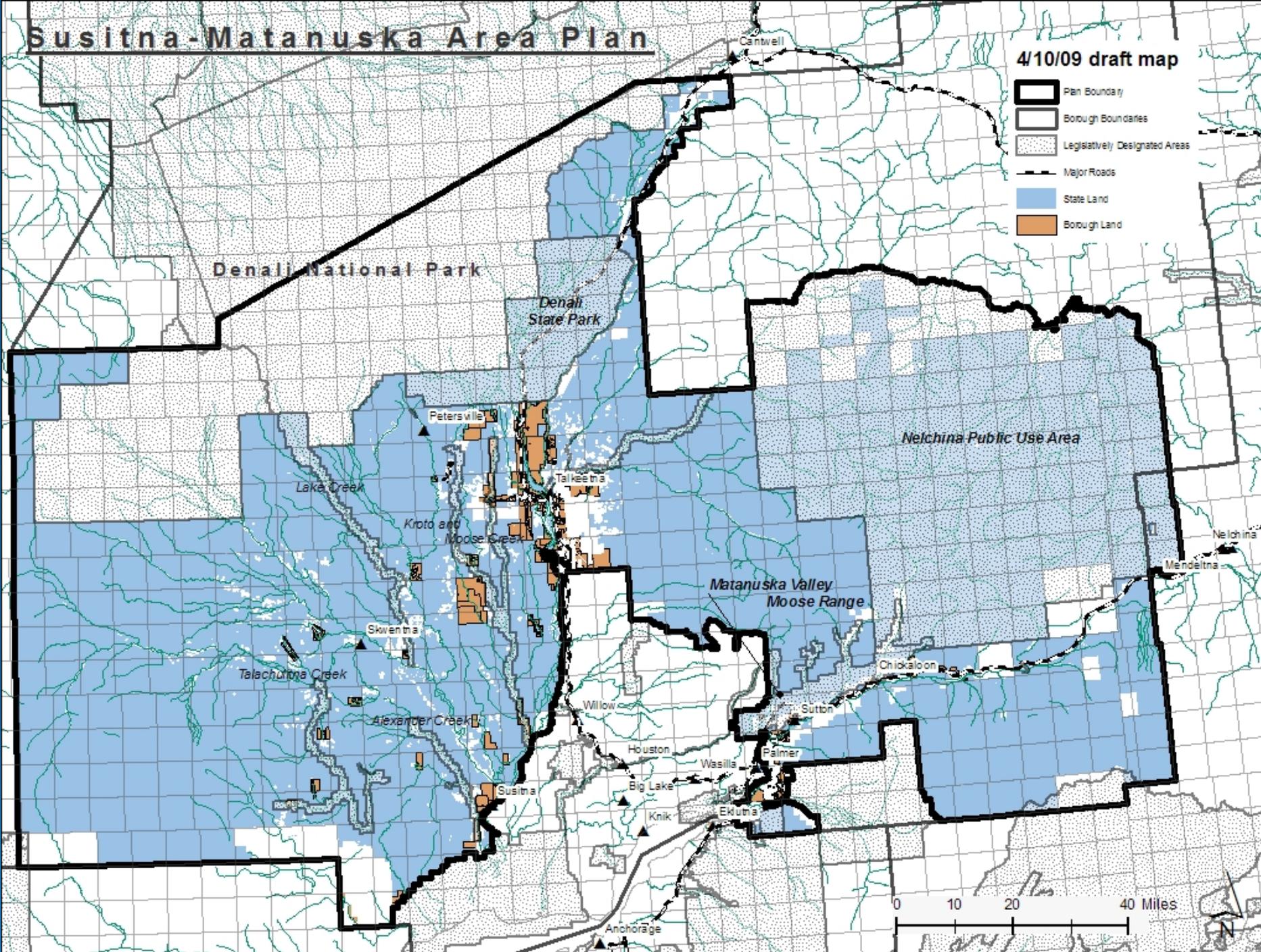
REASONS FOR THIS REVISION

- Existing area plan is over 20 years old
- Changes in land ownership patterns
- Outdated and inappropriate land classifications
- Need to revise the plans so they can be used more effectively by DNR in its management of land and resources

Susitna-Matanuska Area Plan

4/10/09 draft map

-  Plan Boundary
-  Borough Boundaries
-  Legislatively Designated Areas
-  Major Roads
-  State Land
-  Borough Land



<i>Ownership</i>	<i>Approximate Acreage</i>
State	9,000,000
Federal	2,000,000
Municipal	220,000
MHT, UA, Native Corp.	200,000
Other Private	100,000

WHAT THE PLAN REVISION DOES

- Will serve as the basis for the management decisions on state land and waters
- Provides management intent, land use designation and management guidelines for specific geographic regions
- Allocates land uses and thereby resolves land use conflicts
 - Designates areas for active use (Forestry, Settlement, Minerals, Materials)
 - Designates areas for protection (Habitat, Water Resources, Public Recreation)
- Identifies land to be retained or disposed

WHAT THE PLAN REVISION DOES NOT DO

- Apply to private, University, Mental Health Trust, Borough, or Federal lands
- Apply to Denali State Park, Susitna Rec. Rivers, & public use areas (except classifications)
- Address allocation, regulation, or harvesting of fish and wildlife stocks
- Address site specific issues (boating, camping, fishing, or facility development)
- Regulate “Generally Allowed Uses” on state land

THE PROCESS SO FAR

- ✓ **Gathered Information and Conducted Research**
Regarding natural resources, past and present land uses, land ownership, local economies. 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

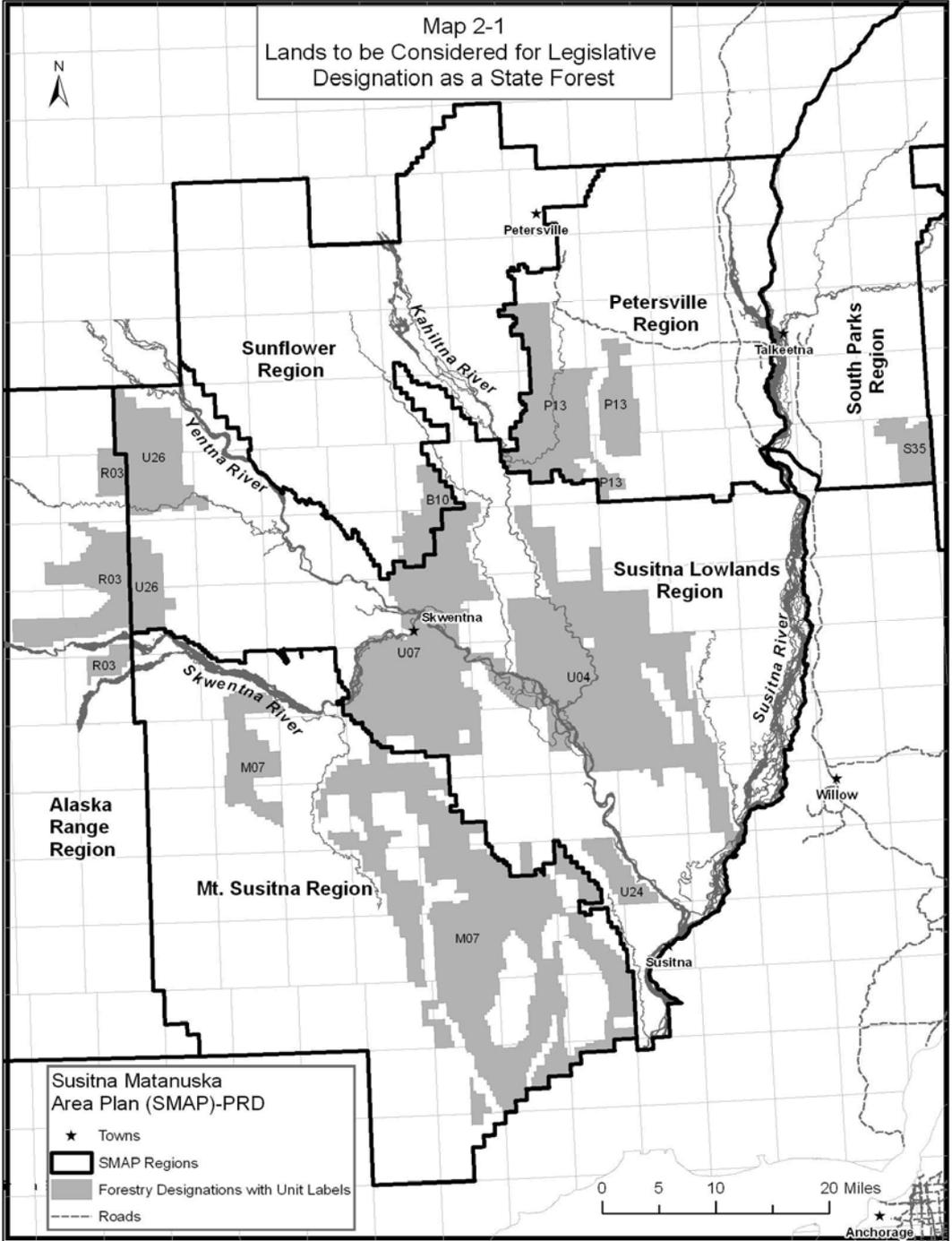
COMPONENTS OF AN AREA PLAN

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

Chapter 2: Areawide Land Management Policies

- Provides goals and management policies for specific areas and resources within the planning boundary
 - Forestry: Establishes management standards and procedures for forest land
 - Settlement: Establishes standards and procedures for siting and design of subdivision development
 - Fish and Wildlife: Establishes specific standards and protection requirements for sensitive habitat and anadromous areas
 - Cultural Resources: Establishes standards and procedures for identifying cultural resources
 - Shorelands and Stream Corridors: Establishes standards for stream and lake protection. Requires easements and setbacks on streams, lakes and public use sites on larger lakes

Map 2-1
Lands to be Considered for Legislative
Designation as a State Forest



Chapter 3: Land Management Policies for Specific Geographic Areas

➤ Designations

➤ Region Descriptions

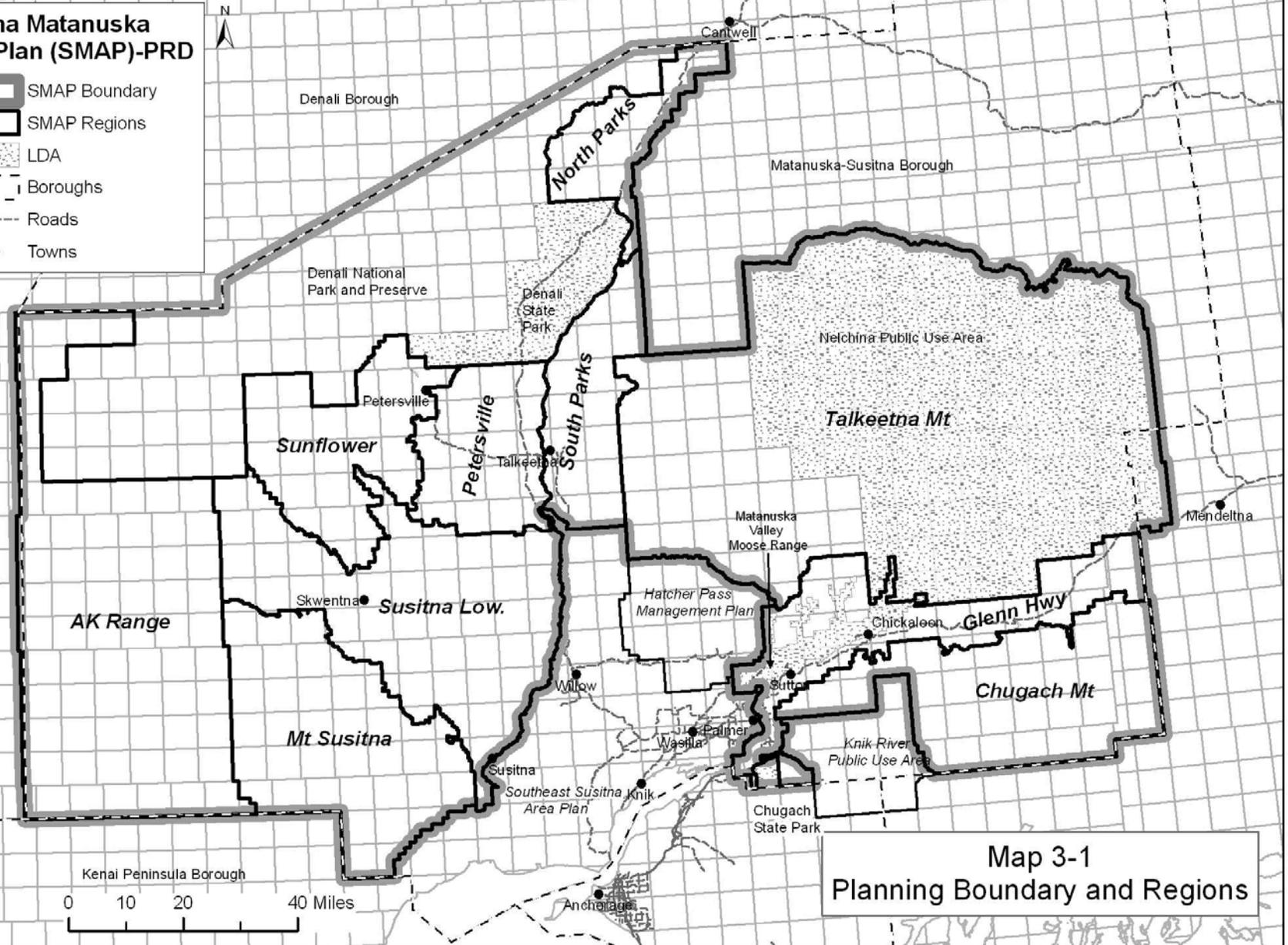
- A general description of region boundaries and physical features
- Distribution of state land
- Current resource use

➤ Resource Allocation Table

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

Susitna Matanuska Area Plan (SMAP)-PRD

-  SMAP Boundary
-  SMAP Regions
-  LDA
-  Boroughs
-  Roads
-  Towns

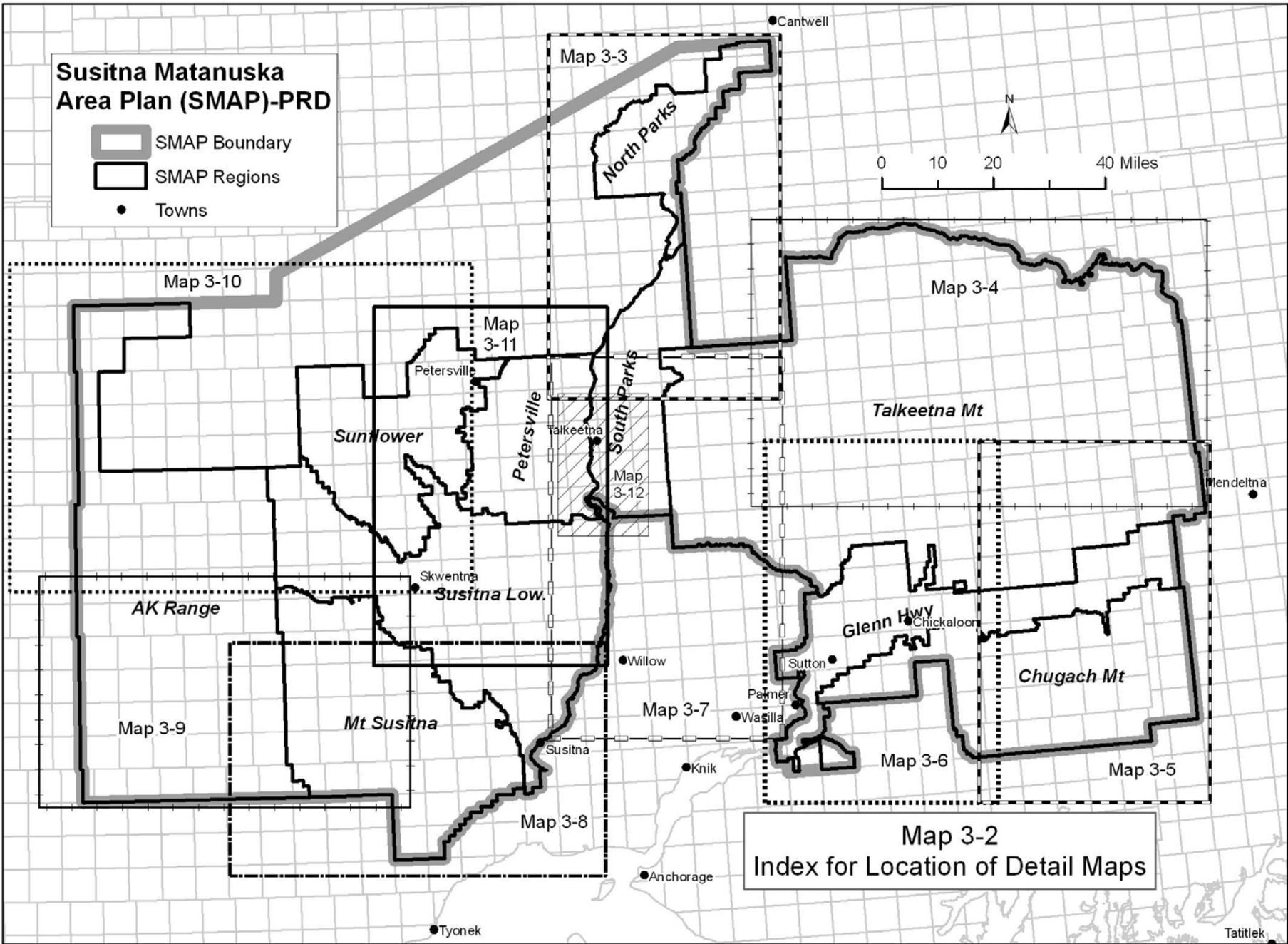
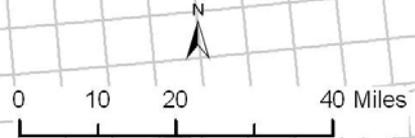


Map 3-1
Planning Boundary and Regions

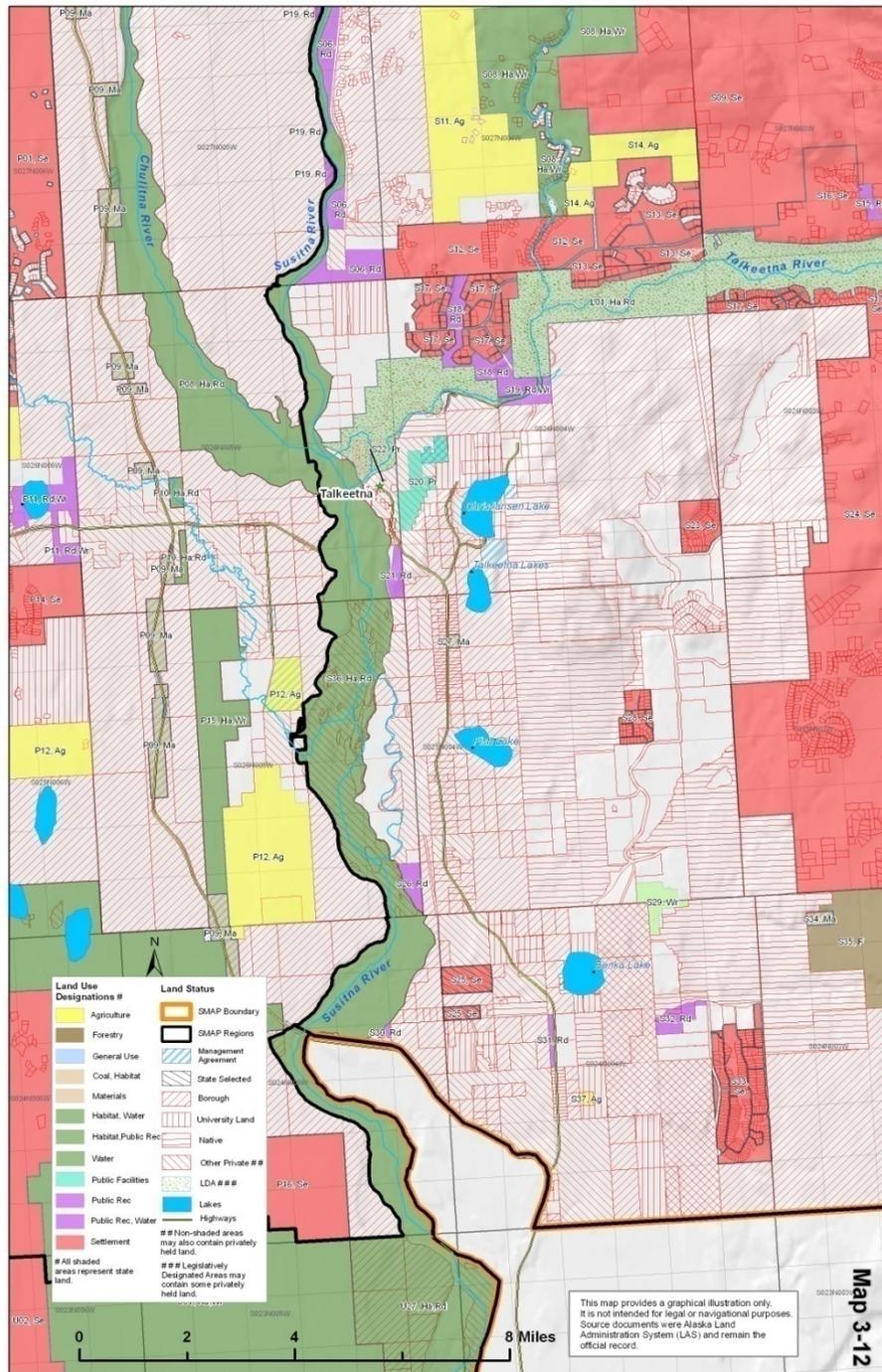
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Susitna Matanuska Area Plan (SMAP)-PRD

- SMAP Boundary
- SMAP Regions
- Towns



Map 3-2
Index for Location of Detail Maps



DESIGNATIONS USED IN THIS PLAN

- Agriculture (Ag) – Land that is suitable for present or future agricultural development
- Coal (Co) – Land where coal development is likely or resource potential is high or moderate
- Forestry (F) - Land that is, has been or will be forested and is suited for long-term forest management
- 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 a lack of a resource
- Habitat (Ha) – Designation applies to areas of fish and wildlife habitat used during a sensitive life-history stage
- Materials (Ma) – Sites suitable for extraction of materials

- Minerals (Mi) – Land where mineral development is likely or commercial quantities may exist
- Public Facilities-Retained (Pr) – Sites reserved for specific infrastructure to serve state interests
- Public Rec-dispersed (Rd) – Applies to areas where recreation is dispersed and widespread
- Public Rec-public use site (Rp) - Areas of concentrated recreation
- Settlement (Se) – Land under state ownership which is suitable for sale, leasing or permitting to allow private recreational or residential use
- Water Resources (Wr) – Land important for water supply, watershed protection, or hydropower. In this plan it also includes wetland areas, the intent of which is to maintain in an undisturbed state

Symbol	Designation	Acreage
Ag	Agriculture	67,998
Co/Ha	Coal/Habitat	121,671
F	Forestry	689,703
Gu	General Use	1,326,373
Ha	Habitat	2,467,327
Ha/Wr	Habitat/Water Resources	759,673
Ha/Rd	Habitat/Public Recreation-Dispersed	1,759,551
Ma	Materials	2,593
Mi	Minerals	757,220
Mi/Ha	Minerals/Habitat	59,895
Rd or Rp	Public Recreation	83,634
Pr	Public Facilities-Retain	2,306
Se	Settlement	709,545
Wr	Water Resources	62,889
Wr/Rd	Water Resources/Public Recreation-Dispersed	8,994
Total		8,879,372

Land Use	2010 SMAP Acreage	1980's Acreage
Agriculture	67,998	55,729
Settlement	709,545	806,618
Forestry	689,703	776,191
General Use	1,326,373	256,537
Habitat, Water Resources	5,058,434	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

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 Friday, June 4, 2010

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

The public may 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

dnr.alaska.gov/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. Friday June 4, 2010

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