

GOALS, POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES - FISH AND WILDLIFE

GOALS

1. Maintenance and enhancement of the Willow Sub-basin as one of the state's most important areas for providing high quality, readily accessible fish and wildlife for the use of local residents, residents of the Anchorage metropolitan area, and other visitors.
2. A continuing contribution of King, Red, Silver, Pink and Chum Salmon to the Cook Inlet commercial fishery from Willow Sub-basin anadromous fish streams.

IMPLEMENTATION POLICIES

1. General

Fish and wildlife habitat values shall be an important consideration in the management of all public lands, regardless of the dominant land use. Development activities will be conducted in a manner that minimizes negative impacts on fish and wildlife habitat.

2. Management by Species Type

- a. The majority of existing human use of moose, bear, ptarmigan, spruce grouse and small fur bearing mammals occurs on private land. As private land in the sub-basin becomes more densely developed a larger percentage of these species' habitat needs and of their use by humans must occur on public lands.
- b. The quality of anadromous fish streams of the sub-basin and of the overall hydrologic system - lakes, tributaries, wetlands and groundwater - should be preserved at a level which: a) supports sportfishing at current (average over 1975-1980) or increased levels of human use; and b) provides a contribution of salmon to the Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery equal to the average over the last 5 years.

3. Management by General Habitat Type

- a. The state and borough will strive to preserve and enhance the diversity of habitat types occurring in the sub-basin.

- 1) Particular attention will be given to protecting/enhancing habitats that support a wide variety of species or species of high value to human use, are of limited availability in the sub-basin, and are highly vulnerable to disruption. Habitat types in this category are tundra (especially shrub tundra), riparian areas, wetlands other than riparian, open forest with shrub understory, and shrublands.
 - 2) Representative amounts of other habitat types in the sub-basin will be preserved. These include closed spruce forests, closed mixed deciduous/coniferous forests and grasslands.
 - 3) Land management that significantly alters habitat will give special consideration to the protection of ecotones - areas at the juncture of two or more vegetative zones or physiographic regions. This will occur at the site design phase of any project and include involvement of ADF&G to assist in site selection, location of buffers, laying out open spaces in subdivisions, etc.
- b. Consideration must be given to the overall pattern of lands preserved for fish and wildlife production as well as the qualities of specific sites. Wherever possible, habitat lands shall be linked through migration corridors, river corridors, and buffers.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

1. Public Access to Fish and Wildlife Resources

See Policies and Management Guidelines, Public Access, this chapter.

2. River and Stream Corridors

See Policies and Management Guidelines, River and Stream Corridors, this chapter.

3. Wetlands

See Policies and Management Guidelines, Wetlands, this chapter.

4. Forestry Practices

See Policies and Management Guidelines, Forestry, this chapter.

5. Grazing

See Policies and Management Guidelines, Agriculture, this chapter.

6. Subsurface Resources

See Policies and Management Guidelines, Sub-surface Resources, this chapter.

7. Recommended Development Practices

Two publications are highly recommended to both public and private land developers for practices which protect and enhance wildlife resources.

a. A Synthesis and Evaluation of Fish and Wildlife Resources Information for the Willow and Talkeetna Sub-basins. ADF&G, 1980.

b. Guidelines for Wildlife Design in Residential Developments. ADF&G Habitat Protection Section, 1979.

8. Life History of Species

Land management practices should be designed to minimize impacts on species during critical portions of their life histories (e.g., moose calving, fish overwintering areas). The borough and state should consult with the Department of Fish and Game to develop plans for mitigating impacts during these periods.