



Date: January 3, 2014

Subject: NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF THE YUKON TANANA AREA PLAN

The Commissioner of Natural Resources has adopted the Yukon Tanana Area Plan (January 3, 2014). You have been provided notice of this action since you or your agency participated in the plan revision process or were included in the distribution list used in the preparation of this plan.

This plan covers about 9 million acres of state land in vast areas south, west, and north of Fairbanks. Much of this area is within the 1985 Tanana Basin Area Plan, which it replaces, but also includes 2.2 million acres of previously unclassified land south of the Yukon River and north of Livengood. Area plans are updated about every 15-20 years, to account for changes in land use patterns, resource information, and changes in state policy. The plan was developed over a three year period, which involved numerous meetings in the communities and native villages within the region.

In addition to the area plan, the Commissioner adopted land classification order NC-10-005 and Leasehold Location Order #33. The classification order rescinds all previous land use classifications and reclassifies about 8 million acres of state land. However, many classifications were not changed. The leasehold order establishes certain standards and procedures for mineral development activity on lands classified Settlement.

The plan primarily affects surface uses. This plan designates areas for possible settlement, agriculture, forestry, and mineral development, which together total 2.5 million acres. It also designates areas where the principal values are related to habitat or wetland protection or public recreation (4.0 million acres). Another 2.4 million acres is not assigned a particular land use designation since it is remote and not appropriate for development. Development within these areas is not intended, except for public utilities and facilities. Subsurface development is not affected by the plan, and no additional areas of state land are closed to mineral entry.

The plan can be viewed at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/ytap/>. An issue response summary and a list of approved changes to the draft plan are also included. The latter should be consulted to see what changes were made to the Public Review Draft (2012) and Intent to Adopt (2012) as a result of public and agency comments.

This action is a final decision. Procedures to request reconsideration of this decision are attached. Requests for reconsideration must be received within 20 days of January 3, 2014.

For additional information, contact:

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Request for Reconsideration Procedures

A person affected by this decision may request reconsideration, in accordance with 11 AAC 02. Any reconsideration request must be received within 20 calendar days after the date of issuance of this decision, as defined in 11 AAC 02.040(c) and (d), and may be mailed or delivered to Joe Balash, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, 550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1400, Anchorage, Alaska 99501; faxed to 1-907-269-8918; or sent by electronic mail to dnr.appeals@alaska.gov. If reconsideration is not requested by that date or the commissioner does not order reconsideration on his own motion, this decision goes into effect as a final order and decision on the 31st calendar day after issuance. Failure of the commissioner to act on a request for reconsideration within 31 calendar days after issuance of this decision is a denial of reconsideration and is a final administrative order and decision for purposes of an appeal to Superior Court. The decision may then be appealed to Superior Court within a further 30 days in accordance with the rules of the court, and to the extent permitted by applicable law. An eligible person must first request reconsideration of this decision in accordance with 11 AAC 02 before appealing this decision to Superior Court. A copy of 11 AAC 02 may be obtained from any regional information office of the Department of Natural Resources.