

**Yukon Tanana Area Plan Public Review Draft  
List of Approved Revisions for the Final Plan  
September 2013**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
<b>LAND USE DESIGNATIONS</b>			
Heritage Resources	The Old Minto Village (Mentee) should be recognized as a historic place. It is an important area to the Mentee people. The land is located in unit L-02 which is recommended for designation of Habitat and Dispersed Recreation.	The Old Minto Village is located within the Minto Flats State Game Refuge (Unit L-02). A historical description of the Old Minto Village will be identified within the Heritage Resources section of Chapter 2.	Revise. See response.
Mineral	The Alaska Mining Association was concerned that the plan text that seemed to indicate that mining operations on lands designated Public Facilities, Settlement, or Water Resources were generally inappropriate.	Agree. The plan text has been amended to clarify that mining operations are an allowable use on such land but will require the use of mitigation stipulations.	Revise. See response.
Public Recreation Livengood Creek Designation and Navigability	Reconsider the Public Recreation Designation in table 3-1 for Livengood Creek should be removed. The recreation designation specifies retention in its undisturbed, natural state. The main stem of the creek has significant historic and ongoing disturbance due to placer mining. Given the amount of disturbance occurring on Livengood Creek, it should also be considered non-navigable.	Agree. Upon further review, it is appropriate to remove Livengood Creek from Table 3-1. Livengood Creek will not be recommended for public recreation designation.	Revise. See response.
Transportation Corridor	The Tanana River should be identified as a Transportation Corridor in addition to Recreation and Habitat.	Agree in part. Although the Tanana River is used for transportation, it is not appropriate to identify it as a “transportation corridor”. For the purpose of this plan, a transportation corridor refers to a developed facility, such as a railroad or road system, not a waterbody.  The Tanana River is identified in the Lower Tanana Region as management unit T-98, which provides for the protection of public access to and across the river.” The management intent will be revised to include the following statement: “This river is used as a transportation corridor by the public. Maintain public access on trails and easements that provide access...”	Revise. See response.
Water Resources	Land located within F008N004W and F009N004W should not be designated for Water Resources. The few small ponds contain permafrost lowlands and are not unique to the region and thereby do not warrant special status.	Upon further review of the management unit, a General Use designation is more appropriate. The unit is remote, generally inaccessible, and is not expected to be developed during the planning period. Unit T-71 will be redesignated for General Use.	Revise. See response.
Protection of Zitziana Dunes	The area of the Zitziana Dunes should be protected.	Concur. Create a new management unit that occupies the area of 3J4 in the 1985 TBAP. (This will require the extraction of this area from a	Revise. See response.

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		portion of YTAP unit K-20). This unit would be co-designated Public Recreation and Habitat. This area would be retained by the state. Development within this area would not be authorized.	
<b>LAND CLASSIFICATIONS AND ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN</b>			
Changes in the way land is classified.	A table was available at the public meeting which identified the differences in acreage distribution. That information should also be provided in the plan.	A table depicting the comparison of the acreage distribution of land classifications between the 1991 TBAP and the 2012 YTAP will be included in the plan. The table will be attached as an appendix to this document.	Revise. See response.
	The revised plan should be organized in the same way as the 1991 plan for ease of comparison.	The YTAP is organized consistent with other area plans that have been written since the year 2000. Although it is not organized in the same way, the same basic information is presented. For ease of comparison, the 1991 plan designations and management unit numbers will be reflected on the Resource Allocation Tables for the planning regions.	Revise. See response.
<b>ACCESS AND TRANSPORTATION</b>			
Road to Tanana	Information about access to Tanana from an unimproved road needs to be removed.	Agree. This information will be removed from the final plan.	Revise. See response.
Road to Tanana and Road to Nome	The plan needs to distinguish between the road to Tanana and the Road to Nome.	Agree. The information will be revised in the final plan.	Revise. See response.
<b>BIOMASS</b>			
Land Disposals and Biomass Resources	Trees that are cleared for settlement and agricultural lands should be used for Biomass fuel.	The Division of Forestry, Land Sales and Agriculture work together on this issue. At this time, decisions on how trees are disposed of depend on whether the trees were cleared before or after the land was disposed of. If the trees are cleared prior to the sale of the land, the decision is made by the state entities. If the trees are cleared after that land has been disposed of, the property owner decides how they want the trees to be disposed of.  Language will be added to the Forestry Goals section of Chapter 2 to indicate that the byproducts of forestry practices and land clearing to be utilized for biomass wherever feasible and practical. See additional language recommendations from the Forestry Division below.	Revise. See response.
<b>LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS</b>			
Denali Borough Airport	Correspondence from the Denali Borough recommends the development of a regional airport / industrial area. The area that is identified for this use by the borough is occupied by unit P-71, which is co-designated Habitat and Public Recreation.	It is beyond the authority of an area plan to make a recommendation for the establishment of a regional airport a particular location. The state agency charged with the authority to make such determinations is the ADOT/PF. This agency should be consulted in order to initiate the initial feasibility study of such a facility and to undertake the necessary siting studies. This plan can, however, identify that the area of P-71 has been recommended by the Denali Borough for the establishment of a regional airport/industrial area and indicate that feasibility and siting studies, or other pertinent studies, will be required in order to make a	Revise. See response.

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		determination that this unit is appropriate for a regional airport. This unit is already recommended to be retained in state ownership, unless required for another public use. The aforementioned concepts will be included in the final plan.	
<b>MAPPING</b>			
Map Colors	The maps were difficult to read because of the solid colors.	The solid colors were used to distinguish the management unit designations. Other than basic hydrology, topographical features were intentionally obscured. The colors of the management designations in the final plan will be reflected with a level of transparency.	Revise. See response.
River and Topography	Rivers and topography should be depicted on the maps to give the public a geographical orientation.	These maps are intended for state adjudicator purposes. Maps included townships for location orientation. Most area plan maps do not depict detailed topographical data because it occludes the boundaries of management units. The YTAP has abundant hydrology and it will not be possible to depict all waterbodies on the maps due to the scale of the maps. However, major rivers will be depicted on the final maps.	Revise. See response.
Land Status	Land status on the maps is outdated.	Land status changes on a daily basis. In order to finalize the management unit boundaries a “snap shot” of land status had to be used. The maps are dated for March, 2012. The land status on the final maps will be more current.	Revise. See response.
<b>RECREATION</b>			
Stampede Area (Wolf Townships)	The land located within management units P80-P86 should be recommended for legislative designation of a State Recreation Site, consistent with the proposal drafted by the Denali Borough currently debated in HB 113 and SB 60. The land surrounding 8 Mile Lake should be managed intensely.	Agree in part. This area has been discussed as a potential State Recreation Area (SRA) for many years and legislation has been introduced to create the SRA.  This issue was discussed within DNR and our position is that the promotion of a SRA (or some other administrative entity to manage this area) is really a local matter and that the recommendation its creation should, more properly, come from the local community and its state legislative representatives. However, it is appropriate for the plan to acknowledge that these efforts have occurred and that an entity of the type that has been previously introduced in legislation is compatible with the land use designations and management intent of the units in the Wolf Townships (or some portion of this area) and is considered appropriate for establishment in this area. A new section will be added under the regional Management Summary (p. 3-97) that expresses these concepts.	Revise. See response.
Legislative Designation for a Stampede Recreational Area - Support	Why doesn't the plan recommend a State Recreation Area Legislatively Designation for the Stampede Area (Wolf Townships)? The Denali Borough passed a resolution (PC 12-02) supporting the inclusion of the recommendation for this designation in the plan during the	This issue was addressed on Page 11 of the Issue Response Summary. The Department of Natural Resources prefers that local government and their state representatives develop what they believe is the correct management approach for the Stampede Townships area and advance that approach legislatively. The department is not certain as to which form of LDA is appropriate in the area and defers to the aforementioned	Revise. See previous response in the Issue Response Summary.

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	previous comment period. However, the plan does not include a recommendation for recreation area and does not reference the potential for it in the “Legislatively Designated Area” section of Chapter 4.	entities on that aspect. We did agree in the Issue Response Summary, however, to acknowledge that some form of a recreational or public use LDA would be compatible with the land designations of the units that might be affected by an LDA.	
	<p>The land located within management units P80-P86 should be recommended for legislative designation of a State Recreation Site, consistent with the proposal drafted by the Denali Borough currently debated in HB 113 and SB 60. The land surrounding 8 Mile Lake should be managed intensely.</p> <p>The Issue Response Summary agreement to add information about the potential State Recreation Area to the Regional Management Summary is not adequate. The plan should support the creation of a State Recreation Area and recognize the potential for legislative designation within the management intent for each management unit and in chapter 4 in the Legislatively Designated Area section.</p>	<p>Agree in part. DNR continues to maintain that the determination of the type of LDA that is appropriate for the Wolf Townships is best determined through the state legislative process, but did agree that the plan would acknowledge that some form of recreation oriented LDA would be consistent with the management intent for this area within YTAP. See previous response.</p> <p>That said, we will also agree to include language that describes the possible formation of a LDA in the Stampede Townships in Chapter 4. This revision will mirror what is said above and in the previous IRS but will also note the various types of LDAs that may be appropriate in this area, which would include a State Recreation Area.</p>	Partial change. See response.
<b>GENERAL</b>			
	There is a remaining municipal entitlement of approximately 9,000 acres due the Denali Borough. While it is likely that the adjudication of their remaining entitlement will follow the recommendations of the YTAP plan, this is not a certainty. It is therefore appropriate to identify a municipal entitlement selection area that can be used in the event that there is a short fall in the amount of state land that can be used to fulfill the borough’s entitlement. This parcel occupies sections 1, 12, and 13 within FM T10SR04W, and is now designated Settlement but has been recommended to be re-designated to Minerals and Habitat in the revised 2012 plan.	It is appropriate to identify this area as a new parcel that can be used, if necessary, to fulfill the Denali Borough’s municipal entitlement if it is determined that at the end of the forthcoming adjudication of the remaining borough selections that additional state land is owed them. The current designation of Minerals would continue to apply but would convert to the designation of Settlement if the DNR adjudication determines that this parcel is necessary to fulfill the borough’s entitlement and if conveyance of this parcel to the borough is appropriate under AS 29.65.	Revise. See response.
Recognition of Traditional Uses	The plan did not adequately discuss the historic and traditional uses of the land. More information should be included.	Concur in part. The plan focuses on the classification of the surface uses of state land. Although the historical and traditional uses of the land are important, they are not the primary focus of this plan. It is also inappropriate to depict culturally sensitive sites on area plan maps for the public. For further information about the history and traditional uses of the State of Alaska, please consult the Division of History and	Revise. See response.

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		<p>Archaeology.</p> <p>However, we do agree that the plan should contain a section on traditional uses, including subsistence. This description would describe the widespread distribution of these uses, indicate their importance, and that the plan recognizes this importance and will take the maintenance of traditional and subsistence uses into consideration in adjudication decisions. It is likely that this section will be included in the Fish and Wildlife section of Chapter 2. By including it in Chapter 2, these criteria will apply throughout the planning region.</p>	
TBAP Version Revision	The plan states in some areas that it is the 1985 TBAP that is being revised, but says it is the 1991 revision in others. The Issue Response Summary only refers to the 1991 Plan. What plan is being revised?	The plan that is being revised is the 1985 Tanana Basin Area Plan as updated in 1991. Reference to it as the 1991 plan is a technical error and it will be updated throughout the plan.	Revise. See response
Utility Definition	“Utilities” are referred to often in the plan but are not defined in the glossary. Include a definition of “Utilities” in the plan.	Concur. A definition of Utilities will be added to the plan as follows: In the context of this plan, “utilities” refer to public utilities such as light, power, water, and communication, as provided by either a public utility service or private entity, and any equipment or facilities that are necessary to provide or maintain such a service.	Revise. See response.

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<b>MANAGEMENT UNIT SPECIFIC CONCERNS</b>			
<b>Kantishna Region</b>			
Units K-62 and K-67  General Use Designation	The General Use state land adjacent to the Toklat and Sushana Rivers in units K-62 and K-67 should indicate that the land will be retained by the state in the management intent for those units.	Areas adjacent to the Toklat and Sushana Rivers are contained with two very large management units – K-54 and K-61. The more sensitive habitat areas are included in these two units, and there is no reason to require the retention of state land within unit K-62, which is situated between units K-54 and K-68. State land within K-54 and K-68 are to be retained in state ownership. However, to be clear, add the phrase ‘Retain in state ownership’ to K-54.	Revise. See response.
Unit K-72  Personal Firewood Harvest	Comments received at the aforementioned community meeting in Lake Minchumina indicated that the northeast part of K-72 within T013S0R025W is used extensively for personal wood harvest and that this area should be managed for this purpose.	Concur. Revise the Description section for this unit to indicate that personal wood harvest occurs in this area and revise the management intent section to indicate that the area within T013S0R025W should be managed to permit this form of harvest.	Revise. See response.
<b>Parks Highway and West Alaska Range Region</b>			
Unit P-13  Settlement	The land located near Teklanika River, including unit P-13 should be closed to any additional settlement. Settlement density is already too high in that area and it is causing public conflicts and overuse of the area which has resulted in the degradation of the environment. The language for this management unit should be revised to preclude future settlement.	DNR is unaware of the impacts that are described in the comment. Access to this area is good, both winter and summer, the firewood supply is more than adequate, and tracts in this parcel are at least 5 acres in size. In any future disposal DNR must consider the restrictions imposed in previous offerings (nominal 5 acres with a maximum width with 1000’ of the Teklanika River, woodlots, and retained land. However, DNR concurs that adding ‘settlement density’ in the list of items to be considered in future disposals is appropriate.  Revise the management intent accordingly, ...” Any future offering must consider the restrictions imposed on previous offerings (nominal 5 acres maximum within 1000’ of the Teklanika River, woodlots, <b>settlement density</b> , and retained lands.)	Revise. See response.
Units P45 and P-78  ADF&G Consultation	Land disposals bordering the Parks Highway and Nenana River Corridor (Units P-45 and P-78), should require consultation with ADF&G prior to sale.	Concur. Add ‘Consult with ADF&G prior to undertaking land disposals bordering the Nenana River Corridor’ to the management intent language of P-45 and P-68.	Revise. See response.
Unit P-60  General Use Designation	Unit P-60 should be retained as a habitat area. It is unclear why the designation was revised to General Use.	Concur. Comments from the public substantiated the use of this area for recreation, particularly for hunting, and review of habitat data indicated the presence of sensitive moose habitat. The designation will be changed to Habitat and Public Recreation – Dispersed. Language will also be included to indicate that the parcel will be retained in state ownership and is to be managed for its public recreation and habitat values and uses.	Revise. See response.
Unit P-60  Habitat Designation	Unit P-60 should be retained in state ownership. It should also retain the existing designation of Ha, Rd.	Concur. Staff has reviewed habitat information and has determined that significant portions of this unit provide important habitat for moose wintering, rutting, and calving. Public comments have	Revise. See response.

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		indicated that there is widespread use of this unit for public recreation purposes, primarily for hunting. Based on this reevaluation DMLW concurs that this unit should be co-designated Habitat and Public Recreation. Management intent should indicate that the unit is to be managed for its habitat and public recreation values and that the unit is to be retained in state ownership. The designation will be changed to Habitat and Public Recreation.	
Units P-88 and P-99 Habitat Concern	Portions of units P-88 and P-89 should be designated for Habitat and Recreation –Dispersed. The terrain in the detached western section of P-88 is mostly tundra. The area near Panguingue Creek is abundant with wildlife. The western two sections of P-89 are on the north slope of a ridge and unsuited for settlement.	<p>P-89 is affected by a current decision (ADL 229606) which stipulates that this land will go to the Mental Health Trust unless the state’s responsibility to compensate the Trust can be secured through the conveyance of other state land (than this). The conditions of conveyance have already been identified in this decision and no additional requirements can be added. P-88 is affected by a municipal selection and the establishment of specific requirements prior to the adjudication of this parcel is inappropriate. This is more properly dealt with in the adjudication decision. However, it is appropriate to include in the Description portion of the Resource Allocation Table the factual information that is identified in this comment.</p> <p>P-88: Add: <b>‘The westernmost parcel consists mostly of tundra and the area near Panguingue Creek is an important habitat area.’</b></p> <p>P-89: Add: <b>‘The westernmost area of this unit is situated on the north slope of a ridge.’</b></p>	Revise. See response.
<b>Lower Tanana Region</b>			
Unit T-64 Riparian Buffers	The riparian buffers along the Yukon River in management unit T-64 should be extended to at least 1,000’ to accommodate for wildlife habitat that use and migrate along the river.	Agree in part. The riparian buffer along the Yukon River of Unit T-64 will be increased to 300’. Discussions with ADF&G have indicated that a 300’ buffer would be considered the width necessary to accommodate for the wildlife habitat that use and migrate along the river.	Revise. See response.
Unit T-64 Settlement Designation	This management unit consists of three parcels, two of which are located on the south bank of the Yukon River near the Dalton Highway bridge, and one which is located near the mouth of Isom Creek. All three parcels are located within Stevens Village traditional lands, and are situated near the individual Native Allotments of Stevens Village Tribal members. Opening up lands to additional settlement within SVC traditional lands will increase the potential for trespass or other inappropriate land uses, and will increase pressure on the region’s diminishing subsistence resources. Such a designation could result in harm to the health, social	<p>Although these lands may be traditionally used by Stevens Village, the YTAP pertains to lands that are state owned or state selected (still under Federal ownership.) Most of the land within this unit was previously unclassified. DNR is required by statute to classify the surface uses of state land (AS 38.05.300). It is state policy to provide for maximum use of state land consistent with the public interest, and it is the policy of the State of Alaska to plan and manage state-owned land to establish a balanced combination of land available for both public and private purposes (AS 38.04.005).</p> <p>State land is open to use for all Alaskans, including the residents of Stevens Village. When state land is offered for competitive sale, all Alaskans, including the residents of Stevens Village, are encouraged to</p>	Revise. See response.

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	<p>and economic welfare of Tribal members, and as such is contrary to the interests of the Tribe.</p> <p><i>SVC calls for all three parcels to be reclassified to Habitat and combined with the adjacent T-63 management units.</i></p>	<p>participate in the sale.</p> <p>Settlement is the appropriate designation for this unit. Land considered appropriate for settlement are those that have access to an existing road and/or water access, topography favorable for construction of shelters and/or homes, access to hunting and fishing areas, and desirable natural features, including scenic views. This unit has these attributes, and is considered appropriate for settlement.</p> <p>Although the YTAP anticipates the Settlement land in Unit T-64 near the Yukon River will be used for low density settlement and small scale commercial operations, the public demand for settlement land may increase. Natural resource development, mineral operations, and oil and gas development within and north of the planning area are anticipated over life of the plan (20 years).</p> <p>Because of concerns expressed about this unit, however DNR has determined to separate it into three units with more specific Management Intent for each of the units. These units are: T-64a, T-64b, and T-64c. The boundaries for each unit have been reconfigured to adhere more closely with topography. This adjustment has resulted in a decrease in the acreage of land designated for Settlement in the YTAP by 3,500 acres.</p>	
<p>Unit T-64a</p> <p>Settlement Designation</p>	<p>See Issue for Unit T-64</p>	<p>Unit T-64a is comprised of the two western parcels of the PRD T-64. The portions of southern parcel located in Sections 13,24 and 35 of 11N 11W, FM will be designated for General Use and included in Unit T-56. The remainder of the unit will remain designated for Settlement but the Management Intent for Unit T-64a will read:</p> <p>Land disposals are appropriate during the planning period and are to follow the requirements of the Remote Recreational Cabin Site program (AS 38.05.600). Within the two subunits that constitute this unit parcels should range from 5 to 20 acres in size. It is intended that up to 140 parcels or 2,800 acres be conveyed. At least 80% of the area of these subunits should remain as open space; current vegetation is to be retained in the areas of open space. This state land is to be retained for the purpose of supporting the State's land disposal program.</p> <p>The following stipulations apply: 1) A 300' vegetative buffer applies to the Yukon River. Except for access, this buffer shall be maintained in current vegetated condition, 2) access is to be maintained on trails within the unit that have provided traditional means of access for the public, 3) prior to or concurrent with the preparation of a Preliminary</p>	<p>Revise. See response.</p>

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		<p>Decision, impacts to habitat and traditional use patterns are to be evaluated, and 4) disposals should avoid moose wintering areas if present; consult with ADF&amp;G.</p> <p>See Chapter 2 for specific development guidelines. Unit is affected by Leasehold Location Order #33.”</p>	
Unit T-64b	See Issue for Unit T-64	<p>Unit T-64b is comprised of the northeastern parcel of the PRD Unit T-64. Section 23 and a portion of Section 14 of 12N 10W FM will be incorporated into Unit T-63 and redesignated for Habitat. The remainder of T-64b will remain designated for Settlement and the Management Intent for Unit T-64b will read:</p> <p>“Land disposals (subdivision or pre-surveyed lots) are appropriate during the planning period. Within this unit, parcel size should range from approximately 5 to 20 acres in size. It is intended that no more than 160 parcels (lots) or 1,600 acres be offered. At least 30% and preferably up to 43% of the unit shall remain as open space; current vegetation should be retained in the areas of open space. This state land is to be retained for the purpose of supporting the State’s land disposal program.</p> <p>The following stipulations apply: 1) A 300’ vegetative buffer applies to the Yukon River. Except for access, this buffer shall be maintained in current vegetated condition, 2) access is to be maintained on trails within the unit that have provided traditional means of access for the public, 3) prior to or concurrent with the preparation of a Preliminary Decision, impacts to habitat and traditional use patterns are to be evaluated, and 4) disposals should avoid moose wintering areas if present; consult with ADF&amp;G.</p> <p>See Chapter 2 for specific development guidelines. Unit is affected by Leasehold Location Order #33.”</p>	Revise. See response.
T-64c	See Issue for Unit T-64	<p>Unit T-64c is a new unit, formed from a portion of the northcentral parcel of PRD Unit T-64. The land within the unit has been redesignated for Settlement-Commercial. The Management Intent for Unit T-64c will read:</p> <p>“Development of this unit as a commercial node is intended during the planning period.</p> <p>The following stipulations apply: 1) A 300’ vegetative buffer applies to the Yukon River. Except for access, this buffer should be maintained in the current vegetated condition, 2) access is to be maintained on</p>	Revise. See response.

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		<p>trails within the unit that have provided traditional means of access for the public, 3) prior to or concurrent with the preparation of a Preliminary Decision, impacts to habitat and traditional use patterns are to be evaluated, and 4) disposals are to avoid moose wintering areas if present.</p> <p>See Chapter 2 for specific development guidelines. Unit is affected by Leasehold Location Order #33.”</p>	
<p>Unit T-65 Agriculture Designation</p>	<p>This management unit consists of two parcels, one of which is located within Stevens Village traditional lands near the Yukon River Bridge, and one parcel located adjacent to the Dalton Highway crossing of Hess Creek, which outside of but very near the southern boundary of our traditional lands. The description of the management unit in the YTAP indicates the speculative nature of the agricultural potential of the parcel, while at the same time pointing out that the unit is valuable as a moose wintering area.</p> <p>Agricultural production in these areas is not compatible with the Stevens Village Land Use Plan. Additionally, opening up lands to additional settlement within SVC traditional lands will increase the potential for trespass or other inappropriate land uses, and will increase pressure on the region’s diminishing subsistence resources. Such a designation could result in harm to the health, social and economic welfare of Tribal members, and as such is contrary to the interests of the Tribe.</p> <p>SVC calls for the northern parcel near the Yukon River Bridge to be reclassified to Habitat and combined with the adjacent T-63 management unit.</p> <p>SVC requests that the southern parcel near Hess Creek be reclassified as Habitat and combined with the adjacent T-63 management unit.</p>	<p>Land that is appropriate for Agriculture is not abundant in the Lower Tanana Region of the YTAP, which is why there are only three units designated for Agriculture in the region. Both parcels of this unit are considered to be desirable areas for Agriculture because the soils have been preliminarily identified as appropriate for growing crops and there is existing road access, both of which are very important attributes to consider for agricultural land sales.</p> <p>Based on the concern expressed about the state’s management intent for this management unit, DNR reviewed the appropriateness of this designation. Upon further review, DNR has determined to reduce the size of the unit to adhere more closely with topographical features and to avoid the Trans-Alaska Pipeline (TAPS). The boundary shift has resulted in a reduction of the size of this unit by 200 acres.</p> <p>The western boundary of the northern parcel of this management unit will be shifted east and border the TAPS. Additionally, land that is located in the northeast portion of section 19, land located southeastern portion of section 22, eastern half of section 27 will be removed and managed within Unit T-66 . The southern parcel of this unit will not be revised.</p> <p>The Management Intent for this Unit will be revised to read:</p> <p>“Manage for agricultural values and resources. Detailed soils data is incomplete; prior to a determination to proceed with an agricultural land disposal, better soils data must be prepared and the feasibility of agricultural development, more specifically determined. If not determined to be feasible, this unit converts to the classification of Resource Management Land. The Agriculture classification is retained until this decision is made. If found feasible, the Agriculture classification is retained.</p> <p>Within this unit, the average parcel size should be no less than 40 acres and, preferably, have an average size of 60 acres. It is intended that 20</p>	<p>Revise. See response.</p>

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		<p>parcels may be offered and in no case may more than 40 parcels be offered. At least 50 % of the unit should remain as open space; current vegetation is to be retained in the areas of open space. This state land is to be retained for the purpose of supporting the State’s agricultural land disposal program.</p> <p>The following stipulations apply: 1) A 100’ building setback applies to parcels located along the Dalton Highway. Except for access, the setback should be maintained in current vegetated condition, 2) access is to be maintained on trails within the unit that have provided traditional means of access for the public, 3) prior to or concurrent with the preparation of a Preliminary Decision, impacts to habitat and traditional use patterns are to be evaluated, and 4) disposals are to avoid moose wintering areas and the TAPS right of way.”</p>	
Unit T-98 Transportation Corridor	The Tanana River should be identified as a Transportation Corridor in addition to Recreation and Habitat.	<p>Agree in part. Although the Tanana River is used for transportation, it is not appropriate to identify it as a “transportation corridor”. For the purpose of this plan, a transportation corridor refers to a developed facility, such as a railroad or road system, not a waterbody.</p> <p>The Tanana River is identified in the Lower Tanana Region as management unit T-98, which provides for the protection of public access to and across the river.” The management intent will be revised to include the following statement: “This river is used as a transportation corridor by the public. Maintain public access on trails and easements that provide access...”</p>	Revise. See response.

## AGENCY COMMENTS

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
<b>ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH &amp; GAME</b>			
<b>Lower Tanana Region</b>			
Unit T-04	Language should be reworded to state: “Although no specific fish or wildlife life stage concentrations are known to occur...”	Concur. Language will be revised as recommended to state: “Although no specific fish or wildlife stage concentrations are known to occur...”	Revise. See response.
Unit T-12	Due to the significance of this area for moose and other wildlife and fishery resources, no disposal should occur within 200 feet of the confluence of the Chitanana and Tanana Rivers.	Concur. Buffer will be increased to 200 feet.	Revise. See response.
Unit T-46	It is incorrect to say Wood Bison are present in the area. They have not yet been reintroduced into the area.	Concur. Information about Wood Bison in Unit T-46 will be stricken from the plan.	Revise. See response.
<b>Kantishna Region</b>			
Unit K-16	ADF&G should be consulted prior to any decision to offer land for disposal around Mooseheart Lake to ensure adequate protection of the riparian habitat and resources there.	Concur. Include under management intent: ‘ADF&G should be consulted prior to any decision to offer land for disposal around Mooseheart Lake to ensure adequate protection of riparian habitats and resources.’	Revise. See response.
Unit K-24	ADF&G should be consulted prior to any decision to offer land for disposal around Kindanina and Geskakmina Lakes to ensure adequate protection of the riparian habitat and resources there.	Concur. Include under management intent: ‘ADF&G should be consulted prior to any decision to offer land for disposal around Kindanina and Geskakmina Lakes to ensure adequate protection of riparian habitats and resources.’	Revise. See response.
Unit K-37	ADF&G should be consulted prior to any forestry projects to ensure protection of fish and wildlife resources.	Concur. Include under management intent: ‘ADF&G should be consulted prior to any forestry projects to ensure protection of fish and wildlife resources.’	Revise. See response.
Unit K-46	Northern Pike are found in Wein Lake and provide sport fishing opportunities for the public. Public access to the lake should be maintained to and around the lake. ADF&G recommends the establishment of a Public Use Site at the lake to ensure the access. There is also a landing strip at the north end of the lake which should be referenced in the description of the unit. The land on the eastern portion of Wein lake is wet and is not appropriate for settlement.	Concur in part. Add: under management intent, ‘Public access should be maintained to and along the lake to the extent feasible. A public use site, as described in Chapter 2, should be reserved or established in order to ensure access.’  Add, under Description, ‘There is also a landing strip at the north end of Wein Lake’.	Revise. See response.
Unit K-65	ADF&G stocks Dune Lake. Public access should be maintained and a public use site should be established or reserved to ensure the access.	Add: under management intent, ‘Access should be maintained to and along the lake and a public use site established or reserved to ensure public access.’	Revise. See response.
Unit K-76	Based on comments received at the public meeting held in Lake Minchumina in August, 2012, the community does not use this area for personal wood	Concur. Delete unit K-76 and merge this area with K-72.  (Note: This unit is also addressed in the public comments analysis)	Revise. See response.

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	harvest, and believes that this unit has the characteristics of and should managed in a manner similar to K-72, which is designated General Use.		
Unit K-72	Comments received at the aforementioned community meeting in Lake Minchumina indicated that the northeast part of K-72 within T013S0R025W is used extensively for personal wood harvest and that this area should be managed for this purpose.	Concur. Revise the Description section for this unit to indicate that personal wood harvest occurs in this area and revise the management intent section to indicate that the area within T013S0R025W should be managed to permit this form of harvest.	Revise. See response.
<b>Parks Highway and West Alaska Range Region</b>			
Unit P-01	Although there are no Caribou present in the unit at this time, this could change throughout the life of the plan. Information regarding Caribou should be removed from this unit description.	Concur. Delete reference to caribou.	Revise. See response.
Unit P-38	The riparian buffer adjacent to Wood River should be 150 – 200 feet in order to protect this important fish and wildlife resource.	Concur. Revise recommendation to state that the riparian buffer width is 150’.	Revise. See response.
Unit P-39	ADF&G does not find this unit to be appropriate for additional land disposals because the area is fire prone and there is limited access to the area. There is no access in the summer and winter access is only provided on the Rex Trail, which is restricted by DNR due to due to trail damage.	Agree in part. While DNR does not believe it appropriate to prohibit additional land disposals in this unit, we acknowledge that the unit is in a fire prone area and that a substantial fire risk exists.  Add to management intent: ‘During project development, the wild land fire risk will be evaluated and, if necessary, areas may be restricted, or excluded from, development within the proposed development area.’	Revise. See response.
P-41	ADF&G should be consulted prior to any forestry projects to ensure protection of fish and wildlife resources.	Concur. Add to management intent: ‘ADF&G should be consulted prior to any forestry projects to ensure protection of fish and wildlife resources.’	Revise. See response.
P-42	A 150 feet riparian buffer should be reserved adjacent to the Little Delta River prior to land disposal to protect habitat and water quality.	Concur. Revise recommendation to state that the riparian buffer width is 150’.	Revise. See response.
<b>DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE</b>			
Grazing	DAG recommends adding a section to the plan to outline the management intent for “Grazing”. Suggested language will be provided by DAG consistent with other recent Area Plans.	Concur: Add a new subsection (grazing) under the Agricultural section of Chapter 2. See attachment for specific wording.	Revise. See response.
Agriculture Section of Chapter 2	DAG identified a number of issues that require change to the current wording of this section. Under line 10 add ‘and its distribution’ after ‘production; under B. line 1, indicate that units less than 40 acres may be sold if, in the opinion of the Division, this is in the best interest of the state; and on line 11, p. 2-6, indicate that agricultural land cannot be used for other purposes that would, if authorized, preclude its	Concur. Revise: Under line 10, p. 2-5, add ‘and its distribution’ after the word ‘production; under B. line 1, p. 2-6, indicate that units less than 40 acres may be sold if, in the opinion of the Division, this is in the best interest of the state; and on line 11, p. 2-6, indicate that agricultural land cannot be used for other purposes that would preclude its eventual use for agriculture.	Revise. See response.

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	eventual use for agriculture.		
General Use Units	DMLW notes that units designated General Use will frequently include the statement that the land affected by the designation is intended to be retained in state ownership, that it is unlikely that development will take place (owing to terrain and inaccessibility), and that only certain types of development are considered appropriate – especially those type of projects providing a public benefit. DMLW is concerned that the last requirement, which makes development difficult, is too encompassing and that there needs to be some flexibility to accommodate projects that are unexpected but may be appropriate at a particular site.	Concur. Recommend changing the management intent for those units of a General Use designation that include this language. Specifically, change to the following: “ ... except for certain types of utilities, communications facilities, roads and similar type of projects that provide a general public benefit” <u>or for other types of projects if it is determined that their authorization would be in the overall best interest of the state.</u> “	Revise. See response.
Preference Right Application (ADL 419356)	The applicant for a preference right (10 acres within SE1/4 of Section 15 and the NE1/4 of Section 22, T4N, R13W, FM) applied for and was granted a Land Use Permit (LAS 28411) but now wants to purchase the land. DMLW has begun adjudicating the case but will not be able to reach a decision until sometime after the approval of YTAP. Rather than require the amendment of the plan shortly after it had been approved, it would be more practical to recognize this situation and provide for reclassification of the 10 acre parcel if the preference right adjudication determines that the application meets the requirements of statute and should be approved.	Concur. Change the management intent/guidelines for unit T-41 to stipulate that the classification of the preference right parcel will automatically change to Settlement if the preference right application is approved by the state. (If it is not approved, the classification of this 10-acre parcel retains its current classification (Forestry).	Revise. See response.
<b>DIVISION OF FORESTRY</b>			
Biomass	DOF recommends adding a definition for “Woody Biomass” into the glossary of the plan, in place of those areas within the plan where only “biomass” is used in reference to forest derived fiber and other woody products, including timber and sawlogs. This definition is designed to meet our use of the term in Alaska for forest management, harvest and energy utilization.  Insert the following definition: Woody Biomass refers to the aboveground and below ground portions of trees and woody plants.	Concur. Definition for “Woody Biomass” will be added to the glossary of the plan as recommended: “Woody Biomass refers to the aboveground and below ground portions of trees and woody plan.”	Revise. See response.
Chapter 2 Forestry	Refer to “biomass” as “woody biomass” and add in	Concur. “Woody biomass” will be added to lines 8 and 9.	Revise. See response.

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Section, Page 2-21, lines 5-11	mention of black spruce and aspen as additional woody biomass sources in this opening paragraph in lines 8 and 9.  Insert the following sentence after line 11: Black spruce and aspen are now recognized as an abundant source of woody biomass. Communities are beginning to utilize woody biomass for heating public schools.	The recommended sentence will be added after line 11.	
Forestry Goals	DOF recommends a revision to the text in the Forestry Section of Chapter 2 for the Forestry management goal: 'Provision for Biomass for Public Purposes' as follows: "DNR shall support actions to develop sustainable sources of energy for meeting community needs from renewable woody biomass obtained from state forest or other state lands."	Concur. Text will be revised as recommended by DOF in the Forestry section management goal for 'Provision of Biomass for Public Purposes' as follows: "DNR shall support actions to develop sustainable sources of energy for meeting community needs from renewable woody biomass obtained from state forest or other state lands."	Revise. See response.
Unit T-22	In second description. Revise last sentence to read: "The area is a likely source of woody biomass."	Concur. Text will be revised.	Revise. See response.
Unit K-66	In first description, revise biomass sentence to read: "Pole timber and fire-killed timber exist and are suitable for woody biomass utilization through winter road access."	Concur. Revise text as recommended.	Revise. See response.
Unit K-70	In first description, revise biomass sentence to read: "Pole timber and fire-killed timber exist and are suitable for woody biomass utilization through winter road access."	Concur. Revise text as recommended.	Revise. See response.
Glossary Text Revisions	Page A-1, line 37 - add an "s" to Land in ANILCA  Page A- 4, line 24 – add "and" to "FRPA. See Forest Resources and Practices Act.  Page A-12, line 40 – add new definition for 'woody biomass': <b>Woody Biomass</b> refers to the aboveground and belowground portions of trees and woody plants.	Concur. Text will be modified as recommended:  Page A-1, line 37 - add an "s" to Land in ANILCA  Page A- 4, line 24 – add "and" to "FRPA. See Forest Resources and Practices Act.  Page A-12, line 40 – add new definition for 'woody biomass': <b>Woody Biomass</b> refers to the aboveground and belowground portions of trees and woody plants.	Revise. See response.
<b>DIVISION OF OIL &amp; GAS</b>			
Increased Interest in Oil and Gas Exploration in Interior Alaska	The YTAP does not reference the increasing interest in Oil & Gas exploration in the northern region. The state legislature has placed a 100 mile circle around Fairbanks for Oil & Gas exploration tax credits. Although this is a revenue issue, it is worth noting the interest.	Correct. The plan will be revised to include language regarding the increasing interest in Oil and Gas development in the northern region. The area within YTAP that is affected by the 100 mile circle around Fairbanks is within the Parks Highway & West Alaska Range Region. This area includes portions of unit P-37. The Description section in the RAT for unit P-37 will be revised to include information about the	Revise. See response.

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		<p>state legislative interest in oil and gas development.</p> <p>The reminder of the land within that area of legislative interest is included in the Eastern Tanana Basin Area Plan, which is currently being drafted.</p>	
<p>Management Intent for Oil &amp; Gas and Geothermal Resources</p>	<p>The YTAP discussions about subsurface resources refer only to locatable minerals, such as mining. It is unclear in the plan as to the State’s unified management and land use provisions for oil and gas and geothermal resources, leasing and development throughout the planning area.</p> <p>The plan needs to specifically discuss the management intent related to these resources to assure access, leasing, exploration and development of oil and gas and geothermal subsurface resources.</p>	<p>Agree in part. Although the language regarding Oil &amp; Gas development could be expanded upon, DMLW does not have the statutory authority to be involved in recommendations, planning and decision making for Oil &amp; Gas development.</p> <p>The planning and decision making process for Oil &amp; Gas development occurs under AS 38.05.180, whereby DMLW land planning authority is derived from AS 38.04.065. DMLW thereby defers all decisions regarding the authorization process for Oil &amp; Gas development. Information regarding the differing statutory authorities is provided in Chapter 2, Subsurface Resources section, Management Guideline ‘G’ on page 2-52.</p> <p>It is reasonable to include language to ensure that access should be reserved to areas being explored or developed for Oil &amp; Gas in the plan. Oil &amp; Gas and Geothermal resources will be specified in the Public Access section of Chapter 2 in Management Guideline ‘E’: “Access for Development”.</p>	<p>Revise. See response.</p>
	<p>The plan should discuss the current and future petroleum potential for the Nenana Basin. There is an existing exploration license for the area.</p>	<p>Concur. Information regarding the petroleum potential for the Nenana Basin will be added to the plan to the Subsurface Resources section of Chapter 2, in Management Guideline ‘G’.</p> <p>“The potential for petroleum reserves within the YTAP are believed to be high in the Nenana River Basin and exploration is underway (2012) in that area, within the Lower Tanana and Kantishna Regions, including land within the Minto Flats State Game Refuge.”</p>	<p>Revise. See response.</p>
	<p>Information regarding Geothermal energy needs to be added to the plan in areas of the plan that discuss energy development. Include “Geothermal” on pages 1-10, 2-52, 3-64, and 3-65.</p> <p>Insert this text on page 2-52:</p> <p><b>“Geothermal Resources</b> – The presence of geothermal resources, to support renewable energy development, may be likely within the planning area. Access and development of geothermal deposits at Chena Hot Springs, in the vicinity of Fairbanks,</p>	<p>Concur. “Geothermal Resources” as defined in AS 41.06.060 will be added to the glossary of the plan. Geothermal Resources will be referenced in each of the recommended sections of the plan as requested.</p> <p>The recommended language for a management goal for Geothermal Resources will be added to the Subsurface Resources section of the plan. However, the Chena Hot Springs will not be referenced in that language. Chena Hot Springs are not within YTAP. The Chena Hot Springs are located within the eastern side of the Tanana Basin Area Plan, not YTAP and it will be addressed in the Eastern Tanana Basin Area Plan which is currently under development. Manley Hot Springs</p>	<p>Revise. See response.</p>

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	<p>shows that there are known resources, and potential for location and use of geothermal resources for renewable energy in the area (Chena Hot Springs 2012).</p> <p>The exploration and development of geothermal resources follows the planning processes under AS 41.06, and 38.05.181. The land use designations of the plan are multiple use in character and do not preclude geothermal leasing and resources development.</p> <p>The exploration and development of geothermal resources follows the planning process under AS.41.06 and 38.05.181. The land designations of the plan are multiple use in character and do not preclude geothermal leasing and resource development.”</p>	<p>will be inserted into the text in place of Chena Hot Springs. Manley Hot Springs is the corollary location to Chena Hot Springs within YTAP. Insert “The vicinity of the community of Manley is an active geothermal area and it will be an appropriate area for the development of geothermal resources. This assertion is substantiated by a 2012 Special Report (66) written by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys. Page 132 states: “<i>The community of Manley is essentially located at Manley Hot Springs, which includes a high enough flow rate of high-temperature water to warrant further consideration of the resource for local energy.</i>”</p>	
<b>DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</b>			
<p>Road Development T-26</p>	<p>The YTAP mentions a road from Fairbanks to Nome. Though DOT&amp;PF currently isn’t funding a project that will connect Fairbanks and Nome, we <i>are</i> funding a project to complete a road between Manley Hot Springs and Tanana. The likely route of this new road, which will connect the end of the existing Tofty Road with Tanana, will cross T-26 (designated as Mi, Ha). The management intent for this unit number does not allow for “certain types of utilities, communication facilities, roads, and similar types of projects that provide a general public benefit.” For this reason, DOT&amp;PF is requesting that the management intent for units T-26 and T-28 (which contains the existing portion of the Tofty Road) take into account the upgrade and extension of the Tofty Road that may impact areas within these units.</p>	<p>Concur. Management intent for T-26 will be revised to allow “certain types of utilities, communication facilities, roads, and similar types of projects that provide a general public benefit.” Text regarding future road development will be modified to focus on the road to Tanana, not the road to Nome.</p>	<p>Revise. See response.</p>
<p>Access, Resources and uses of State Land section within the Lower Tanana Region of Chapter 3 – Manley Hot Springs to Tanana Road</p>	<p>YTAP does not mention the route that is currently being funded for construction by ADOT&amp;PF from Manley Hot Springs to Tanana. It mentions an unimproved road, which is actually the current alignment for the road, not an actual public road.</p>	<p>Concur. The description of the route from Manley Hot Springs to Tanana as an unimproved road on page 3-18, line 24, is inaccurate and it will be revised to the following: “A road from Manley Hot Springs to Tanana has received funding from ADOT&amp;PF. Current land access to Tanana from that area is provided along RS 2477 routes.”</p>	<p>Revise. See response.</p>

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<p>Allowing uses in Fish and Wildlife Habitats (Ha) Chapter 2, Fish and Wildlife Habitat, Management Guideline 'B'.</p> <p>Include reference to Management Guideline 'R'</p>	<p>Include a reference to guideline 'R' on page 2-15, in the Fish and Wildlife Habitat section of chapter 2, guideline B 'Allowing Uses in Fish and Wildlife', states, "Uses not consistent with a plan designation or not authorized in management intent statement and that, if permitted would result in the degradation of the resource(s) within areas designated "Ha", are to be considered incompatible and are not to be authorized."</p> <p>Guideline "R" on page 2-19, 'Protection of Resources and Balancing of Impacts with Potential Development., states that development "Uses that are not compatible with these uses and resources are to be made compatible through the use of stipulations."</p>	<p>Concur. Although the protection of Fish and Wildlife Habitat is the highest priority within areas that are designated for 'Ha', there may be cases when development is in the best interest for the public. In those instances, stipulations to mitigate adverse impacts against fish and wildlife habitat may be imposed.</p> <p>A reference to guideline 'R' will be included within guideline 'B' of the Fish and Wildlife Habitat area of chapter 2 as requested.</p>	Revise. See response.
Material site development stipulations.	Mining and subsurface use development are referenced in guideline 'R' of the Fish and Wildlife Habitat area of the plan, but surface entry and material sites are not. Include 'material sites' and 'surface entry' development in management guideline 'R'.	Concur. The last sentence in paragraph 2 of guideline 'R' of the Fish and Wildlife Habitat area will be revised to state: "It is also recognized that the development of specific subsurface resources may take precedence over surface uses. Material site development and construction access may also take precedence in certain instances. Establish siting stipulations where appropriate."	Revise. See response.
Material Site Description	Add an introduction section about Material Sites with the following wording: "Material resources include sand, gravel and rock used in construction and maintenance and infrastructure vital to the states' economic development. Material sites occupy a small portion of the planning area and are generally located within/near transportation corridors.	<p>Agree in part. Although 'materials' are defined in the glossary, 'material sites' are not. The following definition of material sites will be added to the plan. Additionally, this wording will be included in the introduction of this section.</p> <p>"Material Sites" are the sites where materials are developed. They are generally located within or near transportation corridors."</p>	Revise. See response.
Management Guideline Addition	Add a Management Guideline regarding the Disposal of materials administered under AS 38.05.110, AS 05.120 and 11 AAC 71. Materials sites are subsurface resources that occur in specific geologic locations. It is recognized that the use and development of material resources will create some level and area of impact. Nonetheless, the state may determine that the development of material resources is appropriate, with appropriate stipulations. It is also recognized that the development of specific material resources may take precedence over surface uses.	<p>Concur. A management guideline with the suggested wording will be added to the management guidelines for Material Sites, although this resource must be described as a surface resource. Add:</p> <p>Materials sites are surface resources that occur in specific geologic locations. It is recognized that the use and development of material resources will create some level and area of impact. Nonetheless, the state may determine that the development of material resources is appropriate, with appropriate stipulations. It is also recognized that the development of specific material resources may take precedence over surface uses.</p>	Revise. See response.
Public Access Management Guideline 'F';	The way this guideline is written, it sounds like infrastructure must be designed to cross trails at right angles. Visibility and safety should be taken into	<p>Concur. The language in this guideline will be revised as follows:</p> <p>"When it is necessary for power lines, pipelines or roads to cross trails,</p>	Revise. See response.

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Alignment with Crossings	consideration. This needs to be re-written or removed.	crossing should be at a 90-degree angle where possible, with consideration for visibility and public safety. Vegetative screening should be preserved at trail crossings.”	
Materials Designations	Include “silt” in the list of materials that can be extracted.	Concur. Silt will be added to this section and to the list of materials for extraction in the glossary.	Revise. See response.
Material Sites Not Recognized in the Plan	ADOTPF noted material sites that were not listed on the Resource Allocation Tables within the management unit description. The ADL’s should be recognized.	Concur. The ADL Numbers as listed by ADOTPF will be added to the Resource Allocation Tables where appropriate.	Revise. See response.
Transportation Corridors	There should be mention of the need for additional material sites for future and ongoing road construction.	Concur. Paragraph one will include the following statement: “Material sites may be necessary and are considered appropriate for the construction and maintenance of roads.”	Revise. See response.
Manley Hot Springs to Tanana Road Development and Potential Material Sites	The road from Manley Hot Springs to Tanana is currently underway. The need for material sites along that road should be included in the Transportation Corridors section of Chapter 4.	Agree in part. A general statement regarding additional material sites will be added to paragraph one. It does not need to be identified for each road development. However, a statement regarding the development of a road from Manley Hot Springs to Tanana is will be included in the Transportation Corridors section of Chapter 4.	Revise. See response.
Road to Nome Development and Potential Material Sites	The proposed road to Nome and the eventual need for material sites for development along that road should be included in the Transportation Corridors section of Chapter 4.	Agree in part. A general statement regarding additional material sites will be added to paragraph one. It does not need to be identified for each road development. However, a statement regarding the potential development of a road expansion of the Elliot Highway to Nome will be included in the Transportation Corridors section of Chapter 4.	Revise. See response.