

Chapter 4: Implementation

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Chapter 4: Implementation

Background

This chapter outlines the actions necessary to implement the land use policies and planned actions described by this plan. These actions include changes to administrative procedures, land use classifications and a land classification order, and the designation of certain areas for inclusion in the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area. A number of facility improvements related to campgrounds, trail heads, road improvements (pull outs and parking), and sanitation facilities have been proposed. Also included are recommendations on the leasing of state land, the issuance of state authorizations in areas affected by the plan, mineral orders, and the types of plan changes that are to be used in the modification of the 2010 Management Plan. Whenever possible, the responsibility for plan implementation is identified.

The life of the management plan is 20 years, and it is not expected that all of these recommendations will be carried out immediately or even within the next five years. Those that are related to land use classifications and mineral orders, the leasing of state land, the issuance of authorizations, and changes to administrative procedures are likely to occur fairly quickly and will be implemented either through the adoption of this plan (since they accompany this document), or carried out as a matter of practice by the Department in the course of issuing authorizations and leases. Others, however, will take a considerable amount of time to implement and some, because of funding constraints or the absence of enacting legislation, may never be implemented. In particular, the legislative designation (to add the Reed Lakes/Little Susitna and Mile 16 management units to the Hatcher Pass PUA) will only occur with that body's action to include this area within the legal description of the PUA. Moreover, the structure and facility recommendations are wholly dependent on funding.

And yet, even though some of the recommendations may not be implemented, it is important to identify the full range of improvements and actions that will be necessary to fully develop and managed the Hatcher Pass management area in order for it to function as one of the prime recreation areas for South-central Alaska. Without a plan, or guide, for implementation it is unlikely that the management of this unique area will take place in the systematic manner that needs to occur.

Administrative/Regulatory

Several administrative and regulatory changes are needed to implement portions of the plan:

- Revise the Management Agreement between the state and the borough for the Government Peak unit. This agreement sets out the responsibilities of DMLW and DPOR within DNR and that of the borough. Generally, it assigns responsibility for the management of recreation activity to DPOR, the management of actions on borough land to the borough, and to DMLW for all land use authorizations not including recreation. The Management Agreement should be revised to reflect the management recommendations of this plan, reference the revised management units, and describe the division of responsibilities for the management of all state and borough land that is intended for recreation use on the East Side.
- Revise DMLW - DPOR Management Agreement. DMLW and DPOR should review and revise the management agreement that outlines the roles and responsibilities of the two divisions within the planning area. Changes will need to be made, at the minimum, to conform to the recommendations of the 2010 management plan and reference the revised management units.
- Revise the Development Lease between the borough and DMLW. This agreement is a development lease that, in essence, transfers the powers of the leaser (the state) to the borough (leasee). It was written at the time that the state owned the land on which the borough's alpine ski facility is to be developed. Since that time, over 3,000 acres of land has been conveyed to the borough within the Government Peak management unit and the state is no longer the responsible entity for resort development. The Development Lease should be revised subsequent to the adoption of the 2010 HPMP *and* the approval by the borough of a special land use designation and/or development plan for the Northern Area within the Government Peak management unit.
- Revise 11 AAC 96.014(b)(3). This section of administrative code assigns non-motorized areas within the Hatcher Pass management area. The current regulations, found in this portion of the Administrative Code, must be revised to reflect the spatial pattern of the non-motorized recommendations that are to be implemented through this plan, and that are depicted on Map 2-5. Portions of the current regulatory text would also have to be amended, to include restrictions on weapons discharge and camping; these restrictions are now included in 11 AAC 20.770-765 (Park regulations) but are more appropriately included under 11 AAC 96 (Generally Allowed Uses on state land.) Appendix D represents those changes that would have to be made to implement plan recommendations.¹

¹ Appendix D represents draft regulations which reflect the final recommendations included in the 2010 plan, which differ from the PRD. Regulations must go through a separate adoption process and the final regulations may be different than those included in Appendix D. The regulation adoption process for the Hatcher Pass Special Use Area began in October, 2011. Consult the PRD to review the initial recommendations.

- Special Land Use Designation (ADL 223585). This special use designation provides the basis for the regulations adopted in 2002 in 11 AAC 96.014(b)(3). It also provides establishes a permit system to authorize certain motorized uses that would otherwise be prohibited in non-motorized areas, and it establishes specific stipulations designed to manage winter commercial activities. Finally, it establishes the basis for the closure of the many parts of the East Side to summer motorized use. Since the development of this SUD, however, regulations have been developed to control generally allowed uses, and these are the types of uses that are identified in the SUD. Regulations to control winter and summer motorized uses on the East Side have been adopted and are codified as 11 AAC 96.014(b)(3).

From a strict technical standpoint there is no need to revise the SUD. Although aspects of the SUD are difficult to understand and use, the policies and requirements in it are fairly straightforward and clear and do not need to be changed. The changes that are recommended to the spatial non-motorized areas in this plan affect generally allowed uses and these are now controlled under administrative regulation rather than through the SUD, which was previously the case. DNR adjudicators should be aware of the spatial boundary changes to non-motorized areas that are recommended in the plan and that, when adopted, the proposed regulations will control over the requirements of the SUD as related to generally allowed uses. Other parts of the SUD remain valid and are to be applied in adjudicatory decisions.

Leasing of State Land

The leasing of state land may be appropriate but must conform to the use requirements of Tables 2-1 and 3-1. Leases are not to be issued for those activities identified in that table as not allowed unless a plan amendment authorizes the use. Leases may be issued for uses that are identified in that table as allowed or conditionally allowed if the requirements for such uses are met, most especially that the use not conflict with permitted uses and that it be consistent with the management intent for the individual management unit in which it is located. Leases should not be issued for periods greater than 20 years.

Additions to Hatcher Pass Public Use Area

The Reed Lakes complex and the Mile 16 management unit is recommended as an addition to the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area. The Reed Lakes complex is extremely scenic, but fragile and requires the protection of inclusion in the PUA. This area was recommended for inclusion in a proposed legislatively designated area (which ultimately ended up as the

Hatcher Pass PUA) and the reasons for its inclusion remain valid. The inclusion of the Mile 16 management unit is also recommended given the high level of recreational use that occurs in this unit and the scenic resources it provides.²

Authorizations Issued by the Borough and DNR

Authorizations issued by the borough or DNR are to conform to the requirements of this plan and, specifically, the requirements of Table 2-1, which apply on an areawide basis, and Table 3-1, which pertains to the Government Peak unit. Both contain a listing of allowed, conditionally allowed, and not allowed uses. Authorizations shall also be consistent with any additional requirements identified in the individual management unit descriptions and with the requirements of the land control system that may be ultimately implemented by the borough within the Government Peak unit, assuming the latter is implemented.

Area Plan

The Hatcher Pass Management Plan has been developed to function as the area plan for the planning area encompassed by this plan. The 2010 Management Plan is adopted as an area plan under the authority of AS 38.04.065(b). (See Adoption Letter at beginning of plan³.) This plan supersedes both the 1986 Management Plan and the 1989 Plan Amendment. The planning objectives described in AS 38.04.065(b) have been considered in this revision and are considered to have been met.

Additionally, the 2010 Management Plan, which is intended to be adopted by the borough as an element of their comprehensive plan, is to serve as the basis for land management within borough owned land in the Government Peak unit.

Plan Designations, Land Classifications and Land Classification Order

The designations used in this plan must be converted to state land use classifications under AS 38.05.300. The equivalency of designations to land use classifications is indicated below in Tables 4-1, 4-2, and 4-3:

² During the public review process, concern was expressed over the effect of this action on mineral development. There should be no such impact. The areas proposed for inclusion are now closed to mineral entry: MCO 496 closes the Reed Lakes area and MCO 499 closes the small part of the Mile 16 unit that is not included in the Public Use Area.

³ The adoption letter will be inserted when the plan is adopted.

Table 4-1: Plan Designation and Land Use Classification Conversion

Plan Designation	Land Use Classification
Habitat	Wildlife Habitat Land
Mineral	Mineral Land
Public Recreation, Developed	Public Recreation Land
Public Recreation, Dispersed	Public Recreation Land

Table 4-2: Acreage Associated with Land Classification

Land Use Classifications	Acres
Public Recreation Land	59,523
Public Recreation/Mineral Land	23,649
Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat Land	211,747
TOTAL ACREAGE	294,919

Table 4-3: Management Unit Land Designations and Classification Conversion

Management Unit	Plan Acreage (Approximate)	State Acreage (Approximate)	Designation
Kashwitna River Drainage	65,158	65,158	Public Recreation-Dispersed and Habitat <i>Converts to:</i> Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat Land
Willow Mountain	124,943	State: 124,815 Borough: 98	Public Recreation-Dispersed and Habitat <i>Converts to:</i> Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat Land
High Glacier Peaks	22,875	22,875	Public Recreation-Dispersed <i>Converts to:</i> Public Recreation Land
Craigie Creek	10,061	8,717	Public Recreation – Dispersed and Minerals <i>Converts to:</i> Public Recreation and Mineral Land
Bald Mountain / Hillside	28,921	21,788 6,545	Public Recreation-Dispersed and Habitat <i>Converts to:</i> Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat Land Public Recreation-Dispersed and Minerals <i>Converts to:</i> Public Recreation and Mineral Land
Independence	2,811	2,159	Public Recreation – Dispersed and Minerals <i>Converts to:</i> Public Recreation and Mineral Land
Archangel	6,943	6,321	Public Recreation – Dispersed and Minerals <i>Converts to:</i> Public Recreation and Mineral Land

Management Unit	Plan Acreage (Approximate)	State Acreage (Approximate)	Designation
Reed Lakes / Little Susitna	30,529	30,513	Public Recreation – Dispersed <i>Converts to:</i> Public Recreation Land
Mile 16	718	689	Public Recreation – Concentrated <i>Converts to:</i> Public Recreation Land
Government Peak	8,351	State: 5,339 Borough: 3,012	Public Recreation – Dispersed and Developed <i>Converts to:</i> Public Recreation Land
Total: (Approximate)	301,310	294,919	

**Note: Refer to plan text and maps for clarification for each management unit land designation.
This table reflects approximate numbers only.*

Land Classification Order

State land is classified under the authority of AS 38.04.005, AS 38.05.300 and 11 AAC 55.010-.280, with the plan designations assigned to individual management units forming the basis for the land classifications. Generally, state land is classified consistent with the management intent for the specific unit. In this plan, the classification of Public Recreation Land dominates, reflecting the recreation orientation of this plan. Typically, only one classification is used to reflect the predominant land management orientation, although co-classifications are sometimes used when the management intent for a management unit focuses equally on two types of uses. The co-classification of Public Recreation Land and Wildlife Habitat Land is used in both the Willow Mountain and Bald Mountain/Hillside management units, reflecting the concentration of moose during certain times of the year. A co-classification of Public Recreation Land and Minerals Land is used for the Independence and Craigie Creek management units and a portion of the Bald Mountain-Hillside unit, to reflect the public recreation orientation and the historical mining that has taken place in these units.

Land Classification Order SC-09-003 classifies all state land within the plan management area. See Appendix B. This classification order supersedes and replaces all previous classifications and classification orders affecting the planning area. It does not affect current special use designations, however.

See also the section ‘Applicability of Plan Designations/Classifications to State Lands not identified in the Plan Text or Plan Maps’, following. This section describes how lands inadvertently omitted in the management plan or acquired by the state subsequent to this revision are to be treated in terms of plan designation, plan classification, and retention.

The acreages classified in this classification order are specified by classification categories in the previous table.

Applicability of Plan Designations/Classifications to State Lands not Identified in the Plan Text or Plan Maps

This section deals with those lands that are not designated in the Hatcher Pass Management Plan (HPMP) or classified in the Land Classification Order. Such lands include those state lands inadvertently omitted in the HPMP and those lands that may be acquired by the state in the future but not designated or classified in the management plan. The state has acquired and will continue to acquire isolated parcels of land through foreclosure, escheat, and other methods. The purpose of this section is to give direction to the designation of these lands by the Department when future issues of parcel classification and management arise. Parcels of state land that are affected by this section are to be considered as classified under Land Classification Order SC-09-003.

The following guidelines of plan designation/classification and potential disposal out of state ownership are to apply:

- **Parcels near other State Land.** If the parcel adjoins or is surrounded by other state land, the designation of that area(s) applies and are classified consistent with the designation given to that area by the management plan. This land is to be managed according to the management intent and guidelines applicable to the adjacent lands.
- **Newly Acquired State Lands.** Lands that were acquired proactively through exchange, purchase, or other methods will be managed and classified consistent with the purposes for which they were acquired and are classified consistent with the plan designation for the management unit.
- **Other Lands.** If the designation/classification of a parcel of acquired or omitted state land cannot be adequately determined, the parcel is to be Public Recreation Land.

Survivor Designations and Classifications

This revision of the HPMP replaces and supersedes all previous plan designation and land classifications (termed ‘survivor’) that affect the planning area.

Mineral Orders

Large portions of the mineral estate are now closed to mineral entry under AS 38.05.185. This includes all of the land within the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area, the area of the Independence Mine, and the area of the current (2009) Development Lease, which occupies large parts of the Government Peak management unit. This section of statute requires the Commissioner of DNR to determine that mineral entry and location is incompatible with significant surface uses in order to close state-owned lands to mineral entry.

This plan retains all existing mineral closing orders, and does not recommend additional mineral closing orders or leasehold location orders affecting large areas, such as occurred in the past. Few conflicts should exist between mining and sensitive surface uses given the location of the mineral deposits and other resources and the basis for mineral closure does not apply (AS 38.05.300). A single closure order (MO 1107) is recommended which affects two small areas totaling 585 acres in the Independence and Archangel units. See Appendix C.

Adoption of HPMP as Management Plan for Hatcher Pass Public Use Area

AS 41.23.110 requires the DNR Commissioner to adopt a management plan for the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area in consultation with local governments and affected state agencies. The management plan that is adopted under this authority is to be consistent with the purposes of the PUA identified in AS 41.23.100.

The 2010 Management Plan is to function as the management plan intended to be prepared specifically for the Public Use Area and is intended to meet the requirements of AS 41.23.120 (Incompatible Uses) specifically. The issues that this plan dealt with in the plan revision process would be similar to those addressed in a plan of smaller scope and the solutions that have been developed for the larger area covered in this plan are appropriate for implementation as part of a smaller management plan for the PUA. Arguably, a suitable management direction for the Hatcher Pass PUA Management Plan could not be developed except through a more comprehensive and inclusive planning process such as conducted in this revision. Uses identified in Tables 2-1 and 3-1 as ‘not allowed’ and as prohibited in 11 AAC 96.014(b)(3) are determined to be incompatible uses under the meaning of AS 41.23.120. The time period consideration under AS 41.23.120 (f)(3) coincides with the planning period of the 2010 Plan.

Facility Recommendations

The types of facility recommendations that are recommended by this plan reflect the need to correct current deficiencies and a need to anticipate and provide for additional recreation use. Increased recreation use is expected in both the winter and summer and is expected to be particularly great within the East Side since that area has more direct access to the major areas of population in the Valley and the Municipality of Anchorage. At the same time, increased use is expected in the West Side as well. Increased pressure is expected from the near by population in the Wasilla area, particularly at the Shrock Road access, and throughout the West Side as a result of spill-over of activities from the East Side and increasing population growth along the Parks Highway.

Broadly speaking, there are three general types of facility improvements: those associated with the Hatcher Pass Road proper west of the Independence Mine, facilities co-located with the improvement of that road (especially on the West Side), and facilities more remotely located that are intended to serve a particular recreation activity. Only facilities and structures on state land are recommended⁴.

Table 4-4 indicates these improvements according to this categorization. They reflect the facility recommendations identified for specific management units. All such facilities are subject to funding availability and, in the case of the Hatcher Pass road improvements, to the final design of that road approved by ADOT/PF and the federal Department of Transportation. *It is not expected that all of these facility recommendations will be implemented because of funding constraints; they are recommended in this management plan as improvements that are appropriate with this area since they contribute to improved use and user satisfaction.*

The projects that are identified in Table 4-4 are also depicted in the ten management unit maps.

Agency Responsibilities for Implementation

Department of Natural Resources:

Division of Mining, Land, and Water

- **Adjudication of Land Use Applications.** DMLW will adjudicate the pending and future applications for communication sites, material sales, and recreational development, as well as all other uses requiring authorization by DNR, based on this plan's management intent for specific district subunits, areawide policies, and management guidelines and consistent with the uses identified in Tables 2-1 and 3-1 and with any specific use recommendations in particular management units.
- **Alpine and Nordic Ski Areas in Government Peak Management Unit.** DMLW will support the Borough in its development of Alpine and Nordic ski complexes in the Government Peak management unit, assuming that these uses are authorized by the borough. This may include special implementation measures that carry out recommendations derived from Borough land use and environmental analyses.
- **Coordination with DPOR.** DMLW will coordinate with DPOR in the implementation of this plan, particularly as it relates to areas affected by the Management Agreement between the Borough, DPOR, and DMLW. See also the recommendation on revision to the Management Agreement, described below.

⁴ Or to be financed by the state.

- Coordination with ADF&G. DMLW will coordinate with ADF&G in assessing recreational development impacts to fish and wildlife and in minimizing and mitigating these impacts, and will coordinate with ADF&G on grazing and moose browse enhancement projects prior to initiation. Land for wildlife habitat enhancement sites may be assigned if recommended by ADF&G and if consistent with the management intent for the subunit.
- Revise DNR-Borough Development Lease. The Borough, in conjunction with DMLW and DPOR, should revise the attachments to the Development Lease (ADL 225965) that govern the area affected by the lease and the development requirements for a ski resort. The timing of this revision should coincide with the approval of a master development plan or special land use designation by the Borough Assembly.
- Revise DNR-Borough Management Agreement. DMLW, with DPOR and the Borough, will revise the management agreement that outlines the roles and responsibilities of the various parties as it pertains to the management of the planning area subsequent to the adoption of a revised management plan. The responsibilities of DMLW as they relate to the permitting of state activities and development authorizations will need, at a minimum, to be changed in order to conform to the 2010 management plan.
- Revise Regulations Affecting Generally Allowed Uses. The recommendations of this plan pertaining to changes to generally allowed uses in the Hatcher Pass management area (11 AAC 96.014) are to be revised and, if determined appropriate in further public review, implemented. These changes reallocate winter motorized and non-motorized areas for the East Side, consistent with the patterns depicted in Map 2-3 and as described in Appendix D.

Division of Forestry

- Timber sales. DOF will ensure that all future timber harvests, including access roads, are consistent with the requirements for forest harvest and forest management practices identified in the HPMP areawide policies. Timber sales for the purpose of providing recreational access, timber salvage, and forest health are considered appropriate within the planning area. A systematic commercial sale program is not appropriate.
- Coordination with ADF&G. DOF will consult with ADF&G prior to any forestry projects to ensure habitat is not being lost or degraded.

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

- Review of Proposed ADF&G and DOF Actions. Review ADF&G habitat enhancement proposals and proposed DOF timber harvests to identify effects on scenic values and recreational use. Recommend mitigation measures, if necessary.

- Review Mining Plans of Operations and APMA. Review mining plans of operation and Annual Placer Mining Applications for the location of public access, relocation of trails (if necessary), and maintenance of scenic values.
- Review Trail Design and Development. Coordinate with DMLW, Borough, and the private sector (Government Peak management unit) in the design and development of trails (winter and summer).
- Monitoring of Conditions. Monitor public use, preferences, and conflicts to provide a basis for future adjustments to the recreational and public facilities within the Management Plan.
- Public Safety. Coordinate with the Borough, State Troopers, DMLW, and the private sector in the improvement of search and rescue capability and other public safety considerations.

Office of History and Archaeology

- The Alaska Historic Preservation Act requires that OHA is to review all state agency funded or state permitted projects that have potential to disturb or otherwise adversely affect historic, prehistoric, or archaeological resources in the state. (AS 41.35.070 and AS 41.35.080).
- Special consideration should be given to those projects that are extractive in nature or will result in ground destruction such as gravel pits, road development, establishment of parking facilities, buildings, utility installation, industrial and commercial development, and large scale mining operations.
- OHA is to be consulted on all projects, construction, and proposed improvements related to the Independence Mine State Historical Park.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game:

- Project Reviews. Provide review functions, to include the review of mining plans of operation, Annual Placer Mining Applications, access applications for mining and forestry access and recreational trails, gravel extraction, and plans for recreational development.
- Moose Browse Enhancement. Assess the forest types and moose productivity to determine areas where enhancement is appropriate. If requested by DNR, prepare an enhancement plan in cooperation with DNR.
- Nesting Tundra Birds. Identify extent and importance of nesting concentrations of tundra birds on Bald Mountain Ridge and other areas. Identify mitigation measures, especially those related to recreational activity.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough:

- Government Peak Management Unit Development. The borough is to be responsible for Nordic facility development and, if authorized, for alpine ski development. The borough is also to be responsible for the management of those activities that are directly related to these use types. Because any significant recreational development in this management unit will entail the use of state land, the Borough and state will need to closely coordinate land use and resource authorizations.

Plan Modification

The Hatcher Pass Management Plan is adopted under AS 38.04.065(b) as a management plan under the meaning of a ‘land use plan’ as it is described in this section of statute.

Modifications to plans, to reflect changing conditions or new information, can be expected at various times during the planning period and the kinds of changes allowed in 11 AAC 55.030 are:

“A revision to a land use plan is subject to the planning process requirements of AS 38.04.065. For the purposes of this section and AS 38.04.065, a ‘revision’ is an amendment or special exception to a land use plan as follows:

Plan Amendment. An ‘amendment’ permanently changes the land use plan by adding to or modifying the basic management intent for one or more of the plan’s subunits or by changing its allowed or prohibited uses, policies, or guidelines. For example, an amendment might close to new mineral entry an area that the plan designated to be open, allow a land use in an area where the plan prohibited it, or allow land to be opened to homestead entry in an area that the plan designated for retention in public ownership.

Special Exception. A ‘special exception’ does not permanently change the provisions of a land use plan and cannot be used as the basis for a reclassification of the subunit. Instead, it allows a one-time, limited-purpose variance of the plan’s provisions, without changing the plan’s general management intent or guidelines. For example, a special exception might be used to grant an eligible applicant a preference right under AS 38.05.035 to purchase land in a subunit designated for retention in public ownership. A special exception might be made if complying with the plan would be excessively burdensome or impractical or if compliance would be inequitable to a third party, and if the purposes and spirit of the plan can be achieved despite the exception.

Minor Change. A minor change to a land use plan is not considered a revision under AS 38.04.065. A ‘minor change’ is a change that does not modify or add to the plan’s basic intent, and that serves only to clarify the plan, make it consistent, facilitate its implementation, or make technical corrections.”

Table 4-4: Facility Recommendations on State Land

Recommendation	Comment	Agency Responsibility
Hatcher Pass Road (HPR)		
Pave and Recondition HPR between Miles 18-25.	Repavement and reconditioning of this road should be to rural road standards, with special emphasis on scenic pullouts.	ADOT/PF
Related Hatcher Pass Road Projects		
M 11.6: Develop new parking lot.	Needed to relieve pressure on other parking lots. Should be phased after the Archangel parking lot improvement.	DPOR
M 12: Improve and expand existing parking area (west side).	Needed to accommodate skiers using Mile 16 management unit. Note: This facility should only be developed if the Alpine ski complex is not developed. Continued use of this area should not occur if there is a viable alternative.	ADOT/PF
M 14: Develop parking lot and trailhead at Archangel Road.	Needed to accommodate increasing demand. Intended for multi-users.	DPOR
M 14.9: Develop drop zone for paradise ski run.	Needed to facilitate skier drop offs and vehicle turn around areas to alleviate congestion.	DPOR
M 15.7: Expand existing Mile 16 parking lot.	Needed to accommodate increasing demand. Intended for multi-users.	DPOR
M 16.4: Expand existing Fishhook parking lot.	Needed to accommodate increasing demand. Intended for multi-users.	DPOR
M 16: Expand existing Fishhook parking lot.	Needed to accommodate increasing demand. Intended for multi-users.	DPOR
M 17.5: Provide an additional parking area below the M 17.5 gate.	Further expansion of current parking lot may be constrained by available space. This location would provide some additional space.	DPOR
M 17.6: Develop paved pullouts.	Pull-outs to be developed with road upgrade.	ADOT/PF
M 18.2: Develop paved pullouts.	Pull-outs to be developed with road upgrade.	ADOT/PF
M 18.9: Upgrade scenic lookout parking area.	Scenic lookout to be developed with road upgrade.	ADOT/PF
M 19.1: Upgrade scenic lookout parking area.	Scenic lookouts to be developed with road upgrade. April bowl Trailhead should be upgraded.	ADOT/PF
M 19.5: Upgrade scenic lookout parking area.	Scenic lookouts to be developed with road upgrade. Summit Lake SRS area should be upgraded.	ADOT/PF
M 19.7: Develop paved pullout.	Pullout to be developed with road upgrade.	ADOT/PF
M 20.5: Upgrade existing pullout.	To be upgraded with road upgrade.	ADOT/PF
M 20.9: Upgrade existing pullout.	To be upgraded with road upgrade.	ADOT/PF
M 21.7: Develop paved pullouts and waste material areas.	To be upgraded with road upgrade.	ADOT/PF

Recommendation	Comment	Agency Responsibility
M 23.5: Develop pullout and trailhead.	Facilities are associated with trail development on Craigie Creek Road.	ADOT/PF
M 24.7: Develop pullout and trailhead.	Facilities are associated with trail development to lakes at terminus of Shorty Creek.	Pullout: ADOT/PF Trailhead: DPOR
M 26: Develop paved pullout and trailhead.	Facilities are associated with trail development at Grubstake Gulch.	Pullout: ADOT/PF Trailhead: DPOR
M 29: Develop small campground.	Develop small campground (10-15 spaces) adjacent to Willow Creek.	DPOR
M 29.5: Develop paved pullout and trail head.	Facilities are to support the Peters-Purchase Creek Trail.	DPOR
M 34.4: Develop large parking lot to accommodate winter recreation use.	This facility is intended to provide the principal parking facility to/for the West Side. Note: Not part of planning area.	DPOR
Projects Related to Recreation		
Develop a Trail Plan	A recreational trail plan should be developed.	DPOR/DNR
Projects Related to Management Units		
Archangel		
Replace Archangel Creek Bridge.	This bridge is in poor condition and needs to be upgraded to safely accommodate motorized vehicles.	ADOT/DPOR
Upgrade Reed Lakes parking lot.	Facility is currently extensively used and needs upgrade. Need to provide sanitation and upgrade signage.	DPOR
Develop parking lot at Archangel and Hatcher Pass Road Intersection.	To be developed with road upgrade.	ADOT/PF
Improve existing road to Fern Mine.	Sections of this road need to be improved. Develop to accommodate ORVs.	DPOR
Develop parking area with sanitation facilities at Archangel Road terminus and Fern Mine.	This area is being used for parking by the general public now.	DPOR
See also road improvements.		
Reed Lakes/Little Susitna		
Improve Reed Lakes trail.	Sections of this trail need to be upgraded, including that section that accesses mine.	DPOR
Develop Reed Creek trail.	Construct new trail from the Gold Mint TH to the Reed Lakes parking lot, accessing into the Reed Lakes trail. Generally to follow the east side of the creek.	DPOR

Recommendation	Comment	Agency Responsibility
Upgrade backcountry trail through the High Glacier Peaks area to tie into Reed Lakes trail.	Upgrade existing route.	DPOR or NGO
Develop walk-in camp sites at Gold Mint Trail Head.	Improve “Honeymoon Meadows” campsite and surrounding area.	DPOR
Develop a snowmachine corridor east of the Archangel Road.	This corridor would be used by motorized recreationists in the winter. The corridor would extend from the Gold Mint Parking Lot to the intersection of the Archangel and Fern Mine Road. It is intended to provide snowmachine access into the Good Hope Valley.	DPOR
Government Peak		
Establish Nordic ski complex.	Project is intended to provide readily accessible Nordic ski facilities. May replace Archangel Road tracks that are used during first part of winter.	Borough
Establish an Alpine ski facility.	Project is intended to provide readily accessible alpine ski facilities to the Valley and Eagle River/Chugiak in Anchorage. Requires authorization from borough.	Borough
If determined to be appropriate in a borough planning process, establish an east-west multi-use corridor south of Nordic ski complex.	Corridor is intended to provide access from trailhead within/near the Nordic ski facility to areas of state land to the west of this management unit.	Borough
Develop summer hiking trail connecting Government Peak to Hatch Peak, if determined to be feasible/necessary.	Feasibility and need for this trail need to be ascertained prior to commitment to construction.	DPOR
Signage at Gateway Bridge.	Install a Management Area Class A sign at Gateway Bridge.	DPOR
Mile 16		
Develop a non-motorized winter trail connecting the Mile 16 pull-out to the top of the Paradise Ski Run.	The trail would parallel the roadway on its south side and would provide numerous run options across the unit and effectively disperse use across a larger area. The primary goal of this would be to mitigate the current safety hazards of vehicles stopping in avalanche zones and obstructing traffic, but would also create more recreational opportunities throughout the area.	DPOR
Develop Bicycle Trail Plan.	This trail plan would develop mountain biking trails to sustainable standards with potential jumps, ramps, rails, etc. Currently, these trails and unauthorized structures are being developed and constructed by the public and are not built safely.	DPOR

Recommendation	Comment	Agency Responsibility
Regulatory Change Recommendation.	Formally designate the major ski runs through the area as closed to hunting. Small game hunters (winter) currently utilize the Mile 12 as a staging area for hunting, often discharging weapons along trails being used by skiers and boarders. Because of the high density recreation occurring, firearm discharge should be disallowed for public safety reasons.	DPOR
Bald Mountain/Hillside		
Construct parking lot near Schrock Road.	Intended to function as a major gateway into the southern and southeastern part of the management area. Intended to support winter snowmachine use.	DNR
Improve Wet Gulch Trail (RST 1710) to sustainable standards for motorized recreational use by ATV's and ORV's.	Trail should be used to provide a motorized access corridor into the southern boundary of the Hatcher Pass planning area. Access should begin at the terminus of Schrock Road. This route will also serve as a southern access point for motorized recreationists into the planning area.	DNR / DPOR
Develop summer hiking/ATV trail along Grubstake Gulch drainage, generally to follow existing trail system.	ATV trail would use existing routes, but need to be upgraded to minimize natural degradation. Hiking route would access area to east, to Summit Lake.	DNR
Develop summer hiking trail along Wet Gulch.	Hiking route utilizes existing routes but would need to be upgraded.	DNR
Develop a winter motorized corridor in the southern part of the management unit.	If the borough determines that an east-west winter motorized corridor through borough land in the Government Peak unit is appropriate, the state should develop a winter motorized corridor, generally following the alignment shown on the plan map for the Bald Mountain-Hillside unit, on state land that connects with a similar facility on borough land.	DNR/Borough
See also recommendations for Hatcher Pass Road.	Parking lots and facilities recommended for this unit are included in the Hatcher Pass Road section of this table.	
Craigie Creek		
Establish hiking trail to access high peaks at end of current road.	Upgrades current trail to lakes.	DNR
Establish Craigie Creek Road as ATV route.	Requires designation as ATV route, signage at trailhead.	DNR
See also recommendations for Hatcher Pass Road.	Parking lots and facilities recommended for this unit are included in the Hatcher Pass Road section of this table.	

Recommendation	Comment	Agency Responsibility
Willow Mountain		
Develop summer hiking/ATV trails along existing snow machine routes where feasible.	Develop sustainable trails to provide better access for the public to utilize in the summer in an effort to decrease the amount of damage that is accruing on the alpine tundra due to foot travel and ATV/ORV use in the summer. Popular trails include: Blacks Ridge, Willow Mountain, Peters Creek, and Purchase Creek.	DNR
Public Use Cabins.	This unit is very popular for motorized recreational use, especially in the winter. Snowmachine trails extend far north. Public Use Cabins should be established for emergency shelter.	DNR
See also recommendations for Hatcher Pass Road.	Parking lots and facilities recommended for this unit are included in the Hatcher Pass Road section of this table.	
Independence		
Develop a separate management and historic preservation plan for the Independence Mine State Historical Park.	A detailed management plan is necessary to guide the use and further development of the IMSHP. This management plan does not/cannot provide sufficient detail for this purpose.	DPOR
Repair and upgrade Mill Trail and rehabilitate social trails on tundra.		DPOR
Establish new trail from Rae-Wallace Bowl to Sydney Creek and Reed Lakes.	New trail is intended to provide overall trail connectivity.	DPOR
Provide pedestrian access from Independence Bowl parking lot to the Summit Road gate area.	Trail would provide access to the Summit Road (a well used area during the summer) and to Fishhook Creek.	DPOR
Provide a small group use/special event area for summer use near the Fishhook parking lot.	There is a need for a small group/special event area that is near to the Independence Bowl but is separate from the existing parking lot.	DPOR
Expand the existing facilities at the Independence Bowl parking lot, including sanitation facilities.	The current facility is not considered sufficiently large to accommodate expected use in the future.	DPOR
Connect IMSHP to electrical energy source, grid or hydro if available.	The IMSHP should be connected to an electrical grid system or alternative energy source, such as hydro-electric for sustained electricity power. Connection to an electrical grid or system will allow for the expansion of the facilities and the park for year-round use.	DPOR
Open IMSHP for year round use.	Additional staff and utilities will be needed to operate the IMSHP on a year-round basis.	DPOR
Upgrade water tunnels for safety and promote underground tours.		DPOR

Chapter 4: Implementation

Recommendation	Comment	Agency Responsibility
Develop interpretive signs throughout the IMSHP.	Develop signage to be used throughout the IMSHP, including water and underground tunnels.	DPOR
Establish summer bicycle trail system from IMSHP to Mile 12.	Create bicycle trail system through terrain connecting Independence and Mile 16 Units.	DPOR
See also recommendations for Hatcher Pass Road.		