

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER RESOURCE ASSESSMENT & DEVELOPMENT SECTION

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

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April 14, 2009

Re: Hatcher Pass Management Plan Revision Public Scoping Meetings

Dear Fellow Alaskan,

The Resource Assessment and Development Section (RADS), within the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW), has initiated the revision of the Hatcher Pass Management Plan (HPMP). The HPMP was adopted in 1986 and amended in 1989. A management plan is typically valid for a period of about 15 to 20 years. Plan revisions are usually undertaken by the DMLW at the end of this planning period and when conditions or initial planning assumptions have significantly changed. Both of these conditions exist within the Hatcher Pass Management Plan area.

DMLW and the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR), are working jointly to revise this management plan. The purpose of the HPMP is to provide the basis for making decisions about the management of land and resources on state land within the plan boundary. It is used by DMLW as the basis for overall area management and by DPOR, in daily operational decisions. In the past twenty years, land ownership and use patterns within the HPMP boundaries have changed a great deal. Since the HPMP is outdated and does not reflect the current use patterns and land ownership status, it no longer provides the necessary guidance for making these decisions.

The HPMP encompasses over 203,500 acres of land on the East and West sides of Hatcher Pass (Miles 8 to 37, Hatcher Pass Road), including Independence Mine State Historical Park, Summit Lake State Recreation Site, Bald Mountain Ridge, Government Peak, Mile 16 Ski Run, Archangel Creek, Reed Lakes, Little Susitna River, Craigie Creek, Lucky Shot and Willow Mountain areas. The revised plan may include additional areas of state land to reflect new use patterns.

The State would like your input throughout the planning process. To facilitate this, two scoping meetings have been scheduled to provide information and to obtain your comments and recommendations. Representatives from both DMLW and DPOR will be present at these meetings. The meetings will be open house format with a presentation included, followed by an opportunity to provide public comments. You are welcome to come to all meetings that are held. The meetings are scheduled as follows:

<u>City</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Anchorage	04/28/2009	6:30 – 9:00 PM	Central Middle School of Science 1405 E Street, corner of 14 th and E Street
Wasilla	04/29/2009	6:30 – 9:00 PM	Central Mat-Su Fire & EMS Station 6-1 Training Room 101 W. Swanson Avenue, corner of Lucille Street and Swanson Ave

“Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans.”

Written comments are encouraged during this planning phase and should be submitted by 5:00pm June 5, 2009 by mail, email, or fax. Contact information is provided below. Although there will be several "official" periods when public comments are sought, please feel free to contact us at anytime regarding this planning process. You can visit our planning website for additional information including the original management plan and amendment and maps of the area at: http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/mgtplans/hatcher_2009.

Because DMLW and DPOR are working jointly on this project, staff contacts for both are provided. For questions and comments regarding this management plan, and to submit comments via email, fax, or mail, contact:

Philana Jarvis, Land Use Planner
Department of Natural Resources
Hatcher Pass Management Plan
550 West 7th Ave, Suite 1050
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3579

Email: philana.jarvis@alaska.gov
Phone: (907) 269-8529
Fax: (907) 269-8915

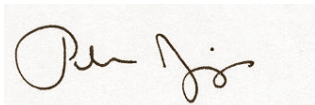
For questions on recreation use patterns, enforcement, and related operational questions on day-to-day land management related to recreation, contact:

Wayne Biessel, Mat-Su Area Park
Superintendent
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Hatcher Pass Management Plan
HC 32 Box 6706
Wasilla, AK 99654

Email: wayne.biessel@alaska.gov
Phone: (907) 745-8935
Fax: (907) 745-0938

Thank you in advance for your participation in this planning effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Jarvis", is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Philana Jarvis