Appendix E: Special Use Area Designation

STATE OF ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF MINING LAND, AND WATER

AMENDED KNIK RIVER SPECIAL USE AREA (ADL 230206)

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is establishing a Special Use Area (SUA) to regulate certain activities on four parcels of state land totaling 504 acres. The first parcel is 252 acres of state land within the W½ of section 31, T 17 North, R 3 East, Seward Meridian. The second parcel is 165 acres of land in the E1/2 of section 36, T 17 North, R 2 East, Seward Meridian. The Third parcel is 78 acres of land in the N½ of section 1, T 16 North, R 2 East, Seward Meridian. The fourth parcel is 9 acres of land in the NE¼ of section 2, T 16 North, R 2 East, Seward Meridian. These lands are depicted on the accompanying map titled *Proposed Knik River Special Use Areas*. These lands are hereinafter, referred to as Knik River Special Use Area (KRSUA), adjacent to the boundary of the Knik River Public Use Area (PUA), and created under (AS 41.23.180-230). This SUA creates this area and restricts specific uses on state lands and waters within the designated area.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

All interests in the uplands in Seward Meridian, Township 17 North, Range 3 East, Section 31, W1/2

AUTHORITY

AS 38.05.020

BACKGROUND

These parcels have been identified for designation as a special use area once they are acquired by the state. The identified parcels are functionally part of the PUA and receive high use levels and impacts associated with use of the PUA. A management plan and regulations have been developed for the PUA, and these regulations manage uses and activities in the PUA and are also applicable to the KRSUA, except for enforcement, which can only occur in the PUA.

The accompanying map illustrates the four parcels that will be included in the KRSUA.

PURPOSE

A SUA is a designation placed on certain land identified as having special resource values(s) needing protection. The result of this designation is to restrict specific activities that would otherwise be considered "generally allowed" under 11 AAC 96.020.

These lands are being designated as the KRSUA because they currently receive high levels of use related to the PUA, have several main access routes into the KRPUA, and receive high levels of impacts related to use of the PUA. The identified lands are located adjacent to the boundary of the KRPUA, and are functionally a part of the PUA. It is the intent of this designation to manage these lands in conjunction with the adjacent Knik River Public Use Area Management Plan to insure comprehensive management of the lands affected by recreational use in the Knik River Valley.

RESTRICTED USES AND ACTIVITIES

The restrictions detailed in 11AAC 96. 015 (d) and regulations developed subsequent to the adoption of the Management Plan shall also apply to those lands described in the KRSUA.

DESCISION

I find these actions to be consistent with the Department of Natural Resources management authority, the management intent of the Knik River Public Use Area, the KRPUA Management Plan, and with the draft regulations intended to manage the KRPUA. These actions are in the overall best interest of the State.

Director

Division of Mining, Land and Water Department of Natural Resources

State of Alaska

9-3-08

