

REVISION PROCEDURES

PLAN MODIFICATION

The land use designations, policies, implementation actions and management guidelines of this plan may be changed if conditions warrant. The plan will be updated periodically as new data and new technologies become available and as changing social and economic conditions place different demands on public lands. The Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Game jointly will review proposed modifications of the plan.

PERIODIC REVIEW

The plan will be reviewed periodically to determine if revisions are necessary. The time frame for periodic review will be based upon demands on state land and the need for review as compared to other division responsibilities. An interagency planning team will coordinate this periodic review at the request of the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources or the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough or other interested parties may also request that DNR and ADF&G review the plan. The planning team will be coordinated by the Division of Land and Water Management, Southcentral Regional Office. The plan review will include meetings with all interested groups and the general public.

AMENDMENTS

The plan may be amended. An amendment adds to or modifies the basic intent of the plan. Changes to the planned uses, policies, guidelines or certain implementation actions constitute amendments. Amendments must be approved by the Commissioner of DNR and the Commissioner of ADF&G. Amendments require public notice and consultation with affected agencies and may require public hearings if the Commissioners decide the level of controversy warrants. Amendments also may be proposed by agencies, municipalities, or members of the public. Requests for amendments are submitted to the Anchorage office of the DNR, Division of Land and Water Management, Southcentral Regional Office. The following actions are examples of changes which would require an amendment:

- Allowing a use in an area where it is currently prohibited.
- Changes in Chapter Three Buffer Guidelines.

The Director of the Division of Land and Water Management determines what constitutes an amendment or just a minor change. Amendments that are adopted as part of the plan will be reviewed when the plan is periodically reviewed.

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MINOR CHANGES

A minor change is one which does not modify or add to the basic intent of the plan. Minor changes may be necessary for clarification, consistency, or to facilitate implementation of the plan. Minor changes are made at the discretion of the Director of the Division of Land and Water Management, with the concurrence of ADF&G, and do not require public review. Minor changes may be proposed by agencies, municipalities, or members of the public. Requests for minor changes affecting state land are submitted to the Southcentral Regional Office of the Division of Land and Water Management, DNR. The Director will notify affected agencies when minor changes are made. Affected agencies will have the opportunity to review and comment on minor changes following notification; the comment period may be provided through existing interagency review processes for associated actions that necessitate minor changes. Examples of minor changes include:

- Changing the order of timber harvest cuts approved in the five-year schedule -- cutting 1989 cuts in 1988 in the approved 1986-1991 schedule.
- Temporary motorized vehicle closures during break-up to prevent permanent damage to the roadbed.

SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS-DNR PROCEDURES

Exceptions to the provisions of the plan may be made without modification of the plan. Special exceptions shall occur only when complying with the plan is excessively difficult or impractical and an alternative procedure can be implemented which adheres to the purposes, spirit of the plan, and the enabling legislation.

There may be situations where the state did not consider an option for management in 1986 that may become feasible in the future without causing any detrimental effects in the Range. For example, the plan specifies that no new trails may be constructed in the Range for recreational purposes with the intent of not increasing recreational pressures.

A special exception would be a "muscle-powered" recreationalists' proposal that an alternate section of trail along the Permanente Road be developed for foot and horse use. The purpose of the trail proposal would be to by-pass a heavily used motorized section of trail. If the proposal does not adversely effect wildlife, habitat enhancement efforts and improves public safety, while not changing the overall intent for management of the Range, the proposal could be considered as a special exception.

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The Department of Natural Resources, with concurrence from the Department of Fish and Game, may make a special exception in the implementation of the plan through the following procedures.

1. The Regional Manager of the Division of Land and Water Management shall prepare a finding which specifies the following:
 - a. The extenuating conditions which require a special exception.
 - b. The alternative course of action to be followed.
 - c. How the intent of the plan will be met by the alternative.
2. Agencies having responsibility for land uses with primary or secondary designations in the affected area will be given an opportunity to review the findings. In the event of disagreement with the regional manager's decision, the decision may be appealed to the Director of the Division of Land and Water Management and the director's decision may be appealed to the commissioner. If warranted by the degree of controversy, the commissioner will hold a public hearing before making the decision.