

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public participation played an important role in the planning process. The mailing list used for the project included two hundred and fifty individuals, sixty interest groups, the state legislators, thirty agencies and the planning team members.

The public became involved in the planning process at the beginning of the project. In April of 1985, seventy-nine citizens attended the public meetings held at Sutton, Palmer and Anchorage. The meetings were designed to discuss the overall goals and issues and for the public to be able to address concerns about management of the Moose Range.

Throughout the planning process the planning team meetings were open to the public. Public attendance varied, depending upon the agenda. Generally two to six members of the public attended the planning team meetings. Most of the people who did attend the meetings on a regular basis have been able to provide the planning team with valuable comments.

During the summer the planning team members participated in weekly field trips. State staff met with or interviewed local citizens whenever possible. At times, local citizens led the field trips.

Periodically the project manager distributed project up-date newsletters to the entire mailing list. These letters informed the public of the progress made in the planning process.

After the resource data was collected the planning team developed a list of proposed alternatives for management. In early November, 1985, sixty people attended open house sessions held in Sutton, Palmer and Anchorage. These sessions were designed to help the public learn more about the resources in the Moose Range, to look at the proposed management alternatives and resource maps and to discuss their concerns with state staff members.

The proposed management alternatives were formally presented to the public at meetings in November, 1985. The public attending the meetings completed workbooks. The public comment in the workbooks provided the team with a more detailed version of how the public felt the Moose Range should be managed. These meetings were held at Sutton, Palmer and Anchorage and were attended by eighty people.

Once the public data was compiled, the planning team reviewed the data and a map of the public's proposed alternative prior to developing the preferred management alternative. The preferred alternative is a combination of the public desires, the legislative intent, the state's statutory responsibilities and the actual resource capabilities.

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Three interest groups contacted the project manager prior to release of the public draft plan and requested a briefing on the preferred management alternative as it was developing. The project manager and assistant attended monthly meetings of the Frontier Trappers Association, the Alpine Civic Club and the Chickaloon Pass Improvement Association. At the meetings the state staff members answered questions and listened to comments by members of the clubs.

Due to budget constraints there were only 400 copies of the draft plan printed. Therefore, the draft plans were sent to all interest groups and made available to the general public at local libraries, government offices and local businesses. Key active members of the public who had been involved throughout the planning process also received an individual copy.

Public meetings were held during May of 1986 in Sutton, Anchorage and Palmer to receive comment on the draft plan. Fifty-one people attended the meetings. The planning team also received 34 letters containing comments on the draft plan. A copy of all comments is available at the Southcentral Region Office, Division of Land and Water Management, Department of Natural Resources.

The public also received a copy of the final major decisions to review 30 days in advance of the signing of the final plan by the Commissioners of the Department of Natural Resources and Alaska Department of Fish and Game.