

WETLANDS

GUIDELINES

1. DEFINITION OF WETLANDS

For purposes of inventory and regulation of wetlands, DNR will use the definition adopted by the State of Alaska under the regulations of the Coastal Management Program [6 AAC 80.90(19)]:

Freshwater wetlands means those environments characterized by rooted vegetation which is partially submerged either continuously or periodically by surface freshwater with less than .5 parts per thousand salt content and not exceeding three meters in depth.

For purposes of these management guidelines, wetlands are further divided into three classes: Class I, wetlands larger than 100 acres and all wetlands with a locatable stream outlet (the stream shall be considered part of the wetland); Class II, wetlands between 40 and 100 acres with no outlet; and Class III, wetlands less than 40 acres with no outlet.

2. PROTECTION

All wetlands shall be preserved within the Moose Range according to existing state and federal laws and the Susitna Area Plan. Habitat enhancement efforts in wetlands require interagency review, concurrence by DNR and ADF&G, and will follow the Susitna Area Plan and Moose Range guidelines.

3. WETLAND BUFFERS

- a. Width. Buffer widths for all wetlands are set at 100' landward of the wetland edge (defined as the limit of wetland vegetation as described in Guideline 1 above).
- b. Slope Effects. All wetland buffers should be adjusted to reduce potentially adverse impacts on wetlands from development on adjacent side slopes. Buffers should be the standard buffer width for side slopes of 0 - 20%, 25% additional buffer should be added to the normal buffer width for side slopes of 20 - 40% and 50% additional buffer should be added to the normal buffer width for side slopes of 40% or greater.

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- c. Activities Allowed. Activities allowed within wetland buffers include the following:
1. Selective-tree cutting as approved by ADF&G and DNR.
 2. Disease and insect control and prevention with pesticides and/or tree removal as approved by ADF&G, DNR and DEC.
 3. Grazing as approved by ADF&G and DNR, consistent with the grazing guidelines in this chapter on pages 103-117.
 4. Road and trail access to wetlands for recreation (including sportfishing), habitat enhancement, or forest product harvest purposes as approved by ADF&G and DNR. These roads and trails should not be located so that they parallel the wetland within the buffer.
 5. Access to wetlands for utility lines such as powerlines and waterlines, etc. as approved by ADF&G and DNR. Utility systems should not be located so that they parallel wetlands.
- d. Access. Access through wetland buffers and wetlands will be allowed only on winter ice roads for recreation, habitat enhancement, forest product harvest and other activities as approved by ADF&G and DNR.

NOTE: See page 137 for a summary of all buffer requirements.