
MANAGEMENT PLAN: RANGEWIDE LAND MANAGEMENT POLICIES

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3. MANAGEMENT PLAN: RANGEWIDE POLICIES

The following chapter describes the rangewide land management policies that have been developed to manage public lands in the Matanuska Valley Moose Range. These management policies will supplement existing policies from the Susitna Area Plan, state policy and procedure manuals, and state statutes and regulations. Chapter Four contains guidelines that are specific to only a portion of the Moose Range.

To aid the reader, Map 10 on page 199 visually displays the proposed land uses described in Chapters Three, Four and Five. PLEASE NOTE: All of the following guidelines and implementation actions covered in Chapters Three, Four and Five will be dependent upon DNR and ADF&G budget and staff capabilities. This plan addresses the items DNR and ADF&G feel are necessary to manage the Moose Range for multiple use, but these actions will be evaluated with resource management priorities throughout the state before implementation can occur in the Moose Range.

The plan provides for multiple uses of public land, as required by legislation, and the guidelines provide compatibility among these uses. In the long term the land within the Range as a whole will be used for as many uses as possible, without eliminating, or unreasonably limiting other resources.

The objectives of the plan are:

1. To maintain, improve or enhance moose populations and habitat either through forestry practices that also provide for personal and commercial firewood harvesting; or direct habitat manipulation by fire or mechanized means.
2. To maintain, improve or enhance other fish and wildlife populations.
3. To provide opportunities for coal mining and mineral development.
4. To improve and enhance moose populations through reclamation of coal mined lands to productive wildlife habitat, primarily beneficial to moose.
5. To preserve opportunities for materials extraction.
6. To provide for grazing opportunities.
7. To improve legal access on existing public roads and trails.
8. To protect local lifestyles, scenic qualities and reduce trespass and public interference on private lands.
9. To provide for dispersed outdoor recreational opportunities within the Range and camping and picnicking facilities along the roadside.

The Moose Range will be managed for multiple use. This requires a combined, cooperative effort by DNR and ADF&G to allow for timber harvesting, mineral development, grazing, and outdoor recreational pursuits, while perpetuating productive wildlife habitat. For example, an area may be leased for coal mining, and while the land is not actually being developed for coal, the state can harvest the timber from the lease, and the land can be enhanced to create moose browse. Once the mining lessee begins to operate on the land, the actual mining site will be used for mining only, but during the reclamation of the mining site, the lessee will reclaim the land so as to produce wildlife habitat. Surface resources on lands outside of the actual mining development area can still be utilized.