
IMPLEMENTATION

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5. IMPLEMENTATION

This chapter describes the actions which the state and other agencies will undertake to implement the Matanuska Valley Moose Range Management Plan. The actions are listed under the agency that is most responsible for implementation of the action. Each agency's responsibilities are established by law. A summary of state law is provided in Appendix VIII on page 247. The lists of actions appear in the order of importance, with the most important actions appearing first. Where possible, agencies have provided budget estimates of the approximate cost of implementing the action. ALL NEW ACTIVITIES LISTED ARE DEPENDENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS AND STAFF. These actions will occur as funding and staffing capabilities permit.

The purpose of the implementation section of the plan is to:

- a. bring together the actions called for in the plan in a summary format;
- b. present the actions in order of priority; and
- c. indicate the staff and financial resources needed to carry out the proposed actions.

AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

I. ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

a. Ongoing Responsibilities, Existing Budget.

(1) Timber Harvest and Habitat Enhancement

- (a) Update and expand existing wildlife enhancement management schedule that is coordinated with DOF timber harvest schedules to maximize moose habitat enhancement efforts.
- (b) Continue to evaluate and document results of completed enhancement projects.
- (c) Continue development of new techniques and methods for habitat enhancement.
- (d) Recommend to the Game Board the types of hunts that will provide opportunities to utilize wildlife consistent with stabilizing and increasing game populations in the Moose Range.
- (e) Develop permanent fencing requirements for grazing leases and permit areas through cooperative effort with DNR and other suitable agencies and/or sources.

Funding: items a.(1) and a.(2) are activities ADF&G intends to accomplish with existing staff and budget.

(2) Review

- (a) Review mining plans of operations for the purpose of:
 - * ensuring that moose rehabilitation occurs in a timely fashion and in the desired manner;
 - * minimizing impact on fish and wildlife habitat, populations and related uses;
 - * identifying where mitigation may be required and the type of mitigation that may be necessary;
 - * ensuring that mining operations are in compliance with plan guidelines and existing statutes.
- (b) Review Matanuska-Susitna Borough trail proposals cooperatively with DNR.
- (c) Review applications for material sales within the Moose Range according to established procedures.
- (d) Review the DNR proposed location for a work cabin for compatibility with legislatively identified purposes, plan guidelines and potential impacts on fish and wildlife resources, fish and game management and related public uses (see page 135).
- (e) Review water rights application for appropriations of 1,000 GPD or more.

(3) Mineral Licks

- (a) ADF&G will provide DNR with the data required in Chapter Three, on pages 84-86, regarding mineral licks.
- (b) ADF&G will continue to work with DNR to complete development and evaluation of the criteria necessary to evaluate the importance of mineral licks.

b. New Responsibilities, New Funding Required

(1) Timber Harvest and Habitat Enhancement (Near term activities Fiscal Years 87-90)

- (a) In cooperation with DOF or another qualified person or agency, perform field reconnaissance of the aerial photography vegetation analysis and provide verified ground cover data for moose habitat areas. Prepare data for the Habitat Suitability Assessment (HSA) and carrying capacity Moose Models.

Funding: these are desirable activities provided funding is available. Maintaining basic Game Division functions is paramount. The activities listed above would require supplemental funding from sources outside of the Game Division.

- (b) Assist DNR with monitoring of vegetation responses to forest harvesting practices and silvicultural treatments (that directly pertain to habitat enhancement) for the 1986 - 1991 five-year timber harvest/habitat enhancement schedule (see pages 151-161, 174-178, and 189-190).

Funding: the Alaska Legislature appropriated \$30,000 for use within the Moose Range during Fiscal Year 87. This money will be used on browse enhancement projects, including scarification and trail development, salaries and monitoring of both past enhancement activities and the moose population itself. ADF&G will continue to seek appropriations for future years.

- (c) Work cooperatively with DNR, U of A and/or other biological institutions or qualified persons, to research and develop the best methods for enhancing habitat and resolving wildlife and livestock conflicts.

Funding: ADF&G will continue to seek appropriations for funding.

- (d) Study the potential impact of recreational use on moose harvest and habitat on Arkose Bench prior to 1991, as agreed to for the purpose of assessing the effects of recreational trail improvements that have been and/or may be proposed for this area.

Funding: requires supplemental funding. (May be able to apply USFWS research efforts.)

- (e) Work with private landowners to initiate habitat enhancement efforts on private lands.

Funding: as funding permits. (Enhancement on state lands within the Range has a higher priority.)

(2) Wildlife Management Plan (Fiscal Years 88 - 90): Long Range Tasks

- (a) Apply, refine, or develop moose "models" identified in (a) above. The models will present the following data and recommendations:
- * Moose Range habitat suitability (as per the ADF&G HSA model).
 - * Carrying capacity model.
 - * Habitat enhancement potentials.
- (b) Prepare a long range moose management plan. Elements of the plan will include but should not be limited to:
- * Moose "models" data.
 - * Objectives for moose management:
 - habitat goals
 - moose population goals
 - * Habitat enhancement plan:
 - recommended habitat types/areas/locations
 - recommended forest practices
 - * Harvest objectives.
 - * Access management supporting hunting, trapping, fishing, and related objectives.
 - * Coordination schedule for enhancement efforts with DNR timber and grazing plans.
 - * Effects on other wildlife species.
- (c) Prepare a general wildlife management plan which addresses the "key species" and gives consideration to species diversity concepts.
- (d) A wildlife management brochure aimed at informing the public of ongoing management activities, and public hunting, trapping, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities within the Moose Range may be prepared.

Funding: requires supplemental funding; (a) and (b) are higher priority.

(3) Fisheries Management

- (a) Determine priorities for fisheries and fisheries habitat program.

- (b) Determine specific actions to be taken, including but not limited to: initiating fisheries research, spawning counts and species distribution, fisheries inventories, and initiating stream flow research to allow for establishment of instream flow reservations for fish and wildlife on Wasilla Creek, Moose Creek, Eska Creek, Granite Creek, Young Creek, Kings River, Chickaloon River and Boulder Creek.

Funding: requires supplemental funding. ADF&G does not anticipate initiating funding for (3)(a) or (b), as these are low priority regional rivers.

- (c) The chinook salmon in Moose Creek and coho salmon in Wasilla Creek will continue to be monitored through the statewide survey conducted each year. A new statewide instream flow program began on July 1, 1986. The streams have not been selected for the program as of publication of this plan.

2. DIVISION OF FORESTRY

a. Ongoing Responsibilities, Existing Budget

(1) Timber Harvest and Habitat Enhancement

- (a) Develop four five-year timber harvest schedules (over the 20 year life of this plan) cooperatively with ADF&G to maximize habitat enhancement efforts while allowing for sustained yield of personal forest products.

Funding: estimated cost--\$5,000/plan

- (b) Ground truth aerial photography interpretation of the vegetation and provide ground cover analysis for timber potential.

Funding: estimated cost--\$10,000/year

- (c) Cruise, lay out and administer personal use and commercial forest product sales in the locations and sequence described in Chapter Four and for sites determined after 1992.

Funding: estimated cost--\$5,000/year

- (d) Lay out and administer habitat enhancement projects (in cooperation with and as specified by ADF&G) as part of managing the timber sales described in Chapter Four and for sites determined after 1992.

Funding: estimated cost--\$500/year

- (e) Survey and lay out necessary access roads and administer construction contracts.

Funding: estimated cost--\$500/year

- (f) Investigate and take action on timber trespass (poaching).

Funding: estimated cost--\$1,000/year

(2) Review.

Review mining plans of operations and determine the appropriate time and method to utilize surface timber resources on mining leases.

b. New Responsibilities, New Funding Required

(1) Timber Harvest and Habitat Enhancement

- (a) Work cooperatively with ADF&G, U of A and other qualified agencies and persons to research and develop improved methods for wildlife habitat enhancement through timber harvest. Apply these methods in forest management practices.

Funding: area office will request funding. Estimated cost--\$5,000/year (1987)

- (b) Expand and perform regeneration surveys on all harvest and enhancement areas. Evaluate the regeneration success.

Funding: estimated cost--\$1,000/year (1987)

- (c) Assist mining lessees in developing coal mining reclamation methods based on research developed through wildlife habitat rehabilitation efforts.

Funding: estimated cost--\$1,000/year (1988)

- (d) Work with DLWM and DOPOR to establish a DNR work cabin for staff use while performing timber harvest and habitat enhancement work.

Funding: estimated cost--\$1,000/year (1988)

- (e) Work with private landowners to initiate cooperative forest management on private lands.

Funding: Estimated cost--\$2,000/year (1988)

3. DIVISION OF MINING AND GEOLOGY

a. Ongoing Responsibilities, Existing Budget

(1) Mining Activities

- (a) Review and approve all mining permits.
- (b) Review and implement interagency comments on the mining plans of operation which are necessary to guarantee compatibility with the Moose Range enabling legislation and management plan.
- (c) Continue to perform Abandoned Mined Lands Program projects as funding allows.
- (d) Conduct coal lease sales as outlined in the management plan.
- (e) Perform the necessary field reconnaissance of mining reclamation efforts to guarantee that coal mined lands are reclaimed to wildlife habitat and that ASCMCRA is followed.
- (f) Perform field evaluation on existing mining locations in the Moose Range to determine whether existing surface uses are consistent with state regulations, including the Boulder Creek claims and Gore Mine leases.
- (g) Work cooperatively with the current mining lessee on the existing Wishbone Hill district coal leases to develop wildlife habitat on lands mined for coal.
- (h) Assist and support ADF&G in assessing revegetation reclamation techniques.
- (i) Monitor mining activities on a regular basis to assure compliance with stipulations.

- (2) DOMG will assist DOPOR, DLWM and ADF&G in planning and development of interpretive displays and educational program information by identifying interesting geological and other natural features in the Moose Range.
 - (3) Provide DLWM with information on the mineralization of mineral licks identified by ADF&G as important.
- b. New Responsibilities, New Funding Required
- (1) Continue automation of the existing vegetation and geological resource data available for the Moose Range to aid in management capability.
 - (2) Use the geoprocessor and computer graphic capabilities to prepare a management model for the Moose Range based on data analysis completed in 1985 to aid the land managers in incorporating resource data into field management actions.
 - (3) The Water Resource Section will continue to collect baseline water data, monitor and gather stream flow data and water quality analysis as funding is available.

4. DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

- (a) Ongoing Responsibilities, Existing Budget
- (1) Review
 - (a) Review ADF&G and DOF habitat enhancement and timber harvest schedules to analyze the effects on the scenic values and outdoor recreational opportunities.
 - (b) Review mining plans of operation to assist in determination of public access, relocation of trails as necessary and maintenance of scenic values.
 - (c) Work with DOT/PF and ADF&G on the Glenn Highway realignment project to determine the appropriate locations for scenic turnouts and access to the Moose Range.
 - (d) Review the DOF proposal for developing a state work cabin.

(b) New Responsibilities, New Funding Required

(1) Facility Development or Expansion

The following list is ranked in order of priority. The order may be changed due to availability of project funding, or public interest.

- (a) Upgrade the existing King Mountain State Recreation Site.
- (b) Develop, operate and maintain the proposed Kings River State Recreation Site; the planning process should include floodplain analysis of the proposed site, interpretive displays co-authored with ADF&G, and access to the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail.
- (c) Expand the existing Long Lake State Recreation Site (requires additional staff).
- (d) Evaluate alternative locations for and locate and develop the proposed trailhead(s) to provide access for the Chickaloon River Trail, Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail, and the Chickaloon River in cooperation with ADF&G.
- (e) Develop the proposed Permanente Road/Trail trailhead in cooperation with DOT/PF and ADF&G.
- (f) Work with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to request lands for a Purinton Creek trailhead to be classified recreational, develop a cooperative management agreement for developing and managing the trailhead. (This action will be ongoing). The exact size, location and management of the site will be determined during future negotiations.
- (g) Expand the Moose Creek State Recreation Site.
- (h) Develop (and co-author) with ADF&G interpretative displays in recreation facilities along the Glenn Highway that describe natural resource values, the multiple-use management concept being used in the Moose Range, the outdoor recreational and cultural opportunities that are available, and the unique natural history and geologic features near the subunits. (This action will occur with all park facility proposals).

(2) Historic.

- (a) Review and propose appropriate trails and cultural features for the National Register of Historic Places. The Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail and Chickaloon River Trail shall be researched and included on the National Register if they qualify.
- (b) Survey the areas with known and high potential in the Moose Range for cultural and historic resources, and geologic resources (fossils) when funding exists, prior to resource development.

- (3) Interagency Management. DOPOR will work with DOF and DLWM to establish a state work cabin for official use by staff while working in the Moose Range.

5. DIVISION OF LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT

a. Ongoing Responsibilities, Existing Budget

(1) Review

- (a) Review and approve the DOF timber harvest schedules.
- (b) Review and approve the ADF&G habitat enhancement program.
- (c) Review mining plans of operation.
- (d) Review and issue DLWM surface use permits and leases within the Range.

(2) Interagency Action

- (a) Work with grazing lessees or permittees to establish a public route through the existing grazing leases in the Moose Creek drainage to guarantee public access to public lands beyond the existing leases.
- (b) Develop and/or review trail recommendations and game management habitat enhancement assessments on Arkose Bench with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and ADF&G for the proposed Arkose Bench Trail after 1991.

(3) Standard Procedure

- (a) Issue Interagency Land Management Assignments to DOPOR at Moose Creek State Recreation Site (if allowed under the final management scheme for mental health land), the Permanente Road trailhead, the proposed Kings River Campground and at the Long Lake State Recreation Site to allow for future expansion and development of recreational facilities.
- (b) Work with ADF&G to reserve instream flow on streams and lakes within the Moose Range.
- (c) Adjudicate water rights.
- (d) Adjudicate construction or modification of dams.
- (e) Issue land use permits, rights-of-way, and material sales.
- (f) Issue land leases and disposals.
- (g) Reclassify public lands.
- (h) Remove the mineral closing order near the once proposed Chickaloon Bench subdivision. Issue mineral closing orders for the face of Castle Mountain and appropriate mineral licks.
- (i) Work with ADF&G to complete development and evaluation of the criteria necessary to evaluate the importance of mineral licks.
- (j) Place mineral closing orders on the appropriate mineral licks as stated on pages 84-86 in the Subsurface Resources guidelines C3d.
- (i) Perform land use classification actions for the three subunits.

b. New Responsibilities, New Funding Required

- (1) Public Rights-of-Way. Research and assert public rights of way on existing roads and historic trails (as listed on Table 3: Evaluation of Access, page 52). Make major legal public road and trail information available to the public to reduce trespassing situations and to aid in asserting public right-of-way. Work with CIRI and private land owners to negotiate public rights-of-way on historic routes.
- (2) Unauthorized Use. Resolve known unauthorized use of state land in Sutton following existing procedures (see page 136 and 169). Evaluate and resolve unauthorized uses identified in the future.

(3) Work with DOA, U of A, other qualified agencies and persons and ADF&G to set up research efforts, procedures and the permitting process to allow for common use and grazing sites on habitat enhancement areas.

(4) Interagency

(a) Assist SCS, ADF&G and DOA in monitoring and reviewing research efforts and lease requirements on the existing grazing leases.

(b) Work with BLM to guarantee public access on trails and roads through native allotment lands and native selections receiving patent.

(c) Develop brochures to inform the public of natural resource values and management strategies, clearly identify public access, and differentiate between private and public lands to reduce trespass.

(d) Work cooperatively with agencies and private individuals to encourage research on reclamation of coal mined lands.

(e) DLWM will work with DOF and DOPOR to establish a state work cabin. DLWM will work with ADF&G on determining the appropriate location for the cabin.

6. DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

a. Ongoing Responsibilities, Existing Budget.

Work with SCS and DLWM to monitor the existing grazing leases and determine if there is compliance with the existing permits/leases.

b. New Responsibilities, New Funding Required

(1) Work with grazing lessees and ADF&G to establish research exclosures on existing grazing leases to study the effects of grazing on wildlife and their habitat.

(2) Cooperatively work with other DNR divisions, ADF&G, and U of A to research and develop the best methods for enhancing wildlife habitat.

DNR recommends that the following agencies perform the listed actions as funding allows, to assist with the overall management of the Moose Range.

7. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

- a. DOT/PF should work with DNR and ADF&G during the Glenn Highway realignment to minimize environmental impacts, to mitigate for loss of habitat and to reduce conflicts with moose and vehicles.
- b. DOT/PF should work with DOPOR, DLWM and ADF&G during the Glenn Highway realignment to guarantee that access into the Moose Range is continued and scenic turnouts are developed in the appropriate locations.
- c. DOT/PF should work with DOPOR during development of the proposed Permanente Trailhead, Kings River Campground and Purinton Creek Trailhead to guarantee access to these sites.

8. MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

- a. Develop creative incentives for protecting scenic qualities on private lands along the entire Glenn Highway corridor such as tax benefits or using subdivision platting procedures.
- b. Dedicate lands along Fishhook Road and Coyote Lake for recreational classification (see Map 10 on page 199).
- c. Encourage the public to dedicate private lands for public recreation, greenbelts, or to provide public access to the Little Granite Creek Bench and public lands off Murphy Road. This can be accomplished through the platting process or tax incentives.
- d. Support state and local trail programs to guarantee the public access to waterbodies and public lands in the Moose Range, with ADF&G approval.
- e. During the platting board review process of subdivisions within or adjacent to the Moose Range, approve subdivision designs which guarantee public access to public lands and waters.
- f. Dedicate municipal lands east of Purinton Creek for public recreation, to guarantee and retain future public access to the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail. The exact size of the parcel needed for the trailhead will be determined in future negotiations between the borough and DOPOR. If access is denied on the existing trail through existing private property (west of Borough land), the Borough should work cooperatively with DOPOR to develop and maintain a trailhead facility on the municipal land.

MSB/U of A/SCS/LOCAL GROUPS

- g. After 1991, DNR, ADF&G and borough will work cooperatively to develop a trail proposal for an Arkose Bench Trail if the public need for a trail arises. This proposal requires DNR and ADF&G approval prior to implementation.
- h. Apply for grant monies or state aid to assist in mapping and providing informational brochures on specific trails -- the uses, conditions, destination and terrains, etc. The Borough and ADF&G shall jointly develop the wording of informational brochures concerning the Moose Range.

9. UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

- a. Assist in research efforts to determine moose-livestock-vegetation interaction, including food habits and behavior, forage quantity and quality, plant tolerance to utilization and habitat manipulations.
- b. Work with the grazing lessee and or permittees to establish study area enclosures on existing and proposed grazing leases.
- c. DNR encourages the University to assist with education of multiple-use resource management through coursework and utilization of the Moose Range as a practical field and laboratory for students. ADF&G and DNR will work with U of A to recommend study topics and sites.
- d. Assist in research efforts to determine best forest regeneration and moose habitat enhancement methods.

10. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

- a. Extend the recorrelation study of the Matanuska Soil Survey to include the Moose Range. To concentrate efforts, the first priority areas for soil recorrelation studies in the Range should be the five-year timber harvest/habitat enhancement sites. This includes performing an expanded and detailed soils survey of the Moose Range to assist habitat moose enhancement efforts as funding is made available.
- b. Work with existing and potential grazing lessees to develop Range Conservation Plans for potential grazing leases within the Moose Range.
- c. Assist in monitoring research efforts and effects of grazing on grazing leases.

11. LOCAL GROUPS

- a. Promote public education regarding the historic, cultural and natural resource values of the area.
- b. Continue active community council participation in the planning process.