

SUBSURFACE RESOURCES

GOALS

1. Make metallic minerals, oil, and gas available to contribute to the state's energy and mineral supplies, and to the economy.
2. Make metallic minerals available for recreation mining.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

1. MINERALS

a. Mineral Exploration

Recognized exploration methods for locatable minerals will be allowed on all state lands. Exploration methods may be subject to the conditions of a land use permit.

b. Open to Mineral Entry

All state lands open to mineral entry are multiple use areas where mineral development will be accommodated and encouraged consistent with applicable state law and the policies of this plan.

c. Reclamation of Mined Land

Plans of operation for mineral development will specify measures necessary to return the land to a useful condition. Specific measures and any requirement for a performance bond will be consistent with AS 27.19. Specific measures may include storage and reuse of topsoil, disposal, or overburden, regrading of tailings and revegetation, reestablishment of natural (not necessarily original) contours, reestablishment of natural drainage system, long-term erosion control measures, and removal of equipment, improvements, and other man-made items.

d. Access for Mineral Development

Existing roads should be used for access to mine sites wherever feasible.

e. Control of Impacts

Guidelines will be developed as necessary through the land use permit or leasing process to minimize adverse impacts of mining, especially in settled areas, recreation areas, and in areas viewed from roads.

2. OIL AND GAS

The planning area has low oil and gas potential.

The plan defers any decisions regarding leasing for oil and gas to DNR's existing leasing processes. The department's statewide policies for oil and gas are found in the Five Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program. Specific stipulations for oil and gas exploration, development, and production activities will be developed and applied case-by-case using the oil and gas lease sale process.

3. MATERIALS

a. Material Sites

The following are general guidelines for extracting materials:

- (1) **Material sources.** Consideration should be given to all potential material sources. Location and design of sites should take into account factors such as scenic quality, availability of materials, transportation to the site, and effects to fish and wildlife habitat.
- (2) **River size and recharge rates.** Selection of gravel sites in floodplains should take into account the volume of gravel available from various stream types. Generally, the largest river, or the one with the largest gravel recharge rates should be chosen.
- (3) **Reclamation.** Reclamation of material sites will be accomplished consistent with AS 27.19.
- (4) **Extraction from active channels.** When extracting gravel in active or inactive floodplains, maintain buffers that will minimize sedimentation and will contain active channels in their original locations and configurations in the short term.
- (5) **Maintaining other uses and resources when siting and operating material sites.** The requirements of the permit or lease will give adequate protection to other important resources and uses including existing water rights, water resource quantity and quality, navigation, fish and wildlife habitat and harvest, commercial forest resources, recreation resources and opportunities, historic and archaeological resources, adjacent land uses, and access to public or private lands.
- (6) **Screening.** Material sites should be screened from roads, residential areas, recreational areas, and other areas of significant human use. Sufficient land should be allocated to the material site to allow for such screening.