

WATER

GOALS

1. Provide for the use of water for the maximum benefit of the people through the established statutes and regulations related to water management.
2. Initiate research to determine the water availability for all users, and instream flow requirements for fish and wildlife populations and related recreational activities. Instream flow reservations should be acquired where warranted.
3. Protect watersheds to minimize flooding, erosion, sedimentation and other negative impacts from use and development, and maintain water quality and potable water supply.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Other guidelines affecting water are located in the *Resort Development Guidelines* in this chapter.

a. Priority Uses

- (1) Except for public water supply and domestic use, the highest priority water use in the study area is for recreation and protection and maintenance of fish and wildlife, and their habitat. DNR should not allow an appropriation of water to cause the instream flow or lake levels to fall below the amount determined necessary by ADF&G to protect or maintain fish and wildlife habitat, unless, under the procedures outlined in AS 46.15.080, the Commissioner of DNR makes a finding that the competing use for water is in the best public interest.
- (2) The appropriation of water shall be allowed as long as the appropriation meets the criteria for issuance of a permit in accordance with AS 46.15.080 and meets all of the requirements and guidelines in this plan established to protect fish and wildlife populations, habitat, recreation and related public uses.

b. Reservation Priorities

- (1) As time and budget allow, DNR & DF&G shall give support to instream flow studies and reservations of water that are necessary to protect and promote resource values and uses identified in this plan for streams and other waterbodies.
- (2) High priority streams for instream flow study and possible reservation include Glacier, Crow, and Winner creeks. These have been identified because of their high public values particularly for habitat and recreation and the high potential for competition for water between these uses and resource development. If necessary, instream flow reservations applied for under AS 46.15.145 will be made on these priority rivers and streams.

c. Water Quality

Water quality shall be maintained in the streams and other water bodies occurring in the Turnagain Arm Planning Area. The Division of Mining & Water Management should establish annual water quality monitoring sites in key areas as funding allows. In cases where water quality problems are identified, remedial action should be taken as funding allows. Of particular concern are potential impacts to recreational users, wildlife and/or anadromous fish from toxic discharges in mining areas, and from fecal contamination in intensive recreational use areas.