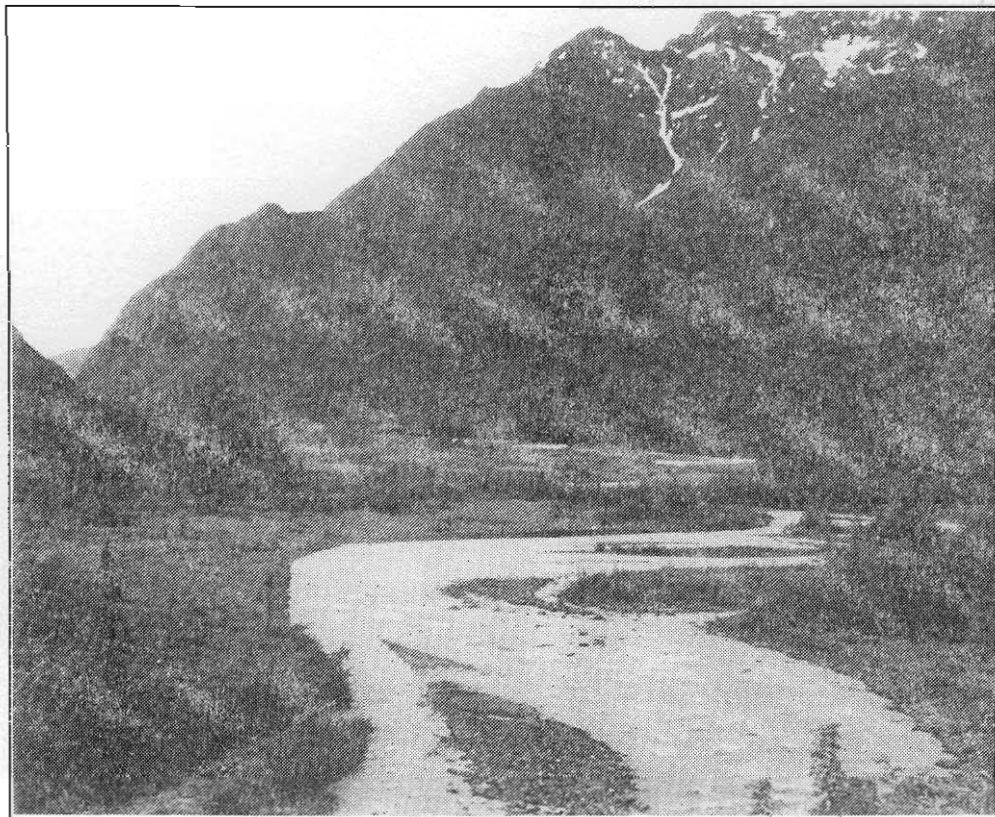


MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE EAGLE RIVER GREENBELT IN CHUGACH STATE PARK

1992



Prepared by the
Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation
Department of Natural Resources
State of Alaska



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STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

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August 11, 1992

Dear Alaskan:

This management plan for the lower Eagle River Valley in Chugach State Park establishes direction for the conservation and use of 4,000 acres of prized public land in the state's largest city and the nation's 3rd largest state park.

Initially part of Chugach State Park, the Eagle River greenbelt became private land under provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Then, in an extraordinary community wide effort of cooperation to restore these lands to public ownership, the Municipality of Anchorage, the State of Alaska and Eklutna, Inc., once again established the Eagle River greenbelt as part of Chugach State Park.

Credit goes to the citizens of Anchorage who supported the restoration of these lands to perpetual public use and enjoyment.

On behalf of all citizens I adopt this management plan as state policy.

Sincerely,

Neil O. Johannsen
Director

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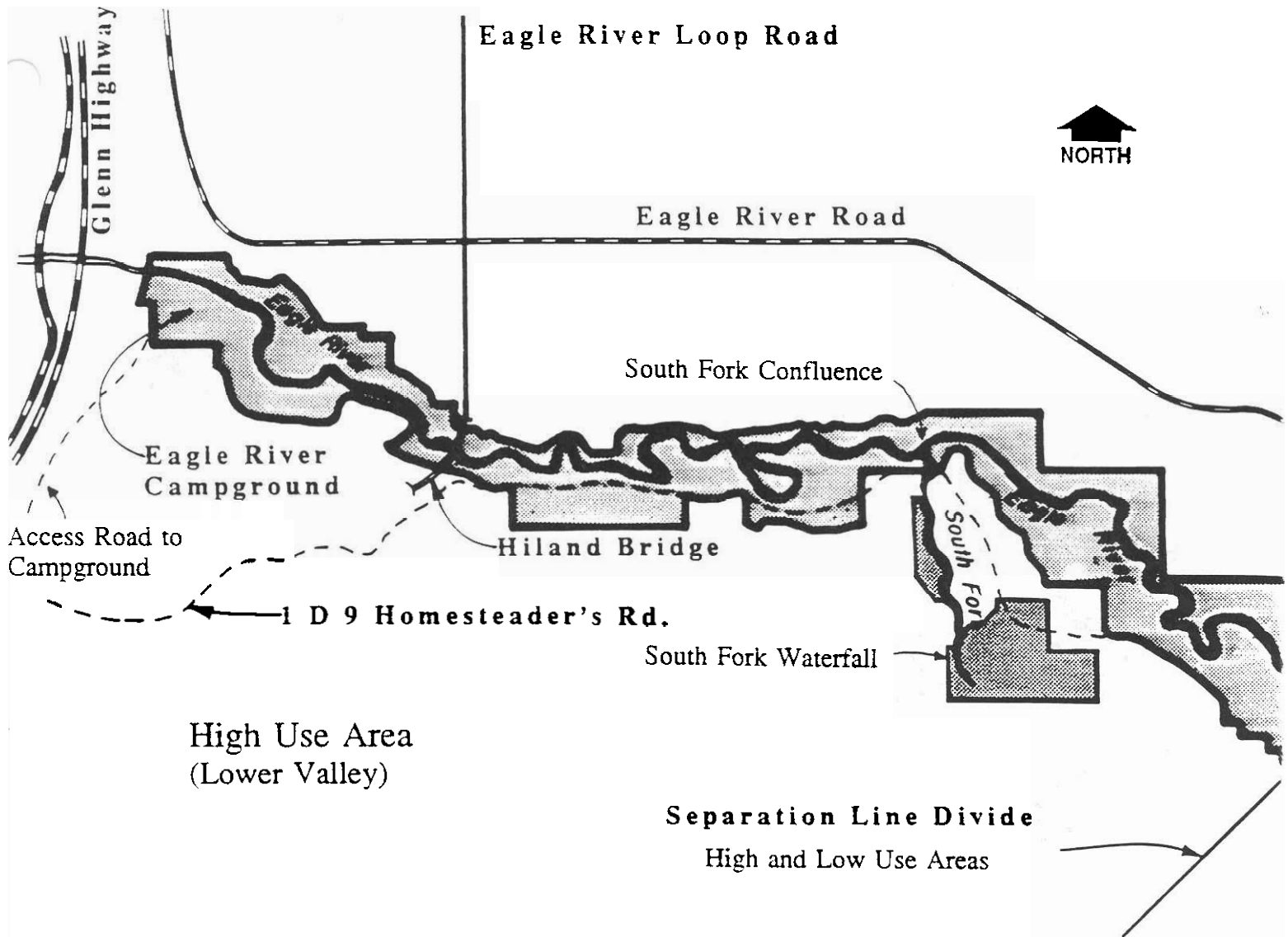
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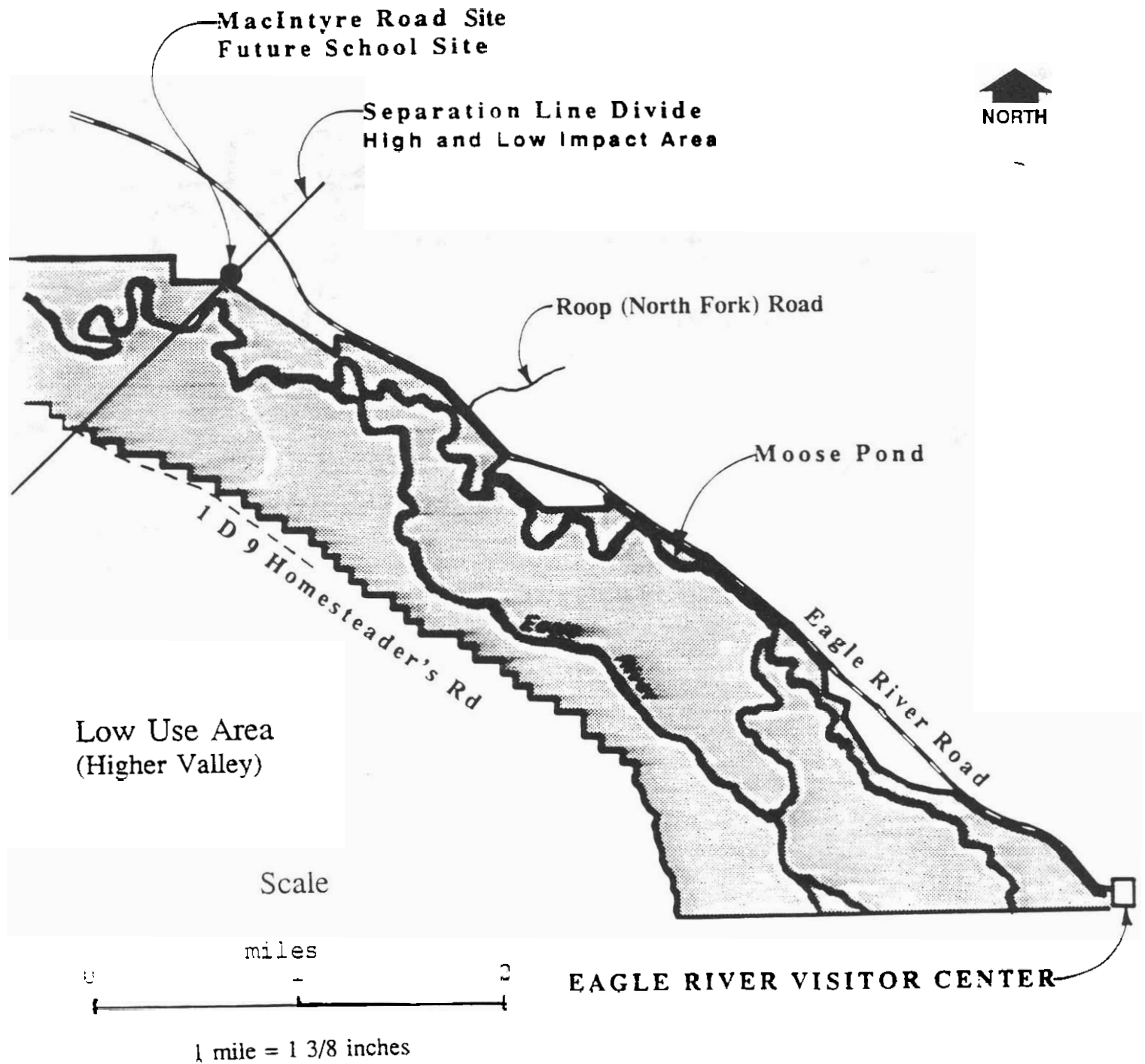
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Figure 1.



EAGLE RIVER GREENBELT MAP

Figure 2.



I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this plan is to establish guidelines for the development and management of the lower Eagle River Valley portion of Chugach State Park. The foundation of the plan has been developed from public comments; historical information, current and anticipated trends of recreational use and demand; resource inventory of the area; the Municipality of Anchorage Eagle River Greenbelt Plan; and, the Chugach State Park Master Plan.

The specific purposes of the plan are to:

1. Describe the environment of the Eagle River Greenbelt as it relates to specific management issues and resource protection needs.
2. Provide management direction to the Eagle River Greenbelt as a supplement and update to the Chugach State Park Master Plan.
3. Protect the flora, fauna and inherent scenic value of the area.
4. Describe the social and economic elements affecting the area, including recreational demands.
5. Provide a staged implementation schedule for the development plan.

A. Eagle River Greenbelt Overview (size, location, setting, existing recreational uses)

For the purpose of this management plan the boundary area for the Eagle River Greenbelt is defined as all lands in the 1987 Eklutna, Inc. land exchange with the State of Alaska plus existing State Land at the Eagle River Campground, the South Fork Waterfall Site, up-river to the Eagle River Visitor Center. Adjacent Municipal and private lands, although not incorporated into the Eagle River Greenbelt boundary, are considered in the management plans of the Greenbelt for plan continuity and resource protection. The total acreage for the greenbelt is 3,505 acres. (Figure 1&2)

The Eagle River Greenbelt stretches for approximately 10 miles (18 river miles) from the Eagle River Campground near the Glenn Highway to the Eagle River Visitor Center at mile 12 on Eagle River Road. The greenbelt is north of Anchorage approximately 10 miles on the Glenn Highway.

The Eagle River Greenbelt varies in width from 1/2 mile wide, located in the lower valley, to approximately 5 miles across, located adjacent to the Eagle River Visitor Center.

Recreational use of the greenbelt is considered heavy although exact figures are not known due to the lack of defined access points along the 12 miles of road. During the summer months the area is popular for hiking, wildlife viewing, canoeing, and kayaking. The Eagle River Campground has 38 vehicle camping spaces plus an overflow area. In winter the area is used by cross-country skiers, hikers, dog mushers, snowmachine and ATV enthusiasts.

B. Existing Plans & Amendments

1. Chugach State Park Master Plan

In January of 1980, after two years of inventorying the park's features, resources, and use patterns; determining management options; conducting eight public meetings, numerous public presentations and copious reviews, the Chugach State Park Master Plan was adopted. The plan provides necessary information and recommendations for the management, use, development and protection of Chugach State Park. The Eagle River Greenbelt was included in this plan as a specific planning unit. Six unit objectives were developed based upon the unit's resources, current and anticipated use and public input to guide formulation of development recommendations for the unit. These included:

- a. Establishment of a visitor center/ranger station to provide necessary visitor services in the Eagle River Valley.
- b. Designation of riverside access points with provisions for parking to facilitate use of the Eagle River.
- c. Provide for the interpretation of unique natural features.

- d. Establishment of trailheads and trails for hiking, cross-country skiing and snowmachining and other recreational pursuits.
- e. Establishment of a wildlife viewing area in the Eagle River drainage.
- f. Provide state contribution toward maintenance of privately maintained roads leading to established park access points as appropriate to the amount of traffic generated.

Some of these objectives have already been met while others could be accomplished when adequate funding becomes available.

The Master Plan further addressed a development and phasing plan (Appendix A). While many of the recommendations have already been achieved others have been incorporated into the Issues and Recommendations section of the Eagle River Greenbelt Management Plan.

The Chugach State Park Master Plan will continue to act as an overall guide to the management of the area.

2. Anchorage Municipal Eagle River Greenbelt Plan

In 1985, the Municipality of Anchorage adopted a plan for the Eagle River Greenbelt. Seven key recommendations were listed. These included:

- * Upon adoption by the Anchorage Assembly of the Eagle River Greenbelt Plan, the Municipality should enter into negotiations with Eklutna, Inc. and the three other private landowners to acquire the greenbelt land together with the six recreation sites, other than the Eagle River Campground Expansion site, as soon as possible.
- * A mix of acquisition techniques should be used rather than a reliance upon a single approach. All of the techniques described in the text can contribute in varying degrees and should be woven together in an acquisition strategy. A high degree of cooperation and support between the Municipality and state agencies is necessary and must be cultivated and maintained. Consideration should be given to first negotiate an "umbrella agreement" to guide

negotiation on the manner and basis for incorporation of Eklutna, Inc.-owned land into the greenbelt.

- * Development should follow acquisition in the creation of the Eagle River Greenbelt. Upon greenbelt acquisition, Municipal Department of Parks and Recreation should then begin the process of site and trail development with a development priority that includes:

1. the six recreation sites;
2. the greenbelt lands from the South Fork Park site downstream to the Eagle River Campground and including the South Fork Greenbelt link between the Park site and Waterfalls site; and,
3. the remaining greenbelt lands from South Fork upstream to Chugach State Park.

A detailed plan of management and operation should be prepared with involvement of user groups to accommodate the variety of recreational needs. The potential for effective integration of such a plan with the proposed Eagle River Greenbelt Trust should be seriously considered. The proposed continuous trail system should be established under the general guidance of the plan as well as the more specific direction of the management plan.

- * The Municipality should take the lead in exploring the potential of creating an Eagle River Greenbelt Trust. Such a Trust could serve not only as a vehicle for securing corporate and foundation funds leading to acquisition and management, but could serve as a community "watchdog" to ensure the integrity of the greenbelt is maintained.
- * The State of Alaska, through the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, should pursue acquisition of land adjacent to the Eagle River Campground site from Eklutna, Inc. as an expansion to the existing campground.
- * Chugach State Park trails should be connected with those Municipal trails/routes as indicated in the plan.

- * The Eagle River Greenbelt Plan is consistent with the goals and policies of the Anchorage Coastal Management Plan which has identified most of the greenbelt as Freshwater Marsh and Wetlands under designation of Preservation Environment Coastal Resource Policy Unit.
- * The Eagle River Greenbelt land exchange concluded between the State and Eklutna, Inc. restored these greenbelt lands to public ownership within the boundaries of Chugach State Park. The Municipality's plan was considered to be the interim management plan until this plan was completed.

3. Chugach State Park Master Plan Amendments

On October 9, 1987, the Commissioner of DNR, Judith M. Brady, signed the Chugach State Park Master Plan Amendments. These amendments dealt with three issues: Resort Development in Chugach State Park; Helicopter Landings within Chugach State Park; and, the newly acquired Eagle River Greenbelt land.

The Master Plan Amendments further stated that:

The division shall establish a planning team to develop a detailed management plan for the lower Eagle River Valley (Eagle River Greenbelt) portion of Chugach State Park. The team shall be comprised of representatives from the park's citizen advisory board, local community councils and organizations, state and local agencies, and others. The Lower Eagle River Planning Unit is established from within the existing Eagle River Planning Unit to focus planning and management efforts on this important portion of the park. It is comprised of the lands acquired by the State from Eklutna, Inc., in a land exchange and existing park lands in T13N, R1E, SM. The existing park lands in T13N, R1E, SM that are to be included in the Lower Eagle River Planning Unit include all lands in the valley bottom and a portion of the valley sideslopes from the former Eklutna, Inc. land to the Eagle River Visitor Center. The planning team shall prepare a base map that determines the exact boundaries of the planning unit. The unit may be renamed by the director after receiving nominations from the park advisory board.

Prior to the completion of the management plan, the Municipality of Anchorage's greenbelt plan was adopted and followed as an interim plan.

Interim management of the unit under the Municipality's plan and the development of the management plan shall adhere to the following policies:

- a. Trails shall be developed as determined appropriate in the detailed management plan for the area. Recreational access sites may be developed as identified in the MOA plan or the management plan which is to be prepared. When possible, facilities shall be buffered or screened from view of the river. The Eagle River Campground may be expanded if appropriate.
- b. Facilities will be phased so as to satisfy existing recreational demand and anticipated demands of the near-term future.
- c. Motorized recreational activities (including boats, snowmachines and ATVs) are prohibited.
- d. Commercial activities shall be limited in number through concession contracts rather than through park use permits. Activities related to the possible development of a downhill ski area may be allowed but shall be controlled to insure that the natural and recreational resource values of the unit are maintained. The management plan shall determine the carrying capacity of the river for both commercial and non-commercial uses.
- e. Pursuant to AS 41.21.022, the division shall seek the concurrence of the Board of Game to close the unit to hunting and designate it a wildlife viewing area. The division and the planning team shall make wildlife viewing and wildlife education a goal of the area.
- f. Motorized vehicle access on the existing 1D9 (Homestead Road) right-of-way is allowed for use by local residents and others. The road may be relocated, redesigned and upgraded so long as natural and recreational values of the unit are maintained. Special park use permits may be issued under 11 AAC 18.010 (8) to provide nearby

landowners with access to the 1D9 road. Authorization for public utilities to be located in or across park lands and water shall be under the permitting process authorized by 11 AAC 18.010. The division shall work closely with DOT/PF and the Municipality of Anchorage to insure that the proposed Eagle Loop Road connection to Hiland Road/Glenn Highway crossing of the greenbelt minimizes adverse impacts on the unit.

- g. Modification of the river to enhance boater safety or improve whitewater kayaking should only be considered after a thorough review of impacts and coordination with appropriate agencies (i.e. ADF&G, Corps of Engineers, Municipality of Anchorage, etc.). This issue should be addressed during the development of the management plan.

C. Eagle River Greenbelt Planning Process

1. **Planning Team.** To aid in the management plan process a planning team comprised of 14 individuals from the private sector, special interest groups, and governmental agencies were assembled. The planning team has the task of reviewing all draft and final management plan documents, suggesting management strategies on major issues and concerns, giving direction to park staff and if necessary, advising the Director of Parks and Outdoor Recreation in any management decision. The team met three times discussing issues and formulating alternatives for various park uses. The Planning Team met on November 17, 1988; December 1, 1988; and, December 20, 1988.
2. **Public Meetings.** The first round of public meetings were held as follows:

Anchorage: Monday, October 17, 1988
Loussac Library - Wilda Marston Theater
7:00 p.m.

Eagle River: Wednesday, October 19, 1988
Chugiak/Eagle River Public Library
7:00 p.m.

3. **Public Comment Period.** The public comment period on the BACKGROUND information ended November 15, 1988.

Public Meetings. Public meetings on the DRAFT Eagle River Greenbelt Management Plan were held as follows:

Eagle River: Tuesday, February 21, 1989
Chugiak/Eagle River Public Library
7:00 p.m.

Anchorage: Wednesday, February 22, 1989
Loussac Library - Wilda Marston Theater
7:00 p.m.

Public Comment Period. The public comment period on the DRAFT management plan began February 10, 1989 and ended March 13, 1989.

II. INVENTORY

A process of mapping natural resource and existing land status information was used that resulted in an analysis of opportunities and constraints for the development of the Eagle River Greenbelt. Base maps were produced with topography and land parcels indicated. Overlays of four inventory information maps such as wetlands and the 100-year floodplain were included to test plan alternatives. These four inventory maps were:

1. Plat of Eagle River Greenbelt - see appendix;
2. Wetlands and Floodplain Map - figures 3-6;
3. Land Status Map -figures 7-10, and
4. Visual Character Map - not included.

A. GEOMORPHOLOGY

Eagle River is approximately 41 miles in length from its source at Eagle Glacier, then flows in a northwesterly direction to its mouth on Knik Arm. It is the middle 18-mile portion that is the study area for this greenbelt plan. The upstream 14-mile segment is within Chugach State Park while the downstream 9-mile segment is within the Fort Richardson military reservation.

Within this middle portion is the Eagle River Valley, a typical, glacier-carved valley. Glaciers advanced and retreated within the valley several times during the last million years, carving the exposed, unconsolidated materials such as sand, gravel and till over lowland sedimentary rocks. As the valley glacier withdrew, meltwater streams deposited sands and gravel while silts and clays were carried in suspension to be deposited in slackwater areas as sloughs or during floods. The creation of oxbow lakes, natural levees and other features of a low gradient, high sediment load stream valley point to a continuing process of erosion, deposition and reworking of these deposits by Eagle River and its tributaries. Thus, today the upstream portion of the study area is characterized by braided channel, riverain terrace wetlands, and an extensive, broad floodplain. Approximately from the South Fork confluence to the Eagle River Campground the river enters a more confined channel, marked by steeper slopes which rise on the north to residential development.

1. SLOPE

Mass wasting processes, the gravity induced movement of earth material (including snow), continue to shape the valley. Where slopes steepen and the unconsolidated sediments become

unstable, mass wasting accelerates. Slopes vary from nearly flat to gentle slopes along the valley floor, rapidly steepening to very steep slopes (45-100% or more) along the valley walls and as bluffs and cutbanks along the lower river.

Landslides and rockfalls ranging in size from minor slumps to massive slides involving millions of cubic yards of soil and rock occur in many of the steeper sloped areas of the valley. Avalanche hazard zones have been identified on both sides of Eagle River Valley with known avalanche paths extending to Eagle River Road. Many of the snow avalanche paths also cause rockslides.

The potential for mudflows also exists in the valley, particularly in steep gullies and former streambeds during spring breakup or during heavy summer rains. Seismically-induced ground failure ranges from low to moderately low susceptibility throughout the valley with generally higher intensities and longer periods of ground shaking than elsewhere.

2. Soils

Silt and sandy loams comprise the majority of the valley bottom, interspersed with riverwash and areas of poorly drained peats. At the river's edge, mineral soils are derived from repeated flooding which deposits silt. Often, organic layers from streamside vegetation are repeatedly buried. At a later date, with stream channel relocation, the flooding frequency is reduced, allowing for development of uninterrupted soils and accompanying changes in the associated plant life.

B. VISUAL CHARACTER

The visual landscape character of Eagle River Valley can be defined by glaciated mountains, sweeping views up and down the valley mixed with narrow glimpses of the river and Eagle Glacier. A major visual element within the valley is Eagle River itself. Meandering down the glacially carved valley floor, Eagle River provides visual focus for the length of the valley. The image of the river, in an as yet undisturbed valley floor setting, provides the sense of untouched wilderness associated with this area.

Topography and vegetation largely define the visual character within the valley. Steep valley walls and high ridge lines provide a strong sense of enclosure when not obscured by foreground vegetation. Development activity on ridgelines is very visible from the valley floor and affects the landscape's natural character which predominates within the greenbelt.

Vegetation in the form of birch, spruce and riparian woods limit views in most areas to internal or narrow "slot views" of distant features. Where openings exist, such as along gravel bars or over bogs, panoramic views may occur either up-valley to Eagle Glacier or down-valley, depending on orientation. Such views are limited, but quite spectacular, and thus valuable within the study area.

The two waterfalls on the South Fork of the Eagle River deserve special mention. A lower waterfall divides around a rocky promontory, falling 60 feet or more into a rock-studded pool which is frequented by spawning king salmon. This site is clearly visible from either of the downstream bluffs (best seen from the east) and provides an open, magnificent scene more grand than the enclosed setting of Thunderbird Falls, a popular park feature located north of Eagle River along Thunderbird Creek. The unique beauty of this area is augmented by the contrasting upper falls where water cascades in a natural flume through a narrow, rock cliff gorge approximately 100 feet in depth and 300 feet or so in length. No other pair of waterfalls like these exist within the Municipality.

C. VEGETATION

Six vegetation types have been mapped in Eagle River Valley: coniferous, deciduous, mixed, forested bog, brush and open bog. Vegetative patterns largely reflect the amount of moisture in the soil. The first three categories, coniferous, deciduous and mixed are generally found on well-drained soils, whereas the remaining three are associated with poorly-drained soils and high water tables.

The pattern of ecological succession in the bottomland of Eagle River Valley is controlled by flooding frequency, stream channel changes and other abiotic factors. As plants take hold, biotic factors become increasingly important. A typical succession sequence would start with a gravel bar flooded annually with successive depositions of silt. As this material builds up over time, grasses and then willow and alder would begin to be found as flooding frequency diminished. Alders leading to poplars, which in turn give way to spruce, would maintain this

development as the flooding frequency approaches a once-in-100-years event and the time interval from the gravel bar stage becomes 100 years. Typically, the spruce dominated woods are found 3-4 feet above the river channel and as one moves toward the gravel bar, the early successional patterns are encountered at lower elevations.

D. WILDLIFE HABITAT

The Eagle River Valley provides important wildlife habitat as a largely untouched corridor from the alpine meadows within Chugach State Park to the tidal flats of Knik Arm. This valley has a significant diversity of wildlife from the larger mammals to populations of smaller mammals. Red, silver, chum, pink, and King salmon spawn in Eagle River. Rainbow and Dolly Varden trout are also present. Additionally, a variety of raptors and other birds are commonly observed.

While moose roam the entire valley throughout the year, in winter they are more likely encountered where abundant food, such as willow, is found. These areas are depicted on the habitat map as preferred moose habitat. In the upper valley "channel island" area, adjacent to Chugach State Park, several preferred moose habitat areas are found. In this same area, wolves, bear, and migrating sandhill cranes, among other species, appear to be more abundant.

The presence of top-of-the-food-chain predators (e.g., bear and wolves), as well as the diversity of plant and animal wildlife, attest to the richness and vitality of this river valley ecosystem. Preservation and protection of habitat afforded by the greenbelt is critical to maintenance of this diversity. Thus, the protection of such a river corridor and particularly the more primitive focus for the upper valley (see Section III) will do much to sustain viable wildlife populations and contribute to the uniqueness of the greenbelt. This must be a high priority in the overall management of the area.

E. WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAIN

1. Wetlands

The term "wetlands" means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

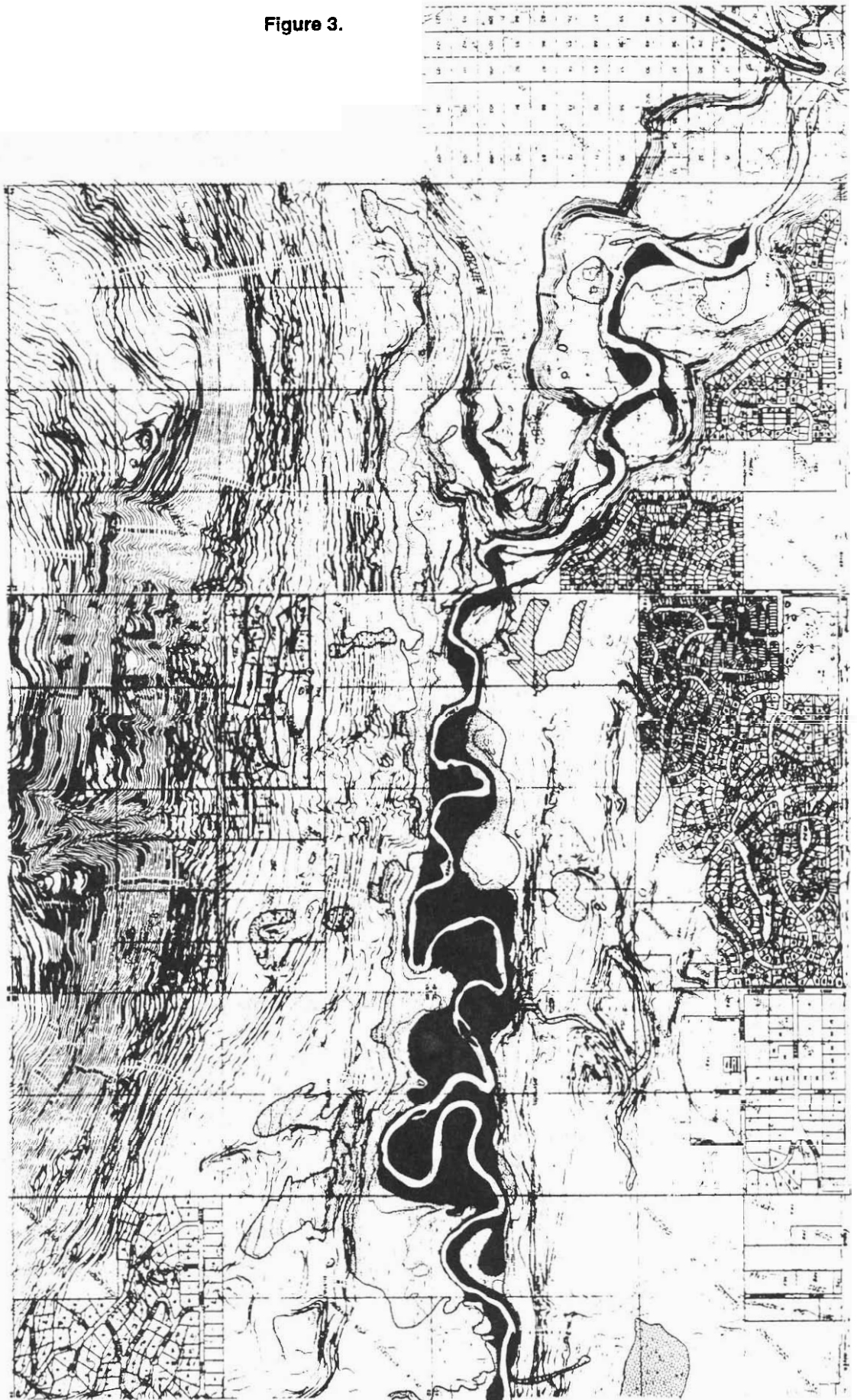
The vast majority of Eagle River Valley bottomlands have been designated as wetlands or lands affected by "Waters of the United States", as defined by Section 404 of the 1977 Clean Water Act, such as bogs, marshes, wet tundra and other lands that are periodically or permanently covered by water or that support plants which often grow in wet areas. Four different wetlands types have been identified in the Eagle River Valley including riverain terrace, non-patterned elongated complex, unforested closed bog and forested closed bog or swamp. The riverain terrace wetland type is by far the most extensive in acreage and exhibits a great deal of variability in terms of the plant communities present (e.g. from sedge tussocks in ponded water to white spruce woodlands). The dominant vegetation in this wetland type is, however, low shrub or low forest bog interspersed with wet meadows and marshes. Further discussion of this classification of wetland types is addressed in the Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan under Section 2.3.

Wetlands within the study area have been mapped, evaluated and classified within five designations: Preservation, Conservation, Development, Mixed Development and Unclassified. In keeping with the intent of the Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan, the 100-year floodplain, preservation wetlands were identified while the adjacent wetlands above that flood elevation were identified as conservation. The other wetland categories stood on their own. Approximately 3,000 acres of wetlands exist within Eagle River Valley. Of that total, over half is classified as preservation (1,640 acres) and over 40 percent as conservation (1,165). The remaining three classifications comprise 120 acres together (mixed development - 60, unclassified - 40, development -20) (Figures 3-6).

The wetlands classifications are further described below:

Preservation Wetlands - Wetlands selected for preservation are to be managed or protected through use of appropriate controls to maintain their natural character and function. Uses or activities which would degrade or destroy the natural systems and resources are to be prohibited. Uses of activities would be allowed only if they further enhanced, restored or preserved the natural character of the wetlands. Controls on lands or land uses adjoining wetlands would also be necessary to protect hydrologic

Figure 3.



LEGEND

- Wetlands Classification**
- Preservation
 - Conservation
 - Development
 - Mixed Development
 - Unclassified

100 Year Floodplain

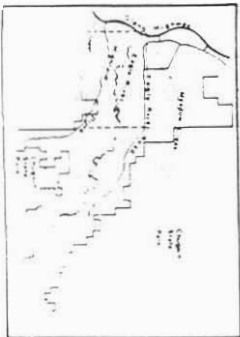


Figure 4.

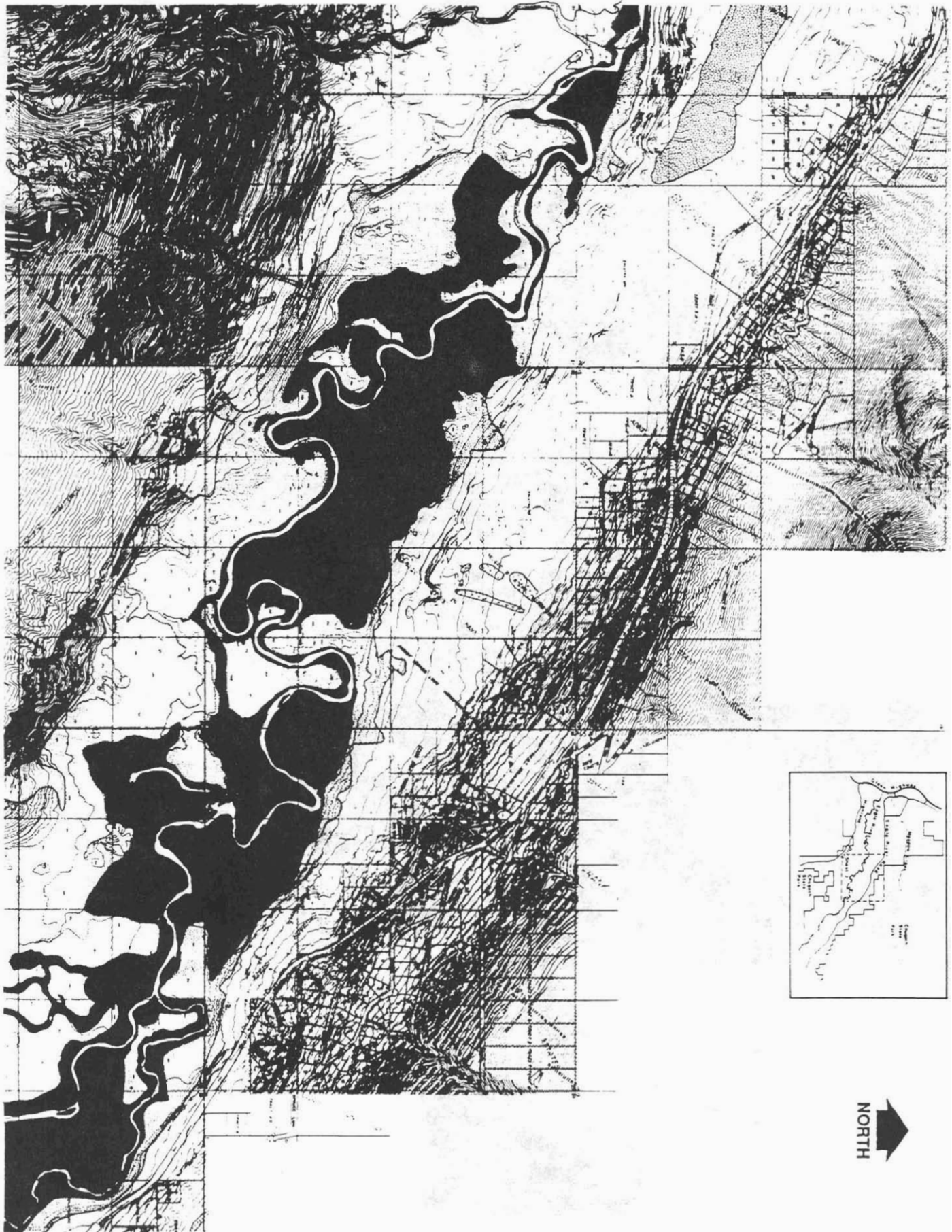
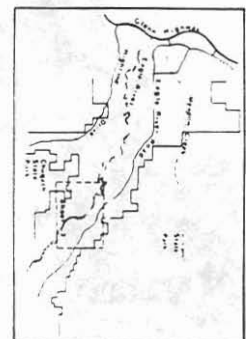
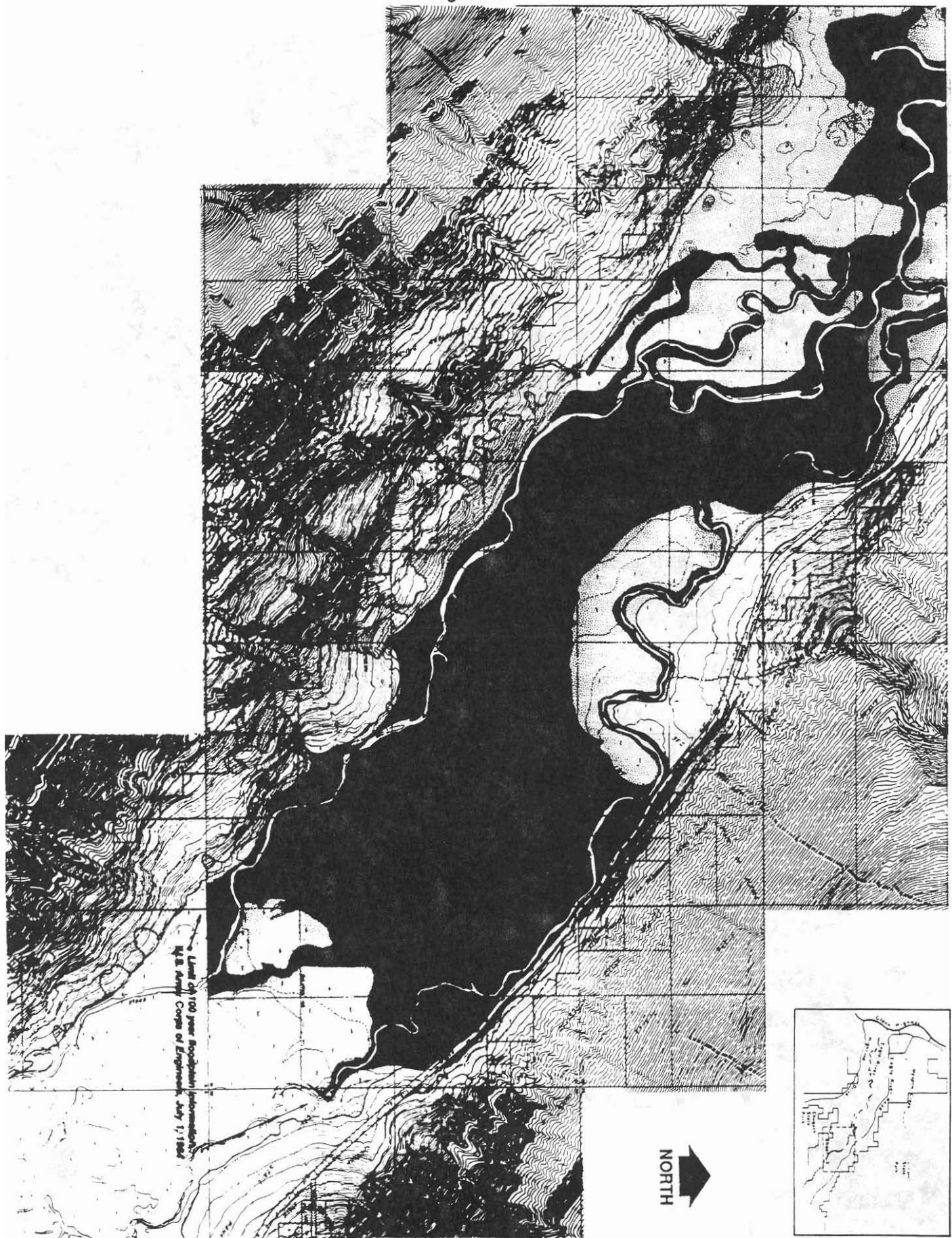
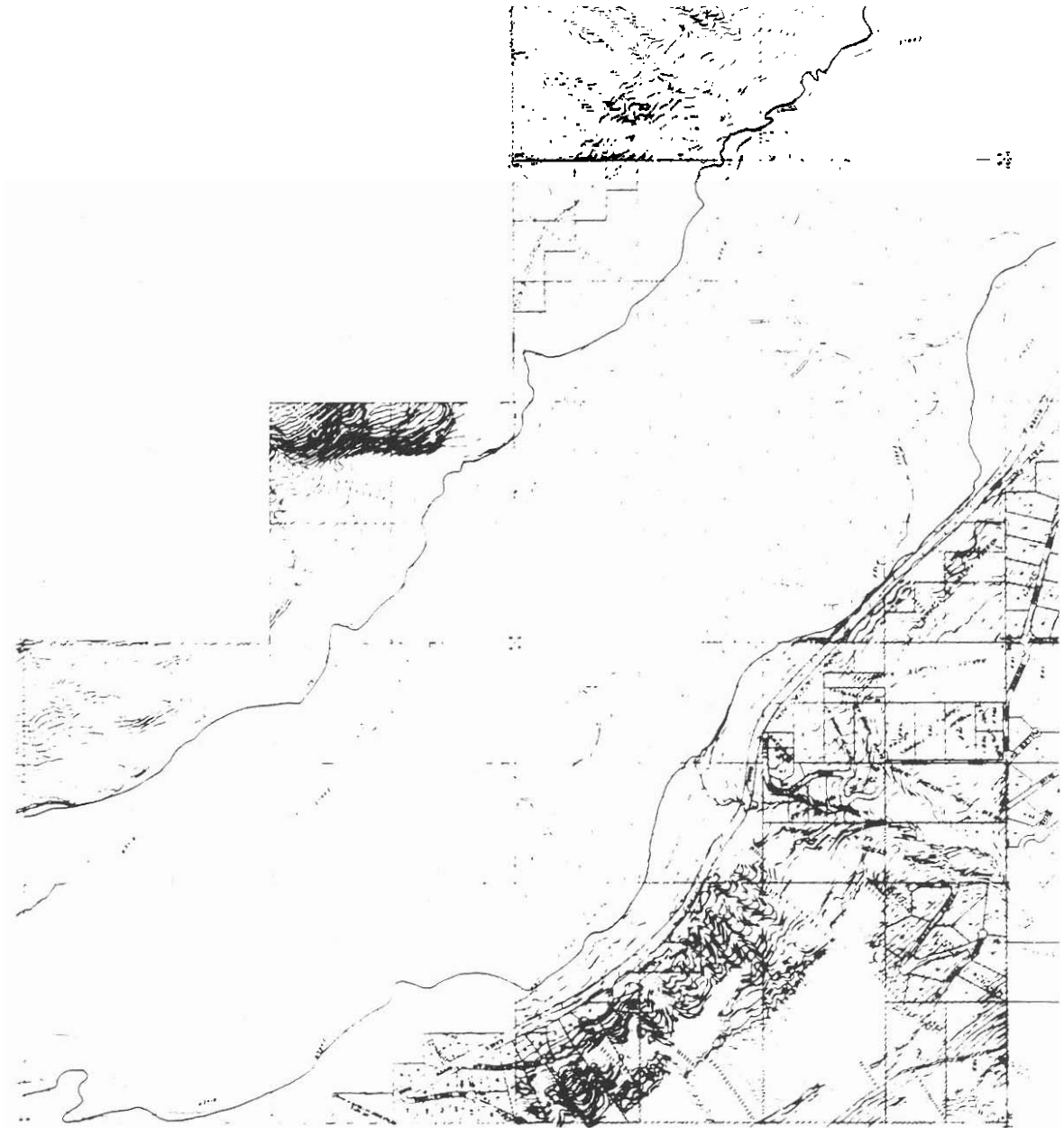


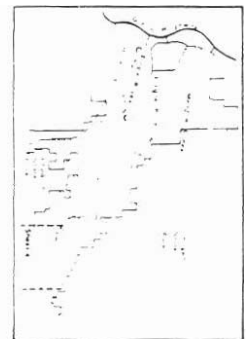
Figure 5.



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NORTH



SHEET NO. 4 4	Wetlands and Floodplain Map 4	SOURCE: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1984 (100 year floodplain and wetlands boundaries made to July and August 1984)	PROJECT TITLE EAGLE RIVER GREENBELT PLAN		TRA/Farr ARCHITECTURE ENGINEERING PLANNING INTERIORS 1001 E. BENSON BLVD., ANCHORAGE, AK 99508 (907) 277-2641	DATE: November 1984 SCALE: 1" = 100'
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and habitat functions. Some improvements such as trails, restoration work or park maintenance facilities in adjoining areas or in the wetland would be allowed while the wetlands would generally be maintained in a natural condition.

Conservation Wetlands - These wetlands would be managed in such a way as to conserve their natural functions and values to the maximum practical extent while permitting certain carefully controlled uses to occur. Development associated with these wetland-related values would be permitted, but the natural character of the wetland would be retained as much as possible. Development within conservation wetlands will be designed to protect significant wetlands values through use of open space. In these instances, the Community Planning Department would work with the landowner/developer to prepare site plans which reserve portions of the wetlands as open space. Submittals for preliminary plats in conservation wetlands, (see AMC 21.15.100(c)), are designed to inform both the developer and Municipality which areas are more sensitive and thus better suited for retention as open space.

Mixed or Cluster Development Wetlands - Wetlands where relatively high density development can occur in certain areas to allow for open space in other areas. General permits issued by the Municipality, under delegated authority from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, allow wetlands development with incorporation of certain mitigation measures. These measures would be used in those wetlands slated for development in order to preserve, as much as possible, valuable wetland functions.

Developable Wetlands - These wetlands may be developed to satisfy growth needs. General permits issued by the Municipality, under delegated authority from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, allow wetlands development with incorporation of certain mitigation measures. These measures would be used in those wetlands slated for development in order to preserve, as much as possible, valuable wetlands functions.

Unclassified Wetlands - These wetlands have been determined to be wetlands through current mapping by the Corps of Engineers, but were not classified in the Wetlands Management Plan. Generally, such areas adjacent to the Preservation or Conservation wetlands will take on that classification. Other areas adjacent to Developable wetlands or isolated wetlands will

be classified as Developable wetlands. However, Assembly action in amending the plan to classify these wetlands and the Corps' concurrence are required before these designations would be official.

Unlike the Preservation and Conservation wetlands which require Individual permits or the Developable and Mixed Development wetlands covered by General permits, unclassified wetlands may require either an Individual or Nationwide permit. A wetlands determination prepared by the Corps is advised and would provide information on the particular permit path required.

These wetlands are regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Discharges of dredged or fill material into the navigable waters and wetlands associated with other waters of the United States fall under Corps authority. Under this authority, three types of permits are issued for the placement of fill material in wetlands: Individual, General and Nationwide. Within the Municipality of Anchorage, as a result of the Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan, authority has been delegated by the Corps to the Municipality for the issuance of General permits for fill activities in any wetland classified development or mixed development. The Corps still retains its authority for any other proposed wetland fill project. An Individual permit must be obtained for projects proposed in conservation or preservation wetlands and an Individual or Nationwide permit may be required for those wetland areas previously unclassified. The Individual permit process is most exacting and may involve a lengthy review and evaluation by State and Federal resource agencies to insure that the proposed discharge is in the public interest. The General and Nationwide permit process is much less exacting and more swiftly concluded by the Municipality and Corps, respectively.

2. Floodplain

The 10-, 100-, and 1,000-year floodplains of Eagle River were determined for the Municipality by the engineering firm CH2M Hill, using the Corps of Engineers HEC-2 step backwater computer program, with cross-sections scaled from 1978 Municipal topographic maps. Subsequently, the Corps of

Engineers, as directed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency with Municipal concurrence, performed an "Approximate Study" of Eagle River, and prepared updated, though preliminary, maps reflecting the most current floodplain information available.

Both studies show that the configuration of Eagle River Valley determines width of the 100-Year floodplain. Up-valley, near the Eagle River Visitor Center, where the valley is wide and flat, Eagle River winds through the area, branching into side streams. The 100-Year floodplain in this area has numerous "channel islands" of land located between stream channels and extending above the floodplain. Proceeding down-valley, the width of the 100-Year floodplain decreases with the narrowing configuration of the river, until Eagle River is restricted to one main channel flowing between steep bluffs.

F. Water Quality

By continued protection of the river corridor, the Eagle River Greenbelt would directly aid in the preservation of water quality. As measured from one bank in the lower valley, the greenbelt reaches its narrowest width at approximately 240'. Thus, the potential for suspended sediments, oil and grease as well as increased turbidity and fecal coliform counts are greatly diminished with the creation of such a buffer. Without development adjacent to the river, the processes of runoff and erosion are much less likely to convey these pollutants to the river. Moreover, distant development should not impair water quality because such pollutants will have been removed through the filtering action of the greenbelt buffer. Finally, stormwater outfalls into Eagle River should be closely monitored to insure that proper water quality safeguards (e.g. sediment traps, oil\grease separators) are designed, built and adequately maintained. This will be particularly important as subdivisions are developed in the lower valley.

Two specific water quality concerns have been raised. Violations of the fecal coliform standard have been reported from the Hiland Mountain Correctional Center sewer outfall near the river bank by the picnic area in the Eagle River Campground. As a result, a plan for effluent control is under development which would clean up this discharge water to meet state water quality standards. In an ongoing study, state health officials will monitor and evaluate the extent of fecal coliform pollution throughout the Eagle River drainage basin. Concern has also been raised regarding leaching from the old landfill off Hiland Road draining into Eagle River. Recent tests conducted by the Department of

Environmental Conservation have, however, shown that a surface stream draining this old landfill area meets water quality standards including those for organics and heavy metals. However, the Municipality will be monitoring ground water quality from the results of one well in this area and will remain alert to the need for further study of this issue.

Water quality should continue to be an important concern in the management of the Eagle River Greenbelt. The division should work closely with the Municipality and the U.S. Corps of Engineers to make sure any developments within or adjacent to greenbelt lands are carried out without degradation of water quality.

G. Land Status

1. Land Use

The predominant developed land use is rural residential. This large lot land use pattern with on-site water and wastewater service, is dispersed along either side of Eagle River Road. A similar pattern of dispersal along or adjacent to Hiland Drive occurs on the south side (i.e., Bernard, R7R and Riverview Estates subdivisions). The exception to this pattern is the detached single family subdivisions served by public water and sewer between Eagle River Road and the bluff bordering Eagle River. Many of the early homesteads still exist, while others have been subdivided. On the south side of the valley beyond South Fork, several (less than ten) adjacent intact homesteads may still be found. The land use pattern here is still very much "frontier", a remote, almost inaccessible area located between Chugach State Park to the south and the undeveloped Eklutna, Inc.-held valley bottomlands to the north.

Aside from the residential land uses ranging in intensity from suburban to remote homesteads, institutional land use is also found in the valley. Chugach State Park frames the whole valley at higher elevations both on the north and south sides. Lion's Park at Eagle River Road and Eagle River Loop Road, the Hiland Mountain Correctional Center and the Division of Forestry Plant Materials Center are adjacent public facilities located near the greenbelt. Future public land use includes up to three alternative school sites which have been identified to serve anticipated future growth. These include elementary sites equally spaced in the upper valley between Eagle River Road and Eagle River. The

most downstream of these sites has been identified as either a high school or elementary site. Finally, on the south side, an elementary school site has been identified between the proposed bridge connection and the Glenn Highway, across from Gruening Junior High. These sites may or may not be developed in the near or even distant future. (Figures 7-10)

Recreational use of the land and water in Eagle River Valley is increasing and has led to several trespass situations. The Knik Kanoers and Kayakers, which represents the largest organized recreational use of the river, believes strongly that Eagle River is the most heavily used whitewater kayaking stream in the state. Recreational use of the valley is high despite the relatively undeveloped nature of facilities for such use. Additionally, if the king salmon enhancement plans for Eagle River are as successful as they have been at other streams in southcentral Alaska, the greenbelt will receive a significant increase in use by sport anglers. Sport fishing could become the largest recreational use of the greenbelt below the Eagle River Visitor Center. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game program of sport fishing in Eagle River was introduced late in the planning process. Therefore, it is not included in this plan. The issue will be addressed in a separate planning process involving the Division of Sport Fish (ADF&G) and the public.

2. Zoning

Recent areawide rezoning for Eagle River Valley has resulted in the first identification of a planned community district in advance of any project plans. Areas within this district, particularly at the lower valley end, may not be such long-term development prospects, however. In any event, the detailed plan review requirements of this district will provide information on the quality, quantity, and timing of such development.

The Regulatory measures associated with the zoning districts are based upon features such as slope or special limitations related to greenbelt protection of recreation. Land within these zoning districts is undeveloped at present and represents virtually all of the area encompassed in the greenbelt. Thus, these controls, unlike floodplain regulations or wetlands permitting, are yet to be used in guiding development.

LAND OWNERSHIP/SELECTION

Chugach State Park

**Chugach State Park
(Patented Except Where
Otherwise Indicated)**

Municipal Ownership

**Municipal Land Selection
(State Ownership)**

**ERIKUMA, INC.
(All Patented Lands)**

Other Private Lands

**Preliminary List
(Subdivision Name Indicated)**

**Pending Development
(No Platting Board Action as Yet)**

Land Ownership Disputes
(Litigation Reference)Eagle River Road/Hilland Drive
Connection/Bridge
(proposed)

**Connection
(proposed)**

Zoning Boundaries

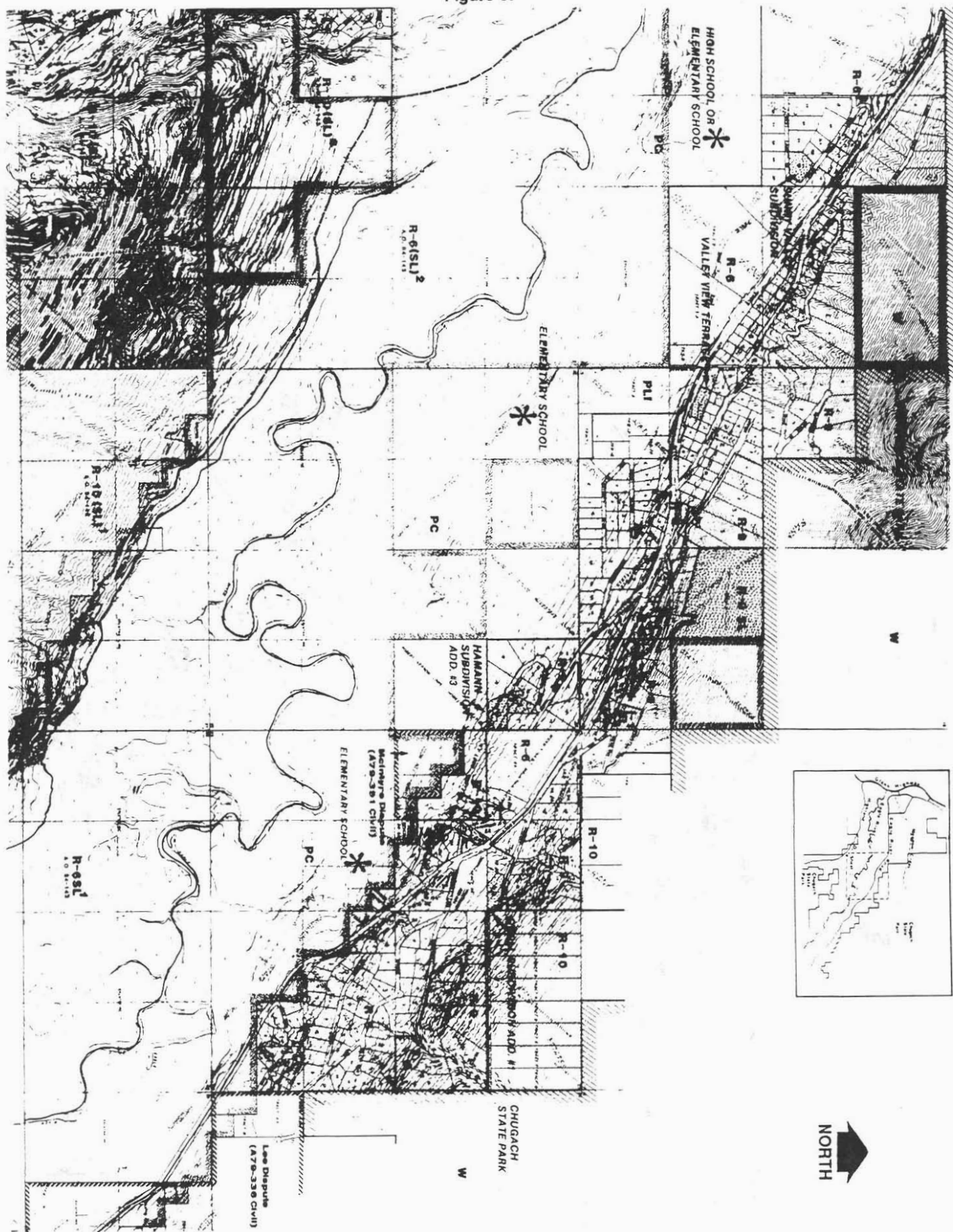
Zoning Designation

**Expanding Public Use Classroom
(60' wide). (known as 1 DB)**

Proposed Leasehold to John J. De



Figure 8.



24

<p>SHEET NO.</p> <p>2</p> <p>4</p>	<p>Land Status</p> <p>Map 5</p>	<p>SOURCE: S.O.A., Department of Community Planning Subdivision Plan, summer 1984 Consultation with Alaska Department of Natural Resources, summer 1984 Consultation with Sitka, Inc., summer and fall 1984.</p>	<p>PROJECT TITLE</p> <p>EAGLE RIVER GREENBELT PLAN</p>	<p>TRA/Farr</p>	<p>ARCHITECTURE ENGINEERING PLANNING INTERIORS 1001 E. BENSON BLVD., ANCHORAGE, AK 99508 (907) 277-2641</p>	<p>DATE: November 1984</p> <p>SCALE: 1" = 1,000'</p>
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Figure 9.

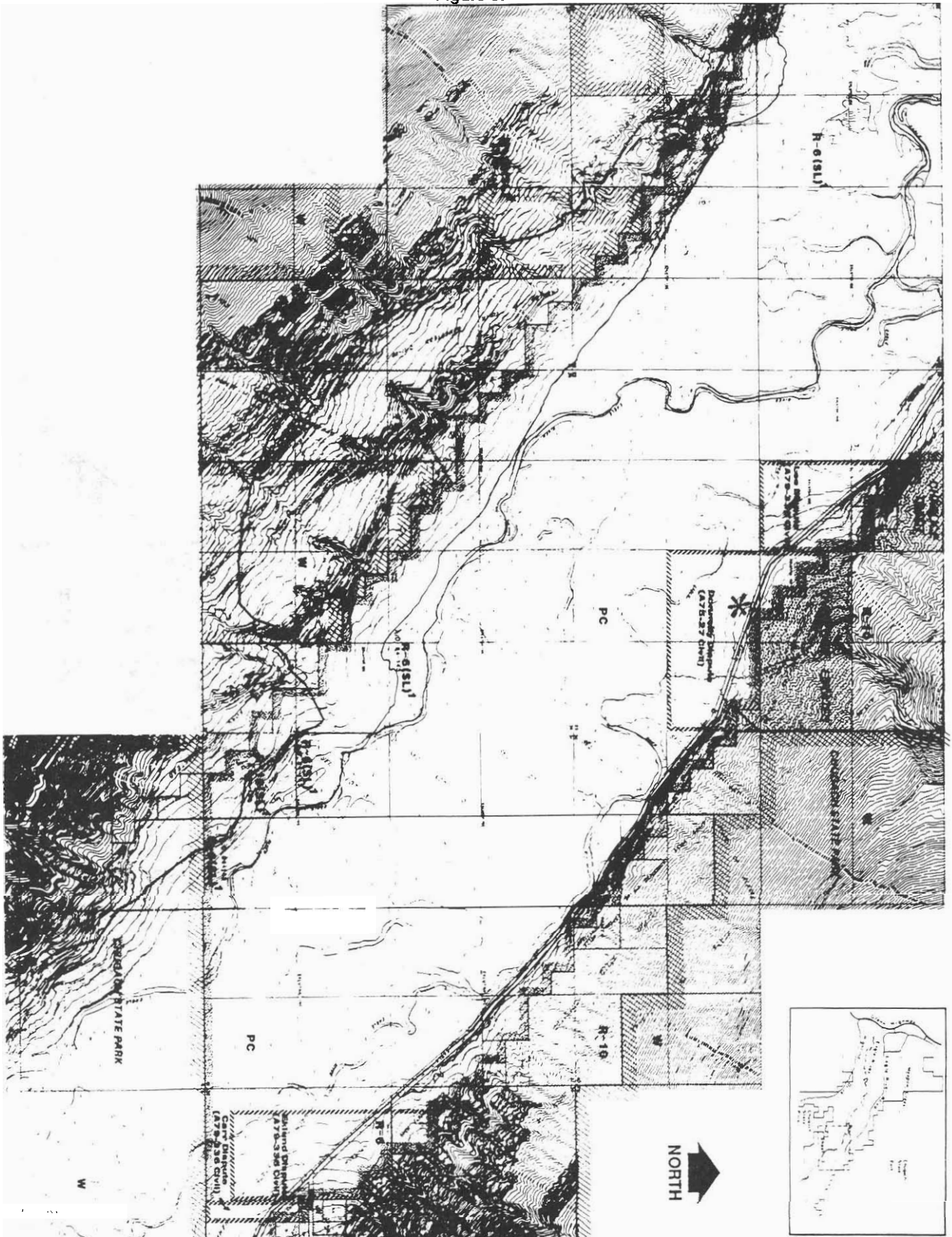
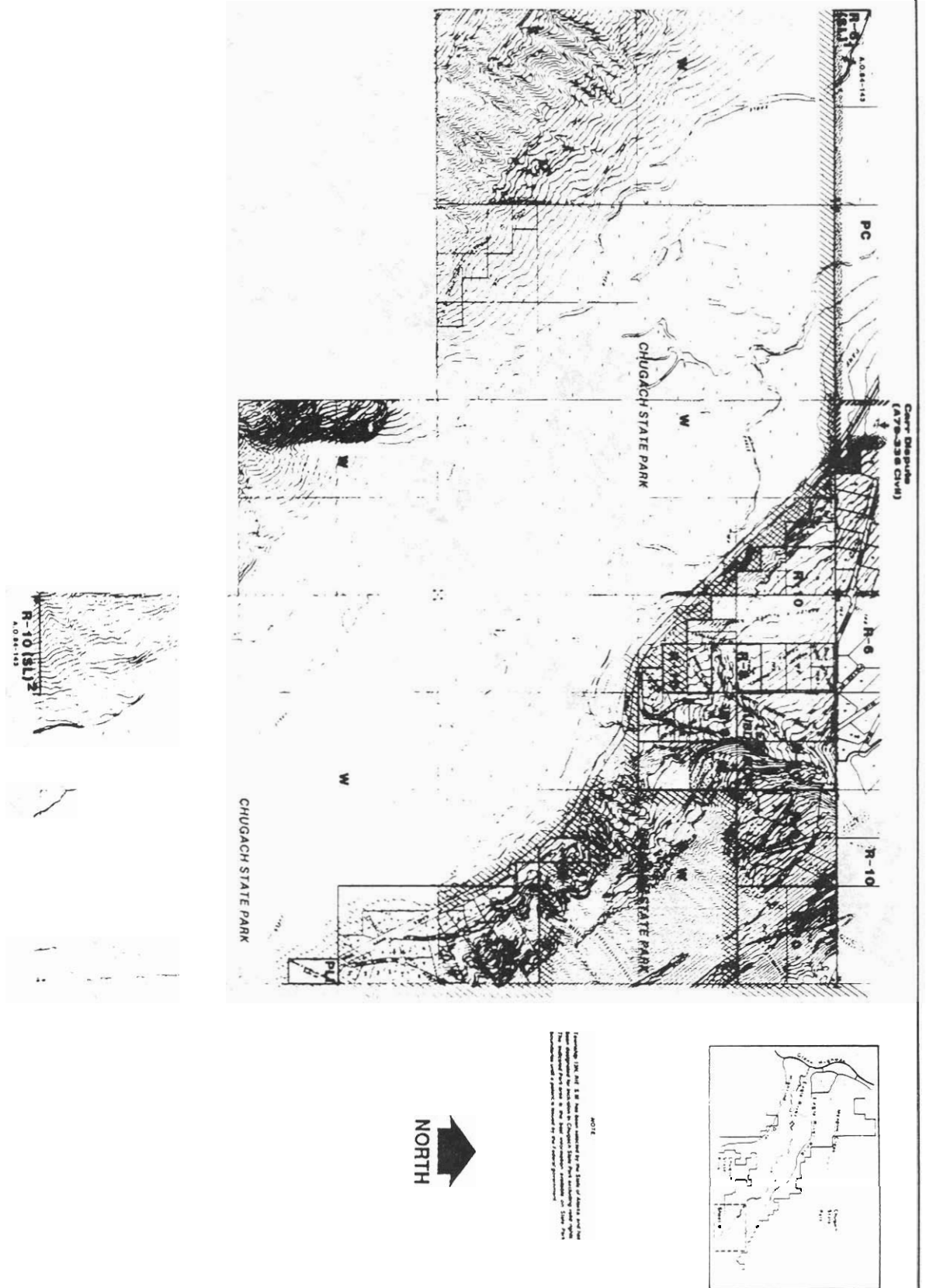


Figure 10.



The controls imposed by these districts vary. In general, the more intensely developed portion of the valley is downstream, adjacent to the existing Eagleridge and Eaglewood subdivisions. This pattern was continued in the rezoning action. Thus, the R-3 (SL) adjacent to these existing, large developments has several specific controls which should serve to protect and maintain a greenbelt along the river to accommodate a trail corridor. On the south side, the correlation between higher residential densities and increased controls is again maintained in the downstream end with the R-1A (SL). Most of the land bordering the greenbelt will, however, be subject to lower density development and controlled either by the detailed plan review required for the Planned Community District (predominantly on the north side) or the much less stringent R-6 limitations and simple plat review on the south side.

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation should monitor plans for subdivision development to assure protection of water quality, wildlife, and recreational use of the Eagle River Greenbelt.

3. Land Ownership

The Eagle River Valley "bottomlands" have remained undeveloped and used for recreation for decades due largely to the ownership history for this area. In 1925, federal land managers withdrew much of the Eagle River Valley from land disposal for possible future use in hydropower projects. While settlement occurred along the margins of this land withdrawal following World War II, no development was permitted in the federal power reserve withdrawal. Those lands now identified for the greenbelt were wholly within this reserve and were, in fact, managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as an area of open space which allowed for the continuation of recreational use. In 1970, Chugach State Park was created by the State Legislature with boundaries incorporating these reserve lands. Management agreements were forged between the State Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation and other state agencies as well as BLM permitting Chugach State Park to exercise management authority over the federal power reserve lands (up to 500' elevation) and the State Mental Health and University Trust lands as well. Thus, the use and management of these lands for recreational purposes was reinforced.

With the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971, Eklutna Village Corporation was formed entitling it to ownership of certain land base which it would manage for the benefit of its shareholders. Eklutna, Inc. subsequently selected these valley "bottomlands" and in 1979 received patent to these lands. From 1979 to 1987 Eklutna managed the lands as undeveloped open space. In 1987, the State acquired title to 3,505 acres through a land exchange with Eklutna, Inc. In this exchange, Eklutna, Inc. acquired several State-owned lots in downtown Anchorage that had been previously slated for a State office building.

Three other private landowners own land within the greenbelt. CBS Real Estate owns 75 acres in the mid-valley area. The Bear family owns 12 acres in the lower valley of both greenbelt land and the southwest portion of the South Fork Park site. Barbara Gross owns 19 acres of the South Fork Waterfalls site bordering the lower waterfalls. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation acquired 8.25 of the 19 acres in 1990. Finally, the state owns 88 acres within the Eagle River Campground and South Fork Waterfalls sites while the Municipality owns 10 acres of greenbelt lands in the lower valley.

Ownership of four other land parcels within the greenbelt (those owned by Lee, Donnelly, Eklund and Carr), are in dispute. One other parcel outside the greenbelt is also in disputed ownership. Though all the disputed land is patented to Eklutna, Inc., this issue is under litigation at present and would cloud acquisition and development of land for the greenbelt in this area.

4. Land Acquisitions

The Municipality of Anchorage identified three areas totaling 33 acres, which they viewed as important additions to the Eagle River Greenbelt due to their outstanding scenic quality, or close proximity to the river. The three areas include the Lower Falls of the South Fork, a portion of the Bear homestead, and a portion of CBS Real Estate property.

The 8.25 acre South Fork Waterfalls site consists of a portion of the Riverview Estates Subdivision on the south side of Eagle River. Part of this subdivision straddles the South Fork of Eagle River and includes the Lower Falls of South Fork. It is recommended that the additional 9.75 acres be purchased by the state in the future.

The Bear homestead is a 40 acre private parcel near the confluence of South Fork and Eagle River on the south side of the river. The 10 acre, relatively flat, wooded northeast corner of this property adjacent to South Fork was recommended for purchase in the Municipality's Eagle River Greenbelt Plan. The site is viewed as a major river access point and as a needed community park for both the wider population and South Fork residents. It is recommended that the State or the Municipality purchase or enter into a land exchange for this 10 acre site.

The CBS Real Estate property involves some 61 acres of mostly preservation wetlands. Because the CBS property comes so close to the river, it is important that approximately 5 acres of this property be acquired in order to provide the necessary corridor buffer from the river. This could provide enough land to successfully plan a trail the entire length of the greenbelt along the north side of the river. It is recommended that the State or the Municipality purchase this 5 acre parcel.

The Municipality recommended other parcels, in descending priority, to be added to the Eagle River Greenbelt. These are listed in Appendix C. It is recommended that these parcels also be purchased if funds become available in the future, however a priority should be given to the three parcels listed above.

III. ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This section of the plan will identify issues raised during the planning process and provide recommendations to resolve these issues.

Access/Parking. Five major access/parking areas were identified by the Eagle River Greenbelt Planning Team. These access/parking areas have been prioritized based upon public comment and will be developed based upon legislative funding. As demand increases, and/or as private land adjacent to the greenbelt is developed, other access/parking areas may be developed through special easements/rights-of-way or land purchases or exchanges. The Chugach State Park Master Plan addresses parking areas stating they should combine the qualities of simplicity, attractiveness, safety and function. The exact numbers of cars to be accommodated in any one area will be determined by site suitability, need and qualities of design listed above. Facilities such as restrooms, parking areas, picnic tables, benches, trails and kiosks should be provided when access points are developed. Access points will serve multiple use purposes. The following is the list of parking areas as identified as priorities by the public. (Figure 11-12)

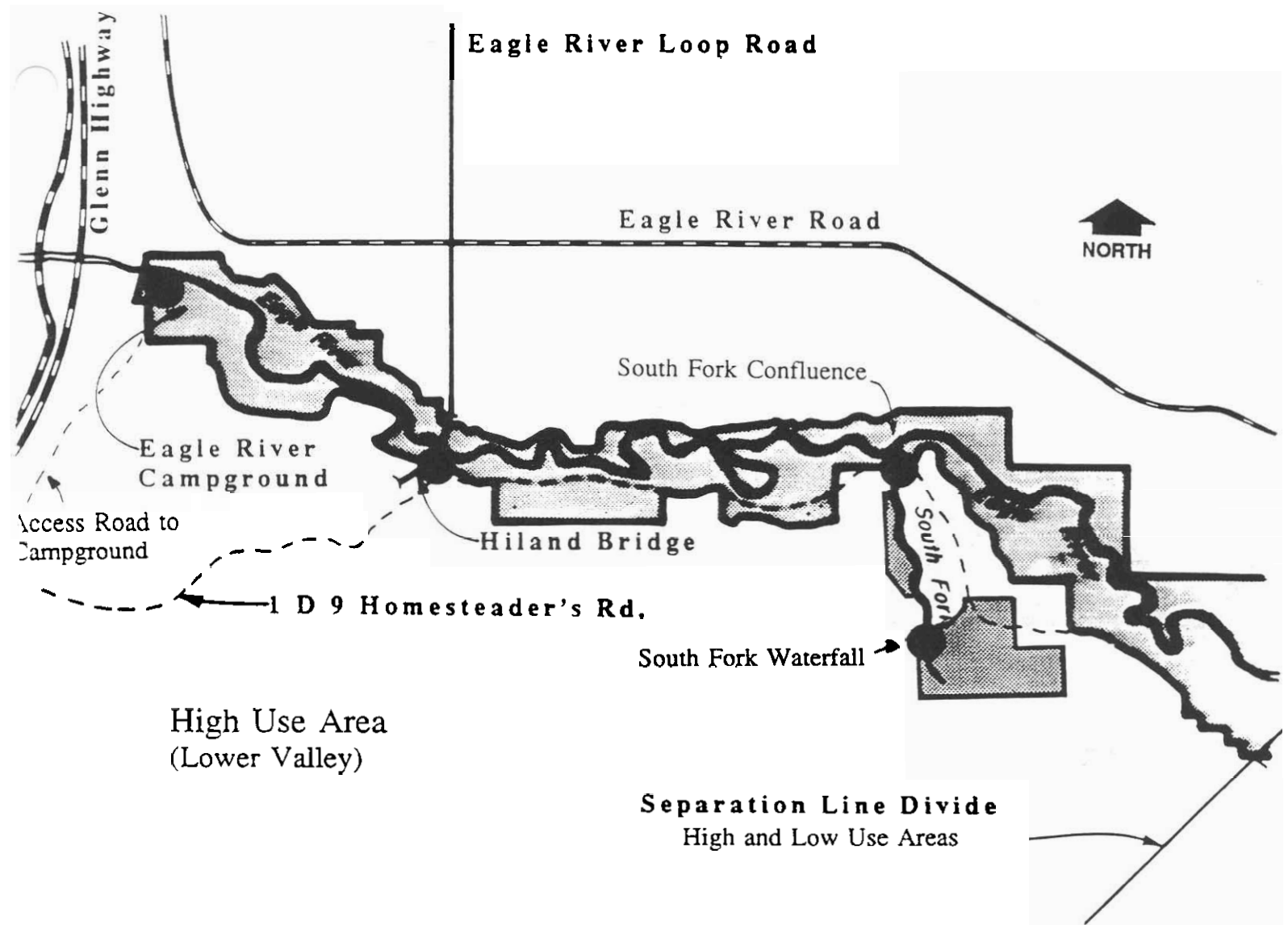
1. Roop Road (North Fork) Site
2. Eagle River Campground
3. Hiland Bridge (Southside)
4. McIntyre Road Site
5. South Fork Sites (Confluence and Waterfall)

Recommendation: The division should seek funding to begin site-specific design and construction for each parking/access area. Plans should be reviewed by the Chugach State Park Citizens' Advisory Board.

- * **All-Terrain Vehicles.** All-terrain vehicle use, other than snowmachines, is considered a non-compatible recreational use within the boundary of the Eagle River Greenbelt.

Recommendation: All-terrain vehicles, other than snowmachines, should be prohibited within the Eagle River Greenbelt area.

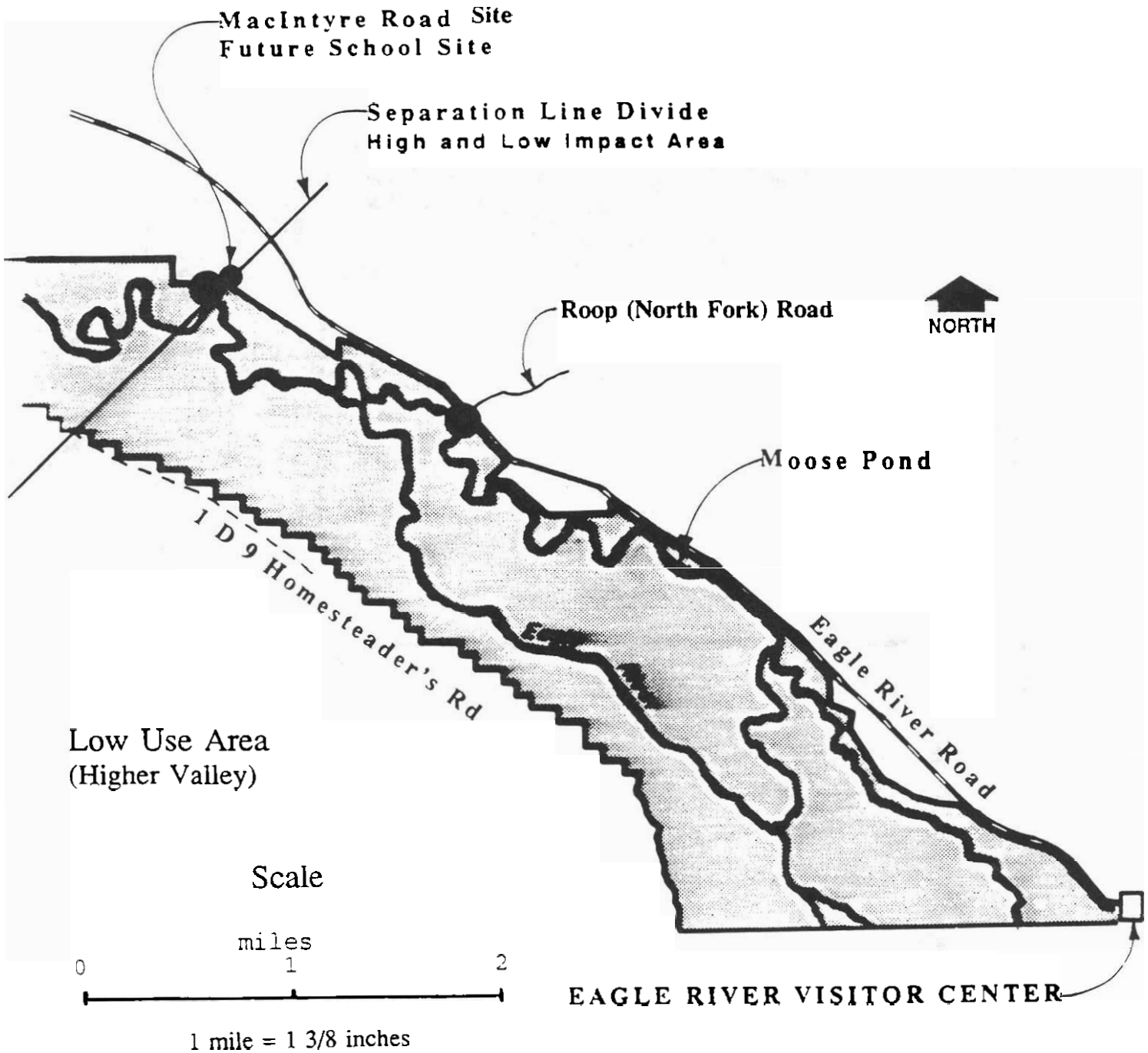
Figure 11.



- Roop (North Fork) Road Access
- McIntyre Road Site
- Hiland Bridge, South Side Access
- Eagle River Campground Expansion
- South Fork Confluence Site
- South Fork Waterfall Site

Access/Parking

Figure 10



- * **Acquisition of Land.** The 1985 Municipal Eagle River Greenbelt Plan identified 3 parcels of land, totaling 33 acres, which border the greenbelt for future purchase. These parcels are discussed in Section II, G-4 Land Acquisitions of this document. The state is acquiring 9 acres of the Barbara Gross property near the South Fork Waterfall site.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the exchange or purchase of parcels of land as prioritized in this plan be incorporated into the Eagle River Greenbelt.

- * **Area Name Change.** According to the USGS in 1989, the name "Yuklahitna" was the Indian name given to the river. Pronounced "Yukla-hina", the name literally means "Eagle River". The Chugach State Park Citizens' Advisory Board suggested the greenbelt be named "Yuklahitna". The Eagle River Greenbelt Planning Team felt, however, that a kiosk should be placed in the greenbelt honoring the native people of the area along with a historical account of how the land became a State Park Unit rather than renaming the area. The Director agreed with the Planning Team's decision.

Recommendation: The name "Yuklahitna" be used in interpretive literature and exhibits rather than an area name change.

- * **Campgrounds.** The Eagle River Campground, located near the Glenn Highway, is currently the only campground within the Eagle River Greenbelt. The Chugach State Park Master Plan calls for enlarging the existing 38-unit campground by adding up to 50 additional sites with additional separate tent and vehicle camping; removing existing units which are too close to the river and highway; and, providing a wood storage bin, firepits, tables, dumpsters, water pump and an outdoor program area.

The Master Plan additionally calls for enlarging the picnic area up to 50 sites, mostly in the vicinity of the canoe takeout area. Providing toilets, tables, firepits, 2 picnic shelters and parking for 50-75 cars and one-half mile of road.

Recommendation: The Eagle River Campground should be enlarged as stated in the Chugach State Park Master Plan. Additional parking areas and restroom facilities may be constructed as needed. The Eagle River Campground

roads and spur roads may be upgraded to pavement. No additional campground facilities are being recommended for other locations within the Eagle River Greenbelt at this time, except for no-trace camping on gravel bars.

- * **Carrying Capacity** (Eagle River, commercial and non-commercial use). Carrying capacity for both commercial and non-commercial users of the Eagle River has not yet been determined due to the lack of visitor use statistics. The Chugach State Park Master Plan Amendment called for a carrying capacity to be established in the Eagle River Greenbelt Management Plan.

Recommendation: A study of the carrying capacity for both commercial and non-commercial user's of the Eagle River should be conducted. The division should work with local river users and the Knik Kanoer's and Kayaker's group to develop a model to determine carrying capacity. Carrying capacities should be reviewed each five years.

- * **Chugach State Park Master Plan.** The Chugach State Park Master Plan included information, management objectives and a phasing development plan for the Eagle River Planning Unit. The Eagle River Greenbelt is encompassed within the planning unit.

Recommendation: The Chugach State Park Master Plan should continue to provide over-all direction for the Eagle River Greenbelt Management Plan whenever possible. The Chugach State Park Master Plan should be used whenever issues are not addressed in the Greenbelt Management Plan.

- * **Commercial Operations.** Commercial use permits will fall under regulations governing commercial use permits within Alaska State Parks. Chapter 11 AAC 18.030 (Park Use Permits for Commercial Activities)

The Chugach State Park Master Plan amendment regarding commercial activities states that: Commercial activities shall be limited in number through concession contracts rather than through park use permits. Activities related to the possible development of a downhill ski area may be allowed but shall be controlled to insure that the natural and recreational resource values of the unit are maintained.

Recommendation: The management plan shall follow the recommendations set forth by the Chugach State Park Master Plan.

* **Conflicts (Possible Recreational Use).** With any area of land where a multitude of recreational uses is allowed, recreational use conflicts occur. It is not possible to predict all of the conflicts that may occur, however the most common have been listed below.

- The poaching of both fish and game is a problem throughout the area. Additional staff presence in the area could reduce this conflict.
- The unauthorized and unjudicious use of off-road vehicles in the greenbelt creates problems for users and managers in areas where such use is damaging to the soil and vegetation and in areas that may be more suited to non-motorized recreation. Additional staff presence in the area could reduce this conflict.
- Possible conflicts could arise between cross-country skiers and snowmachiners and/or dog mushers utilizing the same trails. If this conflict arises, it is recommended that these user groups be separated and areas be signed to avoid possible conflict.
- Possible conflicts could arise between hikers and mountain bikers utilizing the same trails. If this occurs, it is recommended that certain trails or areas be signed to separate these user groups to avoid possible conflict.

Resolution of potential and real conflicts will be aired through a public process involving the Chugach State Park Citizens' Advisory Board.

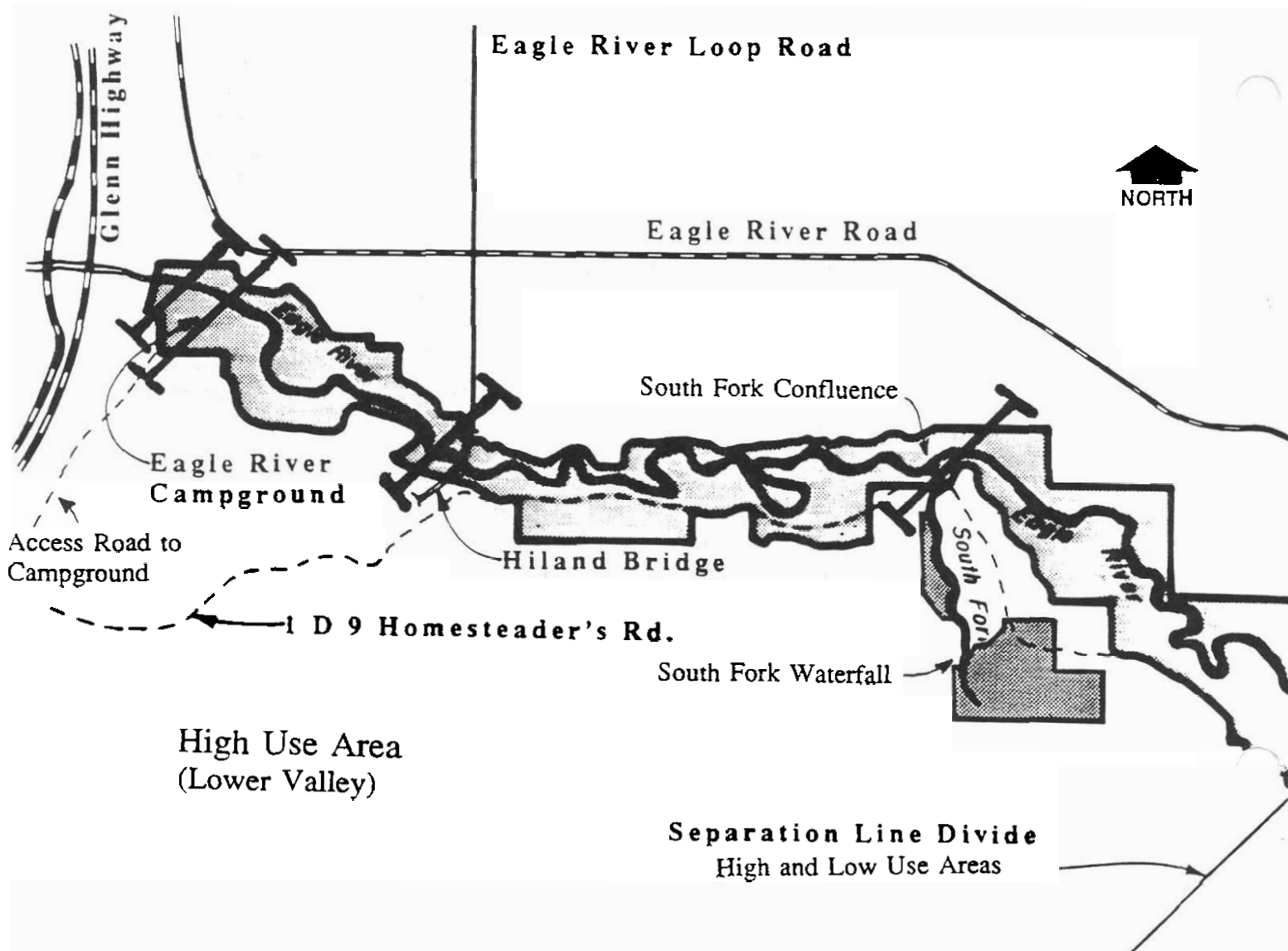
* **Dog Mushing.** This recreational use is compatible within the Eagle River Greenbelt. There is possible conflict if mushing and cross-country skiing are allowed on the same trail. Specific dog mushing trails could be signed on the river and/or gravel bars with the help of various musher organizations. Likewise, there could be conflict if mushing and snowmachines are allowed on the same trail. This should be monitored and if conflicts arise specific trails should be designated to avoid user conflict.

Recommendations: Dog mushing is compatible within the Eagle River Greenbelt and should continue to an allowed recreational use. Prescribed trails should be looked into if recreational use conflicts arise between user groups. During late autumn a training area could be established to assist mushers in preparation for the Iditarod, Yukon Quest or other dog mushing events.

- * **Eagle River Recreational Water Classification.** With the help of the Knik Canoers and Kayakers, the following are suggested recommendations for classifying the Eagle River for boater safety. An appropriate level of signing will be necessary to warn boaters of various water classifications, possible dangers, and put-in/take-out points. (Figures 13 & 14) However, sign size, color and location should be unobtrusive while still providing necessary warning.
 - Echo Bend to Rapids Camp: Class IV. Due to boulders, possible log jams, and narrow passages, this section should only be used by kayakers or the most experienced canoers. Put-in is difficult.
 - Rapids Camp to Eagle River Visitor Center: Class II. Good for the experienced canoer or kayaker.
 - Eagle River Visitor Center put-in to Moose Pond: Class I. Recommended route would be through the braids avoiding the main channel due to sweepers. Possible portages. Area should be signed to show direction to the north slough. If this is missed the next take-out could be the South Fork confluence.
 - Moose Pond to Roop Road: Class I. This is a short stretch of river with possible log jams.
 - Roop Road to South Fork Confluence: Class I. Probably the best stretch of river for general use. This area provides the sense of a real wilderness outing, which in reality is close to urban development.

- South Fork Confluence to Loop Road: Class I. Another good stretch of river for general use. Loop Road take-out should be clearly marked. Signing on the river to warn boaters of Class II whitewater beyond this point is necessary. An easy take-out point should be identified and developed.
- Loop Road to Eagle River Campground: Class II whitewater. It is recommended for experienced canoer or intermediate kayaker. The Eagle River Campground take-out should be clearly marked with a warning sign of "Class III beyond this take-out" (known as the Campground Rapids).
- Eagle River Campground Take-out to Day Use Area: Class III. During periods of high water this could reach Class IV. This section of the river is recommended for experienced boaters only. This area has been used for the Alaska State Whitewater Slalom Championship Races. The river below this point to the Eagle River Flats flows across military land, in Fort Richardson, which is outside of the Eagle River Greenbelt.

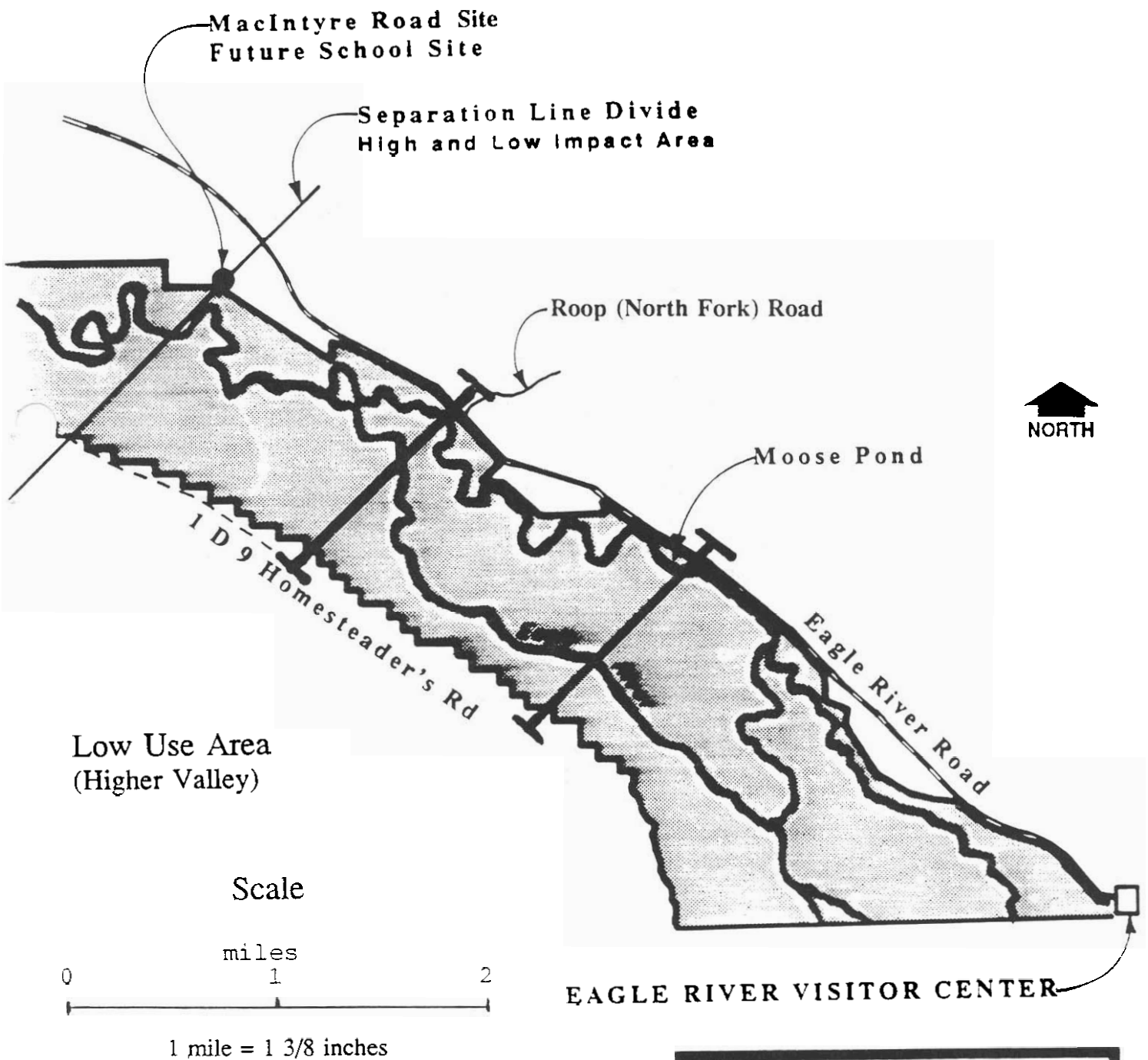
Recommendation: It is recommended that the division adopt river classes set forth by the Knik Kanoers and Kayakers Association.



THE FOLLOWING RIVER CLASSIFICATIONS ARE INDICATED ON THE MAP FROM RIGHT TO LEFT BY DIAGONAL LINES:

- * Echo Bend to Rapids Camp (located upstream from the Eagle River Visitor Center): **Class IV**
- * Rapids Camp to Eagle River Visitor Center (located upstream from the Eagle River Visitor Center): **Class II**
- * Eagle River Visitor Center put-in to Moose Pond: **Class I**
- * Moose Pond to Roop Road: **Class I**
- * Roop Road to South Fork Confluence: **Class I**
- * South Fork Confluence to Eagle River Loop Road: **Class I**
- * Eagle River Loop Road to Eagle River Campground: **Class II**
- * Eagle River Campground to Day Use Area: **Class III**

Recreational Water Classification



Rapids Camp and Echo Bend
are upriver from the Visitor
Center

- * **Land Title Encumbrances, Documented and Undocumented.** Several encumbrances are placed on land within the Eagle River Greenbelt. These are listed in the land exchange agreement between the State of Alaska and Eklutna, Inc. Documented encumbrances are those which are authorized under permit. Undocumented or unauthorized encumbrances are those without legal permit. A list of encumbrances can be found in Appendix B.

Recommendation: The division will recognize all valid land title encumbrances and easements of record and will work with parties holding an interest in these encumbrances to avoid degradation of the greenbelt's natural scenic or recreational resources.

- * **Equestrian Trails.** Equestrian use may be a compatible recreational use within the Eagle River Greenbelt when there are suitable trails to accommodate such use.

Recommendation: If suitable terrain is found the division should work with the equestrian community in the development of an equestrian trail system. Existing regulations or any changes to those regulations shall be adhered to. 11 AAC 20.030 (b) states: The use of horses, mules, and burros is subject to the following conditions: (1) groups using 10 or more animals must obtain authorization from the director under 11 AAC 18.010 before entering the state park; (2) tethering horses, mules, or burrows within 100 feet of fresh water is prohibited; (3) loose herding of animals is prohibited.

Assuming suitable terrain is found, issues of protecting the resource and resolving possible conflicts should be addressed when developing plans for equestrian trails.

- * **Fishing and Hunting Impacts/Regulations.** Under 11 AAC 20.010. Use of Weapons, the use and discharge of a weapon is prohibited in the Eagle River Greenbelt. The Department of Fish and Game regulates trapping as well as fishing within the Eagle River Greenbelt (Game Management Unit 14).

Recommendation: The division will continue to adhere to fish and game regulations set forth by ADF&G. The area will remain closed to the use and discharge of a weapon.

- * **Flightseeing.** The Federal Department of Transportation, and more specifically the Federal Aviation Administration, regulates air space. Currently, as listed in the Alaska Airman Supplement, the minimum altitude for Chugach State Park is 1,500 feet above ground level (AGL). The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation has no authority to regulate a minimum altitude for aircraft.

Recommendation: The division will monitor flight activity over the greenbelt. If user conflicts occur it is recommended the division work with the Federal Aviation Administrative to revise minimum flight elevations over the area.

- * **Golf Course Development.** The Eagle River Planning Team feels that the development of a golf course is not compatible with the management goals of the Eagle River Greenbelt Management Plan, the Chugach State Park Master Plan, or the Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework. Such recreational activities would be better suited on private or municipal lands.

Recommendation: Golf course development is prohibited within the Eagle River Greenbelt area.

- * **Hiland Bridge Crossing.** The Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF) is building a 4-lane bridge crossing the Eagle River from the Eagle Valley Loop Road, on the north side of Eagle River, connecting to the Glenn Highway west of the Hiland Road interchange. A bike trail access off the south end of the bridge is being planned to loop under the bridge. Also, an off-ramp to the 1D9 (Homesteader's Road) is planned. This ramp could be used to provide vehicular access to a parking area for river and trail use. The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation should develop this access point. Funding should be sought from the State Legislature to allow for the development of this access point during construction of the new bridge crossing.

Recommendation: The division should continue working with the Department of Transportation and seek funding to develop the Hiland Bridge access/parking area in conjunction with the construction of the bridge and connecting road.

- * **Interpretation.** The Eagle River Visitor Center currently provides natural and historical interpretative programs as well as general information for visitors to Chugach State Park. The center also provides educational opportunities for local schools, clubs and organizations. The center attracts over 42,000 visitors annually. As state tourism, area population, and recreational demand in the Eagle River Greenbelt increase, additional visitation pressures will be placed upon the visitor center.

Recommendation: It is recommended that additional staff be provided so that the visitor center can be opened 7 days per week during the summer season and a minimum of 4 days in winter. With the enlargement of the Eagle River Campground, it is recommended that an interpretive area be established for camper and river use orientation, as well as day-time and evening programs.

- * **Land-Use Zones.** The Chugach State Park Master Plan identifies three land-use classification zones for the park, and designates appropriate activities and facilities that may be permitted within each zone. The three land-use classifications include: (1) Recreation Development Zone, (2) Natural Environment Zone, (3) Wilderness Zone. Most of the Eagle River Greenbelt portion of Chugach State Park has been identified as a "Natural Zone" with pockets of land around the Eagle River Visitor Center, Eagle River Campground, and a stretch of land along the south portion of the Eagle River upstream from the South Fork designated as a Recreation Development Zone. There is no designated Wilderness Zone within the Eagle River Greenbelt. Natural Environment zones are relatively undeveloped and undisturbed, have high scenic qualities, and are accessible by trail or road and provide visitors with the opportunity for a significant natural outdoor experience. Recreation Development zones are established to meet intensive recreation needs of people by providing easy and well-defined access points into the park, and by developing appropriate facilities.

The Eagle River Planning Team further divided the Eagle River Greenbelt into two recreational use areas with the separation line being the future McIntyre School site at mile 6.6 on the Eagle River Road (refer to Figure 2.) Up-river from the McIntyre School site to the Eagle River Visitor Center is designated as a low recreational use area while down-river from the McIntyre School Site to the Eagle River Campground is designated as a high recreational use area. The lower valley is designated a high impact recreational use area due to the intensity of development that is rapidly occurring on both sides of the river, the future construction of the new bridge crossing, and the existing Eagle River Campground development. The upper valley is being viewed as a less intensive recreational use area to preserve the wildlife habitat and wildlife that presently exists.

Recommendation: The division adopt the Planning Team's recreational use areas and consider the two areas when developing facilities in each respective area.

- * **Operations Budget.** There is currently no funding available for the development or operation of any facilities including access points, parking areas, restroom facilities, etc., for the Eagle River Greenbelt. Funding will have to be appropriated by the Legislature for both facility development and additional park personnel. Park rangers currently do periodic checks within the Eagle River Greenbelt but do not have time to provide routine operational services to the area. As facilities in the Eagle River Greenbelt are developed, it is anticipated that at least one full-time year-round Park Ranger I plus a vehicle and radio will be needed to adequately manage the area. Additional staffing will also be needed if the Eagle River Visitor Center hours are extended. It is further anticipated that approximately \$10,000 will need to be appropriated for contractual services (i.e. private contracts) to clean up abandoned cars and other debris as well as provide proper signing of the area to help the public use and enjoy the area.

Recommendation: The division should seek funding to provide for one additional Park Ranger I plus a vehicle and radio; additional park staff to cover increased hours of operation at the Eagle River Visitor Center; \$10,000 for contractual services to clean up abandoned cars and other debris and to provide proper signing of the greenbelt area.

- * **Park Regulations.** The Eagle River Greenbelt is subject to the same regulations that apply to Chugach State Park (Alaska Administrative Code: Title 11, Chapters 05, 12,14,18, and 20).

Recommendation: The rules for the use and management of the Eagle River Greenbelt will be promulgated under AS 41.21, the Alaska Administrative Procedures Act and as proposed in the park master plan, this plan and subsequent step down planning or related decision-making efforts of the division.

- * **Private Inholding/Land Status.** There are no private inholdings within the Eagle River Greenbelt boundary. Several private parcels border greenbelt land. Section II-G explains land status within the greenbelt.

Recommendation: The division should monitor land use and development on lands that border the Eagle River Greenbelt to assure protection of water quality, wildlife, wildlife habitat, and recreational use of greenbelt lands.

- * **Public Use Cabins.** No public use cabins are proposed for the Eagle River Greenbelt area due to both its small size and close proximity to an urban area.

Recommendation: Public use cabins will not be constructed within the Eagle River Greenbelt area.

- * **Refuse Disposal and Clean-up.** Refuse disposal continues to be a problem on lands within the Eagle River Greenbelt. Abandoned cars and common household refuse can be found and create both visual pollution and problems of health and safety.

Recommendation: The division should seek funding to clean the area of refuse disposal. Additionally, the state should involve private citizens and local organizations, on an ongoing basis, to help clean up and maintain the Eagle River Greenbelt area. See also, Operations Budget.

- * **Resort/Ski Area Development.** In the past, there have been plans to construct a major destination downhill ski area near the South Fork confluence. Although most resort facilities were proposed to be built on private land adjacent to the Eagle River Greenbelt, some downhill ski runs and other associated facilities

were proposed on greenbelt lands. If a major downhill ski area were developed adjacent to Eagle River Greenbelt lands, it is possible that other facilities such as a ski jump, luge and bobsled could be built on private land adjacent to greenbelt land as well.

Recommendation: The resort/ski area is addressed in the amendments to the Chugach State Park Master Plan. If a resort is developed at the confluence of the South Fork or a separate downhill ski area is developed on nearby park lands, the division may develop additional associated facilities in the Eagle River Greenbelt provided that:

- i. development plans conform to the general intent of this plan, the Chugach State Park Master Plan and applicable laws and regulations;
- ii. Eagle River Greenbelt resource values are maintained;
- iii. plans are reviewed by the Chugach State Park Citizens' Advisory Board, other agencies, and the general public is given the opportunity to review and comment on the plans;
- iv. the facilities are developed to enhance public use and enjoyment of the Eagle River Greenbelt or other public park lands; and,
- v. golf courses and other intensive types of facilities which serve as attractions in and of themselves, rather than supporting public use and enjoyment of greenbelt lands, will not be allowed.

In the event that other related facilities (i.e. ski jump, luge and bobsled runs, etc.) are planned on or adjacent to Eagle River Greenbelt land, the division will work with the developer to help mitigate any adverse environmental effects the development might have on the greenbelt and its resources.

- * **Resource Protection.** Resource protection is a major management objective for the Eagle River Greenbelt. This includes, but is not limited to, the protection of wildlife, wildlife habitat, wetlands, vegetation, and air and water quality. These are important elements in the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Visitor surveys conducted by the Division of Tourism indicated that the majority of persons who come to visit Alaska come primarily because of the wildlife and wilderness character of the land. The greenbelt is an area which contains both scenic vistas and healthy populations of wildlife. By protecting and preserving wildlife and wildlife habitat, the attraction of visitors to the area will be enhanced.

Recommendation: The division should continue to work with the Department of Fish and Game in enforcing the regulations which protect wildlife within the greenbelt.

To enhance visitor experience within the Eagle River Greenbelt, selective hand thinning of vegetation may be done to improve distant vistas of Eagle Peak and foreground views of the river. Selective hand thinning could also be done to maintain a successional growth stage, for fire suppression, research and/or wildlife habitat.

Resource protection should be a primary concern in the development of any facility.

- * **Signing.** It is important that proper signing of recreational uses, specific greenbelt features and/or regulations of the Eagle River Greenbelt be implemented to help visitors understand and better utilize the area.

Recommendation: The signing of the Eagle River Greenbelt will follow the standards set by the division. This will provide continuity while insuring public safety and enjoyment and avoid the possibility of over-signing. Warning signs should be placed along the Eagle River to mark changes in river conditions, take-out points, etc., for boaters. It is recommended that informational kiosks be placed within the greenbelt, one of which to describe not only the history of the greenbelt but the importance of the area to the native people who once inhabited it. "Local Access Only" signs should be constructed in neighborhoods where a homeowners' association or subdivision developers

builds and maintains a trail that connects into the Eagle River Greenbelt. No parking facilities will be constructed at local use only access points.

- * **Snow Vehicles.** Five alternatives were considered during the planning process. The selected alternative which allows the use of snow vehicles in the greenbelt, downstream from the Eagle River Visitor Center and as adopted by the Director of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, shall constitute an amendment of the Chugach State Park Master Plan. (Figures 15 & 16)

Recommendation: To allow the use of snow vehicles on the Eagle River water courses and gravel bars from the Eagle River Visitor Center downstream to the Eagle River Campground. Further, that there is a stipulation to allow for snow vehicle access corridors from parking areas to the Eagle River water courses and gravel bars. It is recommended that the area from the Eagle River Visitor Center upriver be closed to snow vehicles.

- * **Sport Fish.** The Alaska Department of Fish and Game planted 12,000 King salmon for 1990 and plans to continue stocking Eagle River with King salmon. Should this program develop into a popular sport fishery, as has happened at a number of locations on the Kenai Peninsula and in the Susitna Valley, a major increase in public use of the greenbelt can be expected.

Recommendation: Division staff should work closely with the Sport Fish Division in ADF&G to manage the increased use of the the river in a manner that is compatible with the purposes of Chugach State Park, its master plan and this plan. Both divisions should jointly prepare a plan for public review which deals with the potential increase in public use of the greenbelt by sport anglers. The plan should address facilities needed to accommodate the use and recommend funding sources, such as federal Dingell-Johnson grant monies, to pay for the needed improvements. It is recognized that the funding priorities for the facilities recommended in these plans may need to be altered to deal with increased sport fishing use. The plan should also consider using methods

and means of harvesting controls or other management techniques as a way of focusing angling pressure on the river below the proposed MacIntyre Road Access Site, which is the portion of the greenbelt to be managed for higher intensity use.

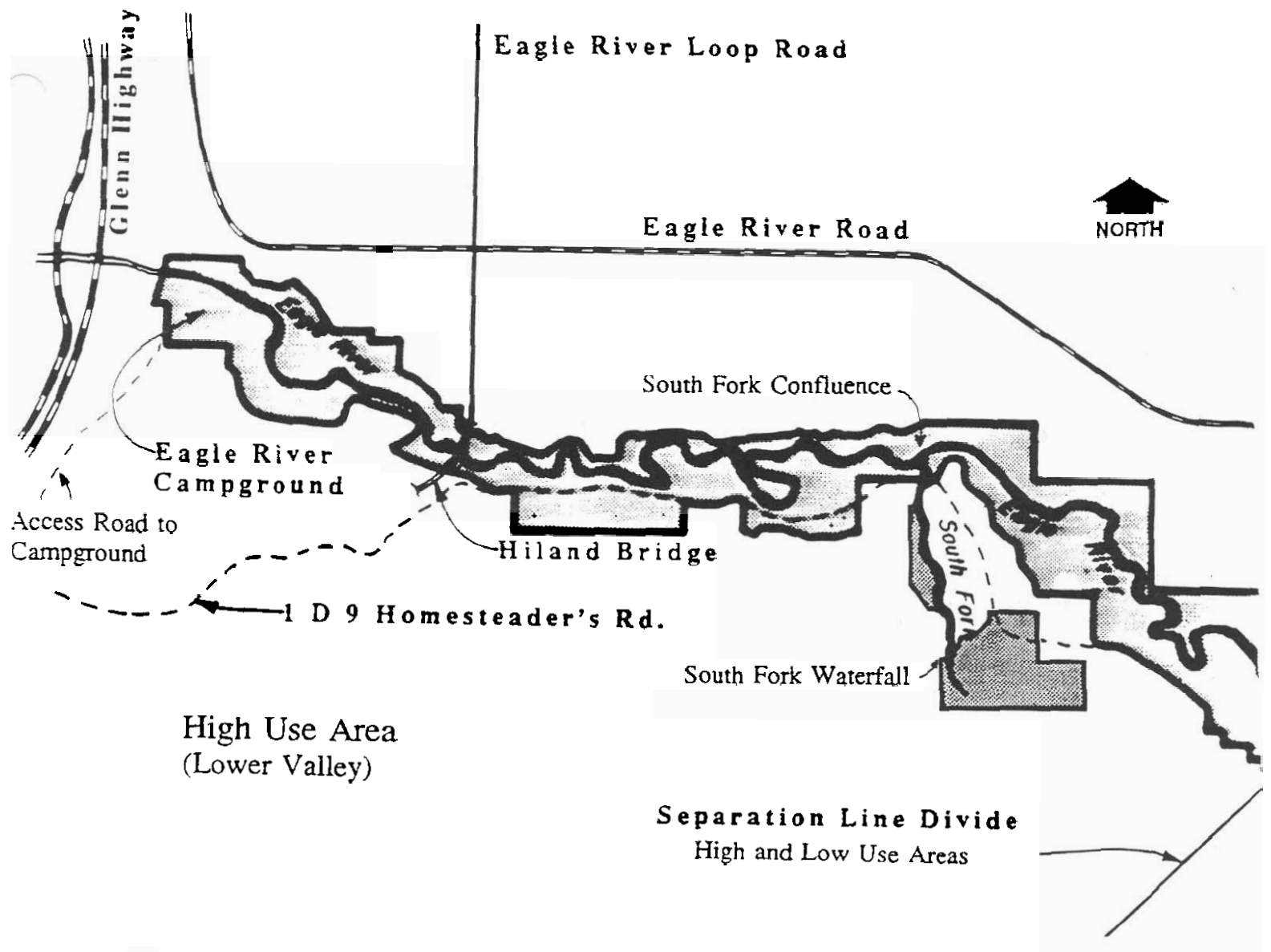
Special Note: This issue was not dealt with by the planning team because it was identified late in the planning process. The discussion of the issue and recommendation presented here are solely the work of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation staff. It was the division's view that because this issue occurred after the planning process was completed, it was not feasible or appropriate to reopen the planning process. Instead, the division has chosen to deal with this issue through a separate planning process to be conducted in conjunction with the Division of Sport Fish (ADF&G). The information presented here is intended to identify the issue and set the stage for the more detailed planning process which will include public involvement.

- * **Storm Drains.** Storm drains, with sediment traps and/or oil/grease separators, are frequently being installed in housing development areas. These facilities will help to maintain water quality in stormwater outfalls into river and drainage systems.

Recommendations: Stormwater outfalls into the Eagle River should be closely monitored to insure that proper safeguards such as sediment traps and/or oil/grease separators are built and adequately maintained. The division should continue working with the Municipality of Anchorage to guarantee the placement of these safeguards. Storm drains are addressed in section II F.

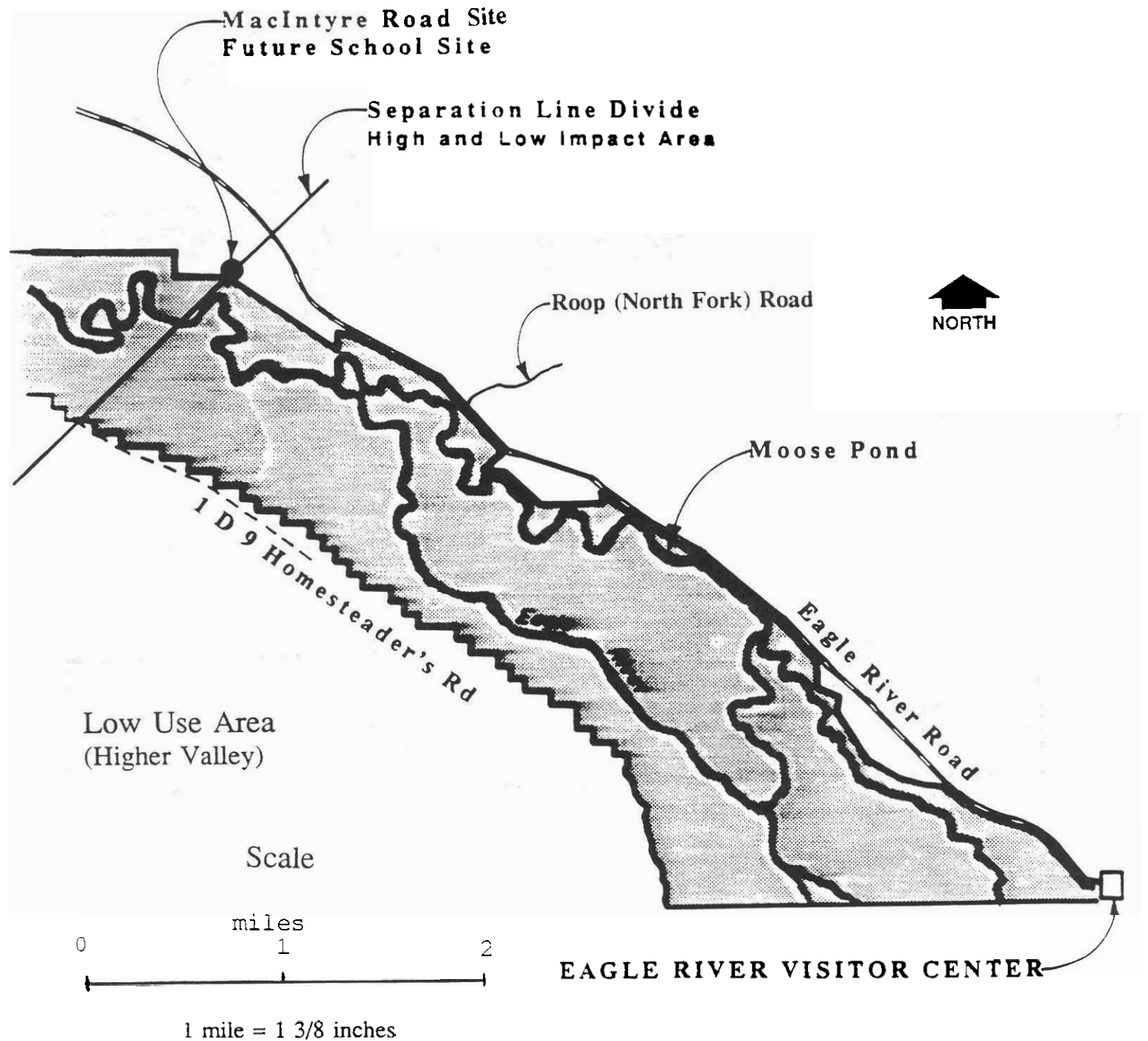
- * **Trails/Trail Design/Trail Development.** To help safeguard against resource damage or degradation and visitor safety, the proper design and location of trails and trail design is essential to the overall management of the Eagle River Greenbelt area. Four trail alternatives were considered with limiting factors for both the number of trails and specific trail classifications for the Eagle River Greenbelt. (Figures 17 & 18)

Figure 15.



It is recommended to allow the use of snow vehicles on the Eagle River water course and gravel bars from the Eagle River Campground up-river to the Eagle River Visitor Center. It is recommended that the area from the Eagle River Visitor Center up-river be closed to the use of snow vehicles.

SNOW VEHICLE USE MAP



Recommendation: The selected trail alternative for the Eagle River Greenbelt was developed from: (a) criteria in the alternative chosen by the public, and (b) through land reconnaissance by park staff. In addition, the chosen trail plan policy was designed according to the criteria in the appendix of the Chugach State Park Master Plan.

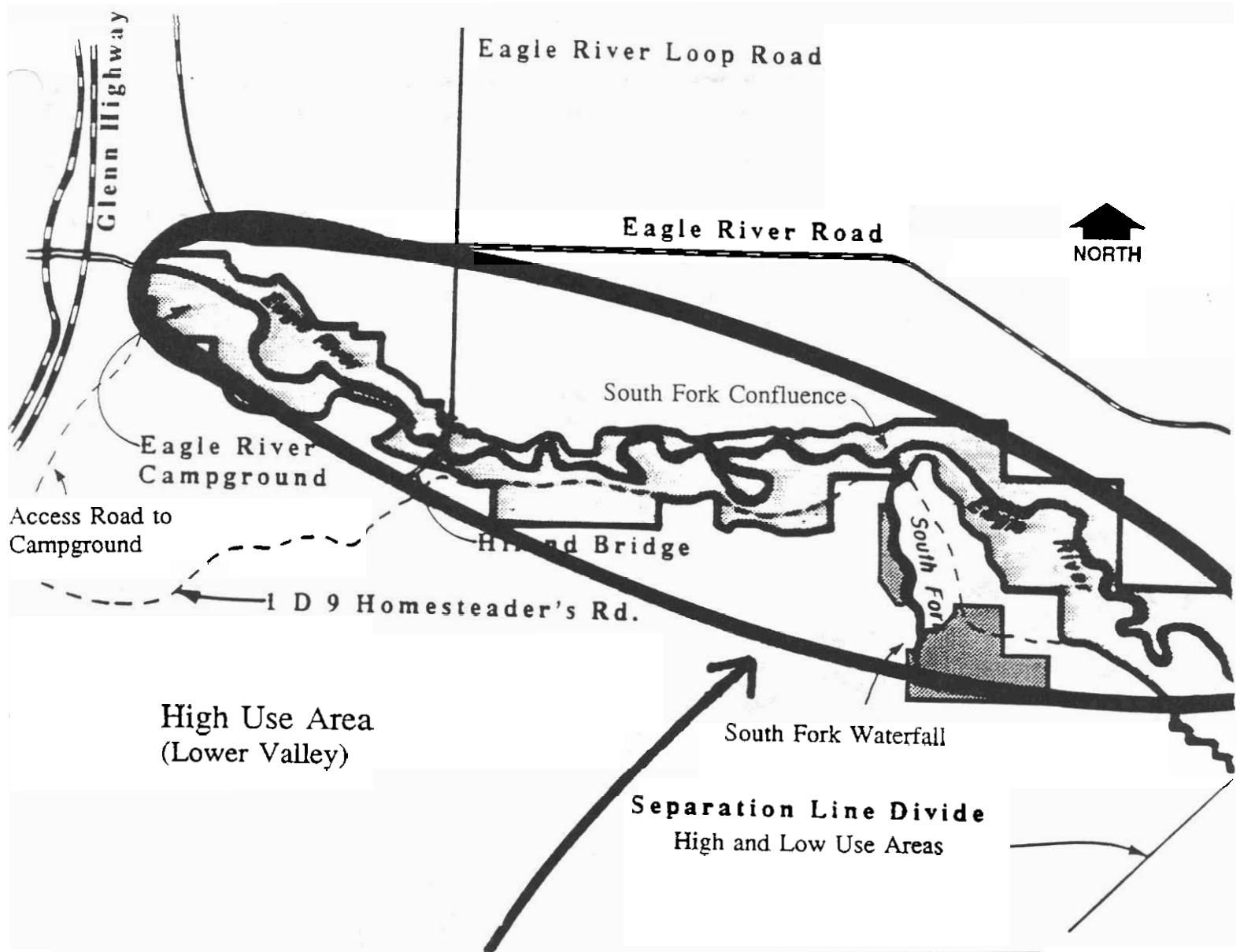
These criteria are as follows and should be adhered to during the location and construction of trails within the Eagle River Greenbelt:

- i. Every effort should be made to locate the trail in such a manner that it will blend harmoniously with the natural topography and vegetation of the area.
- ii. The alignment of a trail should not necessarily be designed for expedience, but rather to provide the opportunity for interesting viewing or to reach an interpretive or natural feature along an aesthetically pleasing route.
- iii. The grade of trail should not be steeper than 15%, except in extreme cases, and should when possible, be held to a maximum of 10%. In short stretches of not over 150 feet, and in very exceptional cases, a grade up to 20% may be permitted, but only after it has been determined that other alternatives are too costly in terms of price or environmental considerations.
- iv. In some cases trail width will necessarily vary, due to terrain features or unusual circumstances, but for the most part (depending upon trail classification), the trail should be cleared for a width of four feet.
- v. The greenbelt trails system should be connected to municipal trails in the area including the Eagle River Road and Glenn Highway bike paths.

- vi. The trail should be cleared as high overhead as can be reached. If trails are used in the winter, clearing limits need to accommodate the typical snowpack. It may be desirable, however, to leave a high overhang of branches whenever the type of forest growth will permit. An occasional low branch or other feature that may enhance the beauty of the trail may be left uncut provided that the feature is not a safety hazard. As in the case of trail width, discretion is needed.
- vii. Large trees should be cut only when it is impracticable to build around them. Trees and brush should be cut as close to the ground as possible. This practice will discourage resprouting and minimize tripping hazards.
- viii. Brush and logs from clearing should be disposed of or cut, removed and stockpiled for future use as firewood, etc. Cut vegetation which cannot be utilized should be disposed of farther into the woods. It is essential that all evidence of construction outside of the trail prism be held to a minimum.
- ix. Precipitation and run-off characteristics in a locality should be observed to properly determine the methods best suited for the disposal of drainage water. A dip in the grade of a trail is one means of disposing of drainage water. Where it is not practical to dip the grade, water breaks or culverts should be provided.
- x. Park staff should meet with various user groups prior to any trail development to seek suggestions, private expertise, and assistance.

All trails will be designed to consider resource protection, possible user groups and experience, maintenance and operating costs, site constraints, avoidance of user conflicts and public preferences.

Figure 17.



- * Up to 2 Class A Trails, up to 10 Kilometers in length from each major development in the Lower Valley (Class B or C trails could be substituted).
- * Up to 2 connecting Class A Trails within the Lower Valley (Class B or C trails could be substituted).

- * Up to 4 pedestrian bridges could be constructed anywhere in the Eagle River Greenbelt with enough clearance for river users to pass safely beneath them.

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT MAP

- * Up to 1 Class A trail, up to 10 Kilometers in length from each major development in the Upper Valley (Class B or C trails could be substituted).
- * Up to 3 Class B connecting trails in the Upper Valley (Class C trails could be substituted).

MacIntyre Road Site
Future School Site

Separation Line Divide
High and Low Impact Area



Roop (North Fork) Road

Moose Pond

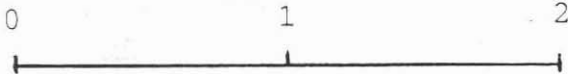
1 D 9 Homesteader's Rd

Eagle River Road

Low Use Area
(Higher Valley)

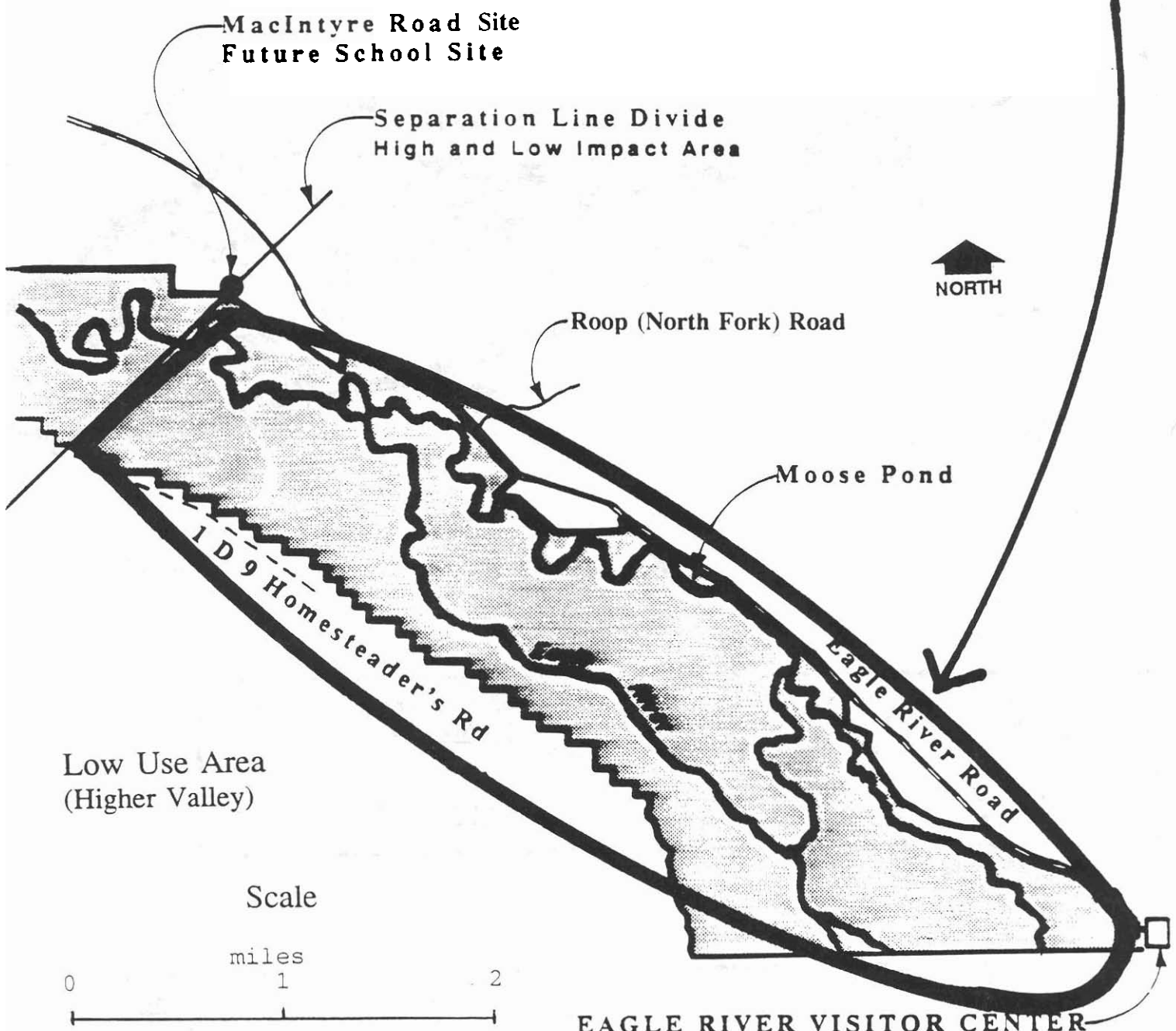
Scale

miles



1 mile = 1 3/8 inches

EAGLE RIVER VISITOR CENTER



There are three trail classifications that should be used when developing trails within the Eagle River Greenbelt. These are:

Class A Trails. Class A trails should have a tread width of 8 to 10 feet with at least one foot of additional clearing on each side. The general intent of Class A trails is to provide the capability of accommodating a large number of users at one time with little conflict. It is also to provide for activities which require trails with hardened surfaces and adequate width (natural history interpretation, dog sleds, double-track ski trails, horse trails, handicapped trails, and mountain bikes).

Class B Trails. Class B trails should have a width of 4 to 6 feet with at least one foot of additional clearing on each side. These trails are generally not hard surfaced and must be carefully located and assigned for uses which do not result in degradation or mud holes. The general intent of these trails is to provide the capability of accommodating a moderate number of visitors with little tread scarring on the landscape and lesser clearing widths than Class A trails. It is also to provide for activities which would not require hardened surfaces, precisely graded treads or additional clearing width.

Class C Trails. Class C trails should have a cleared tread width of 2 to 3 feet with a total clearing width of 4 to 6 feet. The general intent of these trails is to provide the capability of accommodating a small number of users with no appreciable tread scarring other than that which occurs with normal foot traffic. They also feature the most narrow clearing width (trees would seldom ever have to be cut; mostly just brush or scrub trees), but a width adequate for hiking, wildlife observation and exploratory skiing. Class C trails

could be established in the more sensitive landscapes such as wilderness or where narrow clearing and no tread cutting is required. In alpine areas where no clearing is necessary, Class C Trails become Routes, and are identified as such on the trail maps.

Trail Development Recommendations:

Up to 2 Class A Trails, up to 10 Kilometers in length from each major development in the **Lower Valley** (Class B or C trails could be substituted).

Up to 2 connecting Class A Trails within the **Lower Valley** (Class B or C trails could be substituted).

Up to 1 Class A trail, up to 10 Kilometers in length from each major development in the **Upper Valley** (Class B or C trails could be substituted).

Up to 3 Class B connecting trails in the **Upper Valley** (Class C trails could be substituted).

Up to 4 pedestrian bridges can be constructed anywhere in the **Eagle River Greenbelt** with enough clearance for river users to pass safely beneath them.

NOTE:

1. Lower Valley refers to the area from the Eagle River Campground up-river to the McIntyre School Site.
2. Upper Valley refers to the area from the McIntyre School Site up-river to the Eagle River Visitor Center.

3. A substitution option of one class of trail with a lower class of trail (i.e. Class B substituting for a Class A, or a Class C for a Class B trail) is permissible under this plan due to the possibility of a lack of funding. This would enable a trail to be built with less funding with the option to upgrade it at a later date.

- * **Local Trail Access/Easements.** Local trail access/easements may be needed in conjunction with Greenbelt Access/Parking areas. Trail access and/or easements could be established as subdivisions are developed on private lands which border the Eagle River Greenbelt. These access points may not require facilities such as parking areas, restrooms, etc, if used locally by those living in or within walking distance to the subdivision access area.

Recommendation: The division should work with the Municipality of Anchorage and private developers to identify and provide for local greenbelt access points. These access point should be properly signed noting "Local Access Only" and maintained, if possible, by the homeowners' association.

- * **Trespass.** Trespass across private parcels of land bordering the Eagle River Greenbelt is an ongoing problem. Currently, the most common trespass occurs across Eklutna, Inc. lands and Municipal lands at the old dump site near the Eagle River Campground; private property along the 1D9 (Homesteader's Road) which weaves in and out of the greenbelt; through subdivisions which border the greenbelt along the north side of the Eagle River; the Alascom site; and, the Roop Road access through the Donnelly private property.

Recommendation: Proper property ownership signs should be placed at access points. Acquisition of lands to allow legal access through private property is an alternative that should be pursued.

- * **Utility and Transportation Corridors.** The Hiland Bridge Crossing is due to be completed in 1992. This bridge will likely be the only major transportation corridor which bisects the greenbelt. A number of utility easements cross the greenbelt and are discussed under land encumbrances.

Recommendation: Utilities to serve private lands adjacent to the greenbelt should be planned to avoid or minimize resource damage and user vistas. All utility lines servicing greenbelt developments should be placed underground with vegetation restored to a natural appearance, whenever feasible.

If lighting is provided along access roads, parking lots, or trails, shielded lighting (sometimes referred to as architectural lighting with type 2 reflectors) is recommended. This type of fixture reflects the lighting downward and prevents the light from illuminating the night sky. (See also Encumbrances)

- * **Visitor/Visit Count.** It is important that visitor/visit counts be maintained for the Eagle River Greenbelt. This information is essential to help meet increased visitor use needs.

Recommendations: Accurate and complete visitor/visit statistics should be maintained for the Eagle River Greenbelt. Attendance figures are necessary to measure use preferences and trends. With this information new developments can be carried out to meet visitor demands. Trail registers should be put at all trailheads. Methods of counting visitors might include mechanically triggered trail counters, photo-electric counters, car counts and observations. Surveys of visitors could be utilized if authorized by the Director.

- * **Wetlands.** To develop or modify wetland areas within the Eagle River Greenbelt requires a permit be issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the division protect and preserve wetlands within the Eagle River Greenbelt area. That open communication continues between the division and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. And, that any facility development follow legal permit regulations through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

- * **Wildlife.** Wildlife within the Eagle River Greenbelt is a valuable resource. The presence or lack of wildlife can be an indicator of human impact and use on a particular area. Wildlife populations and their habitat should be given close consideration in the development of facilities and related amenities.

Recommendation: Data on wildlife populations, patterns and habitat changes as well as private development on lands bordering the greenbelt should be gathered on a

year-round basis to keep wildlife population numbers in check. Volunteers or university students could gather this information.

IV. ACCESS/PARKING OPTIONS

The following prioritized list for the development of access/parking areas within the Eagle River Greenbelt was developed by the public. Priorities may change based on funding opportunities and needs.

1. Roop Road (North Fork) Access
2. Eagle River Campground Expansion
3. Hiland Bridge Crossing, South Side Access Point
4. McIntyre Road Site
5. South Fork Waterfall Site
6. South Fork Confluence

V. MANAGEMENT DIRECTION/IMPLEMENTATION

A. Phasing

The Eagle River Greenbelt Management Plan should implement a system of phasing based upon the Chugach State Park Master Plan, results from public meetings and written comments on the draft management plan, and to meet facility need and demand. Phasing of major development will follow the Chugach State Park Master Plan. Additional recommendations made in this plan will be implemented depending upon funding and manpower and public priorities previously discussed.

B. Plan Reviews/Modifications/Amendments

It is recommended that every 5 years a review of the management plan be initiated. Interim comments or suggestions regarding policy changes, social or economic conditions, natural or man-made modifications upon the resource, fluctuations in wildlife populations, water quality, or other concerns which effect the management of the greenbelt should be kept on file and brought out for discussion during each review period.

Management plan updates could result in the following actions:

- * **No changes of the plan.**
- * **Modification of the plan.** This would imply minor changes that do not alter the intent of the original management plan. Modifications may include the incorporation of new resource information, update of social and recreational data, and/or the clarification or expansion of original plan recommendations. Any modifications would first be reviewed by the Chugach State Park Citizens' Advisory Board. Their suggestions would then be given to the director. The director may decide to solicit public comment on the modification. Decisions of the director regarding plan modifications may be appealed to the commissioner.
- * **Amendments of the plan.** Plan amendments add, alter or modify the plan's basic intent. Amendments to the plan require public notice and review prior to adoption. Amendments shall be reviewed by the Chugach State Park Citizens' Advisory Board. Their suggestions will be given to the director. Decisions of the

director regarding plan amendments may be appealed to the commissioner.

APPENDIX

A. Chugach State Park Master Plan: Eagle River Planning Unit Development and Phasing Plan

The following are taken from the Chugach State Park Master Plan. The Eagle River Greenbelt was identified in the Master Plan as a "Planning Unit". A Phasing Development chart was included at the end of the Master Plan. Many of the facilities anticipated to be developed in Phase A are complete. The Eagle River Greenbelt Management Plan will continue to follow Master Plan phasing when possible.

PHASE A

- * Visitor Center and Ranger Station
- * Iditarod Trail and Eagle River Trailhead
- * Iditarod Trail (Visitor Center to Crow Pass)
- * Picnic Tables (Visitor Center)
- * Nature Trail and Canoe Portage (Visitor Center to River)
- * Eagle River Canoe Trail (Visitor Center to Power crossing above Eagle River Campground)
- * Picnic Area and Trailhead (Mile 11.1)
- * Canoe Take-out (Mile 9.3)
- * Canoe Take-out at Powerline
- * Canoe Take-out at Campground
- * Campground and Picnic Area Expansion

PHASE B

- * Cross-Country Ski Trails (Adjacent to Lion's Park)
- * Canoe Trail Access and Picnic Area (Mile 8.1)

PHASE C

- * South Fork Trailhead
- * South Fork Trail
- * Canoe Trail Access and Picnic Area (Mile 7.4)

PHASE D

- * Campground Picnic Area/Trailhead
- * Campground Trailhead
- * Trail (South Side of Eagle River)

B. Land Title Encumbrances: Documented and Undocumented

DOCUMENTED

- * (R/W #31) Easement to DOT&PF for Eagle River bridge crossing. Variable length and width. 21.6389 acres. DOT&PF project file A8428\53121.
- * (R/W #33) Easement to Matanuska Electric Association, Inc. for a transmission and distribution line. Parallels section line in Section 13, T14N,R2W,S.M. 15 feet on each side of pole centerline. Lies partially within R/W #31.
- * (R.W #35) Easement reserved to Eklutna, Inc. for a sewer and waterline crossing. Forty feet wide. This line is not built. It is involved in Corps of Engineer Permit #071-OYD-4-860429. Most of this alignment lies within Eklutna, Inc. R/W #31.
- * (R/W #26) Letter of Entry to ripen into a 10-foot wide permanent easement for a natural gas pipeline for ENSTAR Natural Gas Company.
- * (R/W #39 & 40) EIN 61 (BLM File #AA25016). This is a 100-foot wide electrical transmission easement extending easterly from Section 19, T14N,R1W,S.M. to Section 16, T14N,R1W,S.M. This powerline is often referred to as the Briggs Transmission Line.
- * A 30-foot wide (15 feet each side of centerline) electric distribution line for Matanuska Electric Association., Inc. within the S2NW4 of Section 21, T14N,R1W,S.M. The east-west leg of this line lies within the 100-foot wide easement identified as EIN 61.

- * A 200-foot wide floating easement across lands acquired by the state in accordance with this agreement in the SE4NE4 of Section 20 and SW4NW4 of Section 21, T14N,R1W,S.M. to accommodate a public road with bridge, and public utilities. If this easement is used, an as-built alignment will be provided and reduced down to a 100-foot wide easement.
- * EIN 1. A 60-foot wide easement for the Lower Eagle River Trail shown on the U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Map. This road extends from Section 24, T14N,R2W,S.M. easterly and southeasterly through Section 31, T14N,R1E,S.M.
- * The 17(b)(3) easement for EIN 1D9 reserved in Patent No 50-79-0094 will be expanded from the current 60-foot width to 100 feet where it passes through lands acquired by the state pursuant to this agreement to accommodate a future public road and public utilities. This easement can be adjusted to provide for a more desirable alignment.
- * EIN 59. A 60-foot wide easement for old Eagle River Road on the north side of the river. This old road is separate from the existing Eagle River Road that is upgraded and maintained by DOT&PF.
- * A right-of-way A-046425, twenty-five (25) feet each side of the centerline located in Sections 23,24,25, T14N,R1W,S.M. and Section 30,31,32, T14N,R1E,S.M. for an electric distribution line for the Matanuska Electric Association, Inc. This powerline parallels the Eagle River Road and in many instances lies within the road right-of-way.
- * Lands identified by Municipality of Anchorage permit 84-6003 in the SW4, Sec 18, T14N,R1W,S.M. shall remain available for use as a fill site for ten (10) years from the date of execution of this agreement. Use and restoration of this site shall conform to the conditions specified on the Municipality of Anchorage permit 84-6003.
- * Eklutna, Inc. reserves an access easement as follows: North 100 feet of the NE4SE4 and the north 100 feet of the east 100 feet NW4SE4, Section 22, T14N,R1W,S.M.

UNDOCUMENTED OR UNAUTHORIZED ENCUMBRANCES

- * The Eklund homestead litigation (A79-336 Civil) and Carr homestead litigation (A79-336 Civil) are within Section 32, T14N,R1E,S.M. These are homestead claims that were denied to the applicants by the Bureau of Land Management. The plaintiffs have lost in the District Court. The 9th Circuit Court affirmed the District Court, but a petition for rehearing is pending.
- * The Donnelly homestead dispute is within the E2 of Section 25, T14N,R1W, S.M. Donnelly also claims to have a right-of-land under 14(c)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The Federal District Court has ruled against Donnelly on his claims, but has not yet entered an appealable judgement. However, Donnelly has already filed a Notice of Appeal to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.
- * The Lee homestead litigation is within the NW4 of Section 25, T14N,R1W.S.M. and has been joined with the Eklund and Carr cases referred to in (1) above. The Lee 14(c)(1) claim has been joined with the Donnelly case referred to in (2) above.
- * The McIntyre homestead litigation is within Section 23, T1N,R1W,S.M. McIntyre lost his claim for a homestead in the 9th Circuit Court. The District Court still has before it his claim under 14(c)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. McIntyre has expanded his 14(c)(1) claim beyond the boundaries of his homestead claim.
- * There may be claims for right-of-access to homestead lands to the south of the ANCSA 17(b) easement E1N 1-9. The homesteaders built their roads long before ANCSA but the BLM did not reserve these lesser easements in the patent. Eklutna, Inc. does not have a list of who those users might be.
- * There appears to be a telephone line buried along the section line common to Section 13, T14N,R2W,S.M. and Section 19, T14N,R1W,S.M. Eklutna, Inc. has contacted the Matanuska

Telephone Association on many occasions to determine if they had an easement of record. None has been provided, however, they did apparently apply for an easement at one time.

C. Land Acquisitions (non-critical)

The following is a list of lands outside of the State Eagle River Greenbelt boundary that were recommended by the Municipality as non-critical acquisitions in an Assembly Memorandum (No. AIM 178-87) dated June 23, 1987.

1. (Eklutna, Inc.) part of Dena'ina Estates, a subdivision with preliminary plat approval (Case S-8482). One of the conditions of approval provides:

A final plat shall provide for a dedication of a 20-foot wide undisturbed vegetative easement from the tip of the bluff as depicted in the petitioner's Exhibit B/Site Slope Analysis and Buildable Areas, dated June 12, 1986. The building setback from the top of the bluff line is 30 feet.

No acquisition necessary. In the event this plat is not filed, similar buffering should be required on a different plat.

2. (Eklutna, Inc.) part of Dena'ina Estates, a subdivision with preliminary plat approval (Case S-8482). One of the conditions of approval provides:

A final plat shall reflect the splitting out of Tract A as depicted by the Municipal Community Planning Exhibit A - Reserve Tract and as reflected in the Municipal "Eagle River Greenbelt Plan," Map 1 of 4, Page 30, and which includes Phase 4 to be designated as a reserve tract for purposes of greenbelt acquisition according to a letter dated May 30, 1986 from the Municipality which states its intention to provide for acquisition.

This area 2 includes approximately 22 acres within the original identified Eagle River Greenbelt, known in the Dena'ina Estates plat as Phase IV. The original intention of the Municipality to acquire area 2 was based on the need to maintain a bicycle trail linkage for the greenbelt trail system on the south side of Eagle

River. Upon detailed field analysis, it is believed that the excessive slopes would make the provision of such linkage prohibitively expensive. Thus, it is now intended that a footpath be provided within the state-acquired greenbelt around area 2.

Consequently, the Municipality no longer has the intention of acquiring this area. The Municipality will initiate an amendment to the plat to remove the condition which called for the reserve tracking of the Phase IV area.

3. (Eklutna, Inc.) parts are critical for trail corridor and buffering. The demarcation line of the state acquisition area was based upon a possible trail corridor which was identified during the course of the boundary survey in 1986. The state acquisition area included a trail corridor, but no buffer area. However, the Municipality had previously identified a trail corridor with an adjoining buffer area on the north side of Eagle River. The Municipality-identified trail corridor and buffer areas were protected by special limitations placed on the zoning in 1984. Specifically, the R-3SL zone applicable to area 7 as per AO 84-101 Section 7, Paragraph 10 states:

Unless authorized as part of the Master Development Plan Review, development shall be prohibited between the mean high water of Eagle River and the trail corridor identified in Exhibit B, and within 150 feet of the northern boundary of the trail corridor. Deviation from the 150 feet vegetative buffer adjoining the trail corridor may be permitted. Such deviations shall only be authorized as part of the master Development Plan Review, and only if it can be demonstrated upon review of geotechnical, visual and noise information submitted by the applicant, that a lesser width would not jeopardize the design of the trail corridor and its associated vegetative buffer.

Nearly all of the Municipal-identified trail corridor along the north side of Eagle River in Section 17 and 18 is located within the state acquisition area. There are two parts of the trail corridor, however, which total approximately 1,770 feet, that are outside the acquisition area. They are located in the southeast quarter section of Section 18 and the southwest quarter section

of Section 17. The Municipality questions whether the trail can be located wholly within the state acquisition area given the dynamic physical characteristics of the area. Thus, while a couple portions of the trail corridor and much of the buffer area are outside the acquisition area, the Municipality intends to rely on the zoning special limitation to adequately resolve the location of the trail and dimension of the buffer area. It is essentially the same process for trail locating and buffer dimensioning that was done for the Innsbruck plat. Under that process, there is enough flexibility to resolve the difference between the two trial corridors in a practical manner.

In addition 11 additional areas were identified. Three as critical, which can be found in Section II, G4, plus eight that were recommended not to be acquired with no buffering necessary.

Finally, Municipal policy regarding those properties outside the state greenbelt acquisition area is:

- a. The Municipality reserves the right to separately acquire the three critical greenbelt lands (CBS property site, Bear Homestead property site, and South Fork Waterfall site) acknowledged in Section II, G4.
- b. The Municipality may use existing authorities in the review of subdivisions to acquire the three critical areas identified in 1. above, (AMC 21.80.100), and to dedicate trail easements on other lands, (AMC 21.80.060). No reserve tract will be designated without a reasonable expectation that sufficient funds will be available for Municipal purchase. This expectation and intent to purchase will be conveyed in writing to the Platting Board. Trail easement will not exceed a maximum width of 25 feet and will include the trails identified in the Greenbelt Plan Map (following page 30 in the Municipal Eagle River Greenbelt Plan). Additionally, connecting trails may be required to allow for access to the Greenbelt at approximately quarter-mile to half-mile intervals, or wherever practical and reasonable based upon future development patterns and physical features.
- c. The Municipality will work cooperatively with the

landowner to establish a building setback or buffer area which may contain the trail easement in order to separate trail users from adjacent developed uses.

D. EAGLE RIVER GREENBELT PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS

- * Mr. David Christy; Private Citizen
- * Mr. Dale Tubbs; Eklutna, Inc.
- * Mr. Hadley Jenner; Anchorage Municipality
- * Ms. Anne Ziesmer-Hays; Private Citizen
- * Mr. Dave Young; Chugach S.P. Citizens' Advisory Board
- * Mr. Harvey Engle; Eagle River Valley Community Council
- * Mr. Stan Carrick; DNR/DGGS (non-voting)
- * Mr. Cliff Eames; Alaska Center for the Environment
- * Mrs. Jean Marx; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (non-voting)
- * Mr. Ron Godden; Alaska Snowmachine Association
- * Mr. Jerry Dunn; Knik Kanoers & Kayakers
- * Mr. Bruce Stafford; DNR/DLWM (non-voting)
- * Mr. Phil Brna; ADF&G/Habitat Division
- * Ms. Linda Wermers; South Fork Community Council
- * Ms. Sandy Kelly; Equestrian Community member

E. Acknowledgment

The Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation would like to thank the Eagle River Greenbelt Planning Team members, staff members John S. Thiede and Diane Showalter, and all others who helped with the completion of this management plan.

F. Plat of Eagle River Greenbelt

