



ALASKA'S OUTDOOR LEGACY

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
(SCORP)
2004 – 2009



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STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

July 19, 2004

Dear Alaskans:

I am pleased to present Alaska's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). This document references preferences, use trends, and issues important to outdoor recreation in Alaska.

Entitled "Alaska's Outdoor Legacy", the plan is a broad look at the outdoor life that is an essential part of our Alaska lifestyle. The importance of recreation to Alaskans is shown by strong support for recreation programs and participation rates in a variety of outdoor activities.

The SCORP plan embraces the concerns of the citizens of Alaska and provides direction and priorities needed to implement strong outdoor recreation programs at all levels of government and the private sector. The objectives identified in the plan: developing a secure funding base for outdoor recreation and maintenance, expanding recreation opportunities on public lands, improving access to recreation resources, and accommodating close-to-home recreation needs will require all of our collective efforts to meet.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank H. Murkowski".

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor

ALASKA'S OUTDOOR LEGACY

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2004 – 2009

State of Alaska
Frank H. Murkowski,
Governor

Department of Natural Resources
Tom Irwin,
Commissioner

Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (Alaska State Parks)
Gary Morrison,
Director

July 2004

This document meets the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) requirements for continued state eligibility to receive matching federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF).

The preparation of the plan was financed in part through a planning grant from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, under provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578, as amended).

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2004-2009 (SCORP) explores outdoor recreation-related preferences, issues, use trends, needs and existing and potential facility development. It assists recreation providers, advisory boards, user groups and the public in making outdoor recreation decisions. Alaska State Parks is the lead agency in the development of the SCORP. The plan is available to all interested parties including recreation providers, communities and the public statewide. The SCORP also maintains Alaska's eligibility to participate in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program.

THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE: With 366 million acres and 47,300 miles of shoreline, Alaska is a land of dynamics and extremes, matched by a rich and diverse biota. Land ownership is complex and in transition. Much is in state and federal ownership. State population according to the 2000 census was 626,932. Growth is increasing more slowly than in the past and the population is getting slightly older. Population shifts and trends have implications for outdoor recreation demands. As of July 2000, Alaska's people were about 69.3% Caucasian, 15.6 % Alaska Native, 5.6 % represented two or more races, 4.5% Asian/Pacific and 3.5 % African American. Most Alaskans live in cities, towns, villages and clustered settlements. As of July 1, 2002, there were 149 incorporated cities and 16 boroughs. Forty-two percent of the population lives in the Municipality of Anchorage. Alaska's main economic industries are oil/gas, tourism, seafood, mining and timber. Alaska's 322 million acres of public land available for recreation include about 168 million acres of managed wildlands, and over 30,000 acres of dedicated community recreation land, and many private sector opportunities. However, many recreation opportunities are overcrowded, in short supply, or difficult to access. Alaska State Parks, the largest state park system in the U.S., is the state's largest provider of public wildlands recreation facilities.

PARTICIPATION: Alaska State Parks solicited input from a variety of sources for this plan: a statistically valid telephone survey of 600 households, an informal mail out survey which was returned by 992 respondents, the same survey on-line which was completed by over 332 respondents, five public meetings, and a survey of communities and recreation providers. Many recreation agencies and organizations also contributed to this plan.

TELEPHONE SURVEY RESULTS: The statewide telephone survey of 600 households in March of 2004 asked about participation in 38 different outdoor activities and about attitudes toward recreation funding: 88.3% of respondents consider the availability of high quality outdoor recreation opportunities important to their lifestyle; 82.7% drove for sightseeing/pleasure at least once per year; other popular activities include walking for fitness (74%), picnicking (73.6%), day hiking (80.2%), and birdwatching/wildlife viewing (69.6%). Favorite activities (in order of preference) are sport fishing, walking for fitness, day hiking, sport hunting and bicycling or mountain biking. Sea kayaking, back packing and tent camping in the backcountry, ORV or ATV riding, power boating and trail skiing or crosscountry skiing are the top 5 activities Alaskans did not participate in, but would like to. Since the last survey in 1997, the number of people dissatisfied with their park experience

because of crowding is down from 60.18% to 50.8%. Alaskans want more motorized and non-motorized trails. Seventy-nine percent want existing parks and outdoor recreation facilities maintained before any new facilities are built. When new facilities are constructed, they want more opportunities for the disabled (84%), trailheads along roads and highways for trail activities (78.2%), more public use cabins (77.6%), and more toilets (74.4%). To support outdoor recreation, Alaskans are willing to pay for operation and maintenance with registration fees for RV's (91.9%), ATV's (86%), and snowmobiles (85.5%). If a bond initiative on a ballot were to pay for deferred maintenance, 58.7% would vote yes.

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS: Communities responded to a mail out survey asking about facilities and needs. New facilities continue to be the highest priority need overall; maintaining existing facilities continues as the next highest. Community priority for facilities are recreational fields and courts, followed by community parks and playgrounds and trails. Consistent with the last survey, statewide, the most significant barrier to meeting community outdoor recreation needs is chronic lack of funding.

GOALS/ISSUES/STRATEGIES: The chief goal for outdoor recreation providers is to offer a range of opportunities for responsible use of Alaska's recreation resources while protecting natural values. The SCORP identifies four issues and goals, along with recommended strategies to meet these goals (Chapter 5 in the plan further details these):

Issue 1: Lack of Adequate Funding

Goal 1: Secure a reliable source of funding for outdoor recreation in Alaska. Develop programs that allow important projects to be completed and maintained. Strengthen mutually beneficial relationships with other agencies, private sector and user groups.

Recommended Strategies: support ongoing efforts to reform the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program; continue interagency communication and cooperative efforts; privatize selected services, facility operation, and maintenance; strengthen alternative funding mechanisms and programs; develop alternative funding sources.

Issue 2: Opportunities to Meet Recreation Needs in Communities

Goal 2: Support efforts to assist communities in meeting the outdoor recreation needs of their citizens.

Recommended Strategies: give some communities a higher priority for LWCF matching grants; develop alternative funding sources; design facilities to reflect economic realities and sustainable practices.

Issue 3: Improved Access to Outdoor Recreation Resources (includes discussion of transportation enhancements, TRAAK program, disabled access, and trail identification/legal access.

Goal 3: Provide more convenient, legal, and barrier-free access to outdoor recreation opportunities on Alaska's public lands and waters.

Recommended Strategies: implement ISTEPA provisions; improve access to water-based recreation; develop inventory of barrier free outdoor recreation facilities; continue

cooperative planning efforts with “barrier-free” advocacy groups; consider incompatibility among users and user values; continue the identification and legal dedication of existing trails.

Issue 4: Shortage of Tourism Opportunities on Public Lands

Goal 4: Support and promote balanced use and development of Alaska’s public lands for outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism.

Recommended Strategies: expand cooperative planning and marketing efforts; maintain and expand private-public nature-based tourism partnerships; promote private sector development on public lands where appropriate; develop year round tourism destinations and related services on public lands; increase capital spending to rehabilitate and expand facilities, expand public use cabin system; promote the Alaska Public Lands Information Centers.

GRANT PROGRAM: The Land and Water Conservation Fund grant program is available to state agencies and local governments with parks and recreation powers. It has an open project selection process designed by the state and approved by the National Park Service. Projects that meet priority needs identified in the SCORP may be eligible for matching grants.

WETLANDS: SCORP has a wetlands component that must be consistent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wetlands programs and policies and developed cooperatively with other agencies. Wetlands cover 43.3% of Alaska. Distribution is variable. Over the past 200 years, less than 1% has been drained or filled. Wetlands provide many functions and values. Primarily, wetland threats concentrate around the states population centers. SCORP priorities for wetlands acquisition include access to and/or margins of water bodies, including streams, ponds and coastline, emergent wetlands and marshes associated with recreational lakes, public recreation benefit or value, and/or be located within 50 miles of an urban or semi-urban or recreation/tourism area.

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CHAPTER ONE

ABOUT THIS PLAN

PURPOSE

Alaska's Outdoor Legacy is a guide to recreation-related land acquisition, facility development, and policy for the State of Alaska for 2004 through 2009. This document serves as the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and maintains Alaska's eligibility to participate in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program. This is the eighth in a series of such plans developed as part of Alaska's continuing commitment to outdoor recreation. The plan will also greatly assist the Outdoor Recreation and Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB) citizens advisory board with its role in the LWCF program (see Chapter 5 for more about ORTAB).

REQUIREMENTS

Land and Water Conservation Fund guidelines specify that a SCORP be prepared every five years, and that each SCORP:

- assess the supply and demand for outdoor recreation,
- contain a wetlands component that identifies wetlands with high recreational values,
- Include an implementation component that outlines recommended actions consistent with plan goals.

GOALS OF SCORP

- Provide recreation agencies and communities with a reference to outdoor recreation preferences, use trends, and issues relevant to Alaska through 2009;
- Identify statewide capital investment priorities for acquiring, developing, and protecting outdoor recreation resources;
- Identify the State's priorities, strategies, and actions for the obligation of its LWCF apportionment; and
- Provide information that agencies and communities need to develop project proposals eligible for LWCF assistance.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SCORP AND THE LWCF

The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (P.L. 88-578), requires states to have an approved SCORP on file with the National Park Service in order to participate in the LWCF cost-share program. Through this program, federal LWCF dollars, generated by revenues from outer-continental-shelf oil drilling leases, may be used to finance eligible state and local government land acquisition and outdoor recreation programs.

An important determinant of a project's eligibility to receive LWCF assistance is that it meet a priority need or objective identified in the state's current SCORP. Since the program began in 1965, 379 Alaskan projects have received LWCF funding, resulting in the acquisition of more than 20,786 acres of park land and the development of nearly \$59.2 million in public recreation facilities.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ROLE IN STATEWIDE RECREATION PLANNING

The responsibility for outdoor recreation planning and administering the LWCF program resides with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, particularly with the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (Alaska State Parks). The Governor appointed the Alaska State Parks director as the State Liaison Officer, effective September 16, 2003. Alaska Statute 41.21.020 provides State Parks the legal authority to:

- Develop a continuing plan for conservation and maximum use in the public interest of the scenic, historic, archaeological, scientific, biological, and recreation resources of the state.
- Provide for consulting services designed to develop local park and recreation facilities and programs.
- Provide clearinghouse services for other state agencies concerned with park and recreation matters.

HOW THE PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

Alaska State Parks is the lead agency for developing the SCORP.

The SCORP was developed between February 2004, and May 2004, by Alaska State Parks staff in cooperation with other local, state, and federal outdoor recreation professionals, interest groups, and the public.

To quantify what Alaskans currently do for recreation outdoors and to learn what opportunities they want in the future, 600 households throughout the state were surveyed by telephone in March 2004. Additionally, an informal inventory and survey of communities and recreation provider agencies was conducted to estimate the number of existing outdoor recreation facilities and to record recreation needs and issues.

Public participation by household was primarily through a mail out survey (sent to 1704 households with a return rate of 58% or 989 surveys), a statewide telephone survey, and an on-line survey (resulting in over 300 responses). In addition, five public meetings were held from Juneau to Fairbanks (see Appendix I). Government agencies, park and recreational user groups and the visitor industry were also consulted for review and update. Public comments were solicited and considered in the update process (see Appendix I). The wetlands component was updated and is consistent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wetland programs and policies, prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game. It includes those wetlands that meet criteria for high recreation value wetlands.

HOW THE PLAN IS ORGANIZED

Chapter 2 summarizes land ownership and demographic and economic patterns and trends within the state, and identifies planning regions.

Chapter 3 contains an estimate of the state's outdoor recreation resources and facilities.

Chapter 4 summarizes the results of the statewide and informal surveys to assess the outdoor recreation preferences of Alaska residents, the demand for future opportunities, and the level of support for proposals to meet the growing demand for facilities and programs during a period of declining recreation budgets.

Chapter 5 identifies critical statewide recreation issues and goals, and recommended actions to meet goals.

Chapter 6 summarizes the LWCF grant application process and schedule, and outlines priorities for LWCF project funding.

Chapter 7 discusses wetlands as important recreation lands and guides in identifying high recreation value wetlands that should receive priority attention for acquisition or other protective efforts.

Appendices include statewide telephone survey and comparison results, community mail out survey form, local recreation plan guidelines, public workshop and written comments, public review comments, and bibliography/information sources (including websites).

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CHAPTER 2

THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE: AN OVERVIEW

*"I like this country. I don't even want to go out, only to visit my folks once before they die. But I'd just as soon die here as anywhere. I'd keep better."
(A miner on the Koyukuk River, quoted in Bob Marshall's Journal)*

THE LAND

Alaska is famous for geographic excesses, foremost of which is its size. At 570,374 square miles, or approximately 366 million acres, it is the country's largest state, one-fifth the size of the continental United States. Alaskans like to brag that if their state were divided in half, Texas would be the nation's third largest state. Alaska has more miles of coastline than all of the continental states combined, the tallest mountain in North America (Mt. McKinley at 20,320 feet), more than 5,000 glaciers and over 20,000 square miles of inland water.

Positioned along the Pacific Rim, Alaska is a zone of geologic tension, where the Pacific and North American tectonic plates meet. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are reminders of Alaska's geologic youth, and the dynamic nature of the landscape. Here too, warm and cold seas, and Arctic and Pacific air masses meet. The result is climate extremes and volatile, often violent weather. The nation's lowest recorded temperature (-80 degrees Fahrenheit) was recorded in Alaska, and winds of 139 m.p.h. have been recorded on the Aleutian Islands. Alaskan summers are brief, relatively warm, wet, and dominated by the "midnight sun." Winters are long, cold, and dark.

The dynamics and extremes of the physical world are matched by a rich and diverse biota. Alaska contains flora and fauna of temperate, sub-arctic, and arctic types in a profusion of marine, inter-tidal, and terrestrial environments. Plant communities range from the towering temperate rainforest of Southeast Alaska to pioneering colonies of lichen and moss on rocky mountain slopes. Alaskan waters support rich fish and marine mammal populations. Migrant birds from many continents breed here, herds of caribou thunder across the arctic plain, and bears crowd the edges of salmon-rich streams.

LAND OWNERSHIP

Land ownership in Alaska is complex and in transition (see "Generalized Land Ownership," Map 2.1). Under terms of the 1959 Alaska Statehood Act, the State of Alaska is authorized to receive over 103 million acres of land from the federal government. To date, the State has received about 89.5 million acres of this land.

The estimated total of Alaska tidal shoreline, including islands, inlets and shoreline to head of tidewater is 47,300 miles. The Alaska Statehood Act granted the state ownership of submerged lands under most navigable waterways and submerged lands up to three miles

offshore. Which rivers and lakes are navigable and where the offshore boundaries fall is still being debated between the State of Alaska and the Federal Government.

Signed into law in 1971, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) won a unique settlement from the United States for Alaska's Native population. The act extinguished aboriginal land claims, provided for formation of 13 regional, 4 urban, and 200 village Native corporations, and transfer of 44 million acres of land from federal to Native corporation ownership.

State and ANCSA conveyances have not been completed. The federal government (Bureau of Land Management) owes ANCSA corporations about 9 million acres and owes the State about 16 million acres. Many of these remaining claims are in conflict and will require many years to resolve. Various selections cannot be completed until actual land surveys are done, which will also take many years.

Upon completion of the conveyance process, the state's largest landowner will remain the federal government, with about 220 million acres or 60 percent of Alaska. The State will own 28 percent, Native corporations 11 percent, private (non-Native) one percent, and municipalities, less than one percent.

POPULATION

Despite its size, Alaska is the second smallest state in the country by population; with 1.1 people per square mile (U.S. average is 81 people per square mile). The highest density is in the Anchorage area: about 158 persons per square mile.

While Alaska has less than one percent of the population of the United States, between 1958 and 1996 its population tripled. Between 1990 and 2000, the population increased 14 percent. According to 2000 census figures, Alaska's population was 626,932 a gain of almost 77,000. There are over 221,000 households. The growth rate has slowed fairly steadily from a high of 3.1 percent in 1991-92 to about 1.5 percent annually since 1990. Alaska's population is increasing more slowly and is getting slightly older than before.

Total gross migration for the year 2000 was 13.2 percent. Gross migration is the total volume of migration to and from the state that occurs in a year. 1,120 more people migrated out of Alaska than the 43,413 that migrated in. The largest population change in Alaska is births that increased by a margin of three to one. Populations have decreased in the Aleutians, Bristol Bay, Wrangell-Petersburg, and Ketchikan areas following the closure of several military bases and a decline in the timber and salmon industries.

Seventy-five percent of all Alaska's growth between 2000 and 2002 occurred in four areas of the state. The Municipality of Anchorage had the largest increase by 8,787; second was the Matanuska-Susutina Borough by 5,919. Fairbanks North Star Borough and Kenai Peninsula Borough grew by 1,951 and 1,496 respectively. Anchorage, the state's largest city, gained just more than 33,945 new residents from 1990 to 2000. Mat-Su is the state's fastest growing area with a 6 percent population increase in the past year.

The areas with the greatest net loss in population between 1990 and 2000 were the Aleutians West Census Area (-4,013) and the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area (-1,968). Four additional areas: Wrangell-Petersburg (-358), Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon (-244), Bristol Bay Borough (-152) and Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area (-121) had smaller population losses.

THE PEOPLE

Alaska's people represent widely varied ethnic, cultural, international, and geographic diversity. Indigenous groups and migration to the state account for this diversity. Most Alaskans live in villages, towns, cities, or clustered settlements, with diversity represented throughout the state.

The median age in Alaska in 2000 was 32.4 years, up from 30.9 in 1996. The United States median age is currently 35.4. Nearly 34 percent of the population was between the ages of 25 and 44; and 5.8 percent of the population was over 65, significantly higher than the 4.9 percent proportion in 1990. It appears that Alaska is following the nationwide trend of older persons representing an increasingly greater share of population.

The Alaska Native population is younger than the general state population. More than 44 percent of Alaska Natives are under 18, compared with 33 percent among all residents. Young adults will be the fastest growing segment of the Alaska Native population. Females comprised 49 percent of the population; men 51 percent. While nationwide, Alaska Natives and American Indians comprise 1.5 percent of the total population, 15.6 percent of all Alaskans are Natives. Native Alaskans include Aleuts, Inupiaq and Yu'pik Eskimos, and Athabascan, Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian Indians.

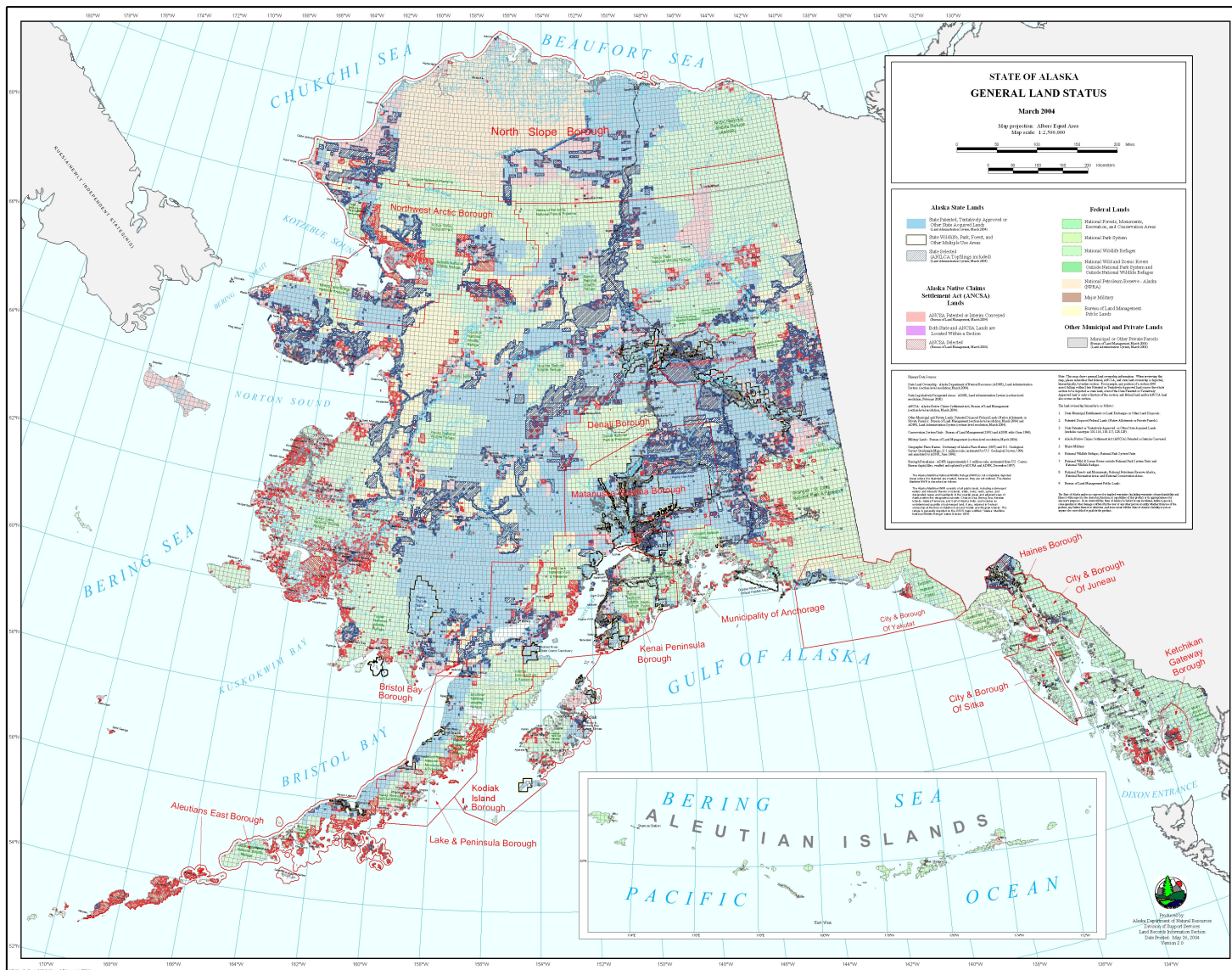
Prior to this century, Native culture dominated Alaska. However, between 1890 and 1900, the gold rush brought the first great influx of non-Natives. In those 10 years, the total population doubled, with a sevenfold increase in non-Native peoples. The economic boom in the early 1980s led to a large in-migration of non-Natives. Today, Alaska Native cultures dominate in the northern and southwestern regions of the state, particularly in the Wade-Hampton census area (Kotlik to Hooper Bay west to Russian Mission) region, where Alaska Natives comprise almost 92 percent of the population.

Figure 2.1 Race Composition in Alaska, July 2000

Caucasian	69.3%
Alaska Native	15.6%
African American	3.5%
Asian/Pacific	4.5%
Some other race	1.5%
Two or more races	5.6%

Note: Persons of Hispanic origin comprise 4.1 percent of the population and may be of any race.

MAP 2.1 GENERALIZED LAND OWNERSHIP



http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/kodiak/gis/raster/map_library/y2004/Iris/LandStatus.jpg

WHERE PEOPLE LIVE

60 percent of Alaska is owned by the Federal Government, 28 percent is owned by the State and 11 percent is owned by Native Corporations. Because much of Alaska is in federal or state ownership, most Alaskans live in cities, towns, villages, or clustered settlements. Just over 77 percent of Alaska's population in 2000 was contained in the following five boroughs: Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star, Matanuska-Susitna, Kenai Peninsula, and Juneau.

Alaska is not divided into counties. As of July 2002, the chief units of local government were 13 organized boroughs, 3 unified home-rule municipalities (combining the functions of boroughs and cities), and 149 incorporated cities (19 are considered urban, i.e., populations of 2,500 or greater, 8 have a population between 1,000 and 2,500). Approximately 62.7 percent of Alaskans live in urban settings. Forty-two percent of all Alaskans live in the Municipality of Anchorage. 3.2 percent of the state population lives in an unorganized territory. Alaska has 211 Native Villages.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

From now until the year 2020, Alaska expects much slower growth in population. Increases will likely average around 1.4 percent annually over the next 16 years, most of which will be from natural births minus deaths rather than migration. Based on what is known right now, Alaska's population in 2020 will most likely be about 25 percent larger than it is today. The most noticeable population growth during the next 21 years will be that of Alaska's seniors (+65 and older). This group is currently increasing at about four percent annually. The rate of growth for this group is expected to increase to 5.0-6.5 percent annually from 2005 through 2020. Senior facilities and services will need to expand in the future to match the aging Alaska population.

NATURAL RESOURCE-BASED ECONOMY

Alaska's natural resource wealth is in the form of oil and gas resources, viewing scenic beauty, wilderness, fisheries, wildlife, timber, hard rock minerals, clean air and water, and arable land. Foremost in economic importance is oil, followed by tourism, seafood, mining, and timber (forest products).

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Alaska oil production is about half the peak volume of two million barrels per day in 1988. Despite growing oil prices, the production decline has had a major impact on the Alaskan economy. To offset the decline, the state is encouraging exploration in new areas of Alaska. In fiscal year 2003, the oil and gas industry generated almost \$2.1 billion in revenue to the State of Alaska in royalties, rental, and severance taxes. 84 percent of all unrestricted State General Funds came from oil revenue.

TOURISM/VISITOR INDUSTRY

Marketing Alaska's scenery, fish, wildlife, outdoor recreation, and cultural resources to visitors is a major component of the Alaskan economy. In 2003, more than 1.31 million out-of-state tourists visited Alaska, spending over 2.4 billion in gross sales. Tourism is the state's 2nd largest private sector employer, employing over 27,000 persons during the peak season. Tourism has moved from 7th largest private sector employer to 2nd since the development of the last SCORP. 60 percent of the tourist dollar went to hotels and lodging. 19 percent went to amusement and recreation services. The industry recognizes the importance of visitor infrastructure and is working to develop new attractions in the state. The major growth in tourism is attributed to the cruise sector. It is estimated that cruise ship traffic grew by 6.9 percent in 2003 and is expected to grow another 5 percent or more over the next two years. Airline traffic is expected to remain steady with a decline in ferry and highway travel.

SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

Approximately 2.0 million metric tons of fish and shellfish were harvested in 2002 but global competition has devalued the Alaskan seafood market. Fishing is important in coastal towns throughout Alaska. The 2002 annual average seafood employment was nearly 22,000. This is largely a seasonal industry; many workers are non-residents. To keep the Alaska Seafood industry profitable, Alaskans must diversify and fish quality be improved.

MINING

In 2003, Alaska's total mineral production was valued at \$980 million, including gold, silver, lead, zinc, tin, coal, and industrial minerals. The industry employs the equivalent of about 2,400 full-time jobs. The discovery of the Pebble porphyry gold deposit across Cook Inlet near Lake Iliamna was announced in the spring of 2004. The deposit is thought to contain 26.5 million ounces of gold and 16.5 billion pounds of copper which could be the largest known gold deposit and second-largest copper deposit in North America. The mine is estimated to employ 2,000 workers when operational.

FOREST PRODUCTS

Alaska's total timber harvest in 2002 was 63 million board feet. The declining demand in Asia for wood products, the pulp mills in Sitka and Ketchikan closing in 1993 and 1997, respectively, and The Tongass Land Use Management Plan reducing annual allowable harvest has contributed to the contraction of the timber industry. The U.S. Forest Service initiating 10 year timber sales in Southeast Alaska, the opening of a veneer mill in Ketchikan and the creation of a new 1.7 million acre State Forest from the existing Tongass National Forest are expected to increase the timber outlook in Alaska.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Economic trends have various implications for recreation demand and for soliciting financial support for providing recreation.

While Alaska will continue to have a resource based economy, the health of each resource sector cannot be easily predicted. Alaska faces challenges as it works to strengthen and diversify its economy. Alaska's industries are generally controlled by non-Alaskan companies, and are therefore, heavily dependent on decisions made in broad national or world markets. Foremost in importance to Alaska's economic health and stability is the future expansion of the economic base such as hard rock mining, air cargo, trade along the Pacific Rim, tourism, medical services, and federally-funded construction projects.

The Tongass Land Management Plan Revision process has been completed. The U.S. Forest Service decided there will be no further wilderness additions to the Tongass National Forest. Alaska is hopeful it will facilitate the re-growth of Southeast Alaska's forest product industry.

Timber industry interests contend the U.S. Forest Service's preferred alternative will not provide enough timber to meet the needs of the existing industry, while other forest users contend that harvest levels must drop lower to protect fish and wildlife resources. The Interior boreal forests have tremendous potential for future value-added processing. Alaska has some of the largest, potentially commercial hardwood stands in the world. However, fragmented land ownership, high transportation costs, high capital investment, and political opposition have slowed the development of this resource.

The mineral industry will continue to play a significant role in the state's economy.

In the fishing industry, competition from farmed seafood and from unexploited stocks (such as those in Siberia) could continue to reduce the value of Alaska stocks.

Alaska is a major travel destination competing with top destinations around the world and the demand for access to Alaska's scenic and recreation resources is expected to continue to grow. Of all Alaska's industries, tourism may have the most potential for growth.

AREAS

Alaska is divided into three regions, based primarily on settlement and lifestyle patterns. They are Southeast, Railbelt, and Rural Alaska, i.e., off the established road

Southeast

Southeast Alaska is characterized by lush, temperate rainforests of old growth hemlock and Sitka spruce at the base of rugged, glaciated peaks, and thousands of miles of coastline

convoluted by fjords, inlets, and islands. Areas suitable for community and recreational development are limited and confined to narrow strips of coastal plains and lowlands. Southeast is home to twelve percent of Alaska's population.

Railbelt

Railbelt includes those urban and rural communities accessible from Alaska's limited road and rail system, generally from the southern end of the Kenai Peninsula, north to Fairbanks, and east to the Canadian border. This encompasses a large and diverse geographic area.

The central coastal area is similar in topography to the southeast region. Developable lowlands and plains have been utilized wherever possible. Prominent features include the Kenai, Chugach, and Wrangell mountains along the coast, and the fertile Matanuska and Susitna river valleys inland. Following the road system north and east, the landscape includes the high peaks of the Alaska Range (including Mt. McKinley), rolling hills, and broad river deltas. Seventy-three percent of Alaskans live in the railbelt region.

Rural

Rural Alaska is also a large and geographically diverse area. Its topography includes features similar to inland railbelt areas, as well as the extensive wetlands of the northern coastal plain and Yukon and Kuskokwim river deltas, and the windswept Aleutian peninsula and archipelago. The maritime influence of the Arctic Ocean, Bering Sea, and Pacific Ocean predominates. It is the most sparsely populated and largest of the regions, and includes the highest percentage of Alaska Natives. Fifteen percent of Alaska's population lives in the rural region.

CHAPTER 3

ALASKA'S RECREATION RESOURCES

*"If bread is the first necessity of life, recreation is a close second."
-Edward Bellamy*

Alaskans generally participate in two broad categories of outdoor recreation: "wildland" or resource-based recreation, and community-based recreation.

WILDLANDS RECREATION

Love of the outdoors is a major part of the fabled "Alaskan lifestyle." Wildland recreation in Alaska includes a wide spectrum of popular activities, from fishing, hunting, hiking, skiing, bird watching, snowmobiling, ORV riding, wildlife viewing, recreational mining, to mountaineering, whitewater rafting, spelunking, dog mushing, ocean kayaking, and power boating.

In addition to recreation values, wildlands play an increasingly important role in the economy of Alaska. As the demand for outdoor-related recreation and tourism expands, the value of accessible public wildlands (and surrounding private land) grows. Wildlands also play an important role in environmental education programs for all ages, therapeutic programs for the physically challenged, and self-esteem and wilderness skills workshops for troubled youths.

These kinds of opportunities are found on large private land holdings, and on open space and public access to lands in public ownership. Alaska contains a generous supply of public land, but access can be difficult or limited by land ownership, geography, and distance.

LANDS DESIGNATED FOR WILDLAND RECREATION

While most of Alaska's 322 million acres of public lands are available for recreation, about 168 million acres, or 46 percent of Alaska, is managed for wildland recreation. Sixty percent of America's national park acreage, the country's largest state park system, and the nation's two largest national forests (the Tongass in Southeast with 17 million acres, and Chugach in Southcentral with 5.7 million acres) though not managed exclusively for recreation, are located in Alaska.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA) placed large parts of Alaska in the nation's conservation, wilderness, and recreation systems, wild and scenic rivers, forests, wildlife refuges, and parks. Combined with the older federal reserves and an expanding state park system, these designations create opportunities for outdoor recreation unsurpassed anywhere.

Twenty-five Alaskan rivers and over 3,200 river miles are protected under the National Wild and Scenic River designation. Additionally, there are six legislatively designated State Recreation Rivers, encompassing 460 river miles and 260,000 upland acres. Approximately 12 percent of state land is under some form of legislative designation that protects or enhances wildland recreation. Approximately 82.4 million acres of federal land and 400,000 acres of state land are designated as wilderness.

Alaska's state parks are the primary roadside gateways to outdoor recreation.

In addition, millions of acres of general state-owned land (managed by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water) and federal domain land (managed by the Bureau of Land Management) are open to wildland recreation. These lands are becoming increasingly popular. There are few regulations imposed on users of these lands. The State also owns about 65 million acres of tidelands, coastal submerged lands, and lands under navigable waters, all having virtually unlimited potential for wildland recreation.

Figure 3.1 - Wildland Recreation Lands & Agencies

AGENCY	ACRES (Millions)	UNITS	NOTES
US Fish & Wildlife Service	76.8	43	16 wildlife refuges (compatible recreation allowed); 6 National Wild & Scenic Rivers; 21 wilderness areas
National Park Service	54.7	35	15 parks, preserves and monuments; 13 National Wild & Scenic Rivers; 7 wilderness areas
US Forest Service	22.8	21	2 National forests; 19 wilderness areas
Alaska State Parks	3.2	119	Historic parks, recreation sites, parks, marine parks; state trail systems; public use facilities; preserve; special management areas
Alaska Division of Land	2.6	12	4 public use areas; 6 state recreational rivers; 2 recreational mining sites
Alaska Department of Fish & Game	3.2	50	17 critical habitat areas; 10 game refuges (compatible recreation allowed); 3 sanctuaries; 18 access sites; 2 range areas
US Bureau of Land Management	2.7	9	2 land units; 6 National Wild & Scenic Rivers; 1 historic trail
Alaska Division of Forestry	2.1	2	2 state forests
TOTAL	168.1	291	

AREAS

- **Southeast**

Most of Alaska's southeast region is encompassed by the Tongass National Forest (17 million acres), administered by the U.S. Forest Service. The National Park Service manages 3.3 million acres and three park units. Alaska State Parks manages about 80,000 acres and 34 park units, including 16 marine parks. The Department of Fish and Game manages two state wildlife refuges, two critical habitat areas, and a wildlife sanctuary in Southeast Alaska. The Alaska Division of Forestry manages 247,000 acres in the Haines State Forest.

- **Railbelt**

Because of the region's urban population and developed road system, the railbelt is home to many wildland recreation users and contains many popular destinations. It also contains half of the state's most-visited attractions.

The bulk of the state park system acreage and units (78 units, including 19 marine parks) lie within the railbelt region including Chugach, Denali, and Kachemak Bay state parks. Additionally, nearly 20 million acres of national park land, including Kenai Fjords National Park, Denali National Park and Preserve, and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, the 1.9 million-acre Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, the 5.7 million acre Chugach National Forest, and 16 state special areas (critical habitat areas, sanctuaries, and refuges) are located within this region. The Tanana Valley State Forest has 1.8 million acres.

- **Rural**

Most of the public lands available for wildland recreation in rural Alaska are part of the national wildlife refuge system. Approximately 73.5 million acres, or 95 percent, of Alaska's national wildlife refuge acreage, and nine of Alaska's 15 national parks are located in rural Alaska. The nation's largest state park, Wood-Tikchik State Park (1.6 million acres), and 6 other state parks are also found in this region. The Department of Fish and Game manages 10 special areas in rural Alaska, including the McNeil River and Walrus Island sanctuaries. Native corporation lands, scattered throughout the state but primarily in rural areas, are privately owned land and not generally accessible to the general public without permission.

WILDLAND RECREATION FACILITIES

Despite this abundance of high value recreation lands, some wildland recreation opportunities are in short supply. Facilities such as campgrounds, trails, trailheads, cabins, boat launches, and other facilities are often the critical link between users and otherwise "wild" and inaccessible lands, especially along the road system and in the railbelt region. In many parts of the state, facilities, even if primitive or limited in number, make the difference between a potential outdoor experience and reality.

The last comprehensive inventory of Alaska's recreation facilities was included in the 1997-2002 SCORP. The following charts contain updated estimates based on inquiries and research during the spring of 2004. Note that these are estimates only. Contact agency land managers for specific information.

Much of Alaska's premier wildland recreation resources (particularly in the southeast and rural regions) are accessible only by plane or boat. Additionally, not all activities are allowed in all areas, i.e. agencies have missions to manage for different opportunities and may restrict or prohibit some uses. This places a heavy burden on road accessible and railbelt facilities. They are often filled to capacity. Construction of new or expanded facilities is expensive and often creates more demand, attracting more users. Consequently, facility demand continues to exceed facility supply throughout most of the state.

Despite its relatively small land holding (by Alaska standards), Alaska State Parks is the largest state park system in America. It ranks 35th in visitation, and is the State's largest provider of wildland recreation facilities. In 2003, because of their proximity to roads and urban centers, state park units hosted 3 times the visitation of Alaska's national parks. From July 02-June 03, Alaska State Parks had over 4,300,000 visitors. Additionally, state parks and facilities often serve as community recreation areas for residents of the larger urban areas. Forty-six percent of public land campgrounds in the state are Alaska State Park campgrounds.

Figure 3.2 - Developed Wildland Recreation Facilities (numbers in parentheses indicate disabled accessible facilities) - 2003 estimates. Note that numbers are for specifically developed and maintained facilities and not all agencies submitted numbers.

Agency	AK State Parks	US Fish & Wildlife	Bureau of Land Mgmt.	National Park Service	US Forest Service	AK Dept Fish & Game
Campgrounds campsites	66 1,864(35)	12 160	8 160	24 (5) 345 (43)	15 354	4 100
Public cabins shelters	62(6) 31	8 (2)	13	190 29 (1)	42	
Visitor centers	5 (5)	8 (7)	3	23*(23)	5	1
Boat launches/docks/ramps	29(4)	8 (1)	3	4 (1)		
Wildlife viewing/interpretation	12 (4) 4 (4)	68 (15)		15 (14)		
# of trails	67(6)	35 (4)	30	47 (4)	37	
# of trails maintained in summer	54	3	30	47(4)	37	
# of trails maintained in winter	14	2	9	4	2	

Figure 3.2 - Developed Wildland Recreation Facilities Cont.

Agency	AK State Parks	US Fish & Wildlife	Bureau of Land Mgmt.	National Park Service	US Forest Service	AK Dept Fish & Game
Miles of trails motorized	115	130	136	8.5		20
Miles of trails non-motorized	427	412	118	66.75	231.18	10
# of trailheads	37	2	4	17 (6)		
# of trailheads maintained in winter	12	2	3	15		
# of trailheads maintained in summer	37	2	3	5		

* Includes 4 Alaska Public Lands Information Centers (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Tok, Ketchikan), 1 shared with US Forest Service (Ketchikan), 1 State of Alaska (Tok). All disabled accessible.

US Fish and Wildlife Services also reports 42 miles of refuge roads, 500 miles of marine highway, and 500 miles of canoe trails. In addition, Alaska has thousands of miles of un-maintained trails.

ROADS AS OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF) is also one of the most important providers of recreation within the state. Alaskans rely on roads for a broad spectrum of recreational opportunities. Alaska has over 13,250 miles of public roads, approximately 26 percent (or 3,500 miles) of which are paved. Most recreation occurs along, or is accessed from the road system. Viewing wildlife and scenery from vehicles and bicycling along the road are important components of the state’s tourism industry, as well as resident recreation.

In addition, this department oversees the Alaska Marine Highway System, with 3,500 miles of saltwater ferry routes, which also play an important part in Alaska recreation. Ferries operate year round and provide transportation, lodging, and food. Ferry service levels are highest during the summer.

COMMUNITY RECREATION

Community recreation fills a very different niche for Alaskans and plays an important role in serving daily recreation needs. Community recreation is often family or school-oriented and includes a wide spectrum of activities, including outdoor court and field sports (e.g.,

tennis, basketball, softball, soccer, open field activities), golf, hockey or ice skating, alpine skiing, picnic and playground activities, outdoor target shooting (archery, pistol, etc.) and trail-related activities, such as bicycling, snowmobiling, equestrian sports, cross country skiing, jogging, and walking for fitness.

Community recreation plays an important role in Alaska’s urban areas. It is especially meaningful in smaller and rural communities where leisure time programs are in short supply. In many of Alaska’s primarily Native communities, activities often associated with recreation, such as hunting, trapping, fishing, or berry picking, are important subsistence activities, often undertaken more for economic or cultural reasons, rather than for recreation value.

COMMUNITY RECREATION LAND

The following chart shows an updated estimate of public community recreation lands in Alaska, based on the 1997SCORP and updated information from communities and boroughs.

The Municipality of Anchorage, with 42 percent of the state’s population, manages approximately 14,000 acres of park land (nearly 50 percent of the state’s total community park lands). The North Star Borough reports nearly 4,000 acres of dedicated park land, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 2,120 dedicated park acres.

Figure 3.3 - Community Recreation Land

Region	Estimated acres	% of total municipal park acreage	% of state population
Southeast	3,500	11.6	12
Railbelt	24,230	80.1	73
Rural	2,500	8.3	15
TOTAL	30,230	100	100

Though many rural communities (often surrounded by wildlands) report they have no community park lands, numbers indicate that park land acreage for each region mirrors regional population percentages. This is consistent with the results of the informal statewide survey of community recreation providers conducted by Alaska State Parks in the spring of 2004. Respondents from each region generally report their greatest outdoor recreation needs are for facilities, not land. (See Chapter 4 for more information on outdoor recreation needs and priorities.)

COMMUNITY RECREATION FACILITIES

As part of the same survey, community recreation providers were asked to complete a facility inventory form. Statewide, the response rate was approximately 18 percent. Possible reasons for not responding include reduced staff time, the fact that many communities and boroughs do not have recreation powers or authority, and that many communities have no facilities to report. Survey results provide insights into relative supply of facilities.

According to results of the spring 2004 community provider mail out survey, most of the state's community outdoor recreation facilities are located in the railbelt, followed by southeast, then rural.

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CHAPTER 4

OUTDOOR RECREATION PATTERNS, TRENDS, AND NEEDS

*“I have laid aside business, and gone a-fishing.”
-Izaak Walton*

To identify what Alaskans currently do for outdoor recreation and what opportunities are desired for the future, Alaska State Parks conducted a telephone survey during March 2004, collected mail out survey information from recreation providers in spring 2004, and held 5 community workshops throughout the state (see Appendix F for workshop summaries).

Through a contract with an Alaskan research firm, 600 households throughout the state were contacted and surveyed by telephone. Respondents were questioned about their outdoor recreation activities and preferences, and their attitudes towards revenue generating programs to fund recreation facilities and programs.

In addition to recording public opinion at five community workshops, Alaska State Parks mailed a survey form to each of Alaska’s local government units. The survey asked outdoor recreation providers to identify the most significant outdoor recreation needs of their community and regional area (see Appendix B for a copy of the form).

Statewide household results, comparison of 1992 and 1997 outdoor recreation patterns, and workshop comments are included in the appendices.

RESIDENT HOUSEHOLD SURVEY RESULTS

Six hundred (600) households, with equal numbers from each of the three regions, were randomly selected and interviewed by telephone. To be eligible to participate in the survey, respondents had to be at least 18 years old and a legal resident of Alaska. The average age of respondents was 46.5 years old. See Appendix A for the survey questionnaire.

Nine hundred ninety-two (992) mail out surveys and three hundred thirty-two (332) on-line surveys were received from households. The response rates were 92% from the Railbelt region, 4% response from the Southeast region and a 3% response from the Rural region. Males made up 62% of the responses while females made up 37%. The average age of respondents was 48.1 years old.

VALUE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION TO ALASKANS

Alaskans place a high value on the availability and quality of outdoor recreation opportunities: 98 percent of all respondents said parks and outdoor recreation were important or very important to their lifestyle.

The Alaska Recreation and Park Association recognizes four areas of recreation benefits that enhance quality of life: personal (such as fitness, relaxation, leisure, play); social (including community recreation that builds strong families and communities, promotes healthy social behaviors and ethnic and cultural harmony); economic (investment in recreation positively affects businesses, visitor industry, and a fit populace who then are more productive in the workplace); and environmental (environmental health, protection, and insurance for the future).

Alaskans demonstrate these values and benefits by their willingness to purchase outdoor recreation equipment (see Figure 4.1 in this chapter).

WHAT ALASKANS DO FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

Respondents were asked if they participated in any of 38 different outdoor recreation activities during the 12 month period prior to the survey, and if so, how many times. (Because the duration of each experience wasn't asked, the number of times should not be interpreted as number of days. However, for some activities, such as walking, sledding, or court games, this is probably a correct assumption.)

Based on the percent of the population reporting participation in the activity at least once during the previous year, the ten most popular outdoor recreation activities in 2004 are identified in the figures in this chapter:

- Figure 4.1 – Recreational Equipment Ownership 2004
- Figure 4.2 – Top 10 Participation Activities
- Figure 4.3 – Top 10 Activities Available in Communities
- Figure 4.4 – Top 10 Activities Available Within an Hour
- Figure 4.5 – Top 10 Activities Available More than an Hour Away
- Figure 4.6 – Top 10 Overall Favorite Activities
- Figure 4.7 – How Far for Favorite Activities

Based on the percent of the population engaged in the activity and the average number of times of participation in each activity, figures were weighted to more accurately reflect overall participation rates.

PROXIMITY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES TO HOME

Respondents were asked about where (in relation to their community) they usually recreated, i.e. within the community, within an hour's travel time, or farther than an hour.

In general, walking the dog, walking for fitness, court games, roller blading or skate boarding, and jogging or running occur most often within communities. Most downhill and backcountry skiing, day hiking and rock climbing occurs within an hour's traveling time from the community. The majority of kayaking, RV and tent camping (in a campground), back packing, clamming, sport hunting and fishing opportunities occur more than an hour away from home.

SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The majority of respondents report general satisfaction with the outdoor recreation opportunities in their community, and within an hour's travel time (78 percent and 77 percent, respectively).

Figure 4.1- Recreational Equipment Ownership 2004

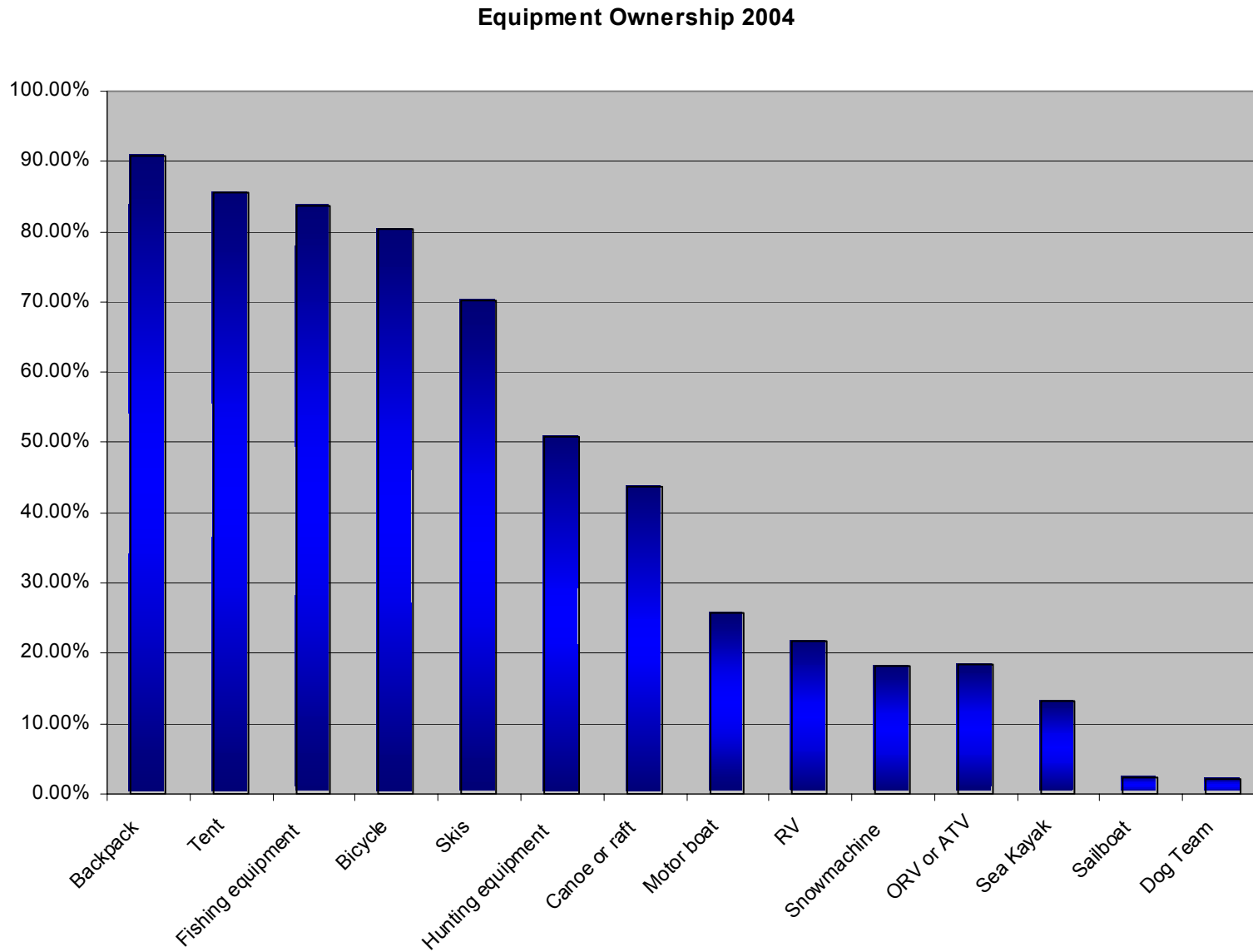


Figure 4.2 – Top 10 Participation Activities

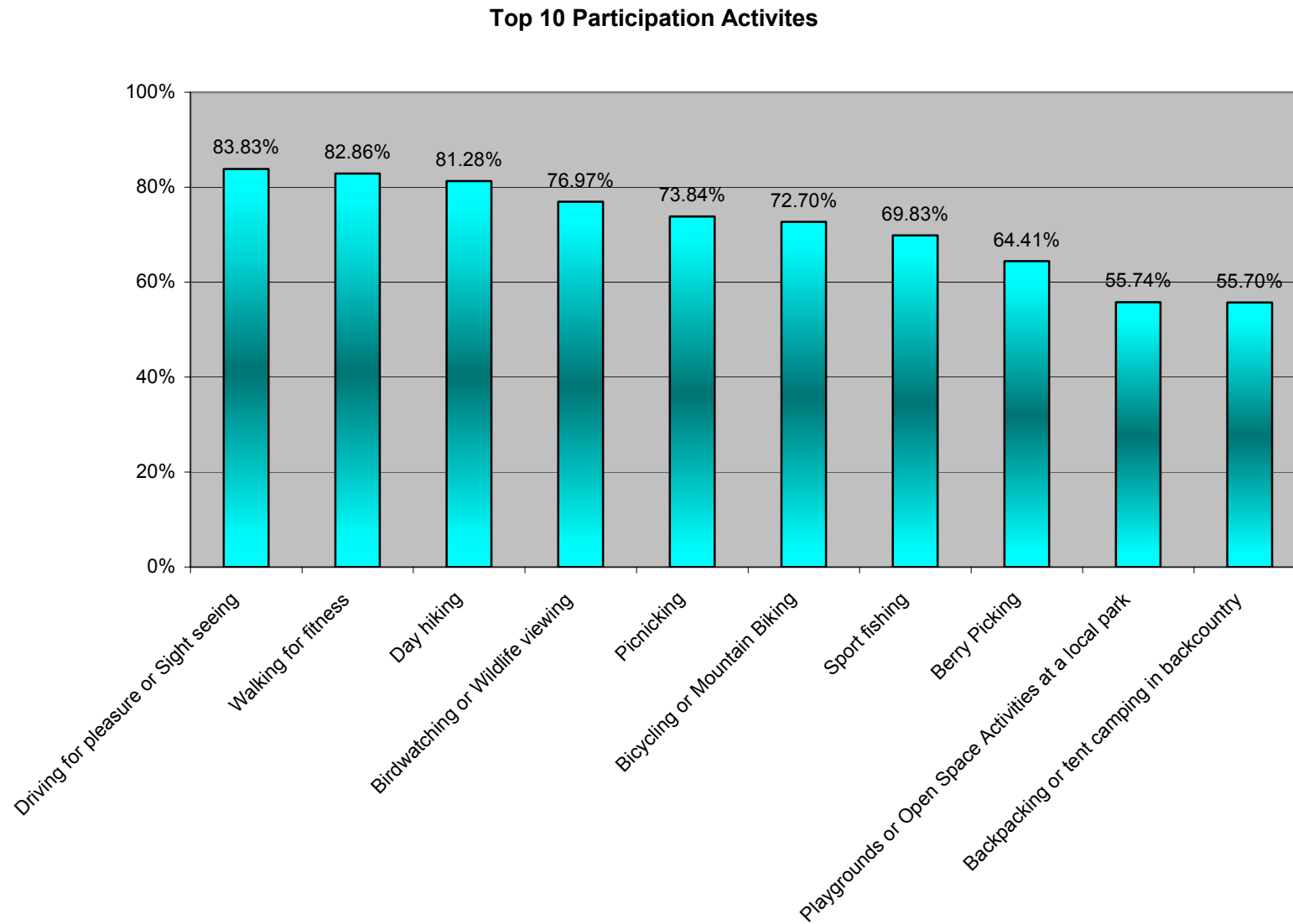


Figure 4.3 – Top 10 Activities Available in Communities

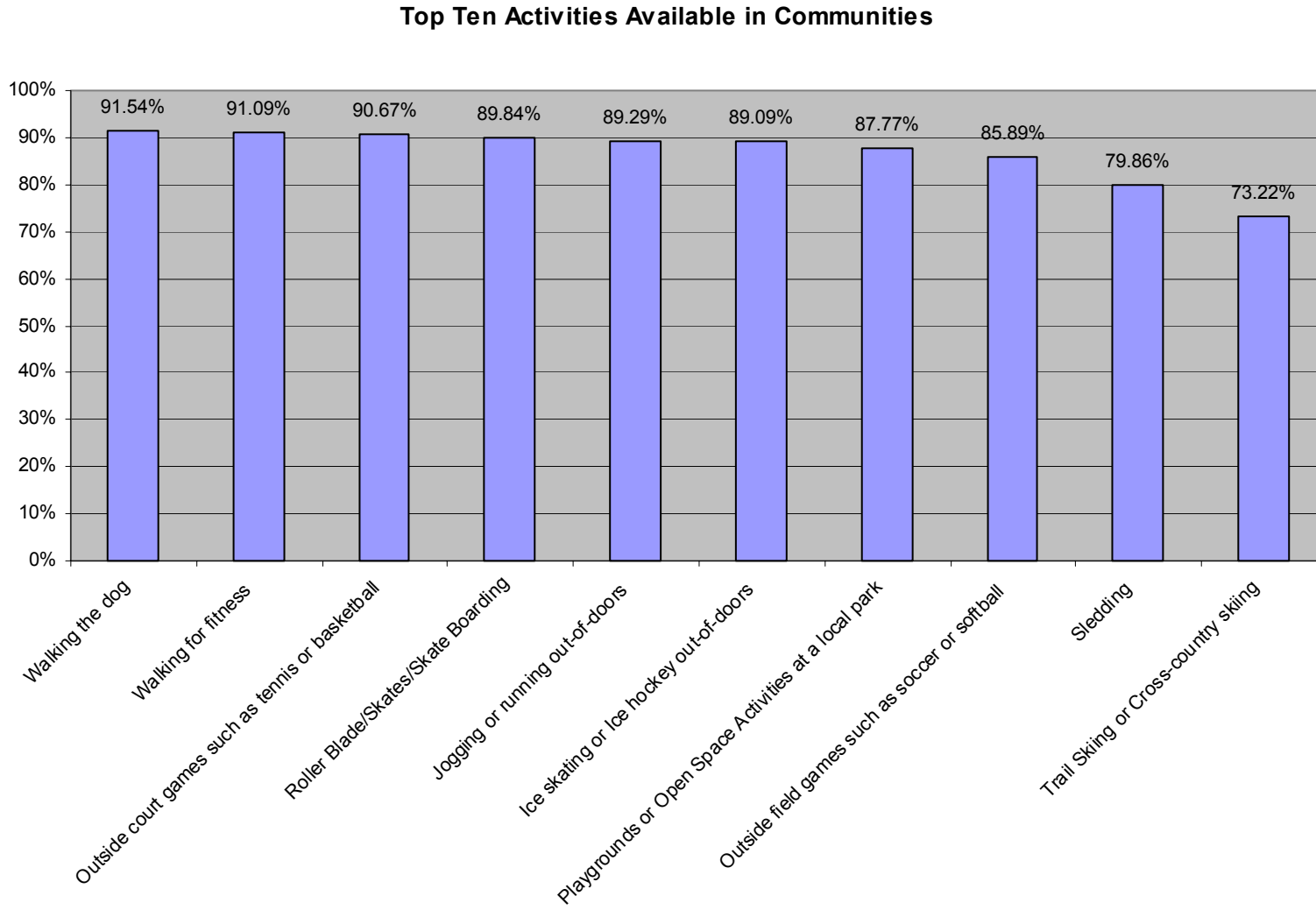


Figure 4.4 – Top 10 Activities Available within an Hour

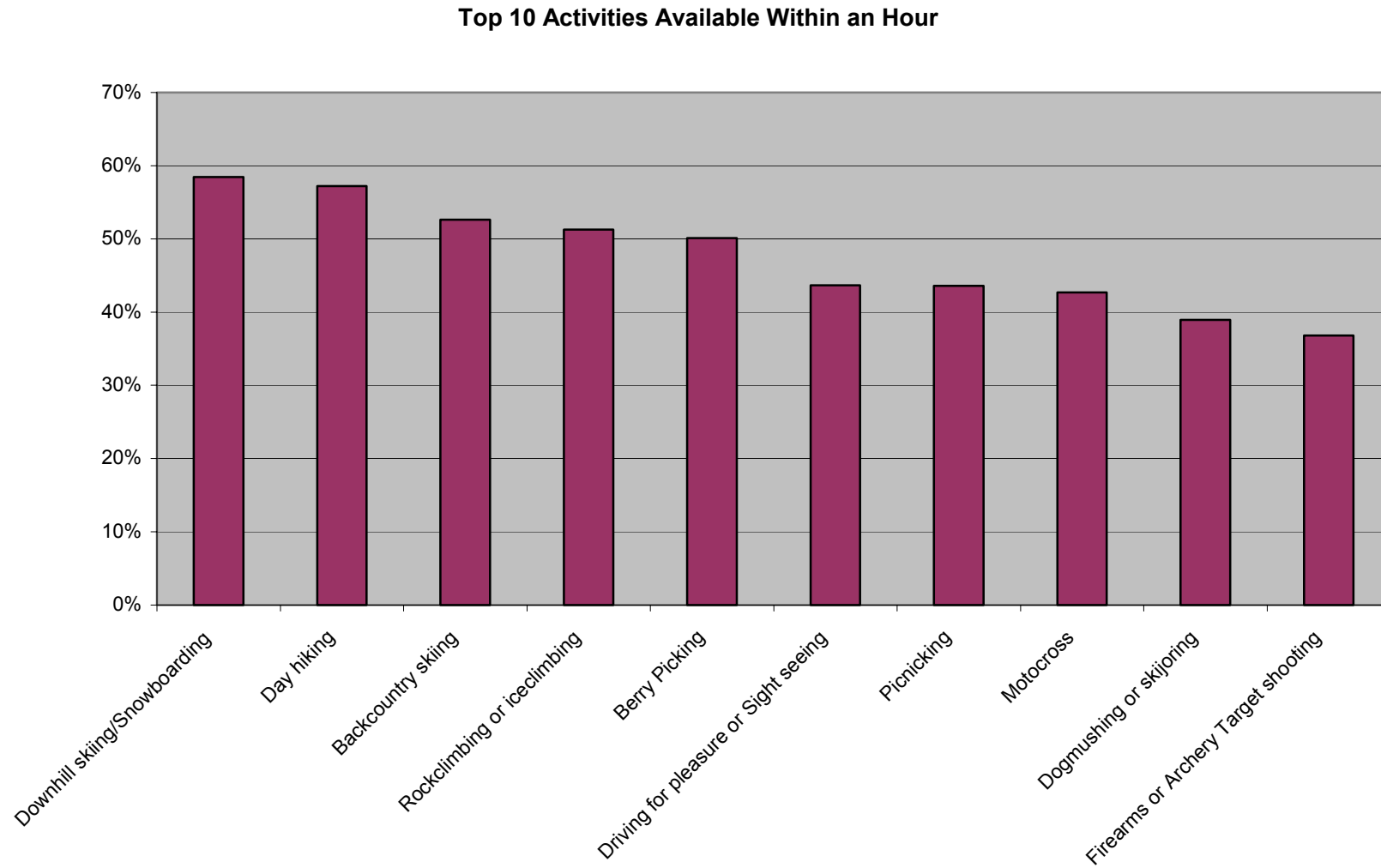


Figure 4.5 – Top 10 Activities Available More Than an Hour Away

Top 10 Activities Available More Than an Hour Away

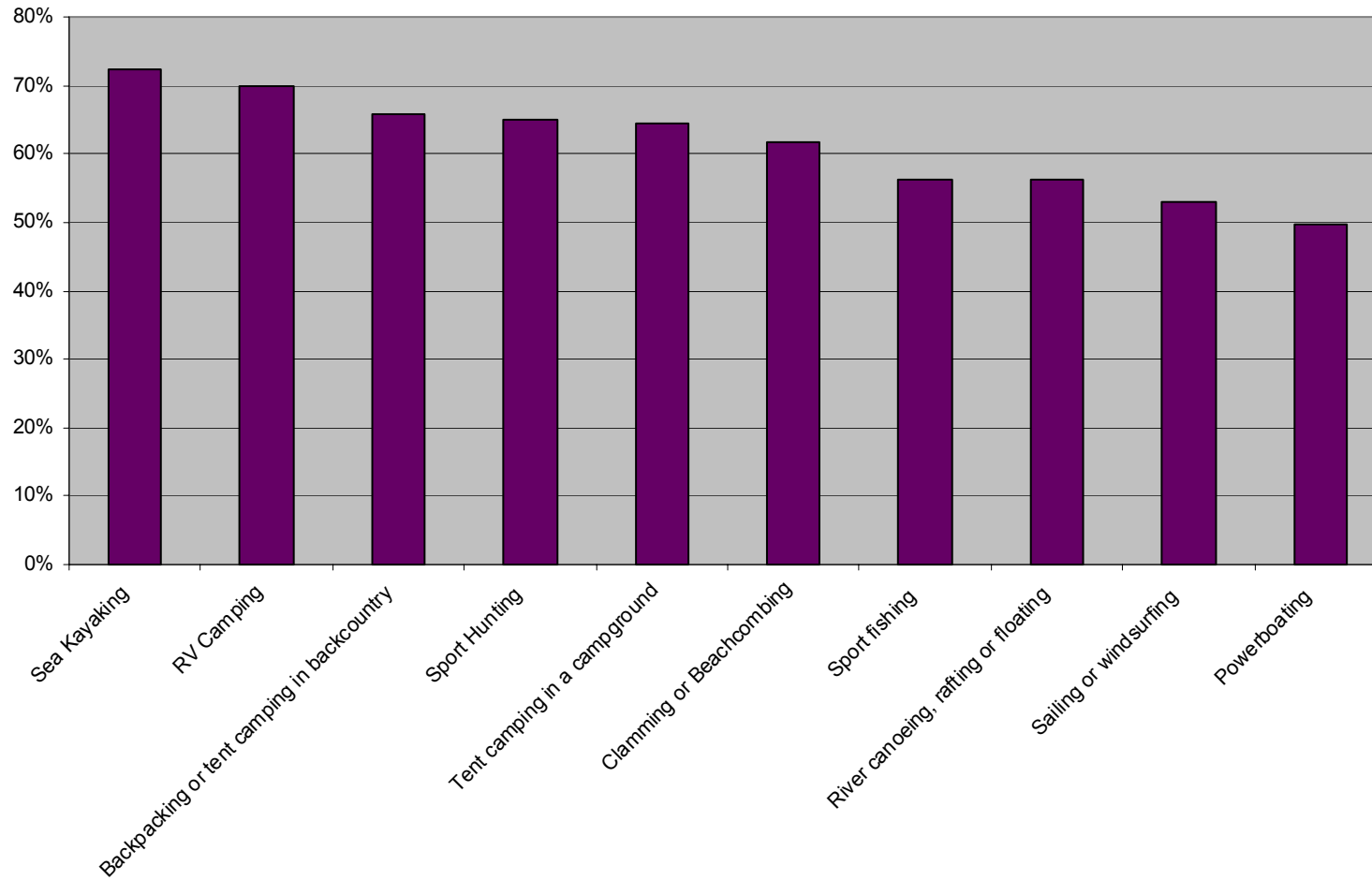


Figure 4.6 – Top 10 Overall Favorite Activities

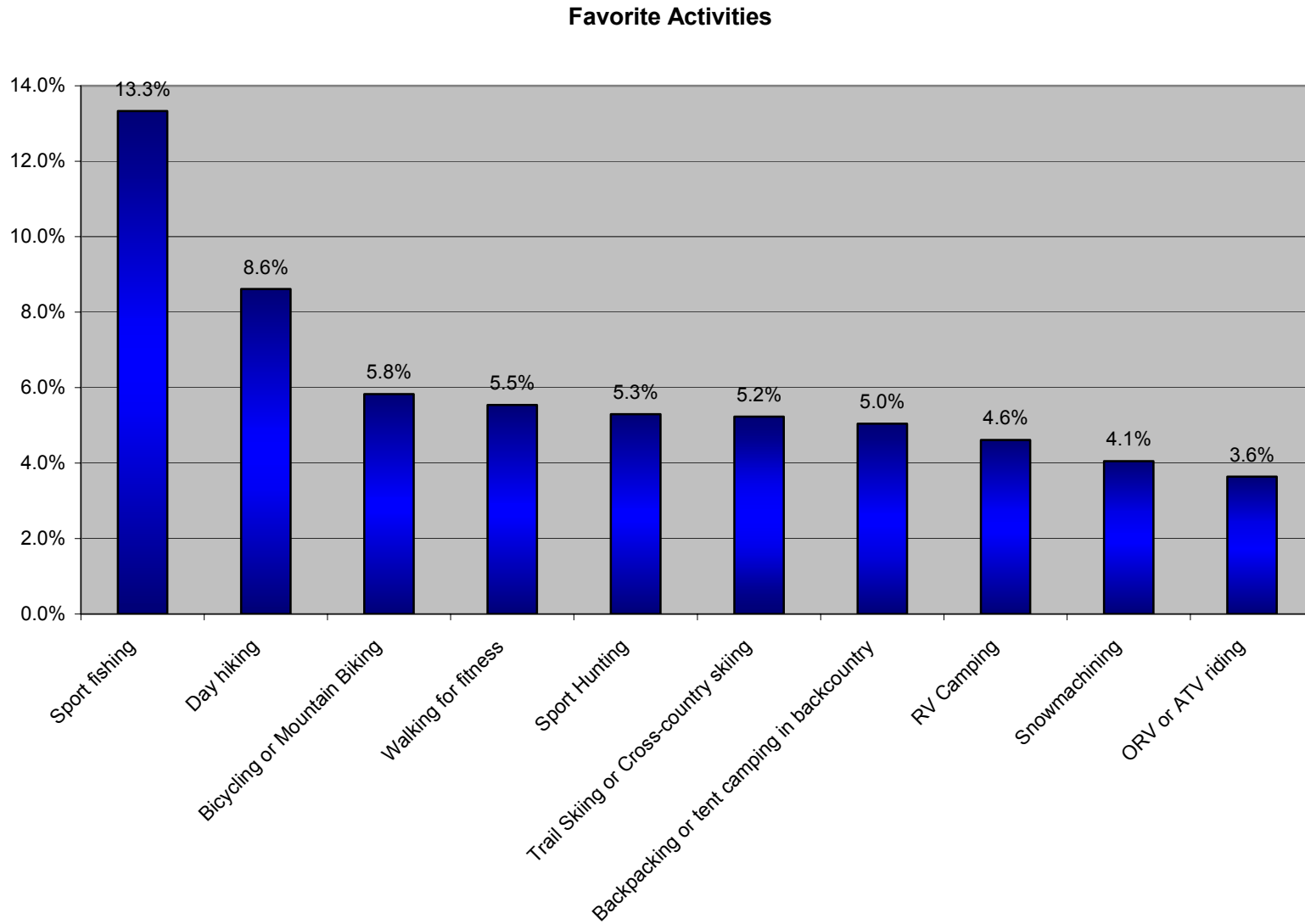
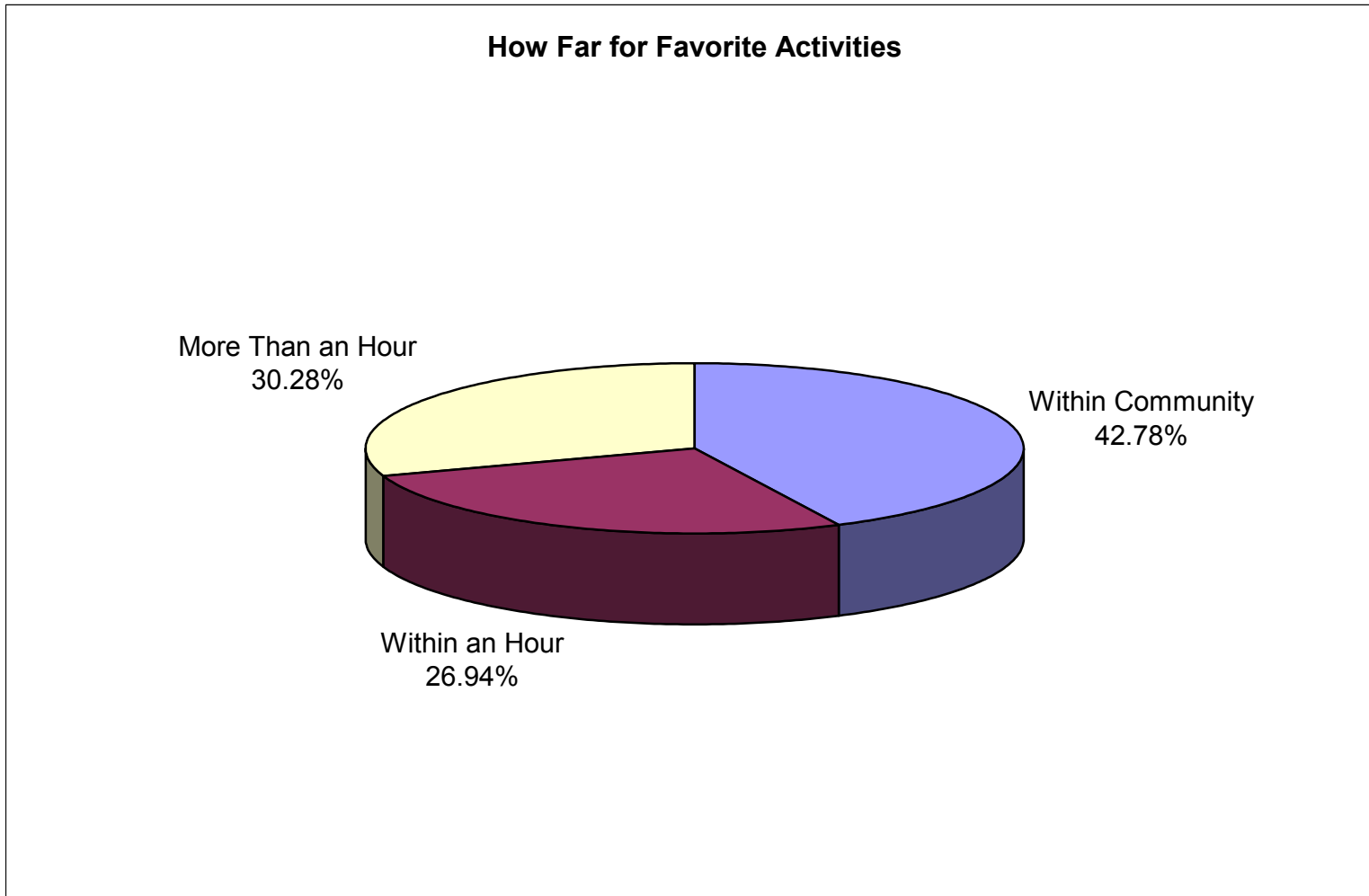


Figure 4.7 – How Far for Favorite Activities



HIGHLIGHTS

While participation rates for most activities decline predictably with age, the highest rate of participation in sport fishing is among Alaskans over 40. Additionally, participation in day hiking and walking for fitness are consistent among all age groups.

Beyond those few activities that demand a significant financial outlay in order to participate, (e.g. skis, powerboats, golf), behavior and attitudes between different income groups is not significantly different.

Males participate more often in shooting, golf, ORV/ATV riding, court games, power boating, snowmobiling, sport fishing, and hunting. Women participate in greater numbers in sledding, swimming, walking for fitness, kayaking, horse riding, and back country skiing.

The two favorite activities among men are fishing and hunting. Fishing is the second favorite activity, with walking for fitness the favorite, among women.

Marital status appears to have substantial effect on recreation patterns and equipment ownership. Married couples fish considerably more often than single people; fishing is the clear favorite activity of married men. Married women's participation in activities such as fishing and hunting are dramatically higher than those of single women. More single than married people tent camp and backpack.

Married men overall own more outdoor equipment than other groups, except for tents, bikes, and dog teams, where married women own slightly more.

Families with children are more likely to participate in berry picking, biking, clamming, field games, picnicking, and open space activities than their counterparts without children. Kayaking and RV camping are participated in more readily by childless households.

Households with children are more inclined to be dissatisfied with current community facilities and opportunities, and to support the suggestion that more recreation programs be provided, and more parks established.

ATTITUDES ON FACILITIES, MANAGEMENT, AND RESOURCE PROTECTION

Respondents were asked a series of value statements to determine what kind of facilities or experiences they would like, and the trade-offs they were willing to make to pay for them.

There was strong to moderate public support for all the proposed park facility improvements and developments. Respondents were also questioned on their support for the development of more trailheads (76 percent support) along roads and highways, more non-motorized trails (74 percent support), and more off-road vehicle trails (56 percent support).

Figure 4.8 - Support for Facility Improvements and Developments

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	% SUPPORT 1997
Disabled accessible facilities	86
Public use cabins	79
Tent campgrounds	77
Trailheads along roads	76
Roadside toilets	74
Non-motorized trails	74
Road upgrade (park roads)	71
Picnic areas	68
New parks	67
RV dump stations	64
Boat launches	63
Recreation programs	61
Water/toilets in campgrounds	59
Off-road-vehicle trails	56
RV campgrounds	52
Visitor centers	49
Tourist facilities	41

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT	% SUPPORT 2004
Public use cabins	77.09
Roadside toilets	75.88
Trailheads along roads	75.37
Non-motorized trails	71.06
New parks	69.42
Disabled accessible facilities	63.59
Tent campgrounds	60.84
Picnic areas	52.72
Road upgrade (park roads)	48.91
Off-road-vehicle trails	47.29
Boat launches	47.02
RV dump stations	43.15
Water/toilets in campgrounds	37.33
RV campgrounds	35.38
Recreation programs	34.42
Visitor centers	29.33
Tourist facilities	23.75

Despite strong support for the facilities and improvements mentioned above, when presented with the choice of using limited funds for facility development or maintenance, 78 percent of respondents favored maintaining current facilities.

Alaskans want better access to outdoor recreation opportunities. Sixty-nine percent responded that the state should acquire private land when it blocks or restricts access to existing parks and facilities. Fifty-five percent support improved access to military lands for outdoor recreation purposes.

Over 40 percent of households report that facilities are often crowded when they want to use them; 66 percent support limiting facility use when they become too crowded. Although 64 percent said there were enough parks and outdoor recreation lands convenient and accessible to them, 69 percent support establishing new parks and recreation areas.

Sixty-seven percent believe the state should increase its protection of areas with historic or archaeological value; 64 percent support the use of park land to promote tourism. Sixty-eight percent believe that parks and outdoor recreation programs help reduce crime and juvenile delinquency.

In addition, 51 percent said trails should accommodate different types of activities, rather than be designated for a limited number; 61 percent said hearing motorized vehicles or motors negatively affects their recreation experience; conversely, 35 percent said it does not.

Eighty-three percent agree that if overcrowding occurs, commercial uses in parks should be limited before personal uses are limited.

SUPPORT FOR FUNDING PROPOSALS AND WILLINGNESS TO PAY

Respondents were asked about five different proposals to help fund the development and maintenance of park facilities, and outdoor recreation programs throughout the state. The percent of support is included in parentheses.

- ☐ Allocate a portion of annual RV registration fees (91 percent).
- ☐ Allocate a portion of annual all-terrain vehicle registration fees (86 percent).
- ☐ Allocate a portion of annual snowmobile registration fees (87 percent).
- ☐ Impose a one penny per gallon tax on gasoline (57 percent).
- ☐ Impose a small tax on the purchase of outdoor gear (43 percent).

When asked if willing to pay user fees for maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities, 82 percent said yes. If a statewide bond issue were put on a general election ballot to fund parks and outdoor recreation programs, 64 percent said they would vote for it. Seventy-two percent said they would purchase a \$10 pin with sales going to help fund outdoor programs.

A copy of the telephone survey and responses to each of the questions is located in Appendix A.

OUTDOOR RECREATION TRENDS 1992 -2004

See Appendix D for a comparison of the 1992, 1997 and 2004 statewide telephone survey results. In addition to asking about all activities included in the 1992 survey, the 1997 and 2004 surveys included several new activities and questions. These are identified by "N/A" (not applicable) in the comparisons. A few old questions were removed. Comments and possible reasons are provided to help interpret the comparisons.

Military base downsizing in Alaska has impacted the amount of recreational use on some wildlife refuges in Alaska. At the peak there were more than 5,500 military personnel at Adak. Their primary uses of the Aleutian Islands Unit of the Alaska Maritime Refuge included fishing, hunting, public use cabins, wildlife viewing, and visitor services provided on the road system and in the Adak visitor center. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services has accordingly reduced its staff at that location to a caretaker status. With the closures of Shemya and Attu, recreational use in those areas has also reduced to a low level. The Ft. Greeley closure in Delta Junction will have a small impact on the hunting and fishing use of the Tetlin Refuge. As the base is retrofitted, some of that use may return. The closure of the King Salmon and Galena air bases showed a substantial reduction in use by military personnel on the Alaska Peninsula/Becharof and the Koyukuk/Nowitna Refuge complexes. The overall civilian use on the Alaska Peninsula/Becharof Complex continues to grow as private industry in the area continues to grow. Military personnel use from Ft. Wainwright in Fairbanks and Elmendorf Air Force Base and Ft. Richardson in Anchorage, remains constant, and is a large recreation component of the railbelt population, both by active and retired personnel.

RECREATION PROVIDER SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 313 community and regional outdoor recreation providers throughout the state were asked to rank in order of importance the outdoor recreation needs in their communities and regions. The categories provided were:

- Park land acquisition
- Developed facilities
- Recreation programs
- Disabled access
- Maintenance of existing facilities
- Other

Fifty-five providers (18% percent of those surveyed) responded.

Figure 4.9 - Comparison Ranking of Outdoor Recreation Needs.

(The 2004 numbers reflect statewide reporting and ranking. 1992 and 1997 results were reported by region i.e. Southeast, Railbelt and Rural. Regional numbers compare 1992 and 1997 – with 1997 in parentheses - by order of importance.)

AREA	LAND	FACILITIES	PROGRAMS	ACCESS	MAINT.	OTHER
Statewide 2004	3	1	5	4	2	
Southeast	4 (4)	1 (1)	2 (3)	5 (5)	3 (4)	6 (2)
Railbelt	4 (5)	1 (1)	5 (6)	3 (4)	2 (2)	6 (3)
Rural	4 (3)	1 (1)	3 (4)	5 (4)	2 (6)	6 (2)

Statewide, developed facilities continue to be the highest priority need overall; maintaining existing facilities continues to be the second; parkland acquisition, particularly the acquisition of parcels adjacent to or within the boundaries of existing park sites ranked as the third highest priority need; access to existing facilities by persons with disabilities ranked as the fourth; and, the need for organized programs and trained staff came in as the fifth priority.

FACILITY NEEDS

Responding providers identified the following specific facility needs (in order of priority):

1. Recreational fields and courts
2. Community parks (play grounds/tot lots, picnic areas, sheltered group facilities, etc.)
3. Trails (new, designate existing, signage)
4. Skate parks/paths (roller blade, skate board, roller skate)
5. Boat ramps

(The top 2 categories were identified three times as often as the last 2.)

BARRIERS TO MEETING OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS

Providers were asked to identify the most significant barriers to outdoor recreation in their communities. Consistent with the last survey, common to all and foremost is the chronic lack of funding for outdoor recreation facility development, maintenance and supervised programs. Providers identified a shortage of land suitable or available for development, and lack of connecting trails, as significant barriers. Respondents also report climate or seasonal conditions as the significant barrier.

Other noted barriers included: accessibility by persons with disabilities, the economy, enforcement of regulations at existing sites, the blocking of historic trails, closing or restricted use of private or corporation held land, lack of equipment to properly maintain existing facilities, over crowding of existing facilities, and lack of adequate public access.

CHAPTER 5

STATEWIDE ISSUES, GOALS, AND RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES

“It is circumstances and proper timing that give action its character...”
-Agesilaus

The chief goal of outdoor recreation providers in Alaska is to provide a range of opportunities for responsible use of Alaska’s recreation resources while protecting natural values. To successfully meet this goal requires knowledge of the resource, user needs, and participation trends. Public and financial support are also crucial to success. When these are absent, the quality of the recreation experience or the opportunity can be jeopardized. Alaska State Parks staff, the interagency advisors, recreation user groups, and others reviewed the most important issues affecting outdoor recreation in Alaska over the next five years. Although each is an important issue in its own right, there are many points of intersection and overlap among them. Issues are not listed in order of importance. Recommended strategies to meet the goals are identified. A principal objective of this SCORP is to provide a framework of strategies to improve outdoor recreation in Alaska.

ISSUE 1. LACK OF ADEQUATE FUNDING

Goal: Secure a reliable source of funding for outdoor recreation in Alaska. Develop programs that allow important projects to be completed and maintained. Strengthen mutually beneficial relationships with other agencies, the private sector, and user groups.

DISCUSSION

Outdoor recreation in Alaska has traditionally been supported with a variety of funding sources, primarily appropriations from the state general fund, federal appropriations, Land and Water Conservation Fund grants, and property taxes and revenue sharing for local governments. These funding sources have become severely stressed.

Deferred maintenance is a major concern for all park land managers. For Alaskans and visitors alike, Alaska’s state parks are the primary roadside gateways to outdoor recreation, and for many local communities, park visitors are the engine of the local economy. Park visitors expect that park facilities will match Alaska’s grand beauty. Facilities must be maintained. For the state parks, a decade’s worth of declining maintenance funding has so deteriorated the system that the age-old Alaskan tradition of making repairs with little more than duct tape and baling wire no longer works. As of February 2004, the state parks facility deferred maintenance inventory was \$43.8 million.

Alaskans are supportive of fixing the state park system. The statewide survey of 1592 Alaskans found that 64 percent would support a statewide bond issue for parks and outdoor recreation programs; 78 percent want money invested in maintaining existing park facilities. For Alaskans’ continued enjoyment of new road accessible outdoor recreation

and for the economic benefits which visitors bring to local communities, we can no longer ignore the deteriorating condition of our state parks.

The 1965 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) matching grant program has been a vitally important mechanism for assisting the state park system and local recreation programs. Alaska has received about \$29.6 million in LWCF grants with state-side matching funds resulting in the acquisition of more than 20,786 acres of park land and over 379 facility development projects for over 68 communities and agencies.

The state-side of LWCF is a 50/50 matching grant program which provides funding for planning, acquisition, and development of outdoor recreation areas. This program has been an effective and efficient alternative to federal acquisition and development and has been a critical tool for stimulating local and state efforts to provide for recreation needs and to preserve and protect natural areas.

Historically, Congress appropriated about \$300 million nationally for the LWCF each year. As directed by the LWCF Act of 1965, at least 40 percent was reserved to federal agencies for land acquisition purposes, commonly referred to as the “federal side” of the LWCF program. The remainder was available for apportionment to states and communities as matching grants for acquisition, development, and improvement of outdoor recreation areas, commonly referred to as the “state-side” of the LWCF program. The state-side share declined from 60 percent in 1980 to 7 percent in 1990, with a corresponding increase in the federal share.

Without a reliable source of supplemental funding, state and local park and recreation budgets cannot adequately respond to population increases and changing recreation needs. To meet current needs, balance between the federal and state-side share of the LWCF needs to be restored, and greater flexibility in the use of funds allowed. If this cannot be accomplished, alternative funding sources must be developed.

While there are programs and funding to build new facilities, there are few ways to fund maintenance of existing facilities.

In spite of the decline in oil revenues, Alaska’s population and tourism industry are growing. Although surveys show that Alaskans are willing to pay reasonable user fees to help pay for parks and outdoor recreation, these fees cannot make Alaska’s parks and outdoor recreation facilities self-supporting. While other states might fill the budget gap with income tax revenues, reinstatement of a state income tax in Alaska is not likely in the near future. Therefore, Alaska’s state and local outdoor recreation managers must be more innovative than their counterparts in other states, reducing costs and increasing revenues with the limited means available, while continuing to provide the high quality experiences Alaskans expect.

People that attended the public meetings were asked if the following were still valid recommendations:

Figure 5.1 – Lack of Adequate Funding

<i>Lack of Adequate Funding</i>	Yes	No	Don't Know
Support Ongoing Efforts for Reform of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program	65.52%	0.00%	34.48%
Continue Interagency Communication and Cooperative Efforts	75.86%	13.79%	10.34%
Privatize Selected Services, Facility Operation and Maintenance	44.83%	41.38%	13.79%
Strengthen Alternative Funding Mechanisms and Programs	89.66%	0.00%	10.34%
Develop Alternative Funding Sources	92.59%	0.00%	7.41%

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES:

A. SUPPORT ONGOING EFFORTS FOR REFORM OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM

To carry forward the original intent of the LWCF Act, it is necessary for states to receive a far higher share of the annual apportionment and have greater flexibility in their use of funding. This will require changes in the act. Changing the way Congress appropriates LWCF funds is a national issue. However, reforming the LWCF to meet that intent requires coordinated effort at local and state levels.

Alaska’s State Liaison Officer (the Alaska State Parks director) for the LWCF program will continue to work with Alaskan citizens, other outdoor recreation providers, the Outdoor Recreation and Trails Advisory Board, Alaska’s Congressional delegation, and other states’ liaison officers to build a statewide and national constituency supporting ongoing reform of the LWCF program and apportionment formula.

B. CONTINUE INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATION & COOPERATIVE EFFORTS

1. Seek Public and Government Funding

Alaskan’s appreciation of outdoor recreation is well documented. Public agencies should continue to request adequate funding for recreation budgets from Congress, State, and local government.

2. Support Professional Organizations:

Outdoor recreation providers at all levels should join and support the work of the Alaska Recreation and Parks Association, Alaska Wilderness Recreation & Tourism Association, Alaska Visitors Association, and other potential partnering groups. They should participate in statewide, regional, and local workshops, and conferences, and initiate or participate in training opportunities, strategic planning sessions, and partnerships that improve the delivery and efficiency of outdoor recreation services in Alaska.

3. Expand Use of Partnerships:

Although not the solution to every budget shortfall, partnerships are an effective tool for minimizing duplication of services and expenditures, and making limited dollars go farther. Local, state, and federal outdoor recreation providers should strengthen current partnerships, initiate partnerships identified in the 1992-1997 SCORP Action Plan (Doing More With Less: Outdoor Recreation Partnerships for the 1990s) or develop new ones to fit local conditions. (The plan contains over 100 site specific partnerships to address the need for cooperative planning, consolidation of services, rehabilitation or upgrade of existing facilities, construction of new facilities in areas of high use, and tourism facilities.)

For example, the Outdoor Recreation and Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB) goals are to improve trails and recreational access for Alaskans, the coordination of state agencies to cooperate with federal agencies to develop new and better opportunities for trails and recreational access on public land, and to help Alaska build and maintain its role as a world class visitor destination. The ORTAB facilitates review, evaluation, and prioritization of eligible outdoor recreation projects for financing under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and the National Recreation Trails Program. In addition to many advisory roles on recreational access needs, the board can also sponsor community round tables on projects.

Another example is a cooperative support effort for wildlife viewing recreation. Recognizing the increasing public interest in wildlife viewing and education programs, as well as the limitations of current funding, a partnership among 23 state and federal agencies, conservation groups, and the tourism industry began in 1992. The partnership took shape as the Alaska Watchable Wildlife Steering Committee, which has served as a vehicle for development of cooperative projects and networking among groups with related interests. The committee, under the leadership of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, has developed the Alaska Wildlife Viewing Guide (published as part of a national series by Falcon Press), and the "Wildlife Viewing in Alaska" brochure. For each guide book sold, one dollar is contributed by the publisher to the Alaska Watchable Wildlife Trust, administered by the Alaska Conservation Foundation. These funds are designated to support wildlife conservation viewing and education projects. The committee is also coordinating placement of binocular logo signs at road-accessible sites listed in the guide. Developing a computerized database of wildlife viewing site resources, services, and facilities has been a priority, under Alaska Department of Fish and Game leadership. The

Alaska Watchable Wildlife Steering Committee also supports the Teaming with Wildlife initiative as a long-term solution to funding expanded wildlife conservation, recreation, and education programs.

The Alaska Land Managers Forum provides federal, state, and Native land managers a way to regularly meet, exchange information, and develop management approaches to land and resource issues facing Alaska. It conducts studies and advises the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, other federal agencies, the State of Alaska, local governments, tribal governments, and Native corporations established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act with respect to ongoing, planned, and proposed land and resources uses in Alaska. These include transportation planning, land use designation, fish and wildlife management, preservation of cultural and historical resources, and other matters submitted for advice and consultation by the members which appear to require regional or statewide coordination.

C. PRIVATIZE SELECTED SERVICES, FACILITY OPERATION, & MAINTENANCE

1. Expand Use of Contracts:

Not all budget cuts can be mitigated by cooperative efforts. Some services now performed by agencies could be assumed equally well by the private sector at a savings to public agencies; however, many services are for the short Alaska summer season, which may not provide an adequate economic return for the private sectors. Agencies should evaluate the facilities and services they provide to identify those that they are uniquely qualified to supply and those that could better be provided under a concession contract or negotiated lease with private and non-profit entities. Providers should also consider year-round service possibilities.

The Department of Natural Resources main objective is to keep all parks clean, safe, and open to the public. Privatization of facilities is one manner that this can be achieved however, the privatization must be financially beneficial to the State.

Competent concession operators can effectively provide high quality recreation experiences and promote public safety. In some cases, they can do this more efficiently and at less expense than public agencies, while saving agencies money and providing adequate financial return to agency coffers. Facilities and services most appropriate for concessions are those that do not pay for themselves under a user fee or other revenue generating system (e.g., some campgrounds, visitor centers, public use cabin reservation bookings, firewood sales, and selected facility maintenance), but have potential to do so under the more discretionary wage and benefit standards of the private sector.

Negotiated leases are appropriate for larger-scale tourism related facilities, such as lodges or resorts that require investment of public funds in development of the infrastructure, and the long-term financial commitment of an investor/operator.

2. Develop Interagency Commercial Use Policy:

To encourage businesses that provide important services not available from the managing agencies, such as guiding, agencies should cooperatively develop a comprehensive commercial use permit policy. The policy should set standards for professionalism, present consistent permit requirements, and consolidate fees for businesses that operate in more than one jurisdiction. The Alaska Land Managers Forum has begun work to address commercial use policy issues.

D. STRENGTHEN ALTERNATIVE FUNDING MECHANISMS AND PROGRAMS

1. Maintain and Promote Volunteer Programs:

Alaska's outdoor recreation providers should continue to maintain and promote volunteer opportunities and coordinate recruitment and placement procedures. Volunteers in Alaska's parks and conservation units come from throughout the United States to assist in management studies, campground management, trail building and maintenance, and to perform a variety of other unfunded tasks.

In 2003, over 700 Alaska State Park volunteers donated over 101,300 hours of labor at a dollar value of more than \$530,000. For the past few years, the supply of well qualified applicants has matched the demand for volunteer positions.

2. Organize User Groups:

The "friends of recreation and parks" concept has gained support among business, civic, and user groups. These groups are not only valuable for the volunteer time they contribute in parks, they are also conscientious fund raisers and lobbyists. For example, the Friends of Kodiak State Parks promote enhancement and preservation and protection of the natural, historical and recreational resources within the units of the Kodiak State Parks system, assist in implementing park improvements, enhance conservation and safety awareness, and further educational and interpretive opportunities compatible with the nature of the parks. Any person interested in supporting the mission can apply for membership. Agencies should cooperatively promote and support these advocacy groups to increase their visibility, membership, and effectiveness.

3. Support State Wildlife Grant Program:

Booming public interest in watching wildlife and educational programs has greatly expanded the need for additional public services and facilities. Since the early 1990's the Teaming with Wildlife coalition has worked to secure funding for state fish and wildlife agencies. In 2002, President Bush signed the State Wildlife Grant program into law. The primary purpose of this program is to develop wildlife conservation plans and on-the-ground conservation projects

4. Continue to Promote and Support the Alaska State Parks Foundation:

Alaska State Parks should continue to promote the Alaska State Parks Foundation to raise funds for major projects, and purchase programs and equipment for the state park system.

E. DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES

Develop a Matching Grant Program:

Alaska State Parks should continue to lead efforts to establish a matching grant program (similar to the Land and Water Conservation Fund). The program should provide technical and financial assistance for development of outdoor recreation facilities and programs. To fund such a program, Alaska State Parks should also continue research on establishing an account for capital development and maintenance of facilities.

ISSUE 2. OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET RECREATION NEEDS IN COMMUNITIES

Goal: Support efforts to assist communities in meeting the outdoor recreation needs of their citizens.

DISCUSSION

While there is a need for more outdoor recreation facilities in many communities throughout the state, the shortage appears to be most critical in rural areas.

The need in many Alaska communities for facilities such as play fields, court game facilities, trails, skating rinks, pools, and organized recreation programs is great. In many communities, these facilities are either lacking or poorly maintained. While the constraints to providing facilities are primarily financial, harsh environment also presents problems for constructing and maintaining outdoor facilities. Winters are long and cold. In some areas severe wind chill conditions can be life threatening. Average summer surface water temperatures either prohibit swimming outright or restrict it to very limited areas and periods. Permafrost is a limiting factor to facility sites and other land uses. Incidence of mass wasting of slopes (including snow avalanches), shoreline erosion and human-bear or other potentially dangerous wildlife encounters are common to all regions. Other uniquely Alaskan constraints or dangers include seismic and tsunami potential, and sea ice. The LWCF program includes flexibility to allow enclosed and covered recreation facilities, such as ice rinks and swimming pools, in northern climates.

People that attended the public meetings were asked if the following were still valid recommendations:

Figure 5.2 - Community Recreation Recommendations

COMMUNITY RECREATION RECOMMENDATIONS	Yes	No	Don't Know
Give Some Communities a Higher Priority for LWCF Matching Grants	47.62%	23.81%	28.57%
Develop Alternative Funding Sources	90.91%	4.55%	4.55%
Design Facilities to Reflect Economic Realities and Sustainable Practices	81.82%	4.55%	13.64%

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES:

A. GIVE SOME COMMUNITIES A HIGHER PRIORITY FOR LWCF MATCHING GRANTS

A stated purpose of the LWCF Act is “to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States.” In consideration of the critical imbalance in facilities and funding available in many communities, Alaska’s State Liaison Officer should work with the ORTAB Board and National Park Service to continue to ensure that more projects are funded through the LWCF (provided they meet eligibility requirements), based on state open project selection process criteria (see Chapter 6), which considers whether the community has received its per capita share of Land and Water Conservation Fund money.

B. DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES

Alaska’s outdoor recreation providers should develop a state trust (similar to the LWCF) for facility development and technical assistance on outdoor recreation projects in Alaska’s communities. (See section on developing a state matching grant alternative to the LWCF program.) The State of Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program is an example of a program that provides funds for acquisition and development of local and state parks, water access sites, trails, critical habitat, natural areas, and urban wildlife habitat areas.

C. DESIGN FACILITIES TO REFLECT ECONOMIC REALITIES AND SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Because funds are limited, and maintenance costs high, communities and funding programs should place an emphasis on the construction of facilities with low maintenance requirements, revenue generating capability and environmentally sound practices (sustainability). Continued maintenance should be part of the design.

ISSUE 3. IMPROVED ACCESS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION RESOURCES

Goal: Provide more convenient, legal, and barrier-free access to outdoor recreation opportunities on Alaska’s public lands and waters.

DISCUSSION

As the state's population increases and the tourism industry expands, the demand for more trails, boat ramps, and barrier-free access (where appropriate) to recreation facilities increases. While many people desire to recreate in unoccupied natural setting, the shortage of access to recreation resources has led to overuse and resource damage in high-demand areas, and user conflicts. There is an emerging incompatibility of uses and values, especially on multi-use trails. There is a desire for quiet places on public lands, as well as other needs.

Trail-related activities such as hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, ORV and snowmobile riding are not only popular outdoor recreation activities in their own right, but they also provide access to other activities. Trail usage is high throughout the state and developing more trail opportunities is a high priority for many Alaskans. Roads, railroads, and ferries are used year-round as primary access to hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, boating, fishing, virtually all forms of recreation connected to them, and provide access to other opportunities. In addition, hundreds of miles of temporary roads and logging roads offer access to recreation.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), and the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA21) – which supersedes ISTEA, provide for development of much-needed community transportation improvements, including bicycle and pedestrian facilities, preservation of historic transportation structures, and scenic beautification. These “Transportation Enhancements” are eligible for federal funding as long as they relate to surface transportation and are included in and are the following 12 qualifying activities:

1. provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles,
2. provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists,
3. acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites,
4. scenic or historic highway programs (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities),
5. landscaping and other scenic beautification,
6. historic preservation,
7. rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals),
8. preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails),
9. control and removal of outdoor advertising,
10. archaeological planning and research,
11. environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff or reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity, and establishment of transportation museums.

While Transportation Enhancements are linked to transportation, they include recreation facilities and infrastructure, and usually improve access to recreation opportunities. Most improvements under the first category (facilities for pedestrians and bicycles) are trails. In fact, over half of the Transportation Enhancement funding programmed nation-wide since ISTEA was passed by Congress in 1991 has been invested in bicycle and pedestrian trails. In addition to Transportation Enhancement, which are projects “above and beyond” basic transportation infrastructure needs it is policy in the State of Alaska to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians in the design of state-owned roads.

Additionally, a state may spend highway funds for wildlife viewing, signing and facilities, construction of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, and for construction of bicycle transportation facilities on or adjacent to roads on the National Highway System or the state highway system.

Trails and Recreational Access for Alaskans (TRAAK)

In 1995, Alaska Governor Tony Knowles initiated the Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska (TRAAK) program. TRAAK has three main goals:

- to build trails that safely link neighborhoods, parks, and commercial areas together,
- to improve access to recreation for Alaskans, and
- to build and maintain Alaska’s role as a world-class visitor destination.

TRAAK has been an important cooperative program that brings together four state agencies as partners: the departments of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Natural Resources, Fish & Game, and Commerce and Economic Development. Transportation enhancements are the largest component of the TRAAK program but through TRAAK, the State implements two other components of ISTEA and TEA21, the Scenic Byways Program and the Recreation Trails Program (Symms Grant Program).

The TRAAK Board is in the process of being replaced by the **ORTAB (Outdoor Recreation and Trails Advisory Board)** that will continue to ensure that public concerns are addressed. The board includes members of the public as well as non-voting members from the department of Natural Resources. The board can review and recommend priorities for all outdoor recreation funding programs, and has specific authority to recommend approval of grant awards under the Symms program. Another board responsibility will be to review Land and Water Conservation Fund project applications and to assist with project prioritization as prescribed by the LWCF open project selection process.

Recreation Trails Program

The Recreation Trails Program is a component of ISTEA, administered on the federal side by the Federal Highway Administration, and on the state side by Alaska State Parks

(Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation). Under this grant program, approximately \$400,000 comes to Alaska each year for building and improving hiking, skiing, snowmobile, and off-road-vehicle trails in Alaska. This is a competitive grant program; grants are awarded to organizations and agencies. The funds are based on a formula that estimates the percentage of federal tax on fuel used by off-road recreational vehicles.

Scenic Byways

The State Scenic Byways Program was established by DOT&PF in 1993, to designate as scenic those segments of the highway system that have outstanding scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, natural, or archaeological qualities. The program does not restrict land use along the corridor. However, it gives DOT&PF authority to develop standards for signs and informational displays along designated Scenic Byway routes. The Federal Highway Administration administers the National Scenic Byways Program. Alaska's Scenic Byways Program relies in large part on the annual grants under this program. "All American Road" is a national designation given to the nation's most scenic routes, based on an application initiated by the State. The Seward Highway has this designation. The Scenic Byways program is coordinated with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Watchable Wildlife and Transportation Enhancement projects within designated scenic road corridors.

Corridor Assessments

DOT&PF has developed Corridor Assessments for the 10 major National Highway System routes in Alaska (Dalton, Parks, Richardson, Seward, Sterling, Alaska, Glenn, Haines, Klondike, and Tok Cut-off highways). These assessments focus on the highway corridors and provide an inventory of existing improvements and prospective improvement projects that qualify for funding. The assessments may be expanded to include opportunities along but outside the corridors. These reports will be used as a long range planning tool for identifying projects.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program

This program ensures a dedicated funding source for transportation planning and projects that demonstrate potential for improving air quality and mitigating traffic congestion in areas that do not meet goals and requirements of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Examples of eligible activities are pedestrian and bicycle facilities, transit system capital expansion and improvements, and traffic flow improvements.

Federal Lands Highway Program

The Federal Lands Highway Program covers highway programs in cooperation with federal land managing agencies, such as the National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Forest Service. Funding is provided for the three existing categories of Federal Lands highways: Indian Reservation Roads, Park Roads and Parkways, and Public Lands Highways (discretionary and Forest Highways), and for a new category called Refuge

Roads (federally owned public roads providing access to or within the National Wildlife Refuge System). Program funds can be used for transit facilities within public lands, national parks, and Indian reservations and can also be used as the State/local match for most types of federal-aid highway funded projects. It also provides transportation engineering services for planning, design, construction, and rehabilitation of highways and bridges providing access to federally owned lands, and planning for tourism and recreational travel, interpretive signage, provisions for pedestrians and bicycles, and construction of roadside rest areas. Projects are not selected or funded as part of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, but have their own planning process (selected projects are listed in the STIP).

In addition, many local transportation improvement plans include access-related projects that ISTEA could fund. Examples of such plans include the Municipality of Anchorage's Anchorage Metropolitan Area Mass Transportation Study (AMATS), which includes a transportation improvement program; Homer bicycle trails plan; Kenai Peninsula Borough and Fairbanks comprehensive trails plans; and Northwest Arctic Borough Transportation Plan (involving staking hundreds of miles of trails).

Americans with Disabilities Act

Making parks and outdoor recreation facilities accessible to residents and visitors also means accommodating the needs of special populations. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) provides guidance and a timetable for public agencies to make access to the disabled population a reality. The Act prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in employment, and provides for equal access to public services and transportation, public accommodations, and telecommunication services. According to the Act, an individual with a disability is one who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more life activities, a record of such impairment, or who is regarded as having such an impairment. As outlined in the Act, major life activities include caring for oneself, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, and working.

The Act prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation, including parks and other places of exercise or recreation. It specified an effective date of January 26, 1992, for alterations to public accommodations, and January 26, 1993, for new construction. Physical barriers in existing public accommodations (including parks) must be removed if readily achievable (i.e., easily accomplished and without much expense). If not, alternative methods of providing services must be offered, if those methods are readily achievable. Meeting the spirit and the requirements of this Act to make parks and outdoor recreation facilities accessible is a challenge and a priority for Alaska's outdoor recreation managers.

IDENTIFICATION OF LEGAL TRAILS AND LEGAL ACCESS

Nationwide, trails of all kinds are experiencing significant increases in use and public support. Trail development is also increasing to meet growing demands for year-round trail based recreation and to promote economic development.

Even as new trails are developed, many existing trails are lost as property owners put their land to other uses. Trails must be legally identified, established, and dedicated for long term use to avoid this loss of recreational opportunity.

Enacted in 1999, AS 34.17.055 can provide liability protection for private landowners who grant public trail easements across their property. This legislation provides long needed protection to and incentive for private landowners to participate in the identification and dedication of trails for public access for recreational purposes by the state, cities or boroughs.

People that attended the public meetings were asked if the following were still valid recommendations:

Figure 5.3 – Improve Access to Outdoor Recreation Resources

<i>Improve Access to Outdoor Recreation Resources</i>	Yes	No	Don't Know
Implement TEA-21 Provisions	65.38%	0.00%	34.62%
Improve Access to Water-Based Recreation	72.73%	22.73%	4.55%
Develop Inventory of Barrier-Free Outdoor Recreation Facilities	72.73%	22.73%	4.55%
Continue Cooperative Planning Efforts with “Barrier-Free” Advocacy Groups	72.73%	13.64%	13.64%
Consider Incompatibility Among Users and User Values	86.36%	4.55%	9.09%
Continue Identifying and Legally Dedicating Existing Trails	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES:

A. IMPLEMENT TEA-21 PROVISIONS

1. Improve Interagency Coordination:

Improved communication and coordinated planning among local, state, and federal transportation and recreation agencies and trail users is necessary to develop a list of priority projects eligible for funds under the TEA-21 enhancement program.

2. Continue work on Statewide Trail Inventory and Alaska Trails System.

Planners with the Department of Natural Resources, with assistance from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program and TRAAK board, and funded in part through an LWCF planning grant administered by the National Park Service, developed an Alaska Recreational Trails Plan which was completed in October 2000. Criteria, goals, and procedures are contained in the Plan. The Alaska Trails System, as envisioned, will be made up of Alaska's best summer and winter trails for motorized and non-motorized trail users. An Alaska Trails System map will be produced and updated periodically to reflect new trails as they are added to the system.

B. IMPROVE ACCESS TO WATER-BASED RECREATION

Outdoor recreation providers should develop a priority list for the development or improvement of access to water-based recreation resources throughout the state. State, federal, and LWCF funding should be sought to meet high priority access and resource protection needs. These should be coordinated with the Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux and Pittman-Robertson programs, which provide grants for sport fishing and sport hunting access facilities.

C. DEVELOP INVENTORY OF BARRIER-FREE OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Agencies should cooperate in the inventory of recreation facilities and their compliance with ADA accessibility standards. This inventory can be used in a variety of ways, including the indication of accessible facilities in brochures and other printed materials for public use, in the formulation of capital budgets for remedial work, and as a measure of any facility deficiencies for serving disabled populations. A specialized brochure devoted to accessible facilities is a good candidate for a partnership among agencies and user groups.

D. CONTINUE COOPERATIVE PLANNING EFFORTS WITH "BARRIER-FREE" ADVOCACY GROUPS

Outdoor recreation providers should strengthen partnerships between outdoor recreation providers and barrier free advocacy groups by exchanging technical information about facility needs. One agency could serve as a clearinghouse for state-of-the-art information and design standards for barrier-free access. Providers should assist in identifying physical and attitudinal barriers that inhibit participation by special populations in outdoor recreation activities. Higher priority for funding could be given to projects with multiple barrier-free application, such as wheelchairs, walking aids, and elderly access, where appropriate.

E. CONSIDER INCOMPATIBILITY AMONG USERS AND USER VALUES

Recreation providers, user groups, and interested public should consider all viewpoints in recreation planning (see public workshop comments in Appendix D, as example). Natural quiet is an essential resource and should receive specific treatment in planning documents as do other valuable resources. Quiet, like other resources, should be considered for its values and benefits; the wide variety of possible methods to protect and restore natural quiet to public lands should be considered.

F. CONTINUE IDENTIFYING AND LEGALLY DEDICATING EXISTING TRAILS

The identification and legal dedication of trails for long-term public use should continue. Creating and reserving a public easement establishes an additional layer of protection for trails that safeguard legal public access.

ISSUE 4. SHORTAGE OF TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES ON PUBLIC LANDS

Goal: Support and promote balanced use and development of Alaska's public lands for outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism.

DISCUSSION

Alaska's visitors are not only out-of-state visitors. Alaskans traveling out of their communities, visiting other parts of the state, and hosting their family and/or friends are also visitors. The 2004 statewide resident telephone survey showed that large percentages of Alaskans recreated/used facilities more than an hour away from their community in the past year: sightseeing or driving for pleasure, 31.3 percent; sport fishing, 30.8 percent; tent camping in a campground, 25.5 percent; backpacking or tent camping in backcountry, 24.9 percent; RV camping 22.5 percent; clam digging or beach combing 21.5 percent; sport hunting, 21 percent; river canoe, rafting, or floating, 18.3 percent; power boating, 15 percent; and snow machining, 12.2 percent. Wildland recreation and in-state tourism represent not only a lifestyle activity, but a significant economic force in Alaska.

Overall in 2003, visitors spent over \$2.4 billion on food, travel, lodging, and outdoor recreation equipment and services in Alaska. For some of Alaska's small communities, tourism is one of the few opportunities for a cash economy.

- The visitor industry ranks second in terms of private sector employment.
- Over 27,000 people are employed in the Alaska visitor industry during the peak season; 19,000 jobs are attributed to outside travelers; 8,000 to Alaskans traveling within the state.
- With an 84 percent local hire rate, the visitor industry employs the highest percentage of Alaska residents, compared to all private sector industries.
- Travel and tourism impacts another 52,000 jobs in other sectors of the economy.

- Visitor and tourism businesses generate \$1.6 billion per year in revenues.

The past several decades have seen rapid growth in the number of visitors to Alaska. Seven out of 10 visitors come to Alaska during the peak travel months of June through September. An estimated 1.31 million visitors traveled to Alaska in 2003.

The estimated number of total visitors to Alaska between 1997 and 2003 increased by more than 190,000, a total increase of nearly 17 percent and an average annual growth rate of 2.4 percent.

The number of visitors to the state has increased steadily each year. Cruise ship visitor volumes experienced the most dramatic rate of growth between 1997 and 2001 (the last year for which detailed figures are available), increasing 30 percent, with an average annual growth rate of approximately 6 percent. The largest portion of Alaska's visitors in 2001 were from the United States (86 percent), Canada accounted for approximately 10 percent of visitors while overseas visitors were about 4 percent. In the early years of Alaska non-resident tourism, independent travelers were rare. Nearly all visitors traveled as part of a packaged tour. The independent market in 2001 was 30 percent, or 360,840 visitors. Visitors traveling independently, but who purchased a tour of some type accounted for another 27% or 324,756.

Typically, independent travelers stay in Alaska longer, travel more widely around the state, and spend more money than other visitors. In general, they are sophisticated tourists looking for "world class" scenery, wildlife encounters, adventure, and Native Alaskan culture. In response to this trend, the number of small Alaskan businesses offering customized tours and nature-based travel has grown.

In 2001, 25 percent of all visitors were 61 or over, 19 percent were 51–60, 21 percent were 41-50, 10% were 31-40, 10 percent were 21-30 and 6 percent were less than 21 years old. This indicates a trend toward younger visitors than in the past. In 1996, 50 percent of Alaska's visitors were over 55.

Alaska visitors are moderately well-to-do, with 49% of respondents earning over \$75,000 per year. Thirty percent of respondents earned more than \$100,000 annually. Sixty two percent of respondents were employed at the time of their visit, and 24 percent were retired. Fifty two percent were males and 48 percent females.

Alaska benefits from a wide array of recreational tourism opportunities. Alaska's premier wildland recreation and tourism destinations are publicly owned, with local, state and federal recreation agencies providing many of the basic needs of Alaska's visitors. However, Alaska's public lands have not realized their potential for providing year round outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities. While millions of dollars in advertising are spent every year to attract visitors to Alaska, public land and recreation managing agencies have experienced serious financial hardships. Providing facilities that meet the changing demands of recreational users and tourists often requires expensive infrastructure. The private sector is often better able to provide capital and labor intensive services needed to

provide these facilities than are public agencies. Whether under long-term negotiated lease, concession contract, or other type of arrangement, well-planned and designed facilities, built on public lands and operated by the private sector, can meet a growing need and provide positive economic return to the public. In addition, there is growing interest and support for providing recreational facilities and services on private land.

People that attended the public meetings were asked if the following were still valid recommendations:

Figure 5.4 – Shortage of Tourism Opportunities on Public Lands

<i>Shortage of Tourism Opportunities on Public Lands</i>	Yes	No	Don't Know
Expand Cooperative Planning Efforts	82.76%	3.45%	13.79%
Maintain and Expand Private-Public Nature-Based Tourism partnerships	69.23%	23.08%	7.69%
Promote Private Sector Development on Public Lands Where Appropriate	25.00%	64.29%	10.71%
Develop Year-Round Tourism Destinations and Related Services on Public Lands	60.71%	28.57%	10.71%
Increase Capital Spending to Rehabilitate and Expand Facilities	79.31%	13.79%	6.90%
Expand Public Use Cabin System	72.41%	20.69%	6.90%
Promote the Alaska Public Lands Information Centers	75.86%	13.79%	10.34%

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES:

A. EXPAND COOPERATIVE PLANNING AND MARKETING EFFORTS

Coordinating committees, such as the TRAAK Board and the Alaska Land Managers Forum, should continue to emphasize interagency cooperation to better coordinate recreation and tourism development. This will enable better quality control and more precise targeting of tourism developments and visitor services related to outdoor recreation.

As in-state and out-of-state demand increases, special emphasis should be on improved and increased access to visitor destinations and sites necessary to disperse use. Emphasis should include balancing the needs of all users. Emphasis should also be on enhancements to Alaska’s highway and marine highway systems using ISTEPA funding.

B. MAINTAIN AND EXPAND PRIVATE-PUBLIC NATURE-BASED TOURISM PARTNERSHIPS

Carefully directed and managed tourism can benefit conservation of wildland resources and the Alaska economy. Agencies should continue cooperative efforts to promote and enhance Alaska's nature-based tourism opportunities through the Alaska Visitors Association, the interagency Watchable Wildlife program, the Alaska Natural History Association, Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association, and other partnerships.

There are now signs for wildlife viewing areas. The Alaska Wildlife Viewing Guide was written by Alaska Department of Fish and Game and other agencies in 1996. Roadside areas included in the guide are being signed with the national binocular logo symbol by the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and other agencies. These signs will help direct people interested in viewing fish and wildlife to designated state and federal areas.

C. PROMOTE PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT ON PUBLIC LANDS WHERE APPROPRIATE

Where appropriate, outdoor recreation agencies should foster an investment climate that encourages and supports public-private partnerships to help meet outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism facility needs. Such development requires consideration of land use plans, applicable laws and ordinances, and current recreational and existing use patterns, and working with affected publics. (See recommendations on privatizing selected services, facility operation, and maintenance.)

D. DEVELOP YEAR-ROUND TOURISM DESTINATIONS AND RELATED SERVICES ON PUBLIC LANDS

Agencies should work with recreation user groups and affected publics, and major recreation organizations when planning, designing, building, and promoting facilities with year round capabilities or applications, and should also keep year round and existing use in mind when designing summer facilities. (See the section on private sector development on public lands, above.)

E. INCREASE CAPITAL SPENDING TO REHABILITATE AND EXPAND FACILITIES

Through contact with user groups and advisory boards, recreation managers should build constituent support for capital budgets to fund the rehabilitation and expansion of existing public facilities. New (revenue generating) facilities at locations of high demand should also be supported. Maintenance should be part of that support for existing and new facilities.

F. EXPAND PUBLIC USE CABIN SYSTEM

Recreation providers should develop partnerships with the private and public sectors for the design, construction, marketing, operation, and maintenance of an expanded public use cabin system. Consider a “hut to hut” system, modeled after the successful European and New Zealand programs.

G. PROMOTE THE ALASKA PUBLIC LANDS INFORMATION CENTERS (APLICS)

These inter-agency centers allow visitors to stop by or write to just one place for all the information necessary to plan an Alaskan adventure on public lands. Agencies serviced by the APLICs are: National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Division of Tourism, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, and Bureau of Land Management.

Figure 5.5 - Implementation Responsibilities

	Strategy/Action	Participating Agencies
Support effort for ongoing reform of LWCF program	ASP, NPS	
Continue interagency communication and cooperative efforts	All	
Seek Public and Government Funding	All	
Support professional organizations	All	
Expand use of partnerships	All	
Privatize selected services, facility operation, and maintenance	SOA	All others
Expand use of contracts	All	
Develop interagency commercial use policy	All	
Strengthen alternative funding mechanisms and programs	All	
Maintain/promote volunteer programs	All	
Organize user groups	All	
Support State Wildlife grant program	All	
Promote and Support Alaska State Parks Foundation	ASP	All others
Develop alternative funding sources	NPS, SOA	All others
Develop a matching grant program	ASP	
Give some communities a higher priority for LWCF matching grants	ASP, NPS	
Design facilities to reflect economic realities	All	
Implement TEA-21 provisions	DOT/PF	All
Improve interagency coordination	All	
Continue statewide trail inventory and plan	ASP	
Improve access to water-based recreation	ASP, ADFG	All others
Develop inventory of barrier-free outdoor recreation facilities	ASP	
Continue cooperative planning with barrier-free advocacy groups	All	
Consider user value in high-use areas	All	
Continue identifying and legally dedicating existing trails	All	
Expand cooperative planning and marketing efforts	All	

Maintain/expand private-public tourism partnerships	All	
Promote private sector development on public lands	DNR	USFS, BLM
Develop year-round tourism destinations on public lands	DNR	USFS, BLM
Increase capital spending to rehab/expand facilities	SOA	All others
Expand public use cabin system	ASP	USFS, BLM, USFWS
Promote Alaska Public Lands Information Centers (APLIC)	All	

Key:

ADFG	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	LG	Local Government
ASP	Alaska State Parks	NPS	National Park Service
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	SOA	State of Alaska
DCRA	Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs	USFS	US Forest Service
DNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources	USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
DOT/PF	Alaska Department of Transportation and Public facilities	USGS	US Geological Survey (APLIC only)

CHAPTER 6

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM PRIORITIES AND FUNDING CYCLE

In this chapter, the relationship between the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program is summarized, priorities for LWCF funds identified, and the schedule for applying for a LWCF grant outlined, assuming continued funding of the LWCF grant program.

THE LWCF GRANT PROGRAM

The LWCF Act of 1965, as amended, had a stated goal of providing a nationwide legacy of high quality outdoor recreation. The Act created a 50/50 match grant program available to State and local governments to acquire, develop and improvement basic outdoor recreation facilities to serve the general public. In Alaska, this program is administered at the state level by Alaska State Parks.

SCORP AND THE LWCF PROGRAM

To be eligible to participate in the LWCF program, each state must have a current SCORP on file with the National Park Service (the federal agency responsible for administering the LWCF). Through the SCORP planning process, agencies and the public identify capital investment priorities for acquiring, developing, and protecting outdoor recreation resources. These priority needs are then used as a guide to direct the state's allocation of its LWCF apportionment. Proposals that are 1) submitted by eligible applicants, 2) for eligible types of projects, and 3) that address priority needs identified in the SCORP, are eligible to compete for 50/50 matching grants.

THE OPEN PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

The Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) was developed to accomplish the following goals:

1. Provide for public knowledge of and participation in the formulation and application of the project selection process utilized by the state in allocating LWCF assistance.
2. Ensure that all potential state and local applicants are aware of the availability of and process for obtaining LWCF assistance, and provide opportunities for all eligible agencies to submit project applications and have them considered on an equitable basis.
3. Provide a measurable link, through published selection criteria, to the specific outdoor recreation needs and priorities identified in SCORP policies and implementation programs.

4. Assure that the distribution of LWCF assistance is accomplished in a non-discriminatory manner, especially with regard to minority populations, the elderly and people with disabilities, and ensure a fair and equitable evaluation of all applications for LWCF assistance.

Through the OPSP, project proposals are submitted to Alaska State Parks according to the schedule outlined at the end of this chapter. Proposals are evaluated, scored, and ranked based on 12 factors, one of which is compliance with needs and objectives of the SCORP. Compliance with SCORP objectives is weighted more heavily than are other criteria. The maximum number of points awarded a project through the evaluation process is 150; up to 55 points are awarded to projects addressing high SCORP priorities.

Other criteria for project selection include: compliance with a local plan, public support, sponsor's ability to operate and maintain project after completion, site suitability, proximity to public areas or facilities, age groups served, special populations served, environmental impact, per capita share of LWCF money previously received by sponsor, and innovative or creative aspects of the project.

Appendix G contains the full Open Project Selection Process.

LOCAL RECREATION PLAN

Because the SCORP's priorities are generalized and may not accurately address a specific community's needs, Alaska State Parks grant administration staff developed the "local recreation plan" option. Completion of this plan will not only help sponsors better compete for LWCF grants, it will assure that grants are awarded based on community as well as statewide priorities. See Appendix E for local recreation plan guidelines.

A project must be identified as a priority need in the SCORP to be eligible for funding from the LWCF program. However, a project identified as a priority need in either a local or a regional plan as well as the SCORP will be awarded additional points in the LWCF scoring process, thus providing a distinct scoring advantage for that project.

Alaska's OPSP requires project proposals to be identified in a local or regional plan. For communities without any formal plan in place, an adopted local recreation plan will meet this requirement.

The local recreation plan is not meant to replace existing comprehensive local or regional plans. However, in communities with outdated plans (over 10 years old), a local recreation plan may be submitted to advance a project not identified in the original plan, provided the local recreation plan is approved as an addendum to the original plan.

PRIORITIES FOR LWCF FUNDING

Outdoor recreation priorities are based on responses to the public and the community recreation provider surveys conducted by Alaska State Parks in the spring of 2004. Only those projects that meet a priority need identified in the SCORP are eligible for LWCF funding.

STATE PRIORITIES

The following are priorities for Alaska State Parks and other state agencies that manage outdoor recreation resources (e.g., Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water).

Figure 6.1 – State Priorities

PROJECT TYPE	PRIORITY
Rehabilitate, upgrade or expand existing high-demand facilities	High
Construct public use cabins/Expand public use cabin system	High
Rehabilitate, upgrade or expand trails/trailheads	High
Land acquisition of in-holdings or access to existing recreation lands and facilities	Medium
Provide more facilities for the disabled	Medium
Acquisition of wetlands to protect recreation values	Medium
Land acquisition for new parks or outdoor recreation areas	Low

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

The following are priorities for community recreation projects.

Figure 6.2 – Community Priorities

PROJECT TYPE	PRIORITY
Community parks/playgrounds	High
Trails	High
Winter facilities	High
Public use cabins	High
Campgrounds	High
Rehabilitate, upgrade or expand existing facilities	High
Meet accessibility requirements of ADA	Medium
Boat launches	Medium
Skate parks	Medium
Land acquisition of in-holdings or access to existing recreation lands and facilities	Medium
Land acquisition for new parks or outdoor recreation areas	Low

Note: Community parks, field sports (e.g., baseball, soccer), outside court sports (e.g., basketball, volleyball), picnic areas, and playgrounds/tot lots have been combined into one category: “community parks/playgrounds”. “Trails” include summer and winter motorized, non-motorized trails, and multi-use trails. “Winter facilities” include sheltered or open outdoor hockey and ice skating rinks, sledding areas, downhill and cross country ski areas, and warming huts. Skate parks include roller blade, skateboard, and roller skate parks and paths.

THE OPEN PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS SCHEDULE

The following is a target timeline to be used when funding is anticipated for the program. Variables such as ORTAB meeting dates, staffing levels and obtaining final application documentation from sponsor could alter this timeline.

September - Public announcements of anticipated funding made and preliminary applications solicited.

December – Preliminary applications due to SLO. Approximately 90 days provided for the submission after announcement.

January – Hold public meeting of the Outdoor Recreation and Trails Advisory Board to review and rank preliminary applications. SLO approves final ranking.

February through April – SLO staff works with sponsors whose preliminary applications ranked high enough to be funded to complete full application packages.

May – full application packages submitted to the National Park Service for final approval.

CHAPTER 7

WETLANDS

WETLANDS AS A COMPONENT OF THE SCORP

The United States Congress enacted the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 (PL 99645) to protect and promote conservation of our nation's important wetlands. The act amends the LWCF Act to require SCORPs to specifically address wetlands... "as an important recreation resource," and to allow states to use LWCF funds to acquire wetlands identified in the SCORP. This chapter guides the State in identifying high recreation value wetlands that should receive priority attention for acquisition or other protective efforts.

The Emergency Wetlands Resources Act also requires SCORPs to be consistent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) wetland programs and policies, and it requires the SCORP wetland component to be developed cooperatively with other agencies. This chapter was prepared through the cooperative efforts of the USFWS Alaska Regional Office, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

ALASKA'S WETLANDS

Alaska is in a unique situation in relation to its wetlands (Figures 7.1 and 7.2). The USFWS estimates that the State contains approximately 175 million acres of wetlands, or 63 percent of the total wetland acreage for the U. S. (Hall et al. 1994). Wetlands cover 43.3 percent of Alaska's surface area. In the lower 48 states, wetlands occupy only 5.2 percent of the surface area.

Wetland losses have been much less in Alaska compared to the lower 48 states. The USFWS estimates that over the past 200 years, 53 percent of the original wetland acreage in the conterminous U.S. has been lost. During the same time period, less than 1 percent of Alaska's wetland cover has been filled or drained (Dahl 1990).

The density of Alaska's wetlands is extremely variable across regions (see Map 7.1). For example, wetland habitats cover 83 percent of the Arctic Coastal Plain, while less than 11 percent of the Aleutian Island Chain and Kodiak Archipelago are wetlands. Wetland extent in other physiographic regions includes: 1) Cook Inlet/Susitna Lowlands - 28 percent, 2) Yukon Flats - 38 percent, and 3) Selawik/Kobuk Delta - 76 percent.

While some wetland types in Alaska are extensive in area, others are very limited. Within the 14-million-acre Arctic Coastal Plain, less than one percent of the wetlands are coastal salt marshes. These marshes are important staging and feeding areas for a significant number of Migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Similarly, very narrow zones of riparian wetlands are

Figure 8.1 Wetlands Of The U.S.

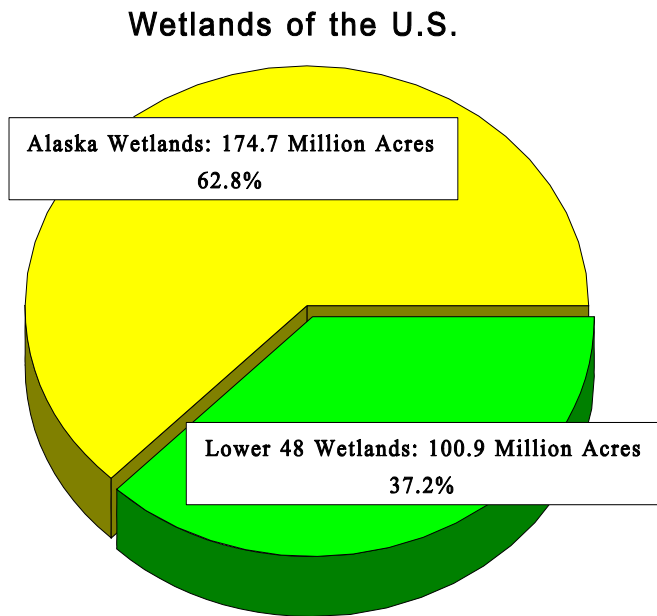
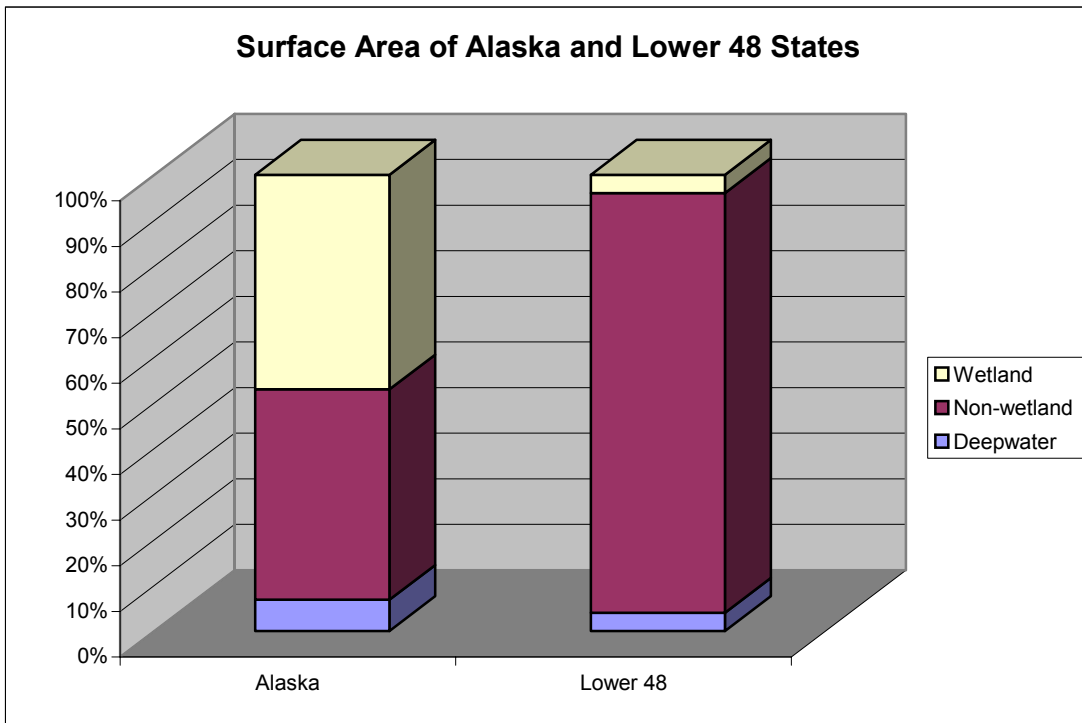


Figure 8.2 - Surface Area of Alaska And Lower 48 States



important to resident and anadromous fish by stabilizing banks, providing nutrient input to riverine channels, maintaining base flow, and providing rearing habitat where small channels enter the streamside marshes.

Wetlands are a conspicuous feature of the landscape in most regions of the state. Treeless expanses of moist and wet tundra underlain by permafrost occur in northern and western portions. Interior Alaska contains millions of acres of black spruce muskeg and floodplain wetlands dominated by deciduous shrubs and emergents. Shrub and herbaceous bogs are common in south central and southeast Alaska. Even in mountainous areas such as the Brooks Range, wetlands have developed in drainages and on vegetated slopes. Some of the nation's most extensive complexes of salt marshes and mud flats occur along the coasts of the Beaufort Sea, Chukchi Sea, Bering Sea, and the Gulf of Alaska.

Many wetlands in northern portions of Alaska are underlain and maintained by permafrost, or perennially frozen ground. Wetland conditions often occur because the frozen layer traps water at or near the surface. Other wetlands are maintained by heavy rainfall, glacial melt water, river flooding, beaver activity, snowmelt, springs, impermeable soils, and bedrock.

WETLAND FUNCTIONS AND VALUES

Alaska's wetlands provide many benefits, including:

- . food and habitat for wildlife, fish, and shellfish;
- . natural products for human use and subsistence;
- . surface and groundwater recharge;
- . shoreline erosion and sediment control, floodwater storage; and
- . opportunities for recreation and aesthetic appreciation.

Not all wetlands perform all of these functions, but most provide one or more in varying degrees.

Tundra wetlands in northern and western Alaska are prime breeding grounds for many shorebirds (sandpipers, plovers, and their relatives). Waterfowl species dependent on Alaskan wetlands include more than 100 thousand swans, one million geese, and 12 million ducks. These include more than half the continental populations of tundra and trumpeter swans and all or most of the continental populations of eight species or subspecies of geese.

In recent years, Alaskan wetlands have on average supported 30 percent of the continental populations of northern pintails, 24 percent of American widgeons, 19 percent of scaup, 18 percent of canvasback, and 13 percent of green-winged teal. The importance of Alaskan wetlands to these and other species increases significantly during years when drought occurs in prairie states and provinces.

During migration, huge flocks of waterfowl and shorebirds stop at specific areas for resting and feeding. These critical wetlands provide concentrated food resources necessary to fuel the journey to nesting areas in the spring, or southern destinations in the fall. Nearly all of the Pacific Flyway black brant feed on rich eelgrass beds at Izembek Lagoon on the Alaska Peninsula during fall migration (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1985).

Many mammals in Alaska use specific wetland types and areas. Some species, such as beaver and muskrat, spend most of their lives in wetlands. Other mammals use wetlands primarily as feeding or resting areas. Moose commonly feed on submerged vegetation in deep marshes and shallow ponds, and on willow shrubs that are common in many wetlands. The two largest herds of caribou, both in northern Alaska, gather into huge aggregations and migrate from winter upland areas to coastal wetlands in the summer. Uninterrupted wetlands in the North Slope coastal plain are used by these animals for calving and feeding. Nonvegetated wetland types such as gravel bars and coastal beaches are used to escape insect harassment. Many wetland habitats provide important feeding areas and habitats for bear, deer and migratory songbirds.

Wetlands along Alaska's coasts, rivers, and streams provide a variety of functions that support fisheries. Many fish species feed in wetlands or on food produced by wetlands. Coastal wetlands and streamside marshes are used as nursery grounds. Other wetland types adjacent to rivers are important to fish populations because they maintain and regulate stream flow in the riverine system, and they serve as a protective buffer between the channel and surrounding uplands. Species (e.g., salmon) that move between fresh water and saltwater are dependent on both coastal and riparian wetlands. Annually, the salmon industry in Alaska employs approximately 20,000 people. The ex-vessel value of the commercial salmon fishery in Alaska was \$195 million in 2003. Sportsmen harvested over 1.5 million salmon in 2002. The value of this fishery is difficult to estimate, but sport fishing is a source of income to many small towns and cities throughout the state.

Many wetlands serve to temporarily store floodwaters, thereby protecting downstream property owners from flood damage. The flood storage function also helps to slow the velocity of water, which reduces the water's erosive potential. This function of wetlands is increasingly important in Alaska's towns and cities, where development has increased the rate and volume of surface-water runoff and the potential for flood damage. In areas of Alaska where permafrost is common, the ability of wetlands to store floodwaters is reduced.

Subsistence use of wetland resources in Alaska is extensive. In most areas, wetland habitats provide resources upon which Native village economies are based. A major portion of hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering activities occur in wetlands areas (Ellenna and Wheeler 1986). Fish and wildlife resources harvested for subsistence use and dependent on wetlands include five species of salmon, shellfish, ducks, geese, beaver, and otter. Plant materials frequently collected from wetlands include blueberries, cranberries, Labrador tea, and willow.

Harvest of migratory waterfowl, sandhill cranes, and common snipe by non-rural hunters averages about 68,000 birds per year. Over 25,000 Alaska hunters take water birds annually, with approximately 400,000 birds harvested each year.

The diversity of plant and animal life in wetlands makes them a valuable resource for nonconsumptive recreation such as wildlife viewing and photography. Wetlands, particularly in urban areas, also provide valuable recreational and educational opportunities, open space, and aesthetic enjoyment.

WETLAND LOSSES

Although there is no completely accurate comprehensive data on wetland losses in Alaska, the USFWS estimates that the state has lost 200,000 acres, or less than one percent of the state's original wetland acreage. A 1989 report on the effects of petroleum operations in Alaska wetlands prepared by Senner (1989) for ARCO Alaska estimated cumulative wetland losses from human activity at 80,000 acres since the time of territorial accession in 1867. The report indicated that the loss estimates would be substantially higher if a complete and more accurate inventory were conducted. In most states, the destruction of wetlands through draining and filling has been much more dramatic. More than 80 percent of the wetlands have disappeared in California, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, and Ohio. As a whole, the lower 48 states have lost an estimated 53 percent of their original wetland acreage.

The estimate of total wetland losses in Alaska was determined by the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory staff using a limited amount of actual wetland loss data. Existing trends data covers a few isolated locations, or in some cases was developed only to measure the loss of wetlands from a specific type of development activity. Alaska is not included in the USFWS national wetlands status and trends project, which monitors wetlands losses and gains in ten-year intervals.

While total wetland losses relative to Alaska's vast wetland acreage have been small compared to other areas of the country, the loss of wetlands has been significant in specific areas. The rapid growth of urban centers and the expanding development of oil, gas, mineral, agricultural and timber resources have impacted wetlands in many locations.

Urban development and construction of transportation systems account for the greatest loss of wetlands in Alaska. The state's three largest cities (Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau) are located in areas where wetland density is high. Many towns and villages in northern and western Alaska are built almost entirely on land classified as wetlands. In 1982, the potential for urban expansion to impact remaining wetlands in Anchorage led to the establishment of a local comprehensive wetland management plan. The USFWS conducted an analysis of the losses of wetlands in the Anchorage Bowl. In 1950 the Bowl contained 18,903 acres of wetland. By 1990, 52.7 percent (9,958 acres) of the 1950 wetland base was lost from draining and filling activities (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1993).

The USFWS completed a wetlands trends analysis for the Juneau area in 1986 and included the data as part of the 1987 Juneau Wetland Management Plan (Adamus 1988). The 15,606-acre study area represented most of the developable land in Juneau and vicinity. Wetlands in 1948 comprised 59 percent, or 9,208 acres, of the study area. Based on the analysis of aerial photography, a total of 1,162 acres were filled between 1948 and 1984, representing a loss of about 13 percent of the wetland acreage present in 1948.

Oil and gas development in Alaska has primarily impacted wetlands on the North Slope and along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). Wetland loss as a result of all North Slope petroleum exploration, production, and support activities is estimated at 9,160 acres. An additional 10,900 acres were filled on the North Slope for the construction of TAPS and the associated Dalton Highway. Dalton Highway and TAPS construction in areas south of the North Slope has resulted in a loss of approximately 9,250 acres of wetlands (Senner 1989).

Wetlands in some regions of Alaska have been impacted by the mining of mineral and/or coal resources. Placer mining for gold accounts for most of the wetland losses in this development category. The greatest concentrations of placer mining operations occur in the north central part of the state and on the Seward Peninsula. Wetland density is high in these areas due to the presence of permafrost. Many placer mining sites are located in temporarily or seasonally flooded riparian wetlands. The mining operation includes moving and processing large volumes of earth that may be placed on wetlands. In addition to the loss of wetlands, placer mining may also result in the conversion of natural, undisturbed wetland types to highly modified wetlands such as artificial impoundments or seasonally flooded tailings surfaces.

Wetland losses and alteration due to agricultural development occur primarily in regions underlain by permafrost. Hydric soils in these areas are maintained in a saturated condition by the permafrost layer, which restricts the downward movement of water. Conversion of the poorly drained wetland soils to well-drained soils suitable for agriculture is accomplished by removing the insulating organic surface layer and vegetation cover. Natural drainage of the soil occurs after the soil warms and the permafrost table recedes.

Most of the wetland loss due to agricultural development occurs in the Tanana River and Copper River basins. Approximately 95,000 acres of land in the area have been cleared for agricultural projects. This represents a rise of approximately 5,000 acres since the last survey in 1997. Surveys published by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) indicate that some of the soils in the cleared areas were wetland (hydric) soils prior to development. These wetlands were dominated primarily by black spruce and deciduous shrubs. Measurements of the actual extent of wetland losses in this region have not been made.

Wetland impacts resulting from activities associated with the forest products industry in Alaska are concentrated in the southeast region, but also occur elsewhere in the State. The greatest loss of wetland acreage is due to fill activities from the construction of logging roads. While wetlands are often avoided during construction because of engineering and environmental considerations, their extensive coverage makes it impractical to avoid all wetlands. Most logging occurs in non-wetland areas. The cutting that is done in some needle-leaved evergreen forested wetlands does not usually result in wetland loss. However, the logging activity significantly alters the functions of the wetland areas.

This discussion has focused on the direct loss of wetland acreage in Alaska from filling, draining, or dredging activities. These practices are readily observable, and the resulting cumulative loss of wetlands can be practicably measured. Less apparent is the indirect deterioration of wetland quality resulting from the discharges of materials (e.g., sediment, nutrient loading, pesticides, herbicides, and other pollutants) into wetland environments. Greater attention needs to be paid to the effects of these pollutants on the quality of Alaska's wetlands, particularly as industrial development activities (e.g., municipal wastes, mining, oil and gas, and agriculture) expand in many regions of the State. Alaska has the opportunity to wisely manage wetlands before significant statewide destruction and degradation occurs. In most states this opportunity was lost decades ago.

WETLAND THREATS

Many of the threats to the wetlands base in Alaska are concentrated around the state's population centers. As the population grows, wetlands will be impacted by residential and commercial development, and associated infrastructure (e.g., roads, utility corridors, airport expansion, and port development). Some impacts are unavoidable as wetlands are a dominant landscape feature in many communities. For example, in some towns and villages in western and northern Alaska over 80 percent of the land surrounding the townsites are classified as wetlands. Wetlands in the coastal zone will be particularly affected by development since population growth is expected to increase more rapidly in coastal areas.

In addition to community expansion, wetlands in Alaska will continue to be affected by other development. It is anticipated that more placer mining will impact riparian wetlands, particularly in the northern half of Alaska. Many proposed mining projects are located in areas where wetlands are common. Oil and gas development has the potential to cause wetland losses in certain areas. It is estimated that 5,000 acres of wetlands will be covered with gravel if large-scale oil development occurs on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Department of the Interior 1987). Construction of the proposed Trans-Alaska Gas System – one proposed route an 800-mile pipeline designed to transport natural gas from the North Slope to Valdez - would directly affect approximately 10,800 acres of wetland habitat (Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1988).

Annual wetland losses from logging and from agricultural development are now at a rate less than in the past. An improved farm economy in Alaska would stimulate additional land clearing activities in the areas that have a high potential for agriculture.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that a Department of the Army permit be obtained for the placement or discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, prior to conducting the work (33 U.S.C. 1344). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been delegated responsibility in this area. In some cases, project impacts are such that compensatory mitigation is appropriate.

To address this issue, the Alaska District of the Corps of Engineers has entered into several cooperative agreements with non-profit groups. These agreements provide a mechanism for fees to be paid to participating nonprofit organizations when mitigation is appropriate, but not practicable or difficult to implement. Corps' regulatory customers may, in appropriate cases, opt to pay an in-lieu fee to a partnering non-profit land or natural resource organization. When sufficient funds are obtained, the non-profit can acquire, preserve, enhance, create, rehabilitate, or restore wetlands and other aquatic areas in the general area of the impacting projects. Examples of acceptable uses of in-lieu fees would include, but are not limited to, acquisition of high quality aquatic habitat areas, including wetlands; establishing wetland buffer zones or conservation easements to protect important aquatic resources; and replacing the loss of aquatic resource values by creating, restoring, and enhancing similar functions.

SCORP PRIORITIES FOR ACQUISITION

To be given priority consideration for acquisition, a wetland site must meet the following four criteria:

1. Be access to and/or margins of water bodies, including streams, ponds and coastline.
2. Be emergent wetlands and marshes associated with recreational lakes.
3. Provide a high degree of public recreation benefit or value (including wildlife viewing), at present or potentially in the future (wildlife viewing is a popular, increasing value); and,
4. Be located within 50 miles of an urban or semi-urban or recreation/tourism area, including but not limited to Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Denali, Palmer-Wasilla, Kenai-Soldotna, Kodiak, Ketchikan, and Sitka.

Criterion 4 recognizes that most of Alaska's wetland losses have been in developed areas. Because accessible wetlands near population centers or recreation concentration areas have more recreational value for more people, they should receive priority for acquisition assistance with limited grant-funds.

APPENDIX A

OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

IVAN MOORE RESEARCH

TEL: 278-4600

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling for Ivan Moore Research, an Anchorage public opinion research firm. We are conducting an important statewide opinion survey for the State of Alaska, Division of Parks, to help us understand what Alaskans do for outdoor recreation and how we can meet future recreation needs. Your answers will be combined with those of other Alaskans as part of a statewide outdoor recreation plan. The plan will be used by policymakers to determine where and how funds for outdoor recreation should be allocated for State and local recreation projects. Your telephone number has been selected randomly. Your opinions are important to us, and we'd appreciate your participation if that's OK with you.

S1. Is this a residential telephone?

IF "YES", CONTINUE...

S2. Are you an Alaska resident?

IF "YES", CONTINUE...

S3. (**ASK IF YOU DOUBT...**) Are you 18 years old or older?

IF "YES", CONTINUE...

1. How important are parks and outdoor recreation to your lifestyle? Are parks and outdoor recreation very important, somewhat important, somewhat unimportant or very unimportant to your lifestyle?

IMPORTANCE OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION:		
	Count	%
Very important	352	56.4%
Somewhat important	199	31.9%
Neutral	10	1.6%
Somewhat unimportant	49	7.9%
Very unimportant	13	2.1%

Mean = 3.326

2A. Overall, are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the parks and outdoor recreation facilities and services _____?

4	3	2	1	0	8
VERY SAT	SOMEWHAT SAT	NEUTRAL	SOMEWHAT DISSAT	VERY DISSAT	DON'T KNOW

In your community:

SATISFACTION LEVEL WITH PARKS IN YOUR COMMUNITY:		
	Count	%
Very satisfied	136	21.7%
Somewhat satisfied	343	55.0%
Neutral	32	5.2%
Somewhat dissatisfied	81	13.0%

Very dissatisfied	32	5.1%	Mean = 2.753
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Outside your community but within one hour:

SATISFACTION LEVEL WITH PARKS OUTSIDE YOUR COMMUNITY:			
	Count	%	
Very satisfied	142	22.7%	
Somewhat satisfied	273	43.8%	
Neutral	105	16.8%	
Somewhat dissatisfied	78	12.4%	
Very dissatisfied	26	4.2%	Mean = 2.684

2B. (IF DISSAT WITH IN COMMUNITY, THEN ASK...) Why are you dissatisfied with parks and outdoor recreation facilities and services in your community?

REASON FOR DISSATISFACTION WITH PARKS IN YOUR COMMUNITY:			
	Count	%	
Some user fees are too high	1	1.0%	
Concerned with track board	0	.3%	
Boat ramps are terrible	3	2.3%	
Closing and limited horse riding	2	1.6%	
Needs better funding/Budget/Underfunded	7	6.6%	
There aren't many	2	1.6%	
Accessibility and fees	2	1.7%	
Lack of ATV trails/Not enough of road vehicle trails	1	.6%	
Not enough garbage cans	2	1.7%	
Not enough space	2	2.2%	
They're useless, people don't clean up	2	2.2%	
Very restrained use of trails	0	.4%	
Don't open early enough	2	1.7%	
Closed parks/Closing/Shut down parks	13	11.5%	
Put on back burner, promises never carried out	0	.3%	
Dislikes paying for view	2	2.0%	
Very limited, sand beds are weak	0	.4%	
We need more trails and lower fees for day	2	2.0%	
Bathrooms are atrocious	2	1.7%	
They don't include Mountain biking within community	0	.4%	
Level of upkeep and safety	2	1.6%	

(continued)

	REASON FOR DISSATISFACTION WITH PARKS IN YOUR COMMUNITY:	
	Count	%
Maintenance/Needs maintenance	4	3.3%
Not enough for tent camping	0	.3%
Access and maintenance/limited access and trail upkeep	1	.7%
BLM too authoritative	0	.3%
More for children/Not enough playground for kids	1	.6%
Better recreation area's upkeep	0	.3%
Not enough organized activities	3	2.3%
Don't organize anything	0	.3%
Need more facilities/Hardly any parks and services here	3	2.9%
More lighting	0	.4%
Upkeep of roads	2	1.7%
Cutbacks on maintenance and toilets	2	2.2%
Parking lot too small	2	2.2%
Not enough choices of activities	0	.3%
Parks and fishing areas too crowded in summer	2	2.2%
Not enough sledding hills	2	1.6%
Close at 11pm need to be able to use park anytime	2	1.6%
Upkeep poor/Not taken care of	3	2.5%
Some local parks are in disrepair	0	.3%
Aren't any/None in community/No parks and recreation	12	10.3%
Not enough outside recreation facilities	2	1.7%
Needs to be upgraded, no 10 o'clock curfew in summer	0	.3%
Too restricted/Too limited	0	.3%
There is little here in the winter	0	.3%
Too much money spent on remote	3	2.3%
Private, no maintenance	2	2.2%
Lack of choice	0	.3%
Restricting motorized vehicles	2	2.2%
No trails or facilities	0	.4%
Hours of operation	0	.3%

(continued)

	REASON FOR DISSATISFACTION WITH PARKS IN YOUR COMMUNITY:	
	Count	%
Not much to do here/There isn't much	1	.8%
In the middle of nowhere, only bingo	0	.4%
Small village corporation owns all the land	0	.3%
Wildlife refuge - no headquarters - local Fairbanks	0	.3%
No organized activities for kids	0	.3%
No facilities for disabled	0	.4%
Better pedestrian trails - park attracts bears	0	.3%
Extreme weather	0	.4%
Dog crap on walking trails and bike trails are limited	0	.4%
Closing campsites and low maintenance at local parks	3	2.3%
Stopping miners and locals from land use	0	.3%
Educated people who don't know what they're doing	0	.3%
Spent too much money	0	.3%
Don't know	3	2.9%

2C. **(IF DISSAT WITH OUTSIDE COMMUNITY, THEN ASK...)** Why are you dissatisfied with parks and outdoor recreation facilities and services outside your community but within one hour?

	REASON FOR DISSATISFACTION WITH PARKS OUTSIDE YOUR COMMUNITY:	
	Count	%
More space	3	2.5%
Boat ramps changed to launch	3	2.5%
Better administration	0	.4%
They need development	0	.4%
They're useless, people don't clean up	2	2.4%
Eagle River -bigger hockey rink and jogging track	2	1.8%
Not open	2	1.8%
Too crowded	2	2.4%
Closed existing areas/Shut down parks	9	8.3%
Dislikes paying for view	2	1.8%
Closed several parks	2	1.8%

(continued)

	REASON FOR DISSATISFACTION WITH PARKS OUTSIDE YOUR COMMUNITY:	
	Count	%
Level of upkeep and safety	2	1.8%
Bathrooms not clean & full	2	1.8%
Not available for disabled	1	.8%
Embarrassing facility	2	2.4%
BLM contracted out better if state took over	0	.4%
More for children	0	.3%
Maintenance to be done/Need to be maintained	5	4.9%
Not enough organized activity	3	2.5%
Needs some work too crowded	2	2.4%
No decent toilets	2	1.8%
We need more campsites and trails	0	.3%
We need more trails & parks, lower fees for day use	2	1.8%
The bathrooms are atrocious	2	1.8%
There could be more/Not enough	3	2.5%
They charge too much for parking etc	2	1.8%
Upkeep of roads	2	2.2%
Cutbacks on maintenance and toilets	2	2.4%
Conditions of trails poor	0	.4%
Not enough choices of activities	0	.3%
Not enough facilities	0	.4%
Upkeep poor	3	2.8%
Budget	3	2.5%
Don't have much/Not enough facilities or services in area	7	6.7%
There is nothing/None in my area	3	2.6%
No parks or recreation with in one hour	4	4.2%
Too much money spent	3	2.5%
Cost	2	2.4%
Lack of choice	0	.4%
No picnic areas or maintenance on campground	1	1.0%
No trails or facilities and no upkeep	0	.4%
Don't know of any	1	.5%
They need more open roads with trails	0	.3%
Hours of operation	0	.3%
Nothing here but ranger	0	.4%
Not much to do here	1	1.2%

(continued)

REASON FOR DISSATISFACTION WITH PARKS OUTSIDE YOUR COMMUNITY:		
	Count	%
Corporation owns all the land	0	.4%
Too limited	0	.3%
None here - closest in Anchorage 800 miles away	0	.4%
No roads	2	2.4%
Not allowed into Serpentine Hot Springs	0	.3%
No access	0	.4%
No maintenance	2	2.4%
Think natives are stupid	0	.4%
Don't know	6	5.9%

2D. How important to you is a statewide system of interconnected, marked and maintained trails in Alaska? Is it very important, somewhat important, somewhat unimportant or very unimportant.

IMPORTANCE OF STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF INTERCONNECTED, MARKED, MAINTAINED TRAILS:		
	Count	%
Very important	242	38.8%
Somewhat important	206	32.9%
Neutral	15	2.5%
Somewhat unimportant	116	18.6%
Very unimportant	45	7.2%

Mean = 2.775

2E. How important are off-road trails (those that don't run alongside a road or highway) to your recreation lifestyle? Are they very important, somewhat important, somewhat unimportant or very unimportant?

IMPORTANCE OF OFF-ROAD TRAILS:		
	Count	%
Very important	273	43.8%
Somewhat important	186	29.9%
Neutral	8	1.2%
Somewhat unimportant	105	16.8%
Very unimportant	52	8.3%

Mean = 2.840

3. Which of the following items do you or does someone in your household own?

Backpack:

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWN A BACKPACK:		
	Count	%
Yes	576	92.3%
No	48	7.7%

Fishing equipment:

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWN FISHING EQUIPMENT:		
	Count	%
Yes	554	88.7%
No	70	11.3%

Tent:

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWN A TENT:		
	Count	%
Yes	536	85.9%
No	88	14.1%

Bicycle:

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWN A BICYCLE:		
	Count	%
Yes	531	85.1%
No	93	14.9%

Hunting equipment:

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWN HUNTING EQUIPMENT:		
	Count	%
Yes	406	65.0%
No	218	35.0%

Skis or snowboards:

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWN SKIS OR SNOWBOARDS:		
	Count	%
Yes	403	64.6%
No	221	35.4%

Skates, skateboards or roller blades:

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWN SKATES, SKATEBOARDS OR ROLLER BLADES:		
	Count	%
Yes	379	60.7%
No	245	39.3%

Canoe or raft:

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWN A CANOE OR RAFT:		
	Count	%
Yes	242	38.8%
No	382	61.2%

ORV or ATV:

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWN AN ORV OR ATV:		
	Count	%
Yes	233	37.3%
No	391	62.7%

Motorboat:

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWN A MOTORBOAT:		
	Count	%
Yes	222	35.5%
No	402	64.5%

Snowmachine:

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWN A SNOWMACHINE:		
	Count	%
Yes	197	31.6%
No	427	68.4%

RV:

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWN A RV:		
	Count	%
Yes	148	23.8%
No	475	76.2%

Sea Kayak:

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWN A SEA KAYAK:		
	Count	%
Yes	64	10.3%
No	559	89.7%

Jetski:

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWN A JETSKI:		
	Count	%
Yes	26	4.1%
No	598	95.9%

Sailboat:

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWN A SAILBOAT:		
	Count	%
Yes	19	3.1%
No	604	96.9%

Dog Team:

DOES ANYONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD OWN A DOG TEAM:		
	Count	%
Yes	18	2.9%
No	606	97.1%

I'm now going to read you a list of outdoor recreation activities and ask you about your preferences and habits.

4A. How many times in the last twelve months have you done each of these activities outdoors?

Driving for pleasure or Sightseeing:

LAST 12 MONTHS - DRIVING FOR PLEASURE OR SIGHTSEEING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	108	17.3%
One or more	516	82.7%

Mean = 24.700
User mean = 29.861

Walking for fitness:

		LAST 12 MONTHS - WALKING FOR FITNESS:		
		Count	%	
Haven't participated		162	26.0%	Mean = 69.062
One or more		461	74.0%	User mean = 93.355

Picnicking:

		LAST 12 MONTHS - PICNICKING:		
		Count	%	
Haven't participated		165	26.4%	Mean = 10.677
One or more		459	73.6%	User mean = 14.507

Day hiking:

		LAST 12 MONTHS - DAY HIKING:		
		Count	%	
Haven't participated		186	29.8%	Mean = 16.747
One or more		438	70.2%	User mean = 23.872

Birdwatching or Wildlife viewing:

		LAST 12 MONTHS - BIRDWATCHING OR WILDLIFE VIEWING:		
		Count	%	
Haven't participated		190	30.4%	Mean = 64.688
One or more		434	69.6%	User mean = 92.942

Bicycling or Mountain Biking:

		LAST 12 MONTHS - BICYCLING OR MOUNTAIN BIKING:		
		Count	%	
Haven't participated		210	33.6%	Mean = 22.151
One or more		414	66.4%	User Mean = 33.380

Playgrounds or Open Space Activities at a local park:

		LAST 12 MONTHS - PLAYGROUNDS OR OPEN SPACE ACTIVITIES:		
		Count	%	
Haven't participated		254	40.7%	Mean = 15.735
One or more		370	59.3%	User mean = 26.523

Berry Picking:

LAST 12 MONTHS - BERRY PICKING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	273	43.8%
One or more	351	56.2%

Mean = 3.573
User mean = 6.358

Sportfishing:

LAST 12 MONTHS - SPORT FISHING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	278	44.5%
One or more	346	55.5%

Mean = 10.403
User mean = 18.753

Sport Hunting:

LAST 12 MONTHS - SPORT HUNTING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	299	47.9%
One or more	325	52.1%

Mean = 10.910
User mean = 20.939

Clamming or Beachcombing:

LAST 12 MONTHS - CLAMMING OR BEACHCOMBING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	328	52.6%
One or more	295	47.4%

Mean = 8.435
User mean = 17.812

Tent camping in a campground:

LAST 12 MONTHS - TENT CAMPING IN A CAMPGROUND:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	336	53.8%
One or more	288	46.2%

Mean = 4.513
User mean = 9.769

Firearms or Archery Target shooting:

LAST 12 MONTHS - FIREARMS OR ARCHERY TARGET SHOOTING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	341	54.7%
One or more	282	45.3%

Mean = 7.897
User mean = 17.440

Sledding:

LAST 12 MONTHS - SLEDDING:	
Count	%
Haven't participated	353 56.5%
One or more	271 43.5%

Mean = 4.679
User mean = 10.760

Backpacking or tent camping in backcountry:

LAST 12 MONTHS - BACKPACKING IN BACK COUNTRY:	
Count	%
Haven't participated	368 58.9%
One or more	256 41.1%

Mean = 3.978
User mean = 9.686

Walking the dog:

LAST 12 MONTHS - WALKING THE DOG:	
Count	%
Haven't participated	371 59.5%
One or more	253 40.5%

Mean = 55.806
User mean = 137.822

River canoeing, rafting or floating:

LAST 12 MONTHS - RIVER CANOEING, RAFTING OR FLOATING:	
Count	%
Haven't participated	385 61.7%
One or more	239 38.3%

Mean = 3.789
User mean = 9.899

ORV or ATV riding:

LAST 12 MONTHS - ORV OR ATV RIDING:	
Count	%
Haven't participated	388 62.1%
One or more	236 37.9%

Mean = 11.805
User mean = 31.175

Jogging or running out-of-doors:

LAST 12 MONTHS - JOGGING OR RUNNING:	
Count	%
Haven't participated	398 63.8%
One or more	226 36.2%

Mean = 17.619
User mean = 48.674

Powerboating:

LAST 12 MONTHS - POWERBOATING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	408	65.4%
One or more	216	34.6%

Mean = 9.403
User mean = 27.167

Outside field games such as soccer or softball:

LAST 12 MONTHS - OUTSIDE FIELD GAMES SUCH AS SOCCER:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	418	67.0%
One or more	206	33.0%

Mean = 7.733
User mean = 23.444

Snowmachining:

LAST 12 MONTHS - SNOWMACHINING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	418	67.1%
One or more	205	32.9%

Mean = 7.561
User mean = 22.963

Ice skating or Ice hockey out-of-doors:

LAST 12 MONTHS - ICE SKATING OR ICE HOCKEY:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	428	68.7%
One or more	195	31.3%

Mean = 4.388
User mean = 14.004

RV Camping:

LAST 12 MONTHS - RV CAMPING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	446	71.4%
One or more	178	28.6%

Mean = 4.984
User mean = 17.449

Outside court games such as tennis or basketball:

LAST 12 MONTHS - OUTSIDE COURT GAMES SUCH AS TENNIS:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	447	71.6%
One or more	177	28.4%

Mean = 5.994
User mean = 21.103

Swimming outdoors:

LAST 12 MONTHS - SWIMMING OUTDOORS:	
Count	%
Haven't participated	452 72.4%
One or more	172 27.6%

Mean = 3.022
User mean = 10.958

Downhill skiing or snowboarding:

LAST 12 MONTHS - DOWNHILL SKIING OR SNOWBOARDING:	
Count	%
Haven't participated	463 74.2%
One or more	161 25.8%

Mean = 2.976
User mean = 11.522

Roller skating, skateboarding or roller blading:

LAST 12 MONTHS - ROLLER SKATING, SKATEBOARDING OR ROLLER BLADING:	
Count	%
Haven't participated	469 75.2%
One or more	155 24.8%

Mean = 4.935
User mean = 19.902

Trail Skiing or Crosscountry skiing:

LAST 12 MONTHS - TRAIL SKIING OR CROSS COUNTRY SKIING:	
Count	%
Haven't participated	476 76.3%
One or more	148 23.7%

Mean = 3.801
User mean = 16.022

Golf:

LAST 12 MONTHS - GOLF:	
Count	%
Haven't participated	506 81.1%
One or more	118 18.9%

Mean = 2.103
User mean = 11.152

Sea Kayaking:

LAST 12 MONTHS - SEA KAYAKING:	
Count	%
Haven't participated	543 87.1%
One or more	81 12.9%

Mean = 1.256
User mean = 9.717

Rockclimbing or iceclimbing:

LAST 12 MONTHS - ROCKCLIMBING OR ICECLIMBING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	556	89.1%
One or more	68	10.9%

Mean = 0.632
User mean = 5.795

Horseback riding:

LAST 12 MONTHS - HORSEBACK RIDING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	568	91.1%
One or more	56	8.9%

Mean = 2.768
User mean = 30.943

Backcountry skiing:

LAST 12 MONTHS - BACKCOUNTRY SKIING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	575	92.2%
One or more	48	7.8%

Mean = 0.622
User mean = 8.020

Jetskiing:

LAST 12 MONTHS - JETSKIING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	582	93.3%
One or more	41	6.7%

Mean = 0.478
User mean = 7.179

Dogmushing or skijoring:

LAST 12 MONTHS - DOGMUSHING OR SKIJORING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	590	94.6%
One or more	33	5.4%

Mean = 1.422
User mean = 26.520

Sailing or windsurfing:

LAST 12 MONTHS - SAILING OR WINDSURFING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	596	95.6%
One or more	28	4.4%

Mean = 0.585
User mean = 13.224

Motocross:

LAST 12 MONTHS - MOTOCROSS:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	601	96.4%
One or more	23	3.6%

Mean = 1.304
User mean = 35.950

4B. (IF ONE OR MORE TO 4A, THEN ASK...) For each activity you've done in the last year, tell me how far away the facilities you use most often for each activity are? Are they within your community, are they outside your community but less than an hour away, or are they more than an hour away?

Driving for pleasure or Sightseeing:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - DRIVING FOR PLEASURE OR SIGHTSEEING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	114	18.3%
Within community	99	15.8%
Within an hour	216	34.6%
More than an hour	195	31.3%

Walking for fitness:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - WALKING FOR FITNESS:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	170	27.2%
Within community	434	69.6%
Within an hour	18	2.9%
More than an hour	2	.3%

Picnicking:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - PICNICKING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	169	27.1%
Within community	283	45.4%
Within an hour	128	20.5%
More than an hour	43	6.9%

Day hiking:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - DAY HIKING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	198	31.7%

Within community	188	30.2%	
Within an hour	182	29.2%	
More than an hour	55	8.9%	

Birdwatching or Wildlife viewing:

	HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - BIRDWATCHING OR WILDLIFE VIEWING:		
	Count	%	
Haven't participated	197	31.6%	
Within community	258	41.3%	
Within an hour	122	19.6%	
More than an hour	47	7.5%	

Bicycling or Mountain Biking:

	HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - BICYCLING OR MOUNTAIN BIKING:		
	Count	%	
Haven't participated	209	33.5%	
Within community	355	56.9%	
Within an hour	47	7.5%	
More than an hour	12	2.0%	

Playgrounds or Open Space Activities at a local park:

	HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - PLAYGROUNDS OR OPEN SPACE ACTIVITIES:		
	Count	%	
Haven't participated	255	40.9%	
Within community	356	57.0%	
Within an hour	12	1.9%	
More than an hour	1	.1%	

Berry Picking:

	HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - BERRY PICKING:		
	Count	%	
Haven't participated	278	44.6%	
Within community	161	25.8%	
Within an hour	140	22.4%	
More than an hour	45	7.2%	

Sportfishing:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - SPORT FISHING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	198	31.7%
Within community	115	18.4%
Within an hour	119	19.1%
More than an hour	192	30.8%

Sport Hunting:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - SPORT HUNTING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	393	63.1%
Within community	43	7.0%
Within an hour	56	9.0%
More than an hour	131	21.0%

Clamming or Beachcombing:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - CLAMMING OR BEACHCOMBING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	325	52.0%
Within community	101	16.2%
Within an hour	64	10.2%
More than an hour	134	21.5%

Tent camping in a campground:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - TENT CAMPING IN A CAMPGROUND:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	341	54.6%
Within community	53	8.4%
Within an hour	72	11.5%
More than an hour	159	25.5%

Firearms or Archery Target shooting:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - FIREARMS OR ARCHERY TARGET SHOOTING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	348	55.8%
Within community	179	28.6%
Within an hour	80	12.7%
More than an hour	18	2.8%

Sledding:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - SLEDDING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	362	58.0%
Within community	232	37.1%
Within an hour	28	4.4%
More than an hour	3	.4%

Backpacking or tent camping in backcountry:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - BACKPACKING IN BACK COUNTRY:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	376	60.3%
Within community	35	5.6%
Within an hour	58	9.2%
More than an hour	155	24.9%

Walking the dog:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - WALKING THE DOG:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	372	59.6%
Within community	248	39.7%
Within an hour	4	.6%
More than an hour	0	.1%

River canoeing, rafting or floating:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - RIVER CANOEING, RAFTING OR FLOATING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	386	61.8%
Within community	49	7.9%
Within an hour	74	11.9%
More than an hour	114	18.3%

ORV or ATV riding:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - ORV OR ATV RIDING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	388	62.1%
Within community	91	14.6%
Within an hour	74	11.9%
More than an hour	71	11.4%

Jogging or running out-of-doors:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - JOGGING OR RUNNING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	398	63.8%
Within community	213	34.1%
Within an hour	10	1.6%
More than an hour	3	.4%

Powerboating:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - POWERBOATING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	410	65.8%
Within community	59	9.5%
Within an hour	61	9.7%
More than an hour	94	15.0%

Outside field games such as soccer or softball:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - OUTSIDE FIELD GAMES SUCH AS SOCCER:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	424	68.0%
Within community	167	26.8%
Within an hour	27	4.3%
More than an hour	6	.9%

Snowmachining:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - SNOWMACHINING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	421	67.5%
Within community	80	12.8%
Within an hour	46	7.4%
More than an hour	76	12.2%

Ice skating or Ice hockey out-of-doors:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - ICE SKATING OR ICE HOCKEY:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	431	69.1%
Within community	180	28.8%
Within an hour	8	1.3%
More than an hour	5	.7%

RV Camping:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - RV CAMPING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	448	71.9%
Within community	15	2.5%
Within an hour	20	3.2%
More than an hour	140	22.5%

Outside court games such as tennis or basketball:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - OUTSIDE COURT GAMES SUCH AS TENNIS:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	449	72.0%
Within community	165	26.4%
Within an hour	9	1.5%
More than an hour	1	.1%

Swimming outdoors:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - SWIMMING OUTDOORS:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	458	73.4%
Within community	72	11.6%
Within an hour	34	5.5%
More than an hour	59	9.5%

Downhill skiing or snowboarding:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - DOWNHILL SKIING OR SNOWBOARDING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	465	74.5%
Within community	53	8.5%
Within an hour	71	11.3%
More than an hour	35	5.6%

Roller skating, skateboarding or roller blading:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - ROLLER SKATING, SKATEBOARDING OR ROLLER BLADING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	477	76.5%
Within community	142	22.8%
Within an hour	2	.3%
More than an hour	3	.5%

Trail Skiing or Crosscountry skiing:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - TRAIL SKIING OR CROSS COUNTRY SKIING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	475	76.1%
Within community	115	18.5%
Within an hour	18	2.8%
More than an hour	16	2.5%

Golf:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - GOLF:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	507	81.2%
Within community	72	11.5%
Within an hour	31	4.9%
More than an hour	15	2.3%

Sea Kayaking:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - SEA KAYAKING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	541	86.7%
Within community	28	4.5%
Within an hour	10	1.6%
More than an hour	45	7.2%

Rockclimbing or iceclimbing:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - ROCKCLIMBING OR ICECLIMBING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	558	89.5%
Within community	18	2.8%
Within an hour	28	4.6%
More than an hour	20	3.1%

Horseback riding:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - HORSEBACK RIDING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	568	91.1%
Within community	34	5.5%
Within an hour	7	1.2%
More than an hour	14	2.3%

Backcountry skiing:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - BACKCOUNTRY SKIING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	576	92.4%
Within community	18	2.8%
Within an hour	9	1.5%
More than an hour	20	3.3%

Jetskiing:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - JETSKIING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	584	93.7%
Within community	15	2.4%
Within an hour	10	1.5%
More than an hour	15	2.5%

Dogmushing or skijoring:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - DOGMUSHING OR SKIJORING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	592	94.9%
Within community	19	3.1%
Within an hour	12	1.9%
More than an hour	1	.1%

Sailing or windsurfing:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - SAILING OR WINDSURFING:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	596	95.5%
Within community	11	1.8%
Within an hour	8	1.2%
More than an hour	9	1.5%

Motocross:

HOW FAR AWAY ARE THE FACILITIES FOR - MOTOCROSS:		
	Count	%
Haven't participated	599	96.0%
Within community	13	2.0%
Within an hour	7	1.2%
More than an hour	5	.8%

5. Of the outdoor activities we have just gone through, can you please tell me which your three favorites are in order of preference. Which is your favorite activity?

FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY:		
	Count	%
Berry picking	4	.7%
Bicycling or mountain biking	20	3.3%
Birdwatching or wildlife viewing	17	2.7%
Clamming or beachcombing	8	1.2%
Dogmushing or skijoring	4	.7%
Driving for pleasure or sightseeing	11	1.8%
Outdoor field games (soccer, softball)	3	.5%
Firearms or archery target shooting	1	.1%
Golf	4	.6%
Day hiking	48	7.6%
Horseback riding	10	1.7%
Ice skating or ice hockey out-of-doors	2	.4%
Jogging or running out-of-doors	13	2.0%
Motocross	2	.4%
Outside court games (tennis, basketball)	18	3.0%
ORV or ATV riding	18	2.9%
Picnicking	6	1.0%
Playgrounds or open space activities	5	.9%
Powerboating	14	2.2%
River canoeing, rafting or floating	3	.5%
Rockclimbing or iceclimbing	0	.1%
RV Camping	21	3.3%
Sailing or windsurfing	6	1.0%
Sea kayaking	8	1.3%
Sledding	2	.4%
Snowmachining	39	6.3%
Sportfishing	117	18.7%
Sport hunting	53	8.5%
Swimming outdoors	5	.7%
Tent camping in a campground	11	1.8%
Backpack/tent camping in backcountry	22	3.6%
Downhill skiing or snowboarding	11	1.7%
Backcountry skiing	1	.1%
Trail or crosscountry skiing	10	1.6%
Walking for fitness	71	11.3%
Walking the dog	13	2.1%
Roller skating, skateboarding or rollerblading	9	1.4%
Don't know	2	.3%
Other activity	10	1.7%

Second favorite?

	SECOND FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY:	
	Count	%
Berry picking	9	1.4%
Bicycling or mountain biking	40	6.3%
Birdwatching or wildlife viewing	26	4.2%
Clamming or beachcombing	12	1.9%
Dogmushing or skijoring	5	.7%
Driving for pleasure or sightseeing	22	3.5%
Outdoor field games (soccer, softball)	2	.3%
Firearms or archery target shooting	7	1.1%
Golf	7	1.0%
Day hiking	38	6.2%
Horseback riding	1	.2%
Ice skating or ice hockey out-of-doors	7	1.1%
Jet skiing	2	.3%
Jogging or running out-of-doors	9	1.4%
Motocross	0	.1%
Outside court games (tennis, basketball)	3	.4%
ORV or ATV riding	17	2.7%

(continued)

	SECOND FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY:	
	Count	%
Picnicking	7	1.1%
Playgrounds or open space activities	3	.5%
Powerboating	25	4.0%
River canoeing, rafting or floating	21	3.4%
RV Camping	19	3.1%
Sea kayaking	8	1.3%
Sledding	2	.4%
Snowmachining	13	2.1%
Sportfishing	88	14.2%
Sport hunting	38	6.1%
Swimming outdoors	2	.3%
Tent camping in a campground	42	6.8%
Backpack/tent camping in backcountry	24	3.9%
Downhill skiing or snowboarding	17	2.8%
Backcountry skiing	6	1.0%
Trail or crosscountry skiing	21	3.3%
Walking for fitness	39	6.2%
Walking the dog	12	1.9%
Roller skating, skateboarding or rollerblading	4	.7%
Don't know	2	.3%
Other activity	24	3.9%

Third favorite?

THIRD FAVORITE OUTDOOR ACTIVITY:		
	Count	%
Berry picking	20	3.3%
Bicycling or mountain biking	25	4.0%
Birdwatching or wildlife viewing	22	3.5%
Clamming or beachcombing	11	1.7%
Dogmushing or skijoring	1	.1%
Driving for pleasure or sightseeing	31	4.9%
Outdoor field games (soccer, softball)	9	1.4%
Firearms or archery target shooting	17	2.7%
Golf	8	1.3%
Day hiking	31	5.0%
Horseback riding	1	.1%
Ice skating or ice hockey out-of-doors	5	.8%
Jetskiing	3	.4%
Jogging or running out-of-doors	19	3.1%
Motocross	2	.4%
Outside court games (tennis, basketball)	6	1.0%
ORV or ATV riding	27	4.4%
Picnicking	13	2.0%
Playgrounds or open space activities	12	1.9%
Powerboating	19	3.0%
River canoeing, rafting or floating	8	1.2%
Rockclimbing or iceclimbing	3	.4%
RV Camping	14	2.3%
Sailing or windsurfing	3	.4%
Sea kayaking	9	1.5%
Sledding	7	1.2%
Snowmachining	17	2.8%
Sportfishing	43	6.9%
Sport hunting	26	4.1%
Swimming outdoors	4	.6%
Tent camping in a campground	29	4.7%
Backpack/tent camping in backcountry	29	4.6%
Downhill skiing or snowboarding	11	1.7%
Backcountry skiing	2	.3%
Trail or crosscountry skiing	17	2.7%
Walking for fitness	52	8.3%
Walking the dog	15	2.4%
Roller skating, skateboarding or rollerblading	5	.8%
Don't know	13	2.0%
Other activity	37	5.9%

6A. Of the outdoor activities we have just gone through that you didn't participate in, please identify three activities you would most like to do this year if you had the opportunity.

	FIRST CHOICE ACTIVITY FOR THIS YEAR:	
	Count	%
Berry picking	10	1.7%
Bicycling or mountain biking	6	1.0%
Birdwatching or wildlife viewing	0	.1%
Clamming or beachcombing	10	1.7%
Dogmushing or skjoring	15	2.4%
Driving for pleasure or sightseeing	0	.1%
Outdoor field games (soccer, softball)	3	.5%
Firearms or archery target shooting	3	.5%
Golf	8	1.3%
Day hiking	4	.6%
Horseback riding	10	1.6%
Ice skating or ice hockey out-of-doors	6	.9%
Jetskiing	17	2.7%
Jogging or running out-of-doors	1	.2%
Motocross	3	.5%
Outside court games (tennis, basketball)	4	.6%
ORV or ATV riding	16	2.6%
Picnicking	0	.1%
Playgrounds or open space activities	2	.3%
Powerboating	24	3.8%
River canoeing, rafting or floating	18	3.0%
Rockclimbing or iceclimbing	9	1.5%
RV Camping	16	2.6%
Sailing or windsurfing	20	3.3%
Sea kayaking	39	6.2%
Sledding	0	.1%
Snowmachining	26	4.1%
Sportfishing	20	3.2%
Sport hunting	25	4.0%
Swimming outdoors	3	.6%
Tent camping in a campground	17	2.7%
Backpack/tent camping in backcountry	28	4.5%
Downhill skiing or snowboarding	27	4.4%
Backcountry skiing	5	.8%
Trail or crosscountry skiing	26	4.2%
Walking for fitness	2	.4%
Roller skating, skateboarding or rollerblading	5	.8%
Don't know	31	5.0%
Other activity	161	25.8%

SECOND CHOICE ACTIVITY FOR THIS YEAR:

SECOND CHOICE ACTIVITY FOR THIS YEAR:		
	Count	%
Berry picking	12	1.9%
Bicycling or mountain biking	6	.9%
Birdwatching or wildlife viewing	2	.4%
Clamming or beachcombing	7	1.1%
Dogmushing or skijoring	1	.2%
Driving for pleasure or sightseeing	3	.5%
Outdoor field games (soccer, softball)	1	.1%
Firearms or archery target shooting	3	.5%
Golf	6	.9%
Day hiking	16	2.6%
Horseback riding	23	3.7%
Ice skating or ice hockey out-of-doors	2	.4%
Jet skiing	20	3.2%
Jogging or running out-of-doors	3	.5%
Motocross	3	.5%
Outside court games (tennis, basketball)	2	.4%
ORV or ATV riding	21	3.4%
Picnicking	1	.2%
Playgrounds or open space activities	2	.4%
Powerboating	12	1.9%
River canoeing, rafting or floating	14	2.2%
Rockclimbing or iceclimbing	13	2.0%
RV Camping	11	1.8%
Sailing or windsurfing	9	1.4%
Sea kayaking	20	3.2%
Sledding	1	.1%
Snowmachining	15	2.4%
Sportfishing	6	1.0%
Sport hunting	8	1.4%
Swimming outdoors	1	.2%
Tent camping in a campground	8	1.3%
Backpack/tent camping in backcountry	21	3.4%
Downhill skiing or snowboarding	12	1.9%
Backcountry skiing	12	1.9%
Trail or crosscountry skiing	15	2.5%
Walking for fitness	3	.4%
Walking the dog	3	.4%
Roller skating, skateboarding or rollerblading	8	1.2%
Don't know	51	8.2%
Other activity	247	39.5%

THIRD CHOICE ACTIVITY FOR THIS YEAR:

THIRD CHOICE ACTIVITY FOR THIS YEAR:		
	Count	%
Berry picking	4	.7%
Bicycling or mountain biking	4	.7%
Birdwatching or wildlife viewing	0	.1%
Clamming or beachcombing	10	1.6%
Dogmushing or skjoring	8	1.2%
Outdoor field games (soccer, softball)	7	1.1%
Firearms or archery target shooting	5	.7%
Golf	1	.2%

(continued)

THIRD CHOICE ACTIVITY FOR THIS YEAR:		
	Count	%
Day hiking	9	1.4%
Horseback riding	15	2.4%
Ice skating or ice hockey out-of-doors	3	.5%
Jetskiing	8	1.2%
Jogging or running out-of-doors	4	.7%
Motocross	8	1.2%
Outside court games (tennis, basketball)	3	.4%
ORV or ATV riding	18	2.8%
Picnicking	1	.2%
Playgrounds or open space activities	2	.4%
Powerboating	18	2.8%
River canoeing, rafting or floating	14	2.3%
Rockclimbing or iceclimbing	3	.5%
RV Camping	9	1.4%
Sailing or windsurfing	14	2.2%
Sea kayaking	6	1.0%
Sledding	0	.1%
Snowmachining	12	1.9%
Sportfishing	7	1.1%
Sport hunting	3	.4%
Swimming outdoors	1	.2%
Tent camping in a campground	12	1.9%
Backpack/tent camping in backcountry	7	1.1%
Downhill skiing or snowboarding	5	.7%
Backcountry skiing	5	.8%
Trail or crosscountry skiing	10	1.7%
Walking for fitness	1	.2%
Roller skating, skateboarding or rollerblading	2	.4%
Don't know	95	15.2%
Other activity	290	46.5%

6B. (FOR EACH OF THESE THREE ACTIVITIES...) Is _____ available to you in your area?

FIRST CHOICE:

	IS YOUR 'FIRST CHOICE' AVAILABLE TO YOU IN YOUR AREA?	
	Count	%
Yes	307	49.2%
No	123	19.7%
Don't know	3	.5%
Other or no activity	191	30.7%

SECOND CHOICE:

	IS YOUR 'SECOND CHOICE' AVAILABLE TO YOU IN YOUR AREA?	
	Count	%
Yes	244	39.1%
No	79	12.7%
Don't know	3	.4%
Other or no activity	298	47.8%

THIRD CHOICE:

	IS YOUR 'THIRD CHOICE' AVAILABLE TO YOU IN YOUR AREA?	
	Count	%
Yes	176	28.2%
No	60	9.7%
Don't know	3	.4%
Other or no activity	385	61.7%

6C. (IF "YES" TO 6B FOR ANY CHOICES...) If _____ is available to you in your area, why didn't you do it last year?

FIRST CHOICE REASON:

	IF YOUR 'FIRST CHOICE' IS AVAILABLE WHY DIDN'T YOU DO IT?	
	Count	%
I'm getting too old/Age	5	1.6%
Fear	2	.8%
Don't have equipment/don't have appropriate gear	75	24.4%
Worked all summer	3	1.1%
Didn't get a chance/Haven't had the chance yet	15	4.8%
Busy schedule/Too busy/No time/Finding the time	83	26.9%
Physical inability	3	.9%

No way to leave the dogs	2	.6%
Expense/Not enough		
money/Too expensive	6	2.0%
Age and weather	0	.1%
No access/Limited access		
to trails	0	.1%
Didn't have anybody to		
go with/No one to go		
with	5	1.7%
Health reasons	20	6.6%
Husband over seas	2	.6%
Weather	5	1.8%

(continued)

	Count	%
Small kids/Too much time		
with kids/Too deep		
for kids	9	2.9%
My pride	2	.8%
Pool too far away, ocean		
too cold	0	.1%
Snow machining too		
limited	0	.1%
Facility is not close	0	.1%
No trainer for disabled	0	.1%
Horrible playground	0	.1%
Just haven't gone out		
and learned yet/Don't		
know how	3	1.1%
Out of state	1	.2%
Wife was pregnant	0	.1%
No time/money	0	.1%
Did something else		
instead	0	.1%
Just a dream of mine	0	.1%
Out of state	2	.7%
Not in shape	0	.1%
Nothing particularly	0	.1%
Pregnant/no ATV	0	.1%
No fast pitch softball		
league	2	.6%
Bad snow conditions/No		
snow	6	2.1%
Highway	0	.1%
Don't trust them	0	.1%
Job & access	0	.1%
Time and handicap	3	.9%
Water is too cold	1	.3%
Didn't know it was		
available	0	.1%
Time conflict with		
tourist	0	.1%
Pregnant	2	.5%
No permit yet	0	.1%
Was sick of it	0	.1%
No kayak or skills	2	.6%
New to area	0	.1%
No kayak, no time	0	.1%
Wasn't here last		
summer/didn't live		
here yet	6	1.9%
No equipment, fear	2	.6%
Scared of going downhill	2	.6%
No clubs, no skills	2	.6%

Medical condition, no equipment	2	.6%
Family cruises in summer	2	.6%
We were building our house last summer	2	.6%
Afraid of bears	0	.1%
Work schedule is hectic	0	.1%
Going this year-have the time	0	.1%
No chance and weather	2	.6%
Small island nowhere to go	0	.1%
Went backcountry instead	0	.1%
No motocross course in village	0	.1%

(continued)

	IF YOUR 'FIRST CHOICE' IS AVAILABLE WHY DIDN'T YOU DO IT?	
	Count	%
No good place here to picnic	0	.1%
Had to baby-sit	0	.1%
Scared of Sea Lions	1	.2%
Didn't feel like it	0	.1%
Dog not trained	2	.6%
Lazy	0	.1%
School too many people	0	.1%
Too icy	0	.1%
Repairs	0	.1%
Couldn't find boots	1	.2%
There was a big rock in the middle of the road	0	.1%
Too many bears	0	.1%
No ice skates or place to go	0	.1%
Didn't know what to pick	3	.9%
No roads	0	.1%
New job and young kid	2	.8%
Motorcycle on other side of the tracks	0	.1%
Don't know	5	1.7%

SECOND CHOICE REASON:

	IF YOUR 'SECOND CHOICE' IS AVAILABLE WHY DIDN'T YOU DO IT?	
	Count	%
Procrastination	5	2.0%
Don't have equipment/don't have necessary gear	61	25.2%
No transportation	1	.5%
Worked all summer	5	1.9%
Based around younger children	0	.1%
Didn't know it was available until recently	0	.1%
No way to get the canoe to the river	2	.8%

Age and weather	0	.1%
Busy schedule/Too		
busy/No time/Lack of		
time	53	21.9%
Health	20	8.3%
Small		
kids/Children/		
Children too young	4	1.8%
I'm getting too old/age	3	1.1%
Weather	5	2.1%
Golfing is limited	0	.2%
No money/Not enough		
money/Too expensive	12	4.8%
If not caught by cops	0	.2%
Wife was pregnant	0	.2%
Been awhile	2	.8%

(continued)

	Count	%
No experience/Never done		
it before	1	.3%
Did something else		
instead	0	.1%
Not enough snow/Bad snow	5	2.0%
Treadmill	2	1.0%
Motivation	2	.8%
Work schedule	2	.8%
Don't want to be in this		
area while RV-ing	2	.8%
Don't know how	3	1.1%
Don't know where free		
tennis is	2	.8%
Out of state	2	.9%
Pregnant	1	.4%
Came at wrong time to		
this	0	.1%
Boat needs repair	0	.1%
New to area	0	.1%
Wasn't here last		
summer/Didn't live		
here yet	8	3.4%
No equipment, no skills,		
fear	2	.8%
Scared of going downhill	2	.8%
Fear of bears	2	.8%
Husband won't let me		
come with	0	.1%
No knowledge on fishing	3	1.1%
Access	0	.1%
No ski resort	0	.2%
Medical condition, no		
equipment	2	.8%
No bike trails	0	.2%
Too cold	0	.1%
No time too far away	2	.8%
The kids monopolized		
using our horse	0	.2%
Works too much	0	.2%
Didn't have a		
chance/Didn't get		
around to it	4	1.6%
Not a good year for		
berries	0	.2%
Outside for most of the		
summer	0	.2%

Bike in storage	2	.9%	
Rarely available	0	.2%	
New job and young kid	2	1.0%	
Too lazy	3	1.1%	
Not in shape	0	.1%	
Stolen	0	.2%	
Don't know	9	3.8%	
+-----+-----+-----+			

THIRD CHOICE REASON:

	IF YOUR 'THIRD CHOICE' IS AVAILABLE WHY DIDN'T YOU DO IT?		
	Count	%	
I'm getting too old/age	4	2.4%	
Don't have			
equipment/don't have			
necessary gear	58	32.7%	
Works all summer	3	1.6%	
Busy schedule/No			
time/Not enough time	42	23.9%	
Weather	1	.6%	
Never done it before	2	1.1%	
Equipment was broken	0	.2%	
The ice wasn't so good	2	1.1%	
Camp on big boat	0	.2%	
Risky	0	.2%	
Small kids/Children too			
young	6	3.6%	
Procrastination	2	1.4%	
Health reason	11	6.1%	
Lack of local knowledge	0	.2%	
Not available for			
disabled	0	.3%	
Fear	2	1.1%	
Did something else			
instead	0	.2%	
Laziness	2	1.3%	
Haven't looked into it			
yet	0	.2%	
Lack of time and			
motivation	2	1.1%	
Bear scare	2	1.1%	
No snow and no machine	0	.2%	
Expense/Costs too much	6	3.3%	
Time and handicap	3	1.5%	
Out of state/Didn't live			
here yet	4	2.5%	
Pregnant	0	.3%	
No license yet	0	.2%	
No partner to go with	1	.4%	
No equipment, no skills,			
fear	2	1.1%	
Haven't got around to it			
yet	1	.5%	
Medical condition, and			
no equipment	2	1.1%	
I have only done it at			
the gym	0	.2%	
Works too much	0	.3%	
Wasn't allowed	0	.3%	
Didn't get a			
chance/Didn't get			
around to it	1	.5%	
No opportunity on			
Saturday	1	.3%	
Bugs in summer, no fun			
when 20 below outside	0	.3%	
Just moved here	2	1.1%	

New job and young kid		2		1.4%	
Logistics of having to					
gear up		2		1.4%	
Not sure of availability		2		1.3%	
Not in shape		0		.2%	
Fish & Game opened up					
area to commercial					
fishing		0		.2%	
Don't know		2		1.3%	

7. I am now going to read you a list of statements. Please tell me if you strongly agree, mildly agree, mildly disagree or strongly disagree with each statement I read.

4 3 2 1 0 8
 STRONGLY MILDLY MILDLY STRONGLY DON'T
 AGREE AGREE NEUTRAL DISAGREE DISAGREE KNOW

If overcrowding occurs, commercial uses should be limited before personal uses are limited:

		IF OVERCROWDING OCCURS, COMMERCIAL USES SHOULD BE LIMITED...:	
		Count	%
Strongly agree		338	54.2%
Mildly agree		172	27.6%
Neutral		58	9.3%
Mildly disagree		30	4.8%
Strongly disagree		26	4.1%

Mean = 3.228

Use of park areas should be controlled to protect the environment, if necessary:

		USE OF PARK AREAS SHOULD BE CONTROLLED TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT...:	
		Count	%
Strongly agree		306	49.0%
Mildly agree		237	37.9%
Neutral		15	2.4%
Mildly disagree		48	7.7%
Strongly disagree		19	3.0%

Mean = 3.223

The state should increase protection of areas with historical or archaeological value:

		THE STATE SHOULD INCREASE PROTECTION OF AREAS WITH HISTORICAL VALUE:	
		Count	%
Strongly agree		294	47.1%
Mildly agree		205	32.9%
Neutral		47	7.5%
Mildly disagree		54	8.7%
Strongly disagree		24	3.9%

Mean = 3.106

Public parks and recreation programs help to reduce crime and juvenile delinquency in my community:

PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS HELP TO REDUCE CRIME...:		
	Count	%
Strongly agree	304	48.7%
Mildly agree	155	24.8%
Neutral	77	12.4%
Mildly disagree	50	7.9%
Strongly disagree	39	6.2%

Mean = 3.019

Existing parks should be expanded to include adjacent land that is important to recreation:

EXISTING PARKS SHOULD BE EXPANDED...:		
	Count	%
Strongly agree	201	32.2%
Mildly agree	215	34.5%
Neutral	86	13.8%
Mildly disagree	68	10.8%
Strongly disagree	55	8.8%

Mean = 2.704

Use of park areas and facilities should be limited when they become too crowded:

USE OF PARK AREAS AND FACILITIES SHOULD BE LIMITED WHEN THEY BECOME TOO CROWDED:		
	Count	%
Strongly agree	169	27.1%
Mildly agree	263	42.1%
Neutral	51	8.2%
Mildly disagree	76	12.2%
Strongly disagree	65	10.4%

Mean = 2.634

Trails should accommodate many different types of activities, rather than be designated for a limited number of specific activities:

TRAILS SHOULD ACCOMMODATE MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES...:		
	Count	%
Strongly agree	195	31.3%
Mildly agree	181	29.0%
Neutral	80	12.8%
Mildly disagree	87	13.9%
Strongly disagree	81	13.0%

Mean = 2.519

There are enough parks and recreation lands that are convenient and accessible to me:

THERE ARE ENOUGH PARKS AND RECREATION LANDS THAT ARE CONVENIENT AND ACCESSIBLE TO ME:		
	Count	%
Strongly agree	171	27.3%
Mildly agree	246	39.4%
Neutral	15	2.4%
Mildly disagree	90	14.4%
Strongly disagree	103	16.5%

Mean = 2.468

Access to military lands for recreation purposes should be improved:

ACCESS TO MILITARY LANDS FOR RECREATION PURPOSES SHOULD BE IMPROVED:		
	Count	%
Strongly agree	168	26.9%
Mildly agree	140	22.4%
Neutral	165	26.4%
Mildly disagree	79	12.7%
Strongly disagree	72	11.6%

Mean = 2.404

Parks and recreation lands should be used to promote tourism:

PARKS AND RECREATION LANDS SHOULD BE USED TO PROMOTE TOURISM:		
	Count	%
Strongly agree	151	24.3%
Mildly agree	223	35.8%
Neutral	51	8.2%
Mildly disagree	96	15.4%
Strongly disagree	102	16.4%

Mean = 2.362

The state should acquire private land when it blocks or restricts access to existing parks and facilities:

THE STATE SHOULD ACQUIRE PRIVATE LAND WHEN IT BLOCKS OR RESTRICTS ACCESS...:		
	Count	%
Strongly agree	155	24.9%
Mildly agree	171	27.4%
Neutral	107	17.1%
Mildly disagree	101	16.2%
Strongly disagree	90	14.4%

Mean = 2.321

Parks and recreation facilities are often too crowded when I want to use them:

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES ARE OFTEN TOO CROWDED...:		
	Count	%
Strongly agree	161	25.8%
Mildly agree	156	25.0%
Neutral	41	6.6%
Mildly disagree	155	24.9%
Strongly disagree	111	17.8%

Mean = 2.161

I seek out recreational places that have historic significance:

I SEEK OUT RECREATIONAL PLACES...:		
	Count	%
Strongly agree	109	17.5%
Mildly agree	191	30.6%
Neutral	30	4.8%
Mildly disagree	173	27.8%
Strongly disagree	121	19.3%

Mean = 1.992

Hearing motors or motorized vehicles negatively affects my recreation experience:

HEARING MOTORS OR MOTORIZED VEHICLES NEGATIVELY AFFECTS MY RECREATION EXPERIENCE:		
	Count	%
Strongly agree	151	24.1%
Mildly agree	132	21.2%
Neutral	25	4.0%
Mildly disagree	127	20.3%
Strongly disagree	189	30.2%

Mean = 1.887

8. I am now going to read you a list of possible improvements and developments that could be carried out on outdoor recreation facilities in the State of Alaska. Bearing in mind your outdoor recreation preferences and also that funds could be in relatively short supply in the next few years, please tell me if you strongly approve, mildly approve, mildly disapprove or strongly disapprove with each of the following proposals.

4 3 2 1 0 8
 STRONGLY MILDLY MILDLY STRONGLY DON'T
 APPROVE APPROVE NEUTRAL DISAPPROVE DISAPPROVE KNOW

Provide more facilities for the disabled:

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - PROVIDE MORE FACILITIES FOR THE DISABLED:		
	Count	%
Strongly approve	301	48.3%

	Count	%	
Mildly approve	223	35.7%	Mean = 3.216
Neutral	44	7.1%	
Mildly disapprove	44	7.0%	
Strongly disapprove	12	1.9%	

Expand the public use cabin system:

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - EXPAND THE PUBLIC USE CABIN SYSTEM:			
	Count	%	
Strongly approve	258	41.3%	Mean = 3.034
Mildly approve	216	34.7%	
Neutral	87	13.9%	
Mildly disapprove	38	6.1%	
Strongly disapprove	25	4.0%	

Develop more trailheads along roads and highways for trail activities:

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - DEVELOP MORE TRAILHEADS ALONG ROADS AND HIGHWAYS...:			
	Count	%	
Strongly approve	256	41.1%	Mean = 2.972
Mildly approve	232	37.1%	
Neutral	35	5.5%	
Mildly disapprove	64	10.3%	
Strongly disapprove	37	5.9%	

Construct public use cabins or shelters at periodic intervals along long distance trails:

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - CONSTRUCT PUBLIC USE CABINS...ALONG DISTANCE TRAILS:			
	Count	%	
Strongly approve	247	39.6%	Mean = 2.967
Mildly approve	237	38.0%	
Neutral	56	9.0%	
Mildly disapprove	40	6.4%	
Strongly disapprove	44	7.0%	

Provide roadside toilets at regular intervals:

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - PROVIDE ROADSIDE TOILETS AT REGULAR INTERVALS:			
	Count	%	
Strongly approve	281	45.1%	Mean = 2.913
Mildly approve	183	29.3%	
Neutral	41	6.6%	
Mildly disapprove	61	9.8%	
Strongly disapprove	58	9.2%	

Develop more drive-in campgrounds for tents:

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - DEVELOP MORE DRIVE-IN CAMPGROUNDS FOR TENTS:		
	Count	%
Strongly approve	221	35.4%
Mildly approve	243	38.9%
Neutral	50	8.0%
Mildly disapprove	71	11.4%
Strongly disapprove	40	6.4%

Mean = 2.856

Develop more trails where no motorized vehicles are allowed:

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - DEVELOP MORE TRAILS WHERE NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES ARE ALLOWED:		
	Count	%
Strongly approve	256	41.0%
Mildly approve	182	29.1%
Neutral	55	8.9%
Mildly disapprove	65	10.5%
Strongly disapprove	65	10.5%

Mean = 2.798

Provide more boat launches and ramps:

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - PROVIDE MORE BOAT LAUNCHES AND RAMPS:		
	Count	%
Strongly approve	164	26.2%
Mildly approve	218	34.9%
Neutral	100	16.0%
Mildly disapprove	96	15.3%
Strongly disapprove	47	7.5%

Mean = 2.571

Develop more trails for the legal use of off-road vehicles:

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - DEVELOP MORE TRAILS FOR THE LEGAL USE OF OFF-ROAD VEHICLES:		
	Count	%
Strongly approve	211	33.8%
Mildly approve	192	30.8%
Neutral	42	6.7%
Mildly disapprove	94	15.1%
Strongly disapprove	84	13.5%

Mean = 2.564

Upgrade existing park roads:

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - UPGRADE EXISTING PARK ROADS:		
	Count	%

	Count	%	
Strongly approve	142	22.7%	Mean = 2.503
Mildly approve	250	40.1%	
Neutral	71	11.4%	
Mildly disapprove	104	16.6%	
Strongly disapprove	58	9.3%	

Provide more picnic areas:

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - PROVIDE MORE PICNIC AREAS:			
	Count	%	
Strongly approve	177	28.3%	Mean = 2.493
Mildly approve	214	34.4%	
Neutral	42	6.8%	
Mildly disapprove	120	19.3%	
Strongly disapprove	70	11.2%	

Provide more organized recreation programs in parks:

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - PROVIDE MORE ORGANIZED RECREATION PROGRAMS IN PARKS:			
	Count	%	
Strongly approve	149	23.9%	Mean = 2.385
Mildly approve	212	33.9%	
Neutral	62	9.9%	
Mildly disapprove	132	21.1%	
Strongly disapprove	69	11.1%	

Establish new parks and recreation areas:

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - ESTABLISH NEW PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS:			
	Count	%	
Strongly approve	187	30.0%	Mean = 2.373
Mildly approve	186	29.8%	
Neutral	28	4.5%	
Mildly disapprove	118	18.9%	
Strongly disapprove	105	16.8%	

Provide more RV dump stations:

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - PROVIDE MORE RV DUMP STATIONS:			
	Count	%	
Strongly approve	162	26.0%	Mean = 2.326
Mildly approve	183	29.4%	
Neutral	78	12.5%	
Mildly disapprove	97	15.6%	
Strongly disapprove	104	16.6%	

Provide flush toilets and drinking water in all campgrounds:

	APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - PROVIDE FLUSH TOILETS AND DRINKING WATER...:	
	Count	%
Strongly approve	189	30.2%
Mildly approve	161	25.9%
Neutral	34	5.5%
Mildly disapprove	124	19.9%
Strongly disapprove	116	18.5%

Mean = 2.294

Develop more RV campgrounds:

	APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - DEVELOP MORE RV CAMPGROUNDS:	
	Count	%
Strongly approve	94	15.0%
Mildly approve	183	29.4%
Neutral	52	8.4%
Mildly disapprove	133	21.4%
Strongly disapprove	161	25.8%

Mean = 1.864

Develop more visitor centers:

	APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - DEVELOP MORE VISITOR CENTERS:	
	Count	%
Strongly approve	70	11.3%
Mildly approve	195	31.3%
Neutral	50	8.0%
Mildly disapprove	186	29.9%
Strongly disapprove	122	19.5%

Mean = 1.849

Develop tourist resort facilities on park lands:

	APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - DEVELOP TOURIST RESORT FACILITIES ON PARK LANDS:	
	Count	%
Strongly approve	83	13.4%
Mildly approve	159	25.5%
Neutral	46	7.3%
Mildly disapprove	118	18.9%
Strongly disapprove	218	34.9%

Mean = 1.636

9. Carrying out such improvements or developments costs money that could come from a variety of sources. Do you strongly approve, mildly approve, mildly disapprove or strongly disapprove of the following proposals for funding parks and outdoor recreation programs.

4 3 2 1 0 8
 STRONGLY MILDLY MILDLY STRONGLY DON'T
 APPROVE APPROVE NEUTRAL DISAPPROVE DISAPPROVE KNOW

Allocate a portion of annual RV registration fees to parks and outdoor recreation programs:

+-----+-----+	
	APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE -
	ALLOCATE PORTION OF RV
	REGISTRATION FEES:
+-----+-----+	
	Count
	%
+-----+-----+	
Strongly approve	361 57.9%
Mildly approve	212 34.0%
Neutral	22 3.5%
Mildly disapprove	9 1.5%
Strongly disapprove	19 3.1%
	Mean = 3.420
+-----+-----+	

Allocate a portion of annual snowmobile registration fees to parks and outdoor recreation programs:

+-----+-----+	
	APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE -
	ALLOCATE PORTION OF
	SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION
	FEES :
+-----+-----+	
	Count
	%
+-----+-----+	
Strongly approve	356 57.1%
Mildly approve	179 28.7%
Neutral	19 3.1%
Mildly disapprove	24 3.9%
Strongly disapprove	45 7.3%
	Mean = 3.244
+-----+-----+	

Allocate a portion of annual ATV registration fees to parks and outdoor recreation programs:

+-----+-----+	
	APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE -
	ALLOCATE PORTION OF ATV
	REGISTRATION FEES:
+-----+-----+	
	Count
	%
+-----+-----+	
Strongly approve	348 55.7%
Mildly approve	189 30.3%
Neutral	19 3.0%
Mildly disapprove	22 3.5%
Strongly disapprove	47 7.5%
	Mean = 3.232
+-----+-----+	

Collect a 1 penny per gallon gas tax to be allocated for parks and outdoor recreation programs:

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - A PENNY PER GALLON GAS TAX:		
	Count	%
Strongly approve	126	20.2%
Mildly approve	149	23.8%
Neutral	37	5.9%
Mildly disapprove	65	10.4%
Strongly disapprove	248	39.7%

Mean = 1.744

A small tax on the purchase of outdoor gear:

APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE - A SMALL TAX ON THE PURCHASE OF OUTDOOR GEAR:		
	Count	%
Strongly approve	73	11.7%
Mildly approve	160	25.7%
Neutral	31	4.9%
Mildly disapprove	119	19.1%
Strongly disapprove	240	38.5%

Mean = 1.531

9A. If a statewide bond issue was put on the General election ballot advocating funding parks and outdoor recreation programs with a bond package, do you think you would vote for or against it?

VOTE FOR OR AGAINST BOND PACKAGE:		
	Count	%
For	366	58.7%
Against	130	20.8%
Don't know	128	20.5%

9B. If you could purchase a \$10 pin, with the revenue from pin sales going exclusively to help fund park and outdoor recreation programs, do you think you would purchase one?

PURCHASE \$10 PIN:		
	Count	%
Yes	450	72.2%
No	127	20.4%
Don't know	46	7.4%

10. However funds are raised, they can either be allocated towards maintaining existing facilities or towards developing new ones. Do you think money would be better spent maintaining existing facilities or developing new facilities?

MAINTAIN EXISTING FACILITIES OR DEVELOP NEW ONES:		
	Count	%
Maintain	493	79.0%
Develop new	80	12.8%
Don't know	51	8.1%

11A. Would you be willing to pay user fees when you use public parks and recreation facilities to help cover maintenance and management costs?

WILLING TO PAY USER FEES:		
	Count	%
Yes	508	81.4%
No	86	13.8%
Don't know	30	4.8%

11B. What's the maximum amount you'd be willing to pay for day use of facilities such as fishing access sites or trailheads?

AMOUNT YOU WOULD PAY FOR DAY USE OF FACILITIES:			
	Count	%	
Nothing	66	10.5%	
\$1-5	316	50.7%	
\$6+	180	28.8%	
Don't know	62	9.9%	Mean = \$6.42

11C. How about for overnight camping (with no hookups)?

AMOUNT YOU WOULD PAY FOR OVERNIGHT CAMPING:			
	Count	%	
Nothing	47	7.6%	
\$1-5	103	16.5%	
\$6+	418	66.9%	
Don't know	56	8.9%	Mean = \$10.36

11D. How about public use cabins?

AMOUNT YOU WOULD PAY FOR PUBLIC USE CABINS:		
	Count	%
Nothing	36	5.8%
\$1-5	8	1.4%
\$6+	452	72.4%
Don't know	128	20.5%

Mean = \$24.36

The following questions are for statistical purposes only.

11E. In what year were you born?

AGE OF RESPONDENT:		
	Count	%
18-29	93	15.1%
30-34	39	6.4%
35-39	59	9.6%
40-49	171	27.9%
50+	251	40.9%

Mean = 46.54

12. Of the people currently living in your household, how many are children or adolescents aged 18 or under?

NUMBER OF CHILDREN:		
	Count	%
None	350	56.9%
One	72	11.8%
Two	101	16.5%
Three or more	92	14.9%

Mean = 0.973

13. Are you married or single?

MARITAL STATUS:		
	Count	%
Married	387	62.1%
Single	236	37.9%

14A. Approximately, what has been your total income for all wage earners in your household in 2003, before taxes and other deductions are made?

TOTAL 2003 HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF RESPONDENT:		
	Count	%
\$0-40,000	161	30.5%
\$41-80,000	217	41.2%
\$81,000+	149	28.3%

Mean = \$69,237.00

15. GENDER...

GENDER OF RESPONDENT:		
	Count	%
Male	312	50.0%
Female	312	50.0%

This completes the survey. Thank you very much for your help. I have a telephone number for Ivan Moore Research that you can call with any comments, compliments or complaints. Would you like the number? (907-278-4600) Goodbye.

THE FOLLOWING VARIABLES HAVE BEEN CALCULATED FROM THE MEASURED DATA:

MARITAL STATUS BY GENDER:		
	Count	%
Married males	194	31.0%
Married females	194	31.0%
Single males	118	19.0%
Single females	118	19.0%

AREAS OF ALASKA:		
	Count	%
Southeast	76	12.1%
Railbelt	468	74.9%
Rural Alaska	81	12.9%

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Appendix B OUTDOOR RECREATION SURVEY

We are conducting an important statewide opinion survey for the State of Alaska, Division of Parks, to help us understand what Alaskans do for outdoor recreation and how we can meet future recreation needs. Your answers will be combined with those of other Alaskans as part of a statewide outdoor recreation plan. The plan will be used by policymakers to determine where and how funds for outdoor recreation should be allocated for State and local recreation projects.

Are you an Alaska resident?

- Yes No

Age of person filling out survey?

- Under 12 13-17 18 -29
 30-34 35-39 40-49
 50-64 65+

Of the people currently living in your household, how many are children or adolescents aged 18 or under?

- NONE ONE TWO
 THREE OR MORE

MARITAL STATUS BY GENDER:

- Married Male Single Male
 Married Female Single Female

Approximately, what has been your total income for all wage earners in your household in 2003, before taxes and other deductions are made?

- \$0 -\$40,000
 \$41,000 -\$80,000
 \$81,000+
 Refused

Are parks and outdoor recreation important to your lifestyle? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	Is a statewide system of interconnected, marked and maintained trails in Alaska important to you? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
Overall, are you satisfied with the parks and outdoor recreation facilities and services in your community? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	Are off-road trails (those that don't run alongside a road or highway) important to your recreation lifestyle? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
Overall, are you satisfied with the parks and outdoor recreation facilities and services outside your community but within an hour? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know	

Which of the following items do you or does someone in your household own?

	YES	NO
Fishing equipment		
Backpack		
Bicycle		
Tent		
Snowmachine		
ORV or ATV		
Dog Team		

	YES	NO
Hunting equipment		
Skis		
Canoe or raft		
Motor boat		
RV		
Sea Kayak		
Sailboat		

How many times in the last twelve months have you participated in this activity?	None	One or More	Rank the top 3 favorite activities		Tell me how far away the facilities you use most often for each activity are?		
			you would most like to do this year if you had the opportunity.	in order of preference that you participated in last year.	Within Community	Within an Hour	More Than an Hour
Driving for pleasure or Sight seeing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Birdwatching or Wildlife viewing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking for fitness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Day hiking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bicycling or Mountain Biking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Berry Picking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds or Open Space Activities at a local park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clamming or Beachcombing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tent camping in a campground	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sledding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Backpacking or tent camping in backcountry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Firearms or Archery Target shooting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Powerboating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jogging or running out-of-doors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outside field games such as soccer or softball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking the dog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Snowmachining	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outside court games such as tennis or basketball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ORV or ATV riding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
River canoeing, rafting or floating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RV Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swimming outdoors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trail Skiing or Cross-country skiing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ice skating or Ice hockey out-of-doors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Downhill skiing/Snowboarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Golf	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rockclimbing or iceclimbing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Backcountry skiing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dogmushing or skijoring	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jetskiing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horseback riding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sea Kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sailing or windsurfing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Motocross	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roller Blade/Skates/Skate Boarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please tell me if you agree, disagree, or don't know on the following statements.	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
Use of park areas should be controlled to protect the environment, if necessary?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks and recreation facilities are often too crowded when I want to use them	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If overcrowding occurs, commercial uses should be limited before personal uses are limited?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are enough parks and recreation lands that are convenient and accessible to me?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The state should increase protection of areas with historical or archaeological value?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The state should acquire private land when it blocks or restricts access to existing parks and facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of park areas and facilities should be limited when they become too crowded?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trails should accommodate many different types of activities, rather than be designated for a limited number of specific activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public parks and recreation programs help to reduce crime and juvenile delinquency in my community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks and recreation lands should be used to promote tourism?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existing parks should be expanded to include adjacent land that is important to recreation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I seek out recreational places that have historic significance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to military lands for recreation purposes should be improved?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearing motors or motorized vehicles negatively affects my recreation experience?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Would you support future improvements and development on the following outdoor recreation facilities in the State of Alaska?	Yes	No	Don't Know
Provide more facilities for the disabled.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide more boat launches and ramps.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expand the public use cabin system.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Establish new parks and recreation areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Construct public use cabins or shelters at periodic intervals along long distance trails.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide more RV dump stations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide roadside toilets at regular intervals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide more organized recreation programs in parks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop more drive-in campgrounds for tents.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide flush toilets and drinking water in all campgrounds.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop more trailheads along roads and highways for trail activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop more trails for the legal use of off-road vehicles.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop more trails where no motorized vehicles are allowed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop more RV campgrounds.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Upgrade existing park roads.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop more visitor centers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide more picnic areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop tourist resort facilities on park lands.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Carrying out such improvements or developments costs money that could come from a variety of sources. Would you support any to these following proposals for funding parks and outdoor recreation programs.	Yes	No	Don't Know
Allocate a portion of annual RV registration fees to parks and outdoor recreation programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
A small tax on the purchase of outdoor gear.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allocate a portion of annual ATV registration fees to parks and outdoor recreation programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collect a 1 penny per gallon gas tax to be allocated for parks and outdoor recreation programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allocate a portion of annual snowmobile registration fees to parks and outdoor recreation programs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If a statewide bond issue was put on the General election ballot advocating funding parks and outdoor recreation programs with a bond package, do you think you would vote for or against it?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

However funds are raised, they can either be allocated towards maintaining existing facilities or towards developing new ones. Do you think money would be better spent maintaining existing facilities or developing new facilities?

- MAINTAIN DEVELOP NEW DON'T KNOW

Would you be willing to pay user fees when you use public parks and recreation facilities to help cover maintenance and management costs?

- Yes No Don't know

	Nothing	\$5 to \$9	\$10 or more	Don't Know
What's the maximum amount you'd be willing to pay for day use of facilities such as fishing access sites or trailheads?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
What's the maximum amount you'd be willing to pay for overnight camping (with no hookups)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How about public use cabins?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Additional Comments:

Thank you for taking time to complete this survey.

Appendix C
PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY
 For the 2004 – 2008 SCORP

Please return the completed forms or complete the on-line version by **March 5, 2004**. On line version can be found at www.alaskastateparks.org. From that site, click on Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, and then click on Public Outdoor Recreation Facility Inventory. Hard copy forms can be faxed or mailed to:

Joy Bryan-Dolsby
 Alaska State Parks
 Grants and Administration
 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1380
 Anchorage, AK 99501

907-269-8907 fax
 907-269-8692 phone
joyb@dnr.state.ak.us e-mail

Name of Community:

Respondents Name & Title:

Telephone Number and e-mail address:

1. As a recreation manager, what do you consider to be your community's greatest outdoor recreation needs? Rank the following in order of importance.

Parkland acquisition	
Developed facilities (i.e. ball fields, trails, etc.)	
Organized programs/trained staff	
Access to existing facilities by persons with disabilities	
Maintenance of existing facilities	
Other (specify):	

2. As a community, what are your greatest outdoor recreation **facility** needs?
3. What are the most significant barriers to outdoor recreation in your **community**?
4. What are the most significant outdoor recreation needs or issues in your **region**? (Use extra sheets if needed.)

Park Land Inventory

Unit Type	Number	Acreage
Community Parks		
Greenbelts		

Outdoor Facility Inventory

Facility Type	Number of Units	Number accessible to people with disabilities
Boat docks and ramps		
Campgrounds		
Dump stations		
Campsites		
Golf courses		
Picnic and play areas (also include shelters and equipped play areas)		
Recreational courts (also include basketball, tennis, volley ball & multi-purpose courts)		
Recreational diamonds and fields (also include baseball, soccer, softball and track & field facilities)		
Outdoor swimming areas		
Motorized trails (miles) (also include ATV, motorcycle and snow machine trails)		
Non-motorized trails (miles) (also include boardwalks, walking, bicycle, fitness, cross country ski, equestrian, dog mushing, nature/interpretive and canoe trails)		
Developed trails (total # of trails)		
Spectator facilities (also include fairgrounds, wildlife viewing areas and overlooks)		
Target facilities (also include archery, rifle and trap/skeet ranges)		
Winter recreation facilities (also include outdoor ice-skating rinks/areas, outdoor hockey rinks, sledding areas and warming huts)		
Alpine ski areas (also include developed lifts, warming huts, ski jumps, luge/bobsled and snow boarding)		
Roller skating facilities (also include roller blading and skate boarding)		
Other (specify):		

Appendix D

1992-2004 Comparisons

OVERVIEW

The instrument used in 2004 was for the most part the same as the 1997 and 1992 instrument. Certain new questions were added, and some defunct questions were removed, and some elements of existing questions were altered to correct deficiencies. To a considerable degree, however, results are comparable between 1992, 1997 and 2004. Certainly in terms of the methodological approach, and two surveys are entirely consistent with each other.

IMPORTANCE

Q: Are parks and outdoor recreation important to your lifestyle?

	1992	1997	2004
Yes	94.8%	91.6%	97.9%
No	4.7%	8.3%	1.9%
Don't Know	.5%	.1%	.2%

We see a significant shift in results increasing the importance of parks and outdoor recreation beyond the level reported in 1992 and see a significant decrease in the number that do not believe it is important below the level reported in 1992.

SATISFACTION

Q: Overall, are you satisfied with the parks and outdoor recreation facilities and services in your community?

	1992	1997	2004
Yes	77.7%	71.4%	72.9%
No	17.6%	21.5%	23.7%
Don't Know	4.8%	7.1%	3.4%

We see small shift to the positive from 1997 but it has not achieved the 1992 satisfaction rate. The negative amount continues to rise.

Q: Overall, are you satisfied with the parks and outdoor recreation facilities and services outside your community but within an hour?

	1992	1997	2004
Yes	71.5%	65.2%	77.5%
No	13.8%	13.3%	18.7%
Don't Know	14.6%	21.5%	3.7%

We see a significant decrease in the don't know category while significant increases in both the satisfied and unsatisfied categories.

EQUIPMENT

	1992	1997	2004	% Change from 1992	% Change from 1997
Backpack	85.6%	90.2%	90.8%	5.2%	.6%
Bicycle	78.8%	84.5%	80.5%	1.7%	-4%
Canoe or raft	27.8%	38.5%	43.7%	15.9%	5.2%
Dog Team	3.6%	4.1%	2.0%	-1.6%	-2.1%
Fishing equipment	88.0%	92.1%	83.7%	-4.3%	-8.4%
Hunting equipment	66.1%	71.9%	50.8%	-15.3%	-21.1%
Jetski	N/A	1.6%	4.2%	N/A	2.6%
Motorboat	33.4%	37.0%	25.8%	-7.6%	-11.2%
ORV/ATV	27.7%	30.4%	18.5%	-9.2%	-11.9%
RV	22.1%	24.8%	21.8%	-.3%	-3%
Sailboat	3.5%	3.1%	2.4%	-1.1%	-.7%
Sea Kayak	6.1%	6.1%	13.1%	7%	7%
Skis	61.2%	60.8%	70.3%	9.1%	9.5%
Snowmachine	N/A	31.2%	18.3%	N/A	-12.9%
Tent	79.1%	83.7%	85.5%	6.4%	1.8%

The table shows a decrease in ownership for dog teams, fishing and hunting equipment, motorboats, ORV/ATVs, RVs and sailboats. Snowmachines also showed a decrease from 1997 to present.

PARTICIPATION

Q: How many times in the last twelve months have you been _____ ?

	1992	1997	2004	% Change from 1992	% Change from 1997
Backcountry skiing	11.8%	10.6%	28.7%	16.9%	18.1%
*Backpacking or tent Camping in backcountry	32.7%	45.3%	55.7%	23.0%	10.4%
Berry Picking	52.5%	61.0%	64.4%	11.9%	3.4%
Bicycling or Mountain Biking	63.8%	67.4%	72.70%	8.9%	5.3%
Birdwatching or Wildlife Viewing	49.0%	73.8%	77.0%	28.0%	3.2%
Clamming or Beachcombing	44.6%	53.3%	52.9%	8.3%	-0.4%
*Day hiking	65.6%	68.7%	81.3%	15.7%	12.6%
Dogmushing or skijoring	7.5%	8.0%	13.9%	6.4%	5.9%
Downhill skiing	28.7%	24.1%	41.9%	13.2%	17.8%
Driving for pleasure or sightseeing	81.3%	85.7%	83.8%	2.5%	-1.9%
Firearms or archery target shooting	42.7%	43.9%	44.4%	1.7%	0.5%
Golf	14.5%	17.5%	19.0%	4.5%	1.5%
Horseback riding	9.6%	6.3%	9.3%	-0.3%	3.0%
*Ice skating or Ice hockey out-of-doors	21.7%	26.0%	32.8%	11.1%	6.8%
Jetskiing	N/A	6.7%	6.5%	N/A	-0.2%
*Jogging or running out-of-doors	29.2%	37.4%	47.0%	17.8%	9.6%
Motocross	5.8%	3.7%	3.5%	-2.3%	-0.2%
ORV or ATV riding	23.5%	32.9%	32.7%	9.2%	-0.2%
*Outside court games such as tennis or basketball	32.0%	32.5%	24.8%	-7.2%	-7.7%
*Outside field games such as soccer or softball	30.1%	37.3%	29.1%	-1.0%	-8.2%
Picnicking	76.2%	76.1%	73.8%	-2.4%	-2.3%
*Playgrounds or Open Space Activities at a local park	45.9%	63.3%	55.7%	9.8%	-7.6%
Powerboating	28.0%	42.3%	37.3%	9.3%	-5.0%

River Canoeing, rafting or floating	25.8%	31.3%	51.1%	25.3%	19.8%
Rockclimbing or iceclimbing	8.0%	11.1%	13.2%	5.2%	2.1%
Roller Blade/Skates/Skate boarding	N/A	N/A	22.0%	N/A	N/A
RV camping	24.1%	28.9%	33.3%	9.2%	4.4%
Sailing or windsurfing	4.9%	4.0%	6.3%	1.4%	2.3%
Sea Kayaking	4.9%	4.8%	21.1%	16.2%	16.3%
Sledding	45.8%	45.8%	42.3%	-3.5%	-3.5%
Snowmachining	26.0%	36.4%	28.8%	2.8%	-7.6%
Sport hunting	28.1%	35.6%	44.0%	15.9%	8.4%
Sportfishing	71.8%	75.9%	69.8%	-2.0%	-6.1%
*Swimming outdoors	24.1%	28.2%	30.5%	6.4%	2.3%
Tent camping in a campground	40.7%	48.4%	51.1%	10.4%	2.7%
Trail Skiing or Crosscountry skiing	34.0%	27.4%	41.1%	7.1%	13.7%
Walking for fitness	61.1%	72.5%	82.9%	21.8%	10.36%
Walking the dog	N/A	36.7%	32.3%	N/A	-4.4%

*represents those categories for which wording changed between 1992 and 1997, so comparisons for these categories are not wholly valid.

The only significant decrease in any category overall is in Outside court games. Significant increases have occurred in Backcountry skiing, Backpacking or tent Camping in backcountry, River Canoeing, rafting or floating, Sea Kayaking, and Walking for fitness.

As a footnote, it must be stressed that all these comparisons must be interpreted with full consideration given to the weather and related conditions. 2003's summer was by all accounts a good one, which may account for some of the increases seen here.

OPINIONS

In 1992 and 1997 the people interviewed were asked to respond to the statements below with "Strongly agree, mildly agree, mildly disagree or strongly disagree" In 2004 there were several survey methods used, the mail and web survey were too lengthy to pose these questions in the same format so those taking the survey were asked to respond with "Agree, Disagree or Don't Know/Unsure"

Q: Please tell me if you agree, disagree, or don't know on the following statements:

2004	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know/ Neutral
Use of park areas should be controlled to protect the environment, if necessary?	88.31%	7.86%	3.83%
Parks and recreation facilities are often too crowded when I want to use them	40.19%	53.87%	5.94%
If overcrowding occurs, commercial uses should be limited before personal uses are limited?	82.62%	7.53%	9.85%
There are enough parks and recreation lands that are convenient and accessible to me?	64.49%	32.98%	2.52%
The state should increase protection of areas with historical or archaeological value?	66.77%	16.96%	16.27%
The state should acquire private land when it blocks or restricts access to existing parks and facilities?	68.92%	17.48%	13.60%
Use of park areas and facilities should be limited when they become too crowded?	66.40%	21.92%	11.67%
Trails should accommodate many different types of activities, rather than be designated for a limited number of specific activities?	50.80%	38.65%	10.55%
Public parks and recreation programs help to reduce crime and juvenile delinquency in my community?	67.77%	10.20%	22.03%
Parks and recreation lands should be used to promote tourism?	64.12%	26.28%	9.60%
Existing parks should be expanded to include adjacent land that is important to recreation?	75.47%	17.02%	7.52%
I seek out recreational places that have historic significance?	38.75%	51.51%	9.74%
Access to military lands for recreation purposes should be improved?	55.81%	22.30%	21.88%
Hearing motors or motorized vehicles negatively affects my recreation experience?	60.89%	34.72%	4.39%

Q: Would you support future improvements and development on the following outdoor recreation facilities in the State of Alaska?

2004	Yes	No	Don' Know/ Neutral
	Provide more facilities for the disabled.	63.59%	18.02%
Provide more boat launches and ramps.	47.02%	30.56%	22.41%
Expand the public use cabin system.	76.96%	10.72%	12.31%
Establish new parks and recreation areas.	69.42%	20.40%	10.17%
Construct public use cabins or shelters at periodic intervals along long distance trails.	77.09%	13.07%	9.84%
Provide more RV dump stations.	43.15%	30.50%	26.35%
Provide roadside toilets at regular intervals.	75.88%	15.57%	8.55%
Provide more organized recreation programs in parks.	34.42%	45.20%	20.38%
Develop more drive-in campgrounds for tents.	60.84%	22.32%	16.84%
Provide flush toilets and drinking water in all campgrounds.	37.33%	51.85%	10.82%
Develop more trailheads along roads and highways for trail activities.	75.37%	14.17%	10.46%
Develop more trails for the legal use of off-road vehicles.	47.29%	42.61%	10.11%
Develop more trails where no motorized vehicles are allowed.	71.06%	20.53%	8.40%
Develop more RV campgrounds.	35.38%	45.95%	18.66%
Upgrade existing park roads.	48.91%	32.84%	18.25%
Develop more visitor centers.	29.33%	52.02%	18.65%
Provide more picnic areas.	52.72%	32.50%	14.78%
Develop tourist resort facilities on park lands.	23.75%	63.47%	12.78%

Q: Carrying out such improvements or developments costs money that could come from a variety of sources. Would you support any to these following proposals for funding parks and outdoor recreation programs?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Allocate a portion of annual RV registration fees to parks and outdoor recreation programs.	90.76%	5.68%	3.56%
A small tax on the purchase of outdoor gear.	43.00%	49.02%	7.97%
Allocate a portion of annual ATV registration fees to parks and outdoor recreation programs.	86.47%	10.02%	3.52%
Collect a 1 penny per gallon gas tax to be allocated for parks and outdoor recreation programs.	57.20%	36.33%	6.48%
Allocate a portion of annual snowmobile registration fees to parks and outdoor recreation programs.	87.47%	8.88%	3.66%
If a statewide bond issue was put on the General election ballot advocating funding parks and outdoor recreation programs with a bond package, do you think you would vote for or against it?	64.18%	16.85%	18.97%
If you could purchase a \$10 pin, with the revenue from the pin sales going exclusively to help fund park and outdoor recreation programs, do you think you would purchase one?	72.23%	20.39%	7.38%

Q: However funds are raised, they can either be allocated towards maintaining existing facilities or towards developing new ones. Do you think money would be better spent maintaining existing facilities or developing new facilities?

	1992	1997	2004	% change from 1992	% change from 1997
Maintain	74.7%	77.3%	78.7%	4.0%	1.4%
Develop New	23.3%	17.4%	16.09%	-7.2%	-1.3%
Don't Know	2.0%	5.3%	5.2%	3.2%	-.1%

The results clearly show that over time maintenance of facilities continues to be an issue. Even among those that would like to develop new, they stated that they would like the current facilities maintained and then develop new.

Q: Would you be willing to pay user fees when you use public parks and recreation facilities to help cover maintenance and management costs?

	1992	1997	2004	% change from 1992	% change from 1997
Yes	83.7%	80.7%	82.1%	-1.6%	1.4%
No	16.3%	16.4%	11.29%	-5.0%	-5.11%
Don't Know	0.0%	2.9%	6.6%	6.6%	3.7%

This question will have to be revamped in the future. Parks & Outdoor Recreation currently charge user fees for the use of many facilities. These fees do help to cover maintenance and management costs.

APPENDIX E

LOCAL RECREATION PLAN GUIDELINES

Local recreation plan guidelines were developed to meet the requirements of Alaska's Open Project Selection Process (see Chapter 6). The plan substitutes for a comprehensive plan for sponsor communities that do not have such a plan in place. The local recreation plan must focus specifically on the sponsor's proposed project. On the basis of information provided by sponsors, the plan will be either accepted or rejected (and the appeal for a higher priority ranking approved or denied) by the Alaska State Parks staff evaluation committee.

A local plan must include:

1. Documentation of Planning Process

Copy of written proposal outlining the project including:

- ✂ Objective or justification for proposed project.
- ✂ The local need or deficiency addressed by the proposal.
- ✂ Population served by proposed project (age, etc.).
- ✂ Suitability of site (proximity to population being served, land status/ownership, environmental and construction considerations).
- ✂ Expected social cost to the community if proposal is not funded or developed.
- ✂ Proposed construction budget (including site preparation).
- ✂ Projected annual maintenance costs.
- ✂ Alternative to project (can this need be satisfied through other kinds of developments, less expensive designs, alternative locations, etc.).

2. Documentation of Public Participation

Documentation of how the public was informed of the proposal, how public comments were solicited (e.g., oral testimony, letter, phone call), and schedule for receiving comments.

Written summary of comments received and justification of final proposal decision.

3. Support of Local Government

Signed resolution by local government body supporting project.

4. Map

Map of community that identifies existing public recreation areas and site of the proposed project.

SIX KEYS TO DEVELOPING A SUCCESSFUL LOCAL RECREATION PLAN/PROJECT

1. Know your Community.

Before a recreation project can be initiated or expanded intelligently, it is necessary to know the character, distribution of population, traditions, interests, needs, problems, and resources of the community.

2. Pool your resources.

Everyone in the community must work together to derive full use of community assets. Close cooperation and coordination among all public and private agencies is necessary if a community is to meet the recreational needs and interests of its citizens.

3. Check your legal authority.

Determine what authority you need and what you have. If necessary, work to get the laws that provide an adequate legal base to accomplish your goals. Authority to develop public recreation depends on state and local laws.

4. Make the most of existing facilities.

Are there existing facilities that can meet your needs, at least in part?

5. Ensure your project serves year-round need and has broad appeal among generations. Community recreation should meet wide and varied needs, including different age groups and multiple uses, and should also be designed to accommodate people with physical disabilities.

6. Plan for the future.

Consider the following:

- ✂ Are universal design concepts used, to allow for use by the greatest number of people?
- ✂ Are facilities designed for expansion?
- ✂ Are they attractively designed to encourage participation?
- ✂ Are they designed for easy, low cost maintenance?
- ✂ Are they safe for users of all ages?
- ✂ Are the personal comforts of the participants part of the design?

Appendix F
Workshops and Handout

SCORP Public Meetings

March 10th, 2004, 7:00 PM
Department of Natural Resources Large Conference Room
3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska

March 18th, 2004, 7:00 PM
Kenai River Center
514 Funny River Road, Soldotna, Alaska

April 13th, 2004, 7:00 PM
Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Building Conference
Room
101 Airport Road, Palmer, Alaska

June 16th, 2004
Noon to 1:30 PM & 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
Robert B. Atwood Bldg
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1270, Anchorage, Alaska

National Park Service



Are these still valid issues and recommendations?	Yes	No	Don't Know
Lack of Adequate Funding			
• Support Ongoing Efforts for Reform of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program			
• Continue Interagency Communication and Cooperative Efforts			
• Privatize Selected Services, Facility Operation and Maintenance			
• Strengthen Alternative Funding Mechanisms and Programs			
• Develop Alternative Funding Sources			
Shortage of Tourism Opportunities on Public Lands			
• Expand Cooperative Planning Efforts			
• Maintain and Expand Private-Public Nature-Based Tourism partnerships			
• Promote Private Sector Development on Public Lands Where Appropriate			
• Develop Year-Round Tourism Destinations and Related Services on Public Lands			
• Increase Capital Spending to Rehabilitate and Expand Facilities			
• Expand Public Use Cabin System			
• Promote the Alaska Public Lands Information Centers			
Improved Access to Outdoor Recreation Resources			
• Implement TEA21 Provisions			
• Improve Access to Water-Based Recreation			
• Develop Inventory of Barrier-Free Outdoor Recreation Facilities			
• Continue Cooperative Planning Efforts with "Barrier-Free" Advocacy Groups			
• Consider Incompatibility Among Users and User Values			
• Develop Strategies for Identifying and Legally Dedicating Existing Trails			
• Develop Opportunities for Legal Access on Trails Across Private Land			
Opportunities to Meet Recreation Needs in Communities			
• Give Some Communities a Higher Priority for LWCF Matching Grants			
• Develop Alternative Funding Sources			
• Design Facilities to Reflect Economic Realities and Sustainable Practices			
Any new issues and recommendations?			

Top 3 Recreational Needs: 1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Alaska State Parks



Appendix G

State of Alaska Land and Water Conservation Fund

Open Project Selection Process

INTRODUCTION TO LWCF

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal grant program administered by the National Park Service through the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Grants and Administration Section. This program provides up to 50% matching funds to eligible state agencies and local communities and federally recognized Indian Tribes with park and recreation powers. Funding is available for the acquisition and/or development of outdoor recreation facilities and areas.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Authority for the program is vested in the "Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965", which Congress passed in 1964 under Public Law 88-578. The Act created a grants-in-aid fund "...to assist in preserving, developing and assuring accessibility to all citizens of the United States of present and future generations...such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as may be available and are necessary and desirable for individual active participation..." and "... to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States..."

STATE'S ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Specific requirements that each state must satisfy to participate in the LWCF program are:

1. Appointment of a State Liaison Officer. The Governor of each participating state is required to designate an individual as the LWCF State Liaison Officer (SLO). The SLO is charged with administering the program at the state level. Currently, the Director of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) is designated as Alaska's SLO. The DPOR's LWCF Grant Administrator is designated as the Alternate SLO. Current and potential project sponsors should contact the State Liaison Office on all matters relating to the LWCF program.
2. Approved Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Each State must prepare a SCORP at a minimum of every five years. The SCORP contains an evaluation of the demand for and supply of outdoor recreation resources and facilities in the state. It also identifies capital investment priorities for acquiring, developing and protecting significant outdoor recreation resources within the state. In Alaska, this document is used to determine how proposed projects rank as needed facilities in specific regions of the state.
3. Public Participation – Open Project Selection Process (OPSP). An OPSP must be designed to assure equal opportunity for all eligible project sponsors and all sectors of the general public to participate in the benefits of the LWCF program. It must also enable states to affirmatively address and meet priority recreation needs.

ALASKA'S OPEN PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Alaska's State Liaison Office has implemented the following procedures to assure the fair and equitable allocation of LWCF funding and to satisfy OPSP goals outlined in the LWCF Grant Manual.

GOAL A. Provide for public knowledge of and participation in the formulation and application of the project selection process utilized by the State in allocating LWCF assistance.

The State Liaison Office will prepare a draft update of the OPSP in conjunction with each update of the SCORP, and whenever there is a material change proposed to the OPSP. The public will be invited to comment on the draft OPSP via public meetings held throughout the state. Public notice will be placed on the State of Alaska public notice web page and in area-wide newspapers to alert the public to the process and the meetings. The public meetings may be via teleconference and also may be in conjunction with the Outdoor Recreation and Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB) meetings or local State Parks Citizens Advisory Board meetings. Written and electronic comments will be accepted.

GOAL B. Ensure that all potential State and local applicants are aware of the availability of and process for obtaining LWCF assistance, and provide opportunities for all eligible agencies to submit project applications and have them considered on an equitable basis.

Up to fifty percent of Alaska's yearly apportionment will be allocated to Alaska State Parks projects. The remainder of the yearly LWCF apportionment will be made available to local projects.

When funding is anticipated for the program, the SLO will contact all eligible boroughs and communities listed in the Alaska Municipal Officials Directory and all eligible federally recognized Indian Tribes via e-mail or letter to notify these local entities of the application period.

This notice will outline the application and selection processes, the timeline, and provide contact information. It will also inform the potential sponsor how to access informational materials and application forms, including: 1) an information booklet about the program, 2) application instructions, 3) an application, 4) the score sheet used to prioritize the applications, and, 5) the LWCF component of the SCORP.

GOAL C. Provide a measurable link, through published selection criteria, to the specific outdoor recreation needs and priorities identified in SCORP policies and implementation programs.

Proposed local projects will be scored using published scoring criteria. Criteria will be based on LWCF Manual requirements.

A minimum of one-third of the total possible points in the scoring process will be directly linked to how the proposed project addresses needs identified in the SCORP. (See SCORP Chapter 6 for the current LWCF priorities.)

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Additional scoring categories will include, but, are not limited to: local planning efforts, public participation at the project sponsor level, accessibility of the proposed project, to the greatest extent practicable, to all segments of the public, ability of the sponsor to operate and maintain the project after development and/or acquisition, and innovative acquisition or design features.

Scoring criteria will be made available in conjunction with application solicitations. See Appendix A of the OPSP for the current scoring criteria.

Project types funded from Alaska State Parks portion of the yearly apportionment must be identified as priorities in the SCORP.

GOAL D. Assure that the distribution of LWCF assistance is accomplished in a non-discriminatory manner, especially with regard to minority populations, the elderly, and people with disabilities, and ensure a fair and equitable evaluation of all applications for LWCF assistance.

A member of DPOR's Grants and Administration Section will review each application received by the SLO for technical aspects and to ensure proposal and sponsor eligibility.

Local projects and Alaska State Parks projects will NOT be in competition. Two separate and distinct prioritization recommendations will be developed.

Each eligible local application will be evaluated by the Staff Evaluation Committee (SEC) and assessed a point score based on the published scoring criteria. The SEC will be comprised of three members of DPOR's staff with expertise in grant administration, finance, engineering, and/or project management. The SEC's sole purpose will be to review and score each eligible local application. Scores from the three SEC members will be combined to determine a recommended prioritization of the local applications.

The Director of Alaska State Parks will select and prioritize applications for the DPOR portion of the yearly apportionment.

At a public meeting, each eligible application will be presented by SLO staff to the Outdoor Recreation and Trails Advisory Board. The State of Alaska Draft Administrative Order established the Board. See Appendix H of the OPSP for the full text of the Draft Administrative Order.

The Outdoor Recreation and Trails Advisory Board will recommend a final ranking of local applications and Alaska State Parks applications to the SLO.

The SLO has final approval of the ranking of all Alaska State Parks and local applications. Each local project approved by the SLO must have competed in the OPSP.

After a proposal has successfully competed in an OPSP process and subsequently been approved as a LWCF grant project by the NPS, the SLO has the authority to approve an increase of up to thirty (30) percent over the original federal request to accommodate for cost over-runs. Any proposed increase in an existing grant over thirty (30) percent of the original request must compete through another OPSP process.

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PROCESS TIMELINE

The following is a target timeline to be used when funding is anticipated for the program. Variables such as ORTAB meeting dates, staffing levels and obtaining final application documentation from sponsor could alter this timeline.

September - Public announcements of anticipated funding will be made per the approved OPSP and preliminary applications will be solicited.

December – Preliminary applications due to SLO. Approximately 90 days will be provided for the submission after announcement.

January – Hold public meeting of the Outdoor Recreation and Trails Advisory Board to review and rank preliminary applications. SLO approves final ranking.

February through April – SLO staff work with sponsors whose preliminary applications ranked high enough to be funded to complete full application packages.

May – full application packages submitted to the National Park Service for final approval.

NPS APPROVAL OF OPSP

New or revised OPSP's must be submitted to the National Park Service (NPS) for review and evaluation and approved by the appropriate Regional Director before their use in Alaska's grant competitions.

**LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF) PROGRAM
STAFF EVALUATION COMMITTEE RATING FORM**

=====

AGENCY/COMMUNITY SPONSOR: REGION:
[] Southeast [] Railbelt [] Rural

PROJECT NAME: PROJECT TYPE:
[] Acquisition [] Development
[] Combination

TOTAL PROJECT COST: ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE:

LWCF MATCH REQUESTED:

=====

SECTION I. QUALIFYING CRITERIA

The following are basic eligibility requirements that must be fulfilled before consideration of funding under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. A "NO" response to any of the following questions will automatically disqualify an application.

- | | | | |
|----|---|-----|----|
| 1. | Is the project identified in the SCORP as a priority? | YES | NO |
| 2. | Is the application submitted by one of the following organizations?
[] State Agency
[] Local Government or Federally recognized Indian Tribe with park and recreation power
<i>(Provide documentation to verify park and recreation powers.)</i> | YES | NO |
| 3. | If a development project, is the land currently owned by the sponsor?
<i>(Provide documentation to verify land ownership.)</i> | YES | NO |
| 4. | If applicable, have all past LWCF compliance problems been resolved? | YES | NO |
| 5. | Does the applicant have a current Section 504 Self-Evaluation Plan and Transition Plan or be willing to prepare one prior to receiving a grant? | YES | NO |
| 6. | Will project development be accessible to persons with disabilities? | YES | NO |
| 7. | Is the federal share requested between \$100,000 and \$300,000? | YES | NO |

Were all of the above questions answered with a "yes"? YES NO

If "yes", proceed to the following Scoring Section.

If "no", stop here, project is not eligible.

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SECTION II. SCORING

SCORE

1. Need as identified in Alaska's current *Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)*. Project type (i.e. ball field, playground, etc.) must meet a priority recreation need as defined in the current *SCORP*.

A. Compliance with needs and objectives of the current Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, Chapter 6.

1. Project type is identified as HIGH PRIORITY. (55 POINTS)
2. Project type is identified as MEDIUM PRIORITY. (36 POINTS)
3. Project type is identified as LOW PRIORITY. (18 POINTS)
4. Project type is not identified in the SCORP. (0 POINTS)

NOTE: Committee members will evaluate the following criteria based on information provided by the project sponsor in the preliminary application. It is up to the applicant to address the criteria in the project narrative and to document this information.

2. Local Recreation Management. This section measures the local need and support for the project, as well as the ability of the applicant to care for the project after it is constructed.

A. Project sponsor has developed local short or long-range plan that identifies project.

1. Project is adequately identified in the plan as a major need in the community. (10 POINTS)
2. Community planning documentation of project as a significant need is marginal. (5 POINTS)
3. Plan does not document need for the project or no evidence of plan. (0 POINTS)

B. Public Participation:

1. Public input to proposal was actively solicited by project sponsor and public input was favorable to project. (10 POINTS)
2. Public input to proposal was minimal and/or limited public support of project. (5 POINTS)
3. No evidence of public participation in formulating proposal. (0 POINTS)

C. Ability to operate and maintain project after development is completed:

1. Applicant has budget and staff for operation and maintenance of this project. (15 POINTS)
2. Applicant has no staff, but has plan and long-term commitment from another agency or organization for maintenance and operation of this project. (8 POINTS)
3. No evidence of budget, staff or plan for operation and maintenance. (0 POINTS)

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3. Project specifics. The LWCF Act specifies that development projects consist of basic outdoor recreation facilities to serve the general public. Consideration will be given to the cost versus development proposed (i.e. more “bang for the buck”), the proximity to the public, and degree to which a project serves the full range of the general public.

SCORE

- A. Site suitability: (Evaluators will use the percentage of budget used for site preparation figures specified below as a guide – this may vary depending on the type of facility proposed. The purpose of the question is to gauge whether the proposal provides recreation opportunities commensurate with funding requested.)
1. Good location for intended use. Minimal site preparation needed. (I.e. no more than 40% of the budget will be used for site preparation.) (5 POINTS)
 2. Site requires extensive preparation, but there is no feasible alternative to the site. (More than 40% of the budget will be used for site preparation.) (3 POINTS)
 3. Site requires extensive preparation and there are feasible alternatives to the site. (More than 40% of the budget will be used for site preparation.) (0 POINTS)
- B. Proximity to the public:
1. Project is adjacent to other public areas/facilities, is within walking distance of expected users, or can be conveniently reached by public transportation, and it can be demonstrated that this will significantly contribute to project use. (5 POINTS)
 2. Project is near or connected by trail to other public areas/facilities, can be reached by most means of transportation that are appropriate for the type of site. User may have to travel some distance to access the site. Access may be relatively inconvenient for part of the area population and this may affect use of the site. (3 POINTS)
 3. Project is not near other public areas/facilities or the areas/facilities will not contribute to its use. Access to the site is limited and inconvenient for a large part of the service area population (0 POINTS)
- A. Age groups served: young children (approx. 0 – 5), children (6 – 11), youth (12 – 18), young adults (18 – 30), adults (31 – 60), elders (61 and over).
1. Project will serve 5 or more age groups. (5 POINTS)
 2. Project will serve 3 or 4 age groups. (3 POINTS)
 3. Project will serve 1 or 2 age groups. (0 POINTS)
- D. Recreation opportunities for special populations such as low income, minority or the disabled. (Applicant must describe how and document.)
1. Project will serve 3 or more special population groups.(5 POINTS)
 2. Project will serve 2 special population groups. (3 POINTS)
 3. Project will serve 1 special population group. (0 POINTS)

Appendix G

SCORE

4. Other considerations.

A. Per capita share of LWCF apportionment previously received by applicant.

- 1. Applicant has previously received less than it's per capita share. (10 POINTS)
- 2. Applicant has previously received approximately its per capita share. (5 POINTS)
- 3. Applicant has previously received more than it's per capita share. (0 POINTS)

B. Environmental impact:

- 1. Project provides significant benefit to the natural environment, i.e. reclamation of landfill to park. (10 POINTS)

C. Acquisition projects only – there will be severe consequences resulting from failure to act, i.e. natural resource removed from public access

- 1. Imminent threat of irretrievable loss of natural resource if not acquired, with no feasible alternatives. (10 POINTS)

E. Innovative features - points will be awarded in this category for innovative and creative aspects of project design or partnerships in funding. Some of the features which could be considered are: (1) project has unique energy efficient components; (2) project introduces an innovative concept that reduce operations and maintenance costs; (3) design engineering offers a creative solution to a previously identified resource degradation, etc.; (4) donation of at least 25% of applicants share of project costs from a partnering entity, etc.

- 1. Project has two or more innovative features. (10 POINTS)
- 2. Project has one innovative or special feature. (5 POINTS)
- 4. Project has no innovative or special features. (0 POINTS)

TOTAL POINTS AWARDED (maximum score 150 points)

PRINTED NAME OF EVALUATOR

SIGNATURE

DATE

DRAFT

Appendix H
(OPSP Appendix B)

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. _____

I, Frank H. Murkowski, Governor of the State of Alaska, under the authority of art. III, secs. 1 and 24, of the Alaska Constitution, hereby establish in the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, the Outdoor Recreation and Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB), to serve as the state trails recreational access and other outdoor recreation activities advisory board primarily for purposes of implementing the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (P.L. 88-578) and the National - Recreational Trails Fund Act of 1991 (P .L. 102-328).

In conjunction with the establishment of the ORTAB, this Order revokes Administrative Order No. 161 and amends Administrative Order No. 193, regarding the TRAAK Board.

PURPOSE AND DUTIES OF THE ORTAB

1. The primary purpose of the ORTAB is to advise the Director of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (Division) on project funding for eligible outdoor recreation projects under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF) and the National Recreational Trails Fund Act (Recreational Trails Program); to nominate, review, and comment on trail and outdoor recreation projects during the public processes of the Department of Natural

Resources (DNR) and other agencies; and to help the Division advocate the economic, health, and social benefits of state trails and recreation access.

- 2. Under the LWCF and Recreational Trails Program (RTP), the ORTAB shall
 - (a) review projects to ensure that all potentially eligible applicants have a fair opportunity to participate in grant financing under the LWCF and the RTP;
 - (b) apply LWCF and RTP criteria to projects based on the relative need for trail maintenance, park land acquisition, and outdoor recreation development, as identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan developed under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (P.L. 88-578);
 - (c) provide information and coordinate public participation in the project selection process under the LWCF and the RTP;
 - (d) recommend a final ranking of projects for funding under the LWCF and the RTP to the state liaison officer in the Division; and
 - (e) recognize that the LWCF and the RTP are different programs, and that federal appropriations under these programs must remain separate.

The ORTAB shall advise the Director and the state LWCF and RTP liaison officer on issues relating to the implementation of the LWCF and the RTP.

3. The ORTAB shall carry out its duties regarding the Alaska Trails System as described in Administrative Order No. 193, as amended by this Order.

MEMBERSHIP

The ORTAB consists of nine members, to be appointed by the Commissioner of DNR, with statewide representation. Membership must include representation from non-motorized and motorized users of trails; minorities, disabled users of trails, and other recreation users. Minority representation must reasonably represent the ratio of the minority to the non-minority population of the state. Members of the ORTAB must have experience and knowledge of trails and recreational access, as well as statewide interest in recreational issues. Member terms shall be three years in duration and shall expire according to AS 39.05.053. The initial appointments shall be set according to AS 39.05.055(7) to ensure staggered initial terms.

A vacancy on the ORTAB shall be filled by appointment by the Commissioner of DNR. A member appointed to fill a vacancy serves for the unexpired term of the member whose vacancy is filled.

Members of the ORTAB are not entitled to receive compensation for service on the ORTAB, but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized by law for boards and commissions.

The ORTAB may invite non-voting, telephonic participation from representatives of the United States National Park Service, the United States Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, or other government agencies as appropriate.

PROCEDURES AND MEETINGS

The ORTAB may set operating procedures, elect officers, and establish standing committees as it considers appropriate.

The ORTAB shall meet no less than twice a year, on dates selected by the members. Meetings of the ORTAB shall be held, and notice of the meetings provided, in accordance with AS 44.62.310 and 44.62.312 (Open Meetings Law). To reduce costs, the ORTAB may meet by teleconference.

A quorum of the ORTAB consists of six members. A vacancy on the ORTAB does not-affect the quorum. At least one appointed member representing motorized trail users and one appointed member representing non-motorized trail users must be present during the review, evaluation, and prioritization of RTP projects.

Records of the ORTAB are subject to inspection and copying as public records under AS 40.25.110 -40.25.220.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DNR

The DNR is responsible for general statewide implementation, administration, compliance, and fiscal oversight of the LWCF and the RTP in Alaska.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 161 REVOKED

Administrative Order No.161, dated February 14, 1996; regarding the Governor's Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska Citizens' Advisory Board (TRAAK Board) is hereby revoked.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 193 AMENDMENTS

Administrative Order No. 193, establishing the Alaska Trails System, is amended as follows:

1. The "Definition" section is replaced by the following. "The Alaska Trails System is the aggregate of all the trails in Alaska that have been nominated, evaluated, and recommended for the Alaska Trails System by the former Trails and Recreational Access for Alaska Citizens' Advisory Board

(TRA Board) or by the Outdoor Recreation and Trails Advisory Board (ORTAB), and designated by this Order or by the Department of Natural Resources as included in that system."

2. The last sentence of the second paragraph of the "PURPOSE" section is replaced by the following: "The creation of this statewide network of specially recognized trails does not affect existing rights of land ownership or jurisdiction, and is intended to further effectuate Administrative Order No. _____, under which the ORTAB was established."

3. The section on "INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL TRAILS IN THE ALASKA TRAILS SYSTEM: ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES" is replaced by the following: "The ORTAB is responsible for evaluating and recommending additional trails for inclusion in the Alaska Trails System.

The Department of Natural Resources, in consultation with the ORTAB, shall develop criteria and procedures for the Department of Natural

Resources' designation of additional trails for the Alaska Trails System, and other procedures dealing with financing, monitoring, coordinating, promoting, reporting, and record keeping."

This Order takes effect immediately.

Dated at _____, Alaska, this _____ day of _____, 2004.

Frank H. Murkowski
Governor

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Appendix I

SCORP Public Comments

Access to new fishing areas (lakes) need to be developed in the interior. At the moment all fishing is focused on a few lakes that are fished out. By providing access to more lakes and limiting catches and/or temporary closing areas.

Bring back the seasonal passes for our Parks. I bought 2 passes last year & only used the 3 times.

If we have more campground hosts even partial paid hosts, and did improvements to existing parks and enforced time limits we would be adequate for some time.

Bring back the annual camp pass. It is a way to insure camping receipts from Alaska residents. Locals will not use campgrounds if passes are not available. \$172,000 is cash in hand for the state campgrounds. Bad decision to stop annual passes. We appreciate the facilities. Joint use is the Alaskan way.

Would pay between \$0 and \$5 for fishing access sites

Get a new governor and I'll gladly answer your form. A little change in the legislature too.

I think the legislature is trying again to save money and withdraws its funding. That should not be the case.

Facilities are OK. We need to maintain what we have before building more. Fees for maintenance are a no brainer. New development depends on cost. Most are willing to pay for services, if not they can pay elsewhere.

I HAD A HARD TIME DECIDING IF I WANTED TO MAINTAIN OR DEVELOP NEW FACILITIES, BECAUSE I WANT US TO DO BOTH

State park auto permit sticker should be continued

I cannot believe the city ruined the property on Abbott loop to build ball fields. How exactly is the traffic problem going to be handled? What a stupid thing to do!

Alaska has many services offered that other states don't offer. Adding more, more, more just means we have more to maintain, etc. Lets maintain what we have. Look at a volunteer system for some of it. It seems like parks & rec. has an awful lot of stuff in summer that supports tourism. Why does Alaska pay for this? Why not the tourists! Most of these part time employees aren't even from Alaska! Lets take care of our own – If you looking to fund the rec. programs look at getting money for tourism. Things like having a parks & rec. person on board the ferry stem and on the Portage Glacier Cruise-something every tourist pays for – should not be funded by the state. Use the funds for tourism to fund more worthwhile endeavors that support the people of Alaska.

Control trail extension. Public use cabins-could use more.

Appendix I

SCORP Public Comments

Check out the Oregon State Parks-huge areas, heavily treed, cleared & well maintained. They are much better than any state park or RV park in this state. It is appalling that the RV spaces in the Wasilla, Palmer areas are nothing but narrow parking spaces in a parking lot! Driving in from Canadian border there are no nice pull over places with trashcans, let alone restrooms or camping areas. In a state of such beauty we seem to encourage people to trash the place for lack of amenities.

I promote segregation of motorized and non-motorized recreational land use.

This is a bad idea because volumes of state regs. will be required to define "outdoor gear". Some people call ski gloves "gear" so I don't know what you mean. People shouldn't pay a tax for buying warm clothes. A tax on "recreational equipment" is an idea, but I don't think it will fly in areas that have a local sales tax already. Plus taxes cost money to enforce & collect. I'd have to see a cost/benefit analysis. Finally, in bush Alaska this stuff isn't optional or recreational but often a matter of necessity and this tax would have a disparate impact on rural residents (Sorry but I'm a lawyer and can't help running on & on...)

No taxes. Tax free state.

I would buy a pass like I do now. Anchorage has so much recreation to offer I rarely leave the "bowl" to find recreation. If I do, then it is to bike alongside the hwy to Hope, something in the Eagle River Nature Center or Independence Mine area.

Please treat Parks & outdoor activities with the respect they are due. The parks & outdoor rec division should be at the top, not at the bottom, of the Governor's priorities.

Keep all parks as natural as possible. It is nice to have asphalt but gravel roads are fine to me. Less people travel down gravel roads. Instead of asphalt just oil the gravel roads.

I would be willing to pay for day use if I did not buy and annual pass. However, with an annual pass, additional charges are unreasonable. Charge more for "out of state" users, as they do not support local programs throughout the year by paying taxes, fees, or support of the state's economy year round. They also do not pay "tolls" to maintain roads, even though the motor homes do more damage than everyday commuters. When we go "outside" we have to pay fees, sales taxes, etc. Why shouldn't visitors to our state have to support our programs as well, through fees?

Need to contain the motorized recreation to prevent ecological damage as well as harming the non-motorized recreational experience.

Appendix I

SCORP Public Comments

I was surprised by the lack of activity "photography and photographic equipment" When people ask me if I hunt, I say I hunt with a camera. Photography is a big part of my recreation.

Allocations i.e. dedicated funds are wisely, I believe, unconstitutional. The legislature needs to fund these things. Good luck! I am concerned about private development blocking park access. Developers always try to do this.

Snowmobile registration fees are supposed to go for trails. This state has 28 billion dollars, use the permanent fund as it is supposed to be, to run state government. Stop the PFD giveaway. No new taxes or user fees. Go back to the yearly camping pass. Next time you pay this postage.

Would support senior citizen discount for residents such as we now get for hunting and fishing licenses! We can't afford the continuing increases in camping fees.

Summer 03 I enjoyed camping at Harding Lake camp ground-but for several years now it has been getting out of control on July 4th. This last year there was tons of kids having huge all night parties, coolers with food and beer were stolen & troopers didn't respond to 911 calls & park rangers seemed to be overwhelmed & unable to deal with the problem. Please have enough law enforcement in the future.

User fees should go directly to the park when they are collected!!

I would only support increased fees for actual use in rec. areas. I feel you have too much staff that is basically useless and unless they are doing something to improve facilities or maintenance of facilities, that your budget should be cut (get rid of desk jockey) and support field personnel. State parks should be for all segments of the population instead of the direction you are going of catering to elitist groups – multiple use should be your main thrust.

Would like to see established parks maintained and not closed (Olmes Pond).

Would not like to see Supper Chena closed to motorized vehicles.

Would like to see more hiking and/or ATV trails established.

Not in support of dog park.

Public park access should be free!

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The questions and answer blocks are slanted for selective response whether it be a yes/no answer is dependent on local, condition, use and abuse by tourists & locals. Every park regions has unique issues and should be evaluated & Doctrines established for area use. I.e. for key tourist stop points; increase fees within 50 miles, for more remote areas outhouses and gravel are OK. Let people supply their own toilet paper & provide burn barrels. The State of Alaska should not rush into a panic and become "California" yet! The state needs to govern its resources as if it was their own money & a blue-collar non-union worker or a working mother of young children. Bring back a small income tax at .03% adjusted after federal tax liability. The "user fee" is political trash.

I like paying for annual parking permit. I don't think state residents should pay again for each use. I use the park several times a week in summer & don't want to pay each time. I'm happy to pay a gas tax for parks but not per use fee.

I think that most parks (RV) support themselves, if money collected by them was used for them first.

I always support parks and rec. boards; we should work to protect our open spaces. Quality of life depends a lot on open spaces. I wish the Legislature would fund parks & rec. more. I am not a proponent of motorized use. I think motorized and non-motorized should be separate, like in Turnagain Pass.

We would like to see the camping pass brought back. We would have paid more for it.

There is definitely a need for more clean, safe, maintained roadside rest stops with toilet facilities. There's too many "white flags" along Alaska's roadways. The trips to Seward & Kenai are really lacking-as is the trip to Fairbanks & driving just about everywhere in the state is pretty much the same.

Raising new revenue streams is critical. Taxes are welcome for schools & recreation.

I understand the revenue from State Park passes goes into the general fund and does not directly support parks. I was supportive when the fee system started because I thought the park system needed the money. Shortly after that parks started closing down. I don't mind paying user fees if the money goes to improving and maintaining parks and park facilities directly. We don't need new facilities if we can't maintain what we have.

I'd love to see more public use cabins on long distance trails-so that one could go hut to hut without tents. Overall, I think you do a great job with limited resources. I use the Chugach Park trails on a daily basis-all year round.

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<p>Public access to public lands should be free. You should pay for your impact on the land i.e. waking = none; ATC = lots.</p> <p>You should pay for the use of improvements i.e. campgrounds, cabins, visitor centers, etc. but not for low-impact use of the land.</p> <p>User fees are regressive tax, which is unfair and should be minimized to avoid restricting access.</p> <p>We believe that there should remain easy access to areas completely free of motorized vehicles like ATVs and snowmachines.</p>
<p>Need to have column for "mixed". For example spending all the money on maintenance or all of it on new facilities is not reality.</p>
<p>Vandalism to vehicles in state parks is a major concern in the Anchorage area. I feel this is a #1 problem, as I don't like to leave my car in the parking areas, yet I pay \$40 for the privilege!</p>
<p>When I reach the \$100.00 amt. At the state campgrounds, I won't use them again that season. There isn't much low income people can do for recreation. If they live in a safe neighborhood, they can walk and if the snow is removed from the sidewalk they can ride a bus to parks, etc.</p>
<p>Seniors 60 and older should be exempt from camping fees and day use. Taking away the annual free of \$100.00 was a mistake. At \$10 - \$15 per night I will not use the campground that much. To spend money to pave campgrounds in Alaska is a waste. I know of others who feel the same way.</p>
<p>Quit stealing from 1 user group to give to another-i.e. ball fields. Do something to keep trailheads safe-i.e. Motor home parking free (better than Wal-Mart) Send motorized vehicles out of town whenever possible. They don't mix.</p>
<p>Answers to most of these questions are not simply "agree" "disagree", "yes" or "no". Every circumstance is different. Overall we are regular users of Chugach State Park. Access, improvement, crowd levels, restriction all seem fine. No big changes recommended. We average 1 visit/week year round.</p> <p>Regular restrooms along the Parks Highway (roadside, not campground) should be a priority. Lack of facilities between Anchorage and Talkeetna is inexcusable.</p> <p>Roadside tent camping is terrible most places.</p>
<p>I support broad based funding sources that do not burden lower income families, not user fees that inhibit use by those who cannot afford them.</p>

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Great survey questions! I hope this will help in trying to improvement & development with existing campgrounds. Our state campgrounds need to be enlarged. Maintained and improved. More needs to be developed. Flush toilets & drinking water is a plus. Oregon State has the best campgrounds in the US. They have hot showers!! & cost is affordable for families. Alaska needs to develop more outdoor rec. areas & we Alaskans need to suck it up & support this financially – we are the ones that use them the most and get the most enjoyment out of these areas!

Doing away with the annual campground sticker is dumb. The reasons given are non-existent except in the minds of your power rangers and 1 or 2 malcontents that will always complain about anything. I have seen campers in tents or RVs move for others requesting a site, if they have been there for a long period of time. Most people that arrive and spend 2 or 3 weeks at a site are usually there with 2 or 5 other campers during the week. When I find a campsite full, I don't complain, I go elsewhere.

I think you can set up more programs to ask users to help at volunteer maintenance with incentives to provide a good outdoor experience.

Some of this already exist with parking and cabin rental fees. I think the current fees are fair. The real problem is getting rid of the cap on the amount parks can keep from the fees. If all the fees collected not just \$115,000 for whatever it is this year) could be used for maintenance development and supervision it might not be necessary to collect as much other \$ in terms of fees/taxes

Mandatory trail maint. Fee for Kincaid Park users should be instituted. People who use trails should pay for them-the current trail pin fee is too high-probably why most people don't pay it. If it was lowered, I believe more users would pay.

Stop raising the annual fee to park at Glen Alps!!!

I just joined the Mtn. Hut Assoc. – I like this idea & support its development with state funds.

Please prioritize wild lands. Access shouldn't become lower-48 model. Strive to maintain Alaska's unique wilderness character while improving access in modes ways. And please don't let the disproportionately powerful ATV, Snowmachine lobby run roughshod over the wishes of the majority of Alaskans who want peace and leave – no – trace in the backcountry.

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We need more areas specifically designated for motorized and non-motorized recreation, particularly as regards winter backcountry use and water use. Snowmachines and jet skis and power boats are dangerous for XC skiers and small non motorized watercraft respectively, as well as being noisy and spoiling the backcountry experience for those of us who love the natural sounds and quiet.
The motor lovers need their areas as well – both groups can be accommodated.

I was sad to see the yearly pass stopped. It could have been raised, but feel doing away with it will hurt families.

Move roadside outhouses! Our annual fee is worth less as existing sites are deleted from system. How can you even hint of expansion? Don't sell out to the tour companies!

Jealously! Preserve quiet outdoor recreation-getting more & more difficult to find with multiple users. We (quiet users) don't ruin their experience, but they ruin ours!

Open the campsites at Rocky Lake, Big Lake open the access parking at Willow Creek. Consider making Jim Creek a State recreation area.

I'm unhappy with the elimination of the annual pass. If it is a cost issue, raise the price! If it is a commercial use issue, eliminate the commercial pass. Keep the annual pass for Alaska residents who are the primary users of Alaska State Parks.

I do not think there should be a charge fishing access sites or trailheads unless something is provided such as security, clean restrooms, etc.

Maintain the parks we do have first. Don't let ATV destroy pristine backcountry areas. Since Palmer is one of the fastest growing areas make sure that there is land set aside in the area for recreational opportunities.

A graduated income tax is the best solution to reasonable levels of funding for parks & recreation!!!

I do not mind paying a fee to use parks & recreation facilities but make sure these facilities are monitor, secured and safe. A lot of these fee-paying areas are not protected from vandalism.

It would be nice to have more off-leash hiking for people with controllable dogs. It's a great way to exercise them & myself!

Annual campground pass should be reinstated for AK residents. No commercial passes. Would be willing to pay \$150-200.

The state park system could function?? With the funds it raises through fees. Funds generated by the state park system should not be allocated to state general fund. Funding is not really an issue if the park system was allowed to operate independently financially from the state.

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We have incredibly beautiful state parks. We should be willing to pay to keep them beautiful, and to keep the trails & facilities well maintained.

The legislature should be funding parks and rec. We don't need more motorized activities. If DNR will use this survey just for the gain that the Murkys want, it is a waste of time.

I think we need to expand the Coastal trail south and maintain the trails & facilities we already have. South Anchorage has no good way to access city bike trails without first riding in traffic for miles. More of us could & would commute to work on bikes if trail access were better. And would also use it for skiing in winter.

Quiet trails in the backcountry are a must!!

Also, more RV campsites 1 to 2 hrs from Anchorage. Too many times, you get to your chosen campground and find no spots available. Even overflow is full. Keep the campgrounds & parks for Alaskans. Don't promote to tourists!! After all, the outdoors is why we live here & we must have access or we'll leave. If the tourists have all the choice spots (& they will since we have to work) what will be left for we Alaskans? After all, our taxes are paying for it, right??

It's time to extend coastal trail to Potters Marsh.

We'd like to see more ski trails-closer to S. Anchorage.

Maintain existing facilities, campgrounds before establishing new-if existing cannot be maintained-the new will not be maintained and will become run down.

The biggest issue we have is the fact that we can't even get into our favorite campgrounds because they are full of tourists. We feel that a large number of these spaces should be "Alaska Resident Only"

Help maintain snowmachine trail system.

My family will no longer be able to camp in state campgrounds without the season camping pass. We will need to find places along the road and turn outs to use. Your decision to address private business instead of the Alaska families who use our state park has insured that we will no longer be able to afford them. I see no reason to provide any further support for the Alaska State Parks Division.

Overall the Parks division does a great job. User fees don't thrill me, but I understand it makes sense in high use areas. The rate of development of trailheads and cabin construction is fine, keep doing what your budget allows.

I think the daily boat launch fees are getting too high. I think community groups should take over care and maintenance of ski, dog, snowmachine trails as they do here in Salcha instead of requiring more government funding.

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On memorial day weekend there should be more control on drinking/noise and behavior in the park R/V camping community that should be enforced if you ever want to see a bunch of drunks just show up to one of the camp grounds that weekend.

We are very disappointed that you discontinued our annual camping fee for state parks and will only camp in federal park now. We have in the past stayed in Fairbanks State Parks to shop, however, the 5-day seasonal limit is too short and with the price being charged it is also too expensive. If we have to commute to shop there will definitely be less money spent in Fairbanks.

First & foremost upgrade law enforcement staff!! Second coordinate with Feds & Native for more public restrooms.

Create use or increased fees to maintain existing facilities & enforce rules. Walking fishing guides have taken over many river areas on the Kenai Peninsula causing over crowding.
Create resident annual pass for fishing & trail use, etc.
RV campgrounds & resort facility development are private sector issues.
Humans & loose dogs (unleashed) on trails don't mix. Institute designated times for human walking & dog walking.

We are very disappointed that we cannot purchase a season camping pass. We will not be able to afford to camp as often at \$15 a night. Our family time will suffer because of the new fee system. We are not opposed to a fee hike. We don't want to pay ever time/every night we camp. It is inconvenient to carry that much cash or write that many checks. Please reinstate the camping pass. We feel the state parks are better maintained by the state not private contracts.

I don't feel fees should discourage people who need to just make a stop to stretch their legs or enjoy our beautiful state to take a walk or hike.
Camping fees are OK.
The state passes are nice for those who camp a lot. It creates good family time.
Open up state pits for people to pull off and sleep just for late night traveling – no “camping” & no facilities.

Where are the fees for the skiers that use all these trails with in the city and outer area? We pay our fees to enter a campground and public land and all the recreation facilities.
I would like to see all the parks and camping areas kept open and not always closed off. You make all these nice areas to use but then you close them off to the public because no money to keep them up. No areas for snowmachines in the Anchorage area. I would like to see the camping pass back for Alaskans

If trails designated for multiple use, uses should be compatible. Snow machines have own trails.

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Maintain separate areas and activities for motorized and non-motorized. Maintain general-purpose trails that allow dogs. Thanks for asking! The outdoors is the reason many of us live here!
Restore use of boat launch/camping passes. Increase greatly maintenance and improvement budget. Study carefully the damage ATVs cause to lands, streams, wildlife and fish habitat. Don't let right-wing legislators destroy park property.
Maintain first/develop only after that.
I think there are enough recreational facilities in the state to support a reasonable amount of use by residents. I am not real happy to see tourist promotions. Before we expand recreational opportunities we need to ensure adequate fish & wildlife enforcement. There is an anti-social element present in some segments of the gear-head community that alienates "greenie" folks. I suspect those are the same folks who steal snowmachines and four-wheelers. I feel there is a need for un-biased research to determine if restrictions are needed to curb disturbance or over harvest of wildlife from unrestricted ORV use. I own & occasionally use snowmachines and ORV's, but feel that frequently some people I have observed do not wisely use them.
Preserving the wild, undeveloped character of Alaska's parks is essential to our enjoyment of this spectacular landscape. The less motorized, the better. Simple, well maintained facilities are my preference.
More nice campgrounds like those at Anchor River are needed.
Already pay for trailhead parking and even that is "not valid" at certain sites. (i.e. Eagle River Nature Center) there by decreasing the amount of times I will visit there.
There are lots of parks but facilities are minimal like Earthquake Park. No bathroom. Trash is everywhere in the trees. Tourist needs to pay for these facilities w/sales tax not just locals.
Money is always being cut. We want access to the outdoors (toilets being the one necessity) I think its wise to maintain what we have, while trying to keep costs down.
Making the outdoors accessible to people is as important as making books accessible. A civilized society needs to learn how to read and appreciate books and the outdoors. Yes, I think parks play a key role.
Keep State Park Annual Passes. More public access to Chugach Mtns in Anchorage. More trailheads like Glen Alps & Prospect Heights in Bear Valley & Stuckagain Heights.
We love our Alaska State Parks. Keep up the good work. You do a lot with very little.
Parks are grossly under funded. They should be well funded, expanded and a leading example of sound land management.

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Keep access to the Parks open. We are very fortunate to have free access. Thanks!
Higher fees for out-of-state users of facilities. Maintain present facilities. Expand, as money is available. Do not withdraw existing support.
1. TOILETS-Maintain, clean & put in more! 2. Passes-keep park pass system in Place. I use day parking pass frequently. 3.More areas to walk dogs in parks & better control of LEASH LAW & pick up after your pet rules!
ATV and snowmachine use of trails has grown out of hand and needs to be curtailed
Bought 2 years annual camping pass (Juneau) and Eagle Beach NEVER opened campsites!
Need roadside outhouses!
I have very little familiarity with AK state facilities apart from picnic areas and boat launch site.
STATE: The RV & Tent campground in Palmer AK really is in a bad place. We ended up staying at a RV campground w/hook ups instead of the park. There also should be a campground put closer to Anchorage but not right downtown.
Please--1. Increase parking area number of ramps at existing boat launch facilities in Sitka. 2.Construct road from Sitka to Rodman Bay and or Kelp Bay.
In Sitka we already pay \$35 to rent a cabin per day. The maintenance is poor and we usually clean, repair & stock with wood. The boat launch is always crowded in the summer we need a bigger parking lot at STARGAVIN.
1.I still have a problem with charging parking fees in state park & rec. areas even though I purchase the annual parking pass. The specific site I'm referring to is the Pillars Boat launching facility on the Kenai River.
You need to maintain what we have now & not develop any new places.
Already pay launch fee for boat.
Seems like we already do to camp, boat etc. like I said we already pay for overnight camping or boat launching or season pass.
Some out-of-stater's & some locals are staying out of state campgrounds because for a little extra money they have hook-up. I think the state parks are going to lose money by increasing prices & doing away with camping permits.
I am disappointed about the loss of the annual RV camping pass. I have purchased two passes every year for the past 10-15 yrs even though I don't always use them. Now I can't ever buy one that is a real mistake! (sad face)

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Keep state park trails open to trapping.
I believe the resources in Ak are bountiful, they need to be managed & protected effectively to balance use between public & private. There seems to be too many out-of-state guide services & utilizing our resources & then leaving the state with their revenues. A gas tax would be the most effective way to get money back from guides. (Out-of-state tourists to maintain the facilities they utilize.)
Developing new trails for ATV use would be a good idea if restrictions and policing of non-ATV trails would be enforced. Why should we spend money building new ATV facilities when ATV riders are currently damaging private and public lands? If the public isn't willing to fund law enforcement to oversee ATV use, we shouldn't build expensive trails that ATV users may or may not use,
Primarily use Wood-Tikchik Park & adjacent state & Native Land. Flying Ranger Good! Step in right direction.
I strongly support additional resources to maintain & develop new & existing facilities. I also believe resources are best allocated from bond-based taxes or license fees rather than per-use user fees.
Don't camp over night if one. Amount should be reduced
response from last question: Depending on how many nights.
Eliminating annual resident camping pass will limit my family's tradition of king salmon fishing on the Anchor River. WE have done this for 17yrs every summer for 4 wks and now are gone. Cannot afford to \$15-20 a night. We would have been more than happy to pay double the fee or \$200. We are upset about this tremendously.
By dropping the annual pass you have showed us you really don't care how we feel about any of this - you have priced us out of our weekend trips.
More boat ramps on the Kenai River with adequate parking.
We need a state income tax so the park budget would not be cut, and many little parks closed.
Too long - many questions unclear or not susceptible to an either/or choice.
The elimination of the Annual Camping pass was a great detriment to Alaskans, the people who our state public lands should benefit.
I'm all for supporting recreational facilities and the maintenance of them but against wasteful spending on un-need improvements.
With State budget getting tighter every year, attempting to develop new facilities is foolish - we cannot pay for the proper O&M of what we have.
While I appreciate the need for a comprehensive survey, this one is too long and somewhat difficult to fill in.

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I don't mind paying rec. fees as long as the money goes back into the rec. fund and not into the general fund. Keep motorized and non-motorized trails separate!
I support a preference for muscle powered non-motorized, activities & development of facilities/trails. Those who purchase motorized machine for water/off-road/ snow should pay a more-than-minimal tax.
I already do pay user fees. I pay for the State Park Pass and I pay the Nordic Ski Association a "User" fee. (although voluntary) to set the ski trails.
Survey was too long.
If people are widely charged for day use, they will be less willing to by annual passes.
Good Luck!
The parks are a natural environment and they should be protected, not developed. Other than trails & some cabins, these are not areas for building or tourist facilities!
Make survey shorter and I bet you get a better response rate.
Great Work! We appreciate all you do to make Alaska outdoors accessible to the public. Thank you!!
We have a beautiful state with precious wilderness areas. We need to do all we can to preserve and maintain its unspoiled underdeveloped beauty.
I'm generally in favor of bond issues for parks & recreation but the state is in such financial difficulty I can't support more debt.
Reduce ATV use to certain trails. I fly over remote Alaska for work and the trails have created eyesores across the state. The noise of these vehicles scatters animals away from the trails. Do not privatize.
Bring back the state camping permit for Alaska Residents.
I believe we need more public use trails and cabins.
Some tourist resort facilities on state land at Denali Park would be a good thing.
Please find ways not to close public parks and recreation areas. Public parks should be open to ALL not just those who can afford them. I would support tapping into the permanent fund to help pay for park maintenance.
Groomed trail for snowmachines, dog mushing, skiing. For a winter state, Alaska falls way short in this area compared to Michigan, New York, Minnesota, Maine and other winter states.
Maintain existing facilities before developing new ones. I am disappointed that the annual fee for RV camping has been stopped. Residents should have the right to purchase a yearly pass.

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All in all, things are pretty good. Some campgrounds get crowded June-July. More campgrounds, access in Chugach National Forest would be nice. Maybe work w/ FS on that. I don't use Mat-Su area sites much. Maybe a little more recreational development & access in/near Denali State Park would be nice. It's a long way to go w/ sometimes-marginal weather, to not have cabins or numerous campgrounds to stay. Also, could use more trails, or more information about trails.

Support purchase of critical access sites before maintenance of existing facilities. State parks need more rangers. Protect & enhance Alaskan sport related activities-dog mushing & skijoring. Don't overdevelop parks. Provide more single-track mountain biking trails; don't widen everything for x-co skiing. Keep parts of parks undeveloped for wildlife viewing & opportunities to experience wild lands & places.

Lets put highest priority on keeping existing facilities open, maintained or expanded to serve existing needs. Would be nice to have campgrounds open earlier in spring & later in fall for Alaskans who want to be tourist-free!

The parks we use are well maintained and create awesome experiences and memories. Would love to see train park options for backcountry hiking/camping.

I would like to see future funds allocated to maintain and improve existing campground and trail facilities. I have purchased an annual resident camping pass for the past eight years to provide funding to support the Alaska State parks. I was very disappointed to find that the camping pass system was discontinued.

It doesn't make sense to me that some of our existing parks are being closed while new parks are being considered. Lets take care of what we have. I don't mind paying for the parks/services that I use as long as that's where the money is going.

I did not answer some of the above questions because I already pay user fees (previously parks pass) and anticipate paying fees this year. Why should I agree to pay taxes or additional fees when I will pay extra this year already since you are deleting the annual park pass!
Please consider higher fees for tourists.

Would like to see at trail heads where cars are parked some type of protection from vandalizing them.

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I think that certain groups use "environmental" reasons to exclude many people and activities from certain areas without any or little supporting evidence of environmental impact. For example, jet-skis have been banned in Kachemak Bay because they impact the environment more than other watercraft. This may have been true five years ago, but recent technology has made them safer. They were banned, as it sounds in the arguments I've read, to keep the few obnoxious people that own them from destroying wildlife habitat on the shores and in the bay. If those few people were put in a motorboat they could easily do as much, if not more damage. So, because of unfounded environmental damage an entire recreational use group has been banned.

Next time put a stamp on your envelope.

Parking must be expanded at trailheads such as Glen Alps. I am not happy about user fees. They are cumbersome, turn Rangers into policemen, and cause parking problems at Glen Alps (where overflow no longer allowed to park on road). In view of state's financial situation, they are unavoidable however.

With the steady increase of year round residents and increased tourism I feel it is important to expand existing park areas and open new park areas. I feel that I have to compete with tourists and other residents just to enjoy the Alaskan experience. Can you call fishing on Willow Creek during the King Salmon run a relaxing getaway? More frequently, I see private property signs and roadblocks on snowmobile trails historically used to access parkland trails. Various user groups are claiming trails for their own specific needs even if the trails have a history of multiple uses. It is important to expand parks and recreation to keep pace with the demand of ever increasing users. User fees are a vital and required part of park development and I strongly support them.

There really should have been paid postage on the return envelope. I thought twice about sending it back because of the postage.

Access is the primary question. We need more trails and we need to prevent private ownership of property from restricting access. Similar to Hawaiian beaches. Plus-we Can't allow too much use of winter recreational areas for snowmachines! Some is OK – alternate use days – so there is some quiet time.

Already pay user fees at all state facilities we routinely use. Many of these questions are complex and the answers too simplistic. My support or opposition would be case-specific.

Our household has used State parks & rec. areas for about 30 years. We have enjoyed many locations over those years. I would like to see better bathrooms. Most areas are very well kept. The campground host is a wonderful addition. They are usually friendly and helpful. Thank you for all the good work!

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Why is the state raising camping fees & doing away with our annual camping pass so as to subsidize private contractors who run some of our parks? I really don't care if they say they are losing money or not. If they (contractors) don't like it then don't bid on the Parks contracts. Last year we paid \$18.00 per night @ Montana Creek. This is outrageous as we who have lived here more than 20 years have already paid for that park.

However funds are raised, the money to both maintains existing & develops new. Parks & rec. areas should remain free of charge! Alaskans will avoid paying fees by going to any number of other places to hike, ride, play. I don't like the way some of the questions were asked, any intelligent person knows you cannot categorically sum up all recreation sports & activities into one question such as "are facilities often too crowded", of course fishing season is different than most other activities.

I am a police officer. I see a lot of teenagers w/ skateboards who are using them illegally because they have nowhere else to go. Eagle River has a major problem. I would like to see a summer program where city children learn survival and camping skills.

Allow Alaska resident to purchase a book of 10 camping/or parking permits at a reduced cost, say 75% of normal cost.

Please bring back annual camping passes.

I'm against additional taxes. I think RVs should pay more for park facilities. There should be more places I can drive my off-road vehicle without having someone tell me I can't do it.

I would support the development of trails for off road vehicles as long as there is a way to enforce people staying on the trails and not tearing up the land all around the trails. I do not support opening up new areas to off road vehicles by creating new trails and allowing them free reign of the entire area.

Apply all fees to parks & recreation not to general fund. Bring back annual fee for Alaskans.

I'd like to see flush toilets at Summit rest areas on both sides like we use to have years ago.

There should be more emphasis on security and law enforcement in the parks and at the parking areas of the trailheads. A marine trail system in PWS and K Bay could be established with established campsites.

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Trail head/access to Chugach St Park in E. Anchorage is very important. Keep many areas free of ATV's & snowmachines or use an arrangement like Eklutna where you know when the noise will be there.

Do some maintenance on the middle fork loop – Williwah Lk trail as it is a mud bog in many short sections.

The higher day use-parking pass is A-OK by me.

Vandals should be subjected too much higher fines & public humiliation in the newspaper.

Protect large, non-motor areas of Chugach & Hatcher pass.

We feel that DNR will lose \$ by not offering an annual state campground permit. Many years that we bought an annual permit we only stayed 3 maybe 5 days and nights. But always bought the annual, we probably won't stay overnight at any state campground now, we'll stay at a private one for few \$ more and have full hookup when RV'ing.

I feel state camping passes should be available and if people misuse them-install restrictions. Must be-staying at camp- for instance. It is also getting harder to get an RV site unless a person-leaves a day early also no saving RV sites. A local can hardly get an RV site in summer. EXPAND!

Preserving plenty of places free from motorized recreation-snowmobiles, powerboats, jet skis, ATV's-is very important to me both for safety and quiet enjoyment.

The last portion of this survey is badly written. \$0-5 should be a choice.

I'm concerned that people, who truly can't afford a fee, won't be able to access the parks. There should be some accommodations for them.

Deep Ck campground needs a boat ramp picking up boat on beach at high tide is very difficult due to steepness of beach.

Restrict snowmachine use on cross-country ski trails.

I would think people who use your facilities would be willing to pay for the privileges, provided the facilities are well maintained. I'm sure there will always be those who pass the fee station without paying, but not everyone should be taxed to provide services.

I feel parks are a great asset, and need to be supported. I do not support throwing money at a problem though. I would support raising fees and taxes if there is definite need but the money should be used to maintain what is in place first before undertaking new endeavors.

I wasted \$200 last year for season passes and then lost the privileges pre-paid. I will never again purchase a season camping or parking pass. After raising the fees the past 2 yrs most state park facilities in my area (Mat-Su) and other places of interest were closed for political purposes. That was total @\$%\$#@! You charged us more for less maint. or closed parks altogether! I'll take my chances paying the day rates as I go from now on or better yet, find private services where I get what I pay for.

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Our family is new to Alaska (3 yrs) and have used the annual camping pass extensively. We were very disappointed that it was discontinued this year. I would be willing to pay \$200-250 a year for the ease & privilege of an annual pass!

As a frequent user of parkland I am completely willing to support their maintenance through taxes and/or user fees. I would also support a park-wide ban on any motorized recreation. Snowmachines and ATV's significantly impact the terrain they run across, wildlife, and the experience of other (quieter) park users. I was specifically disappointed to see the power line area has been opened to snowmachines. As of 1/24/04 there was not enough snow cover and tundra impacts were obvious. If a ban is not possible I think limiting spatial/temporal access is a good solution. This approach has worked well @ Eklutna, for example. Thanks for listening!

Need to put boat ramp at the mouth of Willow Creek and Big Su. Money raised from fees-develop other roadside spots along Parks Highway. The amount of boats launched at Deshka Landing during the summer if there was 1/3 launched at the new Willow site would pay for the installation of a new site.

My husband was born here 53 yrs ago; I have been here for 37 yrs. We both find it a shame that the areas we used to camp & fish at for free now we have to pay-we end up going farther & farther away from home just to try to get away from crowds – to do that you must either have a plane-which we don't- or we go by snowmachine or 4 wheeler! The areas to even do that now are getting limited because of parklands, mostly federally owned. We are trying a “state” to please “tourist” instead of people who live her year round. I find that a shame. Take the money you waste on tourism, advertising and use it to better our parks. We do not need to sell Alaska, people already know & want to come!!

Put more cabins in Tutha Bay!

Changing day use fees above & beyond the parking fee sticker that exists now is not something I'd like to see. The money collected would exactly balance money spent on enforcement. The general public can't always afford to pay \$5 to get into a park. These are the people that need to get out of the city & enjoy/appreciate their natural surroundings. Think about the big picture! Alaska has great public parks & facilities. Let's not spoil it like other states have.

It would be very nice if one window sticker worked for all parks-i.e. only separate charges for Arctic Valley & Eagle River. Why not add a few more dollars to the current sticker and allocate those funds to Artic Valley etc?

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I'd like to see aggressive patrolling (surveillance) of trailhead parking-and prosecution of criminals. Less "dog" police where there's no problem i.e. mid week mid day in Bicentennial park-lets go after the problem and not create one.

I now assume this survey was meant to pertain to Alaska (I like to swim outside but rarely do it in Alaska.)

More public use cabins!

The Anchorage trail system is excellent but would like the coastal trail extended and more connecting trails around town. Some trails new in Anchorage are over used or need more maintenance.

It has been my experience that the best maintained and best-managed parks have been managed by volunteer hosts living and recreating within the park or managed by local volunteers group who has a compelling interest in the management and use of the facility. Example: Lake Louise Non-profit community corporation who assumed the responsibilities of the Lake Louise Park during the summer of 2002.

We really appreciate all the work this organization does. Wish all my tax dollar could go to your budget. Thank you for making the great outdoors as accessible as it is.

We already pay the annual fee for parking sticker and would be willing to pay more for that rather than a one-time fee.

We'd like more non-motorized multiple use trails esp. for skiing with dogs since city parks are almost totally off limits for dogs in winter. (Chugach SP)

We'd like no firearms for the entire park and no hunting. Too many people for that risk even if it is for "bear protections"! (Chugach SP)

More Quiet, less motorized activity!

The fleecing of America includes:

Millions spent on bike trails along highways and virtually never utilized.

Example Seward Hwy & Granite Cr. To Hope Jct.

Trees planted that serve as moose fodder etc!

Waysides like McHugh Creek or others that are made unnaturally beautiful – nature is more interesting.

The reason given to spend millions @ Bird Creek.

Things to Do:

Purchase private lands @ Anchor River mouth.

Chainsaw those view inhibiting cottonwoods @ the Homer overlook.

I enjoy the park system in Alaska. Keep up the great work. If you can think of other ways to deter vandals, we would all be better off! Thanks for the opportunity.

Open back up all the parks that have closed over the past few years. To drive off road machines from campground to trail heads. Trail open to ATV on certain days.

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DNR should have had annual camping passes for 2004 even if they were \$150.00 people would have paid. Reinstate the annual pass for camping in 2005!

With all the closures of campgrounds near & around Mat-Su it has become so hard to camp/find a place for recreation. I feel like my access to all the places that I enjoyed that are within 3 hours of my location have been eliminated. This is a tragedy for the families of Mat-Su. This area has been decimated as far as out door recreation sites that are easily accessible.

I hate to see the facilities we have now such as Kincaid Chalet be closed because of lack of funds. Put some toilets out there if you're going to close the buildings.

We want the annual camping fee back for Alaska residents. Need more campsites in some parks.

I've really enjoyed using Alaska State facilities. I'm not a motor head and should not have to tolerate them. We have used the cabins before, but are not planning to use one this year due to the increased cost.

I support the annual camping pass sticker that has been done away with.

I don't like user fees!! The government should tax everyone for money to run the parks.

Public use cabins already have fees so question above was not necessary.

Greatest need in Anchorage area is access through private land to parkland #1 priority is this access.
Parks should be funded by taxes not by user fees. User fees for overnight user/boat rams TRC are fine.
More areas need to be set aside for quiet recreation.

Really miss your annual camping permit. I actually will probably save money by paying for each use now that you have done away with the permit.
I don't mind paying more to support your programs for the annual camping permit.
Also consider charging commercial use vendors more to allow annual camping permits.

We have plenty of great outdoor recreation opportunities locally in Anchorage. While some uses of parklands are compatible, others are not. Still-everyone should be able to 'play' in safe places and enjoy the activities they chose.
Activities should not degrade the environment, so some activities should not be allowed in areas sensitive to the disturbance they cause.

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I prefer the yearly use fee for state parks. Dedication of some taxes could help build new facilities. There is a place for motorized recreation, but they are destroying far too much area. See the bogs they have created at Purinton Creek in the Talkeetna, Petersville area and Caribou hills. It's a shame and will take years to recover.

Keep existing trailhead parking open for year round use.

Think twice before you clear out the forests. The world has enough open spaces. It takes 100 years to grow a forest but only a few days to destroy it. Many cities would pay millions to have the beautiful parks that Anchorage enjoys. Don't destroy it so a few people can play 18 holes on a Sunday afternoon. P.S. most people would pay \$30+ to stay in our parks-me included.

Plow the snow out of day use areas in the winter such as: McHugh, Bird, Indian, Potter etc.

Too many snowmachine operators are breaking the rules by entering areas closed to snowmachines; Johnson Pass Trail is a good example of riders crisscrossing the trail.

Eklutna should not have put up signs stopping all motorcycles from using the off road trails, some motorcycles are equal to ATV's and should be allowed.

Toilets are a very sorry issue in Alaska, we have too few and a lot of the ones we have, we lock up in the winter.

Maintaining over expanding. Discourage motorized sports of all kinds.

Boat fees for the year is too high-should be more like 5000 per year, 4 to 11/2 months of open water in the interior only.

I am upset with the elimination of the annual state parks camping pass (\$100 a yr) and raising the state parks fee to \$15 a day. I am going to drastically reduce the days I camp in state parks, which will reduce your revenue.

Unsupervised campgrounds allow people to neglect paying fees and leaves trash and messy toilets in the area. You could at least furnish a stamped envelope.

Our parks are important public recreational areas should be preserved.

Need a lot more public boat launches and snowmobile parking areas along streams and highways.

RV-ATV-Snowmobile-boaters etc should be assessed an annual users fee - like \$25 - no more for maintenance and development & their share of "wear & tear" on the park resource.

Most of my "don't know" are because we do not participate in the activity.

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When parks put a mandatory fee on use of Glen Alps, that essentially stopped my family of 5 from using it any more. It takes the spontaneity out of enjoying Chugach SP to have this stupid fee. The same goes for Eagle River Visitor Center – and now others. I've lived here 30 years. We frequently went up to Glen Alps to just enjoy the view; maybe walk for half an hour. Now we are greatly inhibited from doing this because of the hassle factor. This "nickel and dime" approach to getting \$ for State Parks is a shame.

I believe we need to start first by maintaining & keeping open the facilities we have. How can we even consider developing new when we can't even maintain what we have?

Need better access to Chugach Park.

I have been a supporter of campgrounds for many years through purchase of year-round camping passes. I can't think of words strong enough to express my disappointment with the discontinuation of the year-round passes. This helped support use of state facilities. I am now in a position where I may be using private facilities more. This program needs to be reinstated today!

Need trailhead in Bear Valley- Hay Beav Dr. Need trailheads in Stuckagain-Brasher Dr.

Clean well-kept parks of a lesser number are better than more parks that are trashed, not maintained and filthy. The state should not be acquiring more parks till it can manage what it has.

Reduce new development. Allocate existing funding to maintain existing programs. Cut the budget.

Stiffen trapping enforcement/regulation near trails.

Develop program to encourage businesses willing to sponsor trails/trailhead. Recognize those businesses with signage at trailheads.

Develop trails is good but the over development of the periphery of Chugach State Park is a poor use of scarce resources. By continually widening grooming & cutting grass on trails you destroy the sense of wilderness. Trails make day trips into the park unique.

Seniors should still be able to purchase a season pass.

We have always participated in the annual camping pass program for state campgrounds, and it's frustrating when the pass is not accepted at any state campground.

We also think the annual pass program is a great way to encourage residents to use the parks and don't want to see the passes go away. It is becomes more costly or difficult to use a state campground, we will choose to use a private facility which usually offers more amenities.

Very disappointed that some park access was closed by last administration.

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<p>I think we (Alaska) needs: State income tax Higher gasoline tax More parks maintenance No parks new construction (the McHugh Ck, upgrade for instance was a waste of taxpayer money and should not have been done.) Until we (Alaska) get much more money. More public input and control of how we (State Gov't) spend our tax money. Have the legislature meet in the fish plant in Anchorage on Minnesota and Raspberry. Eliminate new state road construction (at least until we get much more money, income tax or gas tax)</p>
<p>Thanks for doing the great job you already do-but please always err towards protection of our wonderful parks. Thanks!</p>
<p>Look at site usage. Change more at heavily used sites. There should be an optimal fee level that reduces crowding/demand and maximizes income. Give Alaskans a reduced charge.</p>
<p>Please develop Long Lake on the Glenn Hwy North. A very beautiful place w/out any RV or tent camping areas. Develop a camp area by Eureka. A year round campground. Niniichik the most popular place in the summer and the state campground at the water sucks. Great job with Matanuska Glacier camp/rest area. Do more like it!</p>
<p>No new tax for recreation.</p>
<p>During the summer I visit Eklutna at least twice week with my mountain bike. I hike up Crow Pass from Eagle River at least once a month. I consider the fees we pay for State Park use to be minimal one of the best bargains available. I consistently vote for all park recreation bond issues and will continue to do so. My primary concerns are vandalism at trailheads and the need for additional access to the mountains north of Eagle River Valley. I will always regret the paving at the road into Eklutna, which I believe will ruin the valley with overuse by rowdy partiers who belong in municipal parks with their loud stereos. My preference would be to provide lots of parkland and more points of access. Leave the facilities more rustic (privies are lower maintenance and cost.)</p>
<p>I realize the money has to come from somewhere, but it annoys the hell out of me to have to pay at trailheads, especially when I have a season pass/sticker. - i.e. Eagle River.</p>
<p>Hire a marketing firm to market campgrounds more. The competition is unfortunately Wal-Mart Parking - but you get what you pay for in quality. Use Scan Tran forms like PFD application-Save \$ and is easier to process.</p>

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The state parks we use are great. With decreasing funds I feel we should maintain what we have, but prioritize goals/wish list so if additional funds become available, those goals can be completed.

Need to allow boat launch passes on the Pillars Boat Launch. Why should we have to pay twice? No reason to make Boat Launch Pass holder to have to pay again.

Need to limit guides on the Kenai River. Fishing guides often crowds out residents. They are often rude & combative.

Need to reduce the amount of illegal fishing on the Kenai – many visitors keep illegal fish! Need a program to promote the turning in of illegal fishing. Need hotline & rangers to catch & fine those that fish illegally!

Do not exclude motorized us of any area's.

I would love to see new trails developed for non-motorized users only (summer & winter). Motorized recreation is very destructive & should be limited (and absolutely forbidden in National parks!). Thank you for showing interest in what the users want!

Quit trying to raise fees or institute taxes! Use money to maintain facilities and don't sorry about developing lots of new things. Though we were not happy with having a parking fee to use Chugach State park parking, we did get a sticker up until this year. The ridiculous price jump caused us not to. Congratulations, you have pushed the young family out of the market for using a so-called Public Park Land. The people with young families, the very ones that should be helped and encouraged to use the facilities, are being forced away by the expense. This leads the new generation into apathy about parks since their experience is being limited by the elite “public servants” who are upping fees. Please eliminate the parking fees at state parks.

I don't appreciate your misuse of funds, new vehicles etc. and quit threatening to close parks because of lack of funds. Just bid them out to private, and let them run them. You have a bad reputation for crying wolf. I don't trust what you have said about the lack of money to keep campgrounds open, and then pay for the waste – i.e. vehicles and ignorant rangers. I use this stuff more than most, and am not impressed with your Kenai River crew. “Cops”, not rangers out to help, but ignorant cops. Not friendly, and power hungry. I have had no run ins with your boys, but I see them daily, and you need to remind them that they work for the public and should be decent. All they are is a walking, or driving new truck – ticket writer. I bet your are proud.

We are Alaskans with weekends off paid a \$100.00 a year and rarely get a camp spot. There should be a place for RV's

ATV use on state land must be controlled! Habitat destruction is out of control. The state needs to establish & enforce ATV regulation or outlaw their use in more areas. We need more non-motorized areas!!

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<p>There should be no ATV or snowmobiles allowed on any trails where marked skiing, biking, hiking, etc. It's not safe.</p>
<p>I have heard about excessive waste & bureaucracy within the forest service & park service from people who are themselves employed there. Start being efficient & sensible! It used to be that everything was paid for with our income tax now there seems to be fees for every little thing!</p>
<p>SOA must develop a new system for guide permits on Kenai River, especially of state, non-resident permits. Suggestions are as follows: 1 Raise cost of permit-resident \$10,000 annual 2) have guides post "Environmental bond"</p>
<p>I buy the day-use decal for my car each year to park and use Glen Alps trailheads mostly. I would be willing to pay more for the decal for increased security. Cameras or patrols would lessen the auto vandalism & overlook/viewing area destruction.</p>
<p>With a little bit of effort this survey could be vastly improved. Problem is too many yes/no questions that mask level of interest and render results relatively low value. I actually use scorp in my work and wish it were more meaningful.</p>
<p>Although I can get fed up with tourists, the money they spend is what enables much peninsula business' to provide year-round services that I need. Many tourists are retired. If park fees get to high, they will not come to Alaska.</p> <p>Something needs to be done regarding boat wakes on the Kenai River. I have lost three feet of property due to boat wakes. An arbitrary 35-horse power limit does not work!</p>
<p>I feel strongly that we shouldn't be charged to access trailheads. Americans today need to be encouraged to get outdoors more and more. The current fee rates and new fee areas discourage use from the people who need to get out of their cars and off their sofas the most. Does those \$5 here and there really go back into the parks? Do they make a dent in the funds necessary to maintain the parks? Or do they just annoy people.</p>
<p>More backpacking trails. Provide public rest areas on major highways. Allow for concessions. Good for resident non-residents.</p>
<p>I do buy the yearly state park day pass, but don't want additional access fees. Could hike in Nat'l forests instead just they are less convenient. I favor a state income tax to adequately fund state services. All these user fees are very regressive – will make it so only those with more disposable income can use facilities. State parks should be accessible to all. A state income tax is a better mechanism to fund state government than user fees. Murkowski administration is dead wrong in their approach to revenue.</p>

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Suggestion: an easy way to raise fees would be for a ranger to wait just a short distance from any trail head in the state and fine all dog owners whose animals are not on a leash. On any sunny day, winter or summer, more money than collected on parking would be raised.

I think the Denali Highway needs to be maintained during the summer and fall seasons. I think there should be access to the beach north of Ninilchik without paying a private contractor. We used to be able to drive down to the beach for clam digging at about mile 130. This past summer we could go only for a \$10 campground fee to private individuals.

We are really disappointed that we cannot get stickers for summer camping grounds. We as Alaskan have such a short summer and it is too bad we cannot enjoy camping because it will be too expensive. Why not make a program for Alaska residents?

1. Wonder what funding would be available from existing fee structure if it was allocated for parks and recreation instead of going in and out of general fund.
2. Don't mind paying fees if we get something for them i.e. bathrooms, dump stations and more than a gravel pad.

I feel strongly that the state should acquire private land when it blocks or restricts access to existing parks and facilities. The Municipality of Anchorage should plan ahead that all new subdivisions going in at the edge of parks provide access.

Say nice new building in downtown! How much did that cost? Hope you're enjoying it while you continued to close campgrounds the last few years to "lack of funding". Kind of hypocritical from my standpoint. At least in my house I come in under budget every time.

Highest priority should be to provide more access points to existing parklands and the closer to Anchorage the better. How about Bear Valley!!

I already pay a user fee just to park at the trailheads. Every year the cost increases, but I don't see any improvements in facilities either maintenance or development. I don't even get a stamped envelope to return this survey.

Limit motorized use of all parklands. Motorboats, jet skis, ATVs and snowmachines destroy the environment (vegetation, etc) pollute ground, air and water, disturb and harass wildlife and are absolutely incompatible with all non-motorized recreational use.

Outreach, organized recreational and education programs should be expanded and should target schools and children.

My days of backpacking and camping are largely over. I have enjoyed Alaska's hiking trails and camping for many years.

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We have the best, most beautiful, accessible, wonderful parks in the country. Let's keep them pristine, quiet, simple, clean and well maintained. Don't cater to motorized users and commercial interests.

It is a hard task ahead of us. And you always have the jerks that destroy what has been made nice. I have no answers. Just hope people become more educated. The annual day use fees have grown \$15 in two years, I believe. This is really hard amount- particularly when windows are broken into on a regular basis at these areas. There is nothing practical that the forest service can do but it is truly terrible – pay \$40 to have your car broken into.

I would rather have parks open & have fewer amenities than have flush toilets etc. & then close the parks if funding gets cut. The only exception to that is trash pick-up. It is essential & must be maintained. Parking lots do not have to be paved – unless that is the most efficient means of maintaining them. We don't need fancy. We just need access. Ask people to participate in keeping areas clean.

Very disappointed that you've ended the annual pass. I hope you'll reconsider this decision.

A campsite is currently \$10 with water & no hood ups & currently people pay this amount. It would be beneficial to tenters to be separated from RV's, as their generators are very loud. Public use cabins are highly desired-people reserve cabin space 6 months ahead. People do not reserve a hotel room that far in advance.

Be better to fund through broader fashion then user fees. Well-maintained accessible pristine parklands are the cornerstone of a Healthy tourism industry and good for the growth of the Alaskan economy. Alaska is a jewel, a special unique environmental jewel! It should be protected and preserved so its unique characteristics are never lost like many other places on the planet. Be careful!

I would like to see any funds raised to reopen and maintain our campsites.

Alaska parks should be first and for most, for Alaskans. Tourists & tourism should be limited to commercial pars dedicated to the needs and values of tourists. Disabled, senior, and working poor citizens should be able to use state facilities at reduced rates, so that they can use the recreational parks that belong to them.

Stopping the camper sticker program for Alaska residents was a disappointment for many of us.

For all user fees, an annual pass should be offered, like the day use pass. State parks have come a long way in the last 12 years. The first time I went fishing in the valley I waded through puddles of garbage. The last time I was there, it was beautiful and clean. Keep up the good work. Thanks!

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We use very few of the existing parks and facilities and tend to visit same ones each year. We miss the close access of Flat Top for snow machining; we hike almost daily there in summer. We visit Denali, Clam Gulch, Hidden Lake (where those camp sites are always full & some are Mosquito ridden) for boating and canoeing. We like small Engineer Lake, which has 3 campsites & no facilities unfortunately, but is a nice place to canoe. Most places to drive through are full and or there is limited hiking.

I am distressed at the erosion of our once proud state park system. It saddens me to see our public parks squeezed so dry of funding (by our legislators) that we have to resort to privatization, their operations or their outright closure. With Alaska's increased population and growing tourism it makes no sense that we are still closing them (i.e. Bradley Kepler, Big Lake, etc.) Our park system should be expanded and well funded. I am more than willing to pay taxes and user fees to maintain such an important quality of life issue as parks and recreation. Shame on our legislature! Also, please keep commercial operators out of our parks! That includes contracting them out for private management. If I want a private recreation experience I can patronize a KOA. Thank you for this opportunity to comment and good luck.

We have enough parks but not enough access points, parking lots. Chugach State Park! Privatize parks you cannot afford to maintain.

The single most severe problem in backcountry areas is the illegal and seriously destructive use of ATV's. The long-term damage is extensive, highly visible and completely unjustifiable. Enforcement is vitally needed.

This state has great potential but is so cheap and unimaginative! A much higher priority should be put on providing access to outdoor recreation both to attract tourism and to provide great quality of life for residents. I think it's worth paying for. Thank you for caring!

Do not let our parks get any worse! The vandalism disturbs us when we pull in to a campground. The reality that it is impossible to police each and every area but giving camp hosts a free parking place would help. Why is it that you do not have any minority campground hosts or workers?

Sure would like to see some trails/bike trail from Glenn hwy to Eagle River visitors center. It's unsafe to use the road with anything but a car. It's beautiful & close to Anchorage so everyone could enjoy. It would be great emergency access to the back of the valley if everyone were evacuating out on the one road in!

It would be nice to see things maintained & developed both. I don't really like the privatization of facilities at all. Would much rather see state use facilities. On maintain & develop example would be repair the boat docks

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Vandalism at trailheads is a problem that needs to be solved. It is our biggest complaint about the park system. We were the victims of vandals that totaled our car about 2 years ago at a trailhead. This has discouraged us from visiting our wonderful parklands.

We do not support promoting recreational use at the expense of preserving habitat for wildlife.

It is important to keep motorized and non-motorized user separated.

The use of hiking trails by pack animals and bicycles needs to be better controlled to prevent damage.

We need more places to walk dogs off lease & a place where they can swim. Also need to do something about car break-ins. Almost everyone I know has had their car broken in at trailheads.

We already pay a fee when we use parks and campgrounds. A small tax on outdoor gear would be OK if it is small and only goes to park use. Cut mid level and higher state supervisor positions. Too much fat at this level. A problem with most state jobs.

People over 60 should get free overnight camping passes. Resident.

Existing facilities are good most roads are good. Some areas are overcrowded maybe more facilities could be developed close by. Overall Alaska parks are very good.

I have purchased a season pass for Alaska State Parks for the last few years. So many of us already pay user fees, one pass for all trailheads (public) would be acceptable to me but not separate fees at each park, public access or trailhead.

Alaska campgrounds are crowded, don't open early enough or stay open long enough into the fall. RV's are everywhere. I spend my money to find the quiet places. The public use cabins are very good, thou at \$50 to \$65 plus flying is too expensive. The hiking trails are good but few. I enjoy the Nordic Club Trails. Frankly Alaska campground and rec. services are geared to motor heads. I have been here 25 yrs but will probably leave due to lack of "National Park System" standards and limited value. This year the campground passes for Alaskans was taken away. More services need to be geared to no impact use. I am appalled at the wolf hunt. Animals are worth more on the hoof for my tax dollars and peoples enjoyment rather than in a freezer for a couple dollar-hunting permit.

Enforce the guide hours at RV parks and campgrounds.

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RV/ATV users should be made to pay more for park improvements. The trails and campgrounds they use require more maintenance than non-motorized trails, campgrounds. I like the idea of reg. Fees used for park programs.

Daily/annual fees are getting out-of-hand. I am very lucky to be financially secure and can afford the fees, but there are those in our community that cannot. They should not be denied access to our parks. We must ask ourselves: Is it really a public park if only those who can afford can use it? Access for all is my primary concern.

Alaska has a great number and variety of campgrounds and trails. All I've seen are clean and maintained.

Use to be nice when AK camping was free, before the RV's

Existing facilities need to be maintained-if this isn't possible with the addition of new facilities, and then new facilities should not be built. There is no point in creating new facilities if that means old facilities are left to decay-that would be wasteful.

Put the environment and animal welfare first in our "wild" parks – people should be secondary to the health of ecosystems and habitat.

Clearing down timber from existing trails should be a priority. The N.W. branch from McHugh has been destroyed by downed beetle killed spruce.

We already pay up to \$45, and those need maintenance. I won't rent one of the \$65 cabins-get real, a hotel room costs that much. I'll carry my tent for that price. I support user fees over taxes. I willingly pay for park passes and other fees when my activity is adequately supported. I prefer non-motorized uses, primarily for my health & physical fitness. Motorized users are rude & inconsiderate & lazy. Affordable public use cabins are wonderful when less than 10 miles of travel, but more than 1 mile. I hate overcrowding; many campgrounds are too big and look just like trailer parks during peak summer weekends. I can stay in town if that's the atmosphere I want. I will go to great lengths to avoid crowded areas. Please promote a less intrusive form of recreation & I'll keep coming back year after year, hopefully into my old age.

I would love to see extensive trail systems in the Cities for bicycle riders, bicycle commuters. Also I would like trails linked from community to community so riders could travel the state and not have to be close to traffic.

More marked trails for ATV in summer in the Valley. Also more marked and groomed trails for snowmobile in valley.

This is not an either or question. We need to maintain, but also expand areas, opportunities for outdoor recreation at the same time. I would support less maintenance to allow for expanding parks and outdoor recreation opportunities – but I wouldn't support no maintenance.

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Already pay \$40 parking fee for annual sticker.
Many years ago joint trail use wasn't that much of a concern, but now with population growth and proliferation of ATV's, motorcycles, snowmachines, etc. foot traffic is overwhelmed. Therefore I am pro-designated use trails versus multiuse trails.
Overall very satisfied with parks and recreational opportunities in the Anchorage, Eagle River, Mat-Su areas.
I am happy to pay park fees. However, I don't want to pay daily, I want to pay a yearly fee, as I am currently doing. I would be willing to pay \$75 per vehicle per year if park fees went directly into the state park coffers, and not into the general fund.
Restroom and waste receptacles along roadsides and periodic intervals would lead to a cleaner state.
Raise money by having people pay for use before creating taxes - the people who use it should be the ones who pay! Provide subsidies for people with low incomes to get a vehicle pass.
No taxes please.
I've been buying your state park camping pass for years and I got a letter in the mail stating that you will be raising your prices. I will not be buying the pass anymore due to the fact that for a few more \$ I can have water and electric. I always hear that you all need to raise your fees due to maintenance. Well I've been to a lot of the parks and I'm not impressed. I think what I pay now was enough for no water or electric. If you go through with the price hike you will lose a lot of customers.
I'm sad to see the state camping pass eliminated this is a very affordable way for residents to use the state public lands. This will impact our summer camping to 1/2 the amount of time previously spent in the parks or may drive us to use private facilities. We estimate approximately the # of days to pay for the pass to determine if we will buy one & it usually works out to \$10/day. We have purchased the pass annually since 1988.
Please fix Harding Lake boat launch channel, Please make Fort Knox keep its word and develop a lake.
I hike with a ladies group, which hikes 1 to 2 times a week in the summer. Then snowshoe and ski in the winter. From Anchorage we go south and hike Harding Ice Fields and as far north as Hatcher Pass. With many different hikes in between. We all have day use passes and are pleased with the increase in trail maintenance we have seen.
In the above funding sources are imperative. I don't think any "fees" for use should be collected.

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I would recommend that "noisy machines" be confined to defined trails or areas so as not to interfere with those seeking quieter pursuits. With state parks, "less is more". If you need a flush toilet, stay home. Let the city parks put in the ball fields & swings, etc. Keep the wilderness wild. That is its main attractions.

Maintaining what you have is more important than building new ones you can't handle.

I don't get my moneys worth from my parking sticker but don't mind helping the parks cause. Just don't overdo the fees. There are plenty of people who can ill afford them and they are the ones who probably need it most for recreation. As a child of the 30's depression era, I found the federal, state, and city parks (all free then) were a welcome salvation for recreation.

The annual camping pass was best idea the state has done yet. Why though was a commercial pass sold? Too many rental units used in state with the commercial pass. The state lost a lot of money due to these.

Residents should still have access to an annual pass!!!

Money from the passes needs to be used to help maintain the parks and not put into the general fund.

Why are our parks only open from Memorial day to Labor Day? Tourists get the most benefit from our parks not the residents.

Plow and maintain our existing trailheads through the winter. Without this minimal maintenance our parks and our dollars are wasted. I buy a trailhead sticker every year. You could increase the fee and I'd still buy one. It's that important. I'm out there so much paying by the day doesn't apply.

Should reinstate the \$100 per year camping fee or even raise it to \$125 but do not do away with it. Was a slap in the face to us who live here and stay in state to play as well as live year around year after year.

No need for user fees if registration goes for programs. The \$100 park fee should all go to the program-if that is the annual RV registration fee you are talking about. The new parking lot at Mile 162 (parks) is excellent but located in a spit that is too close to McKinley Park. We use it all the time going from Fairbanks to Anchorage and return. This way it is easy to travel. When people leave McKinley Park, Anchorage is just a day's travel. Every time we stop there are 10 or less units there. It's really a shame since it is so nice.

I am still upset about taking away the Alaskan resident camping pass. That was wrong. Take away the tourist ones. Thank you again.

Maintain what we have. Don't need more development. It its not broken-don't fix it.

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I think we need new facilities but there's no point unless money is also budgeted to maintain them. Alternating use of motorized and non-motorized works well at Eklutna. The way ATV's etc tear up the tundra is hideous! Don't need flush toilets but I'd be willing to pay for running water & dump station.

I think the annual park passes are getting very expensive. I noticed the fee for cabins has increased for some, but I see a lack of maintenance for them. I see a general lack of maintenance at parking lots & trailheads i.e. garbage lying around. I am very disappointed that snow machines are allowed darn near everywhere – there should be limited areas so those of us who are non-motorized can breath fresh air & appreciate the silence & wildlife. Money should also be used o educate those on the preciousness of Alaska's wilderness.

The privatization of campgrounds appears to be lowering the quality of and care being given to the parks. I think Chena River is fine as is and would not want to see it restricted to non-motorized.

We as Alaskan's should keep ourselves open not to pay every night for staying in our parks. We pay our land taxes we only have so much time to camp a year anyway. We the people that live here shouldn't pay anything except for boat launch & parking every night. We with R.V. will leave every night come back in morning to boat now.

I would like to see garbage cans at all pullovers & turnouts and porta-pottys at the larger ones.

In the Fairbanks area the use is light with the exception of boat ramps and trailheads that are used by hunters & fishermen. To develop more facilities to promote use other than hunting & fishing would only create a larger bureaucracy without justification. As I think about it this is the case not only in Fairbanks but all over the state. I have observed that RV & tent camping is only used lightly. More toilets & roadside parking areas only close the land to people who hunt the road system.

A \$3-5 fee or park pass would be acceptable at all park/rec. sites. However, w/o enforcement the state won't see additional revenues, and the geographic area is too large for enforcement. A portion of registration fees is probably best method for raising revenue.

Please fix the front window in the Kitlwake public use cabin in Shupe Bay State Park-it has been broken for 3 years-a beautiful view marred-for not spending a few dollars.

Outhouse toilet seats too high need yearly camp pass.

Bring back the yearly camp pass. Lower the outhouse toilets-too high-Don't shut down sites-just don't maintain. Open up Deception Creek campsite. Smaller fire rings.

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I was so disappointed when I was unable to purchase the yearly camping permit. Please reinstate. It's obvious that I'm willing to pay a yearly fee. Please open up campgrounds that were closed last year. Especially the nice Matanuska Glacier site. I really missed it. Miss the restrooms along the highway that were closed. Open up existing sites – Don't start new ones or expand old ones. Entice volunteers (girl & boy scouts, 4H clubs, community service kids, etc) to help clean up. Coastal trail is long enough.

We love the Alaska State Parks, please keep them opened and maintained!

I like the annual park pass because I don't want to pay fees every time I use the park.

Our roads are in desperate need of toilets and trash pickup-does the government think no one uses the site when people stop to rest? What about an RV dump fee collected at the border-many times RV's just dump at any pull off – Gross!

Reinstate the yearly camping fee pass for single-family use. It was our way of putting money into State Park coffers – we usually only use state sites 2-3 times a year. We love the National Wildlife campsites like Deadman Lake. Why can't the state have some like those?

Buy land for new sites even though they can't be developed now – land prices are always going up.

Need a state park in the North Pole area-like around Moose Creek along the Tanana & Pile Driver Slew-use the old Richardson as access to save funds.

Enjoyed state parks and forest service parks from Alaska border to Land End Homer, & Seward. Keep up the good work with improvements and maintenance. We have a wonderful state, keep it that way.

Public use cabins and trailhead parking are too expensive & leave out those without much income. I believe it is wrong to charge \$ for parking at trailheads, thus limiting access to parklands & backcountry to those w/ the money. The rate increases for both of these have been obscene. More access to local Chugach is needed as more homes are built & existing access points get clogged.

More mid & long distance trails & connections plus needed trailheads

Hats off: the trailhead and parking area at Ekelutna Lake are just excellent. Especially the way it is maintained in the winter. "Raspberries" for the non-trailhead at Bit Peters Creek! Although land was purchased and a preliminary plan developed, nothing has been done to establish a state park trailhead with parking at this location. This is a shame because volunteers offered to do some of the work including clearing the parking area.

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Remember your basic mission when State Parks had been established was: To protect wildlife and the environment and not to provide recreational parks for humans. I think the Park Service has wandered off the path and tries to appeal to public interest and political pressure. Just get back to the basics.

I must admit, raising the price of over night camping and doing away with the annual permit saddens me. I know there are expenses that have to be covered. I would like to see some type of resident discount-maybe through a punch card?

We enjoy Harding Lake because it is easy to camp without close neighbors and has nice facilities. Thank you for listening!

Survey too long

The last question-confused me-we already have to pay for state park day use passes. I answered to user fees in addition to that. The 2nd to last question-the money would be better spent both maintaining & developing.

We need to maintain existing facilities, but with a growing population and growing tourism industry, we need to develop new sites and access. I believe I already do with parking fees and the cost of public use cabins.

The enforcement of park rules is currently severely sub standard. I encourage the use of funds to provide 24 hr enforcement of parks (Chugach state park in particular.) and staff an increase in the number of rangers. I also encourage stiff penalties, such as forfeiture of vehicles (on road or off road) used in crimes, no matter how minor.

No matter the season, parks should be multi-use, at all times. For example (even though this is a city park) Kincaid parks should not be restricted to cross-country skiers in winter; trails (at least some of them) could be multi-use. We all pay property taxes!

Tax is fine but state law does not allow it to be directed. Therefore, my answers above are only valid if they can be directed. Taxes on motorized vehicles should be used to correct the damage they do to facilities not providing more facilities for motorized use.

The outdoors and love of our natural environment is what makes Alaska so valuable to us who live here-it is what the rest of the lower 48 have ruined for themselves-we must realize that this commodity once gone is gone – WE must preserve and promote capable management and care of what God has given us.

P.S. – User fees are OK – but there is a limit that a family can be expected to pay for each use. I favor a small tax on tourists – they want to experience our environment and explaining that the protection & maintenance is their responsibility as well as ours would go over quite well.

People shouldn't pay a lot to hike-perhaps \$25 annually.

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Additional access to parks might be nice, but development of facilities should be kept to an absolute minimum. Toilets, basic campsites, boat launches, and some RV accommodations are enough. We don't need to have all the "bells & whistles" at every park or campground. If you approach development reasonably we will support funding that development.

We already pay to use these parks. I pay for it each time I launch my boat or park at the state park day parking. I also think it stinks to buy a boat launch season pass and I still have to pay the fees on the lower Kenai launches (Pillars).

I am totally dismayed by 3 trends:
Hilltop access to trails is completely overtaken by cars using the Hilltop downhill ski hill. They are squeezing & forcing us out & I won't stand for it. Tent campsites are so few compared to the noisy obnoxious RV sites. It's pitiful & shameful to be treated as second-class citizens in what should be a calm, relaxing & refreshing setting (electric generators!) And that's why we take weekdays off to secure a tent campsite.
Somebody (NSAA?) has been grooming more & more trails at Prospect widely, for Skate skiers. Prospect has always been the last refuge for quiet backcountry skiing or snowshoeing with lots of wildlife. They've ruined it for no reason.

Good luck with the budget cuts! Maybe something the public will get a clue and realize there is no free lunch!

Please bring the annual camping pass back again!! Only let Alaska private residents obtain the pass not commercial RV Renters! This may limit my time spent in public campgrounds! Keep all State campgrounds open.

It's incredible to have such easy access to Chugach park & Bicentennial park within minutes of most of Anchorage. These parks are the most important features in Anchorage. Thanks for doing the survey.

Thank you for developing this survey. I don't think it was well constructed to make it neutral/statistically defensible, but is a good start. I was appalled that the camping permit program was suspended due to revenue problems for SRC/SRA's that were contracted. DNR should not have contracted in the first place, SOA/DNR can operate/maintain them better/cheaper than any contractor. Many contractors I interacted with this last year were rude, non-responsive, and did a poor job of operating/maintaining. DNR parks should focus on resident needs for a change, & reinstate the camping permit ASAP. If not, I don't think I'll even renew boat/day use permit (have been purchasing the 3-pass combo for years).

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I would be willing to pay for use of certain areas if I saw that money being put to use, but if I spend \$ for day use and the facilities are trashed...It would also be nice to make arrangements with private operator's @ some pop. Areas so that annual passes from the state would be accepted.

I buy a day use pass every year. For that pass I would pay up to \$40 for a year.

My wife and I live in Eagle River. We would like to see the Eagle River Campground run by state employees not some outside firm. Also I want to see the Eagle River Nature Center taken back and run by a Park Ranger. I should be able to park there with my Day use pass and not have to pay the nature center.

Better security in parking lots.

I frequently use the Eklutna Park and while user fees have gone up, and enforcement of any possible offense that results in a fine has gone up that gained money does not seem to be getting back into the parks. We have one ranger for our park and he cannot keep up with everything. More rangers would top my suggestion list. Second would be to give our parks back to Alaskans! I am tired of facing rules and regulations that restrict my use so that tourists have a "better" experience. I live here. They do not. My family lives here. Theirs does not. Out of state folks should somehow carry more of the cost. Please keep in mind I think this should only apply to state parks and facilities not national ones.

I am most interested in keeping non-motorized areas non-motorized. Over-development of these areas is the wrong policy. I believe a "Hut-to-Hut" system along trails similar to Resurrection trails is an amazing asset. These should be promoted as first-class, European-style adventures.

I hike a lot and see very few people once I've gone more than a mile or so from the trailhead.

The only thing I wish for is a bridge (or something along that line) across So. Fork of Campbell Creek off powerline trail on the way to Hidden Lake, Shiplake Pass, Ramp etc.

Other than that I'm happy!! We only snowmachine at our cabin up north, same with motorboat.

We are now paying user fees at many of the park facilities. The problem is that not all of the money goes to parks. That fact alone makes it more difficult to get people to pay for the park passes!

Extend Kincaid park trails to Alyeska.

Season passes are popular; season campground pass should be reinstated.

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Need to 1st insure existing facilities are maintained. Developing others makes sense only if they can be maintained in the future. Some free opportunities need to be available across most options so poor Alaskans can participate, but users need to start paying for what we enjoy or it won't be there long.

I want all park and rec. user fees used for park & rec. expenditures.

Outdoor recreation is an extremely important part of the Alaskan lifestyle. But the creation of any new facilities/areas needs to be sustainable.

I think that outdoor recreation is very important to most Alaskans, and I am always in favor of spending money on the maintenance of existing parks & facilities, including trails, campgrounds, cabins, etc. I think it is important for users to help pay for these programs, park facilities and maintenance of them. It's also important for different activities to have separate areas (such as trails: ski, dog-mushing, horse, multi-use, etc.) and that non-motorized sports have separate areas from motorized sports. Protection of the environment is a top priority for me. Thank you for asking Alaskan citizens for input.

Please clearly label all areas where dogs must be on leash and enforce this.

The issue of noise level from motorized vehicles, be that snowmachines, ATV or jet ski, is critical to me. The noise totally destroys my experience of nature. I would like to see more areas closed to these types of activities and devoted to quiet users.

This state is becoming soooo cheap as regards outdoor fees for parking, etc, esp. local access to state parks Glen Alps and Prospect Heights parking. Plus, if you really wanted a response to the survey, you would have provided postage.

State parks are under funded. They should be able to keep more of their receipts for park operations and should be allocated more operating funds by the legislature. I support increasing fees to help maintain the parks.

Maintain our facilities-don't expand; we can't afford it! I can see to adding to fees but don't reallocate then you're robbing Peter to pay Paul.

This state and federal government cater to tourism in the summer months and they don't even make it possible for residents that are here during the winter to travel and find a wayside or park to park or picnic during the winter months. They don't plow out most of the wayside and you can't even safely get off the road for a rest.

Improve the maintenance of existing facilities first! Keep trailheads/parking areas open throughout year-not just summer.

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You'd probably get a better response if you included a postage free return envelope. I don't know how to do it, but better security for vehicles left at trailhead parking is needed. I'm really leery to leave my vehicle after seeing many that have been vandalized over the years.

The trail system in AK is nice at present for motorized & non-motorized users. We don't need to develop now, fancy centers. The outdoor experience is meant to be just that-outdoor. I often do not even use established trails.

Cabins should not cost more than \$49/night. An annual user fee is far better than daily fees.

Alaska's uncut wilderness is a treasure. Providing more access for armchair quarterbacks and inefficient single occupancy vehicles, is irresponsible. That said, we should have more access to high-use wilderness areas through mass transit and muscle powered activities. Some things in life should be difficult. I don't need paved roads, wider roads, bigger parking lots, and more toilets. The Alaska Wilderness is large, that is how we need it, our impact should be minimal, and we already know how to "Develop" the world. Let's leave something alone, provide more education, maintain controls, and keep this around for future generations. Our current road system provides all the access I need. Some will disagree but they get their way everywhere else. Why should I have to do the same here? Trails are good. Roads (new) are not.

Upgrade state park campgrounds! Now that you do not have annual camping passes-we will be going to federal sites, where they have better facilities for just a little more money. Promote camping to tourism.

I love this states parks and camping facilities, but my wife and I are very displeased that we can no longer buy a season camping pass and rates have gone up to \$15 a night. I think if anyone is to be charged this kind of money for a tent sight, they should have better upkeep. The camping pass was a wonderful thing! We decided that this year we most likely would not be enjoying tent camping at a park. I am hoping to sway many others to boycott as well.

To have the best parks & rec. cost money. I say tax the hell out of everyone! Tax until we get it right. And hire enough law enforcement officers to protect the people and the facilities.

This is a poorly written survey. You've butchered the English language. This survey is not designed for bush communities. If you lived there you would understand this. I pay \$75 annual boat launch fee. That's too much.

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Prefer annual passes for day use. (Never had an annual overnight permit.) I've heard rumors of eliminating day use pass, which I oppose. Would rather see increase in cost of day use pass than see it go away. Increasing per-use fee, which would decrease maintenance costs and increase overall revenues, could mitigate congestion. Keep commercial interests out of our parks. Recommend annual permit for all commercial operators (tour guides, etc.) to use state facilities, to offset maintenance required because of their use. Keep ATVs and hunters out of our hiking and camping areas.

The annual pass should be restored. It cost more than if I had paid per use. However, the convenience was worth the extra few dollars.

I do buy an annual parking pass each year. I never know which Department oversees which facility. I enjoy mtn biking in remote areas. I am willing to fly or boat to remote areas. The cabin system across Katchemak Bay was new but poorly maintained both cabins (outhouses) and trails. I'd love to bike Jockaloff Rd, but it has deteriorated. Let's maintain existing areas.

I do not like the use of contractors to run campgrounds or any other public place unless they take the annual camping passes. I would also like to see an annual pass that included all state, federal, and local communities for annual camping. In other words, one pass to camp anywhere in Alaska. You also might get a better response to this survey if we didn't have to put a stamp on it!!

I think we should be able to buy a annual pass to all parks-you are running Alaskans out of park and also tourist. You have turned Deep Creek over to commercial use, I have fished there since 1969 it will not be long before the commercial tractors will kill Deep Creek – who in there right mind will pay \$10.00 per day with nothing more than a place to park and dirty toilets and ATV running all over the roads etc.? Most times dogs are allowed to go as they please.

Good luck & thank you.

Parks need to reserve more spaces for tents only. RVs generally "hog" the best tent spaces and the RV people rarely use the space outside- preferring to sit inside their RVs, watching TV, etc. Such park "users" need only a parking lot!

No Huts! No tourist developments. South Fork Eagle River needs larger parking; obtain more private lands if possible. Buy Bodenbug Butte & get rid of geo-grids on N. Side trail. Separate horse trails or make them pay to clean up & maintain trails.

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We live in Anchorage and frequently use the Chugach State Park, which is great. Congratulations on your fine job in managing this wonderful public asset. My concern is gaining access to the park with continued private development along the hillside. I do not think private property should be allowed to block access to public lands. If necessary, the state should exercise eminent domain to gain more access points (with adequate parking space) to the Chugach State Park

I have great concern about auto security when visiting park facilities and trailheads. Years ago I wouldn't think twice about going on an overnight camping/hiking trip and now I don't feel secure in parking at a trailhead for a day hike or day ski trip. I'd be willing to pay a fee towards secure areas to park my vehicle. Even at the Botanical Gardens last year, I visited only 45 minutes and in that time four vehicles experienced vandalism and theft. The lack of security directly impacts the extent to which I use parks and recreation facilities. Thank you for this opportunity to express my needs and concerns.

The state budget for parks should be increased!!

Allow DPOR to keep funds charged for access & use rather than put them in the general fund.

Tourist should be paying more towards this (head tax?) In a previous letter from you, I expressed my disappointment with your discontinuing the yearly camping permit for RV's. My wife and I, with our camper, have, for years, used this permit for a variety of uses, from drop-ins for a few hours, to overnight camping. I would like to have seen this program continue, even for an increased cost. The flexibility of the usages was the best part.

Prefer the annual fee method. You get the money up front. Dogs in the city and state parks around Anchorage area seldom leashed. The rules in the state parks need to state dogs require leashes in parking lot area-not "develop areas." People don't know what it means.

City dog control needs to be funded for the city parks – people with dogs should pay a user fee and should be given a special tag that goes on the leash as proof they paid their user fee & the dog is on a leash. All dogs should be required to be on leashes in all state and national parks. The dog poop dangers are growing.

I don't know what the rationale was for the state parks to do away with a program that camp hosts took care of the facilities & collected fees @ the campgrounds without pay (or very little pay) and replaced them with commercial managers that siphon off most of the revenue that is earned. That had to be one of the most stupid decisions that the parks service could have made!! And, of course, it resulted in eliminating the annual camping pass.

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I would like to see more separate motorized and non-motorized use areas, either by physical or time allocation. Non-motorized recreation users are not able to fully enjoy the outdoors with the smell, noise & danger of machines, especially in winter.

The lack of facilities in our parks is pathetic! All stop areas along the roads to the North & East of Anchorage are filled with toilet paper & feces! Nasty. Pretty sad from a state that supposedly promotes tourism!

As an avid backpacker, climber, and skier I feel I'm in paradise living next to Chugach State Park. However, it's frustrating accessing it due to the Stuckagain Heights Homes development and the future plans with Ft. Richardson (living in the East Side of town). I'm an Alaskan who moved here 20 years ago from Indiana who never takes the outdoor recreation for granted near Anchorage. I just wish more people would get out and vote so more parks and rec. bonds would pass. Thank you for all that you do.

I really enjoy the parks and facilities around here. But I strongly disagree that some of them have been closed recently. It is a service that should be supported by the state and not only paid by the users. The prices of the public use cabins are becoming prohibitive. It is becoming the same price as a B&B night with much less commodities. I really love Bald Lake cabin for example, but \$50/night is too expensive. What does it mean? That only rich people will be able to enjoy their family friendly cabins. Sad. But thank you for what is already there.

When new facilities are built, they need to be built so they are low maintenance rather than high maintenance. We don't need running water toilets. Pit toilets that are properly vented work just fine. This IS ALASKA after all. Lets keep it that way. If you need a model take a look at the parks in Yukon Territory, Canada. Clean & effective! Also we should standardize the signage for rest stops to 1 mile – make them the same so people know what to expect here – statewide. Can't be different from Kenai to Fairbanks. If the tour buses are going to use the rest stops, they should pay to pump them.

Retaining parkland that has no established trails or organized "activities" is very important to me. It is what is special about Alaska and Anchorage.

I would pay \$100/yr for Anchorage coastal trail in property taxes or fees.

Keep up the good work. I enjoy our parks. We do need more toilets along the major routes!

We are disgusted that there are no more resident passes being sold. Especially 65+ older we can go to US parks 1/2 price. We own the State Parks. Why are they not free to long time residents? Just 1 more thing our new Governor has taken away!!! I guess I am lucky I am a veteran so I can go to the Federal Parks & Forest Service Parks

Gas taxes all ready high enough. Fed & State

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<p>I love Eklutna & other parks in Mat Su-Quit paving the roads because then all the tourists & Anchorage people in nice cars come & the places get too busy & "citified" Actually the paving job to Eklutna is awful-now the road is too narrow & Eklutna too busy.</p>
<p>Public use cabins are great. Keep them maintained!</p>
<p>Money should be spent both to maintain and develop new facilities, however I do not wish to decide between these options.</p>
<p>We would rather continue with the state park pass for residents. Why can we not buy a state park pass anymore? We've bought one every year for the pass 14 yrs.</p>
<p>Trailheads and access to the park are important to me. I do not support operations like those at the Eagle River Visitor Center where I am charged beyond what I already pay for a parking permit. State owns the road, state owns the parking lot, and state owns the park why should I pay a private party?</p>
<p>Really sad to close down current park areas due to "lack of funding" for maintenance. People go there anyway & then there's nowhere to go to the bathroom.</p>
<p>The state campgrounds that I have used regularly have all been turned into RV parks. There are no good places to tent camp on the road system. I'm very disappointed that residents are not allowed season passes anymore.</p>
<p>I already pay my parking pass every year.</p>
<p>Only 4 cycle snowmachines & watercraft in park areas that allow them, and eventually the whole state would decrease noise & pollution.</p>
<p>Cabin system and campgrounds with improvements would be a great asset to AK park system.</p>
<p>Keep the motor heads away from the quiet sports/outdoor people. Do not advocate tourism. State park management is doing a good job in spite of the idiots in Juneau.</p>
<p>Thanks for the great job with limited funds.</p>
<p>Please bring back the state camping passes. There are times we don't use up the \$100.00 pass in the summer, but like having the pass for those late night get in & don't have to worry about going to fill in the envelope up front. So bring back the annual pass.</p>
<p>We purchase yearly tags.</p>
<p>Public is charged for fishing and hunting access already through licenses and stamps, day use parking permits and public boat access permits.</p>

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The most irresponsible waste than I have seen in Alaska is the total under emphasis of the beautiful locations for camping. This year in addition to this travesty-there is no support of regular campers-no annual pass. No respect for those of us who choose to regularly enjoy the beautiful outdoors of Alaska. The monies that have been “siphoned” off from camping have certainly been misspent!

The development and maintenance of outdoor recreation facilities is critical to Alaska's future. It serves to keep our talented and educated young people here, and attracts talented and educated people from outside. Outdoors recreation activities also attract tourism collars in a way that stays here: Alaska-based businesses and employees, rather than cruise ship and package tours that take most of the money outside.

Your questions do force one to think about the issues. I came to Alaska 34 years ago. I stayed because I could ski, hike, climb anywhere and anytime. I still feel that way somewhat but more and more it seems like I have to have permission from someone – pay a fee- and trails are yards wide – snowmachines & ATVs have ripped everything up. So I go as much as I can where people don't go. Cross state trails worry me but on the other hand, trails like Resurrection Pass & Johnson Pass have been nice for a lot of people. I have intentionally answered only from my viewpoint without considering that of others – want to be sure things don't get so watered down through multi-ad approach that nothing's good for anyone.

I spend late falls on the Kenai Peninsula in state campgrounds. The campgrounds are not full. There is virtually no maintained (the trash is sometimes not picked up). I'd like to see overnight fees drop for off-season use.

We already pay user fees when we buy parking, camping, and boat launch permits. Cost of \$10 is already charged.

Launch fees are high enough. Include postage on surveys if you rally want response.

We already do with parking permits.

You forgot to mention snowshoeing as an outdoor activity. Keep AK's parks quite and peaceful & litter free should be a bigger priority than pouring money down a bit of visitor centers & flushing toilets. We have something very special in AK – don't molest the balance we now have for the fool's gold of tourism. Tourists want more RV hookups to dump stations, not developed trails, they are rarely used by the “tourist”. Make Anchorage inner city trails connect so that those willing to walk or bike to their destination can stay off the motorized roads! Let RV'rs pay for their own improvements! Don't expand any land or trials to the destructive ATV's. They do enough damage as it is.

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My wife and I both have ATV's and both ATVs are registered with the state. What has been really enjoyable to us has been to ride them in the Chugach state park, on designated ATV trails.

I wish people over 65 could buy season passes to camp spots. Some of us have a hard time walking back to the sign in.

You can't dedicate funds-under the state constitution all funds go into the general fund.

I enjoy the model created in Turnagain Pass, which separates motorized and non-motorized park users. Can something similar be done on the Petersville Road? Snowmachines are out of control they're (noise pollution) leaving few options for individual on skis or snowshoes.

Just a test to see if the comments will go over. You will probably receive better comments from the mayor.

DPOR should encourage/support the construction of backcountry huts by private organizations.

Thank you for putting this survey online.

I am only willing to pay for services if I know the money I pay will indeed go back to State Parks and not be engulfed into the General Fund. As for maintaining what we have versus developing new facilities, I'd like to see some of both so I couldn't answer that question in such a black and white way.

Make sure fees collected at Park facilities be put back into Parks (maintenance, construction) and not be absorbed into the General Fund for use on a variety of projects entirely unrelated to Parks.

You do not mention photography as an outdoor activity. Nature photography is one of my primary recreational activities, regardless of whether I am skijoring, camping, or hiking. I think motorized vehicle users should be required to pay for park use, since they disproportionately degrade trails and cause other damage such as driving in unauthorized areas. They also disproportionately have a negative impact on people who choose not to use a motorized vehicle (this includes boat users -- air boats especially). Although I am a proponent of multiple use trails for the most part, it would be nice to have a few more trails where motorized vehicles are not allowed. Just because a machine can get a person to a place doesn't always mean they should be there.

I was appalled when I went to Quartz Lake and found the Pogo mine folks using Quartz Lake to access their site. We camped near the cabin and had to put up with double long trailers running all night. I think they should develop a road away from the lake and campground.

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I think it's important to keep day use facilities free of charge, with iron rangers available at trailheads, etc. for voluntary donations (this assumes that the Legislature allows collection of these fees as program receipts to fund operation of the facility at which these funds are donated). I do not support having to pay to launch a personal watercraft or hike a trail over public land, which Alaskans own, per the state constitution, and therefore should be able to freely use. However, I support overnight fees for the use of overnight facilities, and would use and pay for additional overnight public use cabins (up to \$30 per night) if they were constructed. I think having longer hut-to-hut type trails would be a real asset to the state.

I like the idea of a season pass for the park - so that frequent users can support the park but facilitate their paying. I support separate designation of trails for motorized and non-motorized uses.

Keeping ORVs from destroying trails and wild lands is very important. Motorboats and jet skis should be restricted from some areas, due to their negative impacts on water quality, noise pollution, and safety issues.

The state should maintain what we have first and open up parks that have been closed due to cuts before constructing new ones unless different type of funding is found for new recreational sites. We should continue to both serve local residents of our state but also double as tourism sites where appropriate. Charge fees and dedicate that money stay within park system to help fund maintenance and for additional sites. Try to expand grants to local communities for recreational sites, as part of fees at facilities with match required.... get lots more for your money doing it that way. I like the bond issue idea but it would have to be for specific projects and be clearly spelled out.

It's important to restrict motorized uses of all kinds wherever and whenever there is even a minor impact on wildlife habitat. State dedication of state lands, as wilderness should be a priority.

Flat user fees are unfair to low income people.

Continue ATV access in places like White Mtns Rec Area, but keep restrict ATV use in general. I have driven snowmachines on long trips across AK several times. They're loud and obnoxious, but really fun! Let's limit their range to designated areas, so that most of the wilderness can remain free of the annoying hum of engines and smell of combustion. Thanks!

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Really need to ensure a *QUIET* environment when creating park and trail systems. One of the big attractions of being in the outdoors is being away from motor and engine noises. When ATV's come roaring along a trail or a jet ski or airboat or large riverboat come swooping along some river it is a few people detracting from the experience of many and that isn't right.

ATVs are the worst problem on many of the recreation trails I've seen. They destroy the land for themselves and others. I don't mind most motorized recreation, but I support banning the use of ATVs in state parks and recreation land. Thank you.

This survey could have been worded better. Spelling counts. 'Towards' is not a word. Thank you for doing this survey. My greatest priority would be to improve existing state cabins and trails in backcountry areas. Many existing cabins are run-down, poorly built and abused. Trail signage and maps you provide are a joke. Current overnight backcountry cabin rates are too low at about \$20. Double it and use the income to maintain and improve trail infrastructure, hire rangers, place appropriate signs etc.

The state needs to restrict when and where off road vehicles can go. They are damaging trails and wild lands and detract from other's enjoyment. They are also a safety hazard both to the riders and other users. There are similar issues with jet skis and motorboats.

Why are not hunting and trapping not listed in your survey of activities? Just because park planners don't participate often, doesn't mean that it is not important to us common people!

I am very much opposed to increasing the amount of ATV use on our public lands. I am an average Alaskan and feel I have plenty of access to our public lands. I think that ATV use causes tremendous damage to our public lands and the cost of maintaining trails that ATV's use is not something I want to pay for. I would rather see my money spent on fixing the existing mess that ATV's have caused and maintaining, marking and providing toilet facilities at existing trailheads. Thanks for doing this survey.

Whenever I hear the sound or breathe the stench of off-road vehicles it detracts from my outdoor activities enjoyment.

Thanks for asking! Also, my major concern regards impacts from ATVs and, especially, airboats both of which have had a significant negative impact on my outdoor experience both from noise and, in the case of ATV's, from trail degradation. I hope that these problems can be addressed!

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I would be willing to support and pay larger use fees to use the state parks if it was going to the park, for upkeep not in the general fund for the legislators to do with what they please and keep cutting the State parks budgets year after year. You need to start giving back you can't just keep taking.

Develop/maintain snow machine trails for winter recreation.
Open Bird Valley to ORV/ATV to take the load off Upper Huffman.
Purchase the lot to open Big Peters Creek for park access.

To maintain the appearance of nationally owned, or public, land a low level of access should be provided at little or no cost to the visitor. Picnicking, day hiking, family and RV camping, and recreational programs should be widely available at this level. However, tourist resorts, motorized boats and vehicles do not belong in the heart of protected areas. Access to these wildlife-sensitive areas should be possible through permit system to those with competent outdoors skills and/or those who can afford a park or park-appointed guide (not a tourist industry guide). I very much agree that different levels of park use should be established. Wide use areas have every right to benefit from gas and vehicle taxes, and to use these for maintenance purposes. I unfortunately don't know how to avoid overcrowding of wide use areas, unless adjoining land can be converted to private ownership for recreational purposes (owned by or leased to recreation or tour groups).

It is false savings to forgo maintenance and proper development of our parks and other recreational facilities. Tourism will be a much larger and more dependable long-term source of income than mining or other nonrenewable resource development. I am willing to pay to ensure that our public parks and recreation areas are well developed and maintained, as an investment in the future.

I support using a portion of reg. fees for programs directly benefited those types of recreation (such as snowmobile \$ for snowmobile trails, etc.) I also don't want to see public use cabins get too costly-they should be an inexpensive alternative for young families or those who can't afford much else.

Survey does a poor job of capturing sense of priorities. Makes it too easy to ask for everything.

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My frustration is that we have beautiful parks nearby that have been closed for lack of funding.

They have become magnets for vandals and are further damaged. I don't blame the park service for making the cuts if the money isn't there but it seems we need to focus on what we have, first, before expanding them. Also, as a tent camper, it is really hard to find spots on the road system. We have catered a lot to the RV's and for tourism, I suppose, that's necessary. But in many cases, RV's can pull off to the side of the road anywhere. It is more difficult to do that when car camping with a tent. I like all of your ideas for generating income for our parks. Caring for our wilderness and providing responsible access needs to be one of our top priorities -- for our economy as well as our quality of life here. Thank you for your efforts!

I would love, love to see a bike path all the way around the Goldstream, Farmers Loop, Sheep Creek Loop in Fairbanks. While I said in the survey that trails should be developed for specific uses (motorized vs. non motorized), I would not object to snowmachine use on such a fantasy trail.

Minor bug in program: In #13 when I check "one or more" for Sea kayaking, it removes my selection of "more than an hour" (and vice versa). Also, I don't believe I checked "within and hour" for horseback riding.

I already pay to use state facilities. Where do those \$ go?

The biggest problems I see are foot trails leading into the Talkeetna's that are being obliterated by ORV use. We must have designated hardened trails for ORVs! Tundra areas are being scarred and mud holes are being created. We also need a few more toilet stops along the highways that could be open in the summer tourist season only.

We could greatly increase tourist visits from around the world if we designed and built an interconnected statewide system of trails with little cabins.

A lot of my "Don't Knows" is because my support would depend on what the specific proposal, e.g., what's in the bond package? How many public use cabins? And where? I'd pay more for the only public use cabin on a secluded lake than for one along a major hiking trail, etc.

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Some questions are difficult to answer because it depends on what you mean. This is true of # 10 and #11 because I would support trails for non-motorized uses but otherwise I'm less apt to support them UNLESS it would keep the motorized users concentrated in one area rather than roaring all over the backcountry. Also, question #17 is difficult. I support developing new park facilities but only if those facilities are low-impact, not facilities such as big visitor centers or RV parks, etc. All in all, I am a strong supporter of state parks, especially those that encourage an appreciation of the natural world and quiet out-of- doors activities.

The state park system should not be setting tracks in ski trails in the Chugach hillside parks since ample tracked trails are available within the Anchorage basis, and because doing so creates safety concerns, and degrades the quality and longevity of snow conditions.

Keep Alaska! Wild-snowmachines and ORV's destroy the wilderness experience. They are loud, smelly and cause trail damage-especially 4 wheelers.

Focus on maintaining existing facilities and trails. Only upgrade if existing uses require so avoiding a negative impact on environment and in those cases considering limiting use first.

Keep State parks wild, with a wilderness feel, even, or most especially, those in Anchorage-there are plenty of other places people can go to get a more tamed/groomed experience.

I would strongly support a Statewide sales tax to fund State Parks in the development of new facilities & to maintain existing facilities.

We have a great trail system in Anchorage, and great recreation opportunities in most of Alaska. I think more development may be needed, but it needs to be very careful, as more is not always better. We already pay a parking/user fee for the year instead of daily. I would pay more for that if necessary.

Access to new fishing areas (lakes) need to be developed in the interior. At the moment all fishing is focused on a few lakes that are fished out. By providing access to more lakes and limiting catches and/or temporary closing areas that are fished out would be a better plan to maintain fishing resources.

Overall, I think the State park system is one of the best in the country. It is a difficult task to provide access and facilities for all users with limited funds in such a large state. I think users should pay more for the privilege of using these parks.

Access for disable individuals is very important to me.

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The number one priority should be acquiring lands for recreation. They don't necessarily need to be developed. I would like to see more trails off-limits to snowmachiner's and ATV's - they have the capability to seek out more areas than skiers and hikers.

I am wholly un-mechanized. There is no way I can see where it would be easy to collect fees from persons like me. On the other hand, what I need for outdoor recreation costs practically nothing for the Park Service to provide. I would hate to see the fact that mechanized users are paying for Park Service work through their registration fees used as evidence that non-mechanized folks have no interest in or use of State Park land.

Regarding trail use (item under agree/disagree): there isn't a simple answer to this. Generally I support multiple uses, but I don't support unlimited uses, for instance motorized with non-motorized. And some trails are best kept off limits to activities such as biking and horseback riding. Also, (as you can probably tell from my answers), I prefer human-powered, quiet-sport activities and believe certain areas should be set-aside for those.

Open what we have gated closed. My husband and I like to do winter camping but you lock down the campgrounds and pullouts. Why is McHugh Creek, Bird Creek, Bird Point, Granite Creek etc closed? Unlock them and let us locals us them year round.

Get your act together and address motorized/non-motorized user conflicts. I use both atv/power boats/ etc. and also enjoy rafting/hiking/and non-motorized forms of recreation. If any place is big enough to supply a portion of land for all users Alaska is. Your Generally Allowed Uses are ridiculous. There is so much OHV damage in this state it's pathetic. Do not develop facilities unless you have a guaranteed source of funding to maintain these facilities. An outhouse that hasn't been cleaned all season is worse than no outhouse at all. Please provide more access for walk in fishing areas. A lot of streams have limited access for bank fishermen. Finally don't stick the fees to the users so bad. I will pay a little for a table and outhouse (\$5). That would be the extent of my developed recreation experience. How about charging a \$1.00 user fee in addition to the basic fees for nonresident users. If people can afford to have a 30K or 40K motor home/trailer and the gas to drive the Alcan, they can afford a \$1.00 fee!

\$5 a day for day use fee is high, prohibitive for lower income people to use regularly. Why not \$3 for parking at non-motorized trailheads unless it is regularly groomed or otherwise maintained?
Need more education on Leave-No-Trace, and respectful trail use. Some trailhead areas and fishing spots are very unsanitary. Should not invite or encourage public use without a basic, bare bones porta-potty.

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Please limit motorized vehicles and hunting in Parks.

I find the state park facilities within my community are over-developed and poorly planned, so I tend to avoid going there. Though the community specifically said they were not in favor of fees, the state added facilities and then charged fees. I prefer rustic and few facilities, decent access but fewer site controls and buildings. The one exception would be cabins, which are popular. My general preference is to use marine parks, as they are less developed and less crowded, and seem more "Alaskan".

The Gunsight Mountain area needs to be formally recognized as a State Recreation Area as recommended in the Susitna Area Plan. There is increasing recreational use of this area and formal recognition would help with management.

Resource extraction alone will not help the economy of this State. Tourism is an important economic component of our existing and future economy. Pay attention to changing demographics. We want to encourage tourism but with the aging of the population, it's likely that more services or development will be required to provide the amenities that will attract users. I fully support the Seatrails effort in southeast Alaska and see this as a benefit to all participating communities.

ATV, 4WD and snowmachine damage to off roads and trails is out of control. The state better get a grip on this, and soon.

How do you keep the current administration from dismantling the greatest state park system in America?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
Quiet places are becoming less and less available. We urgently need more places where snowmachines, ORVs, jet boats etc are prohibited. Furthermore, we need enforcement of such regulations!
Lastly, in areas where motorized use is permitted, we need signs recommending common courtesy. E.g., no loud driving past 10pm, especially near residential areas (e.g. Eagle River). Thank you

I think the State Park system needs to do much more to equitably allocate non-motorized use areas and trails. Adequate enforcement of current non-motorized areas and trails also needs to be a much higher priority. Thank you for conducting this survey to better address our State Park issues!

I would only be willing to pay for public use cabins if there is firewood available and a secure, well-kept facility. I think the maximum I would be willing to pay would be \$10 and that is only if I am guaranteed to have the place for myself, not to share with strangers.

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Survey questions are vague in some cases - hard to answer as could be loaded and used in multiple very different ways.

I think the most important use of funds would be to maintain the existing park lands and services, with special attention to employing park service personnel who can help people identify local plants and FISH THAT ARE LEGAL TO CATCH in the area they're working in at any given time such as Copper River and Chitina in particular when the rules change from one day to another; qualified, informed, and accessible park personnel is one of the most important assets in this system of public land management.

There is a definite lack on AK park interpretation. Visitors to state parks, myself included, often feel that their use of the parks is greatly hampered because of this. I definitely would visit the parks more instead of taking private or non-profit org tours if there were more interpretive opportunities. Unless there were more learning opportunities, I would be unwilling to pay use fees. If use fees are imposed, membership programs should be created (yearly passes, etc.), and maybe one way to attain more interpretive opportunities would be to offer free passes to volunteers.

Trails for people to walk with dogs are an important consideration. The small campgrounds such as Rocky Lake and Willow Creek are worth maintaining.

Open more areas for snowmachining.

No motorized vehicles in any area used by non-motorized recreational activities.

I love the way the writer of this survey did there best not to mention snowmachines unless it benefited the survey. We need more snowmachine access snowmachiner's spend more money in the community and yet are the most restricted. Give snowmachines more access!!!!!!!

A lot of my responses would change depending on the details.

Despite Gov. Murkowski's misuse of the term "locking up", we need more parks and park lands. When land becomes privately owned is when it is locked up to use by others than the owner. Privatization of parks is a bad idea as well - operators generally don't have the recreation ethic - it's just to make money

I already pay HUGE amounts of taxes...don't want more.

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<p>Don't like idea of public use cabins. Be careful about encroaching on communities when developing new sites - creates problems for homeowners. Tourism is good until your maintenance costs are taxing locals who don't use the parks that much when outsiders override them. Consider employment potential for Alaskans before you recruit outsiders to maintain a park area? We know that it may be more cost-beneficial to have outsiders oversee, but it could help support from Alaskans if you consider something along these lines. Really though, you are doing a wonderful job.</p>
<p>I would like to see Parks funded sufficiently that users again could utilize parks without paying a user fee.</p>
<p>The higher the fees you charge, the greater the impact on people with lower incomes. I hope that you won't make them prohibitively expensive for young people or other low-income people.</p>
<p>Past closings of parks in the state restrict usage of recreation areas to residents and tourists alike. Tourism being important to Alaska's economy, one has to wonder if it wouldn't be better to maintain and improve our park system. Finances could be raised through day use, overnight camping fees for all campgrounds and through sales of yearly use/camping passes for residents. I think most people would not mind paying a use fee, as long as the campground and day use area is kept in good condition.</p>
<p>As our population continues to grow and more people come to enjoy Alaska's state parks it will be important to develop more effective strategies to reduce user conflicts. Given the nature of our consumer society and overweight population, there will be a growing need for developed areas for RV users and trails dedicated to ATV and snowmachine use. Conversely, there should be substantial areas maintained in a natural state and dedicated to low impact, non-mechanized uses. Power sports, luxury "camping" accommodations, and high-density use are not compatible with skiing, hiking, and wilderness camping. Right now, the balance seems to be heavily in favor of the mass, petroleum-gulping society. As you develop your management plans I urge that you make a real effort to provide an equitable allocation of resources (natural and economic) for both kinds of users.</p>
<p>We really have relied on the annual camping and parking passes. Not having these will seriously curtail our outdoor activities for our family due to budget constraints!!!</p>

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I would be happy to pay more for the annual camping & parking passes, rather than see them eliminated altogether and nightly fees raised. If I'm paying over \$10 a night, I will stay at a private camping area w/ electric, water, and sewer. My family will definitely not stay at the State Parks areas as much this year due to the significant increase in cost w/o an annual pass being available. AK residents use the parks more than tourists and the motorhome rental companies should not be allowed to purchase the passes. The increase in costs will negatively affect many Alaskan families that consistently utilize our parks for quality family activities. PLEASE BRING BACK THE ANNUAL PASSES.....PLEASE!

There is a big dog problem in the Chugach State Park on the Upper Dearthoun and the Glenn Alps trailheads as well as the Eklutna Lake trailheads. Dogs are supposed to be on a leash at the "developed areas" yet allowed to take them off leash once on the trail. Most people let their dog out of the car and let it run around in the parking lot until they are ready to leave. People ignore the leash law. I have been on the Eklutna Lake trail to Twin Peaks with all kinds of dogs allowed off leash. There is a large potential for dog encounters. On one hike on the trail up to Near Point there was a group of 5 people each with a big dog. When one dog came at me (I was running down and they were heading up) all but one owner leashed their dog. The other one yelled and screamed at the dog until he finally got hold of it by the collar. Another time I was hiking in the winter, up the power line trail to Glen Alps. And came across a large group of people with about 10 dogs all running loose. There wasn't a leash in sight. I think stricter rules should be applied to dogs in the parks. In AZ, they didn't allow dogs in the parks and they absolutely had to have them on leashes in the parking areas. I witnessed a large dog chase a moose down one of the Bicentennial Park trails (I know this is the city park where the rules is "all dogs must be leashed") that tore down the trail at the trailhead where a group of teens had been standing only a few minutes before. Dogs are a danger and more and more people think the parks are there for their dogs. Perhaps there should be an extra charge for dogs brought into the park that would pay for patrolling trails; say \$5 a head - or the same as people.

Please take this problem into consideration in your trail expansion and improvements. Those dogs make the trails a more dangerous place.

We need more snowmachine areas close to Anchorage like Powerline Pass.

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Need to first focus on improving expanding existing campground capacities and maintaining existing facilities and trails, rather than acquiring new ones. Need to solicit volunteer individuals and groups and hold and advertise widely cleanup/improvement days/ weeks at different trails and facilities. Need to get a big effort on National Trails Days in June, and provide opportunities for us to volunteer. Two consecutive years in a row, I have contacted the local offices in Anchorage area to volunteer lots of man hours each Summer improving our trails, and the first year was told there is no one on staff to supervise volunteers. The 2nd year I didn't even receive any return phone calls at all = pathetic. Lots of prospective man-hours thus were donated to Anchorage's trail system instead, whereas I would have generously have given of my time to improve local trails with high usage had someone really cared to use volunteers. Someone(s) in the Park system apparently has an attitude about using volunteers, and that needs to change...or they need to be identified and removed from their position(s). Also...the road ways up in the Denali State park area need to have their brush along side the roadways trimmed down regularly during the Summer months to improve the views along this stretch of the vistas...particularly to the West. The vistas were pathetic along much of this stretch last Summer. Also, trailhead parking lots should not be gated closed, even if the budget doesn't allow for plowing. The public should be allowed access at their own risk throughout the Winter.

Bird Ridge parking lot closed last weekend...come on...these are publicly owned areas and should be accessible 24 x 7. I had to squeeze off road at Falls Creek instead...why?

Many wonderful state campgrounds have been closed. No use building more if you aren't going to keep them open. State selects more and more prime recreational lands from the fed government, including campgrounds, yet doesn't have the money to maintain or keep them open. Either keep them open or let the feds keep control on them so they remain open!

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I suggest you get rid about 10 of the public use cabins at Nancy Lake SP and develop a decent ski trail. The present one is a joke and it is not maintained. It's often screwed up by snowmachines. Also, the ski trailhead should be located away from the snowmobile parking lot. Why should my wife and I have to breathe in a lung full of unburned hydrocarbons while we're putting on or removing skis? We hate having to smell all that stink when we're trying to participate in a healthy activity. During the summer Eklutna Lake is non-motorized part of each week. Why does this policy have to change during the winter? Last week we were hiking along the Lakeside trail when we were passed by 3 snowmachines. The stink was so bad we had to stop and cover our faces. We don't visit state parks to get poisoned. Also, no snowmachines that are not 4 stroke should be allowed in our parks. Believe me, we have zero faith that any of these suggestions will be put to use. You don't have the guts to do what's right. We're almost ready to go along with our dippy legislature and support the privatization of our parks even though we find that idea disgusting.

Outdoor recreation opportunities should be available in designated areas for motorized and non-motorized users. Outdoor enthusiasts and travelers should support taxes on gear, equipment, and gasoline to help pay for construction and maintenance of trails, signage, and minimal facilities in parks. With good planning and adequate funding for land acquisition and maintenance, parks can provide innumerable opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy Alaska without diminishing the experience for future generations. I fear that cuts in funding for state parks will lead to deterioration of public lands, facilities, and Alaska's reputation as a destination of choice.

I would like to see more parks and recreation areas that prohibit or limit the use of motorized vehicles, snowmobiles, or ATV's.

I think that Alaska residents should pay a slightly smaller fee for all park services than non-residents.

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Get the powerboats off the Kenai River! Restrict guide use of Kenai Peninsula rivers.

Restrict the use of snow machines and ATV's! More tent camping spots and keep RV "parking" sites separate from tent camping spots. Or, better yet, get RV's out of the campgrounds altogether. Restrict use of generators and other noises in campgrounds between 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. Alaska residents should have priority and access to all state recreational sites!

Bring back the annual camping pass!

Make non-residents pay more to use all parks and recreational facilities like other states do!

Enforce the EXISTING rules!

Enforcement is desperately needed on the Kenai River and Peninsula as a whole. As it is now, enforcement is a JOKE and the guides and lawbreakers know it! It's extremely rare to see ANY enforcement personnel on the rivers. Kick the hoodlums, drunks, and other troublemakers out of the campgrounds, e.g., Anchor River campgrounds! Re item 19, We already pay day-use fees. I would be willing to pay 2-3 dollars for most day use facilities, but not five or more. Keep the annual day pass for residents.

Do NOT provide flush toilets, showers, electricity, or other luxuries to campgrounds. It makes the campgrounds more expensive to maintain and isn't necessary for camping.

Do NOT provide flush toilets at day-use areas unless it's cheaper in the long run than pit toilets.

Leave the fancy RV/tourist/resort facilities to the private sector. Keep the basic facilities with the state and get busy with enforcement.

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If you collect revenues from the above-mentioned sources, they would have to be dedicated revenues and not go into the general fund.

Given where we are now, maintaining existing facilities should be the priority, but I can see spending money to consolidate land ownership or acquiring something that would greatly enhance existing trails like a short connector trail. It would have to be case-by-case. But I am opposed to spending endless Capital Improvement funds for things we will not be able to maintain once it is built.

I would pay a small fee for trail use, say \$2-3, but camping more like \$10, but it would depend on the facilities. USFS charge more if the site has water and flush toilets.

Recreational opportunities are the main reason I live here, and State Parks is an important part of that. I have heard disturbing rumors about State Parks turning off the lights and walking away from facilities because they do not make money (when all those that did make money were concessioned out). I hope that does not come to pass. Facilities that made money were needed to offset those that do not.

I am currently a business owner with a past career in recreation, so I am intimately familiar with these issues.

You need a better proofreader for your questions.

We would like to see a reservation system for campgrounds and some RV sites set aside for Alaska residents only.

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Paving campground roads ruins the campground. Leveling RV parking areas is fine but paving the roads exceeded what is needed and is waste of money. Whoever decided to pave the Eagle River campground has probably never spent any time camping.

Any fees collected should go be returned to the maintain the parks & recreation system.

The Denali Highway should be maintained but not paved.

Stop privatizing the campgrounds. From my experience the private campgrounds came after the state campgrounds had already established the area as a destination. Montana Creek is an example. We enjoyed that area for years until the decision that the state cannot compete with private campgrounds was reached. That area had long been a favorite of many Alaskans, transferring it all to the private campground owner actually ruined the experience. If you are going to proceed with contracting out the campgrounds then the contractors should be paid a percentage of the gate and the majority of the fees be returned to maintain the campgrounds. Once we get back on more firm financial grounds we should consider expanding the parks system.

Increase and enforce the fines for vandalizing public lands and property.

Fees for residents should be less than for outsiders. This is no different than any other state. Why has the annual pass been rescinded?

Continue to enforce the limited stay rules, too often in the past before the limited stays were enacted we saw outsiders squatting on some of the best camping and fishing spots in the parks system. Week after week they would be there, catching and canning their "limit". Meanwhile our weekender camping experiences were diminished.

Keep all state park state parks~~~ don't waste money paving something that should be natural~~~ money collected at the state parks should go back into the state park system to upkeep the areas~~~keep Alaska Passes for Alaska residents at a discount rate

Please preserve off road and ATV access on established trails, old sections of highway (historical access), and designate new routes as well.

Q17: presented as either/or choice is misleading; they are equally important. Existing need maintenance, and new ones will also. Q18: I am willing and able to pay fees, but I firmly believe that funding concept is wrong. State recreation lands, including historical sites, are owned in common and should be available to all for minimal impact recreation regardless of ability to pay. For those who can afford RVs, ATVs, larger powerboats and the like, charge fees for pertinent uses.

-- Historical site development needs to be done sensitively. Do not overdevelop just to increase visitor accommodation; it can seriously affect historical ambience.

Someone really should do a spell check of your web pages.

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More areas need to be set aside for ATV/ORV use and snowmobile use, not locked up. Make them easier to gain access to..

More volunteer work for trails/park maintenance through military, local clubs etc.

ORV use is very important to me. There is a distinct lack of multi-use trails in south central, and because of this people choose to wheel in illegal areas.

8. I used many of the parks locally that were recently closed. I would like to see the Jim/Mud lake area in the Butte designated a wildlife area

10. Not just motorized trails, mountain biking & hiking trails as well

14. I use & enjoy many of the state parks & facilities. I deeply resent the recent cutbacks. We need more facilities not less, particularly roadside trash collection & outhouse/restroom facilities to promote tourism

a. Disabled facilities are important particularly in some scenic areas, but they don't make much sense in some rough areas.

b. Good ramps prevent erosion, but probably not necessary on all lakes.

Some lakes & wetlands should have limitations on motorized traffic

j. All on road campgrounds should have regular trash collection & drinking water would be nice, but clean outhouses are fine. Flush toilets are not necessary everywhere. Backcountry campgrounds should have a water source, but backcountry campers ought to know how to purify their water

o. Not all park roads need to be paved. Often a good gravel road is as good or better. It depends on the condition of the road, traffic & location how much upgrading is needed.

r. Tourist RESORT facilities sound awfully fancy. I would support instructional signage, campgrounds, picnic sites, roadside rest areas with signs that they are coming up (maybe that would help the roadside trash problem), designated wildlife areas and instructional visitors centers in such areas. Such centers should be kept small & functional. I would not support a lot of fancy hotels & other developments

17. Both maintenance & development of additional facilities are equally important.

18. I would pay user fees, but I think they are unfair to lower income people. User fees also need to go back into park & recreation facilities, not just into general state funds.

19. I don't think day use sites should be more than \$5, preferably \$2 or \$3. There should always be provision for annual passes. Overnight should not be more than \$10 for tent camping, maybe more if hookups are needed for RVs.

I feel that ORV use is becoming increasingly threatened. I feel that it is important to protect access for all who enjoy the outdoors, motorized or non-motorized.

There needs to be more effort to keep trails open for legal off roader's.

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<p>The Juneau area park system offers no ORV/snowmobile riding.</p>
<p>Please continue to develop new multiuse trail backcountry trail systems. Remember many people like myself live in Alaska not to look at nature, but to be in nature.</p>
<p>As an outdoors person who participates in many recreational activities I think there should be more trails for 4 wheelers and jeeps so people can get farther into the backcountry and enjoy places that most people only see in books or on TV. I am all for backpacking but you can only get so far unless you have a week off and it is hard to get miles and miles into a secluded area. As a member of the local offroading community I know myself and many other's that I go with would gladly help maintain the trails free of charge if time was put into developing new ones. Thanks for your survey that lets me voice my opinion.</p>
<p>Continue the Annual Camping permits. Do not allow commercial users (RV rental, etc) to use the Annual Pass. (I think this is already being done). Discontinue the use of vendors to operate areas. New campgrounds should be on the order of Eklutna. Get the Legislature to allow ALL Annual Camping Passes and other user fees to go back into the Parks System.</p>
<p>I don't think additional fees should be allowed on state land. The fees that they already have are expensive enough. I am just curious as to where this large amount of money goes every year.</p>
<p>Currently Federal dollars should be available from "Dingle/Johnson" for much of what you're talking about, i.e. groomed snowmobile trails, 4-wheeler trails, camping facilities on lakes & rivers. It appears to me that 'some department' currently uses this money as part of its operating budget, (perhaps F&G)??</p>

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Lets better maintain what is already in place. Open our campgrounds before Memorial Day so locals can enjoy what we have before we get bombarded by the tourist industry. Require the guides to accommodate their client's rental cars rather than meeting them at a public boat ramp and filling up the parking lot with rental cars so that a private party coming to use the facility has a place to park.

The reservation system for our campgrounds needs to be looked at a little closer. It's frustrating to go looking for a place to camp and see nothing but reserved signs on all the sights yet over half the sights are vacant. Also, to have the premier sights located on the lake or river be taken up by a thirty foot motorhome and to have to listen to their generator until midnight and then again early in the morning is contrary to what camping is all about. Those sights should be reserved for real campers!

Let's quit catering to tourists and work on providing outdoor resources for the residents of this state. We love to enjoy Alaska and would appreciate your help doing it. Clean bathrooms and better access to available campgrounds- open them earlier in the year- would really help.

The bottom line is let's not just focus on tourists. We need to provide adequate facilities for motorhome's but lets not infringe on people who truly want to enjoy the outdoors. Make the guides accountable for their clients when accessing the river and charge them accordingly.

More access is the key to disperse the users and prevent the over crowding of what few public use areas we have and if we can't afford to make new ones lets maintain the ones we have and consider that Alaskans want to enjoy Alaska also!

Public parks and facilities are very important for the health of an increasingly sedentary and obese population. Investing in existing and new parks and promoting their use for non-motorized recreation is among the best investments the state can make for public health. These investments are very important for the development of the tourism industry, so important for this state.

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The state must step up to the plate and deal with increasing conflicts between motorized and non-motorized backcountry users. Unregulated use of increasing numbers of ATVs/ORVs in this state is the biggest threat to public lands today and will only increase until the state recognizes the problem and takes responsibility for it. Otherwise, the state is liable for allowing destruction of public lands. The state needs to deal with specific issues that include: blatant abuse and destruction of public lands and habitats by ATVs, noise, trespassing and abuse of private property, unregulated use in areas where they drive anywhere they want, increased poaching, over harvesting and impacts on fish and game, illegal stream crossings/anadromous.

A statewide licensing and registration system should be required for all ATVs/ORVs as well as designated trails, which they are required to stay on and not wander from. Heavy fines should be levied on ATVer's that abuse the land and the public's natural resources. What will it take before the state does something? Massive lawsuits?

Any funds collected from ATV, OHV and Snowmachine registration should be at least partially earmarked for Motorized Recreation.

Do not make these people pay for facilities they are restricted from.

Open more lands for trail use

Most pressing issue is to secure access points to public land. All others pale in comparison.

Funding for parks should come from general fund, not from user fees.

Don't we already pay a user fee for public use cabins and day parking at AK state parks?

We already pay 5 bucks for overnight camping.

This state is big enough to have room for trails which allow motorized access and for designated hiking trails

No snowshoeing listed in activities above, also public use cabins not listed

We have great resources but the shortage of funds is causing problems at several recreation areas and that needs to be dealt with.

If question 15 means that the State would pay for all these things (as opposed to private businesses), my answers would be quite different. Allow the private sector to develop some of the infrastructure.

Why was snowmobiling excluded from number 13 when there are three different choices for skiing? This survey form should be scrapped and done over more fairly.

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The public consists of a lot of different land users. To try and allocate any amount to just one of those groups is silly. All groups should be made aware the land is "Multi-Use" and everyone needs to share. Limiting the use of lands instead of enforcing current regulations and laws is a reactionary practice and solves nothing. Basically it takes the land from the people for whom it is meant to be used.

Absolute highest priority is to maintain existing parks and recreational resources. Active management and maintenance is essential to safe and enjoyable use by residents, independent tourists, and commercial users. State parks are a valuable asset and should be treated as such. They should be part of a plan for marketing in state and out of state. Improving trailheads, facilities, and cabins would be great but let's first assure maintenance of what we have.

Currently, and until a long range finance plan is inaugurated by the State; maintenance of existing facilities should be the focus. If and when funding is available, present facilities/programs should be expanded and new ones introduced.

Alaska has a vast amount of land with trails that haven't been used for a long time and are over grown; I don't want to lose those trails because of a lack of use. The trails that do see a lot of use can become degraded because of over use these are a couple of areas that need to be addressed.

Development of 4x4 trails as well as hiking trails should be developed to Co-exist.

A 1:1 expansion should be policy. That means that for every dollar spent on hiking trail 1 dollar should be spent on an ORV trails.

Hardening and maintenance seminars should be directed at appropriate groups, along with allocated monies being available for use in volunteer projects with said groups.

I am a B.S. in Recreation with a Outdoor Leadership Minor and I will say that I think:

Anchorage parks and rec. is doing an outstanding job. If you are not aware of other outstanding programs you might want to check out Boulder Colorado's P&R. They have developed an awesome Greenbelt and interior trails system in their town.

Something that Anchorage seems to be striving for. No use re-inventing the wheel.

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The questions tend to lump together all types of recreational activities, like snowmobiling, ski-joring etc. Someone who rides snowmobiles might respond to a question that says its Ok to take a portion of the registration fees only to find out they can't ride in the area they may want to go to. The questions are way to general in nature. Why isn't snowmobiling listed as an activity on question 13? I would bet that there is more money spent on snowmobiling then the rest of the activities combined. Except for flying, which isn't listed either.

The biggest disappointment I have in the Alaska State Park system is in Denali State Park. The focus of that park seems to have gone from a quality outdoor experience for Alaska residents to providing a job for park rangers and Susitna Expeditions, who, with their kayak and canoe rentals and associated noise, run off much of the wildlife. The commercial walking tours around the lake on a twice-daily basis also negatively effect wildlife viewing opportunities. Any improvements in the infrastructure at Byer's Lake have been offset by the loss of a great Alaskan experience. I've been camping at Byer's Lake since the campground was built and the negative impact of commercial operations is quite obvious. Regardless of the amount of income from the fee received from the commercial operators a use fee by campers would be far preferable.

ATVs are destroying Alaska!! We have got to stop the wholesale destruction of habitat and backcountry enjoyment that ORVs are taking away from us! Register them! Tax them! Restrict them!

Keep the parks system as is. Multi user trails and facilities is a necessity

State Parks already has demonstrated a very poor use record of Snowmobile and ATV registration fees. Way too much of the currently collected fees are used for safety and Information distribution verses trail, trailhead creation, and maintenance.

This survey appears to be biased towards non- motor activities, which I object to. Specifically, snowmobiling activities are not very well represented, and the notion that snowmobile registration money should be spent on non-snowmobile activities is absurd. That money should be spent on trail grooming and trail development. The State had better take a more neutral approach when soliciting public input.

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Questions were somewhat misleading as these polls usually are especially where funding is concerned. A person cannot support a funding source without knowing details. Example: Snowmachine/ORV registration funds are already being used for trail issues HOWEVER the large majority of the funds are being misdirected to non-motorized trail funding and motorized is being ignored. Your poll is slanted towards non-motorized as well. When asked to choose 3 top activities you chose to leave snowmachining out of the choices. I put it in regardless. It is my opinion that DNR and Parks & Rec. are advocates of non-motorized and routinely use polls like this to further anti-motorized behavior utilizing public funds to do so. When Parks and DNR start acting responsibly with motorized monies and treating motorized activities with the respect they deserve my attitude towards funding will likely change.

Target tourists to pay their share for the use of our facilities.

User fees should benefit the user, i.e. be used to This includes snowmobile and ATV registration fees and gasoline taxes being used to maintain trails and access.

The park areas close here in the Soldotna in the winter. It seems you are more interested in the non-area users than the people who live here year round.

Prior studies have shown that snowmobiling is one of the biggest recreational activities in the state. Why wasn't it included in your activities list? This is a huge oversight, which will certainly skew the favorite activities question that follows it. DNR should be more actively working to establish a legal multi-use trail network. This is the most endangered type of recreational use - as development occurs they are disappearing rapidly. Question 8 is repeated later; the sea kayaking activity is messed up - you can't select both that you have done it and the frequency.

There is too much land in Alaska that is tied up in Parks and Wilderness areas.

My overall preference is that the parks remain as wild as possible. More access points will help achieve that goal by spreading out the users.

Snowmobile registration funds should be handled by an advisory board and be used in grants. They should not go directly into parks. This allows user input on their use. Also when this law was enacted the snowmobile community supported this program as it now is running with the advisory board. Snowmobiler's state wide will be upset if its spent directly by parks and may as a group change the registration law or just not register.

I believe their needs to be more public lands open to ORV use and snowmachine use.

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PUBLIC LANDS ARE FOR THE PEOPLE, NOT TO BE LOCKED UP BY THE GOVERNMENT, SO THAT NOBODY CAN GET THERE OR USE IT.

WAKE UP, THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A FREE COUNTRY

I would benefit from the elimination of parks, and other governmental agencies that will be the down fall of this country. We can no longer sustain employment of so many job justifiers.

Gasoline taxes should be put to use for motorized vehicle trails and some to multipurpose trails. If we pay the taxes and registration for our ATVs and snowmachines we should get the benefit.

Public lands are for the public! All of the public.

Skiers and Snowmobiler's should share or alternate YEARLY any areas that keep one or the other out. Snowmobiler's never say don't let them ski with us, but the skiers want to keep some of the best riding areas for them alone. Even Turniagan should alternate yearly! IF the skiers want an area with no noise in the background they can go to a ski resort, however, we cannot go to a snowmobile resort. Besides that, when we ride, we get beyond the first five miles that the hardest of skiers get all day within a matter of minutes are only background noise, if that, for them as the snowmobiler's go 40-120 miles in a day! Now to fishing, Guides should have to be Alaska residents! If they do not qualify for the PFD, they should not be able to be a guide. I know of a guiding service that imports their guides, deckhands, and even their wine for the B&B from outside. 90% of the \$ goes outside, and yet the Kenai River, in my backyard, is to overcrowded to the point that we no longer enjoy king season. We actually had an Oregon Guide tell us that the State of AK better watch out about causing them grief because they provide a lot of revenue for the state. BUT if they were not there, the resident guides could have more business and put more locals to work and more of the \$ would stay in the state!!!

Deep creek should be made a safe harbor rec. site.

Quit trying to take our snowmachining areas away

I think snowmobiling should have been on the list of favorite activities. I went a head and put that down for my #1. I would also like to complain about the amount of notice we received concerning this survey.

SNOWMOBILES ARE A BIG SPORT IN ALASKA, AND MORE TRAILS SHOULD BE USED BY THEM AND LAND SHOULD NOT BE CLOSED OFF TO THEM, SUCH AND THE HOODOO MOUNTAINS AND CANTWELL, WHERE SOME OF THE BEST RIDING IN THE WORLD CAN BE FOUND.

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A lot of these questions need to be addressed in-depth. We need to maintain what we have before we develop anything new. It would be great to have a statewide "summit" - maybe on the internet that ideas could be floated and discussed. Multi-use of areas needs to be carefully worked out. It is important that all user groups understand that cooperation is our only hope. I'm a dog musher but I don't think snow machines should be totally banned everywhere. I think if we work together we can learn to respect each other and share the great gift we have.

Honestly... I see what is going on here. I feel too much money is wasted before it ever gets to where it was supposed to go. The more you get the more you take from us. More parks, seems as that would mean more area to lock us out of. What good is all this land if the goodie two shoes people try to keep locking it up to keep us off. I don't buy this idea. WE the PEOPLE are the very HAND that FEEDS you PEOPLE and you kick us every chance you get. YOU people get premium salaries and benefits from OUR dollars. Well... OUR dollars are flipping the bill so WE the PEOPLE can be told what we are going to do, when and where we can go. This to me is crap. I get so sick of hearing about closing areas down for snowmachine use and ATV use. Snowmachine especially, I would like someone to take me out in June and show me where I rode my snowmachine last winter! I feel there is going to come a time when I will use the word "System" bites off too much. Then I guess we will become outlaws to continue enjoying what we have for so long. Have a nice day.

I live on the Kenai Peninsula and am happy pretty much with our system. I am against paying more for the services, every way you asked a question on this survey the answer made it seem like I was for more money being poured in to this. I think private ownership is the way to go.

An Alaskan driver's license should get you into any state park facility for free.

I would like to see more trails opened for snowmachines & ATVs in the backcountry.
Also with access to mountain cabins for overnight rentals.

I would like to see more trails opened to multiuse with motorized vehicles. Responsible land use with full size motorized vehicles is not only possible but a great way to get more people into our great outdoors.

All fees collected at the parks should be designated for park use. Do not put them in the general fund.

I would like to see the registration fees for snowmachines and ATV's be specifically used for the maintenance and grooming. Also used for equipment for such areas in maintaining said areas. Donated time for this could be recorded (as is now) and helped with the grant.

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Many of my "I don't know" answers are because it would depend on the conditions and terms. In some cases commercial operations are available for some of these services outside parks areas (RVs). I'm against blindly collecting taxes from snowmobiles for "recreational programs" without any say in what the funds will be used for. I'm for some amount of funding for trail conservation for multi-purposes. That's why I'm a member of the Anchorage and Caribou Hill snowmobiling clubs and I volunteer for trail conservation activities. Incidentally, snowmobiling was noticeably missing from your survey.

Green infrastructure is as important as that made of asphalt and concrete. Yet it's disappearing because too many Alaskans think it requires no investment. We're getting fat and spending millions on health care. This costs all of us. Our so-called political leaders just don't get it -- let's vote them out and make DNR's State Parks budget commensurate with the fact we've got the largest park system of any state!

Stop putting recreational, RV, ATV, fees into the general fund and allocate them to maintain, enhance, and provide support to the areas we do have for recreation!

\$5 too high a minimum for day use fee. Why isn't there is a category for \$1-4?

Why are there no questions about habitat preservation/protection but there is a question about acquiring/protecting historical or archeological areas?

We already pay a lot in taxes and I'm wondering why we're always asked to pay more??? It's never enough and what ever we pay always gets used up and then we're asked to pay even more. Where does all the money go?? Many services used to be covered by our taxes and now we're expected to pay for anything the state does for us at the point of use. When did this all start??? And why are we expected to pay for a camping spot that has no services?? Wherever a crowd develops it seems like it's an opportunity to get money... I'm not sure what to do with registration fees, I would think that would be up to you all to decide, I assume you prioritize. Snowmobiling seems to get very little mention although many participate. I think the registration fees or a portion of them at least, should go only to snowmobiling activities, to trail grooming, equipment, etc. I appreciate the state's commitment to access and the many steps you all have taken to assure an enjoyable outdoor experience, I've lived here close to 40 years and still love it. Thanks for an opportunity to comment.

I would like to see the Resurrection Trail system opened to snowmobiling in March and April. It is a huge area that gets little use by skiers.

Parks and recreation areas are what make Alaska a great place to live. We need these areas.

The closing of the parks in the valley was deplorable to visitors. Keep parks open for multi use.

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Many of the activities that my family and me participate in fall into all 3 categories: within community, within an hour and more than an hour away. There should be a box that says "2 or more".

Collecting taxes from motor vehicle driven revenue sources i.e. gasoline, ATV's and snowmachines should not be considered unless the money were used for motor vehicle accessible areas. Money derived from motor vehicle use and registration should not be used for non-motorized trail maintenance or acquisition. If it's a hiking only trail, let the hikers pay for it, likewise with motor vehicle trails. Alaska's public lands are for everyone's use and enjoyment and all user groups need to respect the land and each other. DON'T SINGLE GROUPS OUT, MOTORIZED OR NOT!

There is no selection choice for snowmobiles in some of the items above,

As far as maintaining existing facilities or developing new ones. I think the existing facilities should be upgraded so it would be cost affective to maintain them. As for developing new ones, some of the existing trails need to have work done on them to make them more accessible to the handicap and disabled. Such as widen them and smooth them out so there not so rough. For new facilities I feel that there needs to be more facilities that cater to snowmachiner's in the winter and ATV's the rest of the year. The thing I would like to see the most is land set aside designated for four-wheel and off road enthusiast. With the large amount of untouched land in Alaska, making a few four-wheel drive parks though out the state would seem logical almost every other state has land set aside for the public to use for four-wheeling and extreme four-wheeling. Four-wheel drive clubs could do maintenance. There would be no cost to the state other then designating the land for the purpose of four-wheeling. Making sure that there are environmental impact guild lines for the public to follow in order to protect the land so that the public has some place to use in the future. And I am sure once the word got out to the four-wheel drive clubs in the lower sector would solve the problem and have some annual get together. The tourism from that would generate revenue for the state, which would be a big return on a minimal investment. It would be a win, win situation for every one from the guy who has a jeep in his garage that he tinkers with and modifies it to ATV's and snowmachiner's, as well as the people who want a nice quite day hike because the ATV's and ORV's would have a specific place to go. That doesn't mean that the ATV's and ORV's should be restricted from other places. For allocating a portion of annual ATV and snowmobile registration fees to parks and outdoor recreation programs and a gas tax (I think it should be more then a penny) I'm all for it what ever it takes to get the money needed to make things happen and improve access to the land and meets all of the publics recreation needs. I also think that the residents that purchase annual park passes shouldn't have to pay for campsite and extra vehicle at campgrounds it should be included in the park pass.

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As an outdoor enthusiast for motorized vehicles I feel we are unfairly represented as compared to a well-educated environmentalist that does not get out doors. These types of people spend their days sitting at home filling out surveys like this one, while the majority of the real outdoors type of people are truly using the areas. Go to "all" the outdoors areas get a survey then compare the results.

You need to find a way to catch and punish vandals. We need a place to dump RV waste in the wintertime.

I am strongly in favor of increasing the trail system for off road vehicle such as Snowmobiles and RV's as well as opening up lands for this use. I believe as an Alaskan it is our heritage and it needs to be preserved.

I've voted for every park/rec. bond in the MOA for 23 years but have fewer & fewer voting with me. I would most like to see legislative allocation (of current user fees) go directly into the Parks (state) budget.

Why don't the selfish people of AK vote for an income tax instead of all of these user fees: Do you only live in AK to make as much \$ as possible, take whatever fish & game resources you can & then move "back" where you came?

The PFD is an albatross around our necks that provides too little individual returns that would justify its continuance and it is high time we all realize that the "sacred cow" PFD would be better spent on roads & parks !

Your annual camping fee program for residents was a "GOOD" program. You are practicing poor management & fiscal responsibility for stopping it; PLEASE re-instate the camping permit annual passes!!!

Day use of parks should be free so that all people in the community can enjoy the outdoors. Mainly low-income families are prevented from using parks by even a small use fee. They are the very people who would most likely benefit from wilderness experiences in my opinion. Your parks board needs to recruit members from this socio economic strata. In addition, visitors to Alaska should have to pay higher use fees than residents. Campsite fees for RVs are far, far too low.

What do current fees go for if not to cover maintenance?

It's time get away from tourist basic economics in AK, because most tourist dollars leave the state with the vendors. I like the annual pass system from 2002 & 2003 and felt it was fair. Need to bring it Back!

Largest concern is ATV use (unregulated) on public lands, would support enforcement program to limit destruction. I realize this would be difficult but people who use public lands have a responsibility to care for it – if they don't then enforcement actions should be taken (patrolling park rangers issuing fines). This includes habitat destruction and trash/littering; I am so turned off packing out other people's trash when I know they could care less.

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Disappointed that resident annual R/V camping fee was discontinued. That was a valuable benefit that was appropriated for AK residents. In 3 months of camping between Fairbanks & Tok in 03. I saw no conflict or overcrowding due to resident passes.

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Appendix J

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