

PRD Comments - Planning - Goal

Commenter #	Comment
010	3rd Paragraph, 5th line. Add the following quoted text to the existing sentence: To ensure that the division continues to provide for the needs of park visitors and responsible stewardship of natural and cultural resources, managers will initiate efforts to gather baseline data including levels of use and the condition of park units, "including trail inventories and condition assessments in parks that have trails". 3rd Paragraph, last sentence. Add the following quoted text to the existing sentence: The division will also initiate "natural and" cultural resource surveys....
057	Page 34, Paragraph 3, Sentences 1, 2: Good write up - great to cover our basic data needs!

PRD Comments - Planning - Objective I

Commenter #	Comment
010	I would suggest adding that all this information would be put into a GIS system and dedicated staff would update and use the information. Otherwise, the data is likely to just sit in files.
047	Replace "Develop cultural surveys..." with "Perform cultural surveys..."
066	Add new Action Strategy: Parks (or regions/districts) with developed trails will develop trail plans within five years, and should be reviewed and revised every five years as recreational use patterns change. A typical trails plan document "template" will be developed as a model within one year. Add new Action Strategy: Develop a State Parks Trails Policy that provides trail classifications, standards, and general trail management objectives that integrate the principles of sustainable trails. Partner in the development of statewide trail guidelines that can help provide direction for all trail users groups in the wise maintenance, design and development of trails in Alaska.
072	We'd like to see the division undertake revision of the trails plans and park unit plans. Chugach State park, for instance, has a plan that has not been revised since 1986, and needs significant changes. We are also actively assisting and encouraging the State as it continues to address the issue of connecting trails and administering easements with adjoining landowners and neighboring agencies to establish larger trail networks across multiple jurisdictions.
075	We particularly like strategies 8 and 9, wherein the emphasis is on collecting baseline data so that standards for acceptable levels of impacts can be developed.
080	Is there any type of database of studies that have happened on state park land, so if someone is looking for information, it might be readily found? I know various federal agencies have such databases, some (most?) of which are web-searchable by public.
082	In all areas of planning and maintaining records/statistics - I fully support efforts to increase this information and do so using latest technologies. It is this information that will be most valuable in obtaining both general public and political awareness and thus, support for parks.
086	Strategies 2 & 3 are highest priority.
091	Some of these strategies have been mentioned before. Include need to collect data, including visitation state. On different user groups. Prioritize: 2, 8, 3, 1, 5.

PRD Comments - Planning - Objective I - Strategy 3

Commenter #

Comment

035	Third priority.
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PRD Comments - Planning - Objective I - Strategy 4

Commenter #

Comment

017

Didn't know there was a catalogue of Alaska State Parks, but it sure seems like a fine idea to update it & have it available - maybe at ferry terminals, etc.? Is it already, & I just overlooked it?

PRD Comments - Planning - Objective I - Strategy 5

Commenter #

Comment

035 Fourth priority.

PRD Comments - Planning - Objective I - Strategy 6

Commenter #	Comment
047	The sentence should read "Develop Cultural Resource Plans and Historic Building Preservation Plans in regions..."
090	Planning is a key component in all aspects of park management. We particularly support the idea of developing cultural resource plans in regions likely to undergo intensive development in the near term where high value cultural resources are likely to be present.

PRD Comments - Planning - Objective I - Strategy 8

Committer #	Comment
035	First priority.
057	Very important!

PRD Comments - Planning - Objective I - Strategy 9

Commenter #	Comment
035	Second priority.
067	Development of guidelines that establish a "carrying capacity" or a maximum saturation for each park unit, should be included in this Strategic Plan. The resources of each park should never be compromised to accommodate the swelling of visitor numbers or their needs.
085	Meaning of this sentence isn't clear. Simplify the terminology.

PRD Comments - Planning - Objective II

Commenter #	Comment
035	Order as listed.
085	Photo caption: Comma should be inside the quotes: "The Ramp,"
091	No.

PRD Comments - Planning - Objective II - Strategy 2

Commenter #

Comment

010 I suggest adding a measure of accountability to ensure that each unit is working towards and meeting its annual goals and its longer range strategic goals.

PRD Comments - Planning - Objective III

Commenter #	Comment
020	<p>There was some confusion at the October 24th Open House regarding whether, and to what extent, the draft Strategic Plan stipulated that individual park management plans must be brought into conformance with the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Objective III (page 37) states: "Produce a Management Plan for each park consistent with the Strategic Plan." That indicates to me that the individual Park master plans must, in fact, be brought into conformance. I do not believe that this is good policy. As I noted above, parks are different and each one cannot possibly offer all types of recreation to all people. The Master Plan for Denali State Park, for example, has a mission statement as follows: the Park "shall be managed and developed in a manner compatible with the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">I. Protect the natural and cultural resources of the park and ensure that the park's resources are maintained to allow for the public's experience and understanding of the unique natural features that are found in this part of Alaska.II. In a manner that is compatible with Goal I, provide for a variety of opportunities for visitors to the park to experience and understand the park's natural and cultural resources, including viewing Mt. McKinley. <p>Park facilities shall be designed and developed to support the public use and understanding of the park and its resources and not serve as attractions in and of themselves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">III. In a manner that is compatible with Goals I and II, recognize and accommodate, in so far as reasonable, the diverse needs of different types of visitors to the park. Avoid conflicts between different groups of visitors or between visitors and park resources."<p>I think that this mission statement is entirely appropriate for the nature of this Park, and it should not be changed. I don't think it is good policy to try to shoe-horn the wide diversity of our State Parks into a one-size-fits-all template.</p><p>I would hope, especially due to the confusion evident at the October 24th Open House, that this question of conformance be rethought and properly stated in the final version of the Plan.</p>
035	Order as listed.
036	<p>This objective refers to "management plans," but the illustrations show "master plans" as well as a "management plan." For those of us not versed in the lingo, it would be helpful if the text of this Objective explained the difference, if any, between a "management" plan and a "master" plan.</p>
042	<p>Unless the draft Strategic Plan is revised to reflect the importance of natural values, Objective III, on page 37, has to be dropped. Denali State Parks and other state parks have wilderness areas. It appears to me that producing a Management Plan for each park consistent with this draft Strategic Plan could require eliminating wilderness areas. Given the diversity of state parks, it seems to me that the individual park's master plan or management plan (are they different?) should hold more weight than the strategic plan because they are developed with the specific park and its users in mind. I think the strategic plan should first be reviewed for consistency with existing master or management plans, and, if necessary, the strategic plan should be revised to reflect provisions in existing plans. New plans should be developed consistent with the revised Strategic Plan, provided the importance of natural values has been included.</p>
063	<p>This plan is intended to guide Alaska State Parks into the future, a "blue print" for the Division's management and planning activities. This objective directs the Division to "produce management plans for each park consistent with the Strategic Plan." If all future park plans are to conform to this Strategic Plan (and we are not so sure that conformity is a wise idea), then it is essential that the final plan elevate conservation and protection as cornerstones of the Strategic Plan.</p>

PRD Comments - Planning - Objective III - Strategy 3

Commenter

Comment

031 To meet the recreation demands of an increasing population, complete acquisitions on Afognak Island, Tachoyak State Park Tidelands, Wrangell Petrograph Parking Lot Access, Fort Abercrombie State Historic Park and land exchanges at the Independence Mine and Point Bridget State Park. We would like to add to this paragraph language which would allow the Thompson Pass/Keystone Canyon area to be designated as a State recreation area. Rationale: Discussion of the establishment of a Keystone Canyon/Thompson Pass State Recreation Area has now been going on the 40 years. It has been suggested in both the Prince William Sound Area Plan and Copper River Area Basin Plan for its scenic and recreation resources. Since 1990 these lands have seen dramatic increase in recreational use, both summer and winter. In 1986 the Land Plan aptly predicted: "Certain recreational activities (particularly winter recreation and off-road vehicle use) also need, or soon will need, more active management for public safety and for avoiding conflicts between users."

PRD Comments - Planning - Objective IV

Committer #	Comment
035	Order as listed.
091	Ensure all boards have up to date bylaws.

PRD Comments - Planning - Objective IV - Strategy 3

Commenter #

Comment

085	Change "has" to "have".
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