

Chapter 5: Areawide Management Direction and Guidelines

Land Use Designations

The lands within the park have been classified using land use designations to define their long-term management direction. The general intent for the establishment of these designations derives from the Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework. The Statewide Framework serves to standardize the language that addresses management and establishes a land use designation system for management and development of land and resources within all park units. Additionally, the park's enabling legislation provides management intent. It states: "The eastern area of the park shall be operated as a wilderness area, the central area as a scenic area, and the periphery areas as recreational areas". Three designations: Recreational Development, Natural and Wilderness, have been applied to lands within the park to meet this intent. The descriptive designations, purpose and possible activities within each designation area or zone are described below. Tables 5.1 through 5.5 provide specific guidance for activities and facilities within each of the land use designations and Figure 6 depicts the location of areas with these designations.

Recreation Development

Purpose & Characteristics

Recreation development zones are established to meet the more intensive recreational needs of the public by providing easy and well-defined access points into the park, and by developing appropriate facilities. The most intensive activities and developments are meant to occur in these zones, including, developed parking facilities and trailheads, vehicle and tent camping, developed picnic and group areas, toilet facilities, visitor and interpretive centers, high-standard trails for all ages and abilities, and park management facilities.

The landscape within these zones can be modified to support educational and recreational activities and/or enhance wildlife habitat and scenic qualities. These zones are established where soils, slope, drainage and vegetation can support commensurate or more intensive recreational activities. A recreational development designated area may already have been influenced by prior developments and usage and is intended to provide a transition area to absorb heavy human impacts.

Application

This designation typically applies to front country or periphery areas of the park and to areas along major roads and highways. In the Eklutna-Peters Creek Unit this designation applies to areas adjacent to the Knik Road, the western edges of the unit along Peters Creek and Chugiak and areas adjacent to the Eklutna Lake Road and the developed areas adjacent to Eklutna Lake. Within the Eagle River Unit recreation development has been applied to areas adjacent to the Eagle River Road along Eagle River from the campground to the Eagle River Nature Center and along the South Fork of Eagle River. The only area of recreation development land in the Ship Creek Unit coincides with the developments and land base associated with the Arctic Valley ski area and the Nike Site. The entire western edge of the Hillside Unit and areas associated with trailheads and residential development are designated recreation development. In the Turnagain Arm Unit the areas adjacent to the Seward Highway, Bird Regional Park, and portions of Indian are designated Recreation Development.

Natural

Purpose & Characteristics

Natural environment zones are established to provide for moderate-to-low impact and dispersed forms of recreation and to act as buffers between the recreation development areas and the wilderness areas. Natural environment zones may be relatively undeveloped and minimally disturbed, have high scenic qualities, and are intended to provide intrinsic natural outdoor setting for visitors to recreate. Developments are intended to provide for the safety of park visitors and to provide for a moderate level of convenience. Back country shelters, public use cabins, high standard trails and bridges are examples of suitable developments in this zone.

Application

This designation applies to large areas between the recreation development and wilderness zones in all of the units of the park. The Crow Pass Trail and a buffer of 75 feet on each side of the trail has also been designated natural because of the level of development and use it receives.

Wilderness

Purpose & Characteristics

Wilderness² zones are established to promote, perpetuate and, where necessary, restore the wilderness character of the land and its specific values of solitude, physical and mental challenge, scientific study, inspiration and primitive recreational opportunities. Wilderness

² “Wilderness” as it is used in this plan refers to a State Park administrative designation and has no relationship to federal lands designated “Wilderness” under the Wilderness Act or the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act (ANILCA) or any other type of federal wildland designation.

areas are of such size as to maintain the area's wilderness character, are tailored to protect the associated values and, if possible, are defined by watershed boundaries. They are characterized by natural landscape, its vegetation and its geologic forms. Resource modification can occur in this area to restore areas to a natural state. Natural processes will be allowed to operate freely to the extent that human safety and public and private property are protected.

Access to and within this designation, for other than management, research or emergency purposes, will be by foot or other non-motorized means except for aircraft and boats consistent with park regulations and tables 5.1 through 5.5, and circumstances specifically allowed by law. Aircraft landing may be allowed in certain areas or when authorized by the Director. In these areas no human-made improvements should be provided except for the most rudimentary trails, bridges and signing. Developments or other improvements will be undertaken only for the purpose of public safety or to minimize adverse impact on the area's resources. Activities which may threaten the character of the wilderness zone will be monitored and if need be, prohibited or restricted. Methods of restriction may include implementation of use permits, time and space allocation or use area rotation schemes.

Application

This designation applies to the more remote areas and the eastern-most portions of the park consistent with the park's enabling legislation. The designation also applies to the land that is adjacent to the military property in the Ship Creek Unit and portions of the Hillside Unit. The designation has also been used in areas of remote and steep terrain throughout all of the units.

Figure 6: Land Use Designations

Guidelines for Activities & Facilities Within Land-Use Designations In Chugach State Park

These are general guidelines to be used when evaluating permit applications or considering undertaking activities within the various park zones. The information below supplements the requirements in 11 AAC 18.010 – 18.040, and AS 41.21.027. The recommendations made below are done by subject matter and by land use designation. They are listed by use categories such as resource management, public uses, and commercial uses. In the case of conflict between these guidelines and the specific recommendations in this plan, the specific recommendations will prevail. In permitting some of the activities listed below, an additional process may be required as a result of the action. In cases where the activity permitted on a long term basis constitutes a conversion of use under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program, the park is required to go through a LWCF approved process to document and mitigate for the conversion prior to the conversion action. These cases should be very limited since the overall intent is to preserve the recreational value of park land, but at times, the benefit derived from permitting such an activity may outweigh the cost of the land conversion.

Resource Management

The following guidelines address resource management related activities and permitting. While the following guidelines apply, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation also recognizes the authority of the Board of Fisheries, Board of Game, and the Department of Fish and Game to regulate fish and game management. AS 41.21.122 further guides management responsibility within the park to park purposes for the duties of the Department of Fish and Game. For activities that the Department of Fish and Game may conduct within the park, a permit may not always be required, but the requirement remains to coordinate with and notify park staff to sort out potential disparate activities. Additional permits may be required from the Department of Fish and Game for some of the activities listed in the table below.

Table 5.1: Resource Management

| Activity/Facility | Recreation Development | Natural | Wilderness |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <p><u>Research, Monitoring and Management Studies.</u> Collection of data necessary for park management decisions or to further science. Priority will be given to studies that contribute to the use and management of native fish and wildlife populations and their habitats. Studies may be conducted by the Division or by other researchers under Division permit. A permit is required if natural objects will be disturbed, aircraft are involved or structures, temporary or semi-permanent, are required.</p> | <p>Will be encouraged when in accord with established principles and when consistent with the purposes of the park.</p> | <p>Same as Recreation Development</p> | <p>Same as Recreation Development</p> |
| <p><u>Ecological Monitoring.</u> Activities or studies that address how habitats are changing due to either natural or human causes.</p> | <p>Will be practiced as part of normal park operations in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies or organizations.</p> | <p>Same as Recreation Development</p> | <p>Same as Recreation Development</p> |
| <p><u>Fish and Wildlife Inventories.</u> Using acceptable inventory techniques to obtain information on species distribution, harvests, abundance, habitats, and population dynamics to meet park management objectives.</p> | <p>Compatible</p> | <p>Same as Recreation Development</p> | <p>Same as Recreation Development</p> |
| <p><u>Fish and Wildlife Introduction.</u> Introduction of non- indigenous or exotic species.</p> | <p>Not Compatible</p> | <p>Same as Recreation Development</p> | <p>Same as Recreation Development</p> |
| <p><u>Fisheries Enhancement.</u> Action taken to increase fishery stocks above historical levels, such as building hatcheries and fish passages, artificially incubating or stocking fish in streams, and fertilizing lakes.</p> | <p>By permit as specifically allowed by law.</p> | <p>Same as Recreation Development</p> | <p>Not Compatible</p> |
| <p><u>Fisheries Restoration.</u> Action taken to restore fish access to spawning and rearing habitat or actions taken to restore populations to historical levels. Includes fish ladders, fish passages, fish stocking and lake fertilization.</p> | <p>By permit as specifically allowed by law.</p> | <p>Same as Recreation Development</p> | <p>Same as Recreation Development</p> |

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| Activity/Facility | Recreation Development | Natural | Wilderness |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Wildlife Habitat Manipulation.</u> Modification of habitat to increase or decrease target wildlife populations. Includes both enhancement and restoration activities, such as prescribed burning and mechanical manipulation. | Compatible by permit in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game. | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Wildlife Restoration.</u> Used to re-establish native species within their original breeding range. | Compatible, after adequate research to insure there will be no detrimental impact on other resident species. | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Predator Control.</u> Relocation or removal of predators to favor other wildlife species or populations, and the protection of re-introduced species. | Not Compatible | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Vegetation Introduction.</u> Introduction of non-indigenous or exotic plants or trees. | Compatible only adjacent to developed facilities for species used in landscaping such as grass for lawns, historical landscaping or other similar plantings. | Not compatible | Not Compatible |
| <u>Pest and Disease Control.</u> The use of poisons or chemicals or other means to control or eradicate invasive or noxious weeds, insect pests and/or diseases to indigenous animals, plants, or forests. | Not Compatible, except to control species not indigenous to the area. | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Tree Felling and/or Timber Sales.</u> Actions taken to eradicate pests such as spruce bark beetle, remove fire hazards adjacent to developed areas, improve views from developed waysides, or for public safety. | Compatible as managed by DPOR. | Same as Recreation Development | Compatible for park management. |
| <u>Fire Suppression and Mitigation.</u> Actions taken to suppress wildfires and the potential for wildfire. | Compatible consistent with the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan and other interagency agreements. | Same as Recreation Development | Compatible, if in keeping with park purposes or to protect human safety. |
| <u>Waterbody Modification.</u> Changing a waterbody to alter or improve navigability. | Compatible by permit only to improve waterbody safety and accessibility. | Same as Recreation Development | Not Compatible |

| Activity/Facility | Recreation Development | Natural | Wilderness |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <p><u>Storm Water Drainage.</u> Causing the shedding of storm water in an unnatural way into the park as a result of development activities within or adjacent to the park.</p> | <p>Compatible by permit only if consistent with the Clean Water Act, Municipality of Anchorage storm water standard design criteria conditions, and in consultation with the DPOR Design and Construction section. Permits issued shall not consider costs as a factor if other alternatives exist.</p> | <p>Not Compatible</p> | <p>Not Compatible</p> |
| <p><u>Other Drainage or Discharge.</u> Allowing or causing drainage or discharge into the park associated with sewage, gray water, or other waste water/materials.</p> | <p>Not Compatible</p> | <p>Same as Recreation Development</p> | <p>Same as Recreation Development</p> |

Public Uses

Special park use permits are required for activities that are not compatible as defined by statute or regulation or which do not otherwise have lawful recreation as its primary purpose³. The following table guides park activities and permitting of public uses and activities. Administrative activities carried out by park management in support of daily park operations do not require a permit. The park may issue permits for activities not listed in the following table as a means of determining if a new type of activity will be compatible in an area in the long term or for future activities that could not be anticipated at the time of this planning effort. When issuing these types of permits, consideration will be given to the nature of each of the land use zones for determining the appropriateness of the activity in a given area.

Table 5.2: Public Uses

| Activity/Facility | Recreation Development | Natural | Wilderness |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>Walking, Skiing, Snowboarding, Snowshoeing, and Mountaineering.</u> | Compatible | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Motorized Boats.</u> Includes use of inboard and outboard motorized boats and jet boats on rivers and lakes. Does not include small boats with electric trolling motors. See below for personal watercraft, hovercraft, and airboat restrictions. This does not include the use of motorized boats by authorized personnel for emergency rescue. | Not allowed currently by regulation, but compatible by permit for park management purposes and research. | Same as Recreation Development | Not Compatible |
| <u>Airboats.</u> | Not Compatible | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Personal Watercraft (jet skis) and Hovercraft.</u> This does not include the use of personal watercraft by authorized personnel for emergency rescue. | Not Compatible | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Non-motorized Boating.</u> Includes canoes, rafts, rowboats, kayaks, pack rafts, sailboats, and sailboards. | Compatible | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |

³ Refer to 11 AAC 18.010 for a list of activities requiring a permit.

| Activity/Facility | Recreation Development | Natural | Wilderness |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Land-Based Motorized Vehicles.</u> Includes motorized devices for carrying persons or objects over land and includes automobiles and off-road vehicles. See other sections that address snowmobiles, aircraft, bicycles, and motorized boats. This does not include land-based motorized vehicle use by authorized personnel for emergency rescue. | Not Compatible off roads and parking areas except in areas described in regulation (see 11 AAC 20.015) or by permit in other areas for park management purposes, research, or in support of authorized or other permitted activities. | Same as Recreation Development | Not Compatible |
| <u>Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices.</u> Any mobility device powered by batteries, fuel, or other engines used by individuals for the purpose of locomotion including golf carts or electronic personal assistance mobility devices such as Segways. This does <u>not</u> include the use of power-driven wheelchairs for use by a mobility-impaired individual. | Compatible by permit for park management purposes, research, or in support of authorized or other permitted activities. | Not Compatible | Not Compatible |
| <u>Snowmobiles.</u> Open when the director finds that the snow depth is adequate to protect the underlying vegetation. (From 11 AAC 20.040) This does not include the use of snowmobiles by authorized personnel for emergency rescue. | Compatible in the areas described in regulation (From 11 AAC 20.040) and by permit in other areas for park management purposes, research, or in support of authorized or other permitted activities. | Same as Recreation Development | Compatible only by permit for park management purposes, research, or in support of authorized or other permitted activities. |
| <u>Bicycles.</u> | Compatible in the areas described in regulation (From 11 AAC 20.040) and by permit in other areas if in keeping with park purposes and after evaluating possible resource impacts. | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Fishing.</u> | Compatible, subject to state fishing regulations. | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Use of Weapons.</u> Includes a bow and arrow, slingshot, crossbow, or firearm (firearm definition includes air guns and paint guns). | Compatible as described in regulation (See 11 AAC 20.010) <u>only</u> for the purpose of lawful hunting or trapping. | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Hunting.</u> | Compatible, subject to state hunting regulations. | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |

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| Activity/Facility | Recreation Development | Natural | Wilderness |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <u>Trapping.</u> Trapping of fur-bearers for private or commercial use. | Compatible, subject to state trapping regulations. | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Gathering.</u> Gathering of berries, fruits, mushrooms, and similar edibles for personal consumption, but not for sale or distribution. The gathering of dead wood lying on the ground for lawful personal use in the park. (From 11 AAC 12.170) | Compatible as described in regulation or by permit in other situations if there is a park benefit. | Same as Recreation Development | Compatible as described in regulation. |
| <u>Motorized Equipment.</u> Includes all internal combustion equipment (i.e. chainsaws and generators). | Compatible | Same as Recreation Development | Compatible as managed by DPOR. |
| <u>Primitive Camping.</u> Camping in undeveloped areas without designated or improved sites. | Compatible as described in regulation (From 11 AAC 12.230 & 11 AAC 20.055) or by permit in other situations or areas for park management purposes, research, or in support of authorized or other permitted activities. | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Camping in Developed Campgrounds or Campsites.</u> In a developed campground, camping allowed only at developed campsite or in designated spaces. Camping limited to 15 days unless posted otherwise. (From 11 AAC 12.230) | Compatible. A permit is required for camping beyond 15 days under 11 AAC 18.010. | Not Applicable | Not Applicable |
| <u>Campfires.</u> Open fires are allowed on gravel bars below timberline in the following drainages: (1) Eklutna Valley; (2) Peters Creek; (3) Eagle River (excluding the south fork of Eagle River and Meadow Creek); and (4) Bird Creek. (From 11 AAC 20.035) | Compatible as described in regulation or by permit in other areas if associated with hunting, education, or training provided the fire danger is low, safe fire practices are used, and there is no resource damage. | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Rock Climbing.</u> Includes any type of climbing, with or without gear, on the rocky bluffs of the park. | Compatible, except the use of any permanent rock anchors is prohibited. | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Ice Climbing.</u> | Compatible | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |

| Activity/Facility | Recreation Development | Natural | Wilderness |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>Dog Sledding and Skijoring.</u> Use of dog teams and sleds or skis as a means of winter access and recreation. | Compatible | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Wildlife Observation.</u> Viewing wildlife and its habitat in natural conditions. Includes photography, bird watching, and educational, interpretive activities, and programs. | Compatible | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Recreational Gold Panning.</u> Use of simple, non-motorized tools for gold prospecting. | Compatible with the following stipulations: (1) no motorized equipment is used; (2) a person uses no more equipment than a gold pan and a shovel; (3) no chemicals are used; (4) anadromous fish streams are open to recreational gold panning between May 16 and July 14 annually; (5) no person may stake or file a mining claim or leasehold location in a state park; and (6) no person may extract or disturb natural material for the purposes of recreational gold panning above the ordinary high water line or where live vegetative matter exists. (From 11 AAC 20.045) | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Horses and Pack Animals.</u> Use of horses, mules, and burros for riding or packing supplies and gear. A group using 10 or more animals must obtain authorization from the Director before entering the state park; tethering horses, mules, or burros within 100 feet of fresh water is prohibited; and loose herding of animals is prohibited. (From 11 AAC 20.030(b)) | The use of horses, mules, and burros is allowed in Chugach State Park, except for areas described in regulation (See 11 AAC 20.030(a) & (c)) or by permit as described in regulation. The use of llamas as pack animals is compatible by permit. Because of concerns related to the transmission of diseases, the use of goats as pack animals is prohibited in the park. | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |

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| Activity/Facility | Recreation Development | Natural | Wilderness |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><u>Pets.</u> A person may have pets in the park consistent with regulation (See 11 AAC 12.130 and 11 AAC 20.060) provided any pet on the Albert Loop Trail, Rodak Nature Trail, the River Trail or the Iditarod Trail between the Eagle River Nature Center and the Four Corners Junction is on a leash not exceeding 9 ft in length and is under control by a person at all times. The restriction does not apply to a person engaged in skijoring or mushing sled dogs during the winter months if the pet is attached via a line and harness to the skier or sled and in control by a person at all times.</p> | Compatible | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <p><u>Fixed-Wings Landing.</u> Fixed-wing aircraft that provide access to the park. By regulation, aircraft are permitted to use Bold airstrip located at the inlet of Eklutna Lake, but practice landings are prohibited. (From 11 AAC 20.020) This does not include fixed-wing aircraft use by authorized personnel for emergency rescue.</p> | Compatible by permit for park management purposes and research. | Same as Recreation Development | Compatible only for glacier landings for park management and research that benefits the park. |
| <p><u>Helicopter Operations.</u> Landing and take-off of rotary-blade aircraft to provide access to the park if authorized by the Director. By regulation, aircraft are permitted to use Bold airstrip located at the inlet of Eklutna Lake, but practice landings are prohibited. (From 11 AAC 20.020) This does not include the use of rotary-blade aircraft by authorized personnel for emergency rescue.</p> | Compatible by permit for park management purposes and research. | Same as Recreation Development | Compatible by permit in support of park management activities or for research that benefits the park. |
| <p><u>Geo-caching.</u> The activity where participants use a Global Positioning System receiver or other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers or caches.</p> | Compatible by permit, but caches must be limited to micro-cache size. | Same as Recreation Development | Not Compatible |
| <p><u>Paragliding/Hang Gliding.</u></p> | Compatible | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |

Other Uses

Table 5.3: Other Uses

| Activity/Facility | Recreation Development | Natural | Wilderness |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Outdoor and/or Military Training, Drills or Exercises.</u> | Compatible by permit if consistent after considering the impacts on park resources and values, social impacts related to other visitors to the park, and administrative impacts including scheduling, workload, and staffing. | Same as Recreation Development | Compatible by permit if there is a park benefit or the level and type of use is consistent with the values of the area. |
| <u>Access to Inholdings or Adjacent Private Land.</u> | Compatible, provided the method of travel is consistent with regulation. If access is required by other means or causes disturbance to park features see provisions listed under the public use section of this matrix for permitting guidance. | Same as Recreation Development | Not Applicable |
| <u>Memorials.</u> The construction or erection of any type of permanent memorial, such as a plaque or monument. | Compatible by permit if it serves a recreational or historical purpose or under certain exceptions described in Division guidelines. | Same as Recreation Development | Not Compatible |
| <u>Trail Grooming.</u> The use of tools or equipment to enhance the snow surface. | Compatible, provided the group or entity grooming has an established agreement with the park. | Same as Recreation Development | Not Compatible |
| <u>Organized Events.</u> Any promotional or entertainment event, including an organized athletic event, competitive recreational event, or spectator event, or an organized or promoted assembly of more than 20 people (see 11 AAC 12.160). | Compatible by permit if consistent after considering the impacts on park resources and values, social impacts related to other visitors to the park, and administrative impacts including scheduling, workload, and staffing. | Same as Recreation Development | Compatible by permit if there is a park benefit or the level and type of use is consistent with the values of the area. |

Facilities

No person may construct or maintain structures in a state park unless authorized by the Director under 11 AAC 18.010.⁴ Special park use permits may not be required for park staff or other authorized personnel working on approved park projects though other types of permits may be required.

Table 5.4: Facilities

| Activity/Facility | Recreation Development | Natural | Wilderness |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Improved Campsites.</u> Permanent site clearings that may include tent platforms, hardened campsites, fire pits, shelters, picnic tables, sanitary facilities, and interpretive displays. | Compatible as developed and/or maintained by DPOR. | Same as Recreation Development | Compatible, if developed for public safety, resource protection, or to avoid conflicts with wildlife. |
| <u>Public Use Cabins, Yurts, and Shelters.</u> Small, permanent or temporary structures available for use by the general public. Typically these are available on a reservation system. | Compatible as developed and maintained or concessioned by DPOR. Public use cabins are not compatible in alpine vegetated areas. | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Visitor Information Facilities and Signage.</u> Structures where the public can learn about and obtain information on the park, its resources, recreation opportunities, advisories and regulations. | Compatible as developed and/or maintained by DPOR. | Same as Recreation Development | Not Compatible, except for directional or informational signs. |
| <u>Trails.</u> Designated, maintained trails described in the park’s trail management plan including foot, motorized, equestrian, bike and other multipurpose trails. | Compatible as developed and/or maintained by DPOR. See the Chugach State Park Trail Management Plan for more detailed guidance. | Same as Recreation Development | Compatible as developed by DPOR except for motorized trails. |
| <u>Boat Launch Sites.</u> Designated access sites where boats may be put into lakes and rivers. | Compatible | Same as Recreation Development | Compatible only for non-motorized boat access on park lakes and rivers. |
| <u>Gates and Traffic Control Devices.</u> Placements to control or limit certain means of access on park lands. | Compatible as developed and maintained by DPOR. A permit is required for private entities that may want to place a gate on park land. | Same as Recreation Development | Not Compatible |

4 From 11 AAC 12.140

| Activity/Facility | Recreation Development | Natural | Wilderness |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| <u>Landscape Barriers.</u> Includes large rocks, vegetation, earth berms and depressions. | Compatible as managed by DPOR or by permit for private entities on park land only if there is a park benefit. | Same as Recreation Development | Not Compatible |
| <u>Roads and Driveways.</u> Corridors that provide access to private land. May include cleared areas, gravel or asphalt roads, pullouts, or driveways. This does not include roads developed or maintained by DPOR for recreation purposes or existing roads or ROWs maintained by ADOT/PF within the park. | Compatible by permit for private entities on park land only if it is in the public interest and will not unduly affect park resources. (See AS 41.21.024) Permittees may be subject to LWCF conversion of use requirements and fees. | Same as Recreation Development | Not Compatible |
| <u>Alternative Power Development.</u> Includes wind, solar, geothermal, tidal, and hydroelectric power development for noncommercial purposes (personal/community) including a dam, impoundment area, powerhouse, tower, panel, and other forms of associated facilities. | Compatible by permit if there is a park benefit and if it does not constitute an exclusive use of the public domain land and water. | Same as Recreation Development | Not Compatible |

Commercial Uses

Park regulations 11 AAC 12.300 and 11 AAC 21.100 prohibit commercial activities, defined in 11 AAC 12.340(19), within State Park Units unless permitted under 11 AAC 18.030, 11 AAC 18.040, AS 41.21.027 or other legal means. Prior to issuing these permits, a determination must be made that the park facilities and natural and cultural resources will not be adversely affected; the park is protected from pollution; public use values will be maintained and protected; public safety, health and welfare will not be adversely affected; the activity is consistent with planning efforts affecting the park, including the Alaska Coastal Management Program, and adopted park and local plans; and the activity will not result in an exclusive use of park land and water meaning that it will neither exclude other commercial operators by virtue of location, timing, or type of service permitted, nor will it exclude the public by long-term occupation of the park land and water. There are a number of commercial operators using Chugach State Park offering services such as guided hikes, hunting guides, and ATV tours that are permitted as commercial operators. A commercial permit requires operators to carry liability insurance, possess appropriate professional licenses and certificates, and provide basic equipment.

In general, State Parks does not permit activities that compete with commercial outlets outside of the park and does not allow temporary structures without strict control and bonding to assure removal. These activities usually must be limited in number and location and therefore can only be permitted through competitive process under 11 AAC 18.040. Staff or cooperating organizations may sell educational and informational materials and firewood per AS 41.21.026.

Table 5.5: Commercial Uses

| Activity/Facility | Recreation Development | Natural | Wilderness |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <u>Commercial Lodges or Resorts</u> . Privately-owned and operated facilities on park lands. | Allowed only under concession contract and when compatible with park purposes, when consistent with a management plan, when enhancing public use and enjoyment of the park, and when a similar experience cannot be provided outside the park. | Not Compatible | Not Compatible |

| Activity/Facility | Recreation Development | Natural | Wilderness |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Commercial Power Development.</u> Includes wind, solar, tidal, geothermal, and hydroelectric power development for commercial purposes and any associated support facilities including a dam, impoundment area, powerhouse, tower, panels, and other forms of associated facilities. | Compatible by permit subject to state and federal regulations and in coordination with DPOR. | Same as Recreation Development. | Not Compatible |
| <u>Guiding and Outfitting.</u> Licensed big game hunting, fishing, mountaineering, water sports, and backcountry guiding, outfitting, and all other commercial operations providing services to park users for compensation. | Compatible only by permit or concession contract issued by DPOR. | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Grazing.</u> Grazing or loose herding of domestic or wild animals for personal or commercial purposes. (From 11 AAC 20.030) | Not Compatible | Same as Recreation Development | Same as Recreation Development |
| <u>Resource Extraction.</u> Extraction for commercial use. Removal of timber, gravel, rock, sand, minerals, plants, or other park resources. | Compatible as managed by DPOR for projects that benefit park purposes. | Not Compatible | Not Compatible |
| <u>Resource Extraction by State Parks.</u> Removal of timber, gravel, rock, sand, plants, or other park resources for use by State Parks in the park. | Compatible | Compatible | Compatible, provided it directly supports park purposes. |
| <u>Utilities, Transmission Lines, and Pipelines.</u> Includes telephone and electrical power lines, oil and gas pipelines, water utility structures, communication and wind generation towers and other associated or similar facilities. | Allowed by permit only when no viable alternative exists. Tower heights limited to 85 feet and the amount of towers should be restricted to a minimum. Use best practices to minimize impacts to the viewshed, especially in areas with high public use and within scenic viewsheds. Reasonable stipulations for removal of obsolete facility should be applied. | Same as Recreation Development | Not Compatible |

Watershed Management

One of the reasons for establishing Chugach State Park was to protect and provide a satisfactory water supply for the use of the people of the State of Alaska. Most of the Municipality of Anchorage is supplied water by the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU), a department of the Municipality of Anchorage. In May of 2001, AWWU entered into a Cooperative Agreement with Chugach State Park to facilitate management and protection of the important watersheds within the park. Any planning or other activities that could affect park watersheds will be conducted in accordance with this agreement. The agreement includes the following provisions:

PARKS/DNR WILL:

- Under the authority AS 41.21.121, manage Ship Creek and Eklutna Lake Valley watersheds with watershed protection as the highest land and water resource management goal.
- Monitor all public use in both watersheds to identify and correct problems that could lead to a lowering of water quality.
- Use Best Management Practices in the construction, operation and maintenance of trails and other recreational facilities to avoid or minimize contamination of the public water supply.
- Support, to the extent possible, activities of AWWU staff who are in the park to monitor water quality in the two watersheds.
- Consult with AWWU staff prior to authorizing or conducting any significant land use activities in the two watersheds.
- Notify AWWU and ADEC of any fuel spills or other contaminants on parklands in the watersheds.
- Prepare, in consultation with AWWU, a spill response plan for the Eklutna Lake and Ship Creek Watersheds.

AWWU WILL:

- Monitor water quality at the Eklutna and Ship Creek Water Treatment Plants and, if necessary, in the two watersheds.
- Assist and train park staff in techniques for monitoring water quality.
- Advise park staff on Best Management Practices for managing land use activities in domestic watersheds.
- Consult with park staff about land use issues as they relate to water quality concerns.
- Assist park staff in developing a spill response plan for the Eklutna Lake and Ship Creek Watersheds.

Vegetation Management

Clearing and Thinning

Clearing or selective thinning and pruning may be done in association with forest management activities, trail and facility development, to remove hazard trees adjacent to developed areas, for wildfire mitigation, or to improve or maintain views in keeping with park purposes and as guided by the park land use designations. Additionally, clearing and thinning may be needed in areas to take advantage of sunny or breezy areas and to enhance open field activities. Clearing needed as a result of trail building will conform to the trail class and design parameter specifications assigned to a particular trail. See the Chugach State Park Trail Management Plan for additional information and guidance.

Re-Vegetation

Re-vegetating disturbed areas may be required as a result of trail building, rerouting, or upgrading, or as a result of other facility construction and development activities within the park to help stabilize slopes and provide screening. Native and/or self-sustaining plant materials shall be used for re-vegetation and efforts should be made to create the diversity of native tree and plant species similar to that existing at the site prior to clearing or other disturbance activities. Mulch is an acceptable alternative to seeding, but re-vegetation is preferable. Where possible, construction techniques that preserve vegetation or minimize visual intrusion shall be used. Plants that are removed as a result of construction activities should be used in other park locations where re-vegetation may be needed. The Revegetation Manual for Alaska⁵ should be consulted for additional guidance.

Invasive & Noxious Plants

Invasive or noxious weeds are a growing problem in Chugach State Park and throughout the State. Reasonable measures shall be taken to prevent the introduction of these species in the park. Invasive species are introduced in a variety of ways including on vehicles, shoes, gravel, topsoil, and pets. Efforts should be made to monitor invasive and noxious species throughout the park, but those areas that are more susceptible than others shall be made a priority. These include trailheads, wetland systems within the park or that drain into the park from adjacent neighborhoods, and areas of disturbed soils such as along trails or roadsides. Early detection and rapid response is the ideal way to manage invasive species in an area before they become problematic. The park shall manage these species consistent with the Division of Agriculture's policies for invasive weeds and agricultural pest management and prevention⁶ and other applicable state guidelines.

5 Available on the DNR, Division of Agriculture website.

6 Consult the DNR, Division of Agriculture website for more specific information.

Fish and Wildlife Management

Coordination with the Department of Fish & Game

AS 41.21.122 states that the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) shall cooperate with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the purposes described in AS 41.21.121 relevant to the duties of ADF&G. This restriction insures that ADF&G management of fish and game resources within the legislatively designated boundary is consistent with park purposes. While DNR recognizes the authority of ADF&G over fish and game resources, it is important that the agencies closely coordinate their management efforts to maximize efficiencies, protect park resources and public safety. In 2000, ADF&G entered into a Memorandum of Understanding regarding a comprehensive wildlife management plan for Anchorage with DNR and other local agencies in an effort to maintain and enhance the benefits of wildlife and fish resources in the Municipality of Anchorage while seeking to reduce human-wildlife conflicts. Consult the [Living with Wildlife in Anchorage: A Cooperative Planning Effort](#)⁷ for additional guidance.

Hunting and trapping inside the park is controlled by fish and game regulations that restrict areas and dates, and establish method and means to conserve wildlife resources as well as protect visitors and landowners. There are five special management areas⁸ within game management unit 14C that affect the park, each with varying regulations governing take, method and means, which can be the source of some confusion. Park staff should work with ADF&G to provide better information to those interested in hunting or trapping in the park including the development of fact sheets, enhanced maps, and other ways of communicating season, bag limits, and permit or notification requirements to users.

Wildlife Viewing Areas

Park purposes mandate that areas of the park be set aside for the “public display of local wildlife”. There are many additional areas within the park that would be suitable for wildlife viewing enhancements in addition to existing viewing platforms. Additional areas in the Eagle River, Hillside, and Turnagain Arm units are particularly desirable for the establishment of enhancements that would facilitate wildlife viewing, because of the frequency and proximity of wildlife such as bears, sheep, and moose. The Division shall continue to work with ADF&G and the Board of Game to establish management practices that may lead to enhanced wildlife viewing. This may include partial closures and/or limited takes in designated areas. Efforts will be made to facilitate the viewing of wildlife in its natural habitat without significant impacts to the wildlife or hazard to the viewers.

⁷ Available on the ADF&G website.

⁸ See Appendix E for a map that depicts the park units and how they coincide with the special management units.

Wildlife-Human Conflicts

Chugach State Park's close proximity to the major population center of Anchorage presents unique management challenges. The park is popular with recreationalists because of the diversity of opportunities available, but it also provides habitat to a variety of fish and wildlife species. Negative wildlife-human interactions, while rare within the park, are an inherent risk visitors must be aware of and educated about. Temporary closures, signage, and other measures may be employed as needed to help protect public safety during certain times or in areas that are prone to increased wildlife activities that could lead to negative interactions with humans.

The Anchorage Bear Committee (ABC) was established by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in 2001 to minimize conflicts between humans and bears in the Municipality of Anchorage. Member agencies include the ADF&G, Municipality of Anchorage parks, planning and police departments, Fort Richardson, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska State Troopers, Chugach State Park, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Alaska Waste. The group meets to discuss bear-human incidents and methods to avoid or minimize adverse encounters through information, education, solid waste storage, regulation, enforcement, or land use policies. Park managers shall continue to participate on the ABC to maintain coordination and consistency on bear-human issues.

Trail Management

See the Chugach State Park Trail Management Plan, a companion plan to this overall park management plan, for specific trail management guidance and sustainability standards.

Infrastructure Development and Management

Coordination with Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Per AS 41.21.122 the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT/PF) is responsible for the repair and maintenance of all existing public roads within the park while the park controls highway access and roadside structures within the park. This assignment of management responsibility is intended to provide for road safety, access, recreation and scenic viewing. There are various levels of coordination between the agencies ranging from day-to-day operational needs done at the field level to larger project level planning done at the Division level. Through cooperation each agency is able to be efficient in providing

service in their area of expertise. Additionally, the park has agreements with ADOT/PF for planning, managing, and maintaining the Seward Highway. Similar agreements may be needed in the future to further define agencies roles for other roads that traverse park land.

Park Facility Development

In 2007 the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation produced a Ten-Year Strategic Plan that provides the Division a tool to help improve policy analysis and priority setting. The Strategic Plan provides overall direction to the Division and clear purpose and guidance through identification of core values. One of the Division responsibilities lies in reducing the deferred maintenance back log and developing a means to achieve sustainability in both funding and facilities. The Division has a responsibility to Alaskans as well as the recreating public to provide facilities that are well maintained, safe, and sustainable so as to maximize their usable life.

This management plan applies sustainable development principals to lower long-term maintenance and operating costs and improve the overall experience of visitors. Recreation areas and important environmental features and processes shall be identified and considered in planning park facilities. New facilities shall be developed to not only to be sustainable and fit park needs but also to be in keeping with the character and purpose of the site. Responsible development will include stressing the need to reuse or repurpose waste materials as opposed to disposing of waste off site. Larger projects shall adequately consider and plan for future material needs to help minimize future permitting and reduce overall costs. Site reclamation will also be done in a manner that is in keeping with the park's character and enhances the microclimates of the surrounding area to provide a variety of plant communities for the area being reclaimed.

The Division will seek opportunities to coordinate with neighboring landowners to link open spaces and take into account joint management objectives where feasible and appropriate. State-owned or managed lands should be considered first for new facility development to minimize the need for establishing new management agreements with other entities. This plan also recommends replacing or removing facilities that are not sustainable if suitable repairs cannot be made. Deferred maintenance facility replacement can occur at a different location than where a facility was originally sited if it better fits an operational need, is more efficient, or takes advantage of existing infrastructure. Staff will regularly evaluate facilities, their condition, and need for replacement or removal. Ultimately the goal is to have a network of sustainable park facilities that serve the needs of the public and are easily maintained.

Private Development Proposals

Development proposals for private lands in or near the park should be reviewed to insure compatibility of proposed land uses with the statutory purposes of the park and other legal mandates. Since Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies have been spent in Chugach State Park (as a designated project area), proposals involving prospective land trades, rights-of-way applications or other conversion of land use must be consistent with the purposes of Chugach State Park and the terms of the LWCF program.

Utilities

Because of the growing use of various areas of the park where above-ground utilities are present, public objection has been expressed concerning the obtrusiveness of utility poles, towers, wire, and pipe. The Division of Parks should work with the appropriate utility owner to reduce or eliminate objectionable aspects of the utility. Appropriate measures include burying utilities, re-vegetating, rerouting, removing unneeded utilities, or otherwise screening or disguising a utility line so as to reduce the visual impact of its presence. These same considerations should be taken into account wherever new utilities are contemplated not only for aesthetic purposes but also to maintain compliance with LWCF grant program provisions.

Proposed Park Additions, Land Acquisitions, and Boundary Adjustments

Over the years park management has been in the position to acquire land or interests in land resulting from a gift or donation, exchange, or purchase. Acquisitions and adjustments will continue to be important options to aid in park management and to enhance recreation. All acquisitions will be considered on a case-by-case basis in order to enhance or protect public access, viewsheds, forest communities, wildlife corridors, and to secure inholdings. A priority shall be placed on acquiring land that will help connect neighborhoods to the park and enhance access. The land should complement the park and be managed consistent with the purposes described in the park's enabling legislation.

Land should not be accepted with restrictions, requirements, covenants, or conditions that create a fragmented management pattern or conflict with park purposes. A detailed understanding of the reservations, conditions, and easements encumbering the property shall be gained and documented prior to accepting land to ensure compliance with the terms of the LWCF program and for future research purposes. Consideration should be given to land acquisition proposals to assure that adequate resources are available or will be available to manage new land so as not to unduly burden the park or detract from the ability to manage other park lands.

Some boundary adjustments are also recommended to ease day-to-day administrative problems and to expand the recreational opportunity offered by the park. Below you will find a listing of the current priority land acquisitions, additions, and boundary adjustment recommendations. There may be additional needs identified in the future that are not specifically recognized below. For more detailed information and guidance related to access reference the Chugach Access Plan. Any additional modifications should follow the consideration criteria listed above.

| Proposal | Management Objective | Justification |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Boundary Adjustment Package (See Appendix C for a description of these lands.) | Seek to include past boundary modifications and correct errors and/or typos in the legal description portion of AS 41.21.121 through legislation. | This would correct discrepancies and protect land that was originally intended to be included in the park. |
| Park Additions Package (See Figure 1) | Work with the legislature to adjust the park boundary to include parcels of land that have been acquired over the years but lie outside of the legislatively designated boundary. | Some parcels acquired over the years are outside of the legislatively designated boundary and as a result have been administratively designated and managed by the park under interagency land management agreement. These areas were acquired for park purposes and should be officially incorporated into the boundary to clarify jurisdictional concerns. |
| Peters Creek Access (See the Chugach Access Plan for recommendations and location information.) | Acquire either the 40 acre private parcel surrounded on three sides by Chugach State Park or an easement across the parcel leading to the park boundary to secure access to the Peters Creek Valley. | This trailhead is increasing in popularity and the parking and access is not adequate to serve current needs. To improve access and decrease neighborhood impacts, this action would provide the land needed to establish a vehicular trailhead and/or a road into the park where a trailhead can be developed. |
| Mt. Baldy (See the Chugach Access Plan for recommendations and location information) | Acquire land from the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) or obtain a management agreement for the site that provides access to Mt. Baldy and other areas within the park. | This site was purchased by the MOA recently to provide legal parking and access to Mt. Baldy and Chugach State Park. The park is probably best suited to manage and enhance this type of facility. |

| Proposal | Management Objective | Justification |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lions Club Community Park (See Figure 1 for location) | Exchange these lands with the MOA or other entity that is better suited to support the types of recreational facilities present at this site. | This park is part of Chugach State Park and is managed by the Lions Club under a permit issued by the State prior to the formation of Chugach State Park. Another entity is probably best suited to support the type of recreation that exists at this site. |
| Ram Valley (See the Chugach Access Plan for recommendations and location information.) | Acquire land near the Ram Valley area that would be suitable for the development of a trailhead with parking and reasonable trail access to the valley. | This area has consistently been identified by the public as a priority for securing access. Ram Valley is very scenic and offers a variety of recreational opportunities. Development has blocked many traditionally used ways of accessing the valley. |
| Harp Mountain (See the Chugach Access Plan for recommendations and location information.) | Acquire land in this area suitable to provide parking and a trail easement that provides access to the park. | This site offers a variety of recreational opportunities and would provide additional access to destinations in the South Fork of Eagle River. |
| Campbell Canyon/Near Point Access (See the Chugach Access Plan for recommendations and location information.) | Acquire lands recently purchased by The Conservation Fund within the legislatively designated boundary of the park to expand and enhance access in the area. | These lands would provide additional vehicular access to the park, particularly for East Anchorage residents that currently have few legal options to do so. The site provides access to Near Point and the North Fork of Campbell Creek. |
| McHugh Peak- Upper Potter Creek Valley (See the Chugach Access Plan for recommendations and location information.) | Acquire land in the Upper Potter Creek Valley south of the Northwest Rib of McHugh Peak suitable for the development of a large regional trailhead. | There is currently no secured access to this underserved portion of the park that has been traditionally used to access the McHugh Peak Complex for a wide variety of recreational activities. |
| Bird Creek Regional Park (See Figure 1 for location.) | Acquire 2,200 acres of land owned by the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) along the valley floor of Bird Creek and part of Penguin Creek. | The park already manages this land under a cooperative agreement with the MOA. Bird Regional Park is difficult for the MOA to manage since it lies outside of its park and recreation boundary jurisdiction. |

Management Agreements

Cooperative agreements provide a common framework that encourages land management and regulatory agencies to inform others of their activities and avoid incompatible or duplicative efforts. Management agreements should be maintained and/or established between State Parks and the large land owners in the vicinity of the park including the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC), the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), the DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW), Eklutna Inc., the Military, and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT/PF).

All written cooperative agreements, memorandums of understanding, management agreements, joint use agreements, or agreements with private landowners, interest groups, individuals, state agencies, local government, or federal agencies should be reviewed and signed by the Director or as otherwise directed by Division policy. Agreements with federal and local agencies may require the review and signature of the Commissioner. Some agreements may require annual approval of work plans. The work plans may be approved by the park Superintendent.

| Existing Management Agreements | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Agreement Type | Area | Agencies | Management Objective/Purpose |
| Interagency Land Management Agreement (ILMA) | Rainbow Valley | DPOR DMLW | Site managed as part of Chugach State Park (CSP) by the DPOR through an agreement with the DMLW. <i>ADL 221474, ADL 221476</i> |
| ILMA | Potter Valley | DPOR DMLW | Site managed as part of CSP by the DPOR through an agreement with the DMLW. <i>ADL 221475, ADL 221477</i> |
| ILMA | Rabbit Valley | DPOR DMLW | Site managed as part of CSP by the DPOR through an agreement with the DMLW. <i>ADL 200623, ADL 230077, ADL 230078, ADL 230079</i> |
| ILMA | South Eagle River Falls & Easement | DPOR DMLW | Site managed as part of CSP by the DPOR through an agreement with the DMLW. <i>ADL 225522</i> |
| ILMA | Eklutna Lake Withdrawal Area | DPOR DMLW | Site managed as part of CSP by the DPOR through an agreement with the DMLW. <i>ADL 224037</i> |
| ILMA | California Creek Trailhead | DPOR DMLW | Site managed as part of CSP by the DPOR through an agreement with the DMLW. <i>ADL 203859</i> |
| ILMA | Upper McHugh Creek | DPOR DMLW | Site managed as part of CSP by the DPOR through an agreement with the DMLW. <i>ADL 225945</i> |

| Existing Management Agreements | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Agreement Type | Area | Agencies | Management Objective/Purpose |
| Memorandum of Understanding | Potter Section House | DPOR ARRC MOA Historic Land Marks Preservation Commission | DPOR accepts ownership of the Potter Section House and agrees to maintain the house in accordance with the recommended procedures in <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects with Guidelines for Applying the Standards</i> . |
| Land Lease | Potter Section House Historical Site | DPOR ARRC | Site leased to the DPOR for public parking area and visitor facilities, historical interpretive kiosk panels and display rail cars within railroad ROW. <i>ARRC Contract No. 5775</i> |
| Land Use Permit | Indian Trailhead & Community Ballfield | DPOR ARRC | Permit issued to the DPOR to utilize and maintain site and construct and reconstruct park facilities within railroad ROW in vicinity of ARRC MP 88. <i>ARRC Contract No. 6856</i> |
| Land Use Permit | Bird Point to Girdwood Bike Pathway | DPOR ARRC | Permit issued to the DPOR to construct, reconstruct, operate and maintain recreational pathway and park facilities along pathway within railroad ROW between ARRC MP 74.5 – 82. <i>ARRC Contract No. 7493</i> |
| Land Use Permit | Bird Creek Parking, Scenic Overlook & Pedestrian Access | DPOR ARRC | Permit issued to the DPOR to operate and maintain site and construct and reconstruct park facilities within railroad ROW in vicinity of ARRC MP 86.6. <i>ARRC Contract No. 6856, Supplement No. 1 & Supplement No. 2</i> |
| Maintenance Certification | Bird Creek Scenic Overlook & Pedestrian Access | DPOR ADOT/PF | DPOR agrees to perform all maintenance and management of site and park facilities within transportation ROW. <i>ADOT Project No. SB-AK-93-01/50940</i> |
| Maintenance Certification | Bird Point to Girdwood Bike Pathway | DPOR ADOT/PF | DPOR agrees to perform management and maintenance of recreational pathway and park facilities along pathway within transportation ROW between MP 90 – 96. <i>ADOT Project No. TEA-0A3-1(23)/52497</i> |
| Maintenance Agreement | Bird Creek Campground | DPOR ADOT/PF | DPOR agrees to maintain and operate federally funded park amenities and facility improvements consistent with applicable portions of 23 CFR 1.27 and AHMOM. |
| Memorandum of Agreement | Little Penguin Creek Rest Stop, Seward Highway | DPOR ADOT/PF | DPOR accepts management of site and related park facilities within transportation ROW. <i>ADOT Project No. 54433</i> |

| Existing Management Agreements | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Agreement Type | Area | Agencies | Management Objective/Purpose |
| Memorandum of Understanding | Seward Highway Easement and Recreational Facilities, Potter Marsh to Girdwood | DPOR ADOT/PF | Fix location of transportation ROW through CSP and encourage cooperation in planning, design, construction, maintenance and operation of facilities along transportation ROW between agencies. |
| Memorandum of Agreement | Seward Highway Corridor, Potter Station to Girdwood | DPOR ARRC ADOT/PF | Foster cooperation between agencies for the multi-phased highway improvement project and in the overall planning, development, operation and maintenance of the Seward Highway and railroad corridors within and adjoining CSP in a manner compatible with the scenic and recreational values of the corridor. ADOT/PF agrees to construct and maintain pullouts such as snow removal, maintenance of asphalt surface and other facilities installed by them such as guardrails, culverts. |
| Management Agreement | Bird Creek Regional Park | DPOR MOA | Interim management authority delegated to DPOR to manage, as part of CSP, lands in Bird Creek owned by the municipality. 079855 |
| Land Lease | Ptarmigan Valley Trailhead | DPOR MOA HLB | Site leased to the DPOR for public parking facilities and a trailhead to access the park. Site to be managed as part of CSP. LSH 417 & HLB LT 289 |
| Cooperative Recreation Management Agreement | Federal Land within CSP | DPOR BLM | Interim management authority granted to DPOR for the purpose of managing public recreation on BLM lands within designated confines of CSP as contained in Alaska Statute. |
| North Anchorage Land Agreement | Eklutna Inc. Land within CSP | DNR MOA Eklutna Inc. | DPOR receives management authority, in perpetuity, for approximately 27,000 acres of Eklutna Inc. lands within CSP. Lands to be managed as part of CSP. |
| Cooperative Agreement | Ship Creek & Eklutna Valleys Watershed | DPOR AWWU | Agencies cooperatively manage and protect CSP watersheds to insure the continued production of a safe and clean public water supply. |

| Existing Management Agreements | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Agreement Type | Area | Agencies | Management Objective/Purpose |
| Memorandum of Understanding | Wildlife Management in the Municipality of Anchorage | DPOR ADF&G MOA USFW BLM USFS US Air Force US Army | Agencies recognize the cooperative planning effort which resulted in a comprehensive plan for managing wildlife in Anchorage, accept the overall purpose of the comprehensive wildlife plan to minimize human-wildlife conflicts and maintain and enhance the benefits of wildlife in Anchorage, and affirm intent to implement actions recommended in the plan to the greatest extent possible. |
| Memorandum of Understanding | Eagle River and Anchorage Shop & Warehouse Facilities | DPOR DCRA | Agencies jointly use and maintain warehouse facilities and yard in Eagle River and Anchorage. |
| Memorandum of Understanding | Search & Rescue Efforts in CSP | DPOR AST | Mutual aid for rescues and emergencies. DPOR agrees to respond to, coordinate, and maintain operational control for SAR missions within CSP. |
| Conservation Easement | Moon Homestead, South Fork Eagle River Valley | DPOR The Great Land Trust | Conservation easement within CSP boundary assigned to the DPOR. |
| Conservation Easement | South Fork Eagle River- Carroll | DPOR The Nature Conservancy | Conservation easement within CSP boundary assigned to the DPOR. <i>LSH 380</i> |
| Conservation Easement | South Fork Eagle River- Delin | DPOR The Nature Conservancy | Conservation easement within CSP boundary assigned to the DPOR. <i>LSH 356</i> |
| Conservation Easement | South Fork Eagle River- Martin | DPOR The Nature Conservancy | Conservation easement within CSP boundary assigned to the DPOR. <i>LSH 357</i> |

| Recommendations for New Management Agreements | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Proposal | Management Objectives | Justification |
| <u>Management Agreement.</u> Establish a management agreement between DPOR and the MOA HLB for the maintenance and management of the segment of the Bird to Gird National Trail located outside the park boundary on MOA land in Bird Creek (S010N001W, Sec 15). | This would consolidate management of the highly used recreational facility under one agency and provide management efficiencies. | DPOR is best suited to manage this segment of the recreational trail in conjunction with the remainder of the trail currently under DPOR management. |
| <u>Management Agreement.</u> Establish a management agreement between DPOR and the MOA HLB for the maintenance and management of the segment of the Ptarmigan Valley Trail located outside of the lease area and outside the park boundary on MOA land in Chugiak (S015N001W, Sec 16). | This would consolidate management of the recreational trail under one agency and provide management efficiencies. | DPOR is best suited to manage this segment of the recreational trail in conjunction with the remainder of the trail currently under DPOR management. |
| <u>Management Agreement.</u> Establish a management agreement between DPOR and the BLM for the maintenance and management of the segment of the Thunder Bird Falls Trail located outside the park boundary in Eklutna (S016N001W, Sec 25). | This would make management responsibilities and jurisdiction clearer to all parties and consolidate management of the recreational facility under one agency to provide management efficiencies. | DPOR is best suited to manage this segment of the recreational trail in conjunction with the remainder of the trail currently under DPOR management. |
| <u>Park Lands ILMA.</u> Dissolve the existing agreement between DPOR and the DMLW for the trailhead at California Creek (S010N002E, Sec 8). | This parcel lies outside of the legislatively designated boundary and is detached from park land by MOA HLB land. This would promote orderly development and management of recreational facilities in the area. | Other entities in the community, such as the Girdwood Board of Supervisors, may be better suited to manage and maintain a trailhead in this area in conjunction with existing and proposed recreational facilities. |
| <u>Management Agreement.</u> Establish a management agreement between DPOR and the MOA for the management of the Mt. Baldy Trailhead and trail segment located on MOA land within the park boundary in Eagle River (S014N001W, Sec 5 & 6). | This would promote orderly development of the site and associated facilities and would consolidate management of the highly used recreational area under one agency to provide management efficiencies. | This would use DPOR expertise and resources to improve and maintain the facilities and to manage the site as part of the surrounding CSP if a land exchange for the area is delayed or not successful. |
| <u>Park Lands ILMA.</u> Develop an ILMA between DPOR and the DMLW for management of parcels of state land in S011N002W, Sec 28 & 33. | This would consolidate management of state land surrounded by park land under one agency and provide management efficiencies. | DPOR is best suited to administer and facilitate the recreational opportunities of these inholdings located within the park boundary. |

| Recommendations for New Management Agreements | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Proposal | Management Objectives | Justification |
| <u>Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).</u> Amend the MOU between DPOR and ADOT/PF for clarity on maintenance responsibility of the pullouts within the Seward Highway ROW. | This would provide management clarity and efficiency for both agencies. | The MOU was drafted prior to some of the major Seward Highway upgrades and lacks clarity as to the extent of the maintenance responsibilities for either party. |
| <u>Cooperative Agreement.</u> Establish a long-term agreement between DPOR and ADOT/PF concerning management and maintenance of improvements and pullouts affected by future realignment/relocation of the portions of the Seward Highway through CSP. | Develop efficiencies between DPOR and ADOT/PF efforts. | As upgrades to the highway corridor continue, it will be necessary to establish an agreement that addresses the entirety of the corridor within the park to assure a more holistic management approach and outline clear responsibilities between the agencies. |
| <u>Cooperative Agreement.</u> Develop a cooperative agreement between DPOR and ADF&G for better coordination of hunter education regarding requirements for use of state park lands. | This would help prevent misunderstanding of park regulations and user conflicts. | The current hunting and trapping regulations within the park can be confusing because of the number of special management areas and differing regulations depending on where you are in the park. |

Management and Staffing Efficiencies

Adequate staffing is required to ensure public safety, protection of natural and cultural resources, provide information to the public, operate and maintain the park facilities, and supervise contracted and volunteer help. The information provided below begins to address the needs and functions that are currently either partially covered by current staff or not being done at all. If the positions identified below prove difficult to establish, a staffing analysis should be conducted to determine how these functions can be covered in other ways. There needs to be the recognition that partially establishing these position will also result in the need to redistribute duties and responsibilities.

| Proposal | Management Objectives | Justification |
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| <p><u>Staffing Needs.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several field Rangers to allow better coverage of the park units • Two front country technician positions to help collect fees and address trailhead issues • Technician positions for a trail crew instead of using Alaska Conservation Corps (ACC) • A volunteer coordinator and supervisor • A public outreach position to provide more interpretation and guidance • Visitor center staff to provide public information if a new visitor contact facility is established or at the headquarters office • A land/realty specialist to address land records research & requests | <p>Provide an increased management presence to improve public safety and resource protection. Provide better public services including improved maintenance and repair of facilities and more opportunities for the public to receive information about the park.</p> | <p>Currently there are only 4 rangers, including the chief ranger, to patrol 5 units of a park with very high visitation. Rangers are responsible for fee collection and all aspects of managing the front and back-country facilities and areas of the park. Additional positions will be used for increased visitor services and more effective use of staff.</p> <p>The park’s trail crew is comprised of only ACC staff funded through grant and capital improvement project funding making it difficult to establish and provide long-term employee development. Considerable time and money is spent training and outfitting new ACCs from year-to-year resulting in less time spent on trail projects.</p> <p>Volunteers provide tremendous assistance to the park, but require training, supervision, and management. A coordinator will help maximize volunteer time.</p> <p>There is no staff dedicated to provide public information or outreach. Currently information is provided ad hoc by staff in addition to their normal duties.</p> <p>Many of the issues the park faces are land status related requiring in depth knowledge of and the ability to research land records.</p> |
| <p><u>Volunteers.</u></p> <p>Continue to utilize campground hosts, park caretakers, park volunteers, and other service organizations to staff park facilities and assist with construction and maintenance. Seek additional volunteers as facilities are developed and become more popular.</p> | <p>Enhance the visitor experience and provide a high quality of service.</p> | <p>Volunteers are an invaluable park resource that supplement staff and allow for more projects to be accomplished and services to be provided.</p> |

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| <p><u>Aircraft.</u> Acquire dependable access to a staffed aircraft, preferable rotor winged, for law enforcement, emergency response and other backcountry needs.</p> | <p>Allow for increased ability to monitor park activities, provide logistical support, and respond to park emergencies and rescue situations.</p> | <p>Currently, staff has limited abilities to monitor backcountry use, provide logistical support, and assist visitors during emergencies. Having aircraft support available would allow for shorter response times and better backcountry services.</p> |
| <p><u>Visitation Trends.</u> Improve visitation estimation techniques for accuracy.</p> | <p>Accurate assessment of park visitation patterns and recreational use throughout the park is necessary to accurately project future demand, and match commensurate facilities and services into the future.</p> | <p>These figures will aid in developing future revisions to this management plan, establishing appropriate priorities, and in substantiating funding requests for facility development, operations and maintenance.</p> |