



March 7, 2023

Subject: Release of the Public Review Draft of the Copper River Basin Area Plan Update.  
Public Comment Period Open March 7, 2023 through May 9, 2023.

Dear Interested Party,

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has released the Public Review Draft (PRD) of the Copper River Basin Area Plan (CRBAP) for public review and comment. Following a 60-day public review period, which may result in changes to the PRD, the planning team will review the comments received on the PRD and prepare an Issue Response Summary (IRS). The IRS provides a summary of issues raised during the comment period, a response to those issues, and a list of recommended revisions to the plan. The PRD and the IRS will be made available for public review as part of the Intent-to-Adopt phase of the planning process that offers an opportunity to provide final comments on the revisions to the plan, prior to presenting the final plan to the Commissioner for adoption. Once adopted, this plan will serve as the basis for the management of approximately 5.4 million acres of state lands and water within the planning area for the next 15 to 20 years.

The planning area encompasses nearly 16 million acres of land and water located within the Copper River Basin in the eastern portion of southcentral Alaska, and includes major drainages such as the Copper River, Gulkana, Klutina, Tazlina, and Chistochina rivers. The CRBAP will provide guidance for the development and conservation of the state's natural resources, with goals to provide economic benefit to Alaskans while maintaining diversity of public uses of the land. This plan reflects current and anticipated changes to physical, economic, and social factors in the area.

Land Classification Order SC-19-001 implements the plan and classifies land as Agricultural Land, Forestry Land, Heritage Land, Material Land, Mineral Land, Public Recreation Land, Resource Management Land, Settlement Land, Transportation Corridor Land, or Wildlife Habitat Land. This plan also includes Mineral Order 1274 which closes approximately 336,976 acres of state land classified Settlement or Agricultural Land to mineral entry. The CRBAP will supersede management direction contained in existing site specific, management plans, or area plans within the planning area. This plan will not affect federal lands, University or Mental Health Trust lands, borough or municipal lands, private lands, lands owned by Alaska Native entities, or other state lands withdrawn from the public domain.

To facilitate your review and comment, the PRD is available online at <http://alaska.gov/go/FXH1> or a USB drive by request. Public meetings will be scheduled in several communities within the planning area during this comment period. Once the dates, times, and locations are confirmed, a separate notice of the meetings will be distributed.

Comments on the Public Review Draft of the Copper River Basin Area Plan must be received on or before May 9, 2023 by email at [crbaprevision@alaska.gov](mailto:crbaprevision@alaska.gov), fax at 907-269-8915, or through the online Public Comment Portal at <http://alaska.gov/go/9PIM>.

Mailed comments must be post-marked by May 9, 2023, and should be mailed to the following:

DNR, DMLW  
ATTN: RADS  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 1050  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Please contact the planning project staff indicated below with questions on the CRBAP revision.

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Scan the code below to be taken to the CRBAP revision webpage:



*The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aides, services, or special modifications to submit a comment or participate in a meeting, should contact a person indicated above or contact the state TDD number (907)269-8411 seven days (7) in advance of meetings to arrange accommodations.*