

Northeast Alaska Area Plan – Recommended Revisions

Subject	Recommended Revision
Chapter 1: Introduction	
Technical Correction (pg. 1-2, line #22)	Change: and then soon turns southwest to the Pacific Ocean. to before turning west and eventually emptying into the Bering Sea.
Technical Correction (pg. 1-4, line #22)	Change: is managed to was established.
Subsistence (pg. 1-12, line #19)	Add language similar to: Subsistence and Harvest. Fishing, hunting, trapping, and other natural resource gathering activities are vital to Alaska’s economy and culture, especially for rural families who rely on harvest for food and traditional practices. State subsistence take is open to all Alaskans under the state constitution regardless of residency. The plan provides management goals and guidelines to maintain harvest opportunities consistent with applicable laws and land ownership to the resources and uses of state land in Chapter 1.
Chapter 2: Areawide Land Management Policies	
Subsistence. (pg. 2-17, line #3)	Remove the word local from Guideline C-5. Avoidance of Conflicts with Traditional Uses of Fish and Game.
Technical Correction (pg. 2-17, line #31-33)	Change: is probably the least predictable of Alaska’s herds, changing calving and wintering areas to exhibits high variability in calving and wintering areas, shifting its range frequently.
Wildlife Habitat (pg. 2-18, line #29-30)	Add language similar to: Additionally, disease transmission from domestic livestock may pose a significant threat to Dall sheep and proactive prevention efforts- <u>such as the establishment of spatial buffers between livestock and wild sheep-</u> should be considered <u>in consultation with ADF&G</u> . Fall rutting occurs from November to December.
Technical Correction (pg. 2-19, line #18-19)	Add language similar to: the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle <u>Protection</u> Act).
Wildlife Habitat (pg. 2-19, line #21-23 and pg. 2-21, line #11-12)	Change language similar to: Adjudicators shall consult with ADF&G and may contact USFWS.

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Technical Correction (pg. 2-19, line #38-41)	Change to: These habitats support important breeding concentrations <u>grounds</u> for numerous species, including trumpeter swans, sandhill cranes, Arctic terns, Canada and white-fronted geese, and yellow-billed loons—(a former <u>candidate under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)</u> candidate).
Technical Correction (pg. 2-20, line #7-9)	Change to: ..with at least five shorebirds <u>species identified as either Species of Greatest Conservation Need (a state designation from the Alaska Wildlife Action Plan) or Birds of Conservation Concern (a federal designation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)</u> , and at least seven priority shorebird species according to <u>identified by</u> the Alaska Shorebird Group in 2019.
Technical Correction (pg. 2-20, line #19-23)	Change to: The Alaska Landbird Plan 2021 highlights multiple species, including the short-eared owl and the olive-sided flycatcher, which is on their <u>its</u> watchlist. Other songbirds of conservation concern include gray-headed chickadees, American kestrels, gray-cheeked thrushes, varied thrushes, fox sparrows, and American tree sparrows.
Technical Correction (pg. 2-20, line 38)	Change language similar to: ...tracking data can be provided by the <u>Alaska USFWS Western Golden Eagle Team</u> .
Technical Correction (pg. 2-21, #1-9)	Change language similar to: Spawning for fall chum occurs mainly in September and October, with key spawning areas <u>within the planning area</u> including the Teedriinjik (Chandalar) and Sheenjek Rivers. Adult coho salmon primarily enter the Yukon River between August and September. In November, they migrate up the Porcupine River <u>and have been found as far upriver as Old Crow, Yukon Territory. Adult and juvenile coho salmon, as well a fall chum salmon, occur in the Draanjik (Black) River and its tributaries. Fall chum salmon have been documented spawning in the upper reaches of the drainage, with some individuals tracked into Canada and back into the U.S.</u>
Technical Correction (pg. 2-21, line #31-33)	Change language similar to: ...and in backwater sloughs of the Yukon <u>River</u> . Burbot are also found throughout the Yukon River <u>and</u> spawn throughout the mainstem during late January to early February. Dolly Varden have been noted in northern rivers <u>and</u> most within the Yukon River drainage are <u>not</u> believed to be migratory.
Technical Correction (pg. 2-33, line #2)	Change language similar to: Prior to material extraction, the adjudicator will ensure that the requirements of the <u>authorization permit or lease</u> adequately protect other important resources and uses.
Recreation (pg. 2-38, line #6)	Change language similar to: <u>Both independent and commercial recreation are important uses within the Dalton Highway Corridor. Independent travelers, campers, hikers, photographers, educational groups, aurora seekers, and guests of lodges are significant user groups along the highway and</u>

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	<u>within Wiseman. Most commercial recreation is guided hunting. Guided hunting is one major form of commercial recreation occurring in the planning area.</u>
Technical Correction (pg. 2-38, line #8)	Change similar to: near Coldfoot and the Dalton Highway. Hunting trips are for Grizzly bear, wolves, caribou,...
Wildlife Habitat (pg. 2-40, line #32)	Change similar to: 4. For facilities supporting recreational fish and wildlife harvest, ADF&G should <u>shall</u> be consulted on the possible effects of increased harvest on fish and wildlife resources, and on established commercial, recreation, and subsistence users.
Land Disposals/ Settlement (pg. 2-43, line #3-4)	Change language similar to: Plan and coordinate the transfer of state land to private ownership with other landowners to ensure the optimal use, development, and protection of area resources.
Subsistence (pg. 2-54, line #2; pg. 2-54, line #4-8; pg. 2-54, line #10-11; pg. 2-54, line 13-16; pg. 2-54, line #18-41; pg. 2-55, line #4-15)	<p>Change title of Chapter similarly to: Subsistence and Harvest.</p> <p>Remove language like: Subsistence use refers to the customary and traditional uses of wild, renewable resources for direct personal or family consumption, such as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation. Subsistence use also includes the making and selling of handicrafts made from nonedible byproducts of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption and for barter.</p> <p>Change language similar to: The harvesting of fish, game, and other wild resources is an important part of <u>rural life in Alaska. Access to state lands for subsistence culture for the residents within use activities throughout the planning area: provides for the ability for all Alaskan residents to maintain their current lifestyle of hunting, fishing, and gathering on these lands. Subsistence use is defined in state statute (see Appendix A, Glossary) and is open to all State of Alaska residents. Federal subsistence priority does not apply on state lands and nothing within this section or this plan should be construed to grant it.</u></p> <p>Remove language similar to: Subsistence use is extensive not only in terms of geographic extent but also in terms of the number and variety of species harvested and used. Oftentimes, these activities are based on important cultural traditions that are intertwined with the existence of the rural indigenous communities across the region.</p> <p>Change language similar to: Black bears are an important food source for many residents across the Yukon Flats. Moose hunting occurs along every major river system in the area, including the Teedriinjik (Chandalar), Sheenjek, Christian, Coleen, Porcupine, Draanjik (Black), Ikheenjik River</p>

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	<p>(Birch Creek), and Yukon rivers, as well as by lakes and gravel strips. Sustained hunting pressure occurs throughout major river corridors. Residents of local communities have historically harvested moose and continue to rely on moose as a primary source of wild food.</p> <p>Salmon are highly valuable to subsistence fishers along the Yukon River. Black bears are an important food source for many residents across the Yukon Flats. Residents of the planning area have a long history of harvesting fish for subsistence, including anadromous species (Dolly Varden, whitefishes spp., and chum and Chinook salmon spp.), and resident species (Arctic grayling, burbot, and northern pike). While subsistence harvest data is limited, research from the ADF&G, Division of Subsistence suggests that up to 100,000 pounds of salmon and up to 15,000 lbs of whitefish spp. and 4,000 lbs of other non-salmon species are harvested annually by the communities within the planning area. Bering cisco harvests make up a substantial component of annual whitefish Coregonus sp. and sheefish Stenodus leucichthys harvests from the Yukon River. Chinook salmon stocks have experienced over a decade of low productivity with subsequent restrictions to subsistence fishing opportunities. As a result, restrictions and/or closures to sport fishing for Chinook salmon have been implemented each year since 2011. Chum salmon harvested in the sport fishery were assumed to be summer chum, caught incidentally with Chinook during midsummer. From 2021 to 2023, the sport fishery was closed to summer chum due to poor returns and corresponding closures and/or restrictions to the subsistence fishery. Although the 2024 summer chum run met escapement goals and the sport fishery remained open, the fall chum salmon run did not materialize, resulting in an additional closure.</p> <p>Climate change is affecting wildlife habitat, which in turn affects hunters' ability to harvest, including: travel, harvest preservation, for hunting is more dangerous because of changes in ice conditions. Drying fish is difficult with more summer precipitation and cooler temperatures. Decreases in wetland habitat, and make accessing waterfowl hunting areas more difficult. Warmer fall temperatures shifts in moose movement so they are less likely to be accessible during the legal hunting season. These changes are expected to continue to affect fish and wildlife populations and distributions over the course of the planning period, making it important to evaluate how activities will affect species in the context of on-going climate change. Therefore, adjudicators should consult with the appropriate state or federal agency to determine the most current information on fish and wildlife resources within the planning area. This section will consider the subsistence needs of rural Alaska residents that extensively utilize these resources.</p>
Subsistence (pg. 2-54, line # 41-44 and pg. 2-55, line #1-2)	Make clear that the retain in state ownership provision described in Chapter 2 of the Subsistence and Harvest section applies only to areas designated Harvest. Change language similar to: Within the

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	<p>planning area, the majority of lands and waters are used for traditional subsistence <u>harvest</u> activities, including the harvest of fish, game, and other wild resources; however, the most important areas for these uses are specifically identified <u>designated Harvest (Hv)</u> in this plan. These areas will be retained in public ownership and managed to maintain subsistence and traditional use <u>access to and wildlife habitat for subsistence and other noncommercial</u> harvest opportunities.</p>
<p>Subsistence (pg. 2-55, line #20-22; pg. 2-56, line #1-2; pg. 2-56, line #4-5)</p>	<p>Change language similar to: Maintain in public ownership and protect subsistence resources sufficient to conserve a diversity of biological resources to support traditional harvest opportunities in areas that receive high levels of subsistence use.</p> <p>Change language similar to: Guideline A-3. Consult ADF&G regarding uses and activities that potentially impact the harvest of subsistence resources in areas designated for Harvest.</p> <p>Change language similar to: Objective B. Maintain and enhance the natural environment in areas known to be important 5 as habitat for fish and wildlife necessary for subsistence harvest.</p>
<p>Technical Correction (pg. 2-60, line #15-27)</p>	<p>Change language similar to: Guideline B-3. Mining in Fish and Wildlife Habitat. A permit for mining in or adjacent to designated fish habitat will require, as stipulations of the permit, any necessary measures that will allow the operation to meet water quality standards, statutes, and regulations governing the protection of fish, such as: levees, berms, seasonal restrictions, and settling ponds. Mining in fish habitat <u>may require</u> permits from DEC and ADF&G. A Special Area Permit issued by ADF&G is required if the project is located within a legislatively designated area, including uplands, estuaries, or tidelands. Waterbodies listed within the ADF&G Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC) represent a fraction of those actually used by anadromous species, and documentation of resident fish streams is not centralized. Therefore, DNR shall consult with ADF&G prior to the issuance of an authorization where <u>lakes</u> and stream channels are present and the likelihood of anadromous or high value resident fish is high, at least seasonally.</p>
<p>Dalton Highway Corridor (pg. 2-62, line #23; pg. 3-34)</p>	<p>Recognize the Dalton Highway Scenic Byway Corridor Partnership Plan by adding language similar to: The Dalton Highway is also a scenic byway, guided by the Dalton Highway Scenic Byway Corridor Partnership Plan.</p> <p>Reshape unit D-04 to add waysides identified in the Dalton Highway Scenic Byway Plan. Add management intent to unit D-04 to address the waysides.</p>
<p>Technical Correction (pg. 2-63, line #42)</p>	<p>Change language similar to: <u>These sites are listed when they occur within plan units of Chapter 3 and are referenced via DMLW casefiles.</u></p>

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Technical Correction (pg. 2-64 line #2, 8)	Change Monofils to monofills.
Technical Correction (pg. 2-64 line #21)	Delete this text: DEC Solid Waste database of facilities: https://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/EH/SWIMS/Default.aspx . The database is currently down and unavailable.
Spills, Contamination, and Solid Waste Sites (pg. 2-66, line #29-31)	Change language similar to: Guideline C-3. When considering authorizations within the planning boundary, adjudicators should <u>assess if there are any DEC-regulated sites and review</u> consult the DEC contaminated sites map for more information regarding the locations and extent of known and potential sites.
Spills, Contamination, and Solid Waste Sites (pg. 2-66, line #39)	Change language similar to: DNR has the lead responsibility for determining cleanup standards and the approval of cleanup plans on state land before permittees or lessees are released from further liability. DNR will coordinate clean-up requirements with Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission and DEC. <u>DEC is the state’s environmental regulator. As such, DEC approves and oversees cleanup methods and techniques proposed by parties who are potentially responsible for the release of a hazardous substance.</u> This includes active and inactive reserve pits, contaminated sites, and hazardous releases to state land.
Water Resources (pg. 2-68, line #10)	Add language similar to: <u>Climate change is a factor affecting water resources within the planning area. Thawing permafrost can lead to metal mobilization into aquatic ecosystems, driving rusting of streams (termed orange streams). Orange streams may result in impaired water quality. Rusting coupled with placer mining source and non-source pollution could adversely impact water quality.</u>
Technical Correction (pg. 2-69, line #11-12; pg. 2-69, line #22-25)	Change language similar to: Public waters are those not included within “Navigable Waters” and all other waters that are or could be used for recreational, commercial, mining, trapping, fishing, hunting, landing and takeoff of aircraft, industrial or other public purpose in any season in a frozen or liquid state. “Ancillary Waters” may include mean isolated small lakes or ponds (normally with a surface area of less than 10 acres), small headwater streams or creeks with small catchment areas, intermittent streams or creeks, ditches, swales, springs, flushes, surface runoff, and ephemeral waters.
Technical Correction (pg. 2-70, line #21)	Change to: Recreation: Provide opportunities for a variety of recreational activities within publicly owned streams corridors <u>and lakes</u> .

Chapter 3: Land Management Policies for Each Management Unit

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Mapping (Chapter 3)	Where appropriate, Conservation System Unit labels will be added to maps in the plan.
Wildlife Habitat (Chapter 3)	Reshape unit A-07 to include caribou calving areas. Change the designation on unit D-05 and A-19, as caribou calving areas are one of the reasons lands are designated Habitat (Ha). Include new management intent and resources and uses to reflect new caribou calving areas (A-07, A-12, A-17, A-18, A-19, D-01, D-03, D-05, D-06).
Technical Correction (pg. 3-1, line #6-8)	Input corrected acreages listed for land ownership in Chapter 3 introduction.
Subsistence (pg. 3-5, line #25)	Make clear that the Harvest (Hv) designation only applies to non-commercial, personal use harvest by changing language similar to: Hv - Harvest. Fish and wildlife harvest areas are subsistence, recreational and/or community harvest areas <u>used for non-commercial, personal use</u> where alteration of habitat could permanently limit sustained yield to traditional users.
Wildlife Habitat (pg. 3-7, line 36; Unit D-01 (pg. 3-31), D-06 (pg. 3-35), and D-07 (pg. 3-36))	Broaden wildlife habitat connectivity terminology. Replace wildlife connectivity corridor/a connectivity corridor with wildlife habitat connectivity.
Technical Correction (pg. 3-15, line #37)	Change to: Residents of the communities use the region for hunting, <u>trapping</u> , fishing, and general subsistence activities.
Wildlife Habitat (pg. 3-19; pg. 3-21)	<p>For units designated Habitat (Ha), mandate that ADF&G must be consulted for proposed authorizations that could impact the wildlife resources for which the unit is designated by changing language similar to:</p> <p>Unit A-06: Consult ADF&G regarding authorizations that will have impacts upon sensitive caribou, moose, sheep, or fish habitat.</p> <p>Unit A-11: Consult ADF&G regarding authorizations that will have impacts upon sensitive Dall sheep habitat.</p>
Wildlife Habitat (pg. 3-20; pg. 3-23)	<p>Add consultation language for ADF&G in units that have wildlife resources by changing language similar to:</p> <p>Unit A-09: Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.</p>

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	Unit A-14: Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.
Wildlife Habitat (pg. 3-23; pg. 3-60; pg. 3-63; pg. 3-64)	<p>Refine consultation language with ADF&G in settlement designated units by changing language similar to:</p> <p>Unit A-15: Consult ADF&G regarding authorizations that will have impacts upon sensitive caribou, moose, or Dall sheep habitat.</p> <p>Unit I-14: Consult with ADF&G prior to disposal.</p> <p>Unit I-18: Consult with ADF&G prior to disposal.</p> <p>Unit I-20: Consult with ADF&G prior to disposal.</p>
Wildlife Habitat (pg. 3-25; pg. 3-35)	<p>Reflect missed areas of Dall sheep habitat occurring in unit A-19 and D-05. Change language similar to:</p> <p>Unit A-19: Small areas of Dall sheep habitat occur in the southwest portion of the unit.</p> <p>Unit D-05: An area of Dall sheep habitat occurs in the southeast portion of the unit.</p>
Technical Corrections (pg. 3-32 - 3-34, Units D-01, D-02, D-03, and D-04)	<p>To clarify ASAP ROW and AKLNG ROW are separate authorizations, change language in unit D-01 similar to: These leases include the Alyeska Pipeline ROW (ADL 63574), <u>ASAP ROW (ADL 418997), AKLNG ROW (ADL 421297)</u>Alaska Gasline ROW for the mainline and Alaska Stand Alone Pipeline (ASAP) (ADL 418997 and ADL 421297), and the Point Thomson Export Pipeline ROW (ADL 418975). Change language in unit D-02 similar to: These leases include the Alyeska Pipeline ROW (ADL 63574), <u>ASAP ROW (ADL 418997), AKLNG ROW (ADL 421297)</u>Alaska Gasline ROW for the mainline and ASAP (ADL 418997 and ADL 421297), and the Point Thomson Export Pipeline ROW (ADL 418975). Change language in unit D-03 similar to: Portions of the Alyeska Pipeline ROW (ADL 63574), <u>ASAP ROW (ADL 418997), and AKLNG ROW (ADL 421297)</u>Alaska Gasline ROW for the mainline and ASAP (ADL 418997 and ADL 421297) are within this unit. Change language in unit D-04 similar to: Leases for pipeline ROWs exist in this unit, including the <u>ASAP ROW (ADL 418997) and AKLNG ROW (ADL 421297)</u>Alaska Gasline ROW for the mainline and ASAP (ADL 418997 and ADL 421297).</p>

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Land Disposals/ Settlement (pg. 3-33, Unit D-02)	Change management intent to only allow leasing in D-02 to ensure land use is nonresidential, as directed in AS 19.40.
Materials (pg. 3-34, Unit D-03)	Reshape unit D-03 to include newly identified material sites and adjust management intent to reflect any additional resources and uses.
Wildlife Habitat (pg. 3-35 and 3-36, unit D-06 and D-07)	Change language similar to: Management intent: DNR shall consult ADF&G and <u>may consult</u> USFWS regarding authorizations involving uses that may impact the wildlife connectivity corridor. Authorizations must <u>should</u> consider the potential impacts on the wildlife corridor and subsistence and <u>should</u> include general mitigation measures that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate any negative effects.
Technical Correction (pg. 3-46, Unit Y-12; pg. C-2 to C-5)	Remove Y-12 unit from the plan, plan map, and re-number units in the Yukon Region that followed that unit, as Y-12 is not state-owned land. Also remove instances, map, and related acreage for Y-12 from Mineral Order 1291.
Public Access (pg. 3-47, Unit Y-14)	Change language similar to: Maintain public access on trails and easements that provide access to and across the river <u>and to BLM's Steese National Conservation Area.</u>
Technical Correction (pg. 3-55, Unit I-01)	Change to: Sport <u>H</u> unting for caribou is extensive in this unit.
Plan-Wide Technical Correction	
Technical Corrections – Plan wide	Make all appropriate technical and factual corrections to the Plan. May include correcting grammatical errors, map notations, rewording for clarification, acreage recalculations, etc. These corrections will not affect Plan policy.