

Northeast Alaska Area Plan - Issue Response Summary

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
Constitutional Interpretations	The NEAAP, as currently written, fails to make the essential distinction between the rights of Alaskans and the privileges of businesses and corporations.	The NEAAP is written in accordance with applicable statutes and regulations.	None.
Dalton Highway Corridor	There is a Dalton Highway Scenic Byway Corridor Partnership Plan in place which was created approx. 2010. Take into consideration & incorporate concerns of the plan stakeholders in your planning process.	Concur.	Add language similar to: The Dalton Highway is also a scenic byway, guided by the Dalton Highway Scenic Byway Corridor Partnership Plan. (pg. 2-62, line #23) 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.
Dalton Highway Corridor	Make sure NEAAP complies with the provisions of AS 19.40.210 regarding ORV access from the Dalton Highway.	AS 19.40.210 mandates non-motorized access within the corridor with some exceptions. This is recognized in Chapter 1 and within the management intent of the applicable Dalton Corridor Region units.	None.
Development	The NEAAP promotes new land disposals and leaves most lands open to mineral entry “unless specifically closed.” This framework effectively prioritizes extraction and settlement over habitat and cultural protection and may be inconsistent with previously stated goals, objectives, and guidelines. DNR should adopt a precautionary approach,	Through the area planning process, we work to determine how land can be used for the maximum public benefit. Area planning seeks to create a balanced combination of uses on the landscape. AS 38.04.065(c) states the commissioner [of the Department of Natural Resources] shall adopt regional land use plans for state land.	None.

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	deferring any new settlement or mineral designations until updated wildlife data, salmon restoration progress, and cumulative-impact analyses demonstrate that development will not compromise ecological or community health.	The plan must identify areas of settlement and settlement impact as well as areas to be retained in state ownership for purposes described in AS 38.04.015. All state-owned lands are open to mineral entry unless specifically closed (AS 38.05.300; AS 38.05.185).	
Development	The NEAAP proposes state land classifications and mineral orders that do not fully align with federal conservation mandates, particularly in areas adjacent to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), Wild and Scenic Rivers, and lands under Public Land Orders (PLOs). Align state land classifications with federal and local conservation designations to prevent fragmentation of sensitive landscapes.	NEAAP classifies and provides guidance for authorizing activities and management of state-owned lands and waters; it does not affect non-state lands. As such, the area plan is not required to align with federal conservation mandates. Through the area planning process, we work to determine how land can be used for the maximum public benefit.	None.
Federal Land Conveyances (PLO 5150)	Opening PLO 5150 lands to mineral entry risks undermining federal protections and fragmenting ecologically sensitive areas.	Mining already occurs on some PLO 5150 lands. All state-owned lands are open to mineral entry unless specifically closed (AS 38.05.300; AS 38.05.185).	None.
Historical Use	The NEAAP must also recognize historic local sites such as the Wiseman River bar for boat launching, and local gravel sites like Wiseman River bar and the Nolan Creek/Beaver Pond gravel site as traditional community resources, reserved for local resident use and	The NEAAP is written in accordance with applicable statutes, regulations, and sections of the constitution which does not provide for the ability to reserve a resource for local residents only. The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey is the data repository for	None.

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	maintenance.	reported cultural resources and the source used in the plan.	
Land Classification	Units should not be classified in ways that restrict roads, airstrips, and utility corridors.	All classifications are multiple use and identify the primary use for land management. The land classification process and classifications themselves do not prohibit roads, airstrips, and utility corridors.	None.
Land Classification	The NEAAP does not provide a classification for “subsistence” resources which sustain Indigenous cultural practices. This needs to be addressed throughout the range of subsistence resources used by rural residents.	There is no subsistence classification defined in regulation. The NEAAP does provide the designation of Harvest, which converts to the classification of Wildlife Habitat Land. Harvest designated lands include subsistence, recreational and/or community harvest areas where alteration of habitat could permanently limit sustained yield to traditional users; or are areas of intense harvest where the level of harvest has reached, or is projected to reach, the harvestable surplus for the resource.	None.
Land Disposals/ Settlement	The only way a disposal of interest could happen in unit D-02 that ensures land use is nonresidential, as directed in AS 19.40, is via a partial disposal where the state creates conditions of use (e.g. a lease).	To ensure that disposals are nonresidential in nature, limit disposals to leasing only.	Change management intent to only allow leasing in D-02. (pg. 3-33, Unit D-02)
Land Disposals/ Settlement	It is standard practice to provide adjacent landowners with public notice when	Concur.	Change language similar to: Plan and coordinate the transfer of state land to

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	<p>issuing a preliminary decision regarding land sales. It is not standard to coordinate conveyances with them. Conveyances should still ensure optimal use, development, and protection of area resources.</p>		<p>private ownership with other landowners to ensure the optimal use, development, and protection of area resources. (pg. 2-43, line #3-4)</p>
<p>Land Disposals/ Settlement</p>	<p>In the draft plan, there is discussion of land disposal for “Year-round residences for community expansion. DNR will offer accessible land suitable to meet the needs of existing communities. This category serves people whose principal place of residence and work is, or will be, in the area of the disposal.” It’s important that special care be taken to ensure that any land offered this way actually be offered to meet the needs of community members, and not outside interests. It’s not clear in the draft how “community members” will be vetted, and it’s important to clarify that.</p>	<p>Year-round residences for community expansion is only one of the settlement categories that DNR may offer within the planning area. If land is offered for this purpose, it is a separate decision process with opportunities for public and local input.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Law Enforcement</p>	<p>Absent from the plan is any discussion of law enforcement in the area. Enforcement has been limited and inadequate. This effectively amounts to a policy of zero enforcement. It damages game resources, recreational values, and safety, primarily at the expense of local residents. Spending all this time and money developing a plan without spending any money to enforce it doesn't make sense. The lack of enforcement up here is a huge abdication on the part of</p>	<p>Lands are classified through the planning process. Classification identifies the primary use for which the land will be managed. Authorizations on State land must comply with the plan. Law enforcement as described in this issue is beyond the scope of this plan.</p>	<p>None.</p>

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	the state and needs to be addressed before any plan for this area will have any meaning.		
Mapping	Public access and trail connectivity should be explicitly mapped and maintained-especially where state lands abut private or corporation lands or mining claims.	<p>The NEAAP does not authorize specific projects, such as trail corridors. Instead, the plan provides objectives and guidelines in the Public Access section of Chapter 2.</p> <p>In addition, some trail corridor cutting and use may be part of generally allowed uses (11 AAC 96.020).</p>	None.
Mapping	“Subsistence” needs to be added on the maps as a General Management Category.	No resources and uses are mapped because they are described in the Resource Allocation Tables and the large extent of data would not be comprehensible or conducive for a map.	None.
Mapping	<p>Maps showing the Management designations should be understandable as free-standing maps without needing to go back to the main document text. For example, the key has Unit Designations which are abbreviations, e.g. “A-01 Rm.” What does this mean? The Table or Map keys need to give these names written out so you don’t have to bounce back and forth within the document for these vital designations. This is the crux of the decisions in the plan, so each map needs to be understood by the public.</p>	<p>Page 3-10, lines 6-10, explain the abbreviations. Members of the public are encouraged to read the whole plan, not only the maps in order to fully understand the content and context.</p> <p>Additionally, Table 4-2 on page 4-5 provides the abbreviations for designations used in the plan.</p>	None.

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Mapping	Federally reserved water rights applications should be shown on maps with sufficient detail to understand them.	Reservations of waters are not mapped because they are described in the Resource Allocation Tables as well as Appendix F. Alaska Mapper, the State's online interactive land records mapping tool, has an available layer that displays Reservations of Water.	None.
Mapping	Intact ecosystems are important to migratory birds and their habitats and more mapped information on birds and their habitat use should be provided.	Bird habitat has a large amount of data which would not be comprehensible or conducive for a map. While not mapped in the plan, available data regarding birds was used and is cited in the Resources and Uses section of the Resource Allocation Tables, where applicable and within the Fish and Wildlife Habitat section of Chapter 2.	None.
Mapping	Labels for Conservation System Units should be on the maps.	Concur.	Where appropriate, Conservation System Unit labels will be added to maps in the plan.
Materials	There are many material sites that were missed along the Dalton Highway and should be included in unit D-03.	Concur.	Reshape unit D-03 to include newly identified material sites and adjust management intent to reflect any additional resources and uses.

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Mining	NEAAP should include some language substantially as follows: “The State of Alaska recognizes all valid existing federal mining claims established under the Mining Law of 1872. Alaskan residents and American citizens holding such claims shall be eligible to apply for and receive patent to at least one claim through a State-administered process, ensuring secure property rights consistent with the U.S. Constitution, the Alaska Constitution, and the equal-footing doctrine.”	The Subsurface Resources section of Chapter 2 provides guidance on the consideration of subsurface resources throughout the planning area.	None.
Multiple Use	Hunting, fishing, trapping, development, and recreation including all forms of harvest and extraction are compatible uses which should be noted as such within the management planning process and weighed in all decisions related to permitting.	Concur. As per 11 AAC 55.040(c), a classification identifies the primary use for which the land will be managed, subject to valid existing rights and to multiple use. In addition, the department may authorize other uses that do not conflict with the plan. Most lands are open to hunting, trapping, fishing, and recreation under Generally Allowed Uses (GAUs) (11 AAC 96.020). On p. 4-10 of the Northeast Alaska Area Plan, it states the plan does not recommend any limits on GAUs.	None.

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Multiple Use	Plan Objective on page 2-3 states, “In the long-term, the land within the Plan boundary will be used for as many uses as possible, without eliminating or unreasonably limiting other resources.” If one use is inconsistent with another use or resource, which will move forward?	As per 11 AAC 55.040(c), a classification identifies the primary use for which the land will be managed, subject to valid existing rights and to multiple use. In addition, the department may authorize other uses that do not conflict with the plan. Therefore, no use is inherently inconsistent with another, but the use must comply with the plan (including objectives, guidelines, and management intent). Use may be made compatible through various management techniques, such as temporal or spatial considerations.	None.
Multiple Use	DNR is attempting to lock up over eighty thousand acres of land using classifications such as sensitive habitat and watershed protection. Locking land into rigid categories for twenty years especially for uses like hiking in places most people cannot even reach-is not reasonable planning.	Classifications do not initially preclude other uses. As per 11 AAC 55.040(c), all classifications are multiple use and merely identify the primary use for which the land will be managed. In addition, the department may authorize other uses that do not conflict with the plan.	None.

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Oil and Gas	<p>Opposed to the development of oil and gas in the sensitive Yukon Flats region as a matter of environmental stewardship and tribal self-determination. Given that the Yukon Flats is a sensitive and interconnected ecosystem, extractive development (such as seismic testing, road building, and gravel mining, as well as oil drilling and mining) can fragment the habitat for fish, nesting ground for birds, and other animal populations that are essential subsistence resources for local communities and Indigenous ways of life. Given the importance of this ecosystem, Hilcorp has no place being given a permit for exploration here, nor is any other oil & gas exploration appropriate. Development on state lands in the NEAAP area, combined with exploration already begun by Hilcorp, D-1 withdrawals and other industrial activity will cumulatively and negatively impact this area, including the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge which is immediately adjacent to many of these lands.</p>	<p>This plan does not provide land use designations for oil and gas leasing. Oil and gas leasing is addressed in a separate planning process under AS 38.05.180.</p>	<p>None.</p>
Plan Development	<p>The Department should conduct field work, physical assessments, and a peer-reviewed economic impact study that estimates jobs, payroll, royalties, and public costs under reasonable development scenarios to determine whether the lands and resources hold</p>	<p>Through the area planning process, we work to determine how land can be used for the maximum public benefit. AS 38.04.065(b) provides a number of things that must be considered during plan development, including economic factors and</p>	<p>None.</p>

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	economic potential or merit long term protection.	sustained yield.	
Plan Development	Before finalizing any long-term withdrawal or classification, DNR should publish the raw technical data used to assess mineral potential and habitat sensitivity. Broad habitat designations without site-specific inspection or data are not credible. Any withdrawal or classification should be shortened to a rolling five-year term with mandatory re-evaluation.	Technical data is described in the Resources and Uses section of the Resource Allocation Tables. The DNR planning staff compiles data from state agencies, such as ADF&G for wildlife data. As per page 3-7, the criteria used to identify Habitat (Ha) designated areas in the plan are listed. Classifications do not initially preclude other uses and are not withdrawals. As per 11 AAC 55.040(c), a classification identifies the primary use for which the land will be managed, subject to valid existing rights and to multiple use.	None.
Planning	Create intergovernmental planning teams (tribal, state, federal) to co-produce knowledge and monitor impacts collaboratively.	The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recognizes the importance of collaboration when managing natural resources. DNR's divisions typically engage with all stakeholders - including Tribal entities, municipal governments, private landowners and federal agencies - during public comment periods outlined in Alaska Statute 38.05.945 and our experts carefully consider this feedback.	None.

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Planning	The Plan's implementation chapter should include mechanisms for periodic review of how recreation and subsistence access is being delivered in practice, not just in policy.	The plan's policies are largely carried out through adjudication of authorizations. Authorizations must comply with the plan's policies, therefore recreation and subsistence access is delivered through compliance with the provisions regarding access in the plan. Additionally, many forms of access and recreation are Generally Allowed Uses (11 AAC 96.020).	None.
Private Landowners	The State of Alaska should continue to accommodate rights of private landowners that own land within, adjacent, and surrounded by state owned and selected land, to include contacting landowners that may be affected by any future mineral orders.	The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recognizes the importance of collaboration when managing natural resources. DNR's divisions typically engage with all stakeholders - including Tribal entities, municipal governments, private landowners and federal agencies - during public comment periods outlined in Alaska Statute 38.05.945 and our experts carefully consider this feedback.	None.
Private Landowners	The State of Alaska should seek to limit negative or perceived negative impacts of NEAAP to private landowners, contact private landowners to hear their concerns, and ensure continued traditional use and the historical precedent of necessary homesteading activities and access.	Concur.	None.

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Public Access	Ensure that all non-operational lands around mining sites remain open for hunting, fishing, and recreation. Clarify that mineral leases do not grant control over non-mineral activities or public access. Recognize that mining and public access can coexist when boundaries are clearly defined and enforced. 500' around the perimeter of actual operations is more than generous.	The plan does not restrict access on lands under a mining lease. Most lands generally and those around mine sites are open to hunting, fishing, and recreation as per Generally Allowed Uses (GAUs) (11 AAC 96.020). On p. 4-10 of the Northeast Alaska Area Plan, it states the plan does not recommend any limits on GAUs. Safety related access restrictions may be necessary near mine sites. This would occur through a separate public process.	None.
Public Access	Guarantee that any road built or maintained with public funds remains open to the public.	Roads are built using a variety of funding mechanisms. The plan provides guidance related to routes in the Public Access section of Chapter 2.	None.
Public Access	Some statements conflict with one another. For example, the overall objective of Public Access (page 2-36) states, "To the maximum extent practicable, adequate opportunities for access to and within developing areas will be provided." In contrast, the objective on the next page (Objective C) says "Whenever feasible, adequate public access opportunities should be preserved, enhanced, or provided without adversely impacting other resources, uses, or the natural environment." At least the latter statement acknowledges the importance	Please find the definitions of "Adequate" and "Feasible and Prudent" within Appendix A (Glossary) of the plan. Both objectives must be followed in any authorizations issued.	None.

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	of other resources and the natural environment, but the former statement could be used to justify development over conservation. Who will determine what is “adequate,” what will be considered a “developing area,” and what are the criteria for “feasible?”		
Public Access	Many of the RS 2477’s (RST 1966 as one example) are not trails, haven’t been for decades, and often were only routes to begin with--not trails.	Concur.	None.
Public Access	Add “and BLM’s Steese National Conservation Area” to management intent for Unit Y-14.	Concur.	Change language similar to: Maintain public access on trails and easements that provide access to and across the river and to <u>BLM’s Steese National Conservation Area</u> . (pg. 3-47, Unit Y-14)
Public Access	The plan should include stronger definitions and protections for subsistence corridors, traditional travel routes, roads, and local recreation trails, so that these uses are not treated as incidental but as foundational to land-management decisions.	The plan provides many objectives and management guidelines in Chapter 2 that must be considered when authorizing land uses. Please refer to the Public Access, Subsistence and Harvest, and Recreation, Tourism, and Scenery sections of Chapter 2.	None.
Public Access	A goal for Public Access states that Alaska shall “Preserve, enhance, or provide adequate access to public lands for recreation, harvest, and resource development.” This wording seems to make clear at the outset that access	All state lands are subject to multiple use. Any authorizations must be in compliance with the plan. Goals are always balanced against other priorities for management intent.	None.

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	(including a possible expansion as enhancement) and resource development may be accorded priority if there is a competing interest with conservation or subsistence.		
Public Access	In Guideline A-8 of Access for Development: “Additional access routes in some areas may lead to negative impacts on valuable resources, particularly certain renewable resources.” The long-term health of resources should be prioritized over short-term economic development which can, unfortunately, cause long-lasting negative impacts and could also increase access for harvest for recreational hunters and fisherman who would compete with subsistence users.	This concern is out of context. The guideline continues: “If the new route or facility will not or should not provide public access due to concerns for public safety or the long-term detrimental impact on natural resources, the current means of public access should be retained.”	None.
Public Process	Protect Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) through confidentiality protocols and respectful engagement.	Planning teams should endeavor to honor confidentiality related to TEK, if shared.	None.
Public Process	There is no evidence of consultation or any communication with the federally recognized tribal governments throughout the Plan region during scoping or this draft plan public comment period.	While there is not a government-to-government consultation process under Alaska law, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recognizes the importance of collaboration when managing natural resources. DNR’s divisions typically engage with all stakeholders - including Tribal entities, municipal governments, private landowners and federal	None.

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		agencies - during public comment periods outlined in Alaska Statute 38.05.945 and our experts carefully consider this feedback. We generally contact stakeholders via email, physical mail, social media, and flyers.	
Public Process	The scoping report does not indicate any individual comments were provided at public meetings or in writing except Doyon and by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.	Comments from the scoping meetings are displayed on the map on the first page of the “Scoping Public Comments” document available for review on the NEAAP website. There are additional comments from individuals on page 2 and 3.	None.
Public Process	DNR’s current outreach method did not confirm that notices reached the appropriate Tribal leaders. Mail is an unreliable method of outreach to our villages.	We generally contact stakeholders via email, physical mail, social media, and flyers.	None.
Public Process	Public involvement periods overlapped with critical subsistence harvest seasons, limiting participation from Yukon Flats and upper Yukon River Basin communities.	The timing of a plan’s comment periods are affected by multiple factors. Trying to maximize public participation is always a goal. The public comment period for the Public Review Draft was 60 days, twice as long as the statutory requirement, and occurred during freeze-up.	None.

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Public Process	Only a single in-region meeting was held in Fort Yukon, with no in-person engagement in Venetie, Arctic Village, Beaver, Chalkyitsik, Stevens Village, or Circle, despite these communities being within the plan boundary and most reliant on the lands and waters under consideration.	Holding meetings in Fairbanks and Fort Yukon was determined to be the best course of action considering budget, staffing, and temporal constraints.	None.
Public Process	Establish formal government-to-government consultation and co-management agreements with federally recognized tribes.	Government-to-government consultation is a deliberative federal process required by federal laws and Executive Orders based on a unique legal relationship between the federal government and Tribes. While there is not a government-to-government consultation process under Alaska law, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recognizes the importance of collaboration when managing natural resources. DNR's divisions typically engage with all stakeholders - including Tribal entities, municipal governments, private landowners and federal agencies - during public comment periods outlined in Alaska Statute 38.05.945 and our experts carefully consider this feedback.	None.
Recreation	The Final Plan should explicitly require that any commercial recreation or development authorization in the Wiseman region include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early consultation with local residents 	In the Recreation, Tourism, and Scenery section of Chapter 2, Guideline A-3 addresses coordination with other landowners and users. "Recreation management, including	None.

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	<p>and subsistence users; • Public notice to the Wiseman community prior to approval; • Flexibility to modify operations based on active subsistence use; and • A mechanism for residents to communicate directly with land managers when conflicts arise.</p>	<p>the location and management of recreation facilities, will consider the current and projected future uses of lands owned by local governments and private landowners, and should strive for compatibility with adjacent current and anticipated uses.”</p> <p>Residents may reach out to staff of DNR at any time. Public notice is given for all authorizations involving disposals, per the requirements of AS 38.05.945.</p>	
<p>Recreation</p>	<p>We urge the Final Plan to calibrate “compatible” operations so that small-scale, low-impact tourism (such as guided wilderness trips) is explicitly supported, while large-scale development that threatens wildlife habitat, subsistence access, or scenic values is either constrained or accompanied by stringent safeguards.</p>	<p>In the Recreation, Tourism, and Scenery section of Chapter 2, Guideline A-3 addresses coordination with other landowners and users. “Recreation management, including the location and management of recreation facilities, will consider the current and projected future uses of lands owned by local governments and private landowners, and should strive for compatibility with adjacent current and anticipated uses.”</p> <p>All classifications are subject to multiple use and are managed for maximum use consistent with the public interest.</p>	<p>None.</p>

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Recreation	<p>We recommend that when state lands are leased for tourism or recreation, lease terms should require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) minimal-footprint infrastructure b) demonstrated coordination with local communities and subsistence users c) monitoring of visitor impacts on wildlife, terrain, vegetation, and subsistence harvest zones d) adaptive-management triggers if visitor use begins to degrade valued natural or cultural resources. 	<p>In the Recreation, Tourism, and Scenery section of Chapter 2, Guideline B-1 addresses private commercial recreation facilities.</p>	<p>None.</p>
Recreation	<p>This plan identifies that ‘Most commercial recreation is guided hunting’. This significantly downplays the true scale and diversity of tourism and visitor use in the area. Commercial hunting occurs during open hunting seasons (of course), which is limited to a few months in the fall, and a brief period in the spring. The draw for all other tourism interest continues year-round is not limited to one focus activity.</p>	<p>The best available data was used in the development of this plan. Based on further input from the public, language will be revised to reflect other forms of recreation.</p>	<p>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 within Wiseman. Most commercial recreation is guided hunting. Guided hunting is one major form of commercial recreation occurring in the planning area.</u> (pg. 2-38, line #6)</p>

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Recreation	Recommend limiting air taxi companies from dropping off hunters. The caribou herds in the Arctic are being hunted way too heavily and continued nonstop hunting pressure will diminish the herds like what's happened to the other herds in the state. Overhunting has impacted viable hunting opportunities for residents. The recent increase of hunting pressure in the Dalton Corridor has eliminated the opportunity for many popular recreational activities for thousands.	Limiting air taxis is not within the scope of the plan.	None.
Region-wide Guidance	Manage the Arctic Region and the Yukon Flats Region to prioritize wildlife habitat, water quality, recreation, and limiting hunting and off-road vehicle use to people who wouldn't qualify for federal subsistence would be the best way to manage this land.	Subsistence policies are the purview of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The NEAAP does not affect methods, means, and allocation of fish and wildlife harvest. The plan does not recommend any limits on Generally Allowed Uses.	None.
Spills, Contamination, and Solid Waste Sites	Adjudicators should consult more resources than just the DEC contaminated site map. Suggested text: When considering authorizations within the planning boundary, adjudicators should assess if there are any DEC-regulated sites and review the locations and extent of known and potentially hazardous sites.	Concur.	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. (pg. 2-66, line #29-31)

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Spills, Contamination, and Solid Waste Sites	Suggested rewrite: 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. DNR is the point of contact representing the State of Alaska as a landowner impacted by a spill, contaminated site, or solid waste site. DNR as a landowner can require cleanup to a more stringent standard than DEC regulations require.	Concur, in part.	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. (pg. 2-66, line #39)
Spills, Contamination, and Solid Waste Sites	Spill, contaminated, and solid waste sites section merely links to the ADEC database, with no mapped information or analysis of the topic whatsoever. This is important given that oil and gas and mining can be major sources of chronic as well as major spills.	Potentially hazardous sites are listed within the Resources and Uses section of the Resource Allocation Tables, where applicable.	None.
Statutory Authority	Opposed to the Northeast Alaska Area Plan and Mineral Order 1291. These documents represent an unconstitutional overreach by the Department of Natural Resources and violate the clear mandates of the Alaska Constitution. Article VIII requires that Alaska’s lands be managed for maximum use consistent with the	Through resource planning, DNR works with the public to determine where the important resources are and how the land can be used for the maximum public benefit. In the planning process, resources are considered and evaluated. Wherever possible, guidelines are established	None.

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	public interest. Unelected planners are given unchecked authority over land use decisions that should be made by the Legislature.	that allow for multiple use. Per AS 38.04.065(c), the DNR commissioner is required to develop plans that classify land and provide management guidance. Under AS 38.05.300 and 38.05.185, DNR has the authority to close lands to mineral entry.	
Subsistence	The Final Plan should include clear, enforceable language stating that any activity, lease, permit, or development on state lands must demonstrate no significant adverse effect on identified subsistence harvest areas unless fully mitigated and monitored.	Authorizations in areas designated Harvest must comply with the objectives and guidelines presented in the Subsistence and Harvest section of Chapter 2 as well as the unit's management intent.	None.
Subsistence	Traditional and subsistence uses recognized under ANILCA must be grandfathered into all land conveyances and management frameworks adopted under the NEAAP. These include hunting, fishing, firewood gathering, log harvest for cabins and homesteads, and small-scale gravel use for local infrastructure. If the State gains jurisdiction, these rights must remain intact as traditional and customary uses with no additional permits or fees required for residents exercising them in good faith.	<p>Management, maintenance, and protection of fish and wildlife are the responsibility of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Subsistence policies are the purview of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Allocation of fish and game stocks and regulation of harvest methods, means, and timing are the responsibility of the state boards of Fisheries and Game and are not governed by this plan.</p> <p>The area plan does not regulate activities that do not require a written authorization on state land, such as hiking, camping, boating, hunting, and fishing. GAUs are identified in</p>	None.

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		11 AAC 96.020 and the conditions for GAUs are provided in 11 AAC 96.025.	
Subsistence	Villages such as Stevens Village, Beaver, and Fort Yukon depend heavily on caribou and moose to offset the loss of subsistence salmon harvests. However, the NEAAP treats caribou, moose, and salmon populations as if they are all stable, which directly contradicts recent biological findings from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) documenting population declines and management concerns across multiple Game Management Units within the plan area.	Fish and wildlife declines are discussed in the Fish and Wildlife Habitat section of Chapter 2, page 2-22 and in the Subsistence and Harvest section of Chapter 2, page 2-54. Sensitive life stages for caribou and moose are one of the criteria used to determine if lands should be designated Habitat (Ha).	None.
Subsistence	Add “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.	Concur.	Change similar to suggested language. (pg. 1-12, line #19)

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Subsistence	Remove the word local from Guideline C-5. Avoidance of Conflicts with Traditional Uses of Fish and Game.	Concur. All Alaskans are potential subsistence users (McDowell v. State (1989)).	Change language similar to: Surface activities authorized under permit or lease are to avoid significant conflicts with subsistence harvest activities and other traditional uses of fish and wildlife resources. (pg. 2-17, line #3)
Subsistence	Make clear that the Harvest (Hv) designation only applies to non-commercial, personal use harvest.	Concur.	Change 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 (pg. 3-5, line #25)
Subsistence	Condense and clarify language within the Subsistence and Harvest section of Chapter 2 to reflect all applicable statutory authorities and definitions and variety of harvest activities.	Concur.	<p>Change title of Chapter similarly to: Subsistence and Harvest. (pg. 2-54, line #2)</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. (pg. 2-54, line #4-8)</p> <p>Change language similar to: The harvesting of fish, game, and other wild</p>

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
			<p><u>resources is an important part of 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. (pg. 2-54, line #10-11)</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. (pg. 2-54, line 13-16)</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), Sheenjok, Christian, Coleen, Porcupine, Draanjik</p>

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
			<p>(Black), Ikheenjik River (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. <u>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.</u> 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). <u>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</u></p>

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
			<p>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. (pg. 2-54, line #18-41)</p> <p>Climate change is affecting wildlife habitat, which in turn affects hunters' ability to harvest, <u>including</u> . tTravel, <u>harvest preservation</u>, for hunting is more dangerous because of changes in ice conditions. Drying fish is difficult with more summer precipitation and cooler temperatures. dDecreases in wetland habitat, <u>and</u> 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</p>

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
			<p>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. (pg. 2-55, line #4-15)</p>
<p>Subsistence</p>	<p>Clarify language within the guidelines and goals of the Subsistence and Harvest section of Chapter 2 to reflect all applicable harvest activities.</p>	<p>Concur.</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. (pg. 2-55, line #20-22)</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. (pg. 2-56, line #1-2)</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</p>

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
Subsistence	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.	Concur.	harvest. (pg. 2-56, line #4-5) Change language similar to: Within the 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 harvest opportunities.</u> (pg. 2-54, line # 41-44 and pg. 2-55, line #1-2)
Subsistence	Strengthen subsistence and habitat protections with enforceable guidelines. Buffers, easements, and habitat safeguards must be strengthened and informed by Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). Without specific closure designations, buffer zones, or adaptive management triggers, NEAAP’s retention language fails to safeguard subsistence use areas and directly contradicts these mandates.	Management objectives and guidelines regarding subsistence and habitat are provided within the Subsistence and Harvest and the Fish and Wildlife Habitat sections of Chapter 2. Unit specific management intent about these topics is provided in the Resource Allocation Tables of Chapter 3. Through the area planning process, we work to determine how land can be used for the maximum public benefit. Lands designated Habitat (Ha) and/or Harvest (Hv) are to remain in state ownership.	None.
Technical Correction	“monofils” should be used instead of “monofils.”	Concur.	Change this text: Monofils to monofills. (pg. 2-64 line #2, 8)

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
Technical Correction	The link to the DEC Solid Waste database is broken; the database is currently down and unavailable.	Concur.	Delete this text: DEC Solid Waste database of facilities: https://dec.alaska.gov/Applications/EH/SWIMS/Default.aspx (pg. 2-64 line #21)
Technical Correction	The section on spills, contaminated sites, and solid waste sites references DEC's databases; however, in the tables for each management unit these sites are not named, instead DMLW casefiles (ADLs) are listed. It would be clearer if this information were presented more consistently.	Concur.	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> (pg. 2-63, line #42)
Technical Correction	Unit Y-12 is not state land.	This unit is not state land and therefore does not need to be classified or represented in the plan.	Remove this unit from the plan, plan map, and re-number units in the Yukon Region that followed that unit. (pg. 3-46, Unit Y-12) Also remove instances, map, and related acreage for Y-12 from Mineral Order 1291. (pg. C-2 to C-5)
Technical Correction	Change "and then soon turns southwest to the Pacific Ocean." to "before turning west and eventually emptying into the Bering Sea."	Concur.	Change language similar to: <u>before turning west and eventually emptying into the Bering Sea.</u> (pg. 1-2, line #22)
Technical Correction	Change "is managed" to "was established".	Concur.	Change language similar to: The Arctic National Wildlife Range State Game Refuge <u>was established</u> under AS 16.20. (pg. 1-4, line #22)
Technical Correction	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."	Concur.	Change language similar to: <u>exhibits high variability in calving and wintering areas, shifting its range frequently.</u> (pg. 2-17, line #31-33)

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
Technical Correction	Insert “Protection”.	Concur.	Add language similar to: the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Protection Act). (pg. 2-19, line #18-19)
Technical Correction	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</u> Endangered Species Act (ESA) candidate).”	Concur.	Change language similar to: These habitats support important breeding <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</u> Endangered Species Act (ESA). (pg. 2-19, line #38-41)
Technical Correction	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 the Alaska Shorebird Group in 2019.</u> ”	Concur.	Change language similar to: ..with at least five shorebird <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 <u>identified by the Alaska Shorebird Group in 2019.</u> (pg. 2-20, line #7-9)
Technical Correction	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.”	Concur.	Change language similar to: The Alaska Landbird Plan 2021 highlights multiple species, including the short-eared owl and the olive-sided flycatcher, which is on <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. (pg. 2-20, line #19-23)

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
<p>Technical Correction</p>	<p>Change to: “...tracking data can be provided by the <u>Alaska USFWS Western Golden Eagle Team</u>.”</p>	<p>Concur.</p>	<p>Change language similar to: ...tracking data can be provided by the <u>Alaska USFWS Western Golden Eagle Team</u>. (pg. 2-20, line 38)</p>
<p>Technical Correction</p>	<p>Change to: “from July through September. Fall chum salmon begin entering the Yukon River in mid-July. 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 and can have been be found in as <u>far upriver</u> as Old Crow, Yukon Territory. Adult and juvenile coho salmon, <u>as well a fall chum salmon</u>, also occur in the Draanjik (Black) River <u>and its tributaries</u>. <u>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> After spawning, salmon eggs remain in the gravel until hatching in late April to early May, when juveniles begin migrating downriver during spring runoff. Protecting the diversity and interconnectedness of riverine habitats is key to sustaining these populations.”</p>	<p>Concur.</p>	<p>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</u>. Adult and juvenile coho salmon, <u>as well a fall chum salmon</u>, occur in the Draanjik (Black) River <u>and its tributaries</u>. <u>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> (pg. 2-21, #1-9)</p>

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
Technical Correction	Change to: "...and in backwater sloughs of the Yukon <u>River</u> . Burbot are also found throughout the Yukon River <u>and</u> ; they 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 not to be migratory."	Concur.	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. (pg. 2-21, line #31-33)
Technical Correction	Change to: "near Coldfoot and the Dalton Highway. Hunting trips are for G grizzly bear, wolves, caribou,"	Concur.	Change language similar to: near Coldfoot and the Dalton Highway. Hunting trips are for grizzly bear, wolves, caribou, (pg. 2-38, line #8)
Technical Correction	Change to: "Recreation: Provide opportunities for a variety of recreational activities within publicly owned streams corridors <u>and lakes</u> ."	Concur.	Change language similar to: Recreation: Provide opportunities for a variety of recreational activities within publicly owned streams <u>and lakes</u> . (pg. 2-70, line #21)
Technical Correction	Change to: "Residents of the communities use the region for hunting, <u>trapping</u> , fishing, and general subsistence activities."	Concur.	Change language similar to: Residents of the communities use the region for hunting, <u>trapping</u> , fishing, and general subsistence activities. (pg. 3-15, line #37)
Technical Correction	In reference to Guideline B-3: Mining in Fish and Wildlife Habitat: There are no Special Areas currently within the plan boundary.	Concur.	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

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
			<p>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. (pg. 2-60, line #15-27)</p>
<p>Technical Correction</p>	<p>Change to: “Sport<u>Hunting</u> for caribou is extensive in this unit.”</p>	<p>Concur.</p>	<p>Change language similar to: <u>Hunting</u> for caribou is extensive in this unit. (pg. 3-55, Unit I-01)</p>
<p>Technical Correction</p>	<p>The Chapter 3 introduction has incorrect acreages listed for land ownership.</p>	<p>Concur.</p>	<p>Change as appropriate.</p>

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
<p>Technical Correction</p>	<p>Fix definitions of Public and Ancillary Waters in Chapter 2, Water Resources section.</p>	<p>Concur.</p>	<p>Change language similar to: Public waters are those not included within “Navigable Waters” and all other waters,” but 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. (pg. 2-69, line #11-12)</p> <p>“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. (pg. 2-69, line #22-25)</p>
<p>Technical Correction</p>	<p>Make it clear in resources and uses section of the RAT for the Dalton Corridor Region that the ASAP ROW and AKLNG ROW are separate authorizations.</p>	<p>Concur.</p>	<p>Change language in unit D-01 similar to: These leases include the Alyeska Pipeline ROW (ADL 63574), <u>ASAP ROW (ADL 418997)</u>, <u>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)</u>, <u>AKLNG ROW (ADL 421297)</u>Alaska Gasline ROW for</p>

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
			<p>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), Alaska Gasline ROW for the mainline and ASAP (ADL 418997 and ADL 421297)</u> 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), Alaska Gasline ROW for the mainline and ASAP (ADL 418997 and ADL 421297)</u>. (pg. 3-32 – 3-34, units D-01, D-02, D-03, and D-04)</p>
<p>Technical Correction</p>	<p>Regarding Guideline D-1 of the Materials section of Chapter 2: Clarify that it is not only permits and leases, but that all authorizations in relation to material extraction adequately protect other important resources and uses.</p>	<p>Concur.</p>	<p>Change language similar to: Prior to material extraction, the adjudicator will ensure that the requirements of the <u>authorization</u>permit or lease adequately protect other important resources and uses. (pg. 2-33, line #2)</p>
<p>Technical</p>	<p>Make all appropriate technical and</p>	<p>Some mistakes and involuntary</p>	<p>Change as appropriate.</p>

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
Corrections – Plan wide	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.	omissions occurred during the writing of this plan.	
Water Resources	The NEAAP must expressly state that water rights are reserved to the people of Alaska as a permanent right of use, not a revocable license.	The NEAAP is written in accordance with applicable statutes and regulations.	None.
Water Resources	NEAAP should maintain water quality and quantity sufficient to sustain the purposes of the Yukon Flats, Arctic, and Kanuti National Wildlife Refuges, consistent with Title III of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).	Water quality and use, as well as Reservations of Water, are addressed in the Water Resources section of Chapter 2.	None.
Water Resources	Incorporate current information on permafrost thaw, extreme rainfall, and “orange streams” documented by O’Donnell et al. (2024) and the National Park Service.	Thawing permafrost is addressed within the Physiography section of Chapter 1. Information about orange streams should be added to the plan.	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> (pg. 2-68, line #10)

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
Water Resources	Recognize the Service’s 46 pending applications for reservation of water within the Yukon Flats Refuge for instream-flow protection, which should be reflected explicitly in the NEAAP’s management guidelines.	Appendix F provides information about Reservations of Water within the NEAAP.	None.
Water Resources	Issues of navigable waters and submerged lands needs greater information regarding conflicts of industrial activities (oil and gas and mining) beneath these important waterways as habitat for fish, wildlife, and subsistence uses.	The Water Resources section of Chapter 2 includes two guidelines designed to mitigate conflicts between development and preservation. Guideline A-3 requires that proposals for new developments that anticipate significant water use submit to DNR an application to authorize that water use. Guideline A-5 speaks to the process for reserving water under AS 46.15.145 for the preservation of habitat, water quality, and navigation. (Pages 2-70 and 2-71)	None.
Water Resources	Chapter 3: Navigable Rivers, Streams, Creeks, and Lakes. In the section, Management Intent: Other Rivers, Streams, Creeks, and Lake. For example, the plan states “Navigable waterbodies that are not anadromous are designated Public Recreation,” (page 3-74), with no mention of Subsistence resources nor consideration of migratory bird habitat use of these water resources which is particularly importance in ANILCA conservation system units.	Many of the major rivers in the planning area are designated Harvest and/or Habitat (page 3-75). Additionally, this section of the plan (page 3-74, lines 28-33) includes management intent specific to navigable waters within conservation system units.	None.

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
Water Resources	Navigable Lakes are designated “Rd” (p.3-76). Why were only these 6 lakes classified out of the hundreds in the plan area? It seems arbitrary and capricious and does not serve the public interest.	The six lakes are specifically classified within the table. All other lakes are classified via the management intent found on page 3-74 and 3-75.	None.
Water Resources	Strengthen reclamation and water-quality requirements for any future exploration or development.	Water quality and use is already addressed in the Water Resources section of Chapter 2. Additionally, Guideline B-2 of the Subsurface Resources section of Chapter 2 discusses the statutory requirements for reclamation of mined land. Guideline B-1 of the Fish and Wildlife Habitat section of Chapter 2 provides for restoration efforts.	None.
Water Resources	Recognize the importance of instream flow protections to maintain water quality and aquatic habitat.	Appendix F provides information about Reservations of Water within the NEAAP. Additionally, Guideline A-5 of the Water Resources section of Chapter 2 explicitly addresses Reservations of Water.	None.
Water Resources	Partner with federal agencies and local communities to restore degraded tributaries. Coordinate restoration of impaired tributaries in the Birch Creek and Crooked Creek watersheds using active revegetation and floodplain reconnection.	Guideline B-1 of the Fish and Wildlife Habitat section of Chapter 2 provides for restoration efforts.	None.

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
Wildlife Habitat	Sensitive areas need to remain protected for spawning and other important wildlife to stay alive. We cannot make our lands vulnerable to development.	The plan provides guidelines to protect wildlife habitat which are outlined in the Fish and Wildlife Habitat section of Chapter 2. All classifications are subject to multiple use, as per 11 AAC 55.040(c).	None.
Wildlife Habitat	Wildlife and fisheries should not be managed primarily for revenue or federal matching purposes.	Management, maintenance, and protection of fish and wildlife are the responsibility of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Allocation of fish and game stocks and regulation of harvest methods, means, and timing are the responsibility of the state boards of Fisheries and Game and are not governed by this plan.	None.
Wildlife Habitat	All wildlife management programs must undergo fiduciary review to ensure full alignment with Article VIII and the principle of maximum benefit to the people.	Management, maintenance, and protection of fish and wildlife are the responsibility of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Allocation of fish and game stocks and regulation of harvest methods, means, and timing are the responsibility of the state boards of Fisheries and Game and are not governed by this plan.	None.
Wildlife Habitat	Consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service “shall” (rather than “may”) be required for land use decisions affecting migratory birds (waterfowl and other waterbirds, shorebirds, migratory landbirds, eagles and other raptors) and	Concur in reference to eagles and migratory birds. Other wildlife mentioned here are under the jurisdiction of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.	Change language similar to: Adjudicators shall consult with ADF&G and may contact USFWS (pg. 2-19, line #21-23 and pg. 2-21, line #11-12)

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	salmon or their habitats as well as other fish and wildlife species which depend on habitats in both state and refuge lands, especially those that are provide subsistence harvests.		
Wildlife Habitat	Recognize interjurisdictional fish species such as Chinook and fall chum salmon, which rely on spawning and rearing habitats within the Teedriinjik (Chandalar) River, one of the most productive systems in the Yukon Basin.	As per page 2-22, the plan states “Spawning for fall chum occurs mainly in September and October, with key spawning areas including the Teedriinjik (Chandalar) and Sheenjek Rivers.” Additionally, page 3-26, the resources and uses of unit A-20, North Fork Teedriinjik River, includes “The river is anadromous and supports Chinook and fall chum salmon.” Moreover, page 3-48, the resources and uses of unit Y-17, Teedriinjik River, includes “The river is anadromous, supporting spawning populations of Chinook and fall chum salmon.”	None.
Wildlife Habitat	Recognize the presence of three Important Bird Areas (IBAs); Yukon Flats East, Yukon Flats West, and Yukon-Charley Rivers, providing globally significant habitat for migratory waterfowl and raptors.	As per page 3-7, one of the criteria used to identify Habitat (Ha) designated areas in the plan is “Important Bird Areas as defined by the Audubon Society.” Additionally, locations where they occur on state land are identified within units (Y-01, Y-02, Y-04, and I-28).	None.
Wildlife Habitat	There needs to be coordinated protection of wetlands, migratory bird nesting grounds, and water quality, as essential	Concur.	None.

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	to both wildlife and human subsistence.		
Wildlife Habitat	NEAAP relies on outdated biological assessments. The Porcupine Caribou herd has not been fully surveyed since 2017, despite recent population changes, and the Fortymile Caribou herd has declined from 40,000 (2022) to 29,000 (2024). Moose densities in Units 25A and 25B remain critically low (<0.2 per sq. mile), levels insufficient for subsistence needs.	We utilize the best available data provided by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.	None.
Wildlife Habitat	Establish enforceable habitat buffers and closure areas to protect wetlands and migration corridors.	Minimum width and guidelines for wetland buffers are described within Table 2-3 within the Shorelands and Stream Corridors section of Chapter 2.	None.
Wildlife Habitat	Review new caribou calving data provided by ADF&G and make changes to units where it applies.	Concur.	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).

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Wildlife Habitat	Insert “-such as the establishment of spatial buffers between livestock and wild sheep-” and “in consultation with ADF&G”.	Concur.	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. (pg. 2-18, line #29-30)
Wildlife Habitat	Change 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.”	Concur.	Change language similar to: 4. For facilities supporting recreational fish and wildlife harvest, ADF&G <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. (pg. 2-40, line #32)
Wildlife Habitat	Change wildlife habitat connectivity terminology to implement wildlife habitat connectivity more broadly.	Concur.	Replace wildlife connectivity corridor/a connectivity corridor with wildlife habitat connectivity. (pg. 3-7, line 36; Unit D-01 (pg. 3-31), D-06 (pg. 3-35), and D-07 (pg. 3-36))
Wildlife Habitat	Change 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	Concur.	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 <u>should</u> consider the potential impacts on the wildlife corridor and subsistence and <u>should</u> include general mitigation measures that

Subject	Issue Summary	Response	Recommended Revision
	avoid, minimize, or mitigate any negative effects.		will avoid, minimize, or mitigate any negative effects. (pg. 3-35 and 3-36, unit D-06 and D-07)
Wildlife Habitat	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.	Concur.	<p>Change 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. (pg. 3-19)</p> <p>Unit A-11: Consult ADF&G regarding authorizations that will have impacts upon sensitive Dall sheep habitat. (pg. 3-21)</p>
Wildlife Habitat	Add consultation language for ADF&G in units that have wildlife resources.	Concur, in part.	<p>Change language similar to:</p> <p>Unit A-09: Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. (pg. 3-20)</p> <p>Unit A-14: Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. (pg. 3-23)</p>
Wildlife Habitat	Refine consultation language with ADF&G in settlement designated units.	Concur, in part.	<p>Change 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. (pg. 3-23)</p> <p>Unit I-14: Consult with ADF&G prior to disposal. (pg. 3-60)</p>

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			<p>Unit I-18: Consult with ADF&G prior to disposal. (pg. 3-63)</p> <p>Unit I-20: Consult with ADF&G prior to disposal. (pg. 3-64)</p>
Wildlife Habitat	Areas of Dall sheep habitat occur in unit A-19 and D-05.	Concur.	<p>Change language similar to:</p> <p>Unit A-19: Small areas of Dall sheep habitat occur in the southwest portion of the unit. (pg. 3-25)</p> <p>Unit D-05: An area of Dall sheep habitat occurs in the southeast portion of the unit. (pg. 3-35)</p>
Wildlife Habitat	The potential for dredging, filling, significant compaction of vegetation and sediment, alteration of flow patterns, discharge of toxic substances, or disturbance during sensitive periods to cause negative impacts directly or indirectly on adjacent or “downstream” refuge lands should also be carefully considered and avoided.	Prior to the statement about degradation, the plan states “Uses not consistent with a plan designation and classification, or not authorized in a management intent statement, and that, if permitted, would result in the degradation of the resource(s) within areas designated “Ha”, are to be considered incompatible and are not to be authorized unless determined to be necessary and in the best interest of the state.” This explains that any potential authorization that would cause degradation, as defined in the plan, within units designated Habitat would generally be considered incompatible and not authorized.	None.

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		<p>Additionally, under guideline C-4, the plan states “DNR will consult with federal agencies to develop mitigation measures to avoid and minimize impacts to resources within the plan boundary, when appropriate.”</p>	
<p>Wildlife Habitat</p>	<p>Support USFWS’s recommendation that the Department of Natural Resources integrate findings from the Alaska Protected Lands Connectivity Study (Magness et al., 2015) and Climate Connectivity Corridors in Alaska (Gabrielsen, 2019) to identify, conserve, and manage critical ecological linkages sustaining fish, wildlife, and subsistence resources across jurisdictional boundaries. Integrate measurable climate-adaptation thresholds that trigger management action.</p>	<p>As per page 3-7, one of the criteria used to identify Habitat (Ha) designated areas in the plan is wildlife habitat connectivity. Additionally, locations where they occur on state land are identified within units (D-06 and D-07).</p>	<p>None.</p>