

Matanuska Valley Moose Range & Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan
Recommended Revisions
July 1, 2024

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Recommended Revision</u>
GENERAL PLAN COMMENTS	
Technical Corrections (Plan-wide)	Make all appropriate technical, editorial, and factual corrections to the Plan. These corrections will not affect Plan policy.
Map Corrections	The maps in the plan will be updated to improve legibility and correct spelling, heading and other technical errors.
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	
p 1-1, line 6, Purpose of the Plan	Delete the word “high-valued” and replace with “high-grade.”
p 1-1, line 23, Purpose of the Plan	Add “biking, winter biking, and skiing”.
P 1-8, after line 234, Relationship to other Plans and Agreements	<p>Add two more bullets after line 234 including, “4. <u>Chickaloon Community Comprehensive Plan</u>. The Chickaloon Community Comprehensive Plan contains the following recommendations relevant to the Moose Range and JPUA Management Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open space and natural areas are preferable to large clearings and filled in wetlands. • Gravel roads, fresh air, clean water, quiet neighborhoods, access to traditional hunting areas, and access to public lands and water are essential in supporting what residents define as the rural character of the area. • Chickaloon supports the reservation and development of trails that connect open areas to residential and commercial areas. • Build and maintain a trailhead facility at King River to protect the river and provide safe access. • Relocate trails to avoid private property conflicts. • Protect important historical sites and trails. • Pursue National Historic designation for the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail. • <p>5. <u>Fishhook Community Comprehensive Plan</u>. The Fishhook Community Comprehensive Plan contains the following recommendations relevant to the Moose Range and JPUA Management Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain access to public open space. • The Moose Range is important for water quantity and quality as an aquifer recharge area, migratory bird habitat, hunting, year-round recreation, and salmon production and activities. • Manage trail user conflicts using enforcement, signage, and user education. • The Moose Range is vital to the aquifer recharge for the Fishhook area. • Encourage the State of AK to defend RS2477 trails. • Work cooperatively with DNR to develop and maintain a multi-use trail system within the Matanuska Valley Moose Range and revise a management plan to benefit all user groups as well as fish and wildlife.

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CHAPTER 2: AREAWIDE GOALS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES	
p. 2-4, Map 2, Access Points	Remove Access Trail/Road 1, Arkose Ridge Trail. There is legal public access, however access is impractical due to the very challenging terrain. Renumber the remaining Access Trail/Roads as necessary.
p. 2-4, Map 2, Access Points	Add an access point for Seventeen Mile Lake.
p. 2-4, Map 2, Access Points	Add the following sentence to Map 2, “RS 2477 routes are included for land management purposes and users should not assume the route is available for public use. If you are not sure whether a trail you want to use is a certified R.S. 2477 right-of-way, check public land records and consult with each landowner or managing agency before crossing the property.”
p. 2-4, Map 2, Access Points	Add the following sentence to Map 2, “Access points are included for land management purposes and users should not assume the route or access point is available for public use. Access points may or may not have verified legal access and management actions for access points, roads, and trails must complete research to verify their legal status.”
p. 2-5, line 89, Agency Review for Mining Access	Change the word “should” to “shall.”
p. 2-6, line 131, Road Buffers	Delete the phrase “to protect habitat.”
p. 2-6, line 133, Road Buffers	Add the sentence, “Ideally, buffers should extend 100 feet from the outer edge of the right-of-way.”
p. 2-8, line 190, Access, Protection of Fish and Wildlife Resources	Change the word “should” to “shall.”
p. 2-9, lines 252-255, Cultural and Heritage Resources Background.	Replace the paragraph on lines 252-255 with the following, “The local Alpine Historical Society in the Sutton manages the Alpine Historical Park, a facility that provides interpretive information about the heritage and cultures of the early settlers of the area including Ahtna-Dena (Athabaskan) culture, coal mining, and the construction of the Glenn Highway.”
p. 2-11, after line 300, Cultural and Heritage Resources	Add a fifth bullet entitled “Undiscovered Sites” to read, “The planning area has been used historically by Alaska Native people. With the extent of past cultural use, it is likely that additional cultural resources may be located. Areas in the Moose Range and JPUA designated by SHPO as known and high potential areas for containing heritage resources should be surveyed for heritage values as funding and staffing allow.
p. 2-13, line 400, Fish and Wildlife Habitat	Change the word “will” to “should.”
p. 2-15, line 471, Eagles	Delete the word “bald.”
p. 2-16, line 511, Fish & Wildlife Habitat, Anadromous Fisheries	Add a sub-bullet between sub-bullets i and j to include the following, “ <u>Waterfowl</u> . In important waterfowl habitat, disturbance should be avoided during sensitive periods such as nesting, staging, or brood-rearing periods. If it is likely that a waterfowl concentration exists within the area affected by a potential project, consult with ADF&G and USFWS to identify areas of important waterfowl to determine appropriate mitigation or avoidance measures. The USFWS recommends for migratory birds affected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act of 2004 that land disturbing activities be conducted before May 1 or after July 15 to avoid disturbing nesting, molting, and fledging birds in forests, woodlands, shrub or open areas.”

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p. 2-16, line 520, Protection of Mineral Licks	Replace the word “values” with the word “reserves.”
p. 2-21, line 675, Material Sources	Add the sentence, “DNR shall consult with ADF&G.”
p. 2-23, line 753, Public Use Sites	Replace the word “shall” with the word “may”.
p. 2-23, after line 754, Public Use Sites	Add a fifth bullet “e.” to read, “DNR may allow target shooting within a Public Use Site only withing a designated and managed shooting area.”
p. 2-24, lines 793-795, Recreation Objectives	Reword the sentence on lines 793-795 to read, “The Moose Range and JPUA will be managed to provide dispersed public recreation activities for multiple uses to the extent this does not cause significant conflicts with the overall goal of supporting moose, fish, and other wildlife populations and habitat.”
p. 2-25, line 821, Moose Creek Campground	Delete the phrase “Moose Creek State Recreation Area” and replace with “Moose Creek Campground, DNR land that is seasonally managed, improved, and maintained by Chickaloon Village Traditional Council.”
p. 2-25, line 827, Public Recreation Facility Development, Shooting Ranges	Add the following sentence, “Shooting ranges authorized in the Moose Range and JPUA will be operated and maintained according to best management practices.”
p. 2-25, line 827-830, Public Recreation Facility Development, Shooting Ranges	Delete the following sentence, “Although DNR should identify and designate areas for a shooting range development, it is intended that local groups interested in managing shooting range operations would apply to DNR for development and operation of a facility (See Map 7 in Chapter 3).”
p. 2-26, lines 880, 883, Management of Recreational Uses	The word ‘fish’ will be added twice, once on line 880 and once on line 883 to make the phrase “fish and wildlife”.
p. 2-27, after line 910, Trails	Add another sub-bullet to read, “iii. New facilities or trails that cannot avoid or minimize adverse impacts to sensitive areas may not be approved.”
p. 2-28, line 943, Description of Coal Resource	Add the phrase “and the interior of Alaska” after the “Lower 48.”
p. 2-28, line 945, Description of Coal Resource	Replace the last sentence of the paragraph with “However, because of the high coal quality, access to transportation facilities, and the high value of bituminous coals in the Moose Range when compared to the sub-bituminous coal produced in the interior, mining is possible.”
p. 2-29, Map 3, Mining Claims and Mineral Leases	Add the following sentence to Map 3, “RS 2477 routes are included for land management purposes and users should not assume the route is available for public use. If you are not sure whether a trail you want to use is a certified R.S. 2477 right-of-way, check public land records and consult with each landowner or managing agency before crossing the property.”
p. 2-30, line 967-969, Castle Mountain Mineral Closure	Delete this sentence and replace with the following, “The southern face of Castle Mountain is closed to locatable mineral entry and is not available for mineral leasing.”

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p. 2-30, line 993, Mineral Development	Change the word “should” to “will.”
p. 2-31, line 1006, Mine Site Consultation	Change the word “should” to “will.”
p. 2-31, line 1028, Oil and Gas	Change the word “should” to “shall.”
p. 2-32, line 1046, Mineral Licks	Add the words “wildlife trails” after “well-established.”
p. 2-32, line 1055, Mineral Licks	Add the words “wildlife trails” after “Maintain the integrity of.”
p. 2-34, line 1126, Trail Management Plan	The phrase, “designate uses for specific trails” will be added.
p. 2-34, line 1142, Managing Trail Use	Add a 4 th sub-bullet entitled “ <u>Exceptions</u> . Management activities, such as research, forestry, DNR authorizations, ADF&G Fish Habitat authorizations, and habitat enhancement will be considered following Agency Review.”
p. 2-35, line 1174, New Trail Development	Change the word “should” to “will.”
p. 2-35, after line 1179, New Trail Development	Add an additional bullet “f.” to read, “New facilities or trails that cannot avoid or minimize adverse impacts to sensitive areas may not be approved.”
p. 2-35, line 1189-1190, Water, Wetlands, and Waterbodies Background	Delete the following sentence, “All four of the major tributaries have glaciers in their headwaters and most of their annual discharge occurs during the spring and early summer.”
p. 2-37, line 1227, Coal Mining Requirements in Water, Wetlands, and Waterbodies	Change the word “should” to “will.”
p. 2-37, line 1253, Fresh Water Bodies Buffers	Add the word “non-anadromous” before the word “lakes.”
CHAPTER 3: LAND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR INDIVIDUAL SUBUNITS	
p. 3-4, after line 125, Overall Subunit Map	Add a map that shows the overall extent of the Moose Range and JPUA and all four subunits to give subunit context at the beginning of Chapter 3.
p. 3-5, line 135, Western Management Subunit Background	Add the following sentence, “Additionally, the Western Management Subunit is in proximity to other public recreation areas including Hatcher Pass Management Area, Little Su Public Use Facility, and Government Peak Recreation Area.”

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p. 3-8, line 212, Wendt Road Trailhead	<p>Delete the Wendt Road Trailhead Section from New Access. Add a new sub-bullet on page 3-9 after line 234 to read, “d. <u>Trailheads</u>. After the completion of a Trails Management Plan, DNR may consider authorizing trailhead improvements on Wendt Road that are managed, maintained, consistent with adjacent land uses, and provide legal and accessible access.</p> <p>Access to the Western Management Subunit from Fishhook Road is possible via Wendt Road. An upgraded trailhead may be developed at the end of Wendt Road for multiple use access to the Moose Range. DNR DMLW and ADF&G should work cooperatively to develop a trailhead designed to be consistent with the intent of the management plan. The trailhead should minimize negative impacts on neighboring private property and land uses. If a trailhead at this location is proposed by an entity other than DNR, a management agreement for active site management, maintenance, and enforcement is required to be in place prior to authorization. Additionally, a trailhead should not be authorized until the Trail Management Plan (TMP) for the Moose Range and JPUA is complete and there is a more thorough understanding of the capacity of the trail system in the Western Management Subunit for increased use.”</p>
p. 3-8, line 225, Trails	<p>Replace this bullet with the following, “<u>Trail Use Restrictions</u>. ADF&G and DNR should continue to authorize the construction of hardened routes and sustainable creek crossings. To protect wetland resources and habitat, motorized and mechanized trail use should be restricted in the Western Management Subunit during snow-free and ice-free seasons to authorized hardened routes that will be established by the TMP defined in Chapter 2. Vehicle use restrictions may be necessary to protect habitat.”</p>
p. 3-9, after line 234, Access and Trails in the Western Management Subunit	<p>Add a sub-bullet “e” to read, “<u>Trailheads</u>. After the completion of a Trails Management Plan, DNR may consider authorizing trailhead improvements on Murphy Road that is managed, maintained, consistent with adjacent land uses, and provide legal and accessible access.”</p>
p. 3-10, line 272, Fisheries	<p>Add the phrase “as appropriate” after the word “enhance.”</p>
p. 3-10, line 292, Public Use Sites in the Western Management Subunit	<p>Replace the sentence on line 292 with the following, “The addition of Public Use Sites may be appropriate in the Western Management Subunit. The plan recommends completing a Trail Management Plan and through that process, DNR may identify appropriate trails, trail facilities, trailheads, and Public Use Sites.”</p>
p. 3-11, lines 309-312, Instream Flow Reservations in the Western Management Subunit	<p>Delete these sentences and replace with the following, “<u>Instream Flow Data Collection</u>. ADF&G may collect instream flow data needed to inform its Title 16 permit decision making process for Wasilla Creek and Moose Creek to maintain adequate flow for fish habitat. DNR DMLW shall work closely with ADF&G to identify waters where instream flow data needs to be collected associated with any work that will require permitting by either agency.”</p>
p. 3-13, line 350, Jonesville Subunit Background	<p>Add “ice fishing.”</p>
p. 3-13, line 357, Description of coal in the Jonesville Management Subunit	<p>Delete the word “high-valued” and replace with “high-grade.”</p>
p. 3-15, after line 420, Incompatibility Determination	<p>Add a fourth bullet to read, “<u>Reasons for Determination of Incompatibility</u>. The use of weapons, including firearms, is not compatible with other recreational uses in the JPUA due to the significant threat to public safety, property damage, noise, and contamination (See bullet 1 above).”</p>

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p. 3-15, lines 438-439, Unit J1 Description for the Jonesville Management Subunit	Delete the last sentence of this paragraph and replace with, "DNR should manage the Eska Creek Falls Public Use Site (See Map 7) to minimize user conflicts, ensure public safety, and mitigate damage to habitat from off-road motorized vehicle use."
p. 3-16, lines 460 – 461, Description of Unit J3	Delete the description and replace with the following sentence, "The development of a public shooting range that is designed for long-range shooting and that minimizes noise disturbance is allowed in Unit J3."
p. 3-16, line 472	Add the following sentence, "The development of a public shooting range that minimizes noise disturbance is allowed in Unit J4."
p. 3-16, lines 472-473, Motocross Area	Delete the following sentence, "DNR may consider authorizing a motocross area in an area already impacted by former mining activity."
p. 3-17, Map 5, Jonesville Management Subunit.	The boundaries of J3 and J4 will be updated to include the expansion of the Slipper Lake Public Use Site.
p. 3-18, after line 507, Access and Trail in the Jonesville Management Subunit	Add the following sub-bullet, " <u>Access Improvements</u> . The access road to the Eska Creek Falls Hiking Trail should be improved."
p. 3-19, line 547, Fisheries in the Western Management Subunit	Delete the first sentence and replace with, "ADF&G will maintain, protect, and enhance, as appropriate, the fisheries and habitats of Eska and Moose Creeks and Wishbone and Slipper Lakes."
p. 3-20, line 576, Public Use Sites	Add "designated shooting ranges" to the list of improvements that may be authorized within a Public Use Site.
P. 3-21, Map 6, Proposed Public Use Sites	Increase the size of the Slipper Lake Public Use Site to include areas north of the current boundary. Edit all map labels to read "Public Use Site" and not "Public Use Area."
p. 3-22, line 608, Recreation Facility Development	At the end of the sentence on line 608 add, "consistent with best management practices."
p. 3-22, after line 613, Commercial Recreation Facility Development	Add the following sub-bullet, "b. <u>Commercial Recreational Facility Development</u> . Commercial recreational facility development is authorized in the Jonesville Management Subunit consistent with the areawide guidelines in Chapter 2. Commercial recreational facilities prohibited include public use cabins, restaurants, concessions, food service, lodging buildings/facilities, and hunting camps."
p. 3-24, line 647, description of coal resources in the Jonesville Management Subunit	Delete the word "valued" and replace with "grade."
p. 3-24, lines 671-674, Instream Flow Reservations in the Jonesville Management Subunit	Delete these sentences and replace with the following, " <u>Instream Flow Data Collection</u> . ADF&G may collect instream flow data needed to inform its Title 16 permit decision making process for Eska Creek and Moose Creek to maintain adequate flow for fish habitat. DNR DMLW shall work closely with ADF&G to identify waters where instream flow data needs to be collected associated with any work that will require permitting by either agency."

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p. 3-25, line 693, description of coal resources in the Middle Management Subunit	Delete the word “high-value” and replace with “high-grade.”
p. 3-25, line 694, description of coal resources in the Middle Management Subunit	Delete the word “low-value” and replace with “low-grade.”
p. 3-29, after line 789, Access and Trails in the Middle Management Subunit	Add a sub-bullet “d” to read, “ <u>Trailheads</u> . After the completion of a Trails Management Plan, DNR may consider authorizing trailheads on either end of the Chickaloon Trail that are managed, maintained, consistent with adjacent land uses, and provide legal and accessible access.”
p. 3-30, line 833, Fisheries in the Middle Management Subunit	Delete the first sentence and replace with, “ADF&G will maintain, protect, and enhance, as appropriate, the fisheries and habitats of Granite Creek, Young Creek, Kings River, the Chickaloon River, and Chain Lakes.”
p. 3-31, after line 879, Recreation in the Middle Management Subunit	Add a sub-bullet “d” to read, “ <u>Whitewater Boating</u> . DNR may authorize the development of infrastructure to support whitewater boating on the Chickaloon River.”
p. 3-31, lines 881-882, Castle Mountain Mineral Closure	Replace the first sentence with the following, “The southern face of Castle Mountain shall be closed to locatable mineral entry.”
p. 3-31, lines 890-893, Instream Flow Reservations in the Middle Management Subunit	Delete these sentences and replace with the following, “ <u>Instream Flow Data Collection</u> . ADF&G may collect instream flow data needed to inform its Title 16 permit decision making process for Granite Creek, Young Creek, Kings River, and Chickaloon River to maintain adequate flow for fish habitat. DNR DMLW shall work closely with ADF&G to identify waters where instream flow data needs to be collected associated with any work that will require permitting by either agency.”
p. 3-32, line 904, description of coal resources in the Eastern Management Subunit	Delete the word “values” and replace with “grade.”
p. 3-35, after line 963, Access and Trails in the Eastern Management Subunit	Add a sub-bullet “d” to read, “ <u>Trailheads</u> . After the completion of a Trails Management Plan, DNR may consider authorizing trailheads on either end of the Chickaloon Trail that are managed, maintained, consistent with adjacent land uses, and provide legal and accessible access.”
p. 3-36, line 1003, Fisheries in the Eastern Management Subunit	Delete the first sentence and replace with, “ADF&G will maintain, protect, and enhance, as appropriate, the fisheries and habitats in the Chickaloon River, Boulder Creek, and other waters.”
p. 3-37, after line 1042, Recreation in the Eastern Management Subunit	Add a sub-bullet “c” to read, “ <u>Whitewater Boating</u> . DNR may authorize the development of infrastructure to support whitewater boating on the Chickaloon River.”
p. 3-37, line 1047, description of coal resources in the Eastern Management Subunit	Delete the word “potential” and replace with “grade.”

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p. 3-37, lines 1059-1062, Instream Flow Reservations in the Eastern Management Subunit	Delete these sentences and replace with the following, " <u>Instream Flow Data Collection</u> . ADF&G may collect instream flow data needed to inform its Title 16 permit decision making process for the Chickaloon River and Boulder Creek to maintain adequate flow for fish habitat. DNR DMLW shall work closely with ADF&G to identify waters where instream flow data needs to be collected associated with any work that will require permitting by either agency."
CHAPTER 4: IMPLEMENTATION	
p. 4-7, line 195	Change the word "will" to "may".
GLOSSARY	
p. A-iv, lines 91-98, Definition of Habitat	Delete the bulleted list and replace with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Anadromous and high value resident fish spawning, rearing, overwintering, and migration areas. • Fish streams frequented by bears (including concentrations by season). • Nesting, breeding, and molting concentrations for birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918). • Waterfowl and game bird nesting, breeding, and molting areas. • Bear denning sites. • Caribou rutting, wintering, and calving areas. • Dall sheep wintering, rutting, and lambing areas. • Mountain goat rutting, wintering, and kidding areas. • Moose rutting, wintering, and calving areas. • Wolf concentration areas. • Mineral licks. • Wildlife migration corridors. • Core habitat of Species of Greatest Conservation Need."