



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER
Resource Assessment & Development Section

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September 22, 2023

Subject: Release of the Public Review Draft of the Matanuska Valley Moose Range and Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan. Public Comment Period Open September 22, 2023, through November 9, 2023.

Dear Interested Community Members and Organizations,

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has released the Public Review Draft (PRD) of the Matanuska Valley Moose Range and Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan (Moose Range and JPUA) for public review and comment. Following the public review period, DNR intends to adopt the plan with any changes that may result from the input received. Once adopted, this plan will serve as the basis for the management of the Moose Range and JPUA for 20 years. This plan includes a Land Classification Order (SC-23-001) that affects approximately 131,700 acres of state owned and state selected land distributed throughout the planning area. The Moose Range and JPUA are nestled in the southern foothills of the Talkeetna Mountains east of the Little Susitna River and north of the Glenn Highway extending as far as the Boulder Creek drainage to the east. The classification order implements the plan and primarily classifies land as Habitat, Public Recreation, Forestry, and Coal.

In 2018, the Alaska Legislature passed [Alaska Statute 41.23.280](#) establishing the JPUA to address concerns of safety and to provide a spectrum of public recreation opportunities while maintaining fish and wildlife habitat. The JPUA lies almost entirely within the Moose Range, [Alaska Statute 16.20.340](#), that is managed through the [Moose Range Management Plan](#). The Moose Range was established to maintain, improve, and enhance moose population and habitat and other wildlife of the area, and to perpetuate multiple public uses of the area. The Moose Range Management Plan was adopted by DNR and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in 1986.

Alaska Statute directs DNR to prepare a management plan that includes long-range guidelines and management recommendations for the JPUA and the Moose Range. The PRD for the Moose Range and JPUA has been developed as one document to ensure compatibility and consistent management of state resources.

The PRD presents a range of management guidelines and recommendations for public review that are intended to fulfill the purposes of the Moose Range and JPUA, protect natural resources, manage user conflicts, and improve public safety including:

- Updating management guidelines and recommendations to be consistent with current best management practices. Much has changed since the original plan was adopted in 1986.
- Recommending the need for a specific Trail Management Plan to identify trail routes that protect wetlands and wildlife habitat and reduce trail user conflicts.
- Establishing Public Use Sites within the planning area so that places with concentrated use can be more actively managed.

- Recommending a designated area for the discharge of firearms in the Jonesville Management Subunit and other management subunits as necessary.

Many of these management recommendations would require the promulgation of subsequent regulations for successful implementation.

To facilitate your review and comment, the PRD is available online at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/mgtplans/jonesville-mooserange/>. Public meetings are scheduled in several communities within the planning area during this comment period.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sutton Public Library 11301 N. Chickaloon Way Sutton, AK 99674	Tuesday, October 17 th	From 5-7 PM
Palmer High School Library 1170 W Arctic Ave. Palmer, AK 99645	Thursday, October 19 th	From 5-7 PM
Chickaloon Community Center Milepost 76.2 Glenn Highway	Tuesday, October 24 th	From 5-7 PM
Virtual Open House via Microsoft Teams	Thursday, October 19 th	From 12:00-1:30 PM

Comments on the Public Review Draft of the Moose Range and JPUA Management Plan must be received on or before November 9, 2023 by email at jonesvillemooserange@alaska.gov, or through the online Public Comment Portal at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/comment/>.

Mailed comments must be received by November 9, 2023, and should be mailed to the following:

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

Please contact the planning project staff indicated below with questions on the Moose Range and JPUA Management Plan.

Rob Earl
Natural Resource Specialist III
Email: jonesvillemooserange@alaska.gov
Phone: 907-269-8533



Scan the QR code to be taken to the Moose Range and JPUA Management Plan webpage:

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