

EDUCATION

Goals

Provide Information. Provide adequate and accurate orientation and direction for visitors.

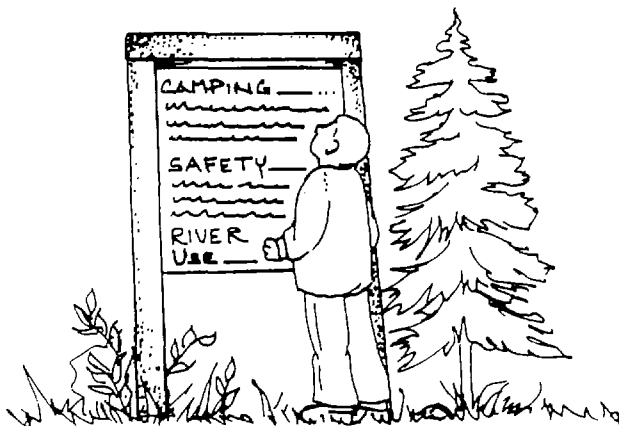
Provide for Safety. Promote safe recreation through informational brochures, programs, and regulations.

Provide Awareness of Habitat Values. Promote public awareness of habitat values, the activities which may adversely affect such areas, and potential management actions required to prevent habitat degradation.

Provide Awareness of Regulations. Promote public awareness of regulations and permits and the resource values upon which they are based. Also promote public awareness of the diverse opportunities within the Recreation Rivers to reduce conflicts between user groups.

Landowner Programs. Design and initiate an educational program on shoreline land-use practices to assist shoreline landowners in safely developing their property and adjacent state lands, while protecting river resources.

Interpretation. Provide interpretation services to highlight and explain points of interest such as heritage sites.



Management Guidelines

General Education. Throughout the planning process education was identified by the public as an effective management tool for enhancing recreation opportunities, reducing resource damage, and minimizing user conflicts. To meet these goals, education materials should be developed cooperatively by state agencies, the borough, interested user groups, and other individuals or organizations with relevant expertise. The following education materials are appropriate in the Recreation Rivers.

1. **Public Outreach.** DNR field staff should be made available to contact users in the Recreation Rivers and make public presentations to user groups. Information displays should be made available for loan to organizations or for special events. Education videos and slide programs should also be developed and available for viewing by interested groups.

2. **Brochures.** Informational brochures should be developed on subjects relevant to the use and management of the Recreation Rivers. This may include a brochure describing each river. Topics for brochures may include, area-wide regulations, boating safety, minimum impact camping techniques, legal access, and land ownership. Efforts should be made to make brochures available in foreign languages. Brochures should be made available at boat launches, businesses, and information offices.

3. **Kiosks or Bulletin Boards.** Kiosks or bulletin boards displaying information on the Recreation Rivers should be established at key entry and exit points, and at developed facilities within or adjacent to the Recreation Rivers.

4. **Signs.** The use of signs as a management tool or for public education should be minimized in Class I areas, and elsewhere in the Recreation Rivers. Other than signs on roads, signs should be constructed of natural materials, particularly in Class I areas. Signs should be used judiciously for identifying management area boundaries, important heritage sites, safety hazards, regulations, and

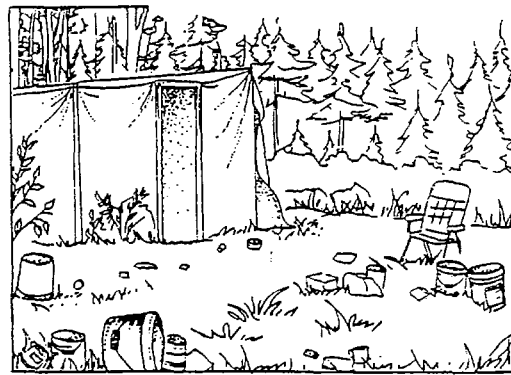
other important public information, as determined by the department and other public agencies. The placement of signs on state lands shall be restricted to those placed by the state and other public agencies, or required by agencies, such as legal descriptions on mining claims, or a land use permit posted on a temporary camp. Commercial, "no trespassing," and other private signs are prohibited on state lands within the Recreation Rivers. However, "No trespassing" signs may be allowed on active mining locations or safety signs for improvements under state authorization. (See Subsurface Resources, Public Access Across Mining Claims.)

The DLW director may authorize the use of other signs, under permit, for non-profit or other groups serving a public purpose, if the use is consistent with the management of the subunit. The restrictions on signs shall be implemented through regulations. Also see *Shoreline Development, Other Types of Buoys.*

Other Guidelines Affecting Education.

Several other guidelines may affect education issues. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Shoreline Development
- Recreation
- Boat Access
- Subsurface Resources



ENFORCEMENT

Public Concerns. Throughout the planning process, the public stated that enforcement should be a high priority. They thought that many of the problems in the Recreation Rivers could only be addressed through a combination of better education and enforcement (education needs are described in the previous section). The public cited a number of areas where enforcement was needed to enforce existing and proposed regulations including those addressing: fish and game harvest, littering, long-term camps, abandonment of property, intoxication, and reckless operation of boats.

Citation Authority. The Recreation Rivers Act grants the commissioner authority to designate peace officers to enforce provisions of the act under AS 41.23.440(b).

DNR should seek statutory authority and draft regulations which provide citation authority to DLW so the plan can be fully implemented. Until this occurs, DLW should work with the Department of Public Safety to address the public concerns described in the above section. Also see *Other Recommendations, Enforcement* in Chapter 4.

Other Guidelines Affecting Enforcement.

Several other guidelines may affect education. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Recreation
- Commercial
- Boat Access
- Education
- Phasing and Interim Management

PHASING & INTERIM MANAGEMENT

Phased Implementation. Several management actions in the plan require additional funding, field staff, facilities, or regulations. It is unlikely that these resources will be immediately available when the plan is signed. For this reason, proposed actions will be phased as these resources become available. DLW implementation priorities are described in Appendix G.

After the plan takes effect and before the adoption of regulations recommended by the plan, the Recreation Rivers or parts thereof may be designated a "Special Use Area" under 11 AAC 96.010. This statute allows the department to require a permit for, "activities that may result in unnecessary harm to land having special scenic, historic, archeological, scientific, biological, recreational, or other special values." For the department to require a permit, users must receive written notice of the special-use designation or it cannot take effect for 90 days. A special-use-area designation will not require a plan amendment.

Phasing Regulations. Because of the number of new regulations proposed and the staff, time, and resources need to develop them, DNR should consider promulgating regulations in two or three phases. If regulations are phased, those pertaining to camping limits, commercial use permits, boating regulations, littering and vandalism should be addressed first. See Appendix G, *Priorities for the Implementation of the Recreation Rivers Management Plan*.

Other Guidelines Affecting Phasing and Interim Management. Several other guidelines may affect phasing and interim management. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Recreation
- Commercial
- Boat Access

