

Seasonal Scheduling. To avoid conflicts with recreational uses of the river, harvest should not occur during the peak fishing season. The peak use periods for each subunit are listed for each subunit in Chapter 3. Seasonal restrictions on harvest does not apply to areas where there is little boating or fishing, such as the upland parcel south of Bench Lake on the upper Little Susitna River. Timber harvesting during the snow-free season will be directed to well-drained sites where summer harvest can aid site preparation and reduce damage to wetlands.



Other Guidelines Affecting Forestry. Several other guidelines may affect Forestry. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Upland Access
- Heritage Resources

SUBSURFACE RESOURCES

Goals

Mineral and Energy Supplies. Make metallic minerals, oil, and gas available to contribute to the energy and mineral supplies, and to the economy.

Environmental Quality and Recreation Values. When developing subsurface resources, minimize surface disturbance, degradation of water quality, and impairment and conflicts with recreation uses.

Recreation Mining. Make metallic minerals available for recreation mining.

Management Guidelines - Mining

Restrictions in the Act. Under AS 41.23.470(c), "the commissioner may permit mining leasing under AS 38.05.205 on uplands within a recreation river corridor if leasing is allowed under a management plan that has been adopted by the commissioner. The commissioner shall establish appropriate conditions for permits, operating plans, and leases to mitigate the effects of mineral development activities on the environ-

ment and to prevent, to the extent practicable, degradation of the recreation uses of the river." Map 2.3 shows the existing mineral locations and areas that will be effected by mineral orders.

Existing Claims. Existing claims are currently located in the following subunits: Middle Lake Creek (4c), Talachulitna Canyon (5b), Talachulitna Mouth (5a), and Clear Creek (3c).

Mineral Leasehold Location Order. Between RM 42.2 and RM 45.8 along Lake Creek rights to locatable minerals may be acquired only under the leasehold location system, AS 36.05.205, and may not be acquired by locating a mining claim under AS 38.05.145. This will be implemented by both a leasehold location order and a mineral opening order which includes approximately 3,360 acres. There will be a 300-foot staking setback from the ordinary high water mark on Lake, Camp, and Sunflower creeks. In addition, leasehold locations may not be staked in the public use sites at the mouth of Camp and Sunflower creeks (PU 4d.1 and PU 4d.2). Leases will be restricted to 5-year periods. The Recreation Rivers Advisory Board will have the opportunity to review the leases and plans of operation in this area as part of the Alaska Coastal Manage-

ment Program review process. The lease should also include language that states that if at any time the lease is in effect, the lessee has defaulted on the lease, or upon termination of the lease for any reason, the state may take possession of the property, improvements, and equipment of the lessee on the leased area as security for payment of rent due, or to indemnify lease.

Mineral Orders. As a result of mineral closing orders prescribed by the Susitna Area Plan and Willow Subbasin Plan, most of the Recreation Rivers are closed to new mineral entry. Exceptions include the upper Little Susitna River that was open to mineral entry under lease under the Willow Subbasin Area Plan. Also, there are some discrepancies between the legal descriptions in the area plans, the mineral orders, and the Recreation River boundaries. These discrepancies will be rectified by additional mineral orders. All lands within the Recreation Rivers legal boundaries (and additions approved by the legislature) will be closed to new mineral entry (except where noted above for upper Lake Creek). Closures will prevent surface use conflicts and protect high public use values. Areas that were recommended for designation as Recreation Rivers by the Susitna Area Plan but were not designated by the legislature, shall be reopened to new mineral entry (approximately 640 acres). Mineral closing orders for the four proposed additions (Upper Moose Creek, mouth of Alexander Creek, Upper Nancy Lake Creek, and upper Talkeetna Canyon) will be null and void on August 1, 1992 if these areas are not added to the Recreation Rivers by the legislature.

Land Use Permits for Mining. Under existing regulations, mining operations that use heavy equipment, disturb the riverbed, restrict public access, or build or use a surface structure require approval by the Division of Mining. This approval is generally authorized by a Land Use Permit. To simplify the permitting process, mine operators can file the Annual Placer Mining Application which serves as a combined permit application for several agencies. For mining operations in the Coastal Zone, the Annual Placer Mining Application will be reviewed for consistency through the Coastal Zone Management program. Copies of the Annual Placer Mining Applications and issued Land Use Permits will be distributed to agencies that request copies.

Data Needs. The application for a Land Use Permit will include, in addition to the standard Annual Placer Mining Application questionnaire, sufficient explanation to show how the mine operator plans to comply with the plan guidelines for mineral development, rehabilitation of mine sites, relationship to scenic and heritage resources, and public access.

Plan of Operations for Mineral Leases. An approved plan of operations for a mineral lease takes the place of the Land Use Permit required for unleased land. If proposed lease activities are so minor that they could take place without a Land Use Permit on unleased land, a plan of operations is not required (11 AAC 86.800).

The plan of operations must show how the operator proposes to comply with the lease stipulations and other pertinent guidelines in this plan.

Data Needs. Plans of operation will follow existing regulations given in 11 AAC 86.800. In addition, the following information will be required:

1. Justification for vegetation clearing.
2. Delineation of proposed access roads within the lease or accessing the lease on a topographic map.
3. Location, size and purpose of any proposed structures and description of how visual guidelines will be met.

Approval of Plan of Operations. DNR will approve plans of operation required for locatable mineral leases and Land Use Permits if the plans or permit applications adequately address the guidelines of this plan, state laws and regulations, and if DNR has consulted with and given careful consideration to the recommendations of DFG and DEC. If after a reasonable period of time a negotiated solution cannot be reached with the operator, or in the event of repeated violations, violation of the plan of operations or Land Use Permits is cause for enforced cessation of operations.

Best Management Practices. DFG will utilize its manual, *Best Management Practices for Placer Mining* when issuing Title 16 permits and reviewing of and commenting on the Division of Mining's plans of operations and Land Use Permits for mining. DFG recommendations for rejection or modification of a Land Use Permit or a plan

of operations for placer mining will be based on Title 16 and the DFG Best Management Practices. (This document is available from DFG or DNR).

- 1. Removal of Vegetation.** Vegetation may be removed no more than one year ahead of mining unless unusual circumstances exist. The area of vegetation removal will be for the immediate areas of the excavations, and sites for overburden storage, settling ponds, access roads, equipment storage, and other authorized structures. The timing and extent of vegetation removal must be outlined in the mining plan.
- 2. Tailings and Overburden.** Overburden and tailings will be stockpiled and/or deposited in accordance with the mining plans.
- 3. Control of Run-off, Siltation and/or Pollution.** The area must be managed to minimize non-point sources of pollution.
- 4. Mine Site Consultation.** To assist the mine operator in developing the operation in a manner that is as compatible as possible with public use of the area in the vicinity of the mine, an on-site pre-development conference should be held with the mine operator and DNR, DFG, and DEC officials. If agencies are unable to perform the on-site consultation due to budget or staff constraints, the plan of operations may be approved without it.

Reclamation of Mine Sites

- 1. Reclamation.** Mine sites will be reclaimed consistent with the state reclamation law (AS 29.17) and regulations adopted to implement the law. Requirements in the law and proposed regulations that provide for bonding, reclamation plans, and reclamation standards will be applied to all mining leases or locations including operations under five acres or those that move less than 50,000 cubic yards of earth.
- 2. Reclamation Plan Required.** Reclamation plans will be required for mining activities authorized by a mining lease or location.
- 3. Phased Reclamation.** Disturbed acreage should be minimized. Disturbed areas should be reclaimed as phases of the mine operations are completed unless this is not feasible or prudent.

4. Rehabilitation Requirement. Excavated areas and waste disposal sites will be recontoured to a natural appearing state at an average slope of no more than 3:1 or equivalent to the original slope. Topsoil will be replaced and the area revegetated. DFG and the Division of Agriculture Plant Materials Center should be consulted as to types of vegetation most conducive for returning the mined area to a state which approaches the "pre-mining" natural conditions. Use of native plant species is preferred.

Water Discharge. Zero discharge of waste water will be allowed into the rivers or their tributaries from mining operations. Also see *Agency Implementation Responsibilities, DGGS*, in Chapter 4.

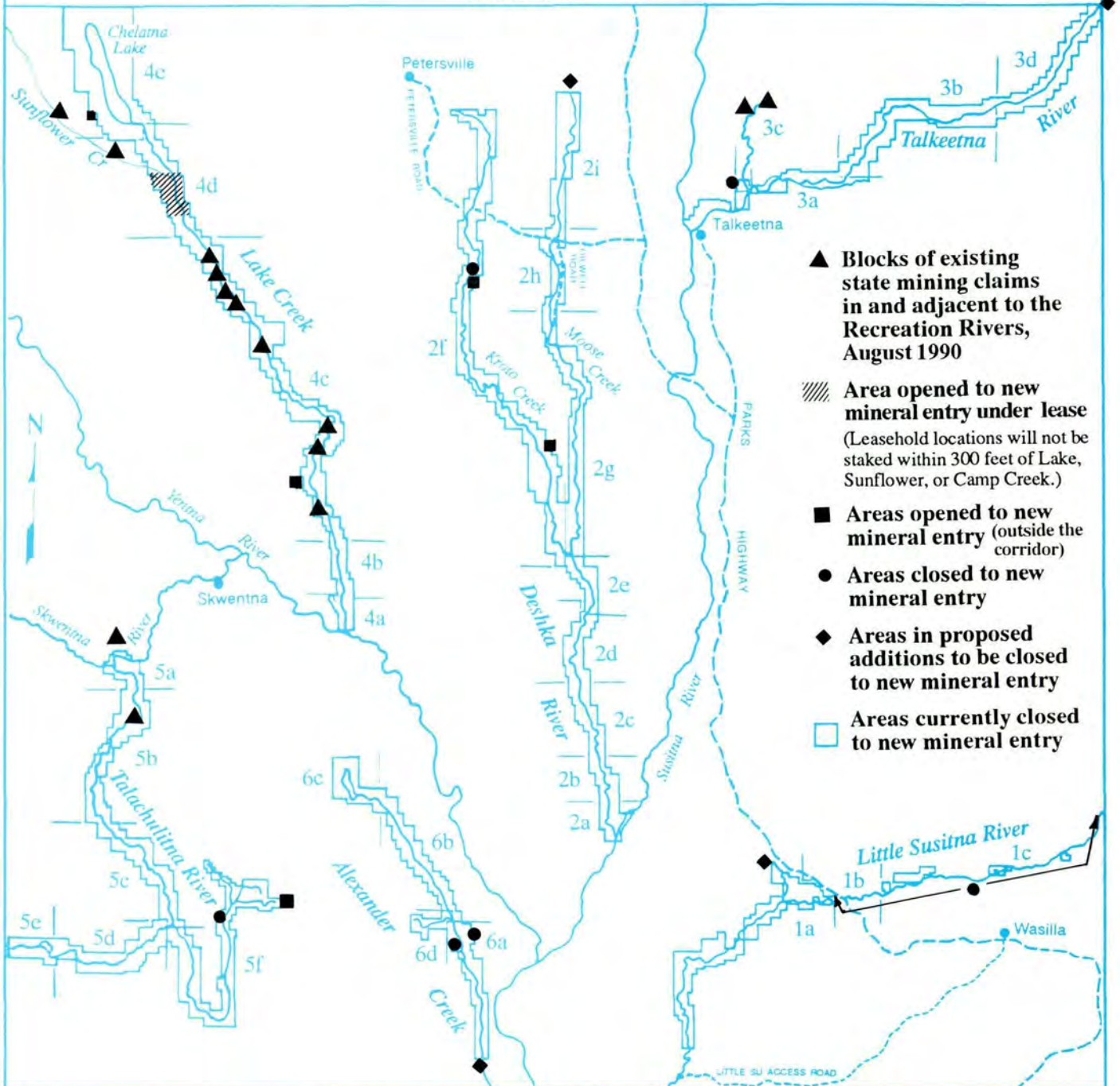
Siting of Structures. Special care will be taken to site mining camps. Minimizing visual prominence of structures provides a benefit to miners by making them less noticeable to potential vandals and by promoting public acceptance of surface alterations to state lands. The following guidelines will be followed in locating mining structures, unless no feasible or prudent alternative exists.

- 1.** For existing locations, living accommodations for mineral exploration, annual assessment, or production must be setback at least one-fourth mile from ordinary high water in the main river. Living accommodations associated with locations in the area open for new mineral entry under the leasehold location system on upper Lake Creek must be located outside the corridor.
- 2.** No full-time residences will be allowed on either existing or new locations inside the Recreation Rivers. Living accommodations must be removed at the end of each season. Use of mining locations for homesites, non-mining related business, or recreation sites is prohibited. Camps associated with recreational mining should comply with regulations for *primitive tent camps* described under *Recreation* in this chapter.
- 3.** Structures that are not used for living accommodations may be allowed on mining operations, if, in the judgment of the Division of Mining, they are necessary for the operation. These may remain for more than one work season but must be removed at the end of the term of use. Abandoned or unusable construction materials, equipment, or structures should be removed annually.

SUSITNA BASIN RECREATION RIVERS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Area Proposed to be open to New Mineral Entry under Lease

MAP 2.3



- ▲ Blocks of existing state mining claims in and adjacent to the Recreation Rivers, August 1990
- ▨ Area opened to new mineral entry under lease (Leasehold locations will not be staked within 300 feet of Lake, Sunflower, or Camp Creek.)
- Areas opened to new mineral entry (outside the corridor)
- Areas closed to new mineral entry
- ◆ Areas in proposed additions to be closed to new mineral entry
- Areas currently closed to new mineral entry

MANAGEMENT UNITS & SUBUNITS

1. Little Susitna River
 1a. Lower Little Susitna River
 1b. Middle Little Susitna River
 1c. Upper Little Susitna River

2. Deshka River
 2a. Mouth Of Deshka River
 2b. Lower Deshka River
 2c. Middle Deshka River
 2d. Neil Lake
 2e. The Forks
 2f. Kroyo Creek
 2g. Lower Moose Creek
 2h. Oilwell Road
 2i. Upper Moose Creek

3. Talkeetna River
 3a. Lower Talkeetna River
 3b. Middle Talkeetna River
 3c. Clear (Chunilna) Creek
 3d. Talkeetna Canyon

4. Lake Creek
 4a. Lake Creek Mouth
 4b. Lower Lake Creek
 4c. Middle Lake Creek
 4d. Upper Lake Creek
 4e. Chelana Lake

5. Talachulitna River
 5a. Mouth Of Talachulitna River
 5b. Talachulitna River Canyon
 5c. Middle Talachulitna River
 5d. Talachulitna Creek
 5e. Judd Lake
 5f. Upper Talachulitna River

6. Alexander Creek
 6a. Lower Alexander Creek
 6b. Upper Alexander Creek
 6c. Alexander Lake
 6d. Sucker Creek

4. Structures and construction materials should be consolidated behind natural contours rather than on prominent points, or behind vegetative screens. Visibility of structures from the rivers should be minimized to the extent practical.
5. Structures should be grouped together where possible.
6. Structures should be kept to the minimum number necessary to perform mining operations.
7. Structures should blend with the landscape to the extent possible. For example, structures should be rustic in nature or painted a dark color to blend with the terrain. Shiny metal roofs and walls are discouraged.
8. Trash should be neatly contained and removed from public view. It should not be an attractive nuisance for bears. Disposal should be consistent with the solid waste guidelines in this chapter.

Public Access Across Mining Locations.

Public access across mining locations is usually unrestricted. Public access within an actively mined area may be restricted if authorized under an approved plan of operation, to protect public safety, or to prevent unreasonable interference with the rights of the miner. *No trespass* signs may only be posted in the immediate working area or on structures after access restrictions have been authorized by DNR. Signs may not be used to block the public's use of legal access or intimidate the public. Facilities will not be located where they would block public access to state lands or waters.

Motorized Access. Seasonal motorized transport restrictions will not apply to the use of motors or powered transport associated with assessment work or commercial production on active mining claims. See *General Access, Permits for Access to Private Land and Mine Claims*, and *Upland Access*. For recreational mining, motor transport or use of motorized equipment shall not be allowed in the non-motorized areas during the period when those prohibitions apply.

Leases for Tourism Gold Mining. Leases for tourism-related gold-mining businesses will not be issued in the Recreation Rivers.

Suction Dredges. Recreational mining is defined as using a suction dredge with a nozzle of

six inches or less, powered by a 16 HP motor or less. Although a permit for recreational mining is not required from DNR, a Title 16 Permit is required from DFG if the use is to occur in a designated anadromous waterbody. DFG should not allow suction dredging in the active river channels where water is flowing during the time of the activity. The use of a suction dredge larger than 6" requires an annual placer mining application or plan of operation from DNR. Also see *Upland Access* in this section.

Signs. Marking mining locations should be consistent with the guidelines under *Recreation, Marking Natural Objects and Public Educations, Signs*.

Leasable Minerals other than Oil and Gas.

Coal and other leasable minerals, with the exception of oil and gas, will not be available for leasing.

Management Guidelines - Oil and Gas

Oil and Gas Leasing. With the exception of guidelines listed below, the plan defers decisions regarding leasing for oil and gas to DNR's existing leasing processes. The department's statewide policies for oil and gas are found in the Five Year Oil and Gas Leasing Program. Specific stipulations for oil and gas exploration, development, and production activities will be developed and applied on a case-by-case basis for each oil and gas lease sale using the lease sale process.

Siting Facilities. The siting of onshore facilities, other than roads, docks, or pipeline crossings, will be prohibited within 500 feet of all fishbearing streams and lakes unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the director of the Division of Oil and Gas, after consultation with the Department of Fish and Game, that the alternative site locations outside this buffer zone are not feasible or prudent.

Additionally, to the extent feasible, the siting of facilities within one-half mile of the banks of the main stems of the six Recreation Rivers is prohibited. Pipeline crossings must be aligned perpendicular or near perpendicular to the watercourse.

Seismic Exploration. The plan defers to existing DNR seismic exploration permitting processes. To avoid conflicts with recreation users, damage to sensitive habitats, and to protect scenic qualities of the rivers, techniques that can occur in winter and that minimize clearing of vegetation are preferred.

Other Guidelines Affecting Materials.

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

Shoreline Development	General Access
Recreation	Upland Access
Commercial	Land and Water

MATERIALS

Material Supplies. Make materials available for personal use, use incidental to the construction of access, or for habitat enhancement.

Environmental Quality and Recreation Resources. When developing material sources, minimize surface disturbance, degradation of water quality, and visual impairment.

Management Guidelines

Restrictions in the Act. Materials include the common varieties of sand, gravel, rock, peat, pumice, pumicite, clay, and sod. The Recreation Rivers Act authorizes negotiated material sales within the corridors under AS 38.05.115 to provide for personal use and for use incidental to the construction of access or for habitat enhancement. Personal use is limited to 100 cubic yards. Negotiated material sales for non-personal use are limited to 25,000 cubic yards of materials per year. Consistent with the Recreation Rivers Act, negotiated sales to state or federal agencies, political subdivisions, and charitable organizations authorized under AS 38.05.810 may be allowed.

Location. If feasible and prudent, material sites outside the corridors should be utilized before developing material sites located within the Recreation Rivers.

Extraction Below Ordinary High Water. Material extraction will not be allowed below ordinary high water (OHW) or in the protection area. Exceptions to allow extraction for habitat enhancement may occur for sites identified by DFG or to move a minimal amount of materials which may

be necessary to provide a flat base for the toe of a structure. Elsewhere in the corridors material sales will be allowed on a case-by-case basis.

Reclamation. Reclamation of a material site shall be consistent with state reclamation law. At the discretion of DLW, a bond will be required of the site developer.

Existing DOTPF Pits. There are two active DOTPF materials sites in the Recreation Rivers. One is a 90-acre site located in T18N, R1E, Sec. 8, on the upper Little Susitna River, off the Palmer-Fishhook Road. The eastern half of this tract has been transferred to DOTPF under an Inter-agency Land Management Transfer (ILMT ADL 59287) for an undetermined duration. It is one of the most important state material sites in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley. The second site is located on 1.3 acres on Oilwell Road where the road crosses Kroto Creek.

DOTPF is authorized to remove 10,000 cubic yards of material from this site for work on the Kroto Creek Bridge. Materials extraction may continue from these sites under the existing authorizations. The sites will be reclaimed consistent with state reclamation law and DOTPF Standard Stipulations for material sources after extraction is completed. Also see *DOTPF Materials Site, Subunit 3c* in Chapter 3.

Other Guidelines Affecting Subsurface Resources. Several other guidelines may affect subsurface resources. See the following sections of this chapter:

Shoreline Development
Upland Access