

The Alaska Public Land Planning Directory



prepared by Susan Todd

Agricultural & Forestry Experiment Station
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Alaska — The Planned Frontier!

Perhaps no other state in the union has as much land planning as Alaska. This occurs because almost 90% of Alaska is managed by federal or state agencies (see page 4). By law, agencies are required to prepare plans to guide and justify their activities. The Alaska Planning Directory provides a comprehensive review of the agencies, their planning goals and processes, the opportunities for public involvement they provide, and the plans they have produced and intend to produce.

Newcomers to Alaska, as well as many old-timers, are surprised to find out that Alaska, “The Last Frontier”, has so much planning. A variety of acts, however, require that agencies prepare plans. These acts include the Alaska Statehood Act, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the National Forest Management Act, the Federal Land Policy Management Act, and the Alaska National Land Conservation Act, among others. These acts subdivided Alaska into dozens of management units, giving Alaska one of the most complicated land management patterns of any state in the nation. Given the value of Alaska’s nature—its waters, land and wildlife—and the diversity of management institutions, each with its own objectives, the plans provide the primary means of working out agreements on how areas should be managed.

This report is intended for anyone with questions on public land management in Alaska: the general public and tourists as well as professional planners, community leaders, business and development managers, and nonprofit groups. Prior editions of this publication (1985, 1987, and 1991) were distributed widely by the Cooperative Extension Service throughout the state.

The types of plans included are plans for public land owned by the federal and state government. Public resources, such as fish and wildlife, are not included in this volume, although an edition on planning for fish and wildlife populations is being considered.

I wish to thank Judy Skagerberg who updated this report in 1995, Tom Gallagher who authored the first two editions, and Laura Walker who assisted in revising this edition. I would also like to thank all of the agency people who took time from their busy schedules to help me bring this information up-to-date. Corrections and suggestions are always welcome! Send them to me at:

Susan Todd
 School of Agriculture & Land Resources Management
 University of Alaska Fairbanks
 PO Box 757200
 Fairbanks, AK 99775

(907) 474-6930
susan.todd@uaf.edu



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Alaska Land Ownership, 1960 and 2000 (In Millions of Acres)

	Ownership in 1960	%	Ownership in 2000	%
Total Federal Lands	374.00	100%	242.00	65%
Public Domain	290.30	78%	61.40	16%
National Parks, Refuges, and Forests	46.90	13%	150.50	40%
National Wildlife Refuges	18.70	5%	76.50	20%
National Parks, Preserves, Monuments	7.50	2%	52.00	14%
National Forests and Monuments	20.70	6%	22.00	6%
National Conservation and Recreation Areas		0%	2.20	1%
National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska	23.00	6%	23.00	6%
Military Reserves	2.60	1%	1.80	0%
Native Reserves	4.10	1%	0.08	0%
Other Withdrawals	7.50	2%	2.60	1%
Total State Lands	0.00	0%	89.50	24%
General State Lands	0.00	0%	77.90	21%
Legislatively-Designated Areas	0.00	0%	11.30	3%
Parks	0.00	0%	3.30	1%
Game Refuges, Sanctuaries, Crit. Habitat	0.00	0%	3.20	1%
Forests	0.00	0%	2.20	1%
Other Special Categories	0.00	0%	2.60	1%
Mental Health Trust (MHT) land	1.00	0%	1.00	0%
University of Alaska Lands	0.15	0%	0.17	0%
Municipal Lands	0.00	0%	0.66	0%
Total Public Land	374.00	100%	331.50	89%
Total Private Lands	0.50	0%	40.09	11%
Alaska Native Corporation Lands	0.00	0%	37.40	10%
Other Private	0.50	0%	2.69	1%
Federal Land Programs	0.50	0%	1.80	0%
State Land Programs	0.00	0%	0.75	0%
Municipal Land Sales	0.00	0%	0.14	0%
Totals*	374.50	100%	371.59	99%

** Acreage figures differ slightly because some agencies count submerged lands and others do not. Therefore, the amounts cited in individual categories do not total to exactly 375 million acres, the size most commonly cited for Alaska.*

Source: Hull, T. and L. Leask. 2000. *Dividing Alaska, 1867-2000: Changing Land Ownership and Management*. Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage.
<http://www.iser.uaa.alaska.edu/WhatsCool/WhatsCool.htm> (Click on "Dividing Alaska")

ABBREVIATIONS

ACMP	Alaska Coastal Management Program
ACZMA	Alaska Coastal Zone Management Act of 1977
ADFG	Alaska Department of Fish & Game
AIFMC	Alaska Inter-agency Fire Management Council
ALUC	Alaska Land Use Council
AMSA	Areas which Merit Special Attention
ANCSA	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971
ANILCA	Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act of 1980
BLM	Bureau of Land Management, US Department of the Interior
BPS	Bureau Planning System
CCP	Comprehensive Conservation Plan
CMP	Coastal Management Program
CRSA	Coastal Resource Service Area
CZM	Coastal Zone Management
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (federal)
DMLW	Division of Mining, Land and Water, DNR, State of Alaska
DNR	Department of Natural Resources, State of Alaska
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service, US Department of the Interior
GMP	General Management Plan
IRA	Indian Reorganization Act
KRSMA	Kenai River Special Management Area
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund (federal)
MFP	Management Framework Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NFMA	National Forest Management Act of 1976
NPR-A	National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska
NPS	National Park Service, US Department of the Interior
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RPA	Resource Planning Act of 1974
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SCRAP	Southcentral Recreation Action Plan
SFM	Statement for Management
TBAP	Tanana Basin Area Plan (DNR)
TLMP	Tongass Land Management Plan
USFS	US Forest Service, Department of Agriculture

Federal Agencies

U.S. Department of Agriculture — Forest Service

HISTORY — ALASKA'S NATIONAL FORESTS

The Alaska Region of the Forest Service extends northwestward from the southern end of Southeast Alaska, along the coast of the Gulf of Alaska to Prince William Sound and across the Kenai Peninsula to Cook Inlet. It contains two National Forests, the Tongass and the Chugach. <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10>

Tongass National Forest

The Tongass, which was established through a series of proclamations between 1902 and 1909 and now contains about 16.9 million acres, is the largest National Forest in the nation. It also has the distinction of containing two of the three Forest Service-administered National Monuments, Admiralty Island (955,000 acres) and Misty Fjords (2,285,000 acres) (Mount St. Helens in the Pacific Northwest Region is the other monument). Because of its great size, the Tongass is managed through three administrative areas: the Chatham, Stikine, and Ketchikan. Each area has its own forest supervisor and planning staff officer. <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/>

Most of the 10.2 million acres of forested land on the Tongass is still old-growth and is part of the cool, very moist temperate rain forest that extends along the Pacific coast from northern California to Cook Inlet in Alaska. About 18% of the forested acres of the Tongass are currently available for commercial timber harvest purposes. The trees on these and other non-federal lands are sold to supply the Southeast Alaska timber industry with the wood it uses to produce forest products such as pulp and lumber. About a third of the available forested acreage has been harvested since the 1950s, and new stands of trees are rapidly replacing the old-growth stands that have been cut.

The Tongass is home for more than 450 different wildlife and fish species. Wildlife and fisheries management on the Tongass National Forest occurs through close cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The anadromous fisheries management program is the largest for any single forest in the National Forest System. Southeast Alaska waters support a large commercial fisheries industry dependent upon salmon that spawn in the streams and rivers within the National Forest.

The Tongass offers outstanding recreation opportunities. About 5.7 million acres of the Forest are now included in the National Wilderness Preservation System and many other areas are being managed to maintain primitive and semi-primitive recreation settings. The Forest is also known for its system of remote area public use cabins, hiking trails, campgrounds, and visitor centers. Tourism has been increasing at a rapid rate since about 1980. Local recreation use has also been growing, but at a lower rate since the regional population has not been increasing as rapidly.

The Forest is considered rich in mineral resources and has a long mining history. Minerals found on the Tongass include precious metals (gold, silver, and platinum) and base metals (copper, iron, lead, zinc, nickel, cobalt, molybdenum, barium, and chromium). Nonmetallic minerals such as gypsum and asbestos, as well as coal, oil, and gas deposits, also exist. Vast quantities of limestone and marble are found in Southeast Alaska's extensive karstlands, which are also becoming known for their outstanding cave resources.

Chugach National Forest

The Chugach, which was established in 1907 and now contains about 5.7 million acres, is the second largest National Forest in the nation. It is located along the Gulf of Alaska from Cape Suckling to Cordova and contains most of the coastal lands and islands of Prince William Sound, several primarily glacial areas reaching north from Prince William Sound, including the Nellie Juan River, the Sargent Icefield and Controller Bay, and the northeast third of the Kenai Peninsula.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/>

Like the Tongass, the Chugach is home to many different wildlife and fish species. Wildlife and fisheries management on the Chugach National Forest occurs in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Forest recreation use has been increasing as the population of Southcentral Alaska (particularly in the Anchorage area) has grown and because of a steady increase in tourism. Approximately 90% of the recorded use occurs on the Kenai Peninsula. The Prince William Sound area is also experiencing increasing recreation use pressures, and if plans for improved access to the Sound are realized in the near future, this will intensify.

LEGAL BASIS FOR PLANNING

The Forest Service conducts planning activities and makes decisions for administering the Tongass and Chugach Forests in accordance with provisions of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970, other applicable legislation, and related implementing regulations.

PROCESS AND PARTICIPATION

Planning is continuous at and between each of the above levels rather than sequential. Continuous monitoring, evaluation, and adjustment through amendment and revision is required by NFMA for the Forest Plans. All activities remain subject to site-specific and continuing compliance with Federal environmental laws. The Forest Service publicizes and conducts public participation activities to obtain adequate public input as part of the planning processes at each level. The Forest Service decisions made at each level are subject to public review and appeal. Judicial review is also available at those points of the decision-making process that represent “final agency action” and present a judicial controversy. In general, management decisions become progressively more specific at each lower level.

PLANNING PROGRAM

Planning is done at three levels: the regional level, the forest level, and the project level. At the Regional Level, a Regional Guide and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are required under provisions of the NFMA implementing regulations (36 CFR 219). The 1983 Alaska Regional Guide established standards and guidelines for Forest Service activities, and described measures for coordinating the National Forest System, State and Private Forestry, and research programs of the Forest Service in Alaska (among other provisions).

At the Forest Level, a Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and EIS are required for each Forest under provisions of the NFMA and 36 CFR 219. Forest Plans are to be amended as needed and revised every 10–15 years. Forest Plans provide direction for all resource management programs, practices, uses, and protection measures. The multiple-use goals, objectives, land allocations, and other programmatic direction they contain establish the “ordinance” under which future project decisions are made. The status of the two Forest Level plans in this region is as follows:

Tongass National Forest: Land and Resource Management Plan

The Tongass is the largest national forest in the nation. The present Tongass Land Management Plan or “TLMP” was completed in 1997 and a revised Record of Decision was issued in 1999. Contact: John Sherrod, Planning Staff Officer, Tongass National Forest, 204 Siginaka Way, Sitka, AK 99835-7316. (907) 747-6671.

Chugach National Forest: Land and Resource Management Plan

The present plan is being revised with completion expected in 2001. Contact: Chuck Frey, Planning Staff Officer, Chugach National Forest, 3301 C Street, Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99503-3998. (907) 271-2500.

At the Project Level, planning and decision-making implements the management practices that are designed each year to achieve the goals and objectives of the current Forest Plans. This involves additional site-specific analysis to meet NEPA requirements.

CONTACTS

Primary contacts for information about Forest Service planning and decision-making processes are:

Regional Office

Jan Lerum, Regional Planner
USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region
Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628
(907) 586-8796, fax (907) 586-7852
jlerum@fs.fed.us

Chugach National Forest

Planning Staff Officer
Chugach National Forest
3301 C Street, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 95503-3998
(907) 271-2500

Tongass National Forest

Chatham Area:

Planning Staff Officer
Tongass National Forest
204 Siginaka Way
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-6671

Stikine Area:

Planning Staff Officer
Tongass National Forest
PO Box 309
Petersburg, AK 99833
(907) 772-3314

Ketchikan Area:

Planning Staff Officer
Tongass National Forest
Federal Building
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 225-3101

U.S. Department of the Interior — Bureau of Land Management

HISTORY

When Alaska became a state, the Bureau of Land Management was caretaker of 272 million acres, or 75% of Alaska's 365 million upland acres. An additional 24% of the state was managed by other federal agencies and less than one percent was in private ownership. Since then, however, several legislative acts have transferred large portions of this federal trust land to other federal agencies, to the state, and to Native corporations.

The transfers from the public domain to other agencies and private entities involved three major acts. The Statehood Act of 1958 gave the new state the right to claim about 104 million acres; the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 gave the Native people of Alaska, through newly formed corporations, the right to select an additional 40 million acres; and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 created or modified a number of national parks, refuges, and forests, taking an additional 104 million acres from BLM authority. The BLM currently manages about 100 million acres, but when all selections are complete the agency will retain about 65 million acres, or 18% of the state.

LEGAL BASIS FOR PLANNING

Before 1976, the BLM served as a caretaker of public lands in Alaska and was primarily involved in land disposals (sales) and fire fighting. In the early 1970s the agency began preparing land use plans called Management Framework Plans or MFPs.

In 1976 Congress passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) that revised the operating mandate of the BLM, establishing it as a land management agency. The FLPMA stated that the BLM would prepare land use plans to manage the "use, occupancy, and development" of federal lands, and that such planning should be done in a "periodic and systematic" manner consistent with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines. These FLPMA based plans are called Resource Management Plans or RMPs.

PLANNING PROGRAM

The Bureau Planning System (BPS) has four tiers of plans: policy, land use, activity, and projects. The policy plan consists of the FLPMA and administrative directives that affect statewide policy and give direction to the more specific land use plans. The land use plans, or RMPs, "provide a general outline of future land use management and establish resource priorities" within a specific planning area. Activity plans provide even more specific policy guidelines for a particular activity such as forest management, watershed management, fishery/wildlife management, and recreation management. At the most specific level, the projects plans include drawings and specifications necessary to construct a facility or implement a specific program.

From 1995 until now BLM only completed one land use plan and that was the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement. Beginning this year there is a new emphasis on planning in BLM Alaska, and we are amending the RMPs for Forts Greeley and Wainwright that are on the list below. We are beginning a new RMP for South-Southeastern Alaska, and we are developing a plan for the Colville River Area on the eastern edge of NPR-A. In addition, next year the bureau will begin a new RMP for the northwestern part of NPR-A and one for the lands near Glennallen.

PROCESS AND PARTICIPATION

For the RMPs the BLM uses a nine-step process that meets NEPA and BPS guidelines. After a notice of intent to plan is filed (published in the Federal Register), the agency completes the following steps:

- Step 1. Identify issues (scoping meetings)
- Step 2. Develop planning criteria
- Step 3. Collect inventory data and information

- Step 4. Analyze the management situation
- Step 5. Formulate alternatives
- Step 6. Estimate effects of alternatives and submit draft plan
(starts 90-day public review period)
- Step 7. Review comments and prepare final plan, submit to director
- Step 8. Record of decision by state director
(starts 60-day governor's consistency review and 30-day public protest period)
- Step 9. Implement, monitor, and evaluate plan

The BLM provides opportunities for public participation in steps 1, 2, 5, and 7. Legally mandated participation occurs between steps 6 and 7 (the 90-day formal review of the draft plan) and following the record of decision (a 30-day protest period). These formal opportunities and other less formal meetings are announced by advertisements in local newspapers and through other methods that the planner in charge feels are appropriate.

The BLM is in the process of reforming its advisory council, which reviews all agency plans. This council will be known as a Resource Advisory Council. At this time, it is not known how many persons will be on the council. The RMPs are amended on an as-needed basis.

PRODUCTS

The RMP, as it moves through the process, typically includes both the management plan and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The plan portion includes such sections as goals, management prescriptions, and consistency with subsistence regulations. The EIS portion includes sections on purpose, issues, criteria, alternatives, the affected environment, environmental consequences, and participation. The final RMP is published without the EIS but with the record of decision.

INTERNET SITES

Bureau of Land Management
<http://www.ak.blm.gov>

Alaska Fire Service, Interagency Wildland Fire Management
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>

CONTACTS

For information about the BLM planning program contact:

Curtis Wilson, Land Use Planner
Division of Lands & Renewable Resources (AK-931)
Bureau of Land Management
222 West 7th Ave., #13
Anchorage, AK 99513
(907) 271-5546
Curtis_Wilson@ak.blm.gov

In addition to the specific plan contacts provided below, the following offices are good sources of general information:

Southern Area: Ed Bovy, External Affairs Office, Bureau of Land Management
222 West 7th Ave, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513
(907) 271-3318, Ed_Bovy@ak.blm.gov

Northern Area: Bob Schneider, Bureau of Land Management
1150 University Ave, Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 474-2216, Bob_Schneider@ak.blm.gov

LAND USE PLANS: ANCHORAGE DISTRICT

Southwest Management Framework Plan (12,000,000 acres) — Completed in 1982. Contact: Anchorage District Manager, 6881 Abbott Loop Road, Anchorage, AK 99507. (907) 267-1248.

New Land Use Plan: Anchorage District South/Southeast RMP (acreage to be determined) — Expected date of completion 2005. Contact: Anchorage District Manager, 6881 Abbott Loop Road, Anchorage, AK 99507. (907) 267-1248.

LAND USE PLANS: GLENNALLEN DISTRICT

Southcentral Management Framework Plan (5,000,000 acres) — Completed in 1980. An RMP to replace the MFP was initiated in 1989, but was placed on hold in 1992 pending state selections. Contact: Glennallen District Manager, P.O. Box 147, Glennallen, AK 99588. (907) 822-3217.

New Land Use Plan: Glennallen District Alaska East RMP (acreage to be determined) — Expected date of completion 2006. Contact: Glennallen District Manager, P.O. Box 147, Glennallen, AK 99588. (907) 822-3217.

LAND USE PLANS: NORTHERN DISTRICT

For information about these land use plans, contact: Northern District Manager, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99709-3844. (907) 474-2302.

National Petroleum Reserve, Alaska (23,000,000 acres) — NPR-A, as it is called, was established by Congress in 1923. The tract has been managed by the BLM since 1976 under guidelines of the Naval Resource Production Act. A background study was completed in 1979 as required by the act. The study consists of extensive inventories of abiotic, biotic, and cultural resources. The area is managed primarily for oil and gas production with specific leasing plans prepared periodically. The area does not have a formal RMP. It does, however, have several special study areas that were established when the area was transferred to BLM management. These areas are the Teshekpuk Lake Special Study Area, the Colville River Special Study Area, the Utukok Uplands Special Area, and the Kaseguluk Lagoon Special Area. The Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement developed a multiple-use plan for 5.6 million acres in the northeast corner of the area and was completed in 1998.

Central Yukon Resource Management Plan (9,400,000 acres) — The record of decision was signed in October of 1986.

Fortymile Management Framework Plan (5,000,000 acres) — This plan was completed in 1980. Since then, however, almost all BLM-administered land in the area has been set aside as parks or refuges or has been selected by the state or Native corporations. The remaining large tract in the area is the Fortymile Wild and Scenic River, which has its own, more specific, river management plan.

Northwest Management Framework Plan (7,648,000 acres) — The record of decision was signed in 1982.

Steese National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan (1,200,000 acres) — Specifically required by ANILCA, this plan was completed in 1986. Includes the Birch Creek Wild River Management Plan.

Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan (6,200,000 acres) — Acreage includes 1.5 million acres in the utility corridor and 4.7 million acres between NPR-A, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and north of 68 degrees north latitude. This latter area, added by ANILCA Sec. 1001, requires special assessment of oil and gas resources, review of wilderness characteristics, and protection of wildlife resources. First completed as an MFP in 1980, with amendments in 1983, this plan has been revised to RMP status. The record of decision was signed in January 1991.

White Mountains National Recreation Area Resource Management Plan (1,000,000 acres) — Specifically required by ANILCA, this plan was completed in 1986. It includes the Beaver Creek Wild River Management Plan.

The Fort Greeley Resource Management Plan (200,000 acres) — Completed in 1996 as was the **Fort Wainwright Resource Management Plan (600,000 acres)**.

NEW PLANS AND AMENDMENTS

Northwest National Petroleum Reserve: Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (acreage undetermined) — Contact: Gene Turland, Alaska State Office, (907) 271-3344, Gene_Turland@ak.blm.gov

Fort Greeley Resource Management Plan Amendment (200,000 acres) — Contact: Gary Foreman Northern Field Office, (907) 474-2339, Gary_Foreman@ak.blm.gov

Fort Wainwright Resource Management Plan Amendment (600,000 acres) — Contact: Gary Foreman Northern Field Office, (907) 474-2339, Gary_Foreman@ak.blm.gov

Colville River Integrated Management Plan (acreage to be determined) — Contact: Gary Foreman Northern Field Office, (907) 474-2339, Gary_Foreman@ak.blm.gov

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANS

The BLM, through its participation in the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AIWFCG), is a cooperater in fire management plans which cover almost all of Alaska on an interagency basis. For fire planning, the Alaska Interagency Fire Management plans divide the state into 12 planning areas. Boundaries are based on natural and administrative boundaries, fire occurrence patterns, and vegetation patterns. The agencies have set four levels of protection: critical, full, limited, and modified. The planning team establishes the level of protection, solicits public/interest group input, and develops fire management options. The BLM began the first area fire plan, the Tanana-Minchumina Plan, in 1979 and completed it in 1982. Since then, all of the other 11 plans have been completed.

Together, these regional scale plans make up the Alaska State Fire Plan. The BLM anticipates that the regional scale plans will be incorporated into the wide range of land use plans prepared by other agencies. In 1995, the AIWFCG approved the Alaska Consolidated Interagency Fire Management Plan. This document is a consolidation of the Operational Guidelines and Direction found in all 12 individual fire management plans. This consolidation gives users of the Plan one source instead of 12 for obtaining guidance in the management of wildland fires in Alaska.

For further information on fire management planning, contact:
 Manager, Alaska Fire Service, P.O. Box 35005, Fort Wainwright, AK 99703. (907) 356-5500.

Alaska Interagency Fire Planning Documents are available at:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/unique/docs/planning/planning.asp>

State Fire Management Planning information is available at:
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/fireplans.htm>

U.S. Department of the Interior — National Park Service

HISTORY

The Park Service Organic Act of 1916 states that the “fundamental purpose ... of parks is to insure the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein and provide for the enjoyment of same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” In 1910 the Park Service took on its first responsibility in Alaska when the President established Sitka National Monument. Mount McKinley National Park was added in 1917, and other park units followed, including Katmai National Monument, the Old Kasaan National Monument (now part of the Tongass National Forest), and the Glacier Bay National Monument. Prior to 1980 the Park Service acreage in Alaska totalled about 7.6 million acres. <http://www.nps.gov/akso>

The amount of park land in Alaska changed in 1978 when President Carter invoked the Antiquities Act of 1906 to proclaim large acreages of National Monuments in Alaska. Then in 1980 ANILCA created 10 new national parks or preserves and enlarged three existing areas. Mount McKinley National Park increased from 2.1 million acres to 5.7 million acres and became known as the Denali National Park and Preserve. Katmai National Monument increased from 2.8 million acres to 4.3 million acres and became the Katmai National Park and Preserve. Glacier Bay National Monument increased from 2.7 million acres to 3.3 million acres and became the Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. The total amount of land now managed by the Park Service in Alaska is about 51 million acres.

Park Service lands are broadly classified as park, preserve, or monument. Parks and preserves are established by Congress whereas a monument is established by presidential proclamation. Monument designation is typically reserved for unusual or unique natural or cultural features, typically relatively small in area. National parks and preserves involve larger areas of nationally significant scientific, visual, and recreational value. Sport hunting is not permitted in parks or monuments, but it is permitted in a preserve in accordance with Alaska game laws. Subsistence hunting is permitted in parks and monuments in Alaska if consistent with subsistence hunting plans. These plans, required by ANILCA, are now being prepared by subsistence resource commissions (for further information on these plans contact the planning coordinator listed below).

LEGAL BASIS FOR PLANNING

The Park Service is required to prepare general management plans by the National Park and Recreation Act of 1978. This act “requires preparation and timely revision of *general management plans* (GMP) for each unit in ... the system.” The specific obligation to prepare plans for Park Service units in Alaska is ANILCA, which states that “within five years from the date of enactment (December 2, 1980) ... the secretary shall develop and transmit ... a conservation and management plan for each unit.” All GMPs were approved as of November 1986.

PLANNING PROGRAM

The Park Service typically works from a base document called a *statement for management* or SFM. The statement provides a review of existing conditions and a broad statement of management direction. The SFM provides a basis for developing the GMP which addresses topics of resource management, visitor use, park operations, and development. The GMPs are intended to direct management and development for 10 to 15 years before they are redrafted or revised.

To implement the GMP the Park Service prepares the following action plans. They are prepared concurrently with or after the GMP.

Land protection plan: Presents approaches to private or other non-NPS lands within the unit to ensure compatibility of use.

Resource management plan (cultural and/or natural): Identifies actions to preserve resources, including fire, river, or historic management plans.

Development concept plan: establishes basic types and sizes of facilities for specific locations.

Interpretive plan: describes the themes and media that will be used to interpret park resources.

Wilderness suitability reviews: determines which lands are suitable for inclusion in the national wilderness system.

Other plans related to land use include the subsistence hunting plans noted above and comprehensive mineral management plans. The mineral plans are required for the three park units that contain the most mining activity: Denali National Park and Preserve, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The plans provide an assessment of the cumulative impact of mining, as required for an EIS on mining in the unit.

PROCESS AND PARTICIPATION

The Park Service prepares GMPs using an eight step process:

- Step 1. Identify relevant laws
- Step 2. Identify issues and concerns (scoping)
- Step 3. Collect data
- Step 4. Identify alternatives
- Step 5. Prepare draft plan
- Step 6. Revise and consult
- Step 7. Approve final plan
- Step 8. Implement the plan

Public participation occurs in almost all steps but is strongest in steps 2 and 4. In step 2 the Park Service holds public meetings and informal discussions to develop a sense of issues and concerns. The public may also be involved in data collection as a source of information, but the next major opportunity is in identifying alternatives, step 4, where the agency in the past has used mass mailings and held public meetings to solicit ideas. After the agency prepares the draft plan it submits the document for 60 to 90 day public review. Public meetings are held in major cities and in the planning area.

PRODUCT

A GMP typically contains the following sections: issues, affected environment, proposal, alternatives considered, environmental consequences of the proposal and alternatives, appendices, executive summary, and related *action plans* if complete. The plans focus on eight key resources: wilderness, wildlife, history, archeology, paleontology, geology, recreation, and access.

INTERNET SITES

The Alaska National Park site is located at: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/>

See the Alaska Park Planning homepage for more information and copies of plans and compliance documents at: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/planning/home.htm>

Each National Park also has a Web site; these are presented with their General Management Plan information below.

CONTACTS

For general information about plans being prepared by the National Park Service contact:

Lucy Gonyea, Chief of Planning, Design, and Maintenance
 National Park Service
 2525 Gambell Street
 Anchorage, AK 99503
 (907) 257-2655, fax (907) 257-2510
lucy_gonyea@nps.gov

For information about specific park plans contact the park superintendents listed below.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve (514,000 acres) — GMP approved 1986, includes: Aniakchak Wild River Management Plan, land protection plan, and wilderness suitability review. Contact: Bill Pierce, Superintendent, PO Box 7, King Salmon, AK 99613.
(907) 246-3305
<http://www.nps.gov/ania/index.htm>

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve (2,457,000 acres) — CMP approved 1986. Includes: land protection plan and wilderness suitability review. Contact: Dave Spirtes, Superintendent, PO Box 220, Nome, AK 99762.
(907) 443-2522
<http://www.nps.gov/bela/index.htm>

Cape Krusenstern National Monument (560,000 acres) — CMP completed 1986, includes land protection plan and wilderness suitability review. Resource management plan in progress. Contact: Bob Gerhard, Superintendent, PO Box 1029, Kotzebue, AK 99752.
(907) 442-3890
<http://www.nps.gov/cakr/index.htm>

Denali National Park and Preserve (5,696,000 acres) — GMP completed 1986, includes a wilderness suitability review. A development concept plan was completed in 1983. This more specific plan is being used to direct improvements to the entry road, campgrounds, and visitor center at the park entrance. Contact: Superintendent, PO Box 9, Denali Park, AK 99775.
(907) 683-2294
<http://www.nps.gov/dena>

Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve (8,472,845 acres) — GMP completed 1986. Plan includes a wilderness suitability review and river management plans for the following rivers: Alatna, Noatak, John, Tinayguk, Kobuk, and North Fork of the Koyukuk. Note: some 320,000 acres within the park boundaries are privately owned. Contact: Dave Mills, Superintendent, PO Box 74680, Fairbanks, AK 99707.
(907) 456-0281
<http://www.nps.gov/gaar/>

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve (3,328,000 acres) — GMP approved 1984. Includes a wilderness suitability review and development concept plan. Contact: Jim Brady, Superintendent, Bartlett Cove, Gustavus, AK 99826.
(907) 697-2232
<http://www.nps.gov/glba/>

Katmai National Park and Preserve (4,268,000 acres) — GMP completed in 1986. Includes a wilderness suitability review. Alagnak Wild River Management Plan completed as separate document in 1983. Contact: Bill Pierce, Superintendent, PO Box 7, King Salmon, AK 99613.
(907) 246-3305
<http://www.nps.gov/katm/>

Kenai Fjords National Park (567,000 acres) — GMP approved 1984. Includes land protection plan and development concept plan (for the Exit Glacier area). Contact: Anne Castellina, Superintendent, PO Box 1727, Seward, AK 99664.
(907) 224-3175
<http://www.nps.gov/kefj/>

Kobuk Valley National Park (1,710,000 acres) — GMP approved 1986. Includes wilderness suitability review, Salmon Wild River Management Plan, and land protection plan. Resource Management Plan for cultural and natural resources in progress. Contact: Bob Gerhard, Superintendent, PO Box 1029, Kotzebue, AK 99752.

(907) 442-3890

<http://www.nps.gov/kova/index.htm>

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (3,653,000 acres) — GMP approved in 1984, includes a development concept plan and river management plans for three wild rivers: the Tlikalkila, Mulchatna, and Chilikadrotna. Contact: Superintendent, 222 West 7th, Box 61, Anchorage, AK 99513-7539.

(907) 271-3751

<http://www.nps.gov/lacl/>

Noatak National Preserve (6,460,000 acres) — GMP approved 1986, includes a wilderness suitability review and Noatak Wild and Scenic River Management Plan for the lower stretch of the Noatak. Resource management plan for natural and cultural resources is in progress. Contact: Superintendent, PO Box 1029, Kotzebue, AK 99672.

(907) 442-3890

<http://www.nps.gov/noat/index.htm>

Wrangell-St.Elias National Park and Preserve (12,318,000 acres) — GMP approved 1986. Includes a wilderness suitability review. Contact: Superintendent, PO Box 29, Glennallen, AK 99588.

(907) 822-5235

<http://www.nps.gov/wrst/>

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve (2,527,000 acres) — GMP approved 1985. Includes wilderness suitability review, land protection plan, and Charley Wild River Management Plan. Resource management plan for the preserve is in progress. Note: approximately 390,000 acres within the preserve boundary are privately owned. Contact: Superintendent, PO Box 64, Eagle, AK 99738.

(907) 547-2233

<http://www.nps.gov/yuch/index.htm>

OTHER PARK SERVICE UNITS IN ALASKA

Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park (13,271 acres) — GMP, called a master plan, approved in 1976. Note: about 10,000 acres within the park boundary are state owned. Contact: Clay Alderson, Superintendent, PO Box 517, Skagway, AK 99840.

(907) 983-2921

<http://www.nps.gov/klgo/index.htm>

Sitka National Historic Park (106 acres) — The statement for management was approved in 1980 and provides much of the detail normally found in a GMP. Other plans for the park include a land acquisition plan—1980, a draft resource management plan for cultural resources—1984, and a land management plan—1985. Contact: Gary Gauthier, Superintendent, PO Box 738, Sitka, AK 99835.

(907) 747-6281

<http://www.nps.gov/sitk/index.htm>

U.S. Department of the Interior — Fish and Wildlife Service

HISTORY

The first refuges in Alaska were set aside in the early 1900s. Major refuges in Alaska prior to ANILCA included the Aleutian Islands Refuge, the Arctic National Wildlife Range, the Clarence Rhodes National Waterfowl Refuge, the Kenai National Moose Range, and the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. In 1966 Congress passed the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act which established the administrative guidelines for the refuge system. At the time of ANILCA the total refuge acreage in Alaska was 22.3 million acres. As of 2000 the total refuge acreage was more than 76.9 million acres.

LEGAL BASIS FOR PLANNING

The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, provides the legal basis for management of the refuges. The Act directs the Service to ensure that the biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health of the System are maintained for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans. It also states that compatible wildlife-dependent recreation is a legitimate and appropriate general public use of the System. The specific mandate to plan is contained in two sources. The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 provides the basis for refuge planning for those refuges outside of Alaska. ANILCA Section 304 requires the FWS to prepare and, from time to time, revise a *comprehensive conservation plan* or CCP for each refuge in Alaska. All Alaska refuge CCPs were completed by 1988. In 1998 the Service began the process of revising those plans.

PLANNING PROGRAM

The FWS prepares plans at three levels: CCP, refuge management plans, and annual work plans. The CCP addresses topics of resource management, visitor use, refuge operations, and development in general terms. Coordinated with this plan are the wilderness review of each area required by ANILCA Section 1317, and an environmental impact statement. The refuge management plans are step-down plans from the CCP and provide more specificity on how programs will be run or natural and cultural resources protected. These may be titled under various headings, such as fishery management plan, wildlife habitat management plan, fire management plan, or public use management plan. The annual work plans identify specific projects to implement the management plans. Each CCP is expected to guide management decisions for from five to 10 years.

PROCESS AND PARTICIPATION

The FWS uses a 10 step process for preparation of the CCPs. The steps are:

- Step 1. Pre-planning (identify laws, hold scoping meetings, identify management issues and concerns)
- Step 2. Inventory
- Step 3. Formulate management alternatives
- Step 4. Analyze management alternatives
- Step 5. Evaluation of alternatives
- Step 6. Plan selection
- Step 7. Publish draft CCP/EIS
- Step 8. Public comments
- Step 9. Publish final CCP/EIS
- Step 10. Issue record of decision

Public participation occurs in most steps, but is strongest in step 1 which involves scoping meetings, during step 5 which involves meetings and workshops to evaluate alternatives, and during step 8 when the public has a 90-day period to review and comment on the draft document. This period often involves public meetings. The amount, timing, and level of public involvement is determined by the level of public interest and complexity of the issues being addressed. The specific form of public involvement may vary so as to adapt to differences in planning areas.

PRODUCT

A typical CCP includes three major elements: comprehensive conservation plan, environmental impact statement, and wilderness review. The table of contents are organized so that all three studies are completed concurrently. A typical table of contents includes: introduction, affected environment, wilderness review, wild and scenic river eligibility review, management direction, alternatives, environmental consequences, and evaluation of the alternatives. Those refuges with designated wild rivers may also contain wild river management plans as required the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

INTERNET SITES

U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov/>

Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Region
<http://www.r7.fws.gov/>

For the latest information on the Comprehensive Conservation Plan Revision Schedule, see:
<http://www.r7.fws.gov/planning/schedule.html>

See also the individual refuges listed below.

CONTACTS

For general information about FWS planning contact:

Ken Rice, Chief of Refuge Planning
Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Region
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199
(907) 786-3502

COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLANS

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (3,557,030 acres) — Includes a number of islands and headlands along the coast of Alaska, from near Wainwright on the Chuckchi Sea as far south as Ketchikan and including most of the Aleutian Islands. CCP completed in 1988. The CCP includes wilderness review of the entire non-wilderness portion of the refuge (some 44%) and recommends wilderness designation of: 182 acres in the Bering Sea Unit; 87,442 acres in the Aleutian Islands Unit; 8,000 acres of Unimak Island (proposed for transfer to Izembek National Wildlife Refuge); 9,139 acres of the Alaska Peninsula Unit; and 4,885 acres in the Gulf of Alaska Unit. The CCP is scheduled to be revised by 1012. Contact: Anne Morkill, Refuge Manager, 2355 Kachemak Drive, Suite 101, Homer, AK 99603.

(907) 235-6546

For the Aleutian Islands Unit, contact: Box 5251, Adak, AK 99546.

(907) 592-2406

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/akmnwr/akmnwr.html>

Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge (3,500,000 acres) — CCP completed in 1985. This CCP is being combined with the Becharof National Wildlife Refuge CCP and is currently being revised. A Draft CCP and EIS should be available for public review in spring 2001. The revised plan will include a wilderness review and revised direction to the Public Use Management Plan. Contact: Daryle Lons, Refuge Manager, PO Box 277, King Salmon, AK 99613.

(907) 246-3339

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/ap/index.html>

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (19,049,236 acres) — CCP completed 1987. Includes wilderness review and wild river management plans for the Ivishak, Upper Sheenjek, and Wind Rivers. The CCP is scheduled to be revised by 2012. Contact: Richard Voss, Refuge Manager, 101 12th Avenue, Room 236, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

(907) 456-0250

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/arctic/index.html>

Becharof National Wildlife Refuge (1,200,000 acres) — CCP completed in 1985. This CCP is currently being revised and combined with the Alaska Peninsula CCP. A Draft CCP and EIS should be available for public review in spring 2001. The revised plan will include a wilderness review and revised direction to the Public Use Management Plan. Contact: Daryle Lons, Refuge Manager, PO Box 277, King Salmon, AK 99613.

(907) 246-3339

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/bec/becnwr.html>

Innoko National Wildlife Refuge (3,850,000 acres) — CCP completed 1987, includes a wilderness review. Fisheries management plan completed. The CCP is scheduled to be revised by 2007. Contact: Bill Schaff, Refuge Manager, PO Box 69, McGrath, AK 99627.

(907) 524-3251

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/innoko/innwr.html>

Izembek National Wildlife Refuge (320,893 acres) — CCP completed 1985, includes wilderness review. Fisheries management plan currently under review. The CCP is scheduled to be revised by 2005. Contact: Rick Poetter, Refuge Manager, Box 127, Cold Bay, AK 99571.

(907) 532-2445

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/izembek/iznwr.html>

Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge (1,430,000 acres) — CCP completed 1987. Includes wilderness review. The CCP is scheduled to be revised by 2004. Contact: Bob Schulz, Refuge Manager, 101 12th Avenue, Room 262, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

(907) 456-0329

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/kanuti/r7kanwr.html>

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (1,970,000 acres) — CCP completed 1985. Includes wilderness review. The CCP is scheduled to be revised by 2004. Contact: Robin West, Refuge Manager, 2139 Ski Hill Road, Soldotna, AK 99669-2139.

(907) 262-7021

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/kenai/index.html>

Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge (1,865,000 acres) — CCP completed in 1987. Includes wilderness review. The CCP is currently being revised. A draft CCP and EIS should be available for public review by fall 2001. Contact: Michael Getman, Acting Refuge Manager, 1390 Buskin River Road, Kodiak, AK 99615.

(907) 487-2600

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/kodiak/kodnwr.html>

Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge (3,550,000 acres) — Final CCP was completed in 1987. Includes wilderness review. The CCP is scheduled to be revised by 2009. It will be combined with the Nowitna CCP. Contact: Eugene Williams, PO Box 287, Galena, AK 99741.

(907) 656-1231

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/koyukuk/kynwr.html>

Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge (1,560,000 acres) — Final CCP was completed in 1987. Includes wilderness review and the Nowitna Wild River Management Plan. The CCP is scheduled to be revised by 2009. It will be combined with the Koyukuk CCP. Contact: Eugene Williams, PO Box 287, Galena, AK 99741.

(907) 656-1231

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/nowitna/nownwr.html>

Selawik National Wildlife Refuge (2,150,000 acres) — Final CCP was completed in 1987. Includes wilderness review and Selawik Wild River Management Plan. The CCP is scheduled to be revised by 2007. Contact: Leslie Kerr, Refuge Manager, PO Box 270, Kotzebue, AK 99572.

(907) 442-3799

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/selawik/selnwr.html>

Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge (700,000 acres) — Final CCP was completed in 1987. Includes wilderness review. The CCP is scheduled to be revised by 2009. Contact: Ed Merritt, Refuge Manager, PO Box 779, Mile Post 1314 Alaska Highway, Tok, AK 99780.

(907) 883-5312

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/tetlin/tetnwr.html>

Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (4,105,000 acres) — Final CCP completed in 1987. Includes wilderness review. The CCP is currently being revised. A draft CCP and EIS should be available for public review by fall 2001. Contact: Aaron Archibeque, Refuge Manager, PO Box 270, Dillingham, AK 99576.

(907) 842-1063

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/togiak/tognwr.html>

Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (19,160,000 acres) — Final CCP completed in 1988. Includes a wilderness review and the Andreafsky Wild River Management Plan. The CCP is scheduled to be revised by 2005. Contact: Michael Rearden, Refuge Manager, PO Box 346, Bethel, AK 99559.

(907) 543-3151

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/yd/ydnwr.html>

Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge (8,630,000 acres) — Final CCP was completed in 1987. Includes wilderness review and Beaver Creek Wild River Management Plan (lower portion). The CCP is scheduled to be revised by 2009. Contact: Ted Heuer, Refuge Manager, 101 12th Avenue, Room 264, Fairbanks, AK 99701.

(907) 456-0440

<http://www.r7.fws.gov/nwr/yf/r7yflat.html>

State Agencies

Alaska Department of Fish and Game — Habitat and Restoration Division

HISTORY

The Alaska State Legislature has classified certain areas as being essential to the protection of fish and wildlife habitat. These areas are designated as either a refuge, critical habitat area, or sanctuary. Management of these special areas is the responsibility of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG). Legislation pertaining to these lands may be found in Alaska Statutes Title 16, Chapter 20.

A special area permit is required for any habitat altering work, including any construction activity in a designated state refuge, critical habitat area, or sanctuary. A special area permit application form can be obtained from any Department of Fish and Game office. This form should be submitted to the Division of Habitat and Restoration office representing the area in which the proposed activity will occur.

The state legislature established the Department of Fish and Game in 1959. In 1960 the legislature created the first state wildlife areas: the Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary, the Izembek Lagoon State Game Refuge, and the Cape Newenham State Game Refuge. Since then the legislature has set aside 28 additional areas of special value to wildlife. The special areas range in size from the 613 acre Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary on Admiralty Island to the nearly 600,000 acre Copper River Delta State Critical Habitat Area. The total system includes a little over three million acres. Much of this acreage, however, is tideland or submerged land and is not part of Alaska's 365 million upland acres.

The ADFG calls the 31 units special areas. They are classified as one of three types: refuge, sanctuary, or critical habitat area. A refuge typically involves a rich habitat that attracts a large number and wide variety of wildlife species. A sanctuary is more of an asylum for a particular species, such as during a critical phase of their life cycle. A critical habitat area may be a complete biotic system or well-defined area needed by wildlife for certain functions such as nesting or spawning. Each area is established for a specific purpose described in the founding legislation.

LEGAL BASIS FOR PLANNING

Statutory authority for the ADFG is found in Alaska Statutes, Title 16. The department prepares management plans under the authority of the commissioner.

PLANNING PROGRAM

The ADFG is undertaking a comprehensive special areas management planning process through its Habitat and Restoration Division. The first management plan for a special area was completed in 1986. The plans are intended to "describe management goals for the areas and their resources and [to] present policies to be used in deciding what types of activities are compatible with the protection of fish and wildlife, their habitats and public use of the special areas." The plans do not address harvest regulations or hunting and fishing activities. The plans are expected to be updated about every 10 years.

The plans, although coordinated by ADFG, are prepared by a planning team representing state, federal, and municipal agencies. Individuals, citizen groups, and private organizations are also encouraged to participate in the planning process.

Once the management plans are complete for a unit a more specific in-house operational plan is prepared.

PROCESS AND PARTICIPATION

The process used by the ADFG for the management plans has six steps:

- Step 1. Public identifies issues
- Step 2. Staff gather resource information

- Step 3. Agency Planning Team prepares draft plan
- Step 4. Public reviews draft plan
- Step 5. Staff prepares final plan
- Step 6. Adopt and implement the plan

Public participation occurs in step 1 when the agency holds public meetings to explain the planning process and to solicit citizens' issues, interests, and concerns. Public participation occurs again when the draft plan is circulated for public review and public hearings are held to obtain comments and recommendations.

PRODUCT

The management plan contains four sections: introduction, goals, policies, and implementation, as well as an appendix of resource information and comments from public hearings.

INTERNET SITES

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/>

ADFG Habitat and Restoration Division Home Page
http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/habitat/hab_home.htm

State Wildlife Refuges
<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/habitat/geninfo/refuges/refuges.htm>

Habitat Division Contacts
<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/habitat/geninfo/contacts>

CONTACTS

For information about ADFG special area planning contact:

Robin Willis, Planning Coordinator
 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat and Restoration Division
 333 Raspberry Road
 Anchorage, AK 99518-1599
 (907) 267-2285
robin_willis@fishgame.state.ak.us

SPECIAL AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS

Listed in alphabetical order. Unless otherwise noted special areas do not have a management plan.

Anchor River/Fritz Creek Critical Habitat Area (19,000 acres) — Plan completed in 1989.

Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (32,476 acres) — Plan completed in 1991.
<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region2/refuge2/acwr.htm>

Cape Newenham Game Refuge (13,952 acres).

Chilkat River (Bald Eagle) Critical Habitat Area (4,800 acres).
<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region1/refuge1/chilkat.htm>

Cinder River Critical Habitat Area (25,856 acres).

Clam Gulch Critical Habitat Area (2,560 acres).

Copper River Delta Critical Habitat Area (597,120 acres).

Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge (1,664 acres) — Interim Management Plan completed in 1993. Interpretive Master Plan completed in 1992.

<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region3/refuge3/creamers.htm>

Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area (4,083 acres).

<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region1/refuge1/dude.htm>

Egegik Critical Habitat Area (8,064 acres).

Fox River Flats Critical Habitat Area (7,104 acres) — Plan completed in 1993.

Goose Bay Game Refuge (10,880 acres). Located in upper Cook Inlet.

<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region2/refuge2/goosebay.htm>

Izembek Game Refuge (181,440 acres).

Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area (222,080 acres) — Plan completed in 1993. Amended in 2000 to prohibit jet skis and clam farming.

Kalgin Island Critical Habitat Area (3,520 acres).

McNeil River Game Refuge (120,120 acres) and McNeil River Game Sanctuary (128,000 acres) — Plans completed in 1995.

<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region2/refuge2/mr-home.htm>

Mendenhall Wetlands Game Refuge (3,789 acres) — Plan completed in 1990.

<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region1/refuge1/mendenha.htm>

Minto Flats State Game Refuge (500,000 acres) — Plan completed in 1992.

<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region3/refuge3/minto.htm>

Palmer Hay Flats Game Refuge (26,048 acres) — Plan completed in 1986.

<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region2/refuge2/hayflats.htm>

Pilot Point Critical Habitat Area (46,016 acres).

Port Heiden Critical Habitat Area (72,128 acres).

Port Moller Critical Habitat Area (127,296 acres).

Redoubt Bay Critical Habitat Area (183,640 acres) — Plan completed in 1994.

<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region2/refuge2/redoubt.htm>

Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary (613 acres).

<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region1/refuge1/pacreek.htm>

Susitna Flats Game Refuge (300,800 acres) — Plan completed in 1988.

<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region2/refuge2/suflats.htm>

Tugidak Island Critical Habitat Area (50,240 acres) — Plan completed in 1995.

Trading Bay Game Refuge (160,960 acres) — Plan completed in 1994.

Walrus Islands Game Sanctuary (9,728 acres).

<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/wildlife/region2/refuge2/rnd-isl.htm>

Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area (22,270 acres).

Yakataga State Game Refuge (90,000 acres) — Plan completed in 2000.

Alaska Department of Natural Resources — Division of Forestry

HISTORY

The Division of Forestry was created in 1981 by the state legislature. The division is headed by the state forester and is guided by the Board of Forestry. The board consists of nine members, appointed by the governor, representing a wide range of public interests. The division manages two state forests, the Tanana Valley State Forest and the Haines State Forest Resource Management Area.

LEGAL BASIS FOR PLANNING

Alaska Statutes 41.17.200–230 establish the “state forest system” and the requirement for forest management plans. These sections require that “the commissioner (of the DNR) shall prepare a management plan consistent with AS 38.04.005 ... for each unit of a state forest.” Further, AS 38.05.112 now requires forest land use plans for individual timber sales, and AS 38.05.113 requires Five-Year Schedules of Timber Sales.

PLANNING PROGRAM

The Division of Forestry plans for forest management at three levels. At the regional level, it develops forestwide management plans for the legislatively designated State Forests, and participates in development of DNR area plans for other state lands. At the area level, the Division publishes a summary of proposed sales in a Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales (FYSTS) for each of its eight area offices. Third, detailed information on each individual sale proposal is developed in a Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP).

State Forest management plans, like area plans, apply only to state-owned lands and identify specific land uses, including uses other than forestry, such as mineral leasing, recreation, and wildlife. The forests are managed under the concepts of multiple use and sustained yield. Forest plans provide a guide to land management activities over a 20-year and longer period.

The Five-Year Schedules of Timber Sales give the public, timber industry, and other agencies an overview of the division’s plans for timber sales. They summarize information on proposed timber harvest areas, timber sale access, and reforestation actions.

FLUPs present detailed information on the location, access, harvest methods, duration, and proposed reforestation for each timber sale.

PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

State Forest Management plans are prepared using a seven step process.

- Step 1. Identify local and regional issues
- Step 2. Gather and analyze natural resource data
- Step 3. Working groups and Planning team identify and analyze management alternatives
- Step 4. Prepare draft management plan
- Step 5. Review draft plan with agencies and public
- Step 6. Prepare final plan
- Step 7. Adopt plan

Actual preparation of a plan follows completion of an operational level forest inventory as required by statute. Public participation occurs through the Board of Forestry, Tanana Valley State Forest Citizens’ Advisory Committee, and public meetings, workshops, working groups, and open houses during the planning process. Participation occurs primarily during steps 1, 3, and 5. In addition, all planning team meetings are open to the public.

PRODUCTS

The forest management plan for the Tanana Valley State Forest, for example, contains the following chapters: Introduction (purpose, process, definitions); Forestwide Land Management Policies; Land Management Policies for Management Units; Implementation.

INTERNET SITES

Department of Natural Resources

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/>

Division of Forestry

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry>

Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan Revision

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/tvsfmp.htm>

Fire Management Plans

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/fireplans.htm>

Alaska Interagency Fire Planning Documents are available at:

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/unique/docs/planning/planning.asp>

CONTACTS

For general questions about state forest planning contact:

Marty Freeman, Forest Resources Program Manager

Division of Forestry

Alaska Department of Natural Resources,

550 W. 7th Avenue, Suite 1450

Anchorage, AK 99501

(907) 269-8473

marty_welbourn@dnr.state.ak.us

Joe Stam, Fire Program Manager

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

550 W. Seventh Avenue, Suite 1450

Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3566

(907) 269-8467

joe_stam@dnr.state.ak.us

For the latest contact information, you can also refer to the Division Directory at:

http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/divdir.htm#DIR_OFF

FOREST PLANS

Haines State Forest Resource Management Plan — The plan for this forest, comprised of 247,000 acres of state-owned land, was revised in 1986. A second update will be completed in 2001. The 1986 revision was based in part on the Haines/Skagway Area Land Use Plan prepared in 1979. Focus is on multiple use of state forest lands while protecting the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve (see State Parks and Outdoor Recreation). Contact: Roy Josephson, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Northern Southeast Area Office, PO Box 263, Haines, AK 99827. (907) 766-2120.

Tanana Valley State Forest Management Plan — This forest (1.81 million acres) was established by the legislature in 1983. The plan was completed in June 1988. A second update will be completed in 2001. Contact: Paul Maki, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Northern Region Office, 3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709. (907) 451-2661.

The revision documents can be found at:

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry/tvsfmp.htm>.

OTHER PLANS WITH EXTENSIVE FOREST RESOURCES

Two other plans dealing with extensive forest resources include the **Susitna Area Plan** and the **Yakataga Area Plan**, developed by the Resource Assessment and Development Section of the Division of Land and Water. The Susitna Forestry Guidelines accompany the Susitna Area Plan and provide detailed guidance for forest management in that area. Both of these are discussed in more detail in the next section.

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Division of Forestry, through its participation in the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (AIWF CG), is a cooperator in fire management plans which cover almost all of Alaska. See BLM, above, for more information on fire management planning.

Alaska Interagency Fire Planning Documents are available at:

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/unique/docs/planning/planning.asp>

Alaska Department of Natural Resources — Division of Mining, Lands and Water

HISTORY

The Territory of Alaska acquired land as early as 1915. In that year Alaska received the right (48 USCA 353) to Sections 16 and 36 in each township for school support, and Section 33 in each township in the Tanana Valley for university support. To be transferred, however, the sections had to be surveyed and thus only about 106,000 acres of school lands and 15,000 acres of university lands were transferred under this act.

Most of these lands were leased to private parties or turned into other non-school uses. Subsequently, when the university was formed in 1917 it was given the right to select an additional 100,000 acres from the federal domain. Since then the university has purchased, leased, or received donations of land totaling 144,821 acres. Of this total, 11,271 acres are committed to strictly educational uses while the remainder is treated as investment property. The acreage is spread among several hundred parcels and is managed under a real estate management and development plan, last revised in 1983.

For further information, contact:

Director, University Land Management, 3890 University Lake Dr., Suite 103, Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 786-7766

<http://www.ualand.com>

The Alaska Railroad, state-owned as of 1985, also manages acreage in Alaska. Authorized in 1915, the railroad was completed in 1923. Associated lands now total about 36,200 acres, of which 13,738 are devoted to right-of-way and another 4,520 acres are used for railroad operations. The remainder is managed as investment property.

For further information, contact:

Vice President of Real Estate, Alaska Railroad, PO Box 107500, Anchorage, AK 99510-7500
(907) 265-2428, realest@akrr.com

<http://www.akrr.com/realestate/index.html>

In 1956 the territory received the right to select one million acres to support the mental health programs in the state. By 1966 the new state had completed the selections but placed the land among general grant status land. A lawsuit in 1982 has since required the state to restore the trust, both in land and money. Current trust lands include some 4,600 parcels scattered throughout Alaska.

For further information, contact:

Director, Mental Health Trust Land Office, 550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1430, Anchorage, AK 99501-3566
(907) 269-8658

<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mhtlo/>

In 1959, the Statehood Act entitled Alaska to select 102.35 million acres of “general purpose” land from the unreserved federal domain, and 400,000 acres of community expansion and recreation lands from the national forests in the southeast portion of the state. These lands were to be selected within 25 years, since extended to 1994. The selection process began rapidly with the state selecting the Prudhoe Bay region and the Wood River-Tikchik Lake region. By 1968 selections totaled about 26 million acres. Incentive to complete selections was reduced by two fiscal concerns: the federal government charged two cents per acre per year for fire protection on state-owned lands, and the state received highway improvement funds based on the number of acres of federal land in the state.

Thus, selections were delayed and eventually interrupted by both the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 and the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act of 1980. Since then the state resumed the selection process and in 1993, completed its land selections. When all land conveyances from the federal government are completed, the people of the state will own land and resources on 106 million acres. Approximately 90 million acres have been conveyed so far, and have been either patented or tentatively approved. To be patented the land must be surveyed, an activity the Bureau of Land Management estimates will require decades to complete. Numerous state selections overlay or are overlain by Native corporation selections, a situation which will also require many years to resolve.

LEGAL BASIS FOR PLANNING

Alaska is the only state in the nation that has a separate article in its constitution devoted exclusively to natural resources. The delegates to the constitutional convention, in their Report to the People, stated that, “The future wealth of the State of Alaska will depend largely on how it administers the immense and the varied resources to which it will fall heir.” Article VIII states that the natural resources of Alaska should be developed, managed as a public trust, provided with access, and managed on a sustained yield basis when renewable. The specific requirement for land use planning is found in Title 38 of the Alaska Statutes. Section 38.04.005 reads in part, “it is the policy of the State of Alaska to plan and manage state-owned land to establish a balanced combination of land available for both public and private purposes. The choice of land best suited for public and private use shall be determined through the inventory, planning, and classification processes set out in AS 38.04.060–38.04.070.” These specific processes involve preparation and maintenance of an inventory of all state-owned land and water by developing and maintaining land use plans. These plans classify land into management categories, which include: agriculture, coal, forest, grazing, resource management, wildlife habitat, heritage resources, material (sand and gravel), reserved use, public recreation, settlement, transportation, and water resources. Some of these classifications must be retained in state ownership, while others may be disposed of through municipal entitlements or through public disposal programs.

PLANNING PROGRAM

The DNR is responsible for management of Alaska’s general grant lands. The DNR has seven major resource divisions: Agriculture; Forestry; Geological and Geophysical Surveys; Mining, Land and Water; Oil and Gas; and Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The Division of Mining, Land and Water’s Resource Assessment and Development Section has the responsibility for preparation of land use plans. The Division of Forestry prepares land use plans for state forests and the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation prepares plans for park units. The Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) has developed a two-tier planning framework: area plans, and management plans.

The DMLW has divided the state into planning regions for the area plans. Area plans cover one to 16 million acres of state-owned land and use larger-scale data (1:63,360 or 1:250,000) to provide management guidelines for specific units of land. An inter-divisional and -departmental planning team, coordinated by DMLW, develops the area plans.

Management plans guide activities within a region or subregion, generally contain more detailed management guidelines than an area plan, and planning units and resources are mapped at a scale of 1:63,360 or finer. An interdivisional planning team, selected to fit the issues of the specific region, prepares the plan. The management plan identifies planned actions, detailed site planning when appropriate, management guidelines, and an implementation work plan, as well as other information about resources, constraints, and management decisions.

PROCESS AND PARTICIPATION

The following discussion primarily concerns area plans. DNR does not have a specific process required by regulation but does use a traditional form of planning involving the following steps:

- Step 1. Issue identification
- Step 2. Data collection
- Step 3. Data analysis
- Step 4. Preparation, evaluation and public review of alternatives
- Step 5. Development and review of a draft plan
- Step 6. Development of a final plan
- Step 7. Approval by the DNR commissioner
- Step 8. Adoption and Implementation

The process typically takes from two to four years and involves a series of public participation events, including workshops, meetings, and mailings. Most public participation is focused on issue identification, development and evaluation of alternatives, and review of the draft plan.

PRODUCT

The final product of the process is a document that describes intended uses of state lands. Specifically, the plan contains management guidelines and classifications for specific management units. The document identifies what land should be retained by the state and what land may be sold or granted to municipalities through the municipal entitlement process. Area plans can open and close areas to mineral entry and can recommend legislative designations (for example, parks). The Tanana Basin Area Plan, for example, includes: Introduction and Land Designation Summaries, Areawide Land Management Policies, Land Management Policies for each Management Unit, Implementation, and Appendices.

INTERNET SITES

Department of Natural Resources
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/>

DNR, Division of Mining, Land and Water
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/index.htm>

Upper Yukon Area Plan Site
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/land/uyap.htm>

CONTACT

For information about the statewide resources plan and for general information about area plans, contact:

Dick Mylius, Chief
 Resource Assessment and Development Section
 Division of Mining, Land and Water
 Department of Natural Resources
 550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1050
 Anchorage, AK 99501-3579
dickm@dnr.state.ak.us

AREA PLANS AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

Bristol Bay Area Plan (13 million acres of state land) — Adopted in 1984, this plan was prepared through a cooperative state-federal planning process.

Nushagak and Mulchatna Rivers Recreation Management Plan — Adopted in 1990, this plan was written cooperatively with the Bristol Bay Coastal Resource Service Area.

Central Southeast Area Plan (3.3 million acres of state tidelands and submerged lands and 160,000 acres of uplands) — Adopted in November 2000.

Copper River Basin Area Plan (3.3 million acres of state land) — Adopted in 1986.

Dalton Highway/Coldfoot Management Plan — No schedule for plan preparation.

Haines–Skagway Area Plan — Most of the 400,000 acres in the original plan are now covered by the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve Management Plan (1985) and the Haines State Forest Management Plan (1986, currently being revised).

Juneau State Land Plan (26,000 acres of state uplands and 400,000 acres of state tidelands) —

Adopted in January 1993, this plan covers lands within the City and Borough of Juneau and proposed annexation area on Admiralty Island.

Kenai Area Plan (2.1 million acres of state uplands and 2.6 million acres of state-owned tidelands) — Adopted in January 2000, this plan covers lands within the Kenai Peninsula Borough and along the Gulf of Alaska and Cook Inlet. Policies for state land in Caribou Hills were adopted in April 1993. The Kenai Area Plan replaces the Deep Creek Management Plan (1981) and the Kenai Area Land Management Planning Study (1979).

http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/land/kenap/text_1.html

Kodiak and Aleutians Area Plan — While no schedule has been determined for plan development, work on this plan will commence in the near future. This plan will address state-owned tidelands and submerged lands in the Kodiak Island Borough and west to Attu Island.

Kuskokwim Area Plan (16 million acres) — Adopted in March 1988, this plan includes the middle and upper Kuskokwim River drainage.

Lower Yukon-Kuskokwim Region — No schedule for plan preparation. There are few state lands in this region.

Northern Southeast Area Plan — Currently under development, the plan includes state tidelands, submerged lands and uplands from Glacier Bay south to Prince of Wales Island, including Admiralty, Baranof, and Chichagof islands. This process will include a revision to the Haines-Skagway Area Plan. The plan will be completed in 2002.

North Slope Region (12,252,000 acres) — No schedule for plan preparation.

Northwest Area Plan (10 million acres) — Adopted in February 1989, this plan includes lands on the Seward Peninsula, in the Northwest Arctic Borough, and in the western segment of the North Slope Borough.

Prince of Wales Island Area Plan, Southwest Prince of Wales Island Area Plan (Both plans cover about 72,000 acres of state uplands and about two million acres of state tidelands and submerged lands) — A plan for the southwestern portion of the island was completed in June 1985 and revised in 1990. A plan for the remainder of the island was adopted in December 1988 and revised in 1998 to reflect changes in the region's timber economy.

Prince William Sound Area Plan (850,000 million acres of state uplands and most of the tidelands and submerged lands in Prince William sound) — This plan was adopted in June 1988. While no schedule has been set for this plan's revision, it is slated for the near future. The revision will address lands in state ownership located between Cape Suckling and Cape Resurrection, covering about one million acres of uplands and 3.8 million acres of tidelands and submerged lands. The purpose of the revision will be to address changes in public use because of increased recreation and tourism, altered land ownership from Exxon-Valdez acquisitions, and revisions to the Chugach National Forest Management Plan.

Susitna Area Plan (9.5 million acres of state land) — Adopted in April 1985, this plan is in need of revision in order to provide better guidance for management of land maintained in state ownership. In 1982, an area plan was completed for the Willow Sub-Basin, a portion of the Susitna Basin. Management plans have been prepared for:

Susitna Recreation Rivers — A plan for six rivers, completed in 1991.

Susitna Forest Guidelines — Guidelines for forest management and timber access, completed in 1991.

Kashwitna — Deals with forestry, wildlife, and access issues.

Hatcher Pass and Hatcher Pass Amendment — Primary issues are recreation, mining, wildlife, and ski area development.

Matanuska Valley Moose Range — Access, habitat management, and mining are concerns.

Fish Creek — Primary issues concern agricultural disposals.

Deception Creek — Former capitol site; was not included in Susitna or Willow plans.

Tanana Basin Area Plan (14.5 million acres of state land) — Adopted in 1985 and updated in 1991, the plan covers lands in the Tanana Valley, including the Fairbanks area. This plan includes the Goodpaster River amendment, completed in 1991. A management plan for the Tanana Valley State Forest, prepared by the Division of Forestry, was adopted in 1988 and is currently being revised. TBAP replaced the Delta-Salcha Area Plan (1982), the Delta II West Management Plan (1981), the Little Chena Management Plan (1986), and the Nenana/Totchaket Management Plan (1982).

Turnagain Arm Management Plan (23,000 acres of state-selected land in Girdwood and Bear Valley, and 25,000 acres of tidelands and submerged lands in Turnagain Arm) — This plan, adopted in 1994, was coordinated with planning for the Municipality of Anchorage's land entitlement. The focus of both state and municipal planning efforts is future resort development.

Upper Yukon Area Plan (2.5 million acres of state-owned land) — Currently under development, the plan includes lands near Eagle, along the Taylor Highway, and in the Fortymile River drainage. The plan is scheduled for completion in 2003.
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/land/uyap.htm>

Yakataga Area Plan (490,000 acres of state uplands, plus tidelands and submerged lands along the Gulf of Alaska and Icy and Yakutat Bays) — Adopted in 1995, the plan was mandated by legislation.

Yukon-Koyukuk Region (8,122,000 acres) — No plan scheduled.

OTHER PLANS

State Critical Habitat Areas, Refuges and Sanctuaries. — The Department of Fish and Game, Division of Habitat, prepares land use plans for these areas, in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources.

State Park Units and State Forests — The DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation has prepared land use plans for most major state park units. A management plan for the Tanana Valley State Forest, prepared by the Division of Forestry, was adopted in 1988. The Division of Forestry is in the process of revising this plan. The Haines State Forest Plan will be revised in 2001.

Alaska Department of Natural Resources — Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

HISTORY

The Parks Division was established in 1959. Since then it has grown to become the largest park system in the United States with over three million acres of park land. The Alaska Constitution, Article VIII, Section 7, permits the legislature to “provide for the acquisition of site, objects, and areas of natural beauty for historic, cultural, recreational, or scientific value. It may reserve them from the public domain and provide for their administration.”

In 1959 the Bureau of Land Management transferred 32 parks and campgrounds to the new parks department. All of the parks were less than 640 acres, a maximum size for single use properties at that time without legislative approval. Not until 1966, when the legislature created the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area, did the state have a park greater than 640 acres. Subsequently, the legislature added other major parks, including the Chena River State Recreation Area in 1967; the Chugach State Park, Denali State Park, and Kachemak State Park in 1970; and the Wood River-Tikchik Lakes State Park in 1979. In 1986, 19 marine park units were added in the Southeast. These additions, along with new legislative designations for Shuyak Island State Park, Afognak Island State Park and others, and several administratively-created park units such as Hatcher Pass East Management Area, brought the total number of units in the Alaska State Park System to 121 as of February 2001.

The park system includes nine different types of units:

- State Park
- State Marine Park
- State Historic Park
- State Historic Site
- State Recreation Area
- State Recreation Site
- Special Management Area
- State Trail [State Recreation River]
- State [Scientific, Ecological or Educational] Preserve

Each type of unit has a different management direction, ranging from preservation to intensive public use. Parks, historic parks and sites, and preserves are typically toward the preservation end of the spectrum; recreation areas and sites are typically toward the intensive public use end. State trails and rivers vary widely in management direction.

LEGAL BASIS FOR PLANNING

As a division of the DNR, the agency conducts planning under the authority of Alaska Statute 41.21. Specific management guidelines affecting planning are found within the division’s policy and procedure manual.

PLANNING PROGRAM

The division prepares plans at four levels: statewide, regional, park unit, and site. The statewide plan, called the Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework, establishes the broad goals and management strategies for the park system. The plan includes goals and policies concerning recreation, preservation, cultural heritage, education, tourism, acquisition, planning, development, management, concessions, and visitor information. The statewide plan also describes a method of land use zoning to be used in preparing park unit plans.

The statewide framework is complemented by the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, or SCORP. This plan is required to qualify for and to receive federal funds through the Land and Water Conservation Fund program.

Regional park system plans are based on data for a specific region. This data includes regional issues and concerns, recreation use patterns and preferences, regional resource attributes, public use

determinants, and resource capabilities and sensitivities. These plans recommend a program of acquisition, planning, development, and management of the units within the region. Prior to 1982 these plans were prepared as separate documents from the area plans prepared by the Division of Land and Water. One plan, for the southcentral region, was completed as a separate document. Since then, regional recreation plans are completed as a recreation element within the area plans prepared by the Division of Mining, Land and Water.

Park unit management plans are prepared for each unit. Each unit is zoned into lands suitable for each of four categories: recreational development, natural, wilderness, and cultural. The allocation of these uses is based on the type of unit and the unit's special qualities and opportunities. These plans are primarily in-house documents.

Site development plans are then prepared for specific improvements within the unit. These plans, which include a scaled drawing of improvements, are used to guide engineering drawings.

PROCESS AND PARTICIPATION

The division uses a nine-step process in preparing its regional plans, which are the primary division document presented for public review. Unit and site plans are typically produced in-house with a similar process but with public participation on a case-by-case basis. The nine steps used in preparing the regional plans are:

- Step 1. Goals and purpose: identify issues and concerns
- Step 2. Inventory: evaluate other programs, analysis demand, evaluate land base
- Step 3. Evaluate areas using criteria
- Step 4. Develop draft recommendations
- Step 5. Public and agency review and comment
- Step 6. Final recommendations
- Step 7. Plan adoption
- Step 8. Implement plan
- Step 9. Monitor and update

Public participation occurs primarily through meetings held in neighboring communities and through surveys. Brochures are often prepared to explain the planning process and proposed recommendations. A draft plan is made available for public and agency review.

PRODUCT

Each regional plan contains sections dealing with purpose and scope, regional overview, factors influencing participation in outdoor recreation, regional issues, regional role of the state park system, recommendations, and an implementation program.

INTERNET SITES

State Parks Web site
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/index.htm>

Park Plans, several available through the Internet, are discussed at:
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/plans/softcopy.htm>

Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Plan, is currently being revised.
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/plans/woodtpln.htm>

Information on each park is available at:
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/units/>

CONTACTS

For general questions concerning planning within the system, contact:

Peter J. Panarese, Chief
 Field Operations, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
 Department of Natural Resources, 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 1380
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3561
 (907) 269-8702
pete_panarese@dnr.state.ak.us

For specific information about a particular unit, contact the appropriate regional manager:

Chugach State Park: Al Meiners
 Potter Section House
 HC 52, Box 8999
 Indian, AK 99540
 (907) 345-5014
alan_meiners@dnr.state.ak.us

Northern Area: Anna Plager
 4420 Airport Way
 Fairbanks, AK 99701
 (907) 451-2698
anna_plager@dnr.state.ak.us

Southeast Area: Bill Garry
 400 Willoughby
 Juneau, AK 99801
 (907) 465-2481
bill_garry@dnr.state.ak.us

The following area superintendents also have information on current planning:

Chris Degernes, Kenai Area Superintendent, PO Box 1247, Soldotna, Alaska 99669
 (907) 262-5581

Dale Bingham, Matsu/Copper Basin Area Superintendent, HC 32, Box 6706, Wasilla, Alaska 99654
 (907) 745-8935

Wayne Biessel, Kodiak Area Ranger, 1400 Abercrombie Drive, Kodiak, Alaska 99615
 (907) 486-6352

Dan Hourihan, Wood-Tikchik State Park Area Ranger, 550 West 7th Ave. Suite 1380, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3561
 (907) 269-8698

STATEWIDE PARK PLANS

Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework — Developed to be consistent with the Statewide Natural Resources Plan completed in 1982. Provides general guidelines and planning philosophy. Updated through the more specific regional and unit plans.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) — Also called the Alaska Outdoor Recreation Plan. The last SCORP was completed in 1981 to conform to the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) guidelines. Provides criteria for land acquisition, development funding, and allocation of LWCF grants. SCORP updates were completed in 1987 and again in 1997.

REGIONAL PLANS

Southcentral Recreation Action Plan (SCRAP) — A special plan requested by and submitted to the governor in 1985. Sets priorities for recreation land acquisition and development in the region. Cooperative plan with Department of Fish and Game.

Kenai River Special Management Area Plan — Initiated in 1984, completed in 1986. This effort mandated by special state legislation which created the Kenai River Special Management Area (KRSMA). Prepared in cooperation with the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Plan makes recommendations for the Kenai River and for other lands in the river corridor with important habitat values. The KRSMA Plan was updated in 1997 and published as the Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan in November 1998.

UNIT PLANS

(only major parks are listed)

Park descriptions can be found at: <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/units/>

Caines Head Recreation Area (5,961 acres) — Master plan completed 1984.

Captain Cook State Recreation Area (3,620 acres) — Site development plans have been prepared for specific areas.

Chena River State Recreation Area (254,080 acres) — Master plan completed 1984.

Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve (49,000 acres) — Management plan completed in 1985.

Chilkat State Park (6,045 acres) — Specific site plans complete.

Chugach State Park (405,204 acres) — Master plan completed in 1980, amended in 1988. Trails Plan completed 1986.

Denali State Park (421,120 acres) — Plan revised in 1988.

Independence Mine — Master plan prepared 1986.

Kachemak Bay State Park (328,290 acres) — Master plan updated in 1988.

Kepler-Bradley Lakes — Master Plan, 1987.

Nancy Lake State Recreation Area (22,685 acres) — Revised the Master Plan in 1987.

Shuyak Island — Master plan to draft stage in 1986.

Wood-Tikchik State Park (1,428,320 acres) — Plan approved by advisory council in spring 1987. Currently being revised. <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/plans/woodtpln.htm>

Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park (370,500 acres approx.) — Plan adopted March 1995.

State Marine Parks: Prince William Sound and Resurrection Bay (32,560 acres) — Plan adopted March 1995.

Office of the Governor — Division of Governmental Coordination, Alaska Coastal Management Program

HISTORY

Congress passed the federal Coastal Zone Management Act in 1972. With this act it intended to create a “partnership between state and local governments in the planning and management of coastal resources.” Each of the thirty-five states with coastal waters was encouraged to develop a Coastal Management Program (CMP). To gain state support, Congress incorporated several incentives in the act, including federal assistance in planning, federal aid in coastal land acquisition, and a consistency provision that provided states with a measure of control over federal agency actions once the state CMP was approved.

The Alaska Legislature passed the Alaska Coastal Management Act, establishing the Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP), in 1977. Since then the state has been actively involved in coastal planning under the direction of the Alaska Coastal Policy Council, comprised of the commissioners of five state departments, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and nine elected officials from the coastal area (<http://www.gov.state.ak.us/dgc/Contacts/cplist.html>). The Council has adopted standards for development in the coastal area and approves district programs before they are forwarded for federal review.

The ACMP is implemented through coastal districts, which include boroughs; unified home rule municipalities; home-rule, first class, and some second class cities; and Coastal Resource Service Areas (CRSAs). CRSAs were necessary to perform planning functions in areas where no borough was organized. There are thirty-five coastal resource districts in Alaska of which four are CRSAs, special forms of local government enabled under the 1977 act. As of 2001, thirty-three of the thirty-five coastal districts have approved coastal management programs in place. Wrangell and Petersburg are the only two districts that have yet to develop a local program.

District coastal management programs include a coastal management plan and the ACMP statewide standards. In addition, the district program can include special area plans that focus on a particular area, resource, or use issue within the coastal zone and provide possible management solutions. There are three types of special area plans:

- Area which Merits Special Attention (AMSA) plan within a coastal district;
- Special Area Management Plan; and
- Sensitive Area Policies within a district plan.

By offering three types of plans, the ACMP provides flexibility to use the type of special area plan that best meets the needs of a particular area. There are currently thirty-three approved special area plans of which thirty are AMSAs. Nine of the thirty-three special area plans are extraterritorial AMSAs, all located in Southeast Alaska.

LEGAL BASIS FOR PLANNING

Although the original incentive began with the federal CZMA of 1972, the Alaska Coastal Management Act of 1977 is the primary authority for state and coastal district activities. Under the direction of the Coastal Policy Council, the ACMP has developed statewide regulatory Standards (6 AAC 80) that govern resource development activities in Alaska’s coastal zone. The Council also established regulatory Guidelines (6AAC 85) that establish content and process requirements for developing district coastal management programs. In the mid 1980s regulations for a coordinated consistency review process were developed (6 AAC 50) to clarify the process used to determine a project’s consistency with the statewide Standards and coastal district plans.

PLANNING PROGRAM

District plans pass through a local, state, and federal review. At the local level the plan must be approved by coastal cities and the borough in that district. At the state level the plan must be approved by the Coastal Policy Council. The plan is finally forwarded to the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management for federal approval.

The plan, to be approved, must be consistent with both state and federal standards. These standards address the following: coastal development; recreation; energy facilities; transportation and utilities; fish and seafood processing; timber harvest and processing; mining and mineral processing; subsistence; coastal habitats; air, land, and water quality; and historic, prehistoric, and archaeological resources.

PROCESS AND PARTICIPATION

The significant amendment process was developed in the late 1980s to provide guidance to coastal districts as they wrote or revised their local coastal management plans. In the mid-1990s, participants in the ACMP identified the lack of a process for making minor changes to a district plan as a significant barrier to keeping plans current. As a result, state regulations were changed in 1999 to create a process for making minor changes to existing district plans. The major amendment regulations are found at 6 AAC 85.121 and the minor amendment regulations are found at 6 AAC 85.160. The significant and minor amendment processes are described in detail in a publication titled *Guidebook 2: Preparing a District Coastal Management Program*. This publication can be requested from the Division of Governmental Coordination.

There are ten steps to the significant amendment planning process which is used only when a district wants to write a plan or make substantial changes to an existing plan.

- Step 1. Scoping
- Step 2. Preparing a Public Hearing Draft
- Step 3. Circulating a Public Hearing Draft for review
- Step 4. Revising a Public Hearing Draft
- Step 5. Achieving concept approval
- Step 6. Reviewing and commenting on the Concept Approved Draft
- Step 7. Obtaining approval from the Alaska Coastal Policy Council
- Step 8. Earning federal concurrence
- Step 9. Adopting the final plan
- Step 10. Reaching the effective date

When a district wants to make a change to an existing plan that does not make a significant difference in how the plan is implemented by the district or by government agencies, a minor amendment process is initiated. There are six steps to the minor amendment process:

- Step 1. The district submits a request to the Division of Governmental Coordination (DGC).
- Step 2. DGC analyzes the request and prepares a recommendation to the Coastal Policy Council (30 day time limit).
- Step 3. The Council considers the request and the recommendation and renders a decision.
- Step 4. The federal Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management considers the request.
- Step 5. The district approves the request in its final form.
- Step 6. The Council's Order of Approval is filed with the Lieutenant Governor.

Public participation occurs at numerous points and in several different ways. Methods of participation include surveys, public meetings and hearings, workshops, media announcements, and citizen advisory and technical committee evaluations.

PRODUCT

A typical plan, such as that for the North Slope Borough, contains sections titled: coastal area boundary, goals and policies, natural resources, human resources, special areas, coastal management program, and implementation.

The primary form of implementation for municipalities is through zoning and platting, AS Title 29. Other ways to implement the program include the timing and location of capital improvements; land acquisition, sales, or trades; transportation planning; annexation; easements and other less than fee simple rights; eminent domain; and local review of state and federal permitting actions, among others. The primary form of implementation for CRSAs is through participation in the state consistency review process.

A primary benefit of a completed plan is the consistency review. This affects all development proposals in or affecting the coastal zone including those initiated by local, state, and federal agencies. All projects proposed in the coastal zone or that can be shown to affect coastal resources (even if they are located outside the coastal zone) must comply with the standards of the ACMP and with the enforceable policies of approved district coastal management plans. A few districts have designated “permit notification areas” outside their district coastal zone boundaries so they can determine whether their coastal management program would apply to a particular project.

CONTACT

For information about the Alaska Coastal Management Program contact:

Division of Governmental Coordination
 PO Box 110030
 Juneau, AK 99811-0030
 (907) 465-3562, fax (907) 465-3075
<http://www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us>

COASTAL ZONE DISTRICT PLANS

You can find a web page for each coastal district with plan names and effective dates, coastal district boundary maps, PDF and Word files of the enforceable policies, local contact information, community links, and other useful information at:

<http://www.gov.state.ak.us/dgc/Explore/Tour.html>

All coastal management plans, including special area plans, are available from the coastal coordinators of the appropriate coastal district, the Division of Governmental Coordination, the Department of Community and Economic Development, or the Alaska State Library. The enforceable policies, boundary maps, and enforceable policy maps for all of these plans are included in the three-volume series:

Alaska Coastal Management Program Enforceable Policies & Standards. Alaska Office of the Governor, Division of Governmental Coordination. September 1997, as revised.

COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

Aleutians East Borough — Effective 11/16/92.

Aleutians West CRSA — Effective 8/30/91.

Anchorage, Municipality of — Effective 6/22/81.

Angoon, City of — Effective 5/25/90.

Bering Straits CRSA — Effective 12/22/89.

Bethel, City of — Effective 1/3/84.

Bristol Bay Borough — Effective 1/3/84.

Bristol Bay CRSA — Effective 2/17/87.

Cenaliulriit (Yukon-Kuskokwim) CRSA — Effective 9/24/99.

Cordova, City of — Effective 11/24/86.

Craig, City of — Effective 5/31/85.

- Haines, City of** — Effective 7/22/93.
- Hoonah, City of** — Effective 3/21/97.
- Hydaburg, City of** — Effective 5/21/84.
- Juneau, City and Borough of** — Effective 10/12/92.
- Take, City of** — Effective 5/31/85.
- Kenai Peninsula Borough** — Effective 6/30/90.
- Ketchikan Gateway Borough** — Effective 5/1/84.
- Klawock, City of** — Effective 5/31/85.
- Kodiak Island Borough** — Effective 3/15/84.
- Lake and Peninsula Borough (formerly part of Bristol Bay CRSA)** — Effective 10/31/96.
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough** — Effective 2/15/84.
- Northwest Arctic Borough (previously NANA CRSA)** — Effective 1/7/98.
- Nome, City of** — Effective 3/15/84.
- North Slope Borough** — Effective 5/6/88.
- Pelican, City of** — Effective 1/10/94.
- Petersburg, City of** — Comments on projects using statewide standards, has not developed a local coastal management program.
- St. Paul, City of** — Effective 4/14/00.
- Sitka, City and Borough of** — Effective 6/10/97.
- Skagway, City of** — Effective 3/23/90.
- Thorne Bay, Prince of Wales Island** — Effective 8/24/98.
- Valdez, City of** — Effective 2/4/87.
- Whittier** — Effective 2/4/87.
- Wrangell, City of** — Inactive.
- Yakutat, City of** — Effective 2/24/82.

SPECIAL AREA PLANS

Acronyms used below are as follows: Areas Meriting Special Attention (AMSA) and Special Area Management Plans (SAMP) both described above; Extra-territorial (ET) meaning the area is outside of the coastal district boundary.

City of Angoon.

Chaik-Whitewater Bay AMSA, 1992. ET AMSA.

Hood Bay AMSA, 1992. ET AMSA.

Mitchell Bay AMSA, 1992. ET AMSA.

City of Haines.

Port Chilkoot/Portage Cove AMSA, 1980. AMSA.

City of Hydaburg.

Hetta Cove/Eek Inlet AMSA, 1983. ET AMSA.

Hydaburg River/Tidelands AMSA, 1983. AMSA and ET AMSA.

Jackson Island AMSA, 1983. ET AMSA.

McFarland Islands/Dunbar Inlet AMSA, 1983. ET AMSA.

Meares Passage-Arena Cove AMSA, 1983. ET AMSA.

Saltery Point-Crab Trap Cove AMSA, 1983. ET AMSA.

City and Borough of Juneau.

Downtown Waterfront AMSA, 1992. AMSA.

Juneau Wetlands Management Plan, 1993. SAMP.

City and Borough of Sitka.

Sitka Public Use Management Plan, 1993, 1997. SAMP.

Swan Lake AMSA, 1989. AMSA.

City of Skagway.

Port of Skagway AMSA, 1991. AMSA.

Pullen Creek AMSA, 1990. AMSA.

Skagway River AMSA. 1991. AMSA.

Yakutania Point AMSA, 1990. AMSA.

Municipality of Anchorage.

Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan, 1996. SAMP.

Andesite Dike at Potter's Marsh on Old Seward Highway, 1987 AMSA.

Bird Creek Regional Park, 1987. AMSA.

Eagle River Valley Lowlands, 1987. AMSA.

Fish Creek Estuary, 1987. AMSA.

Old Girdwood Townsite South of Seward Highway, 1987. AMSA.

Point Campbell Dunes and Delta, 1987. AMSA.

Point Campbell-Point Woronzof Coastal Wetlands, 1987. AMSA.

Point Woronzof Bluffs, 1987. AMSA.

Port of Anchorage Area, 1987. AMSA.

Seward Highway/Turnagain Arm Scenic Corridor, 1987. AMSA.

City of Cordova.

Eyak Lake AMSA, 1986. AMSA.

Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Port Graham/Nanwalek AMSA, 1992. AMSA.

Lake and Peninsula Borough.

Nushagak/Mulchatna Rivers Recreation Management Plan, 1992. AMSA and DNR Area Plan.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Point MacKenzie AMSA, 1993. AMSA.