
IMPLEMENTATION

PRIORITIES FOR LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DESIGNATIONS	405
TRANSPORTATION PROPOSALS	410
LAND DISPOSAL SCHEDULE	418
LAND TRADES, RELINQUISHMENTS AND SELECTIONS	422
PUBLIC RECREATION CAPITOL IMPROVEMENTS	423
LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS	424
PRIORITIES FOR INSTREAM FLOW STUDIES	427
MANAGEMENT PLANNING PRIORITIES	429



photograph by Pete Martin

CHAPTER 4

IMPLEMENTATION

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the actions necessary to implement the land use policies proposed by this area plan. These actions include proposals for legislative or administrative designation of certain lands; improvements to the regional transportation system; a twenty-year land disposal schedule; recommended land exchanges, relinquishments and selections; priorities for capital improvements for recreation; land use classifications; priorities for instream flow studies; and a list of possible locations for management plans. Most of these proposed actions are discussed in more detail in other portions of the plan. For example, proposals for legislative designations are included in the management intent summaries for the appropriate subregions.

The list of implementation actions included in this chapter is not complete. Each land management division within ADNR and ADF&G will need to prepare detailed regional implementation programs built around the land use designations and guidelines specified in this plan. For example, now that the timber land base of the area is defined, the Division of Forestry needs to determine allowable levels of commercial and personal use harvest, prepare and implement a plan of annual timber sales, and develop plans for access improvement and timber marketing.

These implementation actions will be used as a basis for budget preparation including requests for changes in staff levels and requests for legislative funding of capital improvements, data collection or other actions necessary to implement the plan.

PRIORITIES FOR LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DESIGNATION

A number of areas within the Susitna plan are proposed for legislative or administrative designation. This means that the plan recommends that the legislature or governor grant these areas recreational rivers, parks, recreation areas, forests or wildlife refuges, or include them in the public reserve system. These special designations would serve as official recognition of the outstanding public values in these areas and of the state's intent to retain these areas in public ownership in perpetuity. A legislative or administrative (gubernatorial) designation is recommended when an area proposed by the plan for long-term retention possesses such high resource values that:

1. It is clear that the area should remain in public ownership permanently; and/or
2. the nature and value of the resources present require more restrictive management for their protection than is possible under a general multiple use classification.

A detailed management plan will need to be prepared for each area once it is legally designated. Issues addressed by management plans will include siting of public facilities (e.g., campgrounds, boat launches),

clarification of the specific types and locations of allowed uses in these areas, design of additional means of public access, identification of areas open and closed to remote cabins, etc. The areas that are proposed for legislative or administrative designation have been divided into two priorities. The first priority areas are those that are either particularly high value areas or appear particularly vulnerable to disruption. The second priority areas are also high value, but it was judged that either their resource values are not as likely to be in jeopardy without a special designation or that they are not quite as valuable as first priority areas. Only the first priority areas are shown on the colored, 1:500,000 scale map that accompanies this plan. First and second priority areas both are indicated on the designation maps in Chapter 3.

In most cases the areas proposed for special designation contain multiple resource values, for example, high value fishing and floating rivers running through timber lands that are popular for hunting. In these cases the plan has not tried to split the proposal within a single area into a portion that is proposed as a state forest, a portion proposed as a state recreation area, etc. Instead, the plan's recommendations for special designation extend to the entire block of high value land.

The first priority areas are recommended for legislative designation. For second priority areas the plan does not distinguish between legislative and administrative designations. The decision on the type of designation is left to the legislature or governor.

The areas proposed for special designations are grouped below according to their priority for legislative or administrative action. The total area proposed for legislative or administrative designation is approximately 3.6 million acres. For additional information on individual proposals, see the appropriate management unit summaries in Chapter 3.

FIRST PRIORITY AREAS

Recreation River Corridors: Kroto Creek-Moose Creek, Lake Creek, Talachulitna River, Alexander Creek, Talkeetna River.

Multiple Use Forest, Habitat, Recreation, Mining Areas: Peters Creek, Mt. Susitna, Kashwitna, Lake Creek, Kroto-Kahiltna.

Wildlife Habitat, Recreation Areas: Lower Susitna-Yentna; Jim-Swan Lakes, Palmer Hay Flats Addition.

Multiple Use Habitat, Recreation, Mining Areas: Nelchina Public Use Area (core caribou calving area).

SECOND PRIORITY AREAS

Trumpeter Swan Nesting Areas: Upper Kahiltna R., Hayes R., Upper Yentna R.

Wildlife Habitat, Recreation Areas: Gunsight Mountain, Susitna Lake-Tyone R.

The remainder of this section presents brief descriptions of the size and resource values of each of the areas listed above.

Recreational River Corridors

These waterways are very high priority for legislative designation. They are extremely valuable to the region's economy and environment. These streams and rivers are heavily used by the public for fishing, floating and boating, transportation, and public access to hunting and recreation sites. They attract people from across the nation as well as Alaska residents, and the money spent on transportation and river-based recreation is an important source of local income. All five of these waterways are anadromous fish streams, supporting populations of king, silver, pink, red, and chum salmon, as well as resident fish populations. In addition to supporting sport fishing, these streams are major con-

tributors to the Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery. The riparian habitat is also essential for sustenance of mammalian populations. Moose winter range along the rivers is particularly important.

River or Stream	Acreage	Subregion
1. Kroto Creek-Moose Creek	75,000 ac.	Petersville Rd. subunits 1b & 4a Susitna Lowlands subunit 11b
2. Lake Creek	64,160 ac.	Sunflower Basin Mgmt. Unit 3; Susitna Lowlands subunit 7b.
3. Talachulitna Creek	50,840 ac.	Mt. Susitna Management Unit 7
4. Alexander Creek	22,600 ac.	Susitna Lowlands subunit 6d
5. Talkeetna River	27,440 ac.	Talkeetna Mts. subunit 3b; South Parks Hwy subunits 5b & 6a
TOTAL AREA	240,040 ac.	

The proposed legislative designation boundaries run approximately one-half mile landward on each side of the rivers. With the exception of the Talkeetna River, which is partly in Native ownership, each corridor includes the full length of the river's main stem from headwaters to terminus. Within these areas, land and water would be managed for multiple use, including hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities; habitat management; timber harvesting and water quality protection. Timber management activities are secondary uses in the corridors; they will be designed to protect and enhance habitat and recreation values and water quality. Land sales would be prohibited in these corridors; however, public use cabins and in some instances commercial recreation facilities would be allowed. Mineral entry and coal leasing or prospecting also would be prohibited.

Multiple Use Forestry, Habitat, Recreation, Mining Areas

Five areas proposed for legislative designation contain a combination of commercially valuable forest lands, high value habitat, and existing and potential value for public recreation. These lands in the Peters Creek, Mt. Susitna, Kashwitna, Lake Creek and Kroto-Kahiltna

areas would be managed for multiple use, including timber management; habitat enhancement; hunting, fishing and other recreational activities; and, protection of water quality and visual quality. These areas would be open to mineral entry and coal leasing and prospecting. Details of each area are given below.

1. Peters Creek – 161,000 acres – Petersville Road subunit 1a, Sunflower Basin subunit 7b

The proposed Peters Creek special designation is the most important of the forestry areas proposed by the Susitna Area Plan. The area is accessible from Petersville Road and the Shulin Lake trail. Accessibility makes lands within the proposal suitable for near term commercial timber management. The forests south of Petersville Road contain some of the most valuable timber in the study area. Numerous state and borough timber sales have taken place nearby along the Petersville Road. Road access also has contributed to the area's popularity for other uses. While the timber north of Petersville Road and west of Peters Creek is less suitable for commercial management, these lands are extremely valuable for wildlife habitat and hunting. This proposed multiple use area includes a large part of the most heavily hunted region in the entire planning area. The scenery along the western Petersville Road with views to the Peters Hills and Alaska Range also attracts other recreationists for sightseeing, skiing, snowmachining, hiking and camping. Finally, the area surrounds two of the most important anadromous fish streams in the study area, in terms of recreation use and riparian habitat – Kroto Creek (see above) and Peters Creek.

2. Mt. Susitna – 146,000 acres – Mt. Susitna subunits 2a, 2b and 2c; Susitna Lowlands subunit 6e

The proposed Mt. Susitna designation is a varied region including dense lowland forests, numerous streams and rivers, and alpine areas. There are vast timberlands suitable for commercial management. The Mt. Susitna area, which includes lands along Trail Ridge, is an important moose hunting area and is hunted for trophy specimens of brown bear; it is also a known brown bear denning area. In addition, Wolverine Creek and the Theodore River run through the area and are regionally important anadromous fish streams. Present recreational activity centers around hunting and fishing, but the alpine area also offers excellent opportunities for hiking and skiing, and the area is likely to be a popular recreational destination (possibly including an alpine ski area) if road access is provided to the area. Existing access is by air, but the area proposed for designation is adjacent to the right-of-way connecting the

Beluga-Tyonek area with the railbelt. There are also existing roads in the Tyonek area that extend nearly to the western boundary of this area.

3. Kashwitna – 75,000 acres – South Parks Highway Management Unit 12

The proposed special designation in the Kashwitna area lies between the Parks Highway and the western front of the Talkeetna Mountains. It is an area with valuable timber for commercial and/or personal use near to areas with growing populations. In addition to timber resources, the area is important for wildlife habitat. Much of the lowland region east of the Parks Highway is in private ownership, increasing the value of this region for moose hunting. Bears also concentrate along the North Fork of the Kashwitna River. The North Fork, the main stem of the Kashwitna, and Sheep Creek all are important anadromous fish streams that run through the proposed state forest. Finally, the area offers opportunities for other forms of recreation (e.g. skiing, hiking, and snowmachining) that will increase in popularity as access could be provided from existing roads in either the Caswell Lakes or Bartlett Hills areas.

4. Lake Creek forest lands – 29,000 acres – Susitna Lowlands subunit 7a

The land west of Lake Creek is one of the most densely forested regions in the entire study area. It has potential for commercial management and valuable for wildlife habitat, including moose winter range. The forest lands abut the proposed Lake Creek recreational river corridor (see above) and include Yenlo Creek, an anadromous fish stream that is one of the most important tributaries to Lake Creek. This area is recommended for legislative designation in recognition of the high timber and habitat values even though the remoteness of the site makes it unlikely that active forest management will begin in the near future.

5. Kroto-Kahiltna – 118,000 acres – Susitna Lowlands subunits 5f, 11a & 12b

A large, forested lowland area between Kroto Creek and the Kahiltna River, and along a portion of the Yentna River floodplain is proposed for legislative designation for long term timber and habitat management. The area supports extensive stands of commercially valuable timber and provides important moose winter range. Although currently inaccessible by road, relatively inexpensive road access could be provided in the future to link this area to the Petersville Road via Oilwell Road. The value of this area for hunting, hiking, snowmobiling and other dispersed recreation activities is likely to grow

substantially in the future as adjacent lands designed for agriculture, settlement and resource management are developed.

Wildlife Habitat and Recreation Areas

1. Lower Susitna-Yentna public use area – 54,000 acres – Susitna Lowlands, subunits 13d, 13e & 14e

Approximately 25,000 acres of extremely valuable habitat land and associated timber land around Kroto slough and 21,000 acres along the lower reaches of the Yentna and Susitna Rivers are recommended for legislative designation. The principal goal of this proposal is the protection of winter range essential to several moose populations and critical nesting habitat for trumpeter swans. Commercial timber management also would be a primary use in the Susitna River corridor, a secondary use in the Kroto Slough area, where swan nesting sites are concentrated, and a secondary use in the Yentna River corridor where there are few timber lands.

2. Jim-Swan Lakes State Recreation Area – 7,600 acres – Glenn Highway subunit 3b

The Jim-Swan Lakes area near Bodenbug Butte is proposed for legislative designation because of the heavy public use of the area's lakes and streams for salmon and trout fishing, waterfowl hunting, canoeing, hiking and winter recreation activities. Use is likely to increase as the population of the surrounding area grows. Limited timber harvesting may be permitted in the area if it is consistent with the major goals of providing recreation, protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat, and protecting visual quality.

3. Palmer Hay Flats Extension – 1,200 acres – Glenn Highway subunit 2a

A small extension is proposed for the Palmer Hay Flats game refuge. The refuge is managed primarily for waterfowl habitat and hunting. The proposed addition is a small parcel of land to the east of the refuge at the mouth of the Knik and Matanuska Rivers. This area is valuable waterfowl and moose habitat and is also important as a visual buffer along the Glenn Highway between more developed areas to the north and south. The objective for this area is to provide for protection and enhancement of wildlife habitat. Other activities, including hunting, other forms of recreation, and timber harvesting would be allowed when consistent with the habitat management goals for the refuge.

4. Gunsight Mountain – 97,000 acres – Glenn Highway subunit 11b and 11c

Approximately 97,000 acres around Gunsight Mountain just north of the Glenn Highway is suitable for legislative or administrative designation on the basis of the existing and future public use and recreational opportunities of the area. The area is located at the upper end of the Matanuska Valley and offers a spectacular combination of rugged to rolling mountain terrain with superb views across the Matanuska River towards Lions Head and the Chugach Range. Because of its inland location and interesting topography, the area is particularly suited for winter recreation, including excellent cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. Summer activities include popular hikes on Gunsight Mountain, picnicking and sightseeing. Hunting, skiing, snowmobiling, fishing and other types of recreation collectively support at least four roadside lodges that cater to these recreational users. It is also a popular wildlife viewing area, as Dall sheep are often visible from the road. A large portion of the area is within Ahtna Native Corporation selections at present, however, and thus unavailable for immediate legislative or administrative designation. Public lands within the area should be retained in public ownership and managed for public recreation and wildlife habitat until the Native selections are either conveyed or relinquished and a decision can be made to designate the whole area or only those lands in state ownership.

5. Susitna Lake-Tyone River – 138,000 acres – Lake Louise subunits 1b and 3d

The Susitna Lake-Tyone River area is intended to provide a public recreation area to complement the settlement lands surrounding Lake Louise. This area offers miles of interesting waterways for boating, excellent fishing and hunting, and the water access route into the Upper Susitna, McKenzie and Gulkana River systems. The area also is used by the Nelchina Caribou herd.

Multiple Use Habitat, Recreation, Mining Area: Nelchina Public Use Area – 2.5 million acres

Lake Louise subunit 3b
Glenn Highway subunit 12a
Talkeetna Mountains subunits 2a, 2b

There are currently approximately 25,000 caribou in the Nelchina Caribou herd – the third largest caribou herd in the state. The herd is centered in the eastern and central Talkeetna Mountains. The proposed Nelchina public use area would protect the core of

the caribou calving grounds and a significant portion of the herd's commonly used range.

The proposed Nelchina public use area contains a core area of a million acres that are critical calving grounds for the Nelchina herd. This area is a first priority proposal for legislative designation for protection of caribou habitat, and for other public uses when compatible with the habitat protection goals (e.g. seasonal use for hunting, hiking, and other recreational activities).

Surrounding the core area are approximately 1.5 million acres of less frequently used calving grounds and general caribou range. This area also should be retained in public ownership and managed to protect caribou habitat, other habitat values, and public recreation opportunities. This outer ring is a second priority for legislative or administrative action due to its less critical role in the protection of the herd.

Mining presently occurs throughout much of the 2.5 million acres in the Nelchina public use area. The plan's proposals for legislative or administrative designation would leave the area open to mining and allow for its continuation as one of the area's primary uses.

Swan Nesting Habitat – 80,000 acres

Susitna Lowlands subunits 1b and 3c;
Sunflower Basin subunit 6c

Three wetland and floodplain areas are proposed for legislative or administrative designation to protect trumpeter swan nesting habitat. These areas along the Kahiltna, Hayes and upper Yentna Rivers are critical to the perpetuation of trumpeter swan populations in the Susitna Basin. In addition, the riparian lands within these proposals provide important winter range for several moose populations. Public uses such as hunting, fishing and other recreational activities would be permitted in these areas when they do not conflict with swan nesting sites. Mining will be permitted in these areas under guidelines designed to minimize its effect on swan habitat. These areas are thought to have very low mineral potential.

TRANSPORTATION PROPOSALS

Introduction

Transportation planning is a necessary component of a comprehensive land use plan. The design of an efficient regional transportation system will be key to resource development and a major determinant of land use patterns in the Susitna area.

Most of the past transportation planning and road construction in the Susitna region has focused on upgrading major highways (e.g. the Glenn) or improving road access within and through areas that are already developed. In contrast to these ongoing efforts, transportation planning in the area plan focuses on the need for near and long-term expansion of the regional transportation system. Particular emphasis is placed on identifying improvements that could facilitate resource development, increase opportunities for public recreation and tourism, and open more land for settlement.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities is currently studying regional transportation needs in the Cook Inlet area. Results of this study, expected in late 1985, should be used to help prioritize and implement the transportation recommendations presented here.

The remainder of this section has three parts: 1) current regional transportation projects, 2) routes of possible future roads and locations of other transportation improvements that could provide future access to resource development, recreation and settlement areas, and 3) a preliminary listing of priorities among the projects described in the second part.

Current Regional Transportation Projects

Three major transportation projects currently being considered are described below. The area plan did not address these proposals; they are listed here to provide background to the general subject of transportation improvements within the Susitna area.

1. Access to the Susitna Hydroelectric Project

Two large hydroelectric dams have been proposed at Devils Canyon and Watana located on the upper Susitna River (See Chapter 3 — Talkeetna Mountains Subregion for details). The transportation system proposed by the Alaska Power Authority would provide access to the Devils Canyon site via a rail extension from the existing rail line beginning near Gold Creek. Access to the Watana site is proposed via a road from the Denali Highway south to Watana through the Deadhorse Creek drainage.

Issues related to this proposed road and rail system include the impacts from the proposed northern road vs. access from the west, design standards for the Denali highway (which would be upgraded if the northern route is selected), and use of these roads by the general public during and after construction.

2. Glenn Highway Realignment

The Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF) is working on preliminary environmental and engineering assessment for upgrading the Glenn Highway from mile 35 near Palmer to approximately mile 135. No schedule has been set for highway construction or more detailed engineering and environmental assessment work. It is likely that it will be at least 5 years before any construction on the route actually occurs.

When construction does occur, DOT/PF engineers expect the realignment generally to follow the existing road corridor. DOT/PF's major objectives for the project are to improve road safety while upgrading the road to enable higher travel speeds and greater traffic volumes. In addition to these objectives, the Department of Natural Resources wants to protect and improve visual quality and improve access to existing and proposed settlement and recreation areas along the route. (Refer to Chapter 3 — the Glenn Highway Subregion.)

3. Knik Arm Crossing

The Knik Arm crossing has been under consideration for at least 15 years. A draft environmental impact statement, preliminary engineering study and set of public hearings on this subject were completed during 1984. If the state legislature decides to fund the project, the crossing is expected to be completed five years after construction begins. The cost of the project will depend on the type of structure built. Preliminary costs for one alternative have been estimated at \$500 million. As this document goes to press, the combination of falling state revenues and the lack of strong public and local government support make it unlikely that the project will be funded in the 1985 legislative session.

The proposed crossing would tie Anchorage to Point McKenzie, and provide a route that would shorten the driving distance between Anchorage and Fairbanks by 30-50 miles depending on which alternative route is built. Past studies indicate that the crossing would bring substantial residential development pressures in the southern portion of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and perhaps stimulate

other types of economic development, including a possible port and industrial park area.

Possible Road and Trail Routes to be Reserved in Public Ownership

The following section identifies a system of road and trail routes and related transportation improvements to be retained in public ownership. Eleven packages of possible access improvements have been identified in Petersville Road, Susitna Lowlands, North and South Parks Highway and Glenn Highway Subregions. These access improvements are designed to implement the land use decisions made by this plan. They are depicted on maps on the following pages. Also included here are a description of several routes where rights-of-way have already been established. These are included to give a more complete picture of the regional transportation system and because several of these undeveloped rights-of way serve areas that are identified as needing access in the plan.

Most of the routes presented here are intended to be regional transportation corridors, although some more localized projects are also included. Most of these regional routes would provide access to a number of different public and private land use activities. For more information on proposed local access projects (for example to a single subdivision) refer to management intent statements for individual subregions in Chapter 3.

By proposing to retain these transportation routes, this plan is not necessarily proposing the roads actually be built. The major purpose is to protect the option to build roads along efficient routes should the time come when the benefits of construction outweigh the costs. Another important point is that the locations of the routes are intended to be quite general; more detailed engineering and environmental work will be needed prior to establishing actual rights-of-way.

1. Shulin Lake

The Shulin Lake package consists of two segments (see map): a southward route following the existing Shulin Lake Trail (segment 1a) and a possible route for extending past Shulin Lake across the Kahiltna River into the McDougal, Lake Creek and Kahiltna land disposals.

Segment 1a travels southward from Petersville Road for roughly twelve miles paralleling Peters Creek to Shulin Lake. The route then continues for approximately another 8 miles to the Oilwell Road system. Segment 1a would provide access into the large Peters Creek timber and habitat area recommended

for legislative designation for long-term multiple use management. This route would also provide access to an area designated resource management containing both good timber stands and a large block of state-owned agricultural soils. (See Petersville Subregion, subunits 1a, 1e and Susitna Lowlands Subregion, subunits 9b, 9c.)

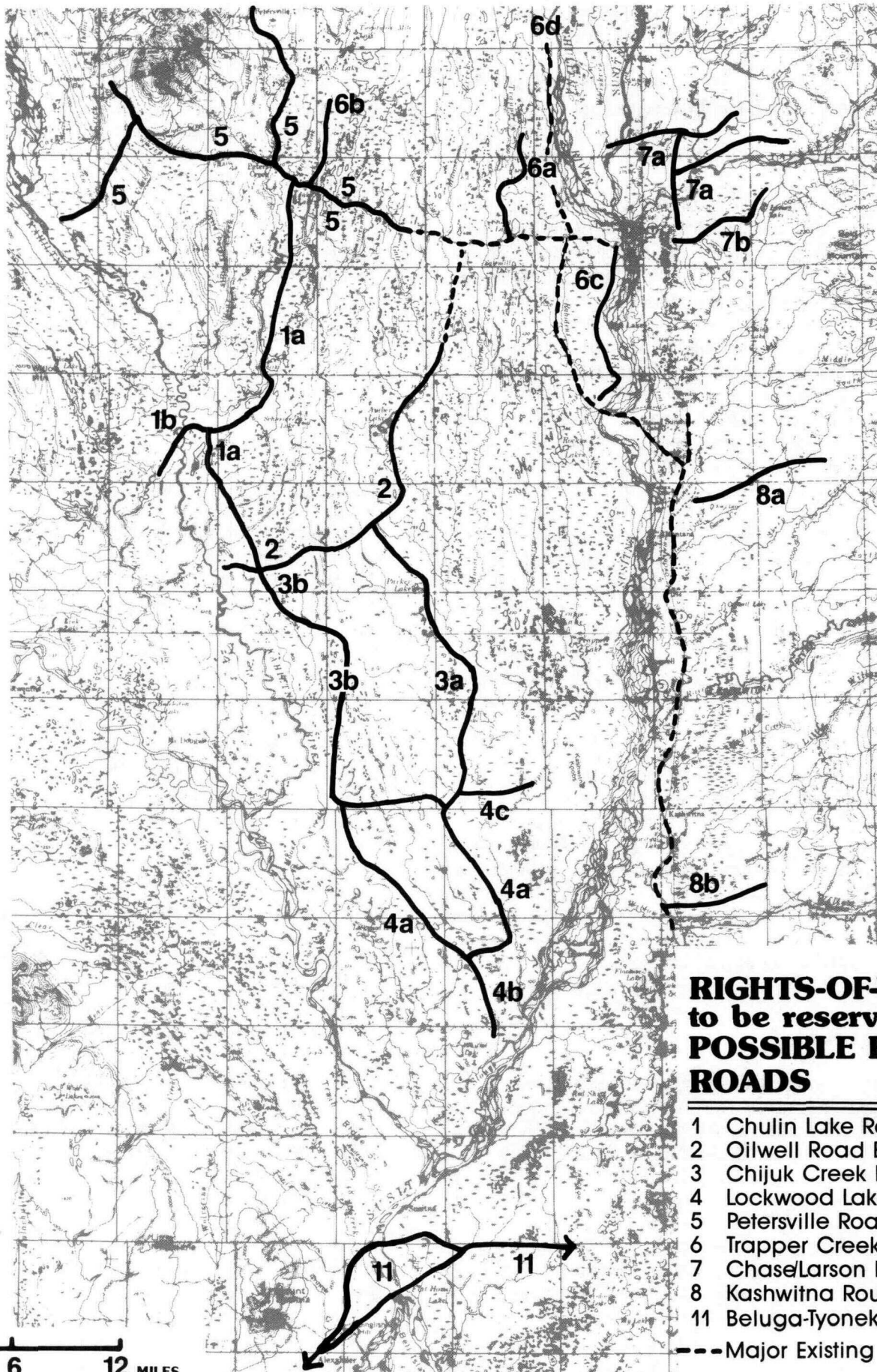
Segment 1b extends 7.5 miles southwest across the Kahiltna River from where segment 1a goes past Shulin Lake. This route provides access to remote settlement areas, to borough- and state-owned lands having good potential for timber production and settlement, and to the edge of the Lake Creek corridor. (See Susitna Lowlands Subregion, subunits 7b and 8a.) The route also provides a portion of a road link with a number of mining areas located further west.

2. Oilwell Road Extension

This package is comprised of improvements to Oilwell Road south of Moose Creek. Oilwell Road follows a 100' surveyed right-of-way from where it begins at mile 6.5 of the Petersville Road. The road extends south across Moose Creek into the Amber Lakes area, continues southwest across Kroto Creek through state and borough lands, then crosses the Kahiltna River and continues to the Yentna River. Much of this route is already constructed. From the Petersville Road to Moose Creek it is a four season, borough maintained road; beyond Moose Creek it currently is passable during the summer by four wheel drive vehicles except where it crosses Kroto and Moose Creeks and the Kahiltna River and a bog just west of Moose Creek.

The Mat-Su Borough received approximately \$100,000 for design and improvements to this road. The borough is hoping to use the funds to buy a surplus bridge to cross Moose Creek. Once the bridge across Moose Creek is complete and the adjacent bog crossed, the existing road would provide access into existing and proposed state and borough settlement areas at Gate Creek and Amber Lake. The road also would tie into the southern boundary of the Peters Creek multiple use forestry-habitat area recommended for legislative designation. (See Petersville Road Subregion, subunits 3b, 3c, 3f and 1b.)

South of Kroto Creek, the road passes through a another proposed settlement area and then through the northern edge of the Chijuk Creek area — a large block of primarily borough land with high potential for forestry, agriculture and a variety of other uses. Near the Kahiltna River, route 1a crosses the route from Shulin Lake.



**RIGHTS-OF-WAY
to be reserved for
POSSIBLE FUTURE
ROADS**

- 1 Chulin Lake Routes
- 2 Oilwell Road Extension
- 3 Chijuk Creek Loop
- 4 Lockwood Lake Loop
- 5 Petersville Road
- 6 Trapper Creek Routes
- 7 Chase/Larson Lake Routes
- 8 Kashwitna Routes
- 11 Beluga-Tyonek Route
- Major Existing Roads



0 6 12 MILES

3. Chijuk Creek Loop

The Chijuk Creek access improvements package consists of two north-south routes that loop together at their southern ends. On the east side, segment 3a comprises a southerly extension of the Oilwell Road. This segment runs south of Amber Lake and parallel to Kroto Creek. On the west side, segment 3b travels north and south parallel to the Kahiltna River, tying into the Shulin Lake route. (See Chapter 3, Susitna Lowlands Subregion, subunits 9c, 10a, 10b, 11a, 11g, 12a, 12c. and 14b.)

The eastern part of the system passes through the center of the Chijuk Creek block, providing access to these borough lands with high value for timber production, agriculture, fish and wildlife, and public recreation. The remaining length of the proposed right-of-way travels through the Kroto-Kahiltna area that is recommended for legislative designation as a multiple use forestry and habitat area. Along the way it passes the Parker and Neil Lakes state subdivisions and other lands proposed for future residential and agricultural homestead land sales.

The western route (3b) provides access to the western portion of the Kroto-Kahiltna lands discussed above. The loop connecting these two routes would provide access into the Deshka Flats area — a parcel with agriculture, forest and other resource values designated resource management.

4. Lockwood Lake Loop

This package of routes is an extension of the Chijuk Creek system described above. Segment 4a is a loop that runs north-south parallel to Kroto Creek, cuts across through the Lockwood Lakes area and then swings back to the north, paralleling the Kahiltna and Yentna Rivers. Extending access into this area would open more of the Kroto-Kahiltna multiple use retention area and, in the south, provide access to the Fish Lakes and Lockwood Lakes areas. These latter areas include several past and planned state land sales and blocks of borough land with settlement values. Segment 4b extends further south to link up with a possible bridge crossing of the Big Susitna River. (See Susitna Lowlands Subregion, subunits 12a, 12b, 11a, 11g, 13a, 13c and 13f.) The final portion of this access package, segment 4c, is a spur route extending eastward across Kroto Creek. This route would provide access into the Kashwitna Knobs area, a large, contiguous block of class II and III soils designated for agriculture. (See Susitna Lowlands Subregion, subunit 14b)

5. Petersville Road

It is recommended that the existing Petersville road, from approximately Gate Creek east, be considered for improvement in order to permit greater access to settlement, forestry, recreation and mining activities. In addition, a spur off this route should also be retained in public ownership. This spur follows the route of an existing trail from the Forks Roadhouse due west across Peters Creek. This spur route provides access into the Lower Cache Creek mining area as well as adjacent hunting and timber areas. (See Petersville Road Subregion, subunits 1a and 1d, and Sunflower Basin Subregion, subunit 6a, 6c, 7a and 7b.)

6. Trapper Creek

This set of proposed improvements is primarily designed to provide access into existing agricultural and settlement areas. It includes several proposed road routes and also several parking and trail improvement proposals. These proposed routes and other access projects are of lesser regional importance than the projects discussed previously, but are included here due to public requests for access improvements in these areas.

One of these routes, (segment 6a), travels north from the Petersville Road near Trapper Creek and would enable access to existing and proposed seasonal and year round settlement areas between Moose Creek and Trapper Creek. This route would also provide access into the Scotty Lake agricultural area. Some additional public recreation opportunities would be opened, although the density of settlement will probably limit opportunities for recreation by non-residents. (See Petersville Road Subregion, subunits 5a, 5c, 5d.)

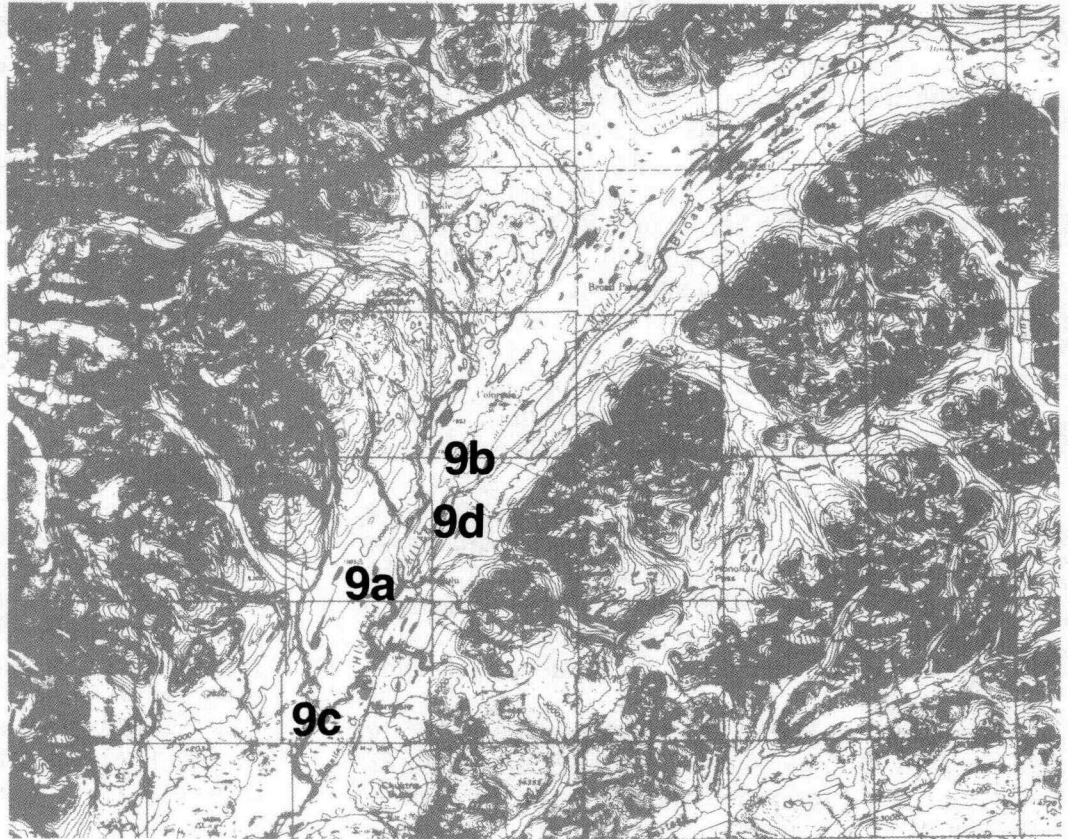
The Kenny Creek right-of-way (Segment 6b) originates approximately 10 miles west of the Parks Highway on the Petersville Road. It is already platted through the existing Kenny Creek State Subdivision. (See Petersville Road Subregion, subunit 2d.)

The Rabideux route (segment 6c) is located between the Susitna River and Rabideux Creek. This area contains a mixture of state, borough and private lands including a past state agricultural land sale. There are currently unimproved, short spur roads extending along the first several miles of both ends of this route. (See Petersville Road Subregion, subunits 7a-7c.)

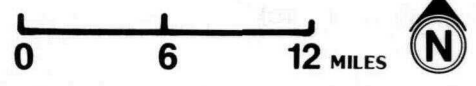
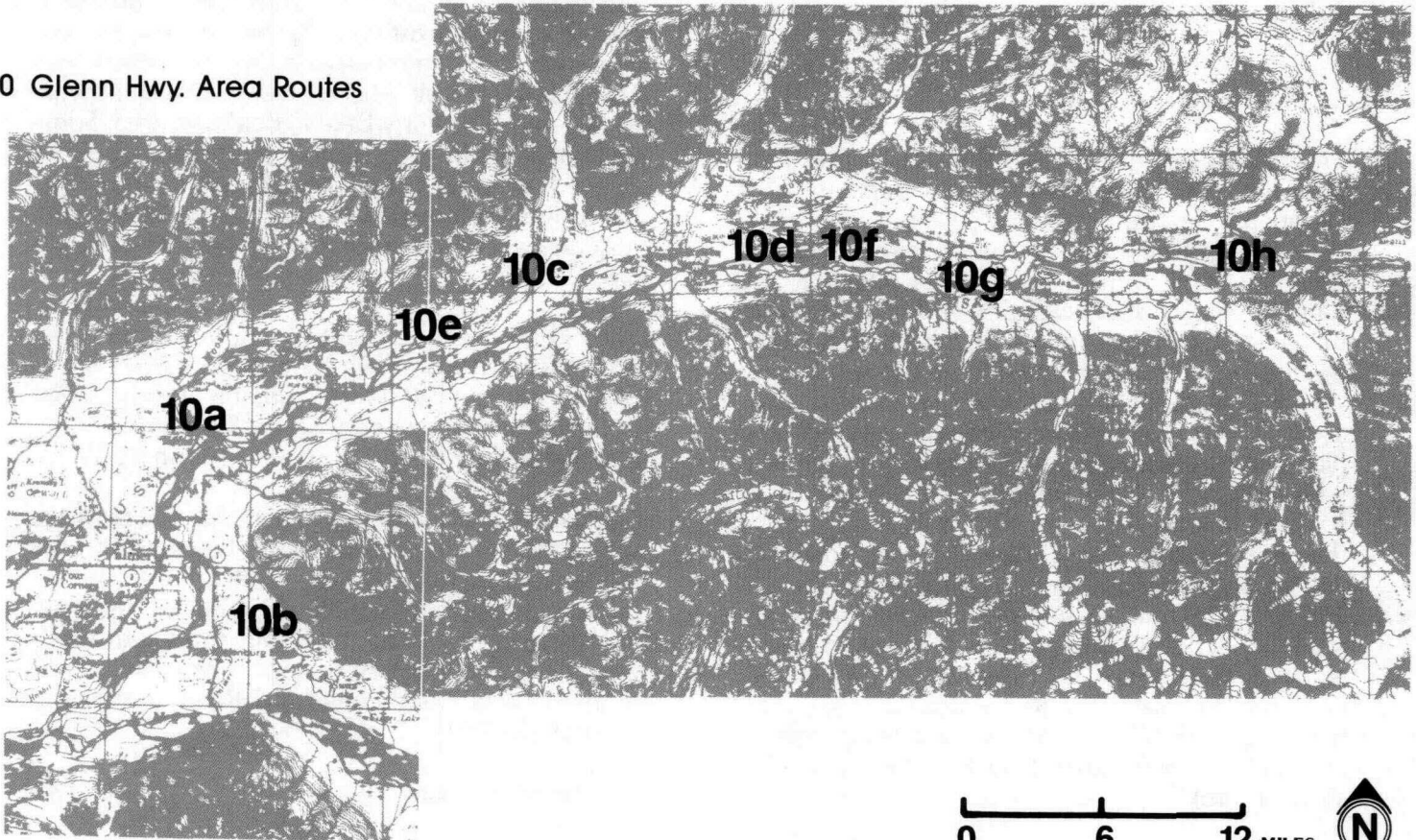
In addition to retention of possible road routes, two

**RIGHTS-OF-WAY
to be reserved for
POSSIBLE FUTURE
ROADS**

9 North Parks Hwy. Routes



10 Glenn Hwy. Area Routes



possible access-related projects in this area are construction of parking areas along the Parks Highway between Trapper Creek and Denali state park. This stretch of the Parks Highway is currently used as a departure point for foot and off-road vehicle access into a number of past state land sales. Lack of established parking facilities leads to unsafe parking along the main highway, vandalism and cars stuck in snow or mud. In addition to parking facilities, trails from these areas (in most cases already in use) need to be formally established in state and borough records. (See Petersville Road Subregion, units 2 and 5.)

7. Chase and Larson Lake

This package of possible improvements consists of several independent segments originating in the Chase area and on the Talkeetna Spur Road. These segments would provide access to the Chase Agricultural Homestead and past remote parcel and subdivision areas and to Larson Lake.

The Chase Agricultural Homestead project was offered in the summer of 1984. The state also offered a large subdivision and several other land sales in the area. (See South Parks Highway Subregion, unit 4.) A system of platted rights-of-way, (segment 7a) runs through this area.) This system includes a platted right-of-way that crosses the Talkeetna River north of the Satellite Earth Station and connects the subdivision and the Chase Agricultural homestead areas with the existing road system.

The other route included in this package (segment 7b) primarily would enable access to borough-owned lands adjacent to Larson Lake. The borough is requesting funding from the legislature for this project. This road would provide access to public and private recreational lands around the lake and encourage tourism development. Future borough land sales are contingent on the provision of access. This route would also provide access to several small past and planned state subdivisions and the middle portion of the Talkeetna River. (See Chapter 3, South Parks Highway Subregion, subunit 5c.)

8. Kashwitna

Routes included in this package would provide access into a large block of state-owned land in the Kashwitna and Willow drainages recommended for legislative or administrative designation for recreation, timber and habitat management. In addition to these uses, access into the area would open lands for disposal of agricultural homesteads. The first

possible route into this area (segment 8a) extends east from the Caswell Lakes Subdivision area. (See South Parks Highway, subunits 12a and 12b.) A second possible route (segment 8b) is located outside the Susitna planning area in the adjacent Willow Sub-basin. This route would leave the Parks Highway between Willow and Little Willow Creeks and provide access to borough lands with agricultural, forestry and settlement potential as well as to the Kashwitna habitat and timber multiple use area.

9. North Parks Highway

This package includes several small scale possible improvements — mostly parking and trails developments — to provide or improve access into several settlement areas. These improvements, if well designed, could also improve public recreation access. Specific improvements include:

- a. **Hurricane** (North Parks Highway Subregion, subunit 3b) — trail to disposal area including improvements to the foot bridge across the Chulitna River and acquisition of public access to bridge from the Parks Highway, parking area on Parks Highway.
- b. **Chulitna Bluffs** (subunit 3e) — trail and parking.
- c. **Hurricane Addition** (subunit 3e) — route from Parks Highway into settlement area and foot-bridge across Chulitna River.
- d. **Public Parking** (subunits 3c, 3d) — parking areas along the Parks Highway to provide public access into adjacent recreation and hunting areas.

10. Glenn Highway

Like the possible improvements identified for the North Parks Highway area, transportation improvements in the Glenn Highway area are generally not of regional significance. Most of these projects are designed to provide access to settlement and/or recreational uses. Specific possible improvements include:

- a. **Tsadaka Canyon** (Glenn Highway Subregion, subunit 1d) — possible improvements related to Glenn Highway relocation and timber harvests.
- b. **Jim-Swan Lakes area** (subunit 3b) — acquisition of public rights-of-way, improvements to trails and possible roads.
- c. **Drill Lake-Fish Lake and Two Rivers Ridge areas** (subunits 5c and 5d) — retention of rights-of-way to planned state subdivision areas.

- d. Bonnie Lake Area** (subunit 7a) — retention of rights-of-way and corridors for possible roads and trails related to settlement and recreation use.
- e. Matanuska Valley Moose Range** (Management Unit 6) — a number of possible road and trail improvements are being considered for this area through a management plan currently underway. These improvements are intended principally to permit commercial and personal use timber harvests and habitat enhancement. Improving the existing Permanente Road is one good option.
- f. Long Lake** (subunit 8b) — trail and possible road improvements within the Long Lake State Recreation Area and proposed expansion of that area.
- g. Cascade Creek Homestead** (subunit 10e) — parking area and possible access road.
- h. Lion Head** (subunit 10e) — a short access road and parking area for planned land disposal area.
- i. Nelchina River** (unit 11a) — access to center of area by road or trail.

11 Beluga and Tyonek

This right-of-way is already on the status plats. This route is intended to link the railbelt with land in the Tyonek and Beluga area. If coal resources are developed in the Beluga area, the coal would be shipped to markets directly from the Beluga area. (The economic viability of production of Beluga coal is based on its proximity to deep water ports within 15 miles of the coal deposits.) The purpose of this route, therefore, would be to connect the townsite or work camp that would accompany coal development with the Palmer and Anchorage area.

Summary and Priorities of Possible Access Improvements

The possible access improvements described above are intended to provide an overview of the principal transportation projects that may be needed to implement the plan's land use policies. As explained, there has not been sufficient public review nor agency analysis of the costs and benefits of these projects to recommend that they be funded at this time. The planning team has, however, made a preliminary effort to identify projects that appear to be most needed. These priorities are not based on detailed cost-benefit analysis and are only included here as a guide to subsequent, more thorough assessment and public review. For these reasons, the priorities are presented in 4 general categories (1:high — 4:low).

This identification and prioritization of possible access improvements includes both routes for major roads and more modest improvements that are chiefly beneficial at a particular site.

A list of access projects and priorities is shown below. These priorities are based on a consideration of three criteria: 1) requests for access improvements by numerous people over the course of the 3 year public involvement process associated with the plan, 2) the presence of land disposals, mining, recreational activities or other uses that currently need access, and/or 3) land use designations in this plan, such as forestry, agriculture, settlement or recreation, that are likely to result in the need for improved access in the future.

PRIORITY RATING

KEY: 1 = high-4 = low

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Shulin Lake Access Improvements | |
| a. Shulin Lake Trail | 3 |
| b. Kahiltna Crossing | 4 |
| 2. Oilwell Road Extension | 1 |
| 3. Chijuk Creek Loop Access Improvements | |
| a. East side | 2 |
| b. West side | 2 |
| 4. Lockwood Lake Loop Access Improvements | |
| a. Lockwood Lakes | 3 |
| b. Susitna River access | 4 |
| c. Kashwitna Knobs access | 3 |
| 5. Petersville Road Access Improvements | |
| a. Petersville Road | 3 |
| b. Cache Creek Trail | 4 |
| 6. Trapper Creek Access Improvements | |
| a. Scotty Lake | 3 |
| b. Kenny Creek | 3 |
| c. Rabideux | 2 |
| d. Parks Hwy. Parking and Trails | 2 |
| 7. Chase and Larson Lake Access Improvements | |
| a. Chase Ag Homestead | 1 |
| b. Talkeetna River Crossing | 2 |
| c. Larson Lake | 1 |
| 8. Kashwitna Access Improvements | |
| a. Caswell-Kashwitna | 2 |
| b. Willow Creeks | 1 |
| 9. North Parks Highway Access Improvements | |
| a. Hurricane | 2 |
| b. Chulitna Bluff | 1 |
| c. Hurricane Addition | 3 |
| d. Public Parking | 3 |

10. Glenn Highway Access Improvements	
a. Tsadaka Canyon	3
b. Jim Swan Lakes	1
c. Drill and Fish Lakes and Two Rivers Ridge	2
d. Bonnie Lake Area	3
e. Matanuska Valley Moose Range	2
f. Long Lake	3
g. Cascade Creek Homestead	2
h. Lions Head	3
i. Nelchina River	4
11. Beluga and Tyonek Access Improvements	4

LAND DISPOSAL SCHEDULE FOR THE SUSITNA AREA: 1984-2004

Introduction

The following section discusses the state land disposal program in the Susitna Area for the next 19 years.* The section is broken into three parts. The first part outlines the general goals that will guide the Department as it develops its yearly land disposal program in the Susitna Area.

The second part outlines several guidelines that provide specific guidance to the Division of Land and Water Management for meeting the land disposal program's goals. These guidelines outline how much land the Department will offer each year, the quality and location of that land and how the land disposal areas identified in the plan relate to the Land Availability Determination System (LADS) process currently used by the Department to prepare land for disposal.

The final part contains a comprehensive list of all projects that will be available for disposal sometime in the next 20 years. It is organized in the following order: past subdivisions to be offered over the counter, past remote projects to be converted to homestead areas, and new disposal projects (subdivisions, agriculture sales and homesteading areas).

Goals for Land Disposal Program

1. Pace of Land Offerings

The total supply of **new** land identified in the Susitna Plan for disposal should be offered in roughly even increments over the next 20 years.

2. Offering of Past Projects

The majority of the large stock of land identified for disposals within the boundaries of **past** land offerings should be offered to the public over the next five to eight years. All unsold subdivisions lots should be made available over-the-counter. Land within past remote parcel areas should be offered under the homestead program. After new disposal

areas are initially offered, unsold areas intended for disposal should likewise remain available for future over-the-counter offerings.

3. Offering of Quality Settlement Land

The public should have an opportunity each year to acquire some of the most suitable settlement land the plan has to offer. As a result, the best new land should not all be offered in the near term but distributed over the life of the plan.

4. Diversity of Yearly Offerings

The department should attempt each year to offer land under all of the various state land disposal programs — subdivision, fee-homestead, agricultural homesteads and large lot-aliquot part sales.

Guidelines for Disposal Program

1. Amount of Land Offered Each Year

To ensure that the disposal of the new land offered in the plan is distributed over the 20-year planning period, it is necessary to calculate each year the disposal acreage necessary to maintain an approximately even flow of land disposals over the life of the plan. This will be done by dividing the net supply of new lands remaining for disposal in the plan by the number of years remaining in the life of the plan. Expressed as a formula this calculation is as follows:

$$\text{Annual Offerings} = \frac{\text{Net Acreage Available for Disposal Remaining in Plan}}{\text{Years Remaining in Life of Plan}}$$

This calculation provides a general guideline for the appropriate amount of annual sales. Departures from the annual offering level, as calculated above, may be made for administrative purposes as long as the level of annual offerings remains generally consistent with the objective of distributing disposals of new lands evenly over the planning period. However, a decision to offer the new settlement land at a pace that would exhaust the supply prior to the life of the plan will require a plan amendment.

In addition to these new offerings, all past remote areas identified for conversion to the homesteading program should be offered within the next five to eight years (see list in Part IV of this chapter). These additions will result in a gradually declining pace of annual offerings over the life of the plan.

* The public review draft of the plan identified disposals for a 20 year period. A portion of those disposal areas were offered for sale in FY 84. The remaining lands identified for disposal in the plan therefore will be offered over the next 19 years.

2. Identification of Additional Land for Sale

If changing social or economic conditions warrant an increase in the amount of land allocated to settlement, the plan may be amended. In the event this occurs, the *Susitna Area Plan, Settlement Element* (DNR, 1985), a background report on lands suitable for settlement within the study area, will be used to help identify additional lands for disposal. Other relevant information on soils, access, public preferences, etc. also may be used to identify suitable lands. Modifying the land use allocations in the plan requires public review through the plan amendment process outlined in Appendix A.

3. Phasing of Projects

In order to ensure there are high quality offerings available through the life of the plan, and that there are enough areas available so a project can be offered each year in the various regions of the Basin, the Division of Land and Water Management will offer certain projects in phases, rather than all at once. For example, the Lake Louise settlement areas may be offered over seven or eight years.

4. The LADS Process

The Land Availability Determination System (LADS) is the process used by DNR to identify, process, and offer state land for sale to the general public. All areas identified for settlement in the plan will go through the LADS process.

The Susitna Area Plan should help streamline the LADS process since one of the key decisions previously made through LADS — the decision on whether or not a project should be sold — has already been made. The LADS process will not address this issue; rather LADS will be used to involve agencies and the public to address such concerns as parcel layout and design. Through this plan DNR makes a strong commitment to dispose of the projects identified for sale. Only if new information should become available which indicates an overwhelming impact on a resource should any project be reconsidered. Such a change will require a plan amendment.

5. The Statewide Disposal Plan

In partial fulfillment of the provisions of AS 38.04.020, the Department will prepare an annual statewide land disposal plan. This plan will incorporate existing area and management plans and describe the Department's planned land offerings in each region of the state. These proposals will be based on the Department's settlement and land management policies; on land suitability informa-

tion; competing land use values; supply, demand and need for disposal; effects of disposal on other resources and resource uses; transportation systems; available funds and other factors of regional and statewide concern.

6. Changes in Net Offerings from Those Identified in Plan

The net disposal acreages identified in the plan for each sale area are estimates only. The actual level of sales, which may be above or below what is estimated in the plan, will be set on a case by case basis through the Departments' LADS process. While the availability of more detailed site information often will result in sales levels different from the plan estimates, DNR will strive to offer land at or near the level estimated in the plan.

7. Selling Areas Identified for Agriculture

The plan specifies whether proposed sales areas should be used for agriculture or settlement. During the LADS process, sales areas will be evaluated in detail to determine soil characteristics including the quality of the sites for agriculture. If a site designated for agriculture land sales proves not to be feasible for agriculture, the area may be sold for settlement. Such a decision would either be a minor change or an amendment to the plan depending on the significance of the change at a specific site. The minor change/amendment procedure would occur as part of the agency and public review occurring through the LADS process.

Because of the limited opportunities for agriculture in the state and the popularity of agricultural offerings, if a site proposed for settlement in the plan is discovered to have good potential for agriculture, the disposal may be made for this latter use. Such a change would follow the same procedure as outlined in the preceding paragraph for changes from agriculture to settlement.

8. Changes in Project Boundaries.

If during the LADS process the Division of Land and Water Management determines that the boundaries of an area identified in the plan for settlement need revision, the change will follow the procedures for minor changes or amendments as outlined in Appendix A.

List of Land Disposal Projects in the Susitna Area

(N) = New Offering

(R) = Reoffering of Past Remote Parcel Area

(OTC) = Past Subdivision with Unsold Lots Available "Over-the-Counter"

NOTE: Includes FY 85 offerings

PROJECT	MGT. UNIT	NET AREA (ACRES) LOTS AVAILABLE (APRIL, 1985)
NORTH PARKS HIGHWAY		
Indian River Subdivision (OTC)	3b	4 lots
Antimony Creek (N)	3c	500 acres
Chulitna Bluffs (N)	3e	540 acres
Pass Creek (N)	3e	1,240 acres
Hurricane Addition (N)	3e	330 acres
SOUTH PARKS HIGHWAY		
Indian River West (N)	1a	100 acres
Sherman (N)	1e	200 acres
Curry North (N)	1e	120 acres
McKenzie Creek (N)	1e	440 acres
Whiskers Creek (N)	3c	470 acres
Disappointment Creek (N)	4e	1,040 acres
Chase II Subdivision (OTC)	5a	1 lot
Talkeetna Bluffs (OTC)	5a	1 lot
Sheep River (N)	7a	340 acres
Bald Mountain Subdivision (OTC)	7b	1 lot
Talkeetna Foothills (N)	7c	1,520 acres
Talkeetna Foothills Extension (N)	7c	1,920 acres
Montana Creek (N)	7e	560 acres
Caswell Creek Ag. Homestead (N)	13b	3,620 acres
PETERSVILLE ROAD		
Schneider Lake (R)	1c	160 acres
Kroto Creek West (N)	1e	320 acres
Tokosha Sales (N)	2c	2,330 acres
Denali View (R)	2d	290 acres
Swan Lake Subdivision (OTC)	2d	1 lot
Kenny Creek Subdivision (OTC)	2d	73 lots
Safari Lake Subdivision (OTC)	2d	15 lots
Upper Trapper Creek (N)	2h	1,890 acres
Amber Lakes Addition (N)	3c	320 acres
Gate Creek South (N)	3c	2,280 acres
Amber Lakes (R)	3b	520 acres
Trapper Creek Sales (N)	5a	1,370 acres
Trapper Creek/Glen Subdivision (OTC)	5c	14 lots

Nine Mile Additions (N)	6a	240 acres
Nine Mile (R)	6a	600 acres
Susitna River (N)	7a	130 acres
Miscellaneous Ag. Homesteads (N)	(Misc.)	520 acres

SUNFLOWER BASIN

Yenlo Hills (R)	1a	5,590 acres
Donkey Creek (N)	1b	4,320 acres
Mt. Yenlo (N)	5b	1,000 acres
Treasure Creek (N)	6b	1,300 acres

SUSITNA LOWLANDS

Hewitt-Whiskey Remote (R)	2b	1,450 acres
Kichatna Addition (N)	2b	1,150 acres
Kichatna Remote (R)	2b	4,040 acres
Johnson Creek Remote (R)	2b	6,950 acres
Shell Hills Remote (R)	2b	2,990 acres
Hewitt-Whiskey Subd. & Addn. (OTC)	2c	157 lots
Onestone Lake Subdivision (OTC)	2c	75 lots
Shell Lake North Subd. & Addn. (OTC)	2c	83 lots
Shell Hills Subdivision (OTC)	2c	153 lots
Porcupine Butte West (N)	3b	1,600 acres
Skwentna Station Subdivision (OTC)	4a	16 lots
Skwentna Flats (N)	4c	90 acres
Skwentna Flats Reoffer (R)	4c	1,230 acres
Skwentna Flats Subdivision (OTC)	4e	23 lots
Alder View Subdivision & Addition (OTC)	5c	62 lots
Alder View Extension (N)	5e	375 acres
Rabbit Lake/Toms Creek (N)	6c	240 acres
Otter Lakes Subdivision (OTC)	6f	10 lots
Kutna Creek Subdivision (OTC)	6f	129 lots
Trail Ridge Subdivision (OTC)	6f	6 lots
Shovel Lake East (N)	7c	1,070 acres
Lake Creek/McDougal North Remote (R)	8a	5,750 acres
Kahiltna Remote (R)	9d	5,360 acres
Parker Lake Subdivision (OTC)	10b	21 lots
Parker Lake Addition (N)	10b	430 acres
Neil Lake East (N)	11f	510 acres
Kroto West (ag. homesteads) (N)	11g	2,200 acres
Kahiltna Flats Subdivision (OTC)	12c	209 lots
Kahiltna Flats Addition (N)	12d	670 acres
Lockwood Homestead (R)	13a	1,000 acres
Yentna Remote/Homestead (R)	13a	1,200 acres
Lockwood Lake Subdivision (OTC)	13a	11 lots

Lockwood East (N)	13c	600 acres
Yentna Uplands (ag. homestead) (N)	13g	2,860 acres
Whitsol North (ag. homestead) (N)	13g	980 acres
Kashwitna Knobs (agriculture) (N)	14b	12,000 acres
Moose Creek East (N)	14c	1,000 acres

MT. SUSITNA

Alexander Creek West Subdivision (OTC)	2d	102 lots
Lower Sucker Ck. South (ag. hmstd.) (N)	2e	800 acres
Trail Creek (N)	2f	800 acres
Hiline Lake South (N)	4b	600 acres
Quartz Creek (R)	5c	770 acres
Friday Creek (R)	5c	1,470 acres
Talachulitna West (N)	5c	2,320 acres
Canyon Creek (N)	5c	670 acres
Quartz Creek West (N)	5c	2,240 acres
Canyon Lake Subdivision (OTC)	5d	25 lots
Coal Creek (R)	8c	1,960 acres
Sunday Lakes (R)	8c	600 acres
High Mountain Lakes Subdivision (OTC)	8e	71 lots
Super Cub Subdivision (OTC)	9d	120 lots

BELUGA

Primo/Bishop Lake (N)	2b	1,400 acres
-----------------------	----	-------------

ALASKA RANGE

Shirley Lake (N)	1a	3,330 acres
------------------	----	-------------

LAKE LOUISE

Lake Susitna (N)	1b	125 acres
Lake Louise (N)	1c	1,000 acres
Lake Louise East (R)	2	4,600 acres

GLENN HIGHWAY

Tsadaka Canyon (N)	1e	320 acres
Pinnacle Mountain (N)	5a	80 acres
Kings River North (N)	5a	80 acres
Two Rivers (N)	5c	400 acres
Drill Lake (N)	5d	400 acres
Bonnie Lake (N)	7a	600 acres
Monument and Lake Creeks (N)	10a	850 acres
Bench Lake (OTC)	10d	25 lots
Chugach View (N)	10e	560 acres
Cascade (N)	10e	570 acres
Lions Head (N)	10e	300 acres
Nelchina River (N)	11a	1,565 acres

LAND TRADES, RELINQUISHMENTS AND SELECTIONS

Land Trades

It is ADNR's policy that land exchanges involving state lands or state interests in land be consistent with area plans. Because the type and location of state land needed for exchanges varies greatly, depending on the exchange under consideration, area plans generally do not predesignate specific parcels of land for future exchanges. When a specific exchange is proposed, the area planning team will be responsible for identifying and prioritizing state lands suitable for exchange.

Listed below are presently known land trading needs which may have to be met from state lands in the Susitna area.

1. Seldovia Native Association — 19,000 acres statewide
(Kachemak Bay State Park tradeout)
2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough — less than 5,000 acres
(Small stock for tradeout, if necessary, of valuable fish and wildlife or public recreation lands patented to or selected by borough)
3. CIRI (Subsurface land in Kachemak Bay) — 30,000 acres
4. Susitna Hydro Native Lands — 60,000 — 20,000 acres affected by the hydro projects
(Sites for proposed dams, reservoirs and related facilities are all in native ownership and will need to be acquired)
5. Mental Health Lands — unknown

Relinquishments and Selections

The planning team reviewed all state land selections in the Susitna area to determine which if any should be relinquished. The team recommends relinquishment of only four townships. Two are located in the Alaska Range Subregion (T.16N, R.19W and 20W S.M.), the other two in the Chugach Range Subregion (T.16N, R.11E and 12E S.M.). The federal government has recently given the state tentative approval to the vast majority of state selections in the area, including numerous mountain tops, ice fields, and glaciers, and as a result there are very few areas to consider for relinquishment.

The block of federal land adjacent to the Denali Highway in the northeast part of the planning area is the only potential candidate for state selection. The team agreed this area should remain in federal

ownership and be managed for public recreation, protection and use of fish and wildlife, and exploration and development of mineral resources.

PUBLIC RECREATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The following section summarizes the priorities of ADNR, ADF&G, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for capital improvements to improve opportunities for public recreation in the Susitna planning area and the Willow Sub-basin. These priorities were prepared in response to a request by the Governor in November, 1984 for priorities to improve public recreation opportunities throughout the southcentral portion of Alaska. Readers interested in more details of these proposals should obtain a copy of the report, Southcentral Recreation Action Plan (ADF&G and ADNR December, 1984). This report is available from the Anchorage offices of either of these Departments.

Proposed improvements are divided into two categories: land acquisitions and facilities developments. A table on each of these subjects is presented below:

2. Park and Recreation Facilities (Non-Riverine)

Project	Features and Benefits	Approx. Cost (\$)
a. Independence Mine Historic Site	Enhance historic structures	600,000
b. Public Cabins in Parks and Other Recreation Areas	Construct and/or repair 14 cabins for public use	225,000
c. Park Signs	Visitor information	135,000 (statewide)

Proposed Land Acquisitions

Project	Features and Benefits	Approx. Cost (\$)
1. Cottonwood Creek	Fishing and hunting near Wasilla; 9,000 fishing days/yr; important hunting area	40,000 (\$212,000/yr. operating budget)
2. Kashwitna Landing	Boat launch on lower Susitna River	500,000
3. Wasilla Creek	Coho fishery access, hunting	180,000
4. Little Willow Cr.	Access from Parks Highway to popular fishing area	180,000
5. Neil Lake	Floatplane access to Kroto Creek (Deshka River)	
6. Moose Creek	Road access for fishing and boating	200,000
7. Nancy Lakes	Acquisition of inholdings for trail system	250,000

Proposed Facilities Developments

1. River Related Facilities

Project	Features and Benefits	Approx. Cost (\$)
a. Willow Creek State Recreation Area	Major southcentral fishing and camping site	7,735,000
b. Little Susitna R.	50 parking units and boat launch	400,000
c. Talkeetna Boat Launch	Campground, public access, launch	173,000 (\$10,000/yr operating budget)
d. Kepler-Bradley Lakes	Fishing, boating, other public recreation; barrier-free public access	500,000
e. Sheep Creek	Trails, fishing accessible from Parks Highway	200,000

LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS

MANAGEMENT UNIT/SUBUNIT	CLASSIFICATION(S)
-------------------------	-------------------

North Parks Highway Subregion

1a	(private land)
1b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
2a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
2b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
3a	(private land)
3b	Settlement
3c	Settlement/Public Recreation
3d	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
3e	Settlement

South Parks Highway Subregion

1a	Settlement
1b	Settlement
1c	Reserved Use
1d	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
1e	Settlement
1f	(Borough Land Bank)
1g	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
1h	(railroad land)
2	Forestry/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
3a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
3b	(Borough Land Bank)
3c	Settlement
4a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
4b	(Borough Land Bank)
4c	Agriculture
4d	Settlement
4e	Settlement
4f	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
4g	Minerals/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
5a	Settlement
5b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
5c	Settlement
5d	(Borough Land Bank)
6a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
6b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
7a	Settlement
7b	Settlement
7c	Settlement
7d	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
7e	Settlement
8a	Agriculture
8b	(private land)
8c	Settlement
9a	(Borough Land Bank)
9b	(private land)
9c	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
9d	(private land)
10a	(private land)
10b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
11	Forestry/Wildlife Habitat
12a	Forestry/Wildlife Habitat
12b	Forestry/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
12c	Forestry/Wildlife Habitat
13a	(private land)
13b	Agriculture
14a	(Borough Land Bank)
14b	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat

MANAGEMENT UNIT/SUBUNIT	CLASSIFICATION(S)
-------------------------	-------------------

Petersville Road Subregion

1a	Forestry/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
1b	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
1c	Settlement
1d	Public Recreation/Settlement
1e	Settlement
2a	Forestry/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
2b	Public Recreation
2c	Settlement
2d	Settlement
2e	(Borough Land Bank)
2f	(university land)
2g	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
2h	Settlement
3a	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
3b	Settlement
3c	Settlement
3d	(university land)
3e	(Borough Land Bank)
3f	Settlement
3g	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
4a	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat (private land)
4b	Settlement
5a	Settlement
5b	Public Recreation
5c	Settlement
5d	(private land)
5e	(university land)
6a	Settlement
6b	(Borough Land Bank)
6c	Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
6d	Forestry/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
6e	(private land)
7a	Settlement
7b	Agriculture
7c	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
7d	Forestry/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
7e	(Borough Land Bank)
7f	(private land)

Sunflower Basin Subregion

1a	Settlement
1b	Settlement
2	Minerals/Wildlife Habitat
3	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
4	Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
5a	Wildlife Habitat
5b	Public Recreation/Settlement/Wildlife Habitat
6a	Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
6b	Settlement
6c	Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
7a	Minerals/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
7b	Forestry/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat

MANAGEMENT UNIT/SUBUNIT	CLASSIFICATION(S)
Susitna Lowlands Subregion	
1a	Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
1b	Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
2a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
2b	Settlement
2c	Settlement
2d	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
2e	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
2f	Resource Management
3a	Forestry/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
3b	Settlement
3c	Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat (private land)
4a	Forestry/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
4b	Settlement (Borough Land Bank)
4c	Settlement
4d	(Borough Land Bank)
4e	Settlement
5a	Forestry/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
5b	Resource Management
5c	Settlement
5d	Public Recreation/Settlement/Wildlife Habitat
5e	Settlement
5f	Forestry/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
6a	Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
6b	Resource Management/(Borough Land Bank)
6c	Settlement
6d	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
6e	Forestry/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
6f	Settlement
7a	Forestry/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
7b	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
7c	Settlement
8a	Settlement
8b	Resource Management
9a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat (Borough Land Bank)
9b	(Borough Land Bank)
9c	Resource Management
9d	Settlement
10a	Forestry/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
10b	Settlement
11a	Forestry/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
11b	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
11c	Public Recreation
11d	Settlement
11e	Settlement
11f	Wildlife Habitat/Water Resources
11g	Agriculture
12a	Resource Management
12b	Forestry/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
12c	Settlement
12d	Settlement
13a	Settlement

MANAGEMENT UNIT/SUBUNIT	CLASSIFICATION(S)
(Susitna Lowlands Subregion cont.)	
13b	Forestry/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
13c	Settlement
13d	Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
13e	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat (Borough Land Bank)
13f	(Borough Land Bank)
13g	Agriculture
14a	Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
14b	Agriculture
14c	Settlement
14d	(private land)
14e	Forestry/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
Mt. Susitna Subregion	
1	Susitna Game Flats Wildlife Refuge
2a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
2b	Forestry/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
2c	Forestry/Wildlife Habitat
2d	Settlement
2e	Agriculture
2f	Settlement
2g	(Borough Land Bank)
3a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
3b	Settlement
3c	Resource Management
3d	(private land)
3e	(Borough Land Bank)
3f	Forestry/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
4a	Forestry/Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
4b	Settlement
4c	(Borough Land Bank)
4d	Resource Management (Borough Land Bank)
5a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
5b	Public Recreation
5c	Settlement
5d	Settlement
6a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
6b	Coal
6c	Resource Management
7	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
8a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
8b	Resource Management (Borough Land Bank)
8c	Settlement
8d	Settlement
9a	Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
9b	Settlement
10a	(private land)
10b	(Borough Land Bank)
Beluga Subregion	
1a	(private land)
1b	Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
2a	Wildlife Habitat
2b	Settlement
2c	Resource Management (Borough Land Bank)
2d	(private land)

MANAGEMENT UNIT/SUBUNIT	CLASSIFICATION(S)
(Beluga Subregion cont.)	
2e	Wildlife Habitat
3a	Coal/Oil and Gas/Wildlife Habitat
3b	Reserved Use
3c	Oil and Gas/Settlement
3d	(private land)
3e	Forestry/Oil and Gas/Wildlife Habitat
3f	(Borough Land Bank)

Alaska Range Subregion	
1a	Settlement
1b	Wildlife Habitat/Public Recreation
1c	Wildlife Habitat
1d	Minerals
1e	Reserved Use
1f	Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
1g	(National Park and Preserve)

Lake Louise Subregion	
1a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
1b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
1c	Settlement
2	Settlement
3a	Wildlife Habitat
3b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
3c	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat

Glenn Highway Subregion	
1a	Public Recreation
1b	Reserved Use (Plant Materials Center)
	Public Recreation (rest of subunit)
1c	Reserved Use
1d	Settlement (S½ of section 35)
	Reserved Use (Section 36)
1e	Public Recreation
1f	(Borough Land Bank)
1g	(private land)
1h	Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
1i	(private land)
2a	Wildlife Habitat
2b	(private land)
2c	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
2d	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
2e	(private land)
3a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
3b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
3c	(private land)
3d	Public Recreation
4a	(private land)
4b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
5a	Settlement
5b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
5c	Settlement
5d	Settlement
5e	(private land)
5f	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
6a	Coal/Forestry/Wildlife Habitat
6b	(private land)
7a	Public Recreation/Settlement/Wildlife Habitat

MANAGEMENT UNIT/SUBUNIT	CLASSIFICATION(S)
(Glenn Highway Subregion cont.)	
7b	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
8a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
8b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
8c	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
9a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
9b	(private land)
10a	Settlement
10b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
10c	Public Recreation/Water Resources/Wildlife Habitat
10d	Settlement
10e	Settlement
10f	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
10g	(private land)
11a	Settlement
11b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
11c	(private land)
11d	(private land)
11e	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
12a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
12b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat

Talkeetna Mts. Subregion	
1a	(private land)
1b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
1c	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
2a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
2b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
3a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
3b	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
3c	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
3d	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat

Chugach Mountains Subregion	
1a	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
1b	Reserved Use
1c	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat
1d	Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat

PRIORITIES FOR INSTREAM FLOW STUDIES

Studies are needed to determine where instream flow reservations are necessary for maintenance of the water quality and quantity upon which human, fish and wildlife uses of waterways within the Susitna Basin are based (see Chapter 2, Instream Flow). Priorities for instream flow studies are listed below. Recommendations for study priorities are determined by:

1. The merits of the stream for human use and fish and wildlife habitat, including
 - a. Values of the stream for fish, especially anadromous fish,
 - b. Existing and potential recreation value, and
 - c. Water quality.
2. The vulnerability of the stream to disturbance and the likelihood that such disturbance will occur in the near future.

Based on these criteria, the following streams have been identified as candidates for instream flow studies.

First priority: Major recreational and anadromous fish streams. These waterways were identified by the planning team as the most important clearwater streams in the study area for their fisheries, riparian habitat and public use. Many of these streams are boatable, and most currently receive $\geq 5,000$ fishing days per year.

- a. Alexander Creek
- b. Chijuk Creek
- c. Chuitna River
- d. Chunilna Creek (Clear Creek)
- e. Friday Creek
- f. Gate Creek
- g. Goose Creek
- h. Kroto Creek
- j. Lake Creek
- k. Little Susitna River (Willow Sub-basin)
- l. Montana Creek
- m. Moose Creek (Petersville Rd. 4a/Susitna Lowlands 11b)
- n. Peters Creek
- o. Sheep Creek
- p. Talachulitna River
- q. Thursday Creek
- r. Trapper Creek (Susitna Lowlands 14a)
- s. Willow Creek (Willow Sub-basin)
- t. Yenlo Creek

Second priority: Important recreational and anadromous fish streams adjacent to existing or proposed development areas. These streams currently receive > 500 fishing days/year.

- a. Beluga River
- b. Caswell Creek
- c. Chakachatna River
- d. Cottonwood Creek
- e. Donkey Creek
- f. Fish Creek (Su Lowlands 1c, 1e)
- g. Fish Creek (Su Lowlands 13a)
- h. Indian River (S. Parks Hwy. 1a, 1b, 1g)
- i. Ivan River
- j. Kashwitna River
- k. Kichatna River
- l. Larson Creek (Larson L. outlet)
- m. Lewis River
- n. Little Willow Creek
- o. Lower Sucker Creek
- p. Nikolai Creek
- q. Prairie Creek
- r. Quartz Creek
- s. Red Creek
- t. Seventeenmile Creek
- u. Sunshine Creek
- v. Theodore River
- w. Unnamed tributary to Fish Lake (South Parks Highway 9a)
- x. Whiskers Creek

Third priority: Other anadromous fish streams adjacent to existing or potential development areas.

- a. Anderson Creek
- b. Answer Creek
- c. Birch Creek (S. Parks Hwy. 9a, 9c)
- d. Bishop Creek
- e. Byers Creek
- f. Chickaloon River
- g. Chulitna River (Middle Fork)
- h. Coal Creek
- i. Deep Creek
- *j. Drill Creek
- k. Gold Creek
- l. Happy River
- m. Honolulu Creek
- n. Johnson Creek
- o. Kings River
- p. Lane Creek
- q. Little Honolulu Creek
- r. McKenzie Creek
- s. Moose Creek (Glenn Hwy. 5b, 6a)
- *t. Olson Creek
- u. Queer Creek
- v. Question Creek

* These streams are in the vicinity of potential Beluga coal field development. Instream flow studies would likely be undertaken as part of planning for coal development.

-
- w. Rabideux Creek
 - x. Sawmill Creek
 - *y. Threemile Creek
 - *z. Trail Creek
 - aa. Trapper Creek (Petersville Rd. 2b, 5a, 5c, 7e)
 - bb. Troublesome Creek
 - cc. West Fork Coal Creek

Fourth priority: Other streams adjacent to existing or proposed development areas. These streams do not have known anadromous fish runs.

- a. Cascade Creek
- b. Eureka Creek (Glenn Hwy. 11a, 11b, 11c)
- c. Glacier Creek (Glenn Hwy. 10b)
- d. Granite Creek
- e. Gravel Creek
- f. Hardage Creek
- g. Kutna Creek
- h. Lake Creek (Glenn Hwy. 10a)
- i. Little Nelchina R.
- j. Mendeltna Creek
- k. Monument Creek
- l. Muddy Creek
- m. Nelchina River
- n. Ninemile Creek
- o. Possum Creek
- p. Purinton Creek
- q. Snag Creek
- r. Unnamed tributary to Sockeye Lake from the NW
- s. Unnamed tributary to Baldy Lake
- t. West Fork Moose Creek

Fifth Priority: Anadromous fish streams in areas designated resource management. Near term (5-10 years) development is less likely in these areas.

- a. Clear Creek (Mt. Susitna 4a, Susitna Lowlands 6a, 6b, 6d)
- b. Deep Creek (Mt. Susitna 4a, Susitna Lowlands 6a, 6b)
- c. Toms Creek

Sixth Priority: Major glacial rivers that generally are not vulnerable to disturbance except from major projects. If such projects are undertaken on these rivers (e.g., the Susitna hydroelectric project) appropriate studies will accompany project planning. All of these

rivers are boatable except the Kahiltna River, and all are very important for recreation and fish and wildlife habitat.

- a. Chulitna River (Main Fork)
- b. Kahiltna River
- c. Matanuska River
- d. Skwentna River
- e. Susitna River
- f. Talkeetna River
- g. Yentna River

* These streams are in the vicinity of potential Beluga coal field development. Instream flow studies would likely be undertaken as part of planning for coal development.

MANAGEMENT PLANNING PRIORITIES

The lands and waters within the Susitna planning area that most require additional, more detailed planning are listed below. They are not listed in any order of priority within or between the categories. In some areas, such as the proposed legislative designations, comprehensive interagency management plans and a broad public involvement process will be needed. In other sites, for example, the smaller settlement/retention areas, an abbreviated planning process may suffice. This shorter process could focus on smaller areas and/or fewer issues, and would require less extensive agency and public involvement.

Mixed settlement and retention areas

1. Antimony Creek-Hurricane area: North Parks Highway subunit 3c.
2. Northern and eastern Petersville Road area: Petersville Road subunits 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7.
3. Lake Louise area: Lake Louise subunits 1a and 1c.
4. Bonnie Lake area: Glenn Highway subunit 7a.

Areas proposed for legislative designation

1. Recreation river corridors: South Parks Highway subunits 5b and 6a; Petersville Road subunits 1b and 4a; Sunflower Basin Management Unit 3; Susitna Lowlands subunits 6d, 7b and 11b; Mt. Susitna Management Unit 7; Talkeetna Mts. subunit 3b; and Willow Subbasin Little Susitna Corridor subunit.
2. Multiple use forest lands: South Parks Highway Management Unit 12; Petersville Road subunit 1a; Sunflower Basin subunit 7b; Susitna Lowlands subunits 5f, 6e, 7a, 11a and 12b; Mt. Susitna subunits 2a, 2b and 2c; and Willow Subbasin Kashwitna subunit.
3. Jim-Swan Lakes habitat/recreation area: Glenn Highway subunit 3b.
4. Lower Susitna-Yentna habitat/forestry/recreation area: Susitna Lowlands subunits 13d, 13e and 14e.
5. Nelchina public use area: Lake Louise subunit 3b; Glenn Highway subunits 11d, 11e and 12b; and Talkeetna Mts. subunits 2a and 2b.

Areas recommended for legislative or administrative designation

1. Susitna Lake-Tyone River habitat/recreation area: Lake Louise subunit 3d.
2. Trumpeter swan nesting habitat: Sunflower Basin subunit 6c and Susitna Lowlands subunits 1b and 3c.
3. Gunsight Mt. habitat/recreation area: Glenn Highway subunits 11b and 11c.

Areawide transportation and trails plan

1. Comprehensive plan for trails, roads, airstrips and other transportation and access improvements throughout the planning area.