

# RECREATION & TOURISM

## Goals

**Recreation Opportunities.** Provide the full spectrum of accessible, developed, and undeveloped recreation opportunities for Alaskans and visitors.

**Resource Protection.** Protect ecologic, scenic, and other recreation resources for present and future generations.

**Economic Development.** Manage Alaska's recreation resources to support a tourism industry that supplies jobs, income, and revenue.

Meet the three goals above through

1. **State Park System.** Developing a system of parks, recreation areas, trails, historic parks, rivers, and sites that provide a wide range of year-round outdoor recreation opportunities, and areas of unchanged scenic landscape for all ages, abilities and use preferences.
2. **Other State Lands.** Providing recreation opportunities on land and water areas which serve multiple purposes such as habitat protection, timber management, and mineral resource extraction.
3. **Community Assistance.** Assisting communities through cooperative planning of state and municipal lands and grants-in-aid for parks and trails within population centers.
4. **Private Recreation Facilities.** Encouraging commercial development of recreation facilities and services through land sales, leases, and technical assistance where public recreation needs can most effectively be provided by private enterprise.

## Management Guidelines

### A. The Roles of Different Public Land Owners in Providing Public Recreational Opportunities

1. Generally the state's proper role is to retain and manage land supporting recreational opportunities of regional or statewide significance. The state and federal governments are particularly capable of providing recreational opportunities, such as hunting, dispersed wilderness hiking, or boating, that require large land areas. In general, the role of a

municipality or borough is to provide and manage community recreational opportunities.

2. In recognition of a municipality's role in meeting community recreational needs, the state should consider, under AS 38.05.810, eventual transfer of certain state recreation sites near communities to municipal ownership. Selection of these sites shall be agreed to by the municipality and the state and shall be contingent on the municipality's commitment to develop and maintain the recreational values of the sites as required by AS 38.05.810.
- B. Public Use Cabins.** A system of public use cabins should be established in the Tanana Basin. The Department will develop administrative procedures for managing a state public use cabin program, set priorities for cabin sites, and seek a budget for construction and maintenance, and for program management. Cooperation will be sought with borough or federal governments or local non-profit organizations for construction or maintenance of some cabins.
- C. Commercial Recreational Facilities on State Land.** Lodges, tent camps, or other private facilities designed as private recreational facilities will be permitted or leased where a management plan or AS 38.05.035 finding shows the following.
1. **Recreation Opportunities.** Commercial recreation development adds to or enhances available recreation opportunities.
  2. **Impacts on Other Uses.** The commercial facility and the use it generates will avoid significant negative impacts on the amount and quality of existing uses, including fish and wildlife harvest. It is recognized that a quantitative determination of the effects of the proposed facility will rarely, if ever, be possible, but an assessment of the impacts should use information as available from DNR, DF&G, or other available sources.
  3. **Siting, Design, Construction, and Operation.** The facility will be sited, designed, constructed, and operated in a manner that creates the least conflict with natural values and traditional uses of the area.

**4. Other Guidelines.** The facility will be sited and designed in accordance with stream corridor, access, wetlands, and other guidelines in this plan.

Final approval of a permit or lease for the facility will be given only after consultation with DF&G and the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

**D. Optimum Use of Sites.** Achieve optimum use of recreation sites consistent with maintaining high quality recreation experiences, wildlife harvest, environmental quality, and safety.

**E. Other Guidelines Affecting Recreation.** Other guidelines may affect recreation management practices. See in particular the following sections of this chapter:

- Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest
- Forestry
- Lakeshore Management
- Public Access
- Stream Corridors and Instream Flow
- Trail Management
- Wetland Management