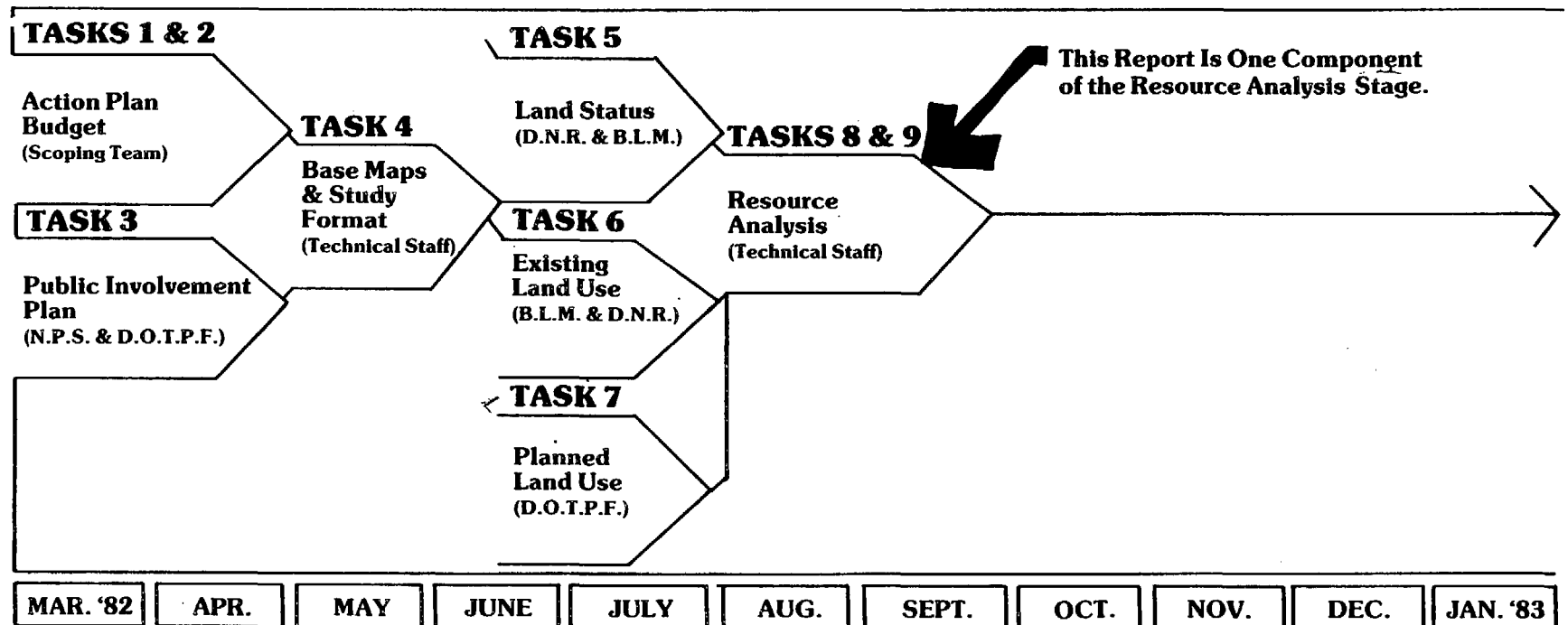


Study Context

Section 1311 of Public Law 96-487, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), states that all public lands within one mile of either side of the center line of the Parks Highway from the entrance to Denali National Park to the Talkeetna junction, the Denali Highway between Cantwell and Paxson, the Richardson and Edgerton highways between Paxson and Chitina, and the existing road between Chitina and McCarthy shall be withdrawn from all forms of entry and appropriation. This legislation goes on to require that a study be conducted by the Secretary of Transportation, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, State of Alaska and affected regional Native corporations to:

"Consider the scenic and recreational values of the lands withdrawn under this Section, the importance of providing protection to those values, the desirability of providing a symbolic and actual physical connection between the national parks in Southcentral Alaska and the desirability of enhancing the experience of persons traveling between the parks by motor vehicles."

In response to this legislative mandate, interagency federal, state and Native corporation study teams and review committees have been formed and tasks identified (see diagram below). This report relates specifically to tasks 8 and 9, Resource Analysis. It provides the basic assessment of scenic and recreational resource values along



the four roads as well as an outline of recommended management responses. The study teams will evaluate this information along with information pertaining to other resource values, management concerns and public and private interests to prepare a final set of recommendations which respond specifically to the questions outlined in the legislation as well as recommendations for appropriate land use and resource development policies, plans and implementation actions.

planning and management efforts. It follows and complements similar inventories prepared for the Parks Highway between Anchorage and Fairbanks and the road into Haines.

In addition to this federal directive, this report and scenic resource inventory is an extension of an interest and commitment on the part of the State Department of Natural Resources to the inclusion of scenic and recreational resource values in its land

