

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER Resource Assessment & Development Section

> 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1050 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3579 Main: 907.269.8534 TTY: 711 or 800-770-8973 Fax: 907.269.8915

September 2, 2022

Dear Interested Community Members & Organizations,

In 2018, the Alaska Legislature passed <u>Alaska Statute 41.23.280</u> establishing the Jonesville Public Use Area (JPUA) to address concerns of safety and to provide a spectrum of public recreation opportunities while maintaining fish and wildlife habitat. The JPUA lies entirely within the Matanuska Valley Moose Range (Moose Range), Alaska Statute 16.20.340, that is managed through the <u>Moose Range Management Plan</u>. The Moose Range was established to maintain, improve, and enhance moose population and habitat and other wildlife of the area, and to perpetuate multiple public uses of the area. The Moose Range Management Plan was adopted by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in 1986.

Alaska Statute directs DNR to prepare management plans that include long-range guidelines and management practices for the JPUA and the Moose Range. Developing the plans concurrently will ensure compatibility and consistent management of state resources.

Much has changed in the 36 years since the original Moose Range Management Plan was adopted including the official establishment of the JPUA. In response, DNR is initiating a plan revision process. Planning is a way of sorting through concerns and the many possibilities for public use of the area while developing and ultimately adopting a management plan. Through this planning process, we will work to find alternatives with the greatest benefits for all Alaskans. Public involvement is essential to ensure that future actions are not only consistent with the agency mission and the enabling legislation of JPUA and the Moose Range, but also present a shared vision for the future for both.

You are invited to become part of this planning effort by assisting us in identifying the issues that should be addressed during this effort and again later by reviewing and commenting on draft documents. Public scoping open house meetings will be held to gather information and discuss issues. There are five (5) opportunities to attend a public scoping open house meeting:

<u>Location</u> <u>Date</u> <u>Time</u> Room 102 Monday, From 12-2 PM Robert B. Atwood Building September 19th

550 W 7th Ave, First Floor

Chickaloon Community Center Monday, From 6-8 PM Milepost 76.2 Glenn Highway September 19th

Wasilla Middle School Tuesday, From 6:30-8:30 PM

650 E Bogard Road September 20th

Sutton Elementary School Wednesday, From 6-8 PM

11672 Wright Way September 21st

Virtual Open House via Wednesday, From 12:00-1:30PM

Microsoft Teams September 21st

Written comments are encouraged during this initial scoping stage and can be submitted on-line or by mail:

Submit Comments Public Comments System

Mail Comments to: Jonesville/Moose Range Management Planning

550 West 7th Ave, Suite 1050 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3579

Additionally, DNR has created a questionnaire to help inform development of this plan. To access the questionnaire visit: https://arcg.is/0qbDWj. Responses to the questionnaire and scoping comments must be received no later than October 31, 2022.

For more information and updates on the plan process, visit: https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/mgtplans/jonesville-mooserange/

Sincerely,

Don Perrin

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The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aides, services, or special modifications to submit a comment or participate in a meeting, should contact the person(s) indicated above or contact the state TDD number (907)269-8411 seven days (7) in advance of meetings to arrange accommodations.