

# **Chapter 5**

## **Area-wide Intent, Guidelines and Standards**

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### Introduction

This chapter will provide the overarching management intent and guidelines for the state-owned land and water within NLSRA and NLSRS. Consistent with the Framework, the area-wide intent and guidelines identified here are used as the basis for allocating lands and resources into land-use zones. The land-use zones are identified in Chapter 6. The management intent provided below is intended to guide DPOR when implementing guidelines and recommendations contained in this and subsequent chapters of this plan. The area-wide intent and guidelines in this chapter coupled with the specific guidelines for uses and activities contained in Chapter 6 and the management and facility recommendations contained in Chapter 7 will guide DPOR management for the NLSRA and NLSRS. Implementation of these guidelines will be dependent upon adequate staffing and funding.

This plan substantially maintains the management orientation found in the 1983 plan with some changes. It recognizes the seasonal recreational use patterns that have occurred over decades in these park system units. Summer recreational opportunities will remain essentially non-motorized except for use of motorboats (internal combustion and electric) and airplanes on specific waterbodies and authorized use of ORVs on the Lynx Lake Road and possibly Butterfly Lake Trail. In winter, the area south of Nancy Lake Parkway will continue to provide multiple recreation opportunities including the use of snowmobiles when snow conditions are sufficient to protect the underlying vegetation. Winter use north of the Nancy Lake Parkway will remain non-motorized with the exception of motorized use on the North Rolly Lake snowmobile trail and on the frozen surface of North Rolly Lake. During the late fall and early winter seasons, the use of ORV's for training sled dogs and use of snowmobiles or ORV's for public access may be allowed via a restricted opening of an area or trail or on the frozen surface of Nancy, Lynx, Butterfly, and Red Shirt lakes.

### Applicability to Private Land

Intent and guidelines contained in this plan only apply to state land within NLSRA and NLSRS and *do not apply to private land within NLSRA*. However, the Matanuska Susitna Borough has designated a Special Use District (SPUD) and adopted Borough Code that affects the use of private land within the SPUD. Borough Code (Chapter 17.04) applies to private land within the exterior boundary of NLSRA. All facilities and uses provided in this plan and determined “compatible” are consistent with Borough Code. Similarly, uses determined “incompatible” in this plan are determined to be inconsistent with Borough Code.

## Area-wide Management Intent

Area-wide management intent indicates a desired future condition for both the NLSRA and NLSRS. Consistent with the intensive public use management emphasis provided in the Framework, NLSRA and NLSRS will be managed to provide a diversity of recreational opportunities; however, management intent differs between the two areas. The guidelines and recommendations contained in this plan implement and are consistent with this management intent.

### NLSRS Intent

The intent is to modify the natural environment to provide site specific recreational opportunities that facilitate road based camping; interpretation of natural and cultural resources; nature and wildlife observation; opportunities to engage in fishing and water sports on Nancy Lake; and, access to adjacent private property. NLSRS will be managed to:

- Continue to facilitate moderate to high density public recreation.
- Accommodate high levels of recreation use through developed facilities.
- Expand trail based access to wildlife viewing and recreation.
- Continue to be the primary point of public access for recreation on Nancy Lake.
- Continue to serve as the primary access point to adjacent private lands on Nancy Lake that do not have road access.
- Incorporate ADA accessible and barrier free standards into all new and redeveloped facilities.

### NLSRA Intent

The intent is to maintain the high quality natural character for the majority of the area while maximizing recreational opportunities that reflect existing seasonal recreation patterns. The area will be managed to emphasize trail based, public use cabin, and campground recreation opportunities. NLSRA will be managed to:

- Limit moderate to high levels of facility development to the area adjacent to Nancy Lake Parkway and South Rolly Lake Campground.
- Provide a low level of facility development in all other areas.
- Expand and enhance non-motorized trail recreation opportunities.
- Expand and enhance public use cabin system.
- Facilitate low level dispersed recreation opportunities in the area south of the Parkway during snow free periods and somewhat higher use levels and densities in the winter when snow conditions allow use of snowmobiles.

- Incorporate ADA accessible and barrier free standards as appropriate into new and redeveloped facilities.
- Continue to provide year-round non-motorized recreation opportunities north of the Parkway with the exception of motorized use on one snow trail and the frozen surface of North Rolly Lake.
- Continue to provide vehicle access to private property via the Lynx Lake Road and Butterfly Lake Trail at current levels consistent with current policies until a study is conducted and any recommended changes to this access are made.
- Facilitate multiple uses on trails where determined appropriate.

## Area-Wide Guidelines and Standards

Consistent with the intent for the unit, management guidelines direct the current and future management decisions by DPOR. Management guidelines involve specific courses of action that are consistent with and are necessary to the implementation of the management intent of the unit. Together with the management intent, they represent DPOR's management policy for these two units of the state park system. Certain guidelines necessary to implement the plan will be adopted as regulations subsequent to the adoption of the plan.

In some instances standards are provided where specific criteria must be met for an authorization to be approved by DPOR or for a use to continue. These standards supplement area-wide guidelines and must be followed by DPOR when adjudicating an application for a use within NLSRA and NLSRS. Similar to the guidelines, certain standards necessary to implement the plan may be adopted as regulation subsequent to the adoption of the plan.

The following area-wide guidelines address: access, archaeological and cultural resources, commercial structures, facilities, fish and wildlife management, geocaching, marina, ORV's, permitting of private structures (existing and new) and property storage and moorage, public use, roads, trails, and vegetation management. These guidelines will be applied to state land and water within NLSRA and NLSRS.

### Access

DPOR will ensure that access to recreation opportunities is maintained at NLSRA and NLSRS. The Nancy Lake Parkway and NLSRS will remain the primary means of access into NLSRA. The lesser known and used Lynx Lake Road will remain a key access route for property owners and the recreational users that know of its existence. In the near-term, trailheads and access roads to proposed facilities will be developed within the area around the Nancy Lake Parkway with the exception of a trailhead to be developed at the intersection of Chicken Lake Cross-Park Trail and Lynx Lake Road. Long-term, if access to the canoe trail system becomes limited when current and proposed access facilities on the Parkway are at or over capacity, a new access facility may be developed in the area of Lynx or Frazer lakes.

Management Guidelines:

- DPOR will continue to accommodate, and in the case of NLSRS facilitate, access for recreation opportunities; however, the type, level, method, and location of access may change based on continued monitoring of impacts to resources, facilities, and infrastructure by DPOR. If DPOR determines an unacceptable level of resource degradation is occurring, vehicle use may be restricted or prohibited. A trail, or segment of a trail, may be closed or its use restricted, seasonally or when weather conditions necessitate closure or restriction, if it is determined that continuation of a use may result in a long-term or permanent degradation of the trail surface so that it is no longer within the design standards for the trail classification which it was developed. Trail closures or use restrictions will be made under authority and procedures outlined in 11 AAC 12.335.
- In the near-term, public use of highway vehicles shall be allowed without authorization on Lynx Lake Road up to the new traffic control device (gate) that will be installed at the new trailhead at the intersection of the Chicken Lake Cross-Park Trail and Lynx Lake Road.<sup>28</sup> Long-term it may become necessary to allow highway vehicle access on all, or a portion of, Lynx Lake Road based on future demands for access to recreational opportunities. The specific indicator and standard that will prompt DPOR to look at increased access in the future are provided below in the “Facilities” section.
- Trailhead facilities should be developed where they enhance access to existing and proposed terra and water trails.
- DPOR will work with the ADNR Southcentral Region Office to establish a public easement on the Lynx Lake Road to ensure access for the public and private property owners is secured.

## **Archaeological and Cultural Resources**

Consistent with AS 41.35.070, if public construction projects are undertaken, the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) may conduct a site review or more detailed investigation to determine if archaeological or cultural resources are present at a project site.

Management Guidelines:

- As part of the project development process, OHA shall be provided an opportunity to review project and site information. Based on this information, OHA may determine that a site review or detailed investigation is necessary prior to commencement of ground disturbing activities related to trail or facility development.
- OHA should be consulted prior to removal of existing structures to determine if the structure qualifies as “historic.”

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<sup>28</sup> See unit specific management guidelines contained on page 129 in Chapter 7.

## Commercial Structures

Some small commercial structures already exist within NLSRA. Currently these structures are used to operate a canoe rental operation and to store boats. Other small commercial structures such as docks that allow moorage of a boat associated with the use of an upland commercial property or for a fee may be appropriate and may be authorized.

### Management Guidelines:

- All commercial activities are subject to permitting requirements of DPOR.
- Commercial structures<sup>29</sup> that facilitate recreation opportunities may be authorized at NLSRA. These structures shall be small in scale and will not interfere with other forms of public recreation.
- Long-term placement and storage of commercial property that facilitates public recreation may be authorized. Commercial property placement and storage is limited to that necessary to conduct the recreation business.
- All commercial property, including structures, will be removed in its entirety when the term of the permit is reached and it is not renewed, or when the commercial permit is revoked.
- Large scale commercial development including structures that provide multiple rooms for overnight accommodation such as hotels, lodges, or other similar structures will not be authorized.
- Commercial uses within NLSRA and NLSRS may result in a conversion of use under the provisions of Land and Water Conservation Fund regulations. If so, the conversion must occur before a permit is issued and the applicant is responsible for paying the costs associated with the conversion.

## Facilities

Public facilities will be developed in areas where they are accessible to the public and offer a diversity of recreational opportunities. For the 20-year planning period, it is intended that all facilities that accommodate moderate to high levels of use and concentrated recreation activities be located at the NLSRS and the area around the Nancy Lake Parkway and South Rolly Lake Campground within NLSRA. Facilities that accommodate low levels of recreational use and dispersed recreation opportunities may be located in other areas.

In the near term (5-10 years), facility development will be focused within the Nancy Lake Parkway Unit. This existing paved road provides the best access to proposed facilities and concentrates this type of use in an area that currently receives moderate to high use levels seasonally. NLSRS similarly has improved access and currently receives moderate to high

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<sup>29</sup> The term “structure” as used in this plan has the same meaning as the definition in 11 AAC 12.340(26). The term “structure” modified by “commercial” refers to structures constructed, built, transported, or maintained within NLSRA and NLSRS as part of a commercial business.

use levels but it is a small area so opportunities for new facilities are limited. Facility development may occur at other locations within NLSRA but these developments will be small in scale and will facilitate low levels and densities of use with a focus on maintaining the natural character of the area where they are developed.

Long-term (10-20 years), if recreational needs surpass the capacity of current and proposed facilities within the Nancy Lake Parkway Unit, DPOR will re-evaluate the need for more facilities and access into NLSRA. If necessary, facility development may include the development of public facilities (e.g. parking areas, boat launches, trailheads, etc.), roads, or trails in areas that have seen little public facility development in the past.

### Management Guidelines:

#### *General*

- Facility development will promote low density dispersed recreation opportunities throughout most of the NLSRA, although moderate to high density recreational uses should be accommodated in easily accessible areas in close proximity to the Nancy Lake Parkway and the South Rolly Lake Campground.
- Nancy Lake State Recreation Site facility developments will promote moderate to high density site specific recreational use.
- If DPOR determines that demand for access to the Lynx Lake Loop Canoe Trail is resulting in the Tanaina Lake trailhead being over capacity for significant periods of time during the summer, and thus restricting access to the canoe trail, DPOR will consider redeveloping the existing access at Tanaina Lake or developing a new access site and canoe launch in the area of Lynx or Frazer lakes.
- If the level of recreational use outstrips the ability of existing and proposed facilities to reasonably accommodate the use, DPOR will evaluate the need to develop new or expanded access and facilities in other areas of NLSRA. Because of the existing road, DPOR should first evaluate providing access and recreational opportunities in the area of Lynx Lake Road and Butterfly Lake Trail.
- All facilities will be sited, designed, and constructed in a way that minimizes impacts upon the natural environment. Within the Natural Zone; maintaining the high quality natural setting will be a priority when developing new facilities or improving or redeveloping existing facilities.
- All facilities designed and developed by DPOR will be park-like in appearance and provide a quality experience for the recreating public. They will be:
  - Designed as a pioneer atmosphere building style and will fit within the natural landscape
  - Developed with materials and colors that compliment the natural environment
  - Utilize a sustainable design
  - Require low maintenance

- Facilities management will focus on addressing negative environmental impacts and enhancement of recreational opportunities at existing facilities. New facilities will be designed and developed as funding and necessary staff becomes available.
- Facilities will be designed and developed with consideration given to surrounding private properties. Where practicable, visual, acoustical, and spatial buffers will be designed to minimize impacts to private property.
- Native vegetation will be utilized to the greatest extent practicable in landscaping around new or redeveloped facilities.

#### *Public Use Cabins and Host Cabins*

- New public use cabins should be developed throughout the NLSRA. These new cabins will provide new opportunities that are currently not available or provide existing opportunities in areas where they are currently not available (e.g. barrier free and ADA accessible cabins, non-motorized access only cabin(s), or new cabins on existing or expanded areas of the canoe trail).
- Host cabins that provide housing for summer volunteers shall be provided where determined appropriate. Factors for determining the location of host cabins include: identified need for oversight through on-site presence and the ability to provide increased seasonal maintenance of new or existing facilities such as campgrounds or launch areas. These cabins should be open for public use once the hosts have left for the season.

#### *Campsites*

- Existing campsites immediately adjacent to portages should be relocated away from the portages to enhance both the camping and canoeing experience.
- New campsites should be developed on lakes where multi-modal access is provided via new and existing trails; however, the location of these new sites will be carefully considered to ensure that low density and remote opportunities are available at these sites.

## **Fish and Wildlife Management**

Activities that enhance resident fish and wildlife populations for the use and enjoyment of people will be encouraged and should receive expedited review by DPOR. Similarly, activities to reduce invasive or nuisance species will also be encouraged and should receive expedited review by DPOR to ensure plans to address these species are not delayed unnecessarily.

#### Management Guidelines:

- ADF&G should be consulted prior to the development of new trails and facilities to determine how impacts to fish or wildlife and their habitats could be avoided or minimized.



- Scientific and research activities require an authorization from DPOR prior to the start of the activity.
- Fisheries and wildlife research will be encouraged when in accord with established fisheries and wildlife research principles particularly where the research is pertinent to resource management issues within the recreation area.
- Baseline ecological studies that enhance knowledge of fish and wildlife resources are encouraged. Studies that focus on water quality, identification of salmon spawning and rearing habitats, and water bird nesting and brood rearing habitat will be encouraged.
- Fisheries enhancement and restoration activities will continue.

## **Geocaching**

Geocaching can occur when authorized subject to permit conditions and existing policies and procedures. (Director Policies and Procedures #18000; *Geocaches in State Parks*) In addition to the stipulations on geocaching identified in the existing policies and procedures, geocaches within NLSRA and NLSRS are subject to the following guideline.

### Management Guidelines:

- Geocache will not exceed 400 cubic inches.

## **Marina**

Until recently, a commercial marina was in operation on Nancy Lake. This plan allows for a single commercial marina to be constructed on Nancy Lake adjacent to private upland property. A marina may include structures for launching and retrieving boats, mooring boats, and may include fuel services. Private or commercial marinas are prohibited on all other waterbodies.

### Management Guidelines:

- The entirety of the marina must be located within the riparian interest of the upland landowner/applicant.
- Information documenting the need for a marina and the design of the necessary structures must be submitted at the time of application.

## **ORV's**

ORV use remains prohibited by general regulations (11 AAC 12.020), except their use may be authorized by the DPOR Director under 11 AAC 18 or allowed via restricted openings in several specific instances. The exceptions to the general prohibition are:

1. Use of an ORV may be authorized as provided in this plan and regulations specific to NLSRA. DPOR will actively monitor vehicle use during snow free periods to determine if that use is having an unacceptable level of impact to natural resources, infrastructure, or facilities. If DPOR determines an unacceptable level of resource degradation is occurring, vehicle use may be restricted or prohibited. A trail, or segment of a trail, may be closed or its use restricted, seasonally or when weather conditions necessitate closure or restriction, if it is determined that continuation of a use may result in a long-term or permanent degradation of the trail surface so that it is no longer within the design standards for the trail classification which it was developed. Trail closures or use restrictions will be made under authority and procedures outlined in 11 AAC 12.335.
2. Access to private properties may be authorized via Lynx Lake Road and possibly on Butterfly Lake Trail. DPOR may authorize use of ORV's for access, however DPOR will actively monitor ORV use during snow free periods to determine if the use is having an unacceptable level of impact to natural resources, infrastructure, or facilities. If DPOR determines an unacceptable level of resource degradation is occurring, DPOR may restrict or prohibit the use. A trail, or segment of a trail, may be closed or its use restricted, seasonally or when weather conditions necessitate closure or restriction, if it is determined that continuation of a use may result in a long-term or permanent degradation of the trail surface so that it is no longer within the design standards for the trail classification which it was developed. Trail closures or use restrictions will be made under authority and procedures outlined in 11 AAC 12.335.
3. Access to Red Shirt Lake via the East Red Shirt Lake Trail through a special restricted public opening during periods of winter when snow conditions do not allow the use of a snowmobile.
4. Use of an ORV on Nancy Lake Parkway and South Rolly Lake Campground access loop during late fall and early winter periods to train sled dogs may be authorized.
5. Use of ORV's in support of an authorized commercial operation may be authorized.
6. Use of an ORV on the frozen surface of Nancy, Lynx, Butterfly, and Red Shirt lakes will be allowed via a restricted opening.
7. Access for management, research, maintenance, and emergency services will be allowed without authorization when conducted by DPOR staff or agents, and may be authorized when conducted by other local, state, or federal agencies or non-government agencies, groups, or individuals.
8. Access to public use cabins by mobility impaired persons may be authorized.

Management Guidelines:

- ORV access may be authorized if it is determined a necessary part of a commercial operation that is authorized within NLSRA and NLSRS. The number of trips where an ORV is used for commercial purposes should be limited to the minimum number necessary to conduct the business.

- Use of an ORV on the frozen surface of a waterbody will be allowed via restricted opening on Nancy, Lynx, Butterfly, and Red Shirt lakes.
- All ORV's authorized by permit to operate in NLSRA will:
  - Meet the current definition of Off Road Vehicle in 11 AAC 20.990(21).
  - Have a properly functioning factory installed muffler.
  - Affix a decal provided by DPOR in a conspicuous location on the upper visible portion of the left rear fender.
- A copy or the original authorization permitting use of ORV's shall be required to be carried by a member of the party.
- Authorizations shall include a condition that stipulates the permit only authorizes access and from a destination, not recreational use of ORV's.
- Authorizations are valid on state-owned lands only. Access across private church camp property is not guaranteed or authorized by DPOR permit.

## Permitting

A timely and efficient permitting process will be implemented by DPOR. The intent is to significantly reduce the time for application review and permit issuance for a majority of common lower intensity uses while allowing a more rigorous review of larger, more complex applications. Three categories of permits – Area-wide Permits, General Permits, and Individual Permits – have been developed and are included in Chapter 6.

### *Private Structures*<sup>30</sup>

#### Existing Unpermitted Structures

All structures on or within state water that are in place or under active construction at the time of the adoption of the Management plan that do not conform to the standards of the adopted plan are to be considered non-conforming structures. Non-conforming structures that do not conform to the standards for “new structures” are considered incompatible uses. These non-conforming and incompatible structures may be maintained but the extent of nonconformity is not to be increased. Existing unpermitted structures that conform to the guidelines and standards included in the “New Structures” section below may be permitted after the fact by DPOR based on a review of all the required project information. An “After the Fact” permit requires the appropriate application be submitted with all supporting documentation and project information in addition to any applicable application fees.

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<sup>30</sup> The term “structure” as used in this plan has the same meaning as the definition in 11 AAC 12.340(26). The term “private structure” refers to structures constructed, built, or transported into NLSRA and NLSRS for private non-commercial use.

Following the adoption of the Management Plan, DPOR will notify all property owners within and contiguous to the NLSRA boundary that new standards have been adopted for docks and other structures.<sup>31</sup> If a non-conforming structure is identified adjacent to a private parcel, DPOR will notify the private property owner of record that a non-conforming structure exists and will specify the nature of the non-conformity. The notice will also state what actions could be taken to bring the structure into conformance with the newly adopted standards for new structures. This notice of non-conformity will constitute the official notice to the property owner by DPOR.

Management Guidelines:

- Maintenance and repair of an incompatible non-conforming structure is allowed subject to the following standards:
  - The maintenance and repair may not exceed 50% of the square footage of the structure during any consecutive period of 12 months. All maintenance and repair of a structure must occur within the original footprint of the structure; enlarging or expanding the non-conforming structure is prohibited.
  - A structure that sustains damage up to 50% of the original square footage by natural, accidental, or malicious actions may be repaired or replaced. All work to repair the structure must occur within the footprint of the original structure.
  - A structure that sustains damage greater than 50% of its original square footage cannot be repaired or replaced without conforming to the new standards, and acquiring the necessary authorizations.
- Existing non-conforming structures shall not be expanded beyond the original footprint of the structure.
- Relocation of a non-conforming structure may be allowed by permit issued by DPOR if otherwise consistent with these standards. No portion of a relocated structure shall be left at the original site when the structure is relocated.
- Reduction in the size or modification of a non-conforming structure, other than modifications addressed under the first management guideline above, may be authorized consistent with a permit issued by DPOR.

New Structures

DPOR will continue to authorize private non-commercial structures on or within state water that facilitate access to public water from private property within or contiguous to the NLSRA boundary. These uses may be authorized if consistent with the guidelines

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<sup>31</sup> All landowners must receive an authorization from DPOR prior to constructing a new dock or maintaining an existing dock within NLSRA consistent with existing regulation (11 AAC 12.140). Until the NLSRA Management Plan is adopted DPOR will follow the *Mat-Su Area State Parks "Interim" Dock Policy, September 2008 (Updated May 2, 2012)* when adjudicating applications for dock structures.

below and the compatibility conditions provided in chapter 6. All structures not conforming to plan guidelines or compatibility conditions are considered incompatible and are not to be authorized.

Management Guidelines:

- Private structures must be authorized by permit prior to being placed or constructed within NLSRA.
- Only structures that facilitate access to navigable water or a water dependant recreational use from private uplands will be permitted within NLSRA. Structures that facilitate non-water-dependent uses will not be authorized.
- A person must own land within or contiguous to NLSRA in order to be authorized to place a structure on or within a waterbody within NLSRA.
- To increase the safety for winter recreational use, particularly use of snowmobiles or other motorized vehicles on the frozen surface of a waterbody, a reflective marker must be affixed to any structure, new or existing, that remains in or on a waterbody between October 1 and ice-out of the following year.

***Property Storage and Moorage***

Storage and moorage associated with reoccurring access and recreational use may continue to be authorized by the Director under 11 AAC 18 at designated sites on Lynx, Butterfly, and Red Shirt lakes. DPOR will actively monitor these sites to determine if use is having an unacceptable level of impact to natural resources, infrastructure, or facilities. If DPOR determines an unacceptable level of resource degradation is occurring, DPOR may restrict or prohibit the use. No more than 2 boats per person will be authorized for long term moorage or storage. An authorization for moorage and storage will include the appropriate Group B Compatibility Conditions identified in Chapter 6. See Map 6 on page 71 for a depiction of the storage and moorage sites.

Management Guidelines:

- Storage and moorage associated with reoccurring access to private property may be authorized by the Director under 11 AAC 18 at designated sites on Lynx, Butterfly, and Red Shirt lakes.
- The number of authorizations for storage and moorage on state lands and waters shall be limited to the number that, based on the judgement of DPOR staff, can reasonably fit within designated boat storage areas without causing significant deleterious impacts to the natural resources.
- No more than two (2) boats per person may be authorized for long term storage or moorage.

- Within NLSRA, the only lake where barges<sup>32</sup> may be moored is Butterfly Lake. The number of barges that may be authorized to moor at this location is limited to not more than eight – the number that existed on June 5, 2009. Additional barges will not be authorized.
- Raft-barges may not be altered or rebuilt larger than what existed on June 5, 2009.
- Raft-barge flotation shall be of materials which will not become waterlogged or sink when punctured. Closed cell (extruded) expanded polystyrene or equivalent material of good quality and manufactured for marine use is recommended. No unexposed foam flotation will be authorized in any future raft upgrades.

## Public Use

Opportunities for the public to engage in recreation will be enhanced, particularly where highly developed access currently exists. It is intended that moderate to high levels and densities of use be accommodated in nodes or areas adjacent to the Nancy Lake Parkway and the NLSRS. These areas currently have the highest level of development and are well known to the public. Access to recreation opportunities in the southern portion of NLSRA will be enhanced through development of a new trailhead at the intersection of the Chicken Lake Cross-Park Trail and Lynx Lake Road. Where new facilities are developed and existing facilities are redeveloped in close proximity to private properties, DPOR will consider the impacts of the public use on the adjacent private properties. Impacts of public use should be mitigated through the use of visual and acoustical buffers where practicable.

### Management Guidelines:

- Use of the recreation area by a diversity of people with different recreation preferences and levels of ability will be facilitated. Opportunities will range from providing self reliant rustic and remote campsites to ADA accessible, barrier free walkways and public use cabins. Trails will provide a diversity of opportunities to enjoy the natural setting and interpret the diverse history and natural features.
- Impacts from public use will be monitored to determine what management actions are needed to address impacts to resources or private lands.
- A Special Park Use Permit is required for some uses. A written determination consistent with procedures at 11 AAC 18.0259(c)(1-5) will be developed for each activity that requires a permit.
- A prohibition on the continuous or repetitive use of motorized uses between the hours of 11p.m. and 7 a.m. shall remain in effect.
- Interpretation of cultural and natural resources will be encouraged.

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<sup>32</sup> Raft-barges are defined as floating dock-like structures, either motorized or non-motorized, that are not permanently affixed in any location, and are primarily used to transport small vehicles such as ORVs, equipment, or supplies that otherwise would not fit in a conventional boat across water. Raft-barges are typically too large and heavy to remove from the water after each use.

- Horses may be allowed on designated trails but only after a determination that their use will not degrade the trail tread or adjacent natural resources. Their use should be closely monitored to determine if their use is degrading the trail.
- Camping shall be restricted to designated campsites only.
- Bikes may be allowed on designated trails.

## **Roads**

No expansions or extensions of existing roads or construction of new roads is intended during the 20-year planning period. However, if the need for access to recreational opportunities exceeds the availability opportunities conceived in this plan, DPOR may consider the development, extension, or expansion of roads if necessary to provide access to recreation opportunities.

## **Trails**

Trail orientated recreation will be enhanced through redevelopment of existing trails and development of new trails. With few exceptions, new trails will be developed as looped trails to increase connectivity of the trail system and where possible will provide destination oriented recreation opportunities. With few exceptions, trails should be designed and developed to support multiple uses. DPOR will balance the redevelopment of existing trails to sustainable trail standards with development of new trails that expand recreation opportunities.

### Management Guidelines:

- Terra trails north of the Nancy Lake Parkway should remain non-motorized but could be considered for multiple-use where appropriate. Snow trails in this area should be restricted to skiing and skijoring with the exception of motorized use on the existing snowmobile corridor and frozen surface of North Rolly Lake.
- Trails (terra, water, and snow) should be developed as looped systems with an emphasis on connectivity. Where possible they should provide destination orientated recreation opportunities such as campsites, picnic area, overlooks, viewing platforms, public use cabins, and shelters.
- The Lynx Lake Loop Canoe and Pioneer Loop canoe trails should be re-developed to a class 3 water trail. The tread of the trail should be sufficiently wide enough to accommodate canoe carts.
- An “Adopt a Trail” program should be started at NLSRA to allow groups or individuals to build and maintain trails, or segments of trails, consistent with Trail Management Objectives and Prescriptions provided by DPOR.
- All new trails and all redeveloped/upgraded trails will be developed as sustainable trails consistent with DPOR Trail Management Policy (DPOR 2009).

- Emphasis will be on providing multiple use opportunities of existing and new trails. However, not all trails will be designed or developed to support multiple uses.
- Trails management will focus on addressing negative environmental impacts and enhancement of recreational opportunities on existing trails. New looped trails and interpretive trails will be designed and developed as funding and necessary staff becomes available.
- Trails will be developed to a standard that will facilitate current and future use by a diversity of recreational enthusiasts.

## **Vegetation Management**

Vegetation plays an important role in facility development, fire protection, and aesthetics of an area. DPOR will use native vegetation to the greatest extent practicable around new and redeveloped facilities. Vegetation will be actively managed to reduce the risk of wildfire spread and increase safety for users of these two units of the park system.

### Management Guidelines:

- Vegetation will be managed to provide safety to recreating public and defensible space around structures. Hazard trees may be removed around trails and public facilities.
- Vegetation may be manipulated, including the removal of a large number of a single or multiple species of trees and shrubs, to manage forest resources or to control the spread of wildfire or invasive species.
- Native species and plants will be used in landscaping projects to the maximum extent practicable. Non-native species will only be used where their use will minimize or reduce environmental impacts and the spread of the species to adjacent natural areas can be controlled.



**Map 6: Property Storage & Boat Moorage Areas**