

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**  
**MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission Agenda**

Edna DeVries, Mayor

Mike Wood – Chair  
Howard Delo – Vice Chair  
Andy Couch  
Larry Engel  
Tim Hale  
Peter Probasco  
Jesse Sumner  
Kendra Zamzow  
*Ex Officio – Jim Sykes*

Ted Eischeid - Staff



Michael Brown, Borough Manager

PLANNING & LAND USE DEPARTMENT  
Alex Strawn, Planning & Land Use Director  
Kim Sollien, Planning Services Manager  
Jason Ortiz, Development Services Manager  
Fred Wagner, Platting Officer

*Dorothy Swanda Jones Building*  
*350 E. Dahlia Avenue*  
*Palmer ak 99645*

**January 20, 2022**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

4:00 p.m.  
Assembly Chambers, Rear Half

**Ways to participate in MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings:**

IN PERSON: Rear half of MSB Assembly Chambers

REMOTE:

- TEAMS LINK/CALL IN INFORMATION HERE!
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I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM/LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Ahtna and Dena'ina people, and we are grateful for their stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial.*

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- V. APPROVAL OF MIUTES
  - A. December 13, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes
  - B. December 16, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes
- VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person, for items not scheduled for public hearing*)
- VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS
  - A. Northern Pike, Aquatic Invasive – Parker Bradley, ADFG
  - B. Staff Report - Ted Eischeid
- VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - 1. Selection of FWC Chair/Vice Chair for 2022
  - 2. Moose Management Letter to ADFG
  - 3. West Susitna Access Road
  - 4. Kodiak Fisheries Working Group
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
  - 1. Alaska Recreation Rivers Board/Management Plan
  - 2. Susitna Basin Gas License Comment Extension
  - 3. State Legislative Outreach Proposal
- X. MEMBER COMMENTS
- XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: February 17, 2022. Lower Level Conference Room
- XII. ADJOURNMENT

**Disabled persons needing reasonable accommodation in order to participate at a MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting should contact the borough ADA Coordinator at 861-8432 at least one week in advance of the meeting.**

**MSB FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION Special Meeting: December 13, 2021 – Minutes**

DSJ Building, MSB Assembly Chambers //TEAMS Remote Participation Option

Minutes prepared by Ted Eischeid, Planner II**SPECIAL MEETING      5:00 PM**

## I. CALL TO ORDER by chair Mike Wood

5:05 PM start.

## II. ROLL CALL - DETERMINATION OF QUORUM/LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- PRESENT: Mike Wood (MW), Howard Delo (HD), Andy Couch (AC), Larry Engel (LE), Pete Probasco (PP), Jesse Sumner, Kendra Zamzow (KZ), Jim Sykes.
- Absent: Tim Hale
- Quorum established.

- MW read the LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

***"We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Dene people, and we are grateful for their continued stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial."***

## III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Motion to approve the agenda made by LE; seconded by HD.
- ***No objection to motion to approve agenda as written; motion passes unanimously.***

## IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## V. INTRODUCTIONS

## a. FWC/Opening Statement ~ 3 minutes

- MW:

## b. ADF&amp;G/Opening Statement ~ 3 minutes

- Sam Ivy, Brian, Tim McKinney, Sam Oslund, Matt Miller, Nick Decovich.

## c. Audience Introductions/Participation (3 min./person, chair's discretion)

- Karol Riese, staff
- Caleb Buist, staff

- George Hayes, MSB Deputy Manager
- Mark Scharman
- Jim Tilton
- Gary Schwan,
- Neil Dewitt
- Mike Brown, MSB Manager
- Edna Devries, MSB Mayor
- Bill Stoltze, MSB Lobbyist
- Rep. Kevin McCabe, AK House
- Steven Braund, NDSNA
- Trevor Rollman, NDSNA

#### VI. PRESENTATIONS

##### a. Staff/Ted Eischeid

##### b. ADF&G

##### 1. Commercial Fishing 2021 Notable Highlights & Observations ~ 5 minutes

- ESSN = avg or below.
- Escapement Goals were generally met..

##### 2. Sport Fishing Fishing 2021 Notable Highlights & Observations ~ 5 minutes

- Chinook C/R; Deshka had high return of 5 year old fish (only place this happened); just like the old days – came in on time, built up, then fell up; met the goal there. Next year forecast will be down; Little Su, slow to come in, might be due to early cold water;
- Fish Creek; had 8 days of dip netting;
- Coho – not any complaints, coho just came in later in August; once they showed up it was steady and good fishing, no EOs needed.

#### VII. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

##### a. FWC/ADF&G Dialogue On Mat-Su Fisheries/FWC Questions ~ 60 Minutes

- HD: red page 4... SEG and OEG question.

- J. Sykes: Q 1 – EEZ waters; how NPFMC action affect fishing; BM – we are not planning on changing anything specific in how we manage things; going to focus on where the fish are and how many there are; only factors that will otherwise influence us is BOF action, or having larger fish numbers than expected; since we aren't fishing down south much there might be a time lag for fishing up; it will be tricky in managing; we haven't had big sockeye runs the last few years, so a large sockeye run will change things.
- LE: To BM – there seems to be some uncertainty; this EEZ action has the potential to have a major impact on how this fishery is managed, and we are concerned about any change that impacts mixed stock management best practices, so I hope whatever approach you use will use a discreet harvest strategy like used in Bristol Bay. Not to change management in such a way that hurts the fishery just because of the EEZ change; we as a FWC will be watchful on this issue.
- HD: EEZ is difficult, looks like EEZ covers much of CI; BM – EEZ basically ends at Ninilchik; a little bit of area 1 is in EEZ;
- AC: For BM clarification – how about the Anchor Pt section, is that shut down? BM: a very small portion of Kasilof is in EEZ; a good portion of Anchor Pt is in the EEZ.
- PP: For BM – Request a picture of the EEZ and state waters; BM – see p. 182 of NPFMC decision for map;
- PP: how will NOAA enforce? BM – I'm not aware of their potential enforcement options.
- PP: Q #2 – The information provided was good.
- Q #3 – PU Fishery – SI: 2021 data not out yet; people doing this are figuring out how to fish this new fishery; some pilots are flying down to a sandbar to dip net; LE: We asked for daily participation and harvest on this fishery, but it isn't shown as daily harvest; AC: the question was how many permits and how many fish caught; SI: Tim McKinley – we just missed that in the question; MW: I thought chinook were illegal, but it shows 22... Trevor Rollman: Same question about king salmon, so is

there any enforcement happening, any lack of reporting? SI – there is enforcement down there, just not heavy enforcement; some wildlife trooper contacts via boat and helicopter; AC: for Trevor’s question on enforcement, I was definitely seeing enforcement helicopters flying during my participation guiding that fishery.

- LE: Q#4 – BM: for ESSN we have a hard end date of Aug. 15, no plans to go outside that at this point, but a late sockeye run could impact that; LE: What is ADFG position on extending Kenai PU fishery in view of recent late runs? TM: the only time PU was extended was about 2006, but no plans to extend as we get a lot of push back from other users, so it would take BOF action to extend it; LE: the management plans are not precise, the Commissioner has flexibility to react, so I don’t think a mgmt. plan is not an excuse for extending ESSN fishery or a PU fishery; MM: we often get asked about extending Kenai PU fishery, but its problematic, like we start impacting coho, and the city of Kenai has contracts for managing this fishery that end in July, so when we extend the PU fishery it impacts the Kenai town management, so it might be better to have it put into regulation rather than by EO; PP – so you do have EO authority to open the Kenai PU fishery in August? MM: Yes, we do have authority, but to step out of the plan we need extraordinary justification to do this; also an issue with the permits and how permittees accurately report their harvest;
- HD: Q#5: SI – went over the history; there has been variation between bag limits; you might be conflicting between in-season tools and regulation; at every Board cycle we can look at the numbers and adjust as needed; briefly discussed the criteria;
- Q#6, J. Sumner: SI- We have a good data set on Deshka, have info from Little Su, would like to add Lake Creek because of all the guides/lodges operating there; will sonar become important, yes over time; need more data from the Yentna stock; I might refer to Nick Decovich; ND: it would be nice to have an in-season tool there, so now we are trying to answer basic questions about sonar, so it will be awhile before we can

use that tool; need more data from the Yentna; AC: timeline for Chelatna lake; BM – no idea on that money. MW: seems having in-season info from these rivers is important for proper mgmt., especially at Chelatna, but also the Deshka; it comes down to numbers and without numbers, we can't manage; aerial counts are important, but they can't replace weirs.

- Q#7 – KZ: Instream flow in June/July/August; are we seeing any trends here on summer flows? SI: Trends, not sure what to say, I've seen the impacts; unusual years with drought have big impacts; 2015, 2019 droughts; 2006, 2012 floods; sometimes the impact is localized; BM – we have a ADFG department that can answer the question about how to expedite the water reservation system; HD: Mentioned the Kimberly Sager DNR presentation; why would ADFG give up water rights unnecessarily?; USFWS friend told him that they have hundreds of water reservation requests in to the Dept. that have not been acted on yet.
- Q. 14: MW – read the question; [TEAMS MEETING WAS LOST; I HAD TO REJOIN THE MEETING]; AC had a follow up; BM... MW: at the last BOF meeting we put a lot of energy in changes in Northern District that resulted in higher harvest, and at the weirs in the ND; I'm curious of two statistical areas, in 24720... 24730... BM: not aware about the tenders; MW: there are two tenders coming in and out with the tide; SB: doesn't matter where you deliver, you just have to report where they are caught; KZ: instream flow might be keeping fish in the inlet;
- Q. 15; PP – read the question; MW: BOF decisions have impacts that we can see on the water;
- Q. 16, KZ: on the table, the PU for 2020; AC: disputed the 11K king salmon sport harvest; on coho, disputed 150K in 2019... SI: I can go back to my spreadsheet and follow up with you and anyone else; AC:
- Neil Dewitt, Q. 7 or 8, water is warmer and lower, has ADFG looked at the amount of rain during that time that explains that warmer/lower?

SI: I have talked ... and looked at some data... environmental factors do have an impact.

VIII. ADF&G/FWC MEMBER COMMENTS ~ 20 minutes

- J. Sumner: thanks ADFG and Mayor DeVries for being here.
- J. Sykes: thanks the dept.
- KZ: thanks the dept.
- PP: Appreciates the work the Dept. does; looks forward to future interactions;
- HD: appreciates ADFG meeting with us every year; we might come across as being hard on them, but we like them.
- LE: echo the other comments; one final request about inadequate funding for weirs and genetic studies, requests increased funding for these.
- MW: pleased with the meeting; pleased with public participation, pleased with the problem-solving happening here.
- AC: I appreciated the time we had for a dialogue; the information provided was helpful.

IX. NEXT REGULAR MEETING – December 16, 2021, 4 PM, Lower Level Conference Room

X. ADJOURNMENT

- ***Motion to adjourn by PP; seconded by JS.***
- ***Without objection, the meeting stands adjourned at 7:01 PM***



**MSB FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION Regular Meeting: December 16, 2021 – Minutes**

DSJ Building, Lower Level Conference Room //TEAMS Remote Participation Option

Minutes prepared by Ted Eischeid, Planner II**REGULAR MEETING** **4:00 PM**

- I. CALL TO ORDER by Chair Mike Wood.  
4:09 PM.
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM/LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
PRESENT:  
Mike Wood – Chair - MW  
Howard Delo – Vice Chair - HD  
Andy Couch - AC  
Larry Engel - LE  
Peter Probasco - PP  
Jesse Sumner – J. Sumner  
Kendra Zamzow - KZ  
Ex Officio – Jim Sykes – J. Sykes
- ABSENT:  
Tim Hale – TH
- Quorum established.
- MW read:  
*We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional lands of the Ahtna and Dena'ina people, and we are grateful for their stewardship of the land, fish, and wildlife throughout time immemorial.*
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
HD: Moved to amend agenda by switching business item order as follows: Proposed order of business items: VIII-B, IX-A, VIII-A, VIII-C, VIII-D, IX-B; second by LE.  
Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. APPROVAL OF MIUTES  
A. November 18, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes  
PP Moved; LE second.  
Minutes approved unanimously.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (*three minutes per person at Chair's discretion*)

1. Gino DelFrate, ADFG
2. Tim Peltier, ADFG
3. Neil Dewitt – caribou working group info shared.
4. Bill Stoltze, MSB lobbyist: Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> met with new mayor with Larry Engel that went very well.
5. Melissa Heuer, SRC-AIDEA. Hopes FWC can attend the Dec. 21 Assembly Meeting.
6. Paul Warta, interested in moose.
7. Todd Rinaldi, ADFG
8. Steve Perrins II – Rainy Pass Lodge in AK Range; WSAR project.
9. Stephen Braund, NDSN

## VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORTS &amp; PRESENTATIONS

- A. Presentations from ADF&G:  
Tim Peltier, Moose Management in the MSB  
- See PowerPoint in Supplemental Handout.  
- Discussion ensued.

Gino DelFrate: Proposal to transplant Sitka Deer to Mat-Su Borough Presentation:

Q/A:

Discussion ensued.

- B. Staff Report, Ted Eischeid

## VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Moose Management in the MSB – Motion For Consideration:

That the FWC communicate to the Commissioner of Fish and Game, Director of Wildlife Conservation, and the Alaska Board of Game requesting the Department discontinue allowing Unit 14A area-wide antlerless moose permits (or at least greatly reduce the number of these specific permits) for the months of November and December, whenever a moose population in Unit 14A or the following adjoining Game Management Unit(s) (13A, 14B, 14C, 16A, 16B) is below moose population objective level.

LE: Moved the moose motion on red page 55 of packet;  
Second HD.

PP moved to amend original motion; LE second.

Amended Motion: That the FWC communicate to the Commissioner of Fish and Game, and Director of Wildlife Conservation, requesting the Department reduce antlerless moose permits for the months of November and December, whenever a moose population in Unit 14A or the following adjoining Game Management Unit(s) (13A, 14B, 14C, 16A, 16B) is below moose population objective levels.

Amendment passed unanimously.

Amended main motion:

Discussion ensued.

VOTE: YEA: KZ, J. Sumner, PP, LE, AC, MW.

Nays: HD

Amended motion passes with 6 yeas and 1 nay.

#### B. Proposal to transplant Sitka Deer to MSB

PP: initial decision to transplant when? Gino DelFrate: Not sure; You as a commission can wait on comment, or you can share a comment tonight; or add further comment down the line.

KZ: it would be best to get a biological analysis before the public comment process occurs.

J. Sumner: polling might be cheaper than the biological analysis.

J. Sykes: Public education is an important aspect.

Neil D: will this go on if Dunleavy is voted out?

#### C. West Susitna Access Road Project

Some concern about how AIDEA portrayed public outreach efforts.

J. Sumner asked to recuse himself from the discussion since it may come before the assembly.

LE: Moved we adopt RS FWC 21-04 recommending to the Assembly additional public outreach on this topic (see blue page 29-31 of meeting supplemental handout); Second HD;

Discussion ensued;

Steve Perrins II – ask AIDEA to complete more of their predevelopment phase work.

HD: Called the question.

AC: has a problem seeing reso.

Motion approving RS FWC 21-04 passed unanimously with J. Sumner abstaining.

#### D. ADF&G 2021 Fishing Season Summary Meeting

HD: went well; appreciated LE's rebuttals; thinks ADFG are doing the best they can.

AC: concern with Brian Marston saying EO could come out saying all area 1 was open; seemed to be encouragement of...; concerned about finclipped Eklutna king salmon discussion;

J. Sykes: CI Aquaculture – if you want weirs, we can get you money for weirs. (Gary Swann).

#### E. Governor's Conservationist of the Year call for nominees

No discussion

### IX. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Election of FWC chair/vice chair for 2022

Motion to delay to the first FWC meeting in January 20<sup>th</sup> made by LE: Seconded J. Sumner.

Motion passed unanimously.

### X. MEMBER COMMENTS

Neil Dewitt: May 2023 N. American workshop on caribou/ungulates.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE: January 20, 2022, 4 PM, Rear Half of Assembly Chambers

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: HD

Second; PP

Motion passed unanimously; meeting stands adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Disabled persons needing reasonable accommodation in order to participate at a MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting should contact the borough ADA Coordinator at 861-8432 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

#### **COVID-19 Guidelines**

- Social distance at least 6 feet.
- Use proper hand hygiene.
- Masks are optional.
- Stay home if feeling sick.

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH****Planning and Land Use Department****Planning Division**

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

Phone (907) 861-7833

<http://www.matsugov.us> • [planning@matsugov.us](mailto:planning@matsugov.us)

**Date:** 20 January 2022

**Re:** FWC Staff Report

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**1. West Susitna Access Road Update.**

- December 21, 2021 MSB Assembly Action on RS 21-134; adopted with an "option 2" amendment for public outreach.
- For details: Watch MSB Assembly video from 4:30:00 to 5:07:00-  
[http://matanuska.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=1&clip\\_id=272](http://matanuska.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=1&clip_id=272)
- The MSB hired a consultant to develop and execute a public involvement plan for the project. Planning will have a chance to review the plan but there may not be time for it to be reviewed by the FWC or any board. I will share this plan with FWC if I receive it prior to departure.
- The consultant's main task write a project summary documents, hold 2-4 public forums, collect comments about the project, and to present the comments to the Assembly along with a written summary of the public concerns about and/or support for WSAR. The comments will also be shared with AIDEA, and the USACE related to their 404 wetland permit application and NEPA process. The Manager wants this work to be completed by this April.

**2. Correspondence****3. FWC Member Orientation****4. Packet Review**

*Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community*

***Ted Eischeid, Planner II***

*Supporting Environmental Planning and the MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission.*

[Ted.eischeid@matsugov.us](mailto:Ted.eischeid@matsugov.us) Ph. 907.861-8606, Cell 795-6281

## **5. Election Procedures for Chair/Vice Chair**

- Each seat, call for nominations 3x. Each nominee must be asked if they are willing to be considered.
- If only one person nominated, the body can accept nominee for position without objection, or via roll call if objection is raised.
- If two or more nominees, roll call conducted. First nominee with a plurality of votes gets the seat.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1/6/22

To: Tom Stokes, Director, Division of Oil and Gas, Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
From: Becky Long, POB 1088 Talkeetna AK 99676  
Re: PUBLIC COMMENT EXTENSION REQUEST  
SUSITNA VALLEY GAS EXPLORATION LICENSE  
Preliminary Written Finding of the Director, December 10, 2021

Director Stokes:

I am one of 131 timely commenters to the 5/24/2017 Notice of Intent Preliminary Finding Susitna Valley Gas Only Exploration Licenses Request for competing proposals, request for comments on exploration within the solicitation area. If you recall, 92% of the commenters state that this exploration proposal, without knowing the applicant in particular, is not in the state's best interest.

The public, community councils, lodges, recreational businesses, and local governments need a two month extension. No one really knows what this is about or do not even know that this is happening. The preliminary decision document came out right before the at least 2 weeks long major holiday times. The public cannot focus on a major proposal during the holiday times.

Have you contacted the community councils on the west side including the Susitna, Trapper Creek Community Councils and the Willow Area Community Organization?

The Mat Su Borough Fish and Wildlife Commission has not considered this public notice. The Division of Oil and Gas needs to make a presentation to them so that they can make comments.

I request that you consider a two month public comment extension.

Becky Long

cc: Mike Wood, Chair MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Ted MSB Planning Staff

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

July 10, 2017

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Oil and Gas  
Best Interest Findings  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1100  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Comment on Exploration in the Susitna Valley Solicitation Area

Whomever It May Concern,

As a community council recognized by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB), the Willow Area Community Organization (WACO) would like to respond to the State's request for comment regarding proposed oil and gas exploration in the Susitna Valley. Because the area being considered for exploration includes a significant portion of our residential and recreational community, we have special interest in such development and the impacts it may have.

After careful discussion, WACO requests that the land within our boundaries be closed to exploratory drilling. We believe that the industrial activities associated with such exploration will adversely affect private property, businesses, local roads, recreation opportunities, and wildlife habitat

The solicitation area within the WACO boundaries is located between the Susitna River to the west and the Parks Highway on the east. It includes Township 18N, Range 5W, S1-6, T19N, R5W S1-3, 10-12, 13-15, 21-24, 25-30, 31-36 and T20N, Range 5W S1, 11-14, 22-26, 34-36 Seward Meridian. State land within these areas are managed through the Southeast Susitna Area Plan, 2008 (SSAP) which establishes land use designations, management intent and guidelines. The Willow Creek and Nancy Lake State Recreation Areas, both intensively managed State lands, are also located within the solicitation area.

SSAP describes two management regions that fall within the WACO boundaries. The Willow Region (SSAP, map 3) consists almost exclusively of private and Borough land with a relatively high density of residents. This region and the State Recreation Areas bordering on the north and south would be most vulnerable to the disturbance of drilling related activities. Also within this region is the MSB Willow Natural Resource Management Unit whose management intent is for recreation and consists of majority wetland, unsuited for development. We strongly feel this area is not in the State's best interest for oil and gas development.

The second region, Susitna Corridor, borders the Susitna River and consists of management units S-01 and S-02. According to the SSAP, these units are intended to be managed for public recreation, tourism and scenic resources. Other units in this region, S-03-05, are described as high value recreation lands in which natural resources should be protected (SSAP, p. 3-41). Because of their stated management intent and the impact road access to this area will have on residents, we also feel that these areas are not suitable for oil and gas development.

WACO's Willow Area Community Comprehensive Plan (2013) reflects how highly the community values recreation, natural resources, and a rural lifestyle. The plan encourages economic growth through tourism, by "maintaining stream quality and views that support recreation" (p. 34), and by "maintaining the rural character of the community." (p. 34). Oil and gas exploration would threaten the recreation-based economy and the rural lifestyle of its residents.

Because the WACO area is such a small portion of the total exploratory area and has both a high population and a high level of public use, we believe that oil and gas exploration of this area is not in the best interest of the State. We are therefore requesting the land within WACO's boundaries be excluded from exploratory drilling.

Sincerely,

Harry Banks, Chair  
Willow Area Community Organization

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**

350 E Dahlia Ave., Palmer AK 99645 Ph.907.861-8606



**MSB STAFF**  
Ted Eischeid

**FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION****Memorandum**

**RE: Orientation for new and renewing FWC members**

*Greetings and happy new year FWC member – it's time for ORIENTATION!*

As the MSB staff person to the FWC, I am pleased to welcome you to your term on the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission. This memo serves as my brief orientation to the FWC. The information contained herein is important to the successful functioning of the FWC on behalf of the citizens of the MSB regarding fish and wildlife issues.

I would highly recommend after reading through this memo that you spend some time exploring the FWC web page for a deep dive into the work the FWC has been involved in over the years:

<https://matsugov.us/boards/fishcommission>

I also recommend you spend time investigating our Fish Hub webpage for additional background relevant to your FWC work: <https://matsugov.us/fishhub>

Thank you for your service.

Ted Eischeid, Planner II

[Ted.eischeid@matsugov.us](mailto:Ted.eischeid@matsugov.us)

Office: 907.861-8696

MSB Cell: 907.795-6281

**A brief history:**

- The MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC), formerly the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee, was formed in February 2007 to represent the interests of the Borough in the conservation and allocation of fish, wildlife, and habitat.
- The FWC advises the MSB Assembly and the State of Alaska Boards of Fish and Game regarding fish and wildlife practices and policies that affect the Mat-Su Borough.
- The FWC consists of eight representatives (meeting quorum minimum is five in attendance) from the following segments of the community:
  - Two representatives from the MSB Assembly
  - One sport fishing rep
  - One hunting rep
  - Four at-large reps
  - There is also a nonvoting *ex officio* seat for a former FWC member.
- FWC terms are for three calendar years, and there are NO term limits.

**FWC duties, restrictions, and Officers:****A. The role of the FWC – from MSB Code:**

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**CHAPTER 4.75: MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION**

## Section

- [4.75.005](#) Membership
- [4.75.007](#) Term of members
- [4.75.010](#) Functions and duties
- [4.75.015](#) Compensation
- [4.75.020](#) Assembly determination, no third party remedy.

**4.75.005 MEMBERSHIP.**

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- (A) The commission is composed of nine members and shall consist of the following representatives:
  - (1) one sports fishing representative;
  - (2) one hunting representative;
  - (3) four at-large representatives;
  - (4) two borough assembly representatives; and
  - (5) one previous member who is a nonvoting member and does not count for the purposes of a quorum.
- (B) All members of the commission shall be residents of the borough.
- (C) The commission shall select from its members, on a yearly basis, a chair and vice-chair.

(Ord. 15-153, § 2, 2015; Ord. 12-052, § 3 (part), 2012)

#### **4.75.007 TERM OF MEMBERS.**

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(A) Irrespective of the limits specified in MSB [4.05.050](#), a board member may serve more than two consecutive terms.

(Ord. 12-172, § 2, 2013)

#### **4.75.010 FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES.**

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(A) The commission shall advise and make recommendations to the assembly, borough manager, and/or any state or federal agencies, departments, commissions, or boards possessing jurisdiction in the area of fish, wildlife, and habitat on the interests of the borough in the conservation and allocation of fish, wildlife, and habitat.

(B) The commission may also advise the assembly and the borough manager on any other matter as to actions or issues for the borough to address on any other areas concerning fish, wildlife, habitat, administration, application, enforcement, or appointment to include political efforts, additional lobbying efforts, or any other position or action the borough should take on fish, wildlife, or habitat issues.

(Ord. 15-122, § 2, 2015; Ord. 12-052, § 3 (part), 2012)

#### **4.75.015 COMPENSATION.**

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(A) Commission members shall be reimbursed for mileage incurred in connection with meetings of the commission and attending related meetings on commission business in the same manner as borough employees are compensated for mileage expenses.

(Ord. 12-052, § 3 (part), 2012)

#### **4.75.020 ASSEMBLY DETERMINATION, NO THIRD PARTY REMEDY.**

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Any issue regarding appropriateness of action or advice of the commission shall only be brought to and decided by the borough assembly who shall, in its sole and absolute discretion, decide whether to consider the issue and decide whether to take any action. Through the grant of power to advise in this chapter, the borough is specifically declining to grant a remedy in any third party to allege or enforce that the commission is acting outside their scope of duties.

(Ord. 15-122, § 3, 2015)

**B. The role of the chair:**

- Develops a working knowledge of [Alaska's Open Meeting](#) Act law.
- Works with staff to develop the agenda/packet and prepare for meetings.
- Presides over the meeting.
- Ensures that the meeting is fairly run, and maintains decorum and order.
- Manages public comment
  - [Tips](#)
- Develops a working knowledge of Roberts Rules of Order, referring to staff parliamentarian for advice when needed.
- Ensures that meeting is run efficiently, utilizing Roberts Rules of Order.
- Generally suspends comment on a proposal until all others have spoken to maintain the appearance of impartiality.
- Whenever the chair wishes to vigorously debate an agenda item, they turn over chairmanship on that agenda item to the vice-chair.
- Signs off on FWC approved minutes and resolutions.
- Is the primary representative/spokesperson of the FWC in meetings with MSB staff, Assembly, or the press (working through the MSB Public Affairs director).

**4.05.110 OFFICERS.**

(A) Each board shall have a chairperson and a vice chairperson. Officers shall be elected by a majority of the board members for a term of one year. Election of officers shall be the first order of business at any time that an officer's seat is not filled.

(B) The duties of the chairperson are:

- (1) to open the meeting at the appointed time and determine that a quorum is present;
- (2) to enforce the rules relating to debate, order, and decorum;
- (3) to state and put to a vote all questions that legitimately come before the board as motions or that otherwise arise in the course of the meeting;
- (4) if a motion is not in order, to rule it out of order; and
- (5) to assign a member to note those members present and absent and ensure minutes are taken on all actions by the board at each meeting.

(C) The duties of the vice chairperson shall be to perform duties of the chairperson in the chairperson's absence.

(Ord. 04-080, § 11, 2004; Ord. 94-001AM, § 5 (part), 1994; Ord. 84-34, § 25 (part), 1984)

**C. The role of Assembly Representatives to the FWC**

- Helps advise the FWC on how to avoid actions that make it “political”.
- Advises the FWC on best practices for communicating with and advising the MSB Assembly.
- Accurately communicates FWC positions to the Assembly.
- Assists the FWC in connecting with other policy makers and interested constituents.
- The two Assembly representatives coordinate so that there is always at least one of them participating in every FWC meeting.

**D. The role of staff:**

- Works with the chair to develop the agenda and packet.
- Insures that the meeting is publically noticed and that the agenda/packet are posted online a minimum of five days prior to the meeting.
- Acts as a Roberts Rules parliamentarian as needed/requested.
- Keeps minutes unless that role is delegated to someone else.
- Assists the FWC in complying with the Alaska Open Meetings Act.
- Organizes the meeting, reserving locations and setting up remote participation options, and working with outside agencies/persons as needed in support of FWC business.
- Maintains and updates the FWC web page.

**E. Alaska Open Meetings Act**

Alaska’s OMA works to insure that government operates in transparent fashion that engages the public. The main thing for FWC members to be aware of is that you may not talk to more than two other FWC members about a topic, regardless of the communication method. Any time more than three FWC members are engaged in communicating about a topic it falls under the OMA and it must be given proper public notice and open to the public to observe.

Additional OMA Resources:

<https://gov.alaska.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/Open-Meetings-Act.pdf>

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/Portals/4/pub/Alaska's%20Open%20Meetings%20Law.pdf>

<http://www.akleg.gov/basis/statutes.asp#44.62.310>

**F. Effectively engaging in meetings:****1. Attend the meetings**

Your participation in FWC meetings is critical to the function of the FWC. If you are unable to attend a meeting please let staff know at a minimum seven days prior to the meeting, but preferably 10 or more days prior. The FWC needs to have five members present for a quorum, and each meeting requires

extensive staff time at taxpayer expense to prepare for. Please let us know when you can't attend a particular meeting.

## **2. Read your packet:**

Packets are posted on the MSB web site the Friday before the FWC meeting. This posting is announced to FWC members and associates by an email. The packet is also printed and mailed to FWC members when possible on that same Friday, except for Assembly FWC representatives where it is placed in their MSB Assembly mailboxes. Due to the technical nature of FWC work it is best to read your packet prior to each meeting so you can be fully engaged and able to participate usefully on items of discussion.

## **3. Do your homework:**

Read through your packet, develop questions, do additional research on action items as needed. If you want to consider a resolution on an agenda action item, please contact the chair for direction. Staff should be used to help write and/or edit resolutions, preferably prior to the meeting so they can be posted online and copies prepared for the meeting. A passed resolution trumps a passed motion.

## **4. Develop a working knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order:**

Robert's Rules of Order allow for an efficient and orderly meeting. Becoming familiar with the basics of RR will help you be more effective in your FWC work as well as allow for a more efficient and shorter meeting.

In running an efficient meeting, our general practice when voting on a motion is the following:

- After discussion on the motion concludes, the chair will announce "is there objection on the motion before you" – if there are no objections uttered, then the chair will state that the "motion carries unanimously." If there is objection, the chair will hold a vote, voice or roll call as appropriate; however, if a member calls for a "vote division", the chair will then hold a roll call vote with assistance from staff. In general, there are no secret ballots allowed in FWC voting.

Here are some helpful links to help you develop a working knowledge:

- <http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Governance/Legislative-Organization-Meetings-and-Process/Parliamentary-Procedure.aspx>
- [https://diphi.web.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2645/2012/02/MSG-ROBERTS\\_RULES\\_CHEAT\\_SHEET.pdf](https://diphi.web.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2645/2012/02/MSG-ROBERTS_RULES_CHEAT_SHEET.pdf)

## **5. Agenda items:**

Agenda items you want added to the meeting agenda should be presented to the chair at least 10 days prior to the meeting you want the item on the agenda. Agenda items cannot be added to the meeting agenda once that agenda is posted to the public; agenda items can be removed or their order changed on the agenda during the meeting by motion.



**IX-2: Moose Mgmt Letter to ADFG**

Doug Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Dear **Commissioner** Vincent-Lang

I would like to extend our appreciation for your staff taking the time on December 16, 2021 to meet with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC). Your staff, consisting of Gino Del Frate and Tim Peltier provided us an in-depth review of the status and management of moose populations within the Mat-Su Borough. Before I get into the main theme of this letter, I would like to provide you with a brief summary of this Commission.

The MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission, formerly the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee, was formed in February 2007 to represent the interests of the Borough in the conservation and allocation of fish, wildlife and habitat. The commission advises the MSB Assembly and the State of Alaska Boards of Fish and Game regarding fish and wildlife practices and policies that affect the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

The presentation Area Biologist Tim Peltier provided was well organized and easily understood. Upon completion of his presentation, a question-and-answer dialogue proceeded and if it wasn't for the time constraints of the meeting, would have lasted much longer. As a whole, we learned that the Department believes that the management units within Game Management Units 14 A&B and 16 A&B are either within or above the moose population objectives. Concerns and questions were raised focusing on survey techniques and frequency, declining numbers from the twinning surveys, as well as the concern of overharvesting the female population.

The FWC believes the current female harvest is too liberal and that local depletion within these two management units has occurred. We also learned that the best method to approach this concern is not to pursue the closure of these antlerless hunts, but to work with ADF&G who has the management authority within a given year to either reduce permit numbers or elect not to hold that hunt. Specifically, the antlerless moose hunts occurring in November and December are our biggest concern and we would recommend that whenever the moose population is at or below the management objective that the number of permits be reduced or, if necessary, not hold the hunt for that year.

We look forward to continuing working with your staff and appreciated their stated willingness to do so.

Best Regards,

Mike Wood, Chair  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
Fish and Wildlife Commission

Cc: Director Edward Grasser, Regional Supervisor Gino Del Frate, Area Management Biologist Tim Peltier

Formal Motion Adopted by the FWC on 12/16/2021:

***That the FWC communicate to the Commissioner of Fish and Game, and Director of Wildlife Conservation, requesting the Department reduce antlerless moose permits for the months of November and December, whenever a moose population in Unit 14A or the following adjoining Game Management Unit(s) (13A, 14B, 14C, 16A, 16B) is below moose population objective levels.***

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Office of Governor  
MIKE DUNLEAVY  
**AK Rec Rivers Board**

You are here: [Home](#) / [Services](#) / [Boards and Commissions](#) / Roster

## Roster

### Recreation Rivers Advisory Board

NAME	APPOINTED	REAPPOINTED	EXPIRES
<b>Benjamin, Aaron</b> (Talkeetna ) Mining	11/04/2021		07/01/2025
<b>Conklin, Nancy</b> (Alexander Creek) Subsistence	11/04/2021		07/01/2025
<b>Dabney, Tim</b> (Chugiak) Forest Products	11/04/2021		07/01/2025
<b>DeMaria, Mike</b> (Wasilla) Sport Hunting	11/04/2021		07/01/2024
<b>Elder, Chris</b> (Big Lake) Mat-Su Borough Planning Commission Representative	11/04/2021		
<b>Knowles, Thomas (Bruce)</b> (Wasilla) Sportfishing	06/11/1992	11/04/2021	07/01/2024
<b>Mahay, Israel</b> (Talkeetna) Powerboat Users	11/04/2021		07/01/2023
<b>Nowers, Stephanie</b> () Mat-Su Mayor/Designee	11/19/2021		
<b>Overcast, Mike</b> (Anchorage) Private Property Owner	11/04/2021		07/01/2024
<b>Payton, Yelverton Jody</b> (Willow) Rec-oriented/comm.users	11/04/2021		07/01/2025
<b>Pokon, Emma</b> (Anchorage) Conservation	11/04/2021		07/01/2023

NAME	APPOINTED	REAPPOINTED	EXPIRES
<b>Redick, Donald</b> (Wasilla) Commercial Fishing	11/04/2021		07/01/2024
<b>Wright, Joseph</b> (Eagle River) Other Recreational User	11/04/2021		07/01/2023

[Board Fact Sheet](#)

Office of Governor  
MIKE DUNLEAVY

**AK Rec Rivers Bd Fact Sheet**

You are here: [Home](#) / [Services](#) / [Boards and Commissions](#) / Fact Sheet

## Fact Sheet

**Board:** Recreation Rivers Advisory Board

**Board identification number:** 123

**Department:** NATURAL RESOURCES

**Authority:** AS 41.23.430

**Status:** Active

**Sunset date:**

**Requirements:** No Legislative Confirmation or Financial Disclosure required

**Prohibitions:** None

**Term:** 3 years

**Chair:** No provision.

**Description:** 13 members appointed by the Governor: representing commercial fishing; sport fishing; sport hunting; conservation; subsistence; forest products; mining; powerboat users; recreationally-oriented commercial users; other recreational users; private property owners within the recreation river corridor; the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission from the membership of the planning commission; and the mayor of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough or the designee of the mayor.

**Function:** The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources consults with the Recreation Rivers Advisory Board in preparing, adopting, and revising the recreation river management plan and regulations affecting use and management of the recreation rivers.

**Special facts:**

**Compensation:** Members receive no compensation.

**Meetings:** 2-3 times per year; meetings are primarily during weeknights.

**For further information and to reach individual members, contact:**

[Monica Alvarez](#)

Resource Assessment Development Section (RADS) Chief

Division of Land

DNR, 3601 C Street, Suite 1080

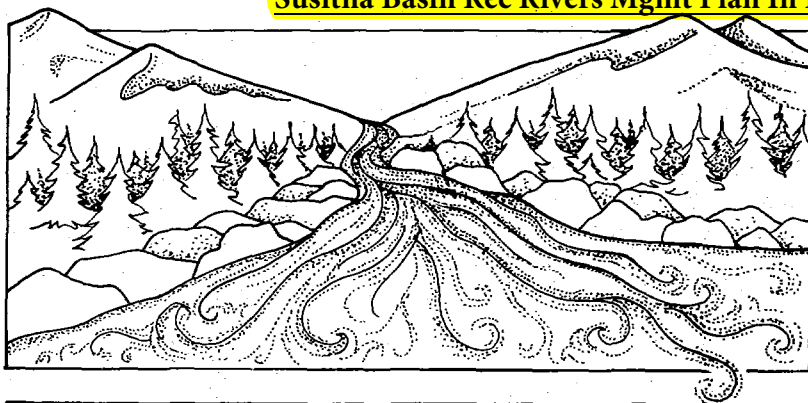
Anchorage, AK 99503-5947

Phone: (907) 269-8145

Fax: (907) 269-8913

[Board Roster](#)

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**Susitna Basin Rec Rivers Mgmt Plan In Part**

DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF LAND  
LAND & RESOURCES SECTION

# SUSITNA BASIN RECREATION RIVERS MANAGEMENT PLAN



AUGUST 1991

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# SUSITNA BASIN

---

# RECREATION

---

# RIVERS

---

# MANAGEMENT PLAN

---

AUGUST 1991

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**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
DIVISION OF LAND  
LAND AND RESOURCES SECTION

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME**

IN COOPERATION WITH  
**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**

WITH ASSISTANCE FROM  
**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

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Road accessible stretches of Moose Creek (adjacent to the Oilwell and Petersville roads) should not be open to king salmon fishing to avoid over-harvest. This recommendation is intended to provide floaters fishing opportunities on a non-motorized section of the Deshka River.

**Definitions.** To clarify the intent of proposed regulations to implement the plan, some terms for the glossary should be adopted into regulation. These definitions are consistent with their usage in the Recreation Rivers Act. Terms include: Recreation Rivers, river corridor, corridor, river, uplands, and shorelands.

## AGENCY IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES

### 1. Alaska Department of Natural Resources



#### A. DEPARTMENT

**Promulgate Regulations.** Promulgate regulations needed to implement the policies and guidelines recommended for the Recreation Rivers by this plan.

**Adopt consistent regulations in the Nancy Lakes State Recreation Area.** Adopt regulations for the alternating weekends motorized and non-motorized weekends for boats on the Little Susitna River and the 96 hour camping limit for the river where it passes through the Nancy Lakes State Recreation Area. The camping limit should apply to an area within one-half mile of the Little Susitna River in the Nancy Lakes State Recreation Area.

#### B. DIVISION OF LAND & WATER (DLW)

The Division of Land and Water is the division within DNR charged with the management of state land and water within the planning area. The division will prioritize the following implementation items based upon the level of funding, staffing, and other resources allocated for management:

**1. Designate special use areas.** As an interim measure, until the regulations recommended by the plan are in place, the division will identify important public use sites requiring immediate management and designate them as special use areas.

**2. Develop policies and procedures.** After DNR has promulgated regulations establishing the necessary authorities, the division will develop the policies and procedures needed to implement programs recommended in the plan, such as the commercial use permit and enforcement responsibilities.

**3. Education.** The DLW will take the lead, in cooperation with other agencies, in developing brochures to inform river users of regulations specific to Recreation Rivers, boater safety, and disposal of waste and litter. Informational signs and kiosks will also be developed and posted by the division.

**4. Provide trained staff.** Provide equipment, training, field housing, and office space for staff to perform management duties at the level consistent with funding levels. Office staff will be responsible for administering the commercial use permit program, adjudication of land use authorizations, and field support and coordination. Field staff will enforce plan regulations, post trespass structures, and maintain public facilities.

**5. Monitor whitewater river use.** Work with boaters to monitor use and impacts on these rivers. The division may institute a voluntary reservation system for the use of the Talkeetna Canyon and later Lake Creek and the Talachulitna River.

**6. Enter into cooperative management agreements.** Where needed, the division should enter into cooperative management agreements with other state, federal, or local agencies for management of specific sites or areas in the Recreation Rivers.

**7. Instream flow.** DLW will coordinate an instream flow technical working group which includes representatives from DLW, DGGs, DFG, and NPS. DLW should seek a state position to prepare the applications. DLW will also supply graphics assistance. This group will combine fisheries, recreation, and hydrology information into a recommended instream flow application. Contingent on funding and staff, the applications will be filed jointly by DNR and DFG and will be adjudicated by DLW.

**8. Establish public facilities.** The division will work with the advisory board to establish priorities for the development of public facilities identified by the plan.

## C. DIVISION OF MINING (DOM)

**1. Field inspections.** Make at least annual field inspections of active mining claims on Lake Creek.

## D. DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL & GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS (DGGs)

**1. Initiate boat erosion study.** Initiate a study of the effects of boat-induced erosion on the Little Susitna River. This river was selected for study because of its high level of boat use, narrow width, erodible banks, and accessibility.

**2. Instream flow.** Continue to monitor stream flow on Lake Creek, the Talachulitna River, and Alexander Creek.

**3. Evaluate erosion control structures.** The division will assist in evaluating erosion control structures and the effects on flow regime. In addition, the division will continue to evaluate stream flow on all Recreation Rivers as necessary for instream flow reservations.

**4. Lake Creek.** Conduct base-line monitoring of water quality of Lake, Camp, and Sunflower creeks (in cooperation with DEC) adjacent to the area open to new mineral entry under the leasehold location system.

## E. DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOORS RECREATION (DOPOR)

**A. Cooperative management agreement.** DLW and DOPOR should develop a cooperative management agreement(s) to ensure efficient management of state land and waters in areas managed by either of the two divisions in or adjacent to the Recreation Rivers.



## 2. Alaska Department of Fish and Game

The Department of Fish and Game has several ongoing and proposed research projects to obtain information on fish and wildlife populations, and human uses of fish and wildlife resources in the Susitna Recreation Rivers. The information generated by these projects is essential for managing the river. In addition, DFG should initiate management actions that ensure consistent and efficient management between the DFG and DNR on the Recreation Rivers.

## A. DIVISION OF HABITAT

**1. Identify sites for general stream crossing.** To reduce the need for construction of additional bridges within the Recreation Rivers, the division should work with user groups to identify appropriate crossing points that may be authorized for use under a general permit (AS 16.05.870).

**2. Adopt consistent camping regulations.** Adopt camping regulations similar to those applied to the Little Susitna Recreation River within the Susitna Flats Game Refuge, to provide consistent management for all along the Little Susitna River.

**3. Initiate cooperative management agreement.** Develop a cooperative management agreement with DLW for the management of the areas below ordinary high water and adjacent to the Little Susitna River within the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge.

**4. Boating regulations for the Susitna Flats Game Refuge.** Adopt the following boating regulations for the Susitna Flats Game Refuge to make them consistent with boating regulations in the Recreation Rivers and to protect public safety in congested areas.

**NON-MOTORIZED AREA:** Plan Boundary to Little Susitna River access Road (RM 28.6 - 33.1)

**Weekends:** The first and third weekend of each month. (12:01 a.m. Saturday to midnight Sunday).

**Season:** May 15 to August 20.

**POWERBOATS-ONLY AREA:** River segment is the same as above non-motorized area.

**Weekends:** The second and fourth weekends of each month (12:01 a.m. Saturday to midnight Sunday).

**Season:** May 15 to August 20.

**Justification:** To provide consistent management of boating between the Little Susitna Recreation River and the Game Refuge. The week days and fifth weekend in each month during this period shall have no-boating restrictions. See justification for non-motorized and powerboats-only areas for the Little Susitna River in Chapter 3.

**NO-WAKE AREA:** One mile below the Little Susitna River Access Road and just above My Creek (RM 27.6 - 29.5).

**Season:** May 15 to August 20.

**Justification:** This area is heavily used by bank anglers. The only boat launch on the lower Little Susitna River is located in this area. The river segment is narrow and includes several blind bends. The no-wake area will reduce conflicts between powerboaters and bank anglers, and reduce the risk of collisions near the boat launch. DFG may adjust the size of this proposed no-wake area to meet this management intent.

**SAFETY CONCERNS IN THE SUSITNA FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE.** DFG should address the following safety concerns:

**Location:** Old FAA station on lower Little Susitna River to just above the weir (RM 17.0 - 33.1)

**Season:** Peak-use season

**Justification:** More complaints were heard from the public concerning boating-related accidents within the game refuge than in any other part of the Recreation Rivers. The primary area of concern is above the old FAA station. The Department of Fish and Game should address these concerns. Horsepower limits and hull size limitations were discussed by the advisory board but no specific solution is recommended at this time.

## B. DIVISION OF SPORT FISHERIES

**1. Initiate research on effects of boats on fisheries.** Conduct a cooperative study with the University of Alaska to evaluate the effects of jet boat use on fish habitat.

**2. Cook Inlet rainbow trout studies.** Conduct study on the biology and harvest of wild rainbow trout in several Susitna Basin streams. Studies should focus on Lake Creek, Talachulitna River, and Deshka River.

**3. Stock origins of coho salmon in Upper Cook Inlet.** Develop a research plan to identify wild and hatchery coho salmon stocks in Cook Inlet sport and commercial fisheries. Identification of coho salmon stocks is required to improve the management of both commercial and sport fisheries.

**4. Creel and escapement studies of chinook and coho salmon stocks of the Little Susitna River.** Provide information on the sport harvest, escapement, and biology of chinook and coho salmon in the Little Susitna River. Estimates of the contribution of stocked coho salmon to sport harvest and enhancement will also be obtained.

**5. Creel and escapement studies of chinook salmon in northern Cook Inlet.** Provide information on sport harvest, escapement, and biology of chinook salmon in Lake Creek and several other Susitna Basin streams. Counted chinook salmon spawners will be in the Talachulitna, Deshka, and Alexander Rivers and in Clear Creek, among other northern Cook Inlet streams.

Implementation

**6. Northern Cook Inlet chinook and coho salmon escapement.** In cooperation with project 3, above, evaluate the return of hatchery-reared coho salmon to the Little Susitna River.

**7. Instream flow.** The division will supply information on fisheries resource location, timing, and flow needs in cooperation with the Division of Habitat.

**8. Recommendation to Board of Fish.** Consistent with conserving fisheries resources, the division should recommend to the Board of Fish that lower Moose Creek be open to king salmon harvest.

### C. DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

**1. Lower Susitna moose population identification and movements study.** This study will provide information on moose populations, movements, biology, and habitat preferences in the Susitna Valley including in all of the Recreation River corridors.

### 3. Department of Public Safety



### DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION

**Enforcement.** Provide enforcement staff on the rivers as budget and staffing allow.

### 4. Matanuska-Susitna Borough



### A. PARKS AND RECREATION

**Initiate cooperative management agreement.** Enter into a cooperative management agreement with DNR to ensure compatible management of public lands on the lower Deshka River (including the mouth).

### B. PLANNING

**Develop comprehensive plans.** Develop a comprehensive plan (in addition to the Talkeetna River plan currently underway) for areas within the Recreation Rivers, to ensure that uses of private lands within the corridors do not significantly degrade fish, wildlife, or recreation values.

## 5. United States Coast Guard

### A. ENFORCEMENT

Increase patrols on the six Recreation Rivers, especially during the peak fishing season near the river mouths.

### B. NAVIGABILITY DETERMINATION

Clarify which of the Recreation Rivers are navigable.

## 6. National Park Service

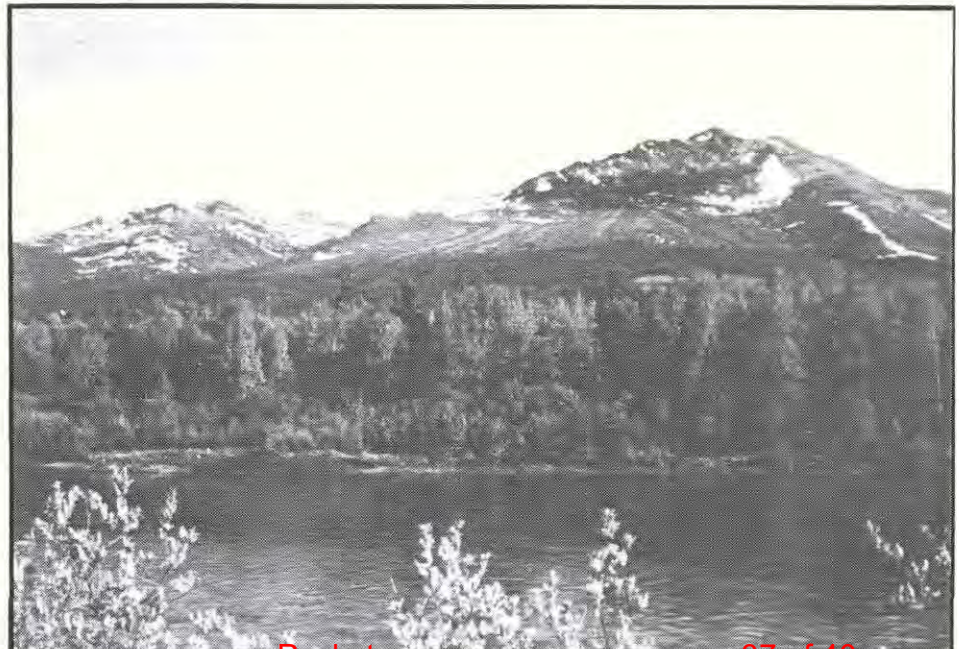
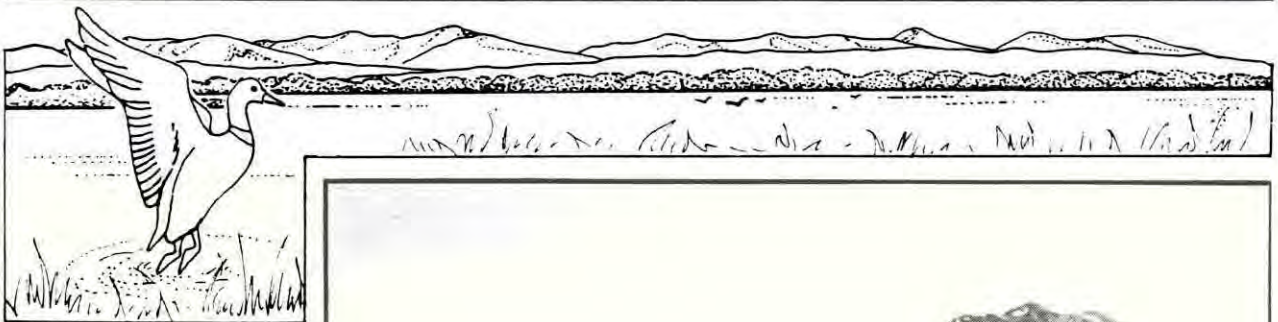
### INSTREAM FLOW

Complete its report "Instream Flow Needs for Recreation" which includes information to be used in the instream flow applications.



## Appendices

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# Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan

The Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan includes corridors approximately one-mile wide along six rivers. The corridors exclude private and borough lands. This map shows land ownership within the corridors, however some small parcels are not shown due to the limitations of this map scale. For more detailed land ownership information, see the official status plats at the Department of Natural Resources or the Matanuska-Susitna Borough office.



## STATE OWNED LAND - MANAGEMENT INTENT

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| □ CLASS I AREA  | ■ BOROUGH LAND (within RR Corridor)              |
| ■ CLASS II AREA   | ■ PRIVATE LAND (within RR Corridor)              |
| ■ CLASS III AREA  | ○ RIVER MILE                                     |
| * PUBLIC USE SITE   | — MANAGEMENT UNIT BOUNDARY                       |
| ■ SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA<br>(motor restrictions do not apply if in non-motorized area) | — SUBUNIT BOUNDARY                               |
| BOATING   | ■ PROPOSED ADDITIONS<br>TO THE RECREATION RIVERS |
| → SEASONAL NON-MOTORIZED AREAS  |  |
| ▲ VOLUNTARY NO-WAKE AREAS   |  |

May 1994

Alaska Department of Natural Resources





THE STATE  
of ALASKA

GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

## Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF OIL &amp; GAS

550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1100

Anchorage, AK 99501-3563

Main: 907.269-8800

Fax: 907-269-8939

**News Release: Sustina Valley Gas Exploration License Public Comment  
Period Extended.**

January 11, 2022

**Comment Period Extended: Notice of Issuance of the  
Susitna Valley Gas Exploration Licenses  
Preliminary Written Finding of the Director**

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Oil and Gas (DO&G), gives notice under AS 38.05.945(a)(6) that it has issued the Susitna Valley Gas Exploration Licenses Preliminary Written Finding of the Director, and that the director has preliminarily found that disposing of the Susitna Valley Gas Exploration Licenses is in the best interests of the state.

The public comment deadline has been extended. The preliminary best interest finding is now available for public comment. The finding will be revised as needed and any relevant information and issues brought up during the public comment period will be incorporated in the final finding as necessary. If the director determines the proposed licenses are in the best interests of the state, DO&G may award the exploration licenses to the Alaska Natural Gas Corporation to explore gas on state-owned unencumbered lands within the License Areas (AS 38.05.132(b)).

The Preliminary Best Interest Finding is available on DO&G's website at <http://dog.dnr.alaska.gov/Services/ExplorationLicensing?page=explorationlicensing>

**How to Submit Comments to DO&G**

Send comments to:

Best Interest Findings

500 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1100, Anchorage, AK 99501

or email to: [dog.bif@alaska.gov](mailto:dog.bif@alaska.gov)

**Comments must be received by 5:00 pm, February 21, 2022.**

The DO&G complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act 1990. If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in this process, please contact DO&G by electronic mail at [dog.bif@alaska.gov](mailto:dog.bif@alaska.gov) or (907)269-8800 not later than February 4, 2022, to ensure that any necessary accommodation can be provided.

A person is eligible to file a request for appeal of the director's decision and file a subsequent appeal to the Superior Court only if the person has meaningfully participated in the process by either submitting written comment during the period for receipt of public comment or has presented oral testimony at a public hearing, if a public hearing was held, and is affected by the final written finding (AS 38.05.035(i)).

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 Questions? Chat  
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Online