

Legislatively Designated Areas

Much of the state land within the planning boundary is situated in seven Legislatively Designated Areas (LDA), encompassing a total of 3 million acres out of the 9 million acres of state land within the plan boundary. The bulk of the acreage is associated with just three LDAs: State Recreation Rivers (Alexander Creek SRR, Kroto & Moose Creek SRR, Lake Creek SRR, Talkeetna River SRR and Talachulitna River SRR) totaling approximately 225,000 acres, Denali and Chugach State Parks (approximately 323,000 acres), and, particularly, the Nelchina Public Use Area (Approximately 2.25 million acres). The remaining acreage is associated with the Petersville Recreational Mining Area, (487 acres), Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area (288 acres), the Matanuska Valley Moose Range (approximately 122,000 acres) and a portion of the Chugach State Park (approximately 14,000 acres). However, three LDAs border but are not included in the planning area (Susitna Flats State Game Refuge, Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge, and Knik River Public Use Area). Similarly, the Hatcher Pass management area borders the planning area but is not included in it. The Department is responsible for the administration of each LDA except for the management of fish and game resources, which is the responsibility of ADF&G.

Legislatively Designated Areas are special purpose sites that are managed according to the requirements of the legislation specific to the site and to the general class of LDA⁷, and any subsequent management plans or regulations that implement the requirements of the legislation. The effect of the LDA designation is to reserve state land out of the public domain and use or protect them for the purposes stipulated in enabling legislation.

For these reasons, area plans do not apply to the types of LDAs in the planning boundary, except for the plan designation that is assigned, which is subsequently converted to a land classification in a Land Classification Order. Certain types of authorizations issued by the Department involve a disposal of state land, and administrative regulation requires that the land, with certain exceptions, must first be classified before it is conveyed out of state ownership. A plan designation is not required for State Parks, however. In general, the LDAs within the plan boundary are assigned the designations of Habitat or Public Recreation, or both, reflecting the intent of the legislation that created the LDA. These plan designations are not intended to provide the general management direction similar to the way that designations are applied in other parts of this plan, however. Management direction for authorizations within LDAs is provided either through the enabling legislation, state administrative regulation, or a management plan specific to the LDA. If management plans or administrative regulations are not available, the general management intent specific to the LDA or to the category of LDA are to be followed.

⁷ Article VIII, paragraph 7 of the State Constitution.

The LDAs that are the subject of this discussion are contained in all plan maps.

The following Resource Management Table identifies the seven LDAs. It gives their plan designation, management purposes (which are usually related to statutory purposes), and specifies if a management plan exists that guides Department decision making for the specific LDA.

Resource Allocation Table – Legislatively Designated Areas

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Administrative Aspects and Other
L-01	Ha/Rd 224,714	Maps 3-1, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-9, 3-10 Various	State Recreational Rivers: Manage uses consistent with the legislative purposes described in AS 41.23.500 and with the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan. DMLW is responsible for the management of State Recreational Rivers.	The requirements of this area plan do not apply to State Recreation Rivers. SRRs are closed to locatable mineral entry, but are open to coal and mineral leasing and to oil and gas exploration and development. Specific regulations exist that provide management guidance to DMLW.
L-02	Mi 775	Map 3-9 S028N008W Map 3-3 S020N010E	Petersville Mining Area: Manage uses consistent with the legislative purposes described in AS 41.23.630 and with the management plan required under AS 41.23.630(b). Caribou Creek Mining Area: Manage uses consist with the legislative purposes the requirements of AS 41.23.610(b). When prepared and adopted, also manage this area consistent with the management plan. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	Petersville Mining Area: a management plan, required by statute, has not been prepared (2010). Area is closed to mineral entry, but is open to recreational mining. Multiple uses activities are permitted within the Recreational Mining Area (RMA) insofar as they do not detract from the primary purpose for which the RMA was established. DNR is to permit the construction and realignment of the Petersville Road by ADOT/PF. RST 565 crosses this unit. Caribou Creek Mining Area: a management plan, required by statute, has not been prepared (2010). Area is closed to mineral entry, but is open to recreational mining under AS 41.23.600 – 41.23.620. DNR is to permit the construction and realignment of the Glenn Highway by ADOT/PF. The requirements of this plan do not apply to State Recreational Mining Areas.
L-03	Ha 2,247,416	Maps 3-2, 3-3, 3-4 Various	Nelchina Public Use Area: Manage uses consistent with the legislative purposes described in AS 41.23.010 and with the management plan required under AS 41.23.020, when prepared. Prepare a management plan, required under AS 41.23.020 for the PUA. Until that plan is developed the designations of Wildlife Habitat and Public Recreation-Dispersed apply; management of the Nelchina PUA is to be consistent with the protection of wildlife species, their associated habitats, and with the PUA specific standards of AS 41.23.010. Subsequent to its adoption, authorizations and management actions within the PUA are to be consistent with that plan.	The PUA is open to mineral entry under AS 41.20.020(c), with the exploration, development, and extraction of mineral resources to occur in a manner consistent with the purposes specified in AS 41.23.010(1-4). The management of the surface and subsurface is the responsibility of DNR. ADF&G is responsible for the management of fish and game resources and public use of fish and wildlife. DNR may not manage the PUA as a unit of the state park system. (The latter limits the authority to manage land by DPOR if a management agreement between DMLW and DPOR is created that assigns certain aspects of management to DPOR.) Note: the management plan, required by statute, has not been prepared (2010).

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Administrative Aspects and Other
L--04	None (refer to statutes establishing the parks) 337,608	Maps 3-1, 3-9 Various	Denali State Park and Chugach State Park: Manage State Parks consistent with the general purposes for state park management under AS 41.21 and with the requirements of the respective state park management plans. Note: DPOR is responsible for the management of the State Parks.	The requirements of this area plan do not apply to Denali and Chugach state parks.
L-05	Co, Ha 121,913	Map 3-4 Various	Matanuska Valley Moose Range: Manage uses consistent with the legislative purposes described in AS 16.20.340 and the Matanuska Valley Moose Range Management Plan (1986).	The PUA is open to coal exploration and development under the coal leasing procedures. It is also open to locatable and leasable minerals, except for Mental Health Trusts Lands, which follow specific procedures for mineral and coal exploration and development. However, there are Mineral Closing Orders affecting a small portion of this unit. The management of the surface and subsurface is the responsibility of DNR. ADF&G is responsible for the management of fish and game resources and public use of fish and wildlife. The requirements of this area plan do not apply to the Moose Range.

Total LDA land within the planning area (5 LDAs) – 2,932,426 acres