

Material Sites

Goal

Land for State-Owned Materials Sites. Maintain in state ownership and make available to public and private users sufficient, suitably located materials sites to economically meet long-term economic needs of the area for material resources.

Management Guidelines

A. Preferred Material Sites⁶. When responding to a request for a material sale or identifying a source for materials, the highest priority should be given to using existing material sources. Using materials from wetlands or lakes should be avoided unless no feasible public upland alternative exists. As a general policy, sales or permits for gravel extraction should only be permitted in known fish spawning areas or within 100 feet of known spawning areas with ADF&G approval. Material sites shall be maintained in public ownership unless the management intent language for a specific management unit indicates that it may be appropriate for alternative uses. To minimize construction and maintenance cost of transportation facilities, material sites should be located as near as is feasible to where the material will be used⁷.

B. Maintaining Other Uses and Resources When Siting, Operating or Closing Material Sites. The disposal of materials should be consistent with the applicable management intent statement and management guidelines of the plan. In some instances, areas occupied by a material site may be appropriate for reuse for settlement or another form of development. When this occurs, this is noted in the 'management intent' of the affected unit and reuse of the parcel for the intended use is appropriate. If this occurs, the reclamation plan shall take this into consideration and not preclude possible reuse.

C. Land Sales in Areas of High Material Potential. Generally, if a settlement area contains sand and gravel deposits, rock sources or other similar, high value material resources, a material source area should be identified during subdivision design and retained in state ownership for future use.

⁶ Material sites are the sites where materials are developed. They are generally located within or near transportation corridors.

⁷ Consultation of the following reference is advised: North Slope Gravel Pit Performance Guidelines. McLean, R.F. 1993. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat and Restoration Division, Juneau, AK, Technical Report No. 93-9, 97 pp. Document available for download at http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/home/library/pdfs/habitat/93_09.pdf

D. Avoidance or Minimization of Impacts. Material extraction sites are to be sited so that they avoid or minimize impacts, including but not limited to noise and dust, to adjacent residential or institutional areas (i.e., schools).

E. Screening and Rehabilitation. Where topographic and vegetation allow, material sites should be screened from roads, residential areas, recreational areas, and other areas of significant human use. Sufficient land should be allocated to the material site to allow for such screening. Material extraction sites adjacent to the Parks Highway shall provide a vegetation buffer of 75' or more. Rehabilitation of the site shall follow the requirements of AS 27.19.020 and 11 AAC 97.250.

F. Protection Area Adjacent to Anadromous or High Value Resident Fish Waterbodies. Where topography and vegetation allow, a riparian buffer of at least 100' shall be provided adjacent to anadromous waterbodies. The adjudicator is to review the DMLW on-line procedures pertinent to riparian buffers and Management Guidelines B, D, E, H and I in the 'Shorelands and Stream Corridors' section of this chapter prior to issuing an authorization or disposing of an interest in state land to determine the amount of area to protect and the type of management stipulation to impose.

G. Coordination with Boroughs. Prior to granting authorizations for material sales, the DNR should coordinate with the North Star and Denali Boroughs to determine applicable local land use requirements.

H. Development of Material Sites. Materials sites are surface resources that occur in specific geologic locations. It is recognized that the use and development of material resources will create some level and area of impact. Nonetheless, the state may determine that the development of material resources is appropriate, with appropriate stipulations. It is also recognized that the development of specific material resources may take precedence over surface uses. Material sites are necessary to and are a type of use that is often associated with the construction and maintenance of roads, and therefore an essential component of the road construction process. They may also provide access to other state resources, such as forest stands in the Tanana Valley State Forest. The provision of access to forest resources is appropriate if not in conflict with material extraction activities.

I. Management of Material Sites Near Critical Infrastructure. Construction materials resources are required for the development, maintenance, and expansion of critical infrastructure including roads, pipelines, airports, businesses, residences, utilities, communication facilities, and similar types of projects. Transport of materials over any significant distance (e.g., more than 1000 feet from an existing road) quickly makes their use cost prohibitive, and therefore lack of materials sites within a reasonable distance from projects effectively prevents maintenance and development activities that are necessary and/or desirable. Recognizing the critical need for construction materials resources wherever infrastructure is present or planned, generalized management for materials resources is appropriate and encouraged within 1000 feet of existing and planned infrastructure to facilitate appropriate development and maintenance activities.

Consideration should be given to the identification of material sites near such projects. Because of the importance of such sites, their siting is appropriate within areas designated Settlement, Resource Management, and Agriculture and may, with mitigation requirements, be appropriate in areas designated Habitat, Public Recreation, or Water Resources. See Management Guideline R, in the 'Fish and Wildlife Habitat' section of this chapter. This management guideline is also applicable to the development of material extraction sites.

J. Other Guidelines Affecting Materials. Other guidelines will affect the use of material resources. See other sections of this chapter.