

# Eastern Tanana Area Plan

Adopted August 2015



Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Mining, Land & Water  
Resource Assessment & Development Section

# **Eastern Tanana Area Plan**

**Adopted August 2015**



Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Mining, Land & Water  
Resource Assessment & Development Section

Cover photos courtesy of  
Mike Records

This document has been released by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land & Water, for the purpose of informing the public about the Public Review Draft of the Eastern Tanana Area Plan, at a cost of \$25.80 per copy, in Anchorage, Alaska.

## Preface

This plan is a revision of the eastern portion of the Tanana Basin Area Plan that was updated in 1991. It was developed by the Department of Natural Resources with generous assistance from a number of representatives from several State agencies. The following people contributed their time and technical expertise to provide, review, and discuss plan related information; draft, review, and edit plan text; and, assistance in resolving plan issues. The Resource Assessment and Development Section staff appreciate the contributions made not only by the staff, but also the people that took their time to attend meetings, review the document, and provide their input to the Department.

**DNR, Division of Mining, Land & Water, Resource Assessment and Development Section:** Mark Henspeter, Ruth Booth, Ray Keough, Bruce Phelps, Brittany Smith, Philana Miles, Jessica Miller, and Brandon McCutcheon.

**DNR, Division of Mining, Land & Water, Land Sales Section:**  
Tim Shilling, Nikki Potter.

**DNR, Division of Mining, Land & Water, Northern Regional Land Office:**  
Jeanne Proulx, AJ Wait, Dianna Leinberger, Chris Milles, Julie Smith.

**DNR, Division of Mining, Land & Water, Mining Section:**  
Jack Kerin, Brent Martellaro, Bill Cole.

**DNR, Division of Mining, Land & Water, Water Resources Section:**  
David Schade.

**DNR, Division of Forestry:**  
James Schwarber, Jeffery Hermanns, Doug Hanson, Peter Talus, Al Edgeron.

**DNR, Division of Agriculture:**  
Dan Proulx.

**DNR, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation:**  
Brooks Ludwig, Richard Vanderhoek, Shina Duvall.

**DNR, Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys**  
Dr. David Szumigala.

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game:**  
Marla Carter and Jeff Gross.

# Table of Contents

## Chapter 1 Introduction

|                                                       |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Introduction and Background .....                     | 1 - 1  |
| Summary of Purpose of the Plan .....                  | 1 - 1  |
| Description of the Planning Area.....                 | 1 - 1  |
| Uplands and Shorelands as Described in This Plan..... | 1 - 2  |
| Update of the Original Tanana Basin Area Plan.....    | 1 - 2  |
| Planning Area.....                                    | 1 - 3  |
| Overall Plan Summary .....                            | 1 - 7  |
| How the Plan is Organized .....                       | 1 - 7  |
| Why This Plan Was Developed .....                     | 1 - 8  |
| The Mandate .....                                     | 1 - 8  |
| What the Plan Will Do.....                            | 1 - 9  |
| What the Plan Won't Do.....                           | 1 - 9  |
| How This Plan is Used.....                            | 1 - 10 |
| Public Participation in Planning Process .....        | 1 - 10 |
| Process of Plan Preparation .....                     | 1 - 11 |
| Who Developed the Plan?.....                          | 1 - 11 |
| Uses and Resources Within the Planning Area.....      | 1 - 11 |
| Planning Period.....                                  | 1 - 13 |
| Summary of Plan Actions .....                         | 1 - 14 |
| Management Intent .....                               | 1 - 14 |
| Land Use Designations .....                           | 1 - 14 |
| Management Guidelines .....                           | 1 - 14 |
| Classifications.....                                  | 1 - 14 |
| Summary of Plan Implementation and Modification.....  | 1 - 15 |

## Chapter 2 Areawide Land Management Policies

|                                                           |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Introduction.....                                         | 2 - 1 |
| Definitions.....                                          | 2 - 1 |
| Goals .....                                               | 2 - 1 |
| Management Intent .....                                   | 2 - 2 |
| General Framework of the Plan .....                       | 2 - 2 |
| Management Guidelines by Activity or Resource Value ..... | 2 - 3 |
| General Guidelines.....                                   | 2 - 4 |
| Other State Land .....                                    | 2 - 4 |

|                                                                         |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Agriculture and Grazing .....                                           | 2 - 5  |
| Agriculture .....                                                       | 2 - 5  |
| Management Guidelines .....                                             | 2 - 6  |
| Grazing.....                                                            | 2 - 7  |
| Management Guidelines .....                                             | 2 - 8  |
| Coordination and Public Notice.....                                     | 2 - 10 |
| Management Guidelines .....                                             | 2 - 10 |
| Cultural Resources .....                                                | 2 - 12 |
| Management Guidelines .....                                             | 2 - 12 |
| Fish and Wildlife Habitat.....                                          | 2 - 14 |
| Management Guidelines .....                                             | 2 - 14 |
| Forestry .....                                                          | 2 - 23 |
| Management Guidelines .....                                             | 2 - 25 |
| Material Sites .....                                                    | 2 - 31 |
| Management Guidelines .....                                             | 2 - 31 |
| Public Access .....                                                     | 2 - 34 |
| Management Guidelines: General Public Access .....                      | 2 - 34 |
| Management Guidelines: Access Within and Between Developing Areas ..... | 2 - 36 |
| Recreation and Scenic Resources .....                                   | 2 - 39 |
| Management Guidelines .....                                             | 2 - 39 |
| Reservations of Water.....                                              | 2 - 42 |
| Management Guidelines .....                                             | 2 - 42 |
| Settlement .....                                                        | 2 - 43 |
| Management Guidelines .....                                             | 2 - 46 |
| Shorelands and Stream Corridors .....                                   | 2 - 51 |
| Management Guidelines .....                                             | 2 - 51 |
| Subsurface Resources .....                                              | 2 - 58 |
| Management Guidelines .....                                             | 2 - 58 |

## **Chapter 3**

### **Land Management Policies for Each Management Unit**

|                                           |        |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|
| Introduction.....                         | 3 - 1  |
| Organization of Chapter.....              | 3 - 2  |
| Land Use Designations .....               | 3 - 7  |
| Designations Used in This Plan .....      | 3 - 8  |
| Explanation of Mineral Designations ..... | 3 - 12 |
| Management Intent .....                   | 3 - 12 |
| Management Guidelines .....               | 3 - 14 |
| Duration and Flexibility of Plan .....    | 3 - 15 |
| Glossary .....                            | 3 - 15 |

|                                                                  |         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Plan Structure.....                                              | 3 - 15  |
| Plan Regions .....                                               | 3 - 15  |
| Management Units .....                                           | 3 - 17  |
| Region Descriptions.....                                         | 3 - 18  |
| Plan Maps.....                                                   | 3 - 19  |
| Land Status Depicted In Plan Maps.....                           | 3 - 19  |
| Resource Allocation Table.....                                   | 3 - 20  |
| Fairbanks Region (1).....                                        | 3 - 23  |
| Resource Allocation Table – Fairbanks Region (1).....            | 3 - 30  |
| Delta Region (2).....                                            | 3 - 77  |
| Resource Allocation Table – Delta Region (2).....                | 3 - 85  |
| Upper Tanana Region (3).....                                     | 3 - 115 |
| Resource Allocation Table – Upper Tanana Region (3).....         | 3 - 120 |
| Alaska Range East Region (4) .....                               | 3 - 149 |
| Resource Allocation Table – Alaska Range East (4).....           | 3 - 153 |
| Legislatively Designated Areas .....                             | 3 - 159 |
| Resource Allocation Table – Legislatively Designated Areas ..... | 3 - 161 |
| Navigable Rivers and Lakes .....                                 | 3 - 165 |
| Management Intent of Navigable Waterbodies .....                 | 3 - 165 |
| Public Trust Doctrine.....                                       | 3 - 165 |
| Management Intent: Specific Rivers and Lakes .....               | 3 - 167 |
| Management Intent: Other Rivers and Lakes .....                  | 3 - 167 |

## **Chapter 4**

### **Implementation and Recommendations**

|                                                                                                                        |        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Introduction.....                                                                                                      | 4 - 1  |
| State Land Classification .....                                                                                        | 4 - 1  |
| Relationship of Land Use Designations in the Plan to State Land Classifications.....                                   | 4 - 4  |
| Public Trust Doctrine.....                                                                                             | 4 - 4  |
| Leasing of State Land .....                                                                                            | 4 - 6  |
| Classification Order .....                                                                                             | 4 - 6  |
| Applicability of Plan Designations/Classifications to State Lands not Identified in the<br>Plan Text or Plan Maps..... | 4 - 7  |
| Survivor Designations and Classifications .....                                                                        | 4 - 9  |
| Municipal Entitlement .....                                                                                            | 4 - 9  |
| State Land Selections.....                                                                                             | 4 - 9  |
| State Land Selections.....                                                                                             | 4 - 9  |
| ANILCA Topfiled Lands.....                                                                                             | 4 - 10 |
| Public Land Orders .....                                                                                               | 4 - 11 |
| Mineral and Leasehold Location Orders.....                                                                             | 4 - 11 |
| Legislatively Designated Areas .....                                                                                   | 4 - 12 |
| Existing Legislatively Designated Areas.....                                                                           | 4 - 12 |
| Additions to Legislatively Designated Areas .....                                                                      | 4 - 12 |

|                               |        |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Transportation Corridors..... | 4 - 13 |
| Generally Allowed Uses .....  | 4 - 14 |
| Types of Plan Changes.....    | 4 - 14 |

## Appendices

|                                                  |       |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Appendix A.....                                  | A - 1 |
| Glossary .....                                   | A - 1 |
| Appendix B.....                                  | B - 1 |
| Land Classification Order No. NC-10-004.....     | B - 1 |
| Appendix C-1.....                                | C - 1 |
| Mineral Leasehold Location Order No. 39.....     | C - 1 |
| Appendix C-2.....                                | C - 7 |
| Mineral Leasehold Location Order No. 14A01 ..... | C - 7 |
| Appendix D.....                                  | D - 1 |
| Mineral Order (Closing) 1145 .....               | D - 1 |
| Appendix E .....                                 | E - 1 |
| Reservations of Water.....                       | E - 1 |

## Maps

|                                                                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Map 1-1: Planning Area.....                                                          | 1 - 5   |
| Map 2-1: Lands to be Considered for Inclusion in the Tanana Valley State Forest..... | 2 - 29  |
| Map 3-1: Planning Area, Regions, Generalized Land Status .....                       | 3 - 3   |
| Map 3-1a: Planning Area, Regions, and Unit Boundaries.....                           | 3 - 5   |
| Map 3-2: Fairbanks Region Boundary and Unit Boundaries.....                          | 3 - 67  |
| Map 3-2a: Fairbanks Region, Fairbanks Area Detail and Unit Boundaries .....          | 3 - 69  |
| Map 3-2b: Fairbanks Region, Salcha Area Detail and Unit Boundaries .....             | 3 - 71  |
| Map 3-3: Delta Region Boundary and Unit Boundaries.....                              | 3 - 103 |
| Map 3-3a: Delta Region, Delta Junction Area Detail and Unit Boundaries .....         | 3 - 105 |
| Map 3-4: Upper Tanana Region Boundary and Unit Boundaries.....                       | 3 - 135 |
| Map 3-4a: Upper Tanana Region, Tok Area Detail and Unit Boundaries.....              | 3 - 137 |
| Map 3-5: Alaska Range East Region Boundary and Unit Designations .....               | 3 - 147 |
| Map 3-6: Legislatively Designated Areas.....                                         | 3 - 153 |
| Map C-1: Lands to be Included in Leasehold Location Order 39 .....                   | C - 5   |
| Map D-1: Mineral Order (Closing) 1145.....                                           | D - 3   |

## Figures

|                                                                                                   |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Figure 1-1: Submerged Lands, Tidelands, Uplands, and Shorelands<br>as Described in This Plan..... | 1 - 2 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|



## Tables

|                                                                                                                             |         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Table 1-1: Generalized Acreage and Ownership .....                                                                          | 1 - 1   |
| Table 2-1: Lands to be Considered for Legislative Designation as State Forest<br>Management Units .....                     | 2 - 28  |
| Table 2-2: Application Requirements for Easements and Buffers Along Waterbodies<br>and Related Environmental Features ..... | 2 - 56  |
| Table 3-1: Navigable Waters – Selected Streams .....                                                                        | 3 - 168 |
| Table 3-2: Navigable Waters – Selected Lakes .....                                                                          | 3 - 170 |
| Table 4-1: Acreages Associated with Land Designations and Co-designations.....                                              | 4 - 4   |
| Table 4-2: Land Designations – Conversion to Classifications.....                                                           | 4 - 5   |
| Table 4-3: Acreages Associated with Land Classifications and Co-classifications .....                                       | 4 - 7   |
| Table C-1: Units Affected By LLO No. 39 .....                                                                               | C - 3   |