

Summary of Statutory Purpose Statements for Legislatively Designated Areas (LDA)

Constitution of the State of Alaska, Article VIII – Natural Resources; § 7. Special Purpose Sites:

The legislature may provide for the acquisition of sites, objects, and areas of natural beauty or of historic, cultural, recreational, or scientific value. It may reserve them from the public domain and provide for their administration and preservation for the use, enjoyment, and welfare of the people.

I. Sanctuaries Purpose Statements:

Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary, AS 16.20.090(b): The purpose of AS 16.20.090 — 16.20.098 is to protect the walruses and other game on the Walrus Islands.

Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary, AS 16.20.150(b): The Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary is established to provide permanent protection for brown bears, other fish and wildlife populations, and their habitats in the area so that these resources may be preserved for scientific, aesthetic, and educational purposes.

McNeil River State Game Sanctuary, AS 16.20.162(a): The McNeil River State Game Sanctuary is established to

- (1) provide permanent protection for brown bear and other fish and wildlife populations and their habitats, so that these resources may be preserved for scientific, aesthetic, and educational purposes;
- (2) manage human use and activities in a way that is compatible with (1) of this subsection and to maintain and enhance the unique bear viewing opportunities within the sanctuary; and
- (3) provide opportunities that are compatible with (1) of this subsection for wildlife viewing, fisheries enhancement, and fishing, for temporary safe anchorage, and for other activities.

II. Fish and Game Critical Habitat Areas Purpose Statements:

The purpose of AS 16.20.500 — 16.20.690 is to protect and preserve habitat areas especially crucial to the perpetuation of fish and wildlife, and to restrict all other uses not compatible with that primary purpose.

Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area, AS 16.20.610(a): The purpose of the Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area is the protection and enhancement of the wet meadow habitat that is the key roosting area for migrating lesser sandhill cranes, for the protection of lesser sandhill cranes, and for the continued public use and enjoyment of the area.

III. Wildlife/Game Refuges Purpose Statements:

The purpose of AS 16.20.010 — 16.20.080 is to protect and preserve the natural habitat and game population in certain designated areas of the state.

Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, AS16.20.031: The following described state-owned land and water is established as the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge and shall be managed as a state game refuge for the protection of waterfowl, shorebirds, salmon, and other fish and wildlife species, and their habitat and for the use and enjoyment of the people of the state:

Yakataga State Game Refuge, AS 16.20.033(b): The Yakataga State Game Refuge is established to protect the

- (1) fish and wildlife habitat and populations, including salmon spawning and rearing habitat and critical goat and moose winter habitat;
- (2) public uses of fish and wildlife and their habitat, particularly commercial, sport, and subsistence fishing, hunting, viewing, photography, and general public recreation in a high quality environment; and
- (3) the use and disposition of other resources when the activities are not inconsistent with (1) and (2) of this subsection.

Susitna Flats State Game Refuge, AS 16.20.036(b): The Susitna Flats State Game Refuge is established to protect the following:

- (1) fish and wildlife habitat and populations, particularly waterfowl nesting, feeding, and migration areas; moose calving areas; spring and fall bear feeding areas; salmon spawning and rearing habitats;
- (2) public uses of fish and wildlife and their habitat, particularly waterfowl, moose, and bear hunting; viewing; photography; and general public recreation in a high quality environment.

Minto Flats State Game Refuge, AS 16.20.037(b): The Minto Flats State Game Refuge is established to

- (1) ensure the protection and enhancement of habitat;
- (2) ensure the conservation of fish and wildlife; and
- (3) guarantee the continuation of hunting, fishing, trapping, and other uses by the public compatible with the protection and enhancement of habitat and the conservation of fish and wildlife.

Trading Bay State Game Refuge, AS 16.20.038(b): The Trading Bay State Game Refuge is established to protect the following:

- (1) fish and wildlife habitat and populations, particularly waterfowl nesting, feeding and migration areas; moose calving areas; spring and fall bear feeding areas; salmon spawning and rearing habitats;
- (2) public uses of fish and wildlife and their habitat, particularly waterfowl, moose and bear hunting; viewing; photography; and general public recreation in a high quality environment.

Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, AS 16.20.039(c): The Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge is established to provide the following:

- (1) protection and enhancement of habitat for migratory birds with special emphasis on waterfowl;
- (2) opportunity to view, photograph, and study various species of plants, wildlife and geological features typical to interior Alaska.

McNeil River State Game Refuge, AS 16.20.041(b): The McNeil River State Game Refuge is established to

- (1) provide permanent protection for brown bear and other fish and wildlife populations and their habitats, so that these resources may be preserved for scientific, aesthetic, and educational purposes;
- (2) manage human use and activities in a way that is compatible with (1) of this subsection and to maintain and enhance the unique bear viewing opportunities in the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary established under AS 16.20.160;
- (3) provide opportunities that are compatible with (1) of this subsection for wildlife viewing, fisheries enhancement, fishing, hunting, and trapping, for temporary safe anchorage, and for other activities.

IV. Wildlife Ranges Purpose Statements:

Delta Bison Range, AS 16.20.310: Game management plan for bison.

- (a) The commissioner shall develop and may amend a game management plan for bison in the area described in AS 16.20.300. After holding public hearings in accordance with AS 44.62.310 — 44.62.319 (Open Meetings Act), the commissioner shall implement the game management plan.
- (b) The game management plan must include, but is not limited to
 - (1) planting grains for bison and planting other wildlife forage;
 - (2) altering existing plant cover to create additional range and year-round habitat for bison and other animal species in the area;
 - (3) tilling to produce forage.
- (c) The commissioner shall develop and amend the game management plan to coordinate, as closely as possible, the game management plan with the activities of the Department of Natural Resources relating to the Big Delta agricultural development project.

Matanuska Valley Moose Range, AS 16.20.340: Purpose of Matanuska Valley Moose Range.

The purpose of AS 16.20.340 — 16.20.360 is to establish the area described in AS 16.20.360 as the Matanuska Valley Moose Range. The primary purposes of the Matanuska Valley Moose Range are to maintain, improve, and enhance moose populations and habitat and other wildlife resources of the area, and to perpetuate public multiple use of the area, including fishing, grazing, forest management, hunting, trapping, mineral and coal entry and development, and other forms of public use of public land not incompatible with the purpose stated in this section.

V. State Parks Purpose Statement:

State Park System, Parks and Recreational Facilities: AS 41.21.010. Purpose. It is the purpose of AS 41.21.010 — 41.21.040 to foster the growth and development of a system of parks and recreational facilities and opportunities in the state, for the general health, welfare, education, and enjoyment of its citizens and for the attraction of visitors to the state.

Wood-Tikchik State Park, AS 41.21.160: Purpose of AS 41.21.160 — 41.21.167.

The purpose of AS 41.21.160 — 41.21.167 is to establish the state-owned land and water areas described in AS 41.21.161 as the Wood-Tikchik State Park. The primary purposes of creating the Wood-Tikchik State Park are to protect the area's fish and wildlife breeding and support systems and to preserve the continued use of the area for subsistence and recreational activities. The state park is also created to protect the area's recreational and scenic resources. AS 41.21.160 — 41.21.167 are intended to close the described land and water to multiple-purpose use in conformity with AS 38.05.300 and to dedicate it as a special purpose site in accordance with art. VIII, § 7 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska.

Afognak Island State Park, AS 41.21.185: Purpose of AS 41.21.185 — 41.21.189.

(a) The purpose of AS 41.21.185 — 41.21.189 is to establish, subject to valid existing rights including those rights created by the Afognak Island Road Use Agreement executed on July 24, 1991, and as amended from time to time, the state-owned or acquired land and water described in AS 41.21.186 as the Afognak Island State Park. The primary purposes of establishing the Afognak Island State Park are to protect the area's recreational and scenic resources; to protect the area's fish and wildlife habitat; to preserve and enhance the continued use of the area for sport and subsistence hunting and fishing, personal use fishing, trapping, recreational activities, and commercial fishing; and to restore and enhance resources and services injured by the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Alaska Marine Parks, AS 41.21.300: Declaration of purpose.

(a) The purpose of AS 41.21.300 — 41.21.306 is to establish, subject to valid existing rights, the state-owned or acquired land and water described in AS 41.21.304 as marine park units of the Alaska state park system. The primary purposes in establishing the land and water areas described in AS 41.21.304 as marine park units of the Alaska state park system are to

- (1) maintain natural, cultural, and scenic values;
- (2) maintain fish and wildlife resources and lawful existing uses of these resources;
- (3) promote and support recreation and tourism in the state.

Shuyak Island State Park, AS 41.21.170: Declaration of purpose. (a) The purpose of AS 41.21.170 — 41.21.178 is to establish, subject to valid existing rights, the state-owned or acquired land and water described in AS 41.21.172 as the Shuyak Island State Park. In accordance with the covenants and deed restrictions set by the Kodiak Island Borough that support the basic tenets of the Alaska lifestyle, the primary purpose of establishing the Shuyak Island State Park is to preserve, protect, and enhance traditional public access to and use of the area's natural resources for various activities including sport and subsistence hunting, sport, subsistence, and commercial fishing, and trapping.

Point Bridget State Park, AS 41.21.180. Purpose of AS 41.21.180 — 41.21.183.

- (a) The purpose of AS 41.21.180 — 41.21.183 is to establish, subject to valid existing rights, the state-owned or acquired land described in AS 41.21.181 as the Point Bridget State Park. The primary purposes of establishing the Point Bridget State Park are to protect the area's recreational and scenic resources and to preserve and enhance the continued use of the area for hunting and fishing and recreational activities.

Afognak Island State Park, AS 41.21.185. Purpose of AS 41.21.185 — 41.21.189.

- (a) The purpose of AS 41.21.185 — 41.21.189 is to establish, subject to valid existing rights including those rights created by the Afognak Island Road Use Agreement executed on July 24, 1991, and as amended from time to time, the state-owned or acquired land and water described in AS 41.21.186 as the Afognak Island State Park. The primary purposes of establishing the Afognak Island State Park are to protect the area's recreational and scenic resources; to protect the area's fish and wildlife habitat; to preserve and enhance the continued use of the area for sport and subsistence hunting and fishing, personal use fishing, trapping, recreational activities, and commercial fishing; and to restore and enhance resources and services injured by the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Fort Rousseau Causeway State Historical Park, AS 41.21.190. Purpose of AS 41.21.190 — 41.21.194. The purpose of AS 41.21.190 — 41.21.194 is to establish, subject to valid existing rights, the state-owned or acquired land and water described in AS 41.21.191 as the Fort Rousseau Causeway State Historical Park. The primary purposes of establishing the land and water areas described in AS 41.21.191 as the Fort Rousseau Causeway State Historical Park are to promote, support, and preserve public use by maintaining and protecting the area's fish and wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and scenic values.

IV. Recreation Areas Purpose Statement:

Captain Cook State Recreation Area, AS 41.21.410. Purpose of AS 41.21.410 — 41.21.426. The purpose of AS 41.21.410 — 41.21.426 is to empower the governor to restrict state owned land and water described in AS 41.21.415, except as provided in AS 41.21.426, to use as a public recreation area. Under AS 38.05.300, state land, water, or land and water containing more than 640 acres may be closed to multiple purpose use only by act of the legislature. Because the area described in AS 41.21.415 exceeds 640 acres, AS 41.21.410 — 41.21.426 are intended to provide for the closing of the land and water described in AS 41.21.415, as that description is modified by AS 41.21.426, to multiple purpose use in conformity with AS 38.05.300 and its subsequent designation as a special purpose site in accordance with art. VIII, sec. 7, of the Constitution of the State of Alaska.

Caines Head State Recreation Area, AS 41.21.435. Authority to designate Caines Head State Recreation Area. The governor may designate by proclamation the state-owned land and water and all that acquired in the future by the state, lying within the parcels described in this section, as the Caines Head State Recreation Area. The proclamation may include the entire area or portions of the area at different times, shall reserve the areas included from all uses incompatible with their primary function as public recreation land and water,

and shall assign them to the department for control, development and maintenance. Land covered by (1) — (4) of this section has a total acreage of 1801.11 acres, including approximately 221.11 acres of federal land. Land covered by (5) of this section has a total acreage of approximately 4,160 acres. Land covered by AS 41.21.430 — 41.21.445 is that within the following described parcels:

Nancy Lake State Recreation Area, AS 41.21.450. Purpose of AS 41.21.450 — 41.21.466. The purpose of AS 41.21.450 — 41.21.466 is to restrict state-owned land and water within the boundaries described in AS 41.21.455, except as provided in AS 41.21.466, to use as a public recreation area. Under the provisions of AS 38.05.300, state land, water, or land and water containing more than 640 acres may be closed to multiple purpose use only by act of the legislature. Inasmuch as the area described in AS 41.21.455 exceeds 640 acres, AS 41.21.450 — 41.21.466 are intended to except the area described in AS 41.21.455, as that description is modified by AS 41.21.466, from the provisions of AS 38.05.300.

Sec. 41.21.455. Nancy Lake State Recreation Area established.

- (a) The presently state-owned land and water and all that acquired in the future by the state, lying within the following described boundary, are hereby designated as the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area, are reserved from all uses incompatible with their primary function as public recreation land, and are assigned to the department for control, development, and maintenance:

VI. Special Management Areas Purpose Statement:

Kenai River Special Management Area, AS 41.21.500. Purpose of AS 41.21.500 — 41.21.514. The purpose of AS 41.21.500 — 41.21.514 is

- (1) to designate as a unit of the state park system under this chapter the land and water described in AS 41.21.502(a);
- (2) to protect and perpetuate the fishery and wildlife resources and habitat in the unit and adjacent area; and
- (3) to manage recreational uses and development activities in the unit and adjacent area.

VII. State Forest System Purpose Statement:

State forest purposes and management AS 41.17.200

(a) The purpose of AS 41.17.200 — 41.17.230 is to permit the establishment of designated state-owned or acquired land and water areas as state forests. The primary purpose in the establishment of state forests is timber management that provides for the production, utilization, and replenishment of timber resources while allowing other beneficial uses of public land and resources.

(b) In managing a state forest, the commissioner shall, consistent with the primary purpose of a state forest under (a) of this section, restrict the public use of the land and its resources, including timber, fish and wildlife, and minerals, only when necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(c) A carbon offset project under AS 38.95.400 — 38.95.499 may be undertaken on land identified in AS 41.17.200 — 41.17.230.

VIII. Public Use Areas Purpose Statement:

Nelchina Public Use Area, AS 41.23.010. Purpose of AS 41.23.010 — 41.23.040.

The purpose of AS 41.23.010 — 41.23.040 is to establish the area described in AS 41.23.040 as the Nelchina Public Use Area. The Nelchina Public Use Area is established to

- (1) protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat, particularly caribou calving areas, trumpeter swan nesting areas, and other important habitats for moose, Dall sheep, and brown bear so that traditional public uses of fish and wildlife populations may continue;
- (2) perpetuate and enhance public enjoyment of fish and wildlife and their habitat including fishing, hunting, trapping, viewing, and photography;
- (3) perpetuate and enhance general public recreation in a quality environment;
- (4) perpetuate and enhance additional public uses described in the Susitna Area Plan;
- (5) allow additional public uses of the area in a manner compatible with the purposes specified in (1) — (4) of this section.

Ernie Haugen Public Use Area, AS 41.23.050. Purpose of AS 41.23.050 — 41.23.080.

The purpose of AS 41.23.050 — 41.23.080 is to establish the area described in AS 41.23.080 as the Ernie Haugen Public Use Area. The Ernie Haugen Public Use Area is established to

- (1) protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat so that traditional public uses may continue;
- (2) perpetuate and enhance public enjoyment of fishing, hunting, trapping, viewing, and photography;
- (3) perpetuate and enhance general public recreation in a quality environment; and
- (4) allow additional public uses of the area, including personal use wood cutting, when determined compatible with the purposes specified in (1) — (3) of this section.

Knik River Public Use Area, AS 41.23.180. The purpose of AS 41.23.180 — 41.23.230 is to establish the area described in AS 41.23.230 as the Knik River Public Use Area. The Knik River Public Use Area is established to

- (1) perpetuate and enhance
 - (A) general public recreation;
 - (B) public enjoyment of fish and wildlife;
- (2) protect and maintain migratory waterfowl nesting areas; habitats for moose, Dall sheep, and brown bear; and other fish and wildlife habitat so that traditional public use of fish and wildlife populations may continue;
- (3) provide an area for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses, including maintenance and enhancement of off-road motorized vehicle and nonmotorized recreational opportunities;
- (4) allow
 - (A) continued motorized access for miners and owners of private property in the Knik River Public Use Area; and

(B) additional public uses of the area determined by the commissioner to be compatible with this section.

IX. Recreation Rivers Purpose Statement:

Recreation Rivers Established, AS 41.23.400. Purposes.

- (a) The purpose of AS 41.23.400 — 41.23.510 is to establish as recreation rivers the land and water now owned by the state and the land and water acquired in the future by the state that lies within the recreation rivers and the river corridors described in AS 41.23.500.
- (b) The primary purpose for the establishment of the six recreation rivers is the maintenance and enhancement of the land and water described in AS 41.23.500 for recreation.
- (c) The primary purposes for the management of the six recreation rivers are
 - (1) the management, protection, and maintenance of the fish and wildlife populations and habitat on a sustained-yield basis;
 - (2) continued recreation and economic use, including the uses described in (3) and (4) of this subsection, and enjoyment by the public and individuals of recreational activities that include hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, boating, hiking, snowmachining, skiing, dog mushing, and wildlife viewing, while ensuring the scenic and natural integrity of the recreation river;
 - (3) multiple use management of upland activities within the recreation river corridor to ensure that mitigation measures to alleviate potential adverse effects on water quality and stream flow will take place; and
 - (4) accommodation of access for resource uses, including recreation and tourism, within or adjacent to the river corridor.

X. Recreational Mining Areas Purpose Statement:

Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area, AS 41.23.600. Purpose.

The purpose of AS 41.23.600 — 41.23.620 is to establish the area described in AS 41.23.620 as the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area. The Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area is established to provide for a public recreational mining area to permit public recreational activities and to allow other multiple use activities to continue as long as the activities do not detract from the primary purpose for the establishment of the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area.