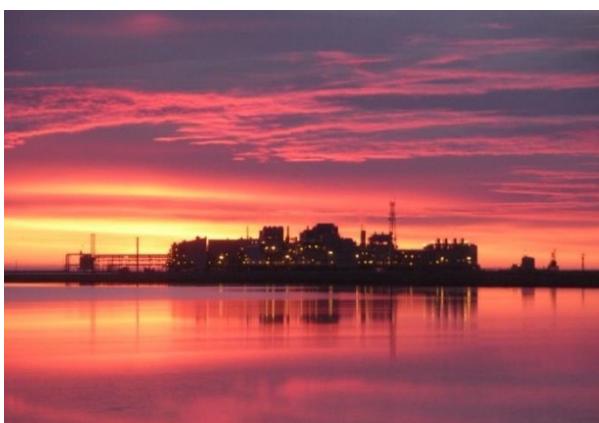


Executive Order 134: Eliminating the Recreation Rivers Advisory Board

Senate Resources Committee



Presented by Brent Goodrum, Deputy Commissioner
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
March 1, 2024



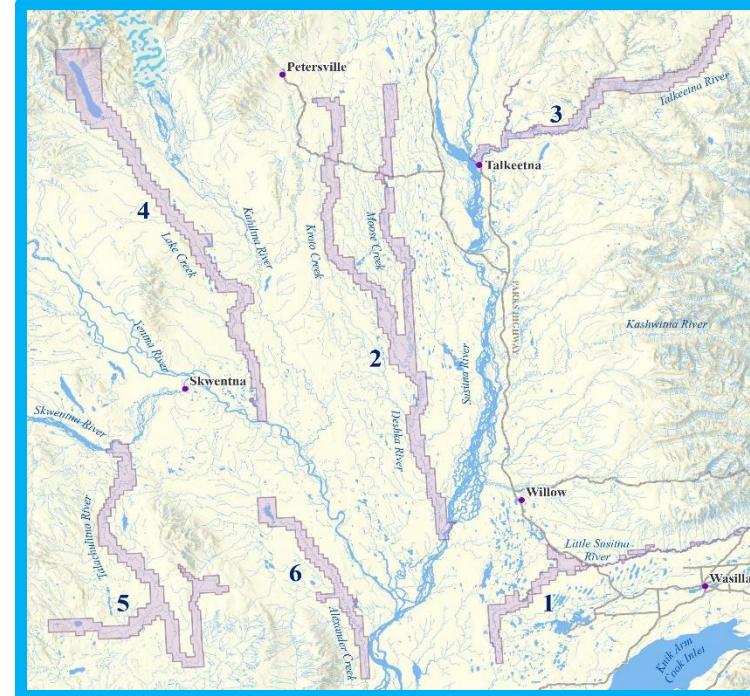
Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers

Advisory Board



Created by Recreation Rivers Act of 1988 (AS 41.23.400-510):

- The primary purpose of the Act is for the establishment of the six recreation river corridors for their maintenance and enhancement of fish and wildlife population for recreation and economic use ensuring multiple use management.
- Established a Governor-appointed, 13-member advisory board representing:
 - (1) commercial fishing;
 - (2) sport fishing;
 - (3) sport hunting;
 - (4) conservation;
 - (5) subsistence
 - (6) forest products;
 - (7) mining;
 - (8) powerboat users;
 - (9) recreationally-oriented commercial users;
 - (10) other recreational users;
 - (11) private property owners within the recreation river corridors;
 - (12) the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission from the membership of the planning commission; and
 - (13) the mayor of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough or the designee of the mayor



- Six Recreation Rivers
 1. Little Susitna River
 2. Deshka River (Moose/Kroto Creeks)
 3. Talkeetna River
 4. Lake Creek
 5. Talachulitna River
 6. Alexander Creek
- 460 River Miles
- Mile-wide corridors totaling 260,000 acres

Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers

Advisory Board



- Requires DNR write a management plan
 - Original Management Plan adopted in 1991
- Plan establishes management guidelines
 - Manage activities consistent with statutory purposes
 - Protect fish, wildlife, and the river's free flow
 - Identify special recreation values and manage intensity and types of recreational use
 - Designate management guidelines for development activities
 - Designate management guidelines for commercial recreation activities or development
 - Provide for transportation and utility corridors, public safety, and law enforcement
 - Provide for reasonable access
 - Establish criteria and timelines to review future proposed uses for compatibility with AS 41.23.400

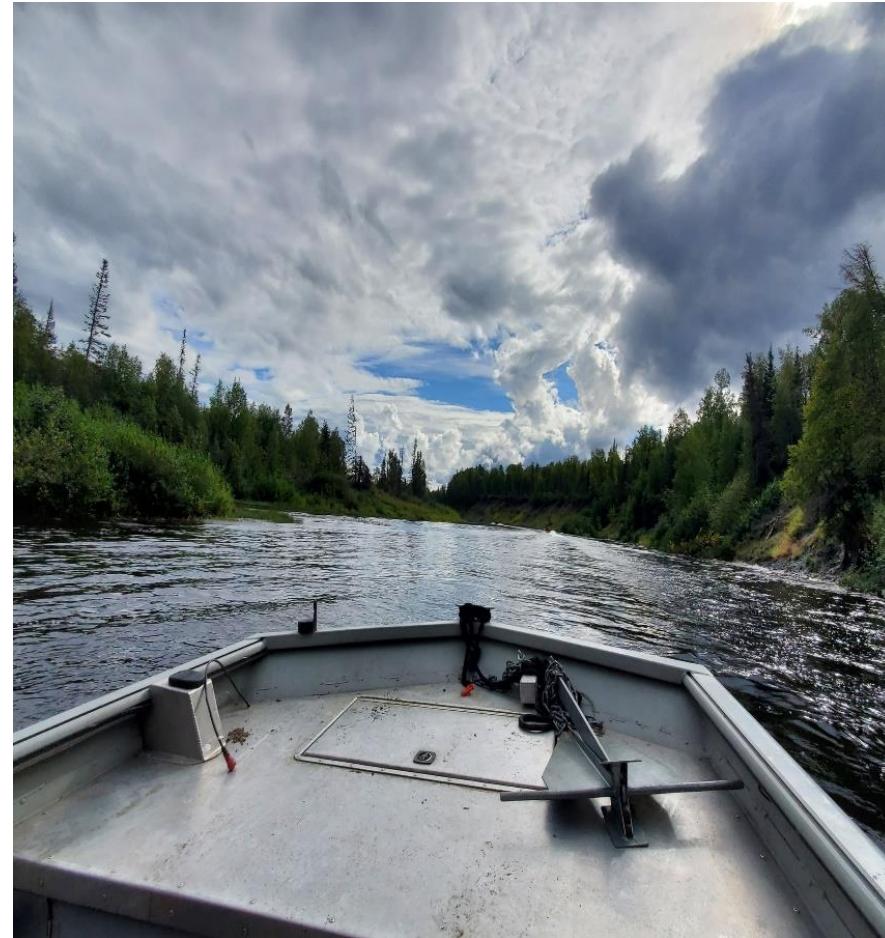


Talkeetna River
Photo credit: Division of Mining, Land & Water



Advisory Board Responsibilities

The Board assists in preparing, adopting, and revising the recreation river management plan and regulations affecting use and management of the recreation rivers.



Deshka River
Photo credit: Division of Mining, Land & Water



Executive Order 134

WHAT:

- Sunsets the advisory council; transfer the functions and duties of the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Advisory Board to DNR

WHY:

- Creates efficiency and establishes single point of contact for management
- Eliminates duplication within state government
- Resulting in increased performance and accountability

FUTURE:

- Any changes to the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers management plan must already go through a robust public process in consultation with affected municipalities, state agencies, and stakeholders that requires public notice, public comment periods, and meetings in the affected communities



Talkeetna River
Photo credit: Division of Mining, Land & Water



EO 134 Sectional Analysis Detail

Section	Page	Provision
Sec. 1	1	Adds a new section to the uncodified law providing the governor's findings that it is in the best interests of efficient administration to transfer the functions of the Recreation Rivers Advisory Board to the Department of Natural Resources, and to eliminate the board as it is no longer needed
Sec. 2	1	Amends AS 41.23.440(a) (relating to management plans for recreation rivers and corridors) to delete the reference to the advisory board. The DNR commissioner would no longer be required to consult with the board when preparing or revising a management plan for each of the six recreation rivers and their corridors. The commissioner and each affected municipality would still be required to consult with public and state agencies
Sec. 3	2	Repeals AS 41.23.430 which established the Recreation Rivers Advisory Board
Sec. 4	2	Adds a new section to the uncodified law to provide guidelines for the transition period that would be required by this executive order
Sec. 5	3	Effective date of July 1, 2024

Thank You



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