

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAM SUSITNA BASIN RECREATION RIVERS MANAGEMENT PLAN

The public participation program is designed to provide meaningful public input into the planning process. It is designed to be credible to the legislature, the borough, state agencies, and the public. The program is designed to identify important public concerns and values, and to help guide the advisory board and planning team toward consensus. This program is outlined below. The purposes of the program are:

1. To encourage citizens to become involved in the planning process and to ensure that the public involvement is constructive and effective.
2. To inform the public about the revision to the recreation rivers plan, how it will affect them, and how it will be developed.
3. To gather information about the people and the resources within the recreation rivers corridors that will result in updated land management decisions.
4. To gather opinions about the current and future use of recreation rivers corridors.
5. To incorporate information and opinions gathered from the public into the decision-making process.

In order to meet these objectives for the public participation program, the following activities will be conducted:

1. **Advisory Board:** In November, the Governor appointed an advisory board, as mandated in the legislation, to represent the major user groups in the planning area. The responsibilities of this group are described in the handout on the roles of the advisory board.
2. **Public Meetings:** Public meetings will be held to collect information on local issues and concerns, and to review the draft plan. Meetings may be held virtually but at least two must be held in person in communities near the planning area.
3. **Advisory Board and Planning Team Meetings:** All meetings are open to the public and will primarily be held virtually.
4. **Media:** Provide the media with information on public meetings as well as major developments in the planning process.
5. **Legislative Process and Promulgation of Regulations:** The public will also be involved through the legislative process during the 100-day review period, the standard agency process for promulgation of regulations, and public notice for pending applications.