

## **Recreation Rivers Act (AS 41.23.400-.510) – Passed by Legislature in 1988**

- Creates mile-wide corridors along 6 rivers that will remain in public ownership:
  1. Alexander Creek State Recreation River
  2. Kroto Creek & Moose Creek State Recreation River
  3. Lake Creek State Recreation River
  4. Little Susitna State Recreation River
  5. Talachulitna State Recreation River
  6. Talkeetna State Recreation River
- Primary purposes include:
  - maintaining fish & wildlife populations;
  - continued recreation and economic use;
  - ensuring multiple use management of upland activities limit adverse effects on water quality and stream flow; and
  - accommodation of access for resource uses.
- Provides general management intent, including:
  - areas will be managed by DNR;
  - limits on restricting use of weapons and fishing, hunting, and trapping;
  - the Act does not affect the authority of state agencies, Board of Game, or Board of Fish.
- Establishes a Governor-appointed 13-member advisory board:
  - DNR Commissioner shall consult with the board on the recreation river management plan and regulations affecting the areas
- Requires DNR write a management plan:
  - DNR Commissioner may revise the management plan in consultation with affected municipalities, state agencies (including DFG), and the advisory board;
  - Must provide written notice by first class mail to property owners in the corridors;
  - Must hold at least two public hearings in municipalities and communities near the corridors.
- The plan must establish management guidelines that:
  1. Manage activities consistent with the Act's statutory purposes;
  2. Protect fish, wildlife, and the river's free flow;
  3. Identify special recreation values and manage intensity and types of recreational use;
  4. Designate management guidelines for development activities;
  5. Designate management guidelines for commercial recreation activities or development;
  6. Provide for transportation and utility corridors, public safety, and law enforcement; and
  7. Provide for reasonable access;
  8. Establish criteria and timelines to review future proposed uses for compatibility with AS 41.23.400.
- The DNR commissioner shall adopt regulations necessary to implement the management plan.

- The plan must be submitted to the legislature for review within the first 10 days of the first regular session after completion.
  - Unless legislatively rejected, the plan takes effect 100 days after submission.
- Public land laws (AS 38.04, AS 38.05, AS 38.35 & AS 38.95) apply to the corridors except when inconsistent with the Act.
  - The commissioner may conduct only a negotiated timber or material sale under to provide for personal use, or for construction of access or habitat enhancement.
  - The commissioner may permit upland mining leasing if allowed under a management plan.
  - The commissioner may provide for the construction and operation of commercial facilities such as lodges, campgrounds, and boat launches.
- Cooperative management agreements:
  - The commissioner may enter into cooperative management agreements with federal agencies, municipalities, state agencies, or private landowners for land within or adjacent to the corridors;
  - The commissioner may transfer the management of a specific site to a state agency, a municipality, or a private entity to carry out a program to enhance the objectives of the management plan;
  - The commissioner may not manage any corridors as a unit of the state park system or as a game refuge, game sanctuary, or a critical habitat. The commissioner may assign management of recreational facilities such as campgrounds, boat launches, etc. to the Division of Parks.