

**East Alaska Resource Management Plan Amendment  
Delta River Special Recreation Management Area**

**Decision Record  
and  
Approved Plan**

AK-050-EA-08-001  
Bureau of Land Management  
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# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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In Reply Refer To:  
1610-5.G.1.4 (AKA020)

Dear Reader:

We are pleased to release the Finding of No Significant Impact, Decision Record (DR) and Approved Plan for the Delta River Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and East Alaska Resource Management Plan Amendment (Approved Plan). This document will provide guidance for the recreational management of the Delta River SRMA for the next 15-20 years.

We have prepared the attached DR and Approved Plan in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The DR and Approved Plan contain the final land use plan and implementation decisions resulting from a comprehensive planning effort that began with pre-planning studies in the spring of 2007.

The DR serves as the final decision establishing the land use planning decisions outlined in the Approved Plan. No further administrative remedies are available for these land use planning decisions, which are effective immediately. However, the DR also contains implementation decisions that may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals within 30 days of BLM's publication of notice of this decision in the Federal Register. Please review Section 9.0 *APPEAL PROCEDURES* in the DR for a more detailed discussion of the appeal process. The implementation decisions will become effective after the 30-day appeal period has run, unless an appeal is taken and a petition for a stay is granted.

I thank the individuals and organizations who participated in this planning process. Your interest is appreciated. I hope your involvement will continue as we move forward to implement the plan and manage the public lands and resources within the Delta River SRMA.

Sincerely,

Bud Cribley  
State Director

# DECISION RECORD

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Decision Record (DR) approves the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) Approved Plan for the Delta River Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and East Alaska Resource Management Plan (EARMP) Amendment. The Approved Plan is based on land use planning decisions and implementation decisions that were discussed in Alternative 2 of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Delta River SRMA Plan and EARMP Amendment (SRMAP/PA), with minor clarifications and/or modifications made to address protests/appeals as a result of the Protest Period and Governor's Consistency Review Period. These clarifications and/or modifications are listed in Chapter 2.0 of this DR. The DR also provides the rationale for approving the proposed decisions in Alternative 2.

The Approved Plan is designed to provide for a mix of river recreation uses and users, while managing to protect the environment and Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV). All known issues, competing interests, opinions, and values of the public were considered during the planning process. While the DR may not completely satisfy all individuals or groups, the BLM believes the decisions are reasonable and provide the best balance of protecting and enhancing the river and recreational values. The decisions provide a beneficial mix of values for the public within a framework of existing laws, regulations, policies, public needs and desires, and capabilities of the land, while meeting the stated purpose and need of the Approved Plan.

### 1.1 Planning Area

The Delta River SRMA and the Delta Wild and Scenic River (DWSR) corridor share the same boundary. Access to the Delta River SRMA is along the Denali Highway, approximately 21 miles west of Paxson and the Richardson Highway, or 114 miles east from Cantwell and the Parks Highway. Lands within the Delta River SRMA are primarily unencumbered BLM-managed lands, except for a few private inholdings and a portion of the river corridor determined to be a navigable waterway, managed by the State of Alaska.

A navigability determination for the DWSR corridor was completed by the BLM in February 2010, and most of the DWSR corridor was determined to be nonnavigable, except for approximately 10 miles of the river located between the confluences of Garrett and Phelan creeks. The lands underlying the navigable section within the river corridor fall under state jurisdiction, below the ordinary high water marks. The BLM acknowledges the State of Alaska's authority to manage between the ordinary high water marks within this section, which includes the water column and most unvegetated beaches and gravel bars. The BLM navigability determination is included in the administrative record located at the Glennallen Field Office.

**Table 1: Acreage and Designated River Miles by Wild and Scenic River Classification**

<b>Acreage* and Designated River Miles</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Designated River Miles</b>
Total Acreage* and Total Designated River Miles	44,617	62
Private Inholdings	30	N/A
Wild Classification	12,352	20
Scenic Classification	23,892	24
Recreational Classification	8,343	18

\* The State Of Alaska owns the submerged lands of the Delta River below the ordinary high water line where the river has been determined navigable.



## 1.2 Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Policies

Management of the Delta River SRMA is guided by numerous legal requirements and by established management direction. The DR is consistent with the EARMP which provides the overall long-term management direction for the Glennallen Field Office. The EARMP established the direction and goals to follow in the implementation of the Delta River SRMA Plan. The DR is also consistent with and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA), and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). ANILCA established the Delta River as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and provides specific guidance for management issues that are unique to Alaska, including subsistence and access for traditional activities.

Decisions related to Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use, airplane use and motorized boating are consistent with ANILCA Sections 811(b), 1110(a) and BLM implementing regulations described in 43 CFR 36.11 (Special Access). ANILCA Section 811 states that "...the Secretary shall permit on the public lands appropriate use for subsistence purposes of snowmobiles, motorboats, and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed for such purposes by local residents, subject to reasonable regulation." ANILCA Section 1110(a) states that "...the Secretary shall permit...the use of snowmachines, motorboats, airplanes, and nonmotorized surface transportation methods for traditional activities..." 43 CFR 36.11(c-f) implements the provisions specified in ANILCA Section 1110(a). 43 CFR 36.11(g) prohibits OHV use in Conservation System Units, except in locations that include established roads and parking areas and routes or in areas designated by the appropriate federal agency. 43 CFR 36.11(g)(2) states that OHV use must be compatible with the purposes and values for which the area was established.

In addition to the ANILCA provisions and regulations described above, the decisions related specifically to OHV use must be consistent with the EARMP and 43 CFR 8340 which establishes criteria for the BLM to designate public lands as open, limited or closed to the use of OHVs and for establishing controls governing the use and operation of OHVs in these areas. In accordance with these criteria, the EARMP designated the Delta River SRMA corridor as "limited" to OHV use and identified specific trails for motorized trail designation. The EARMP directed that "OHVs would be restricted to designated trails (Top of the World Trail and Rainy Creek Trail) from May 15 to Oct. 16, or when there is less than an average of 12 inches snow or six inches ground frost". The EARMP also stated that this decision would not preclude the future consideration of the development of additional motorized or nonmotorized trails, if consistent with protection of the ORVs for the river corridor. If additional trails are to be considered for designation in the future, they would be located to minimize resource damage, maintain primitive and semiprimitive recreation experiences, and facilitate the maintenance of designated trails. This DR will be followed by a notice in the *Federal Register* identifying the specific trails within the river corridor to be designated as motorized and nonmotorized, as described in the Approved Plan.

The BLM recognizes the State of Alaska's management authority on the Delta River between the ordinary high water marks in navigable sections of the river, consistent with the protection of the ORVs identified for the river. The State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) retains responsibility for the management of fish and game populations within or adjacent to the Delta River SRMA, and the management of fish and wildlife will be in accordance with the Master Memorandum of Understanding between the ADF&G and the BLM, dated August 3, 1983 (AK-950-MU3-11). The Master Memorandum of Understanding is included as Appendix 1.0 to this DR and Approved Plan. There are no known federally listed threatened or endangered species of plants and animals, or plant and animal species proposed for federal listing within the planning area.

## 1.3 ANILCA Section 810 Findings

The BLM is required by ANILCA to consider potential impacts to subsistence activities, resources, or access to subsistence activities from the management alternatives and proposals. For the actions described in the Approved Plan, it was found that the proposed management actions are unlikely to have any significant impacts on subsistence uses or needs. Please refer to Appendix 8.2 in the Proposed SRMAP/PA for the complete ANILCA Section 810 Analysis.

## 2.0 RESULTS OF PROTEST REVIEW AND GOVERNOR'S CONSISTENCY REVIEW

### 2.1 Protest Review

The BLM received two protests during the 30-day protest period for the land use planning decisions contained in the Proposed SRMAP/PA, in accordance with 43 CFR 1610.5-2. Both protests originated from the State of Alaska; one from the Office of the Attorney General and the other from the Citizen's Advisory Commission on Federal Areas. Both protests were denied in part. The BLM responded to four issues raised in the protests and made some minor modifications to terminology to provide additional clarity regarding these issues. The BLM Director addressed these four protest issues without making significant changes to the Proposed SRMAP/PA.

The majority of the issues raised in both protests were denied because the State of Alaska protested implementation level decisions, which are not protestable under 43 CFR 1610.5-2. Only land use planning decisions are protestable; implementation level decisions are appealable, and only after the issuance of the DR. The four issues raised by the State of Alaska that were found to have standing and that were germane to the planning process for the protest include: NEPA public participation and wilderness inventory procedures; Benefits Based Management (BBM) decisions related to Recreation Management Zones 1 and 4; wildlife management authority within the Delta River SRMA; and the designation of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV).

#### *NEPA Public Participation and Wilderness Inventory Procedures*

The State of Alaska asserted that the BLM failed to provide an adequate opportunity for public participation and comment in the land use planning process, particularly with regards to the wilderness characteristics inventory. The BLM responded by stating that the BLM fully complied with public participation requirements provided in BLM planning regulations (43 CFR §§ 1601-1610), and NEPA regulations promulgated by CEQ (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508). The BLM provided appropriate opportunities for public participation in the development of the Proposed SRMAP/PA. The opportunities for public participation are detailed in Section 1.9 of the Proposed SRMAP/PA. As required by FLPMA (see 43 U.S.C. § 1711(a) and Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2011-154), the BLM prepared and maintained a wilderness characteristics inventory for the planning area. The BLM made the inventory available in the Administrative Record located at the BLM-Alaska Glennallen Field Office (Proposed SRMAP/PA p. 84). The BLM is including this inventory as Appendix 2.0 to the DR and Approved Plan.

#### *Benefits Based Management (BBM) Decisions Related to Recreation Management Zones 1 and 4*

The State of Alaska requested that the BLM remove the BBM Outcomes to be Avoided (motorized boating and airplane landings) for Tangle Lakes Zone 1 and Delta River Zone 4 because they were believed to be inconsistent with ANILCA Section 1110(a). The BLM responded to this protest by removing the "outcomes to be avoided" for all Recreation Management Zones (RMZ) to maintain consistency throughout the Delta River SRMA Plan. Since the BLM has found that the current level of motorized boating and airplane landings do not warrant an ANILCA closure (Proposed SRMAP/PA p.175), removing these activities as "outcomes to be avoided" will eliminate confusion regarding allowable activities and access to these RMZs. This change is reflected in the Approved Plan.

#### *Wildlife Management Authority Within the Delta River SRMA*

The State of Alaska protested that the Proposed SRMAP/PA establishes wildlife management objectives that are inconsistent with the State of Alaska's authority to manage fish and wildlife resources. The BLM responded that the Proposed SRMAP/PA does not establish management objectives that are inconsistent with the State of Alaska's authority to manage fish and wildlife resources on all lands in Alaska under Section 1314(a) of ANILCA. To provide further clarification, the BLM has included a statement in the DR that the management of fish and wildlife will be in accordance with the Master Memorandum of Understanding between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the BLM, dated August 3, 1983 (AK-950-MU3-11). The Master Memorandum of Understanding is included as Appendix 1.0 to the DR and Approved Plan.

### *Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV)*

The State of Alaska protested the process and subsequent designation of ORVs for the DWSR. The BLM responded that the identification of ORVs for the DWSR were chosen through the use of a study process to determine what values or characteristics make the DWSR worthy of special protection (Proposed SRMAP/PA p.11). The determination of whether an area contains an ORV is a professional judgment on the part of the agency's study team (USDI-USDA Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas, 47 FR 39457). The BLM documented the process for identifying ORVs in Section 2.2.1 and Section 8.4 of the Proposed SRMAP/PA.

The complete Protest Response can be found in the Administrative Record located at the BLM-Alaska Glennallen Field Office.

## **2.2 Governor's Consistency Review**

BLM planning regulations in 43 CFR 1610.3-2 afford state Governors a 60-day review period that runs concurrently with the Protest Period as an opportunity to review an RMP Amendment to identify any known inconsistencies between the RMP Amendment and approved State or local plans, policies or programs. The Governor's Consistency Review (GCR), dated Sept. 20, 2011, found the Proposed SRMAP/PA to be inconsistent with State of Alaska priorities, policies, and land use plans. The inconsistent finding was based on the same issues that were raised in the State's protest letter from the Office of the Attorney General.

The GCR recommended that the inconsistency be resolved by reconsidering the issues that were raised in the State's Office of the Attorney General protest. The BLM responded to the GCR in a letter dated March 28, 2012, providing additional feedback on the points that were not covered in the protest response, in a manner attempting to meet the State's concerns; and this letter further outlined the reasons why the BLM-Alaska State Director did not accept the Governor's recommendations.

The BLM-Alaska State Director rejected the Governor's Inconsistency Finding, asserting that the GCR process is limited to identifying known inconsistencies with state or local plans, policies or programs (43 CFR 1610.3-2(e)). The Governor responded by appealing the BLM-Alaska State Director's decision to the BLM Director. The BLM Director reaffirmed the BLM-Alaska State Director's decision that the Alaska Governor had failed to identify any known inconsistencies with state or local plans, policies or programs. Therefore, the Governor's appeal was rejected. However, out of courtesy, the BLM Director individually addressed four specific issues the Governor raised in the appeal.

The following is a summary of each issue and the BLM Director's response:

*Issue 1 - Recommending the public refrain from legally allowed activities is inconsistent with ANILCA Section 1110 and Department of the Interior implementing regulations at 36 CFR § 36.11.*

The BLM intends to manage certain segments of the Delta River SRMA to allow opportunities for nonmotorized user experiences. However, to address the Governor's concerns, the BLM will not discourage such ANILCA-protected uses or recommend that the public refrain from these uses.

*Issue 2 - Group size limitations must be implemented by regulation consistent with ANILCA Section 1110(a) and Department of the Interior implementing regulations at 43 CFR § 36.11.*

The BLM Director disagreed with the Governor that camp group size limits fall within the scope of Section 1110(a) of ANILCA. Section 1110(a) and its implementing regulation 43 CFR 36.11 solely pertain to methods of transportation; camping is not a method of transportation. Additionally, Section 302(b) of FLPMA provides the Secretary of the Interior with the authority to regulate such uses through published rules or other instruments as the Secretary deems appropriate.

*Issue 3 - Following the direction in ANILCA Section 810 to determine whether subsistence access restrictions need to be implemented by regulation pursuant to ANILCA Section 811 is a misinterpretation of ANILCA and is inconsistent with the regulatory process followed by other Department of the Interior land management agencies.*

The BLM Director agreed with the Governor that the BLM-Alaska State Director's response did not clearly differentiate between Sections 810 and 811 of ANILCA and that the "would significantly restrict subsistence uses" standard found in Section 810 does not have applicability to Section 811. The BLM Director stated that the BLM will correct any instance where the Proposed SRMAP/PA is inconsistent with this understanding.

*Issue 4 - The Plan did not follow the cited Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council process to determine outstandingly remarkable values for the Delta Wild and Scenic River.*

The BLM Director found that the BLM did follow the Interagency Wild and Scenic River Coordinating Council process and other relevant guidance in determining the DWSR ORVs. The BLM Director stated that for each value considered, the BLM determined that the entire State of Alaska was the geographic region for which the value was evaluated and compared to determine significance of that resource.

The complete Governor's Consistency Response can be found in the Administrative Record located at the BLM-Alaska Glennallen Field Office.

### 3.0 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Four alternatives were analyzed in the Proposed SRMAP/PA. These alternatives were designed to achieve the purpose and need for action, management goals and objectives, desired future conditions, and protection and enhancement of the proposed ORVs.

- **Alternative 1 (No Action)** describes the existing management approach for recreational use in the Delta River SRMA. Alternative 1 is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and is considered the baseline to which the other alternatives are compared. While existing management has been somewhat effective at mitigating user impacts, this alternative does not address increasing levels of use on the river and does not specify adaptive management and monitoring actions to mitigate user impacts.
- **Alternative 2 (Proposed Action)** provides a balanced approach to protect river resources, while still providing for a wide range of public uses and high quality recreational experiences in the Delta River SRMA. This alternative emphasizes the protection of river resources from human impacts by utilizing an adaptive management approach to track the implementation and effectiveness of the proposed management actions. Alternative 2 allows for a wide range of current and future public uses, while still providing management direction that will minimize social conflicts and protect river resources, with a strong emphasis in public education and interpretive outreach.
- **Alternative 3** was developed to address scoping comments related to the desire for increased access and fewer use restrictions within the river corridor. Alternative 3 provides management for high density recreational experiences, increased motorized trail access, larger group sizes and emphasizes recreation facility development (installation of more outhouses, fire rings, campsites, etc.) to address high user impact levels. Adaptive management and monitoring actions are less restrictive and user impacts are mitigated primarily through public education and interpretive outreach.
- **Alternative 4** proposes more restrictions on recreational use and motorized access to provide management for low density recreational experiences. Alternative 4 was developed to address scoping comments related to the desire to preserve more primitive and semiprimitive environments within the river corridor, and to retain and enhance existing wilderness characteristics, natural quiet and natural sounds through increased user restrictions and regulations. User impacts are mitigated through more restrictive adaptive management and monitoring actions that would occur in a shorter timeframe.

### 4.0 DECISION AND DECISION RATIONALE

The BLM-Alaska Glennallen Field Office adopts and approves for immediate implementation the management actions described in the Approved Plan. The Approved Plan is based on both land use

planning decisions and implementation decisions that were discussed in Alternative 2 of the Proposed SRMAP/PA, with minor clarifications and/or modifications to address protests as a result of the Protest Period and Governor's Consistency Review Period. In addition, the BLM will adopt the ORVs described in "Actions Common to Alternatives 2, 3 and 4" of the Proposed SRMAP/PA. As stated in the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Approved Plan, these decisions have been analyzed in an EA and have been found to have no significant impacts.

The Environmentally Preferable Alternative is judged using the criteria developed in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), which is guided by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). The CEQ has defined the environmentally preferable alternative as the alternative that will best promote the national environmental policy as expressed in Section 101 of NEPA. Generally, this means the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment and the alternative which best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources values, while maintaining an environment that supports diversity and individual choice. Identification of the most Environmentally Preferable Alternative involves balancing current and potential resource uses with that of resource protection.

Overall, Alternative 2 (Proposed Action) is the alternative that meets these criteria to the highest degree. Alternative 2, as analyzed in the EA (with minor decision changes as noted above in Chapter 2.0), is selected as the management decision to be implemented in the Delta River SRMA. This selection resulted from a careful analysis of available data by an interdisciplinary team comprised of specialists representing each resource, and through the consideration of the applicable laws, regulations and policies described in Chapter 1.2. Alternative 2 represents the most balanced approach for long-term management of the Delta River SRMA, and best meets the purpose and need of defining maximum levels and distribution of recreational river use.

The BLM's decision to adopt Alternative 2 represents a balance between current management as described in Alternative 1 (No Action), the less restrictive approach proposed in Alternative 3, and the more restrictive approach proposed in Alternative 4. In contrast with Alternative 2, Alternative 1 (No Action) does not address increasing levels of use on the river and does not specify adaptive management and monitoring actions to mitigate user impacts. Alternative 3 strives to maximize recreational use within the river corridor, providing for the widest range of public uses and least restrictions, but offers the least amount of protection for environmental resources and has the greatest potential for increased social conflicts among river users. Alternative 4 focuses on improving river resources by limiting the public's use within the river corridor. While this alternative provides the greatest protection and enhancement of river resource values, implementation and enforcement would be problematic under ANILCA access restrictions and regulations. Several proposed management actions in this alternative rated low in public acceptability, as they would provide fewer or more restricted uses within the river corridor.

Alternative 2 provides the best overall direction in support of protecting river resources and ORVs, while allowing the widest range of public uses in the Delta River SRMA. This alternative will minimize social conflicts and protect river resources through management direction that provides a strong emphasis in education and interpretive outreach. This is done by establishing adaptive management standards that are based on river user tolerances for different impacts. Monitoring and non-compliance with standards will drive the implementation of management actions; in most cases, less-restrictive measures will be implemented prior to more-restrictive actions. In contrast, management under the other alternatives, although meeting the purpose and need at various degrees, contained elements that would negatively affect recreational values, such as reducing or maximizing watercraft and activity type, placing a higher emphasis on one recreational activity type over another, and setting limits on the number and type of watercraft and recreational users within the river corridor. These elements would potentially have a negative effect on the quality of available recreational experiences for most users.

Alternative 2 provides for the enhancement of the proposed ORVs, while concurrently attaining a range of neutral and beneficial uses of the environment without degradation; maintains an environment that supports diverse recreational opportunities; integrates resource protection with an appropriate range of visitor uses; helps to contribute economically to local communities; provides multi-resource standards and direction found in other legislation, policies, or management plans designed to comply with applicable state and federal laws; and provides protection of the river's scenic, cultural, wildlife, fisheries, and recreational ORVs.

## 5.0 MITIGATION AND MONITORING

Measures to avoid or minimize environmental harm were built into the Approved Plan where practicable. Many of the standard management actions will minimize impacts when applied to activities proposed in the planning area. Additional measures to mitigate environmental impacts may also be developed during subsequent NEPA analysis at the activity level planning and project stages.

Monitoring is the repeated measurement of activities and conditions over time. BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-9) call for monitoring resource management plans on a continual basis and establishing intervals and standards based on the sensitivity of the resource to the decisions involved. CEQ regulations implementing NEPA state that agencies may provide for monitoring to assure that their decisions are carried out and should do so in important cases (40 CFR 1505.2(c)).

The BLM will monitor the Delta River SRMA to determine whether the objectives set forth in the Approved Plan are being met, and if applying the management actions is effective by using an adaptive management approach. If monitoring shows that these management actions are not effective, the BLM may modify or adjust management as described in the adaptive management framework. Where the BLM considers taking or approving actions that will alter or not conform to the overall direction of the Approved Plan, the BLM will prepare a plan amendment or revision and environmental analysis of appropriate scope.

All protective measures and other management direction identified in the Approved Plan will be taken to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts. These measures will be taken throughout implementation. All practical means to avoid or reduce environmental harm will be adopted, monitored, and evaluated, as appropriate. Some of these measures or management direction might include: The implementation of a user-education program, low-impact use ethics, potential permit requirements, further commercial restrictions, and use limits.

River activities and conditions (resources and social) will be monitored to provide data for use in evaluating the effect of management activities and human impacts upon the environment and the ORVs in the river corridor. Evaluations will measure compliance in achieving the goals and objectives of the Approved Plan; the effectiveness in protecting and enhancing the ORVs of the river corridor; and the ability to achieve and maintain the standards, objectives, and desired future conditions. The monitoring plan in Appendix 3.0 provides a process for how management accomplishments, trends, and needs for the river corridor are reported and evaluated. The appendix also identifies how monitoring will be conducted.

## 6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Initial planning for the Delta River SRMA began in 2005 with the development of a river recreation survey. The survey was used as a method of obtaining river users' opinions on a variety of issues, management actions, and preferences within the Delta River SRMA. The study objectives overall were to describe the current users on the Delta River, examine the impacts these users experience on their trips and their tolerances for those impacts, and to assess the public acceptability of management actions that might be used to address impacts or conflict problems. Confluence Research and Consulting of Anchorage, Alaska conducted the survey from February-May of 2005. A total of 245 river users responded to this river survey.

In February and March of 2007, the BLM-Alaska Glennallen Field Office conducted a series of Benefits Based Management (BBM) focus group meetings in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Glennallen, and Delta Junction. Discussion at these meetings focused on how people use the area, their primary purpose for using the area, and their opinions on desired future conditions and management options for the area. Stakeholders included representatives from local subsistence user and hunting groups, motorized access groups, environmental and conservation groups, Alaska Native Tribes and corporations, and other state and federal agencies. Seven meetings were held and a total of 78 people attended.

The *Federal Register* published the Notice of Intent to initiate the formal planning process on April 10, 2008. This Notice marked the beginning of the scoping process for this planning effort. As part of the scoping process, the BLM identified preliminary issues and planning criteria which were included in the

Notice of Intent. The BLM Glennallen Field Office sent a letter and scoping bulletin to more than 1,300 parties on its contact list, including individuals, local and national organizations, villages, Alaska Native Tribes and corporations, and state and federal agencies who expressed interest in the Delta River planning process. The field office also posted the scoping bulletin on the BLM-Alaska website and publicized the scoping effort through local venues, including the *Copper River Record* and *Delta Wind* newspapers, and on the statewide "What's Up" list serve. Public service announcements for the planning effort aired over KCHU, KDHS and KCAM radio. The BLM accepted scoping comments for 60 days, beginning on July 15, 2008, through Sept. 15, 2008. The BLM received a total of 20 comments during this scoping period. After analyzing these comments, the field office prepared a scoping report and comments table and posted them on BLM-Alaska's Delta River planning website.

Based on public scoping feedback, the BLM developed management alternatives to address the purpose and need for the plan and to address issues identified during the initial scoping period. Environmental effects for each alternative were analyzed in an EA. The EA became available for public comment from March 23, 2010, through May 6, 2010. The BLM-Alaska Glennallen Field Office sent the EA to more than 1,300 parties on its contact list. The field office also posted the EA on the BLM-Alaska website and publicized it through local venues, including the *Copper River Record*, *Delta Wind*, *Anchorage Daily News*, and *Fairbanks News-Miner* newspapers and on the statewide "What's Up" list serve. Public service announcements aired over KCHU, KDHS and KCAM radio. The BLM received a total of 68 public comments on the EA. These comments were considered in the development of the Proposed SRMAP/PA and were included as Appendix 8.4.

The Proposed SRMAP/PA was a refinement of the EA. The field office released the Proposed SRMAP/PA for the NEPA-required 30-day Protest period and a 60-day Governor's Consistency Review. Chapter 2.0 of this DR discusses the results of the Protest period and Governor's Consistency Review.

## 7.0 AVAILABILITY OF THE PLAN

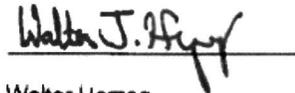
Both the Decision Record and Approved Plan are available on the BLM-Alaska Glennallen Field Office or on the BLM-Alaska website:

[http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/content/ak/en/prog/planning/east\\_alaska\\_plan/East\\_AK\\_Delta\\_River\\_EA\\_Amend.html](http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/content/ak/en/prog/planning/east_alaska_plan/East_AK_Delta_River_EA_Amend.html)

## 8.0 RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVAL

### 8.1 Recommendation

After careful examination and consideration of a full range of reasonable alternatives, associated effects, public input, existing laws, regulations, policies, guidance and planning decisions, I recommend adoption and implementation of the Approved Plan.



Walter Herzog  
BLM-Alaska Glennallen Field Manager, Acting

3-29-13

Date

### 8.2 Approval

I approve the Decision Record for the implementation of the Approved Plan as recommended.



Bud Cribley  
BLM-Alaska State Director

3-29-13

Date

## 9.0 APPEAL PROCEDURES

The DR and Approved Plan contain implementation decisions and land use planning decisions. If you are adversely affected by the implementation decisions contained in the DR and Approved Plan you may appeal BLM's decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) after BLM's publication of the DR. Such an appeal must be submitted in accordance with Title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 4, which is summarized on the Form 1842-1 included in Appendix 4.0 of this DR and Approved Plan. The land use planning decisions are not appealable administratively.

Your notice of appeal must be filed with the BLM-Alaska Glennallen Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 147, Glennallen, Alaska 99588 within 30 days of BLM's publication of notice of this DR and Approved Plan in the Federal Register. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed is in error. You may include a statement of reasons together with the notice of appeal, or you may file the statement of reasons separately, within 30 days after filing the appeal. If the statement of reasons is filed separate from the notice of appeal, the statement must be sent to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203. It is suggested that any such documents be sent certified mail, return receipt requested.

If you wish to file a petition (pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21) for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that the IBLA is reviewing your appeal, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied;
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits;
3. The likelihood of the immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted; and,
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal, statement of reasons, a petition for a stay, and all other supporting documents must also be sent to the Regional Solicitor, Alaska Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 4230 University Drive, Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99508.

## APPROVED PLAN

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The BLM-Alaska Glennallen Field Office adopts and approves for immediate implementation the Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV) findings and associated management objectives, the Benefits Based Management (BBM) land use planning decisions and implementation actions, and the adaptive management implementation actions described in this Approved Plan for the Delta River SRMA. The Approved Plan is based on both land use planning decisions and implementation decisions that were adopted in the Decision Record for the Delta River SRMA. The ORVs are not a land use allocation or an implementation decision, but rather a finding based on a study/inventory process of what values or characteristics make the river worthy of special protection.

### 2.0 OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUE (ORV) FINDINGS AND ASSOCIATED MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

#### 2.1 ORV-Recreation

Within all Wild and Scenic River (WSR) classification segments, the Delta Wild and Scenic River (DWSR) corridor provides outstandingly remarkable opportunities for a diversity of recreational experiences in a setting dominated by natural scenery and landscapes. The DWSR is one of a few easily accessible Wild and Scenic Rivers in the State of Alaska, providing both day use and overnight boating opportunities. A wide range of outstanding recreational opportunities attract people of all ages and abilities to the DWSR corridor; where individuals, families, and groups have historically established traditional family ties with the area. Some segments of the river corridor provide outstanding opportunities for river-related solitude, enjoyment of natural river sounds, and primitive and unconfined recreation in a natural, undisturbed environment. Other segments provide a remote setting for recreational activities such as wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, trapping, camping, hiking, snowmachining, skiing, photography, OHV travel, and a variety of water for both the floater and motorized boater. Boating opportunities include both lake and river paddling on clear and glacial water stretches, challenging whitewater, and exceptional opportunities for both day use and extended overnight backcountry excursions.

Management Objectives (all WSR classification segments):

- Preserve the river and its immediate environment in its natural condition, while seeking to maintain a diversity of recreational experiences.
- Manage to maintain a primitive and semiprimitive recreational experience on specific segments of the river where visitors have opportunities for solitude.
- Manage recreational activities and facilities to maintain or enhance the undeveloped character of the river and surrounding environment.
- Ensure adequate instream flows to accommodate recreational opportunities.

#### 2.2 ORV-Scenic

Within all WSR classification segments, the DWSR corridor provides unmatched and outstandingly remarkable scenic opportunities. The DWSR is flanked by both the low, rolling tundra hills of the Amphitheatre Mountains and the high, rugged snow-covered peaks and ridges of the Alaska Range, providing high-quality scenic vistas. The river and surrounding hills provide undisturbed views of the river canyon, waterfalls, channelized riverbeds, tributaries, granite rock outcroppings and glacial alluvial processes. There is a scenic interface of river, rock, tundra, and spruce-dominated forest within the river corridor. Photographic opportunities are nearly limitless with snow, water, rock, and vegetation interspersed over rolling hills, mountains, and deep river valleys.

Management Objectives (all WSR classification segments):

- Management activities will retain and seek to enhance the existing character of the landscape and Class I Visual Resource Management (VRM) viewshed within the river corridor.

- Improvements to recreational facilities within the river corridor will remain rustic and will be developed to harmonize with the natural surroundings of the area.

### 2.3 ORV-Cultural

The DWSR corridor contains outstandingly remarkable cultural resources within the *wild* and *scenic* classification segments, including portions of a 226,660-acre National Register Archaeological District created in 1971. The BLM-managed Tangle Lakes Archaeological District (TLAD) contains approximately 25,677 acres within the DWSR corridor, with nearly 280 recorded archaeological sites (Bowers 1989), and represents a roughly continuous history of human occupation from more than 10,000 years ago through the recent past. Almost all of the earliest known archaeological sites in the region are found within the designated river corridor, and there are likely hundreds of other unknown sites within this area (West 1981; Bowers 1989; Jangala et al 2009). Together, these factors make that portion of TLAD within the DWSR corridor nationally significant as one of the densest areas for early Holocene archaeology in the North American Sub-Arctic (Bowers 1989). Evidence of this prehistoric occupation can still be found within close proximity to many common campsites along the river corridor. The area also remains culturally significant for the Copper River Basin's Alaska Natives, the Ahtna Athabascans (Kari and Tuttle 2005; Jangala et al 2009). The river corridor contains dozens of recorded Ahtna names and was likely a long-term travel and trading route between the Copper River Basin and the Tanana Valley. The Ahtna consider the Tangle Lakes to be the ancient origin place of one of their oldest clans.

Management Objectives (Wild and Scenic classification segments):

- Manage activities within the DWSR corridor to preserve cultural values that contribute to its primitive character.
- Inventory areas within the DWSR corridor that have not received previous archaeological surveys for additional historic and archaeological sites, as well as places of religious and cultural importance for local Alaska Native peoples.
- Manage dispersed campsites and trails within the river corridor to eliminate erosion and minimize bare ground, thus reducing the potential for disturbance of archaeological sites.
- To reduce looting or vandalism, increase public knowledge of the significance of TLAD and the fragile nature of artifacts and archaeological sites that may be found within the river corridor.

### 2.4 ORV-Fisheries

Within the *wild* classification segment, the DWSR provides outstandingly remarkable habitat for a resident, world-class Arctic grayling fishery. Few rivers anywhere in the world can match the quality and quantity of the Arctic grayling fishery in the DWSR. Results of recent abundance estimates for Arctic grayling in the *wild* classification segment indicated the 17 km study area had one of the greatest densities ever recorded for a population of Arctic grayling  $\geq 270$  mm length (Gryska 2009).

Management Objectives (Wild classification segment):

- Manage designated campsites and social trails to reduce soil compaction, soil erosion, sedimentation, and riparian vegetation loss and damage.
- Maintain and restore elements of the sediment regime including timing, volume, rate, and character of sediment input, storage, and transport.
- Maintain water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems.
- Maintain or enhance the physical integrity of the aquatic system including shorelines, streambanks, and bottom configurations.
- Maintain instream flows sufficient to create and sustain riparian, aquatic, and wetland habitats and to retain patterns of sediment, nutrient, and wood routing.
- Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian areas.
- Maintain habitat to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate and vertebrate riparian-dependent species.

- Cooperate with partner and research agencies in existing and future fish population monitoring, habitat assessment, habitat restoration, and research projects that are consistent with management objectives.

## 2.5 ORV-Wildlife

Within the *scenic* classification segment, the DWSR provides outstandingly remarkable wildlife viewing and photographic opportunities for a diversity of wildlife species. Migratory birds and waterfowl use the river corridor and the surrounding lakes as nesting areas. Trumpeter swans, a BLM sensitive species, nest in the wetlands of the Upper Tangle Lakes. Bald eagles frequent the area to nest and hunt for fish and various waterfowl. Grizzly bears frequent the lowlands to fish and to hunt where moose drop their calves. Moose inhabit the lowlands in the summer, while generally wintering at higher elevations in the surrounding hills. The *scenic* classification segment is also within the historical migratory path of the Nelchina Caribou Herd. Up to 34,000 caribou travel through this area each year in an annual migration to and from the calving grounds farther west. This exceptional combination of pristine habitat and wildlife contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem. Moreover, a unique tradition of subsistence use allows rural hunters to harvest moose and caribou in the river corridor, following long-held traditions passed on through thousands of years.

Management Objectives (Scenic classification segment):

- Maintain or enhance wildlife habitat for migratory birds and waterfowl.
- Protect habitat for Trumpeter swans, a BLM sensitive species.
- Reduce potential sources of disruption for the migration and wintering of the Nelchina Caribou Herd.
- Ensure sound wildlife habitat management for continued subsistence opportunities.
- Minimize human-bear encounters by encouraging visitors to use Leave No Trace camping techniques.

**Table 2: Outstandingly Remarkable Values by WSR Classification**

**Wild** Segment

(32% of the WSR corridor/ 20 Designated River Miles): Recreation, Scenic, Cultural, Fisheries

**Scenic** Segment

(39 % of the WSR corridor/ 24 Designated River Miles): Recreation, Scenic, Cultural, Wildlife

**Recreational** Segment

(29% of the WSR corridor/ 18 Designated River Miles): Recreation, Scenic

## 3.0 BENEFITS BASED MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

The BLM has developed specific Benefits-Based Management (BBM) goals and objectives to address key issues identified during the initial planning studies for the Delta River SRMA. The BBM planning process involves identifying distinct Recreation Management Zones (RMZs) for the entire Delta River SRMA, each RMZ having a specific recreation niche or specialty, which serves the primary recreational market targeted within each zone. The development of RMZs within the Delta River SRMA is a land use planning allocation decision, based on the primary recreational activities that occur within different areas of the river corridor.

The BLM has adopted the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) as a tool to describe the existing recreational setting character and to prescribe the desired recreational setting character (BLM LUP H 1601-1, Appendix C) for each RMZ. The ROS provides a framework for classifying the diversity of recreational opportunities on public lands to accommodate a wide range of recreational users and activities. Typically, the ROS is divided into six major classes: urban, rural, roaded natural, semiprimitive

motorized, semiprimitive nonmotorized, and primitive. Along this continuum, physical, social, and managerial conditions vary. One ROS class will be applied to each RMZ to help define the actual experience setting that will facilitate the desired outcomes for each RMZ. The RMZs and targeted ROS experience settings for the Delta River SRMA are included in Table 3.

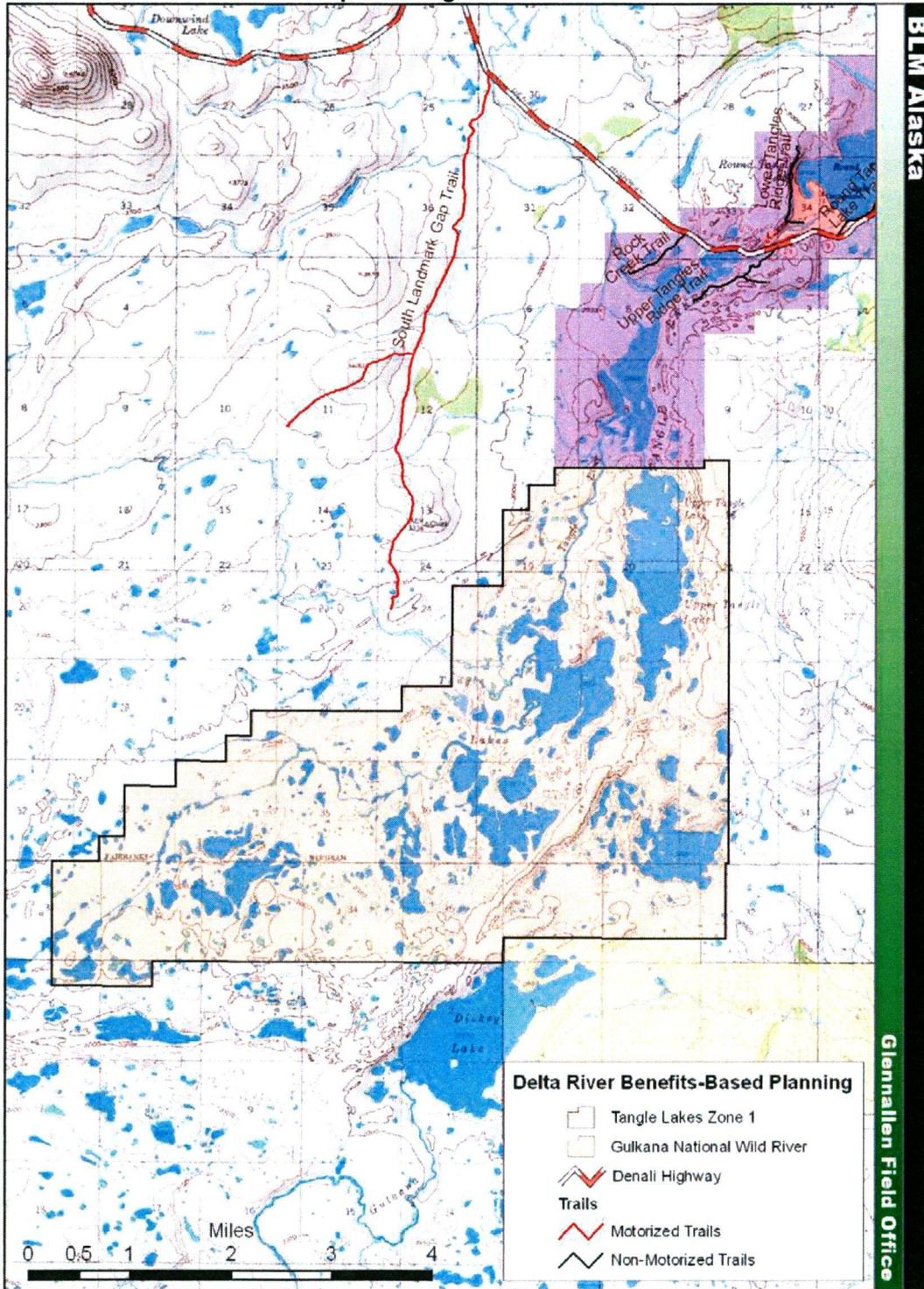
**Table 3: ROS Experiences by RMZ**

<b>Recreation Management Zone</b>	<b>ROS Experience to be Managed For</b>	<b>Definition of Experience</b>
<b>Tangle Lakes Zone 1</b>	Semiprimitive nonmotorized	Area is characterized by a high degree of naturalness. Concentration of users is low to moderate, but solitude is still possible. Area is free of motorized roads and trails, but some motorized boating use is present, limited by physical terrain features. Vegetation and soils are predominantly natural, but some impacts exist at campsites. Management presence is subtle and limited, absent of any facilities.
<b>Tangle Lakes Zone 2</b>	Semiprimitive motorized	Area is characterized by a predominantly naturally appearing environment. Concentration of users is moderate, and solitude is sometimes difficult to find. Motorized uses are common. Sights and sounds of the road system may or may not be dominant, but all portions are near motorized activities. Vegetation and soils are predominantly natural, but some impacts exist at campsites.
<b>Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3</b>	Roaded Natural	Area is characterized by a moderate degree of naturalness, within sight and sounds of humans. User concentrations may be high in popular recreational sites, such as waysides, campgrounds, and water access points. Basic facilities exist for user convenience and safety, with a moderate level of management presence. Area is accessible by paved or gravel roads to conventional motorized vehicles.
<b>Delta River Zone 4</b>	Primitive	Area is characterized by an essentially unmodified natural environment, managed for primitive attributes and solitude. Concentration of users is very low and evidence of use is minimal. Sights and sounds of the road system are nonexistent and area is remote. Facilities are rustic and built for resource protection only. There is little or no evidence of motorized use, including OHV trails.
<b>Delta River Zone 5</b>	Semiprimitive motorized	See description for Tangle Lakes Zone 2.

### 3.1 Tangle Lakes Zone 1

Tangle Lakes Zone 1 is accessed from the DWSR Wayside and includes the southern portion of the Upper Tangle Lakes system to the extent of the river corridor boundary (this zone does not include the first lake and portage of the Upper Tangles, which is located in Tangle Lakes Zone 2). The zone is located entirely within the TLAD and contains approximately 13,362 acres of BLM-managed lands.

**Map 2: Tangle Lakes Zone 1**



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## **Tangle Lakes Zone 1 EARMF AMMENDMENT LAND USE PLANNING DECISIONS**

### **PRIMARY MARKET STRATEGY:**

Destination

### **PRIMARY MARKET:**

Nonmotorized boaters and hikers from Alaska

### **NICHE DECISION:**

The unique features of this zone allow for visitors to engage in diverse recreational activities in a semiprimitive environment that becomes more primitive as you travel further from the Denali Highway, while remaining relatively close to facilities that provide easy access to the zone.

### **MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE DECISION:**

The primary focus within the zone will be to manage and provide opportunities for nonmotorized lake boating, dispersed hiking and wildlife-viewing activities. Recreational emphasis will be on providing a semiprimitive nonmotorized experience in an easily accessible, naturally appearing landscape.

### **PRIMARY TARGETED OUTCOMES:**

#### **Activities:**

- nonmotorized lake boating
- dispersed hiking
- wildlife viewing

#### **Experiences**

- enjoying solitude, natural quiet and natural sounds
- learning about nature and wildlife

#### **Benefits**

- greater self-reliance and confidence
- closer relationship with the natural world

### **SETTING CHARACTER DECISION -- SEMIPRIMITIVE NONMOTORIZED:**

#### **Physical:**

**Remoteness:** The zone will be managed for a semiprimitive nonmotorized experience, with opportunities for a more primitive experience as you travel further from the Denali Highway.

**Naturalness:** The zone is natural in appearance, but may be within site of the Denali Highway and developed facilities. Conditions become more primitive as you progress further south.

**Facilities:** 15 primitive campsites will be designated for overnight use. Portage trails between the lakes will remain unimproved.

**Social:**

**Contacts:** Manage for 4-6 encounters per day on the weekend, and 2-4 encounters per day during the week.

**Group Size:** Manage for an average group size of 3-5 people.

**Evidence of Use:** Minor evidence of use, including slight vegetation trampling at campsites and on portage routes will be expected.

**Administrative:**

**Mechanized Use:** Decisions regarding mechanized use are described below under *Travel Management*.

**Management Controls:** Agency personnel will conduct field patrols approximately three times per season.

**Visitor Services:** River patrol crews will make contact with lake and river users.

## **Tangle Lakes Zone 1 DELTA SRMA IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS**

**MANAGEMENT****Adaptive Management Actions:**

Actions described in Chapter 4.0 for the management of litter, human waste, fire rings, campsite impacts, and private/commercial user capacity will be adopted. Impact levels will be monitored; if standards are exceeded, management actions will be implemented as described.

**Special Recreation Permits (SRP):**

Commercial group sizes will be limited to 10 people per campsite. Commercial guides and their clients will be required to use designated campsites and portable toilets. Competitive events may be authorized based on compatibility with specified ORVs for the zone.

**Travel Management:**

Tangle Lakes Zone 1 is located entirely within the TLAD. Special Rules for the TLAD limit OHV travel to designated OHV trails from May 16 through Oct. 15, or until such time that adequate snow cover or ground frost is present to protect archaeological resources. There are no existing designated OHV trails within the zone.

Unauthorized OHV routes will be closed and rehabilitated. Signs that identify OHV use limitations will be used to reinforce TLAD trail restrictions. The BLM will monitor visitor use to ensure the protection of resources and compliance with TLAD trail restrictions. Education and enforcement will be used to help limit the proliferation of unauthorized trails.

Portage trails between the lakes will remain unimproved and trail maintenance will only be used to prevent resource damage and trail proliferation, using native materials (e.g., rocks, spruce) and primitive trail construction methods. Trail reroutes or closure of spur trails within the portage areas may be used to prevent the proliferation of redundant trails. If trail proliferation does occur, rock cairns or unobtrusive signage may be used to mark the portage routes.

Public use of pack animals, mechanized travel (e.g., mountain bikes) and dog mushing will be allowed throughout the zone. The BLM will recommend the use of certified weed-free forage and bedding for pack animals and dog mushing.

Motorized boating and airplane landings will not be prohibited, unless monitoring shows that adverse impacts are occurring to recreational, wildlife, riparian, and/or water quality resource values. Upon a finding that any of these resource values are being adversely affected as a result of motorized boating or airplane landings, an ANILCA closure process would be implemented in compliance with the procedures outlined in 43 CFR 36.11(h). New airstrips will not be authorized within the management zone.

### **Facilities:**

There will be no developed facilities within the zone. Public use cabins will not be considered for development. The absence of facilities is a characteristic that makes this zone unique, providing solitude in a natural, primitive setting.

### **Education and Interpretation:**

Information will be developed to inform and educate visitors about current river resource conditions, rules and regulations, recreational opportunities, and Leave No Trace low-impact camping techniques. River crews will make contact with users to educate low-impact camping and river ethics. The primary goal within this zone is to provide interpretation of area resources through self-discovery.

### **MARKETING:**

Recreational opportunities within the zone will be marketed by providing information on BLM-Alaska's website, social media sites, and publications.

User groups, communities, volunteers, and other interested parties may help to monitor and maintain river resources through partnerships and special events.

### **MONITORING**

The BLM will ensure that BBM outcomes and objectives are being met and setting prescriptions are maintained through the administration of BBM visitor satisfaction surveys.

BLM-Alaska will conduct monitoring and periodic assessments for impacts to recreational, wildlife, riparian and/or water quality resource values within the management zone and use the following guidelines as a baseline to quantify possible adverse impacts during the life of the plan:

#### **Recreational Resources:**

BLM-Alaska will conduct recreational monitoring to determine the level of motorized boating and airplane landings. This monitoring will include the administration of river user surveys,

river overflights, and river patrols to determine whether motorized boating use or airplane landings are occurring, and to quantify the level of use.

#### Wildlife Resources:

BLM-Alaska will perform periodic assessments of wildlife habitats to ensure a diversity and abundance of waterfowl and migratory birds. This includes the effects of human disturbances on breeding, nesting, and productivity of Trumpeter swans and other migratory birds. Periodic breeding bird surveys will assess occupancy and productivity. The BLM will also develop and participate in research partnership efforts to gain a better understanding of the effects of human disturbance to sensitive status birds and their habitats.

#### Riparian Resources:

Habitat assessments will be completed to evaluate the physical condition of riparian and wetland areas. Using established BLM protocols, proper functioning condition (PFC) assessments will help the BLM determine if motorized boating and airplane landings are adversely affecting riparian and/or wetland vegetation. The desired condition for riparian and wetland vegetation is to maintain diverse age-class distribution and composition, presence of species that indicate the maintenance of riparian/wetland soil moisture characteristics, deep-rooted riparian species, vigorous riparian vegetation, adequate vegetative cover to protect streambanks and dissipate energy during high flows, and communities with an adequate source of coarse and/or large woody material.

#### Water Quality:

Water quality baseline data will be periodically collected to assess possible adverse impacts, including monitoring for petroleum hydrocarbons resulting from motorized boating and/or airplane landings.

Using an adaptive management approach, the BLM will monitor and evaluate whether identified standards are being maintained for litter, human waste, fire rings, private and commercial user capacities and campsite impacts. Monitoring will be conducted using river patrols, river surveys, and visitor registration. Management actions (described in Chapter 4.0) will be implemented in response to monitored conditions.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

Special Rules for the river corridor will be developed in accordance with 43 CFR 8351.2-1 to codify the following administrative restrictions:

#### **Travel Management:**

The use of snowmachines and OHVs will only be allowed during periods of adequate snow cover (at least 6" of ground frost or 12" of snow cover).

#### **Group Size:**

Group sizes will be limited to a maximum of 10 people per campsite. Groups in excess of 10 people per campsite must obtain written authorization with special stipulations from the BLM.

**Occupancy and Use:**

Camping will be limited to 14 consecutive days within the river corridor within any 60-day period. Designated campsites must be used when camping within 200 feet of the river or lake shoreline. Dispersed camping (more than 200 feet from the shoreline) will be allowed when using Leave No Trace low-impact camping methods.

It is prohibited to discharge a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property at any time within 150 yards of a residence, building, developed or undeveloped recreation site, or occupied area; or at any time across or on any public road, or across or on any trail or body of water whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge.

**Chainsaw Use and Firewood Gathering:**

The use of chainsaws for campsite firewood will be prohibited. Only dead and down wood may be used for campfires. The cutting of green trees and green vegetation will not be allowed.

**Fireworks:**

The use of fireworks will be prohibited.

**Supply Caching:**

The caching of supplies will only be allowed through written authorization with special stipulations from the BLM.

**Disposal of Human Waste:**

Proper disposal of human wastes per Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) regulation 18 AAC 72.020 will be required<sup>1</sup>. Commercial guides and their clients will be required to use portable toilets.

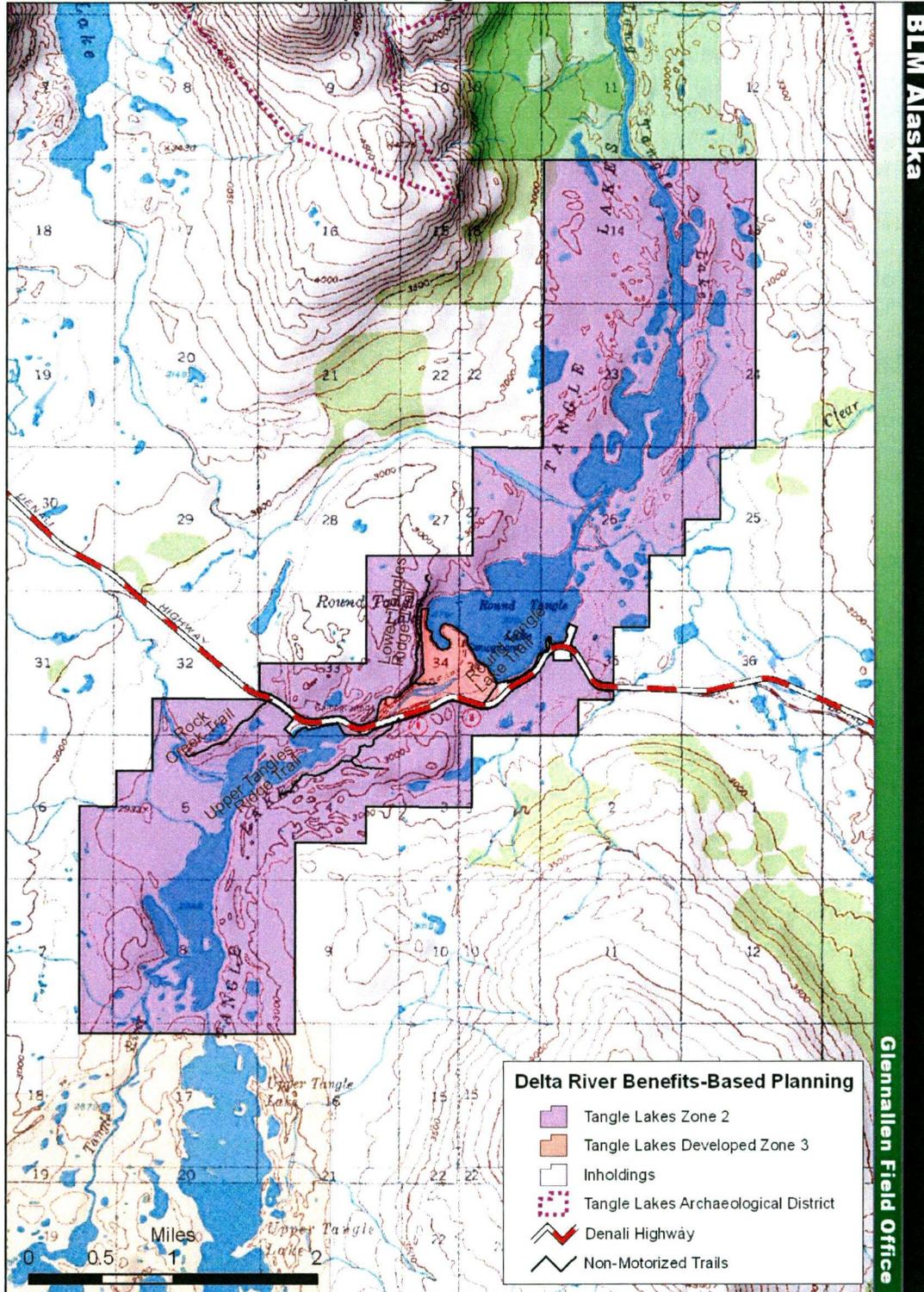
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*Human waste shall not be disposed of on state-owned shorelands (such as gravel bars and sand bars), in accordance with AS 46.03.800 - 810. On all lands including state, federal and private, human waste may be disposed of in a cathole at least 100 feet away from the ordinary high water mark of streams, rivers, or lakes in accordance with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) regulation 18 AAC 72.020.*

### 3.2 Tangle Lakes Zone 2

Tangle Lakes Zone 2 includes the first lake and portage area of the Upper Tangle Lakes (accessed from the DWSR Wayside), Round Tangle Lake, and portions of Long Tangle Lake. The zone is located entirely within the TLAD and contains approximately 6,603 acres of BLM-managed lands.

**Map 3: Tangle Lakes Zone 2**



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## **Tangle Lakes Zone 2 EARMP AMMENDMENT LAND USE PLANNING DECISIONS**

### **PRIMARY MARKET STRATEGY:**

Destination

### **PRIMARY MARKET:**

Motorized and nonmotorized boaters and hikers from Alaska  
National and international visitors traveling the Denali Highway

### **NICHE DECISION:**

The zone provides opportunities for visitors to engage in easily accessible, water-based recreational experiences on the lake system, and developed trail hiking opportunities in the surrounding uplands, while located relatively close to campground and wayside facilities.

### **MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE DECISION:**

The primary focus within the zone will be to manage and provide opportunities for motorized and nonmotorized lake boating and developed trail hiking activities. Recreational emphasis will be on providing a semiprimitive motorized experience offering social group and family affiliation opportunities in an easily accessible, naturally appearing landscape.

### **PRIMARY TARGETED OUTCOMES:**

#### **Activities:**

- hiking
- motorized lake boating
- nonmotorized lake boating

#### **Experiences:**

- learning about nature
- physical exercise

#### **Benefits:**

- improved health/fitness
- closer relationship with the natural world

### **SETTING CHARACTER DECISION – SEMIPRIMITIVE MOTORIZED**

#### **Physical:**

**Remoteness:** The zone will be managed for a semiprimitive motorized experience with a low to moderate concentration of users.

**Naturalness:** The zone is natural in appearance, but within site of the highway and developed facilities.

**Facilities:** 25 primitive campsites will be designated for overnight use. There will be one unimproved portage trail located between the first and second lakes of the Upper Tangles. Four nonmotorized hiking trails will be designated and developed within the zone.

**Social:**

**Contacts:** Manage for 6-10 encounters per day on the weekend; and 4-6 encounters per day during the week.

**Group Size:** Manage for an average group size of 4-6 people.

**Evidence of Use:** Minor evidence of use, including slight vegetation trampling at campsites and on hiking trails will be expected

**Administrative**

**Mechanized Use:** Decisions regarding mechanized use are described below under *Travel Management*.

**Management Controls:** Agency personnel will conduct field patrols approximately three times per season.

**Visitor Services:** River patrol crews will make contact with lake and river users. Publications will be available and interpretive information will be provided at the boat launches.

## **Tangle Lakes Zone 2 DELTA SRMA IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS**

**MANAGEMENT:**

**Adaptive Management Actions:**

Actions described in Chapter 4.0 for the management of litter, human waste, fire rings, campsite impacts, and private/commercial user capacity will be adopted. Impact levels will be monitored; and if standards are exceeded, management actions will be implemented as described.

**Special Recreation Permits (SRP):**

Commercial group sizes will be limited to 10 people per campsite. Commercial guides and their clients will be required to use designated campsites and portable toilets. Competitive events may be authorized based on compatibility with specified ORVs for the zone.

**Travel Management:**

Tangle Lakes Zone 2 is located entirely within the TLAD. Special Rules for the TLAD limit OHV travel to designated OHV trails from May 16 - October 15, or until such time that adequate snow cover or ground frost is present to protect archaeological resources. There are no existing designated OHV trails within the zone.

The Round Tangle Lake Trail and a trail at Mile 22 Denali Highway North are unauthorized OHV trails and will be closed to OHV use and rehabilitated. Signs that identify OHV use limitations

will be used to reinforce TLAD trail restrictions. The BLM will monitor visitor use to ensure the protection of resources and compliance with TLAD trail restrictions. Education and enforcement will be used to help limit the proliferation of unauthorized trails.

A designated hiking trail system will be developed within the zone. Trails will be designated as nonmotorized, and interpretive panels may be installed to educate users about the archaeological significance and subsistence lifestyles of the area. Designated nonmotorized hiking trails will include the Lower Tangles Ridge Trail, Rock Creek Trail, Upper Tangles Ridge Trail, and the Round Tangle Lake Trail.

Public use of pack animals, mechanized travel (e.g., mountain bikes) and dog mushing will be allowed throughout the zone. These uses will not be prohibited on designated, nonmotorized hiking trails unless monitoring shows that adverse impacts are occurring to trail resource values or compromising visitor safety. Upon a finding that trail resource values are being adversely affected or visitor safety is being compromised as a result of these uses, an ANILCA closure process would be implemented in compliance with the procedures outlined in 43 CFR 36.11(h). The BLM will recommend the use of certified weed-free forage and bedding for pack animals and dog mushing.

The portage trail located between the first and second lakes of the Upper Tangles will remain unimproved and trail maintenance will only be used to prevent resource damage and trail proliferation, using native materials (e.g., rocks, spruce) and primitive trail construction methods. If trail proliferation does occur, rock cairns and signage may be used to mark the portage route.

There will be no restrictions on motorized boating or airplane landings. New airstrips will not be authorized within the zone. The BLM will monitor water quality within the zone. If measured petroleum hydrocarbon levels exceed State water quality standards, the BLM will consider restrictions to meet the standards.

**Facilities:**

There will be no developed facilities within the zone. Outhouses will not be constructed along the portage, and public use cabins will not be considered for development.

**Property Acquisition:**

The BLM will consider the acquisition of private parcels for sale within the zone for inclusion into the DWSR corridor. In the event that future land acquisition proposals are being considered in the DWSR corridor, a public meeting will be held in the affected area to solicit public comments on the proposal.

**Education and Interpretation:**

Educational and interpretive materials will be targeted to help develop an understanding of subsistence lifestyles, cultural awareness, natural resource protection, recreational opportunities, and the need for use restrictions. Interpretive panels will be developed for nonmotorized trails to promote a better cultural and natural resource awareness of the area. River crews will make contact with river users to discuss Leave No Trace river ethics.

**MARKETING**

Recreational opportunities within the zone will be widely marketed and will include information on BLM-Alaska's website, social media sites, publications, and interpretive displays. Marketing of this zone helps to support local area businesses and private enterprises.

User groups, communities, volunteers, and other interested parties may help to monitor and maintain river resources through partnerships and special events.

## **MONITORING**

The BLM will assure that BBM outcomes and objectives are being met and setting prescriptions are being maintained through the administration of BBM visitor satisfaction surveys.

Using an adaptive management approach, the BLM will monitor and evaluate whether identified standards are being maintained for litter, human waste, fire rings, private and commercial user capacities and campsite impacts. Monitoring will be conducted using river patrols, river surveys, and visitor registration. Management actions (described in Chapter 4.0) will be implemented in response to monitored conditions.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

Special Rules for the river corridor will be developed in accordance with 43 CFR 8351.2-1 to codify the following administrative restrictions:

### **Travel Management:**

The use of snowmachines and OHVs will only be allowed during periods of adequate snow cover (at least 6" of ground frost or 12" of snow cover).

### **Group Size:**

Group sizes will be limited to a maximum of 10 people per campsite. Groups in excess of 10 people per campsite must obtain written authorization with special stipulations from the BLM.

### **Occupancy and Use:**

Camping will be limited to 14 consecutive days within the river corridor within any 60-day period. Designated campsites must be used when camping within 200 feet of the river or lake shoreline. Dispersed camping (more than 200 feet from the shoreline) will be allowed when using Leave No Trace low-impact camping methods.

It is prohibited to discharge a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property at any time within 150 yards of a residence, building, developed or undeveloped recreation sites, or occupied area; or at any time across or on any public road, or across or on any trail or body of water whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge.

### **Chainsaw Use and Firewood Gathering:**

The use of chainsaws for campsite firewood will be prohibited. Only dead and down wood may be used for campfires. The cutting of green trees and green vegetation will not be allowed.

### **Fireworks:**

The use of fireworks will be prohibited.

### **Supply Caching:**

The caching of supplies will only be allowed through written authorization with special stipulations from the BLM.

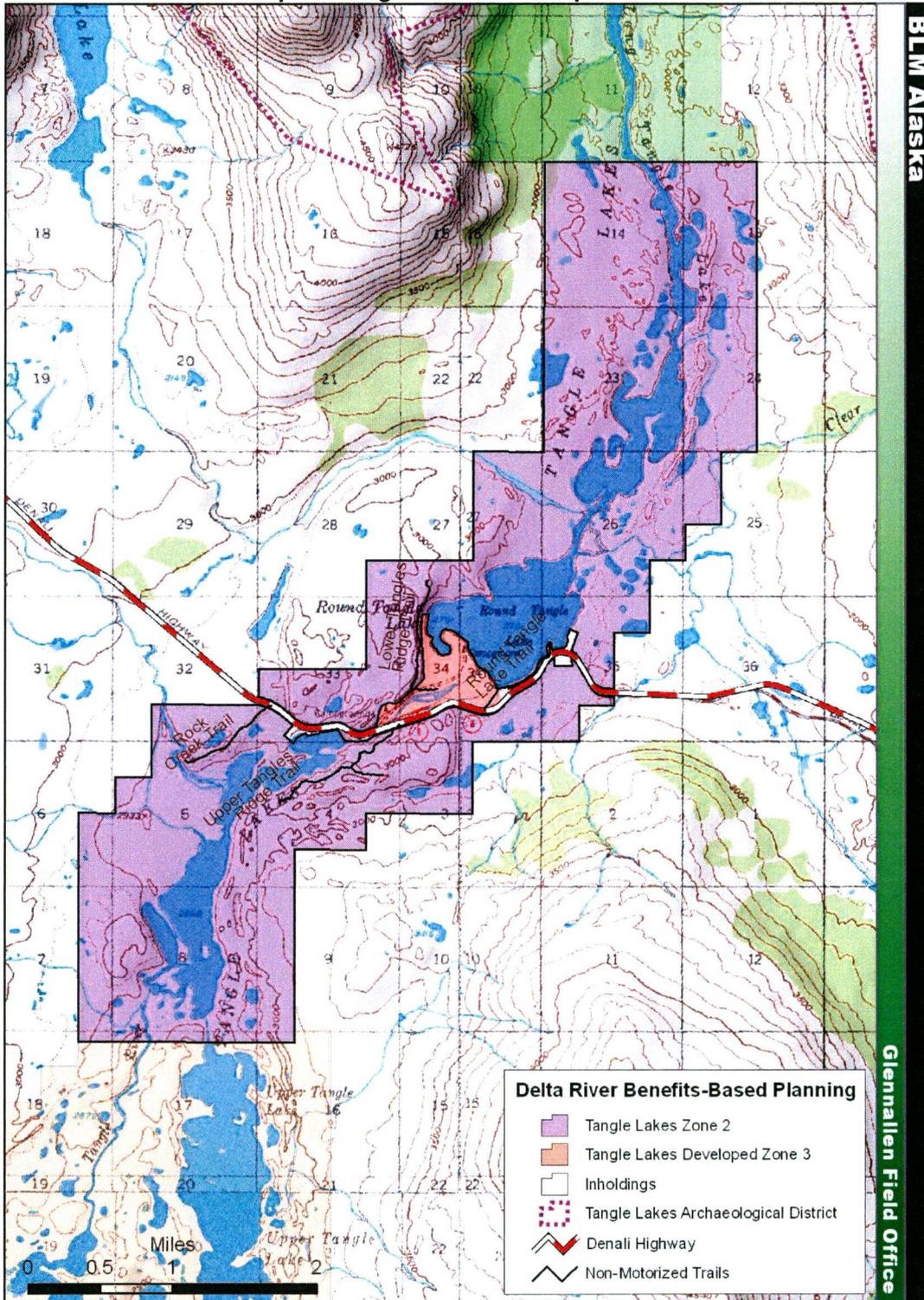
**Disposal of Human Waste:**

Proper disposal of human wastes per Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) regulation 18 AAC 72.020 will be required. Commercial guides and their clients will be required to use portable toilets.

### 3.3 Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3

Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3 includes the Tangle Lakes Campground, DWSR Wayside, and portions of the Tangle River that flow through the developed facility areas. The zone is located entirely within the TLAD and contains approximately 248 acres of BLM-managed lands.

**Map 4: Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3**



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## **Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3 EARMP AMMENDMENT LAND USE PLANNING DECISIONS**

### **PRIMARY MARKET STRATEGY:**

Destination

### **PRIMARY MARKET:**

National and international visitors traveling the Denali Highway

### **NICHE DECISION:**

The zone provides opportunities for visitors to engage in day use activities and overnight camping in an easily accessible, developed recreation setting with a moderate level of BLM management presence. Close proximity to the Denali Highway and commercial services provides limited amenities and assistance if needed.

### **MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE DECISION:**

The primary focus within the zone will be to manage and provide opportunities for developed overnight camping and fishing activities in BLM facilities that are easily accessible from the Denali Highway. Recreational emphasis will be on providing a roaded natural experience, offering social group and family affiliation opportunities within a partially modified, naturally appearing landscape.

### **PRIMARY TARGETED OUTCOMES:**

#### **Activities:**

- developed camping
- fishing

#### **Experiences:**

- spending time with family and friends
- experiencing cultural history

#### **Benefits:**

- social interaction with other visitors
- stronger ties with family and friends

### **SETTING CHARACTER DECISION – ROADED NATURAL:**

#### **Physical:**

**Remoteness:** The zone will be managed for a roaded natural experience, where other users are routinely expected, but privacy is still possible within designated campsites.

**Naturalness:** The zone is partially modified by gravel roads, recreation facilities, and evidence of adjacent private property, but this does not overpower the natural features of the surrounding landscape.

**Facilities:** Facilities within the zone will include the campground, wayside, two boat launches, and interpretive sites.

**Social:**

**Contacts:** Manage for a high level of encounters with other visitors within the developed facilities. People are generally present at campsites, but distant enough to prevent interactions.

**Group Size:** Manage for group sizes not to exceed 10 people and two vehicles per designated campsite.

**Evidence of Use:** Areas are gravel surfaced for erosion control. Worn soils and trampled vegetation may be present in isolated locations along the Tangle River, and in some areas throughout the developed facilities.

**Administrative:**

**Mechanized Use:** Decisions regarding mechanized use are described below under *Travel Management*.

**Management Controls:** Volunteer campground hosts will be present at the Tangle Lakes Campground and DWSR Wayside. Agency and law enforcement personnel will be periodically present within the campground and wayside.

**Visitor Services:** Publications will be available and interpretive information will be posted throughout the developed facilities.

## **Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3 DELTA SRMA IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS**

**MANAGEMENT:**

**Litter:**

Litter receptacles will be provided in the developed facility areas. Campground hosts will provide education regarding proper litter disposal.

**Human and Pet Waste:**

The BLM will require the proper disposal of human and pet wastes per ADEC and CFR 8365 regulations that address litter and solid waste disposal, water pumping restrictions, and other sanitation issues.

**Fire Rings:**

Metal fire rings will be provided in designated campsites and picnic areas in the developed facilities.

**Campsite Impacts:**

The BLM redesigned the developed and designated campsites at the Tangle Lakes Campground to reduce vegetation damage through the unauthorized creation of campsites. A separate EA analyzed site-

specific considerations related to the campground redesign. The BLM closed and rehabilitated the undesignated campsites. For future development, the BLM may consider walk-in campsites from the campground to locations along Round Tangle Lake and the Tangle River.

**Private and Commercial User Capacity:**

Campground use will be self-limiting due to restrictions on the number of people and vehicles per site. A campsite map showing the 45 designated campsites is available for the public. These sites are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

**Special Recreation Permits (SRP):**

Commercial group sizes will be limited to 10 people per campsite. Competitive events may be authorized based on compatibility with specified ORVs for the zone.

**Travel Management:**

Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3 is located entirely within the TLAD. Special Rules for the TLAD limit OHV travel to designated OHV trails from May 16 - Oct. 15, or until such time that adequate snow cover or ground frost is present to protect archeological resources. There are no existing designated OHV trails within the zone.

Unauthorized OHV routes will be closed and rehabilitated. Signs that identify OHV use limitations will be used to reinforce TLAD trail restrictions. The BLM will monitor trails to ensure the protection of resources and compliance with TLAD trail restrictions. Education and enforcement will be used to help limit the proliferation of unauthorized trails.

Public use of pack animals, mechanized travel (e.g., mountain bikes) and dog mushing will be allowed throughout the zone. The BLM will recommend the use of certified weed-free forage and bedding for pack animals and dog mushing.

Motorized boating has never been observed, nor is it practical in the Tangle River; being naturally restricted by very shallow river conditions and river width. Airplane landings are not practical in the developed facilities due to the lack of suitable airstrips. There will be no formal restrictions on motorized boating or airplane landings. Restrictions would be considered in the future if needed to prohibit these uses in the Tangle River and developed facilities within the management zone. Upon a finding that visitor safety is being compromised as a result of these uses, an ANILCA closure process would be implemented in compliance with the procedures outlined in 43 CFR 36.11(h). New airstrips will not be authorized within the zone.

**Facilities:**

Future facility developments may include the construction of a wayside at the campground entrance that would provide day use services with parking facilities, outhouses, picnicking facilities, interpretive panels, and walking trails along the Tangle River. After the redesign of the campground, user fees will be implemented for overnight use. Public use cabins will not be considered for development. Boat launch facilities will include boater registration kiosks, river survey boxes, and interpretive panels. The installation of an educational river portal facility or portable toilet cleanout facility would be considered if a permit system is implemented and if portable toilets are required by river and lake users in the future.

**Property Acquisition:**

The BLM will consider acquisition of private parcels for sale within the zone for inclusion into the DWSR corridor. In the event that future land acquisition proposals are being considered in the DWSR corridor, a public meeting will be held in the affected area to solicit public comments on the proposal.

**Education and Interpretation:**

The BLM will provide educational and interpretive panels to promote a better cultural and natural resource awareness of the area. Materials will be targeted to help develop an understanding of subsistence

lifestyles, cultural awareness, natural resource protection, recreational opportunities, and the need for use restrictions. Leave No Trace education will be emphasized with presentations at the boat launches and by providing interpretive materials throughout the developed facilities.

### **MARKETING:**

Recreational opportunities within the zone will be widely marketed and will include information on BLM-Alaska's website, social media sites, publications, and interpretive displays. Marketing of this zone helps to support local area businesses and private enterprises.

User groups, communities, volunteers, and other interested parties may help to maintain river resources through partnerships and special events.

### **MONITORING:**

The BLM will assure that BBM outcomes and objectives are being met and setting prescriptions are being maintained through the administration of BBM visitor satisfaction surveys.

Volunteer campground hosts will provide information and education and provide a point of contact for user input and suggestions. Registration and comment cards will be provided for visitors to express their concerns or appreciation.

Law enforcement staff will periodically patrol the facilities to provide enforcement of rules and regulations, and will assure that measures are in place to enforce administrative restrictions.

Maintenance and management oversight will be provided on a routine basis. Periodic and annual safety inspections will be conducted for all developed facilities.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE:**

Supplemental Rules for the developed facilities will be developed in accordance with 43 CFR 8365 to codify the following administrative restrictions:

#### **Travel Management:**

The use of snowmachines and OHVs to travel cross country will only be allowed during periods of adequate snow cover (at least 6" of ground frost or 12" of snow cover). The use of OHVs within the Tangle River will be prohibited. OHV use will only be allowed for ingress and egress to the developed facilities on gravel travel routes designated for motorized travel. The use of OHVs within the developed facilities, other than for ingress or egress, will be prohibited.

#### **Group Size:**

Group sizes will be limited to a maximum of 10 people and two vehicles per designated campsite (one of which may be a recreational vehicle). Groups in excess of 10 people may camp in the designated group camping areas.

#### **Occupancy and Use:**

Camping will be limited to 14 consecutive days within the river corridor within any 60-day period. Designated campsites must be used within the campground. Overnight camping will be prohibited at the DWSR wayside day use facility. Unoccupied, overnight parking of vehicles will be allowed at the wayside to preserve overnight access to the Upper Tangle Lakes.

It is prohibited to discharge a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property at any time within 150 yards of a residence, building, developed or undeveloped recreation sites, or occupied area; or at any time across or on any public road, or across or on any trail or

body of water whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge.

**Chainsaw Use and Firewood Gathering:**

Firewood collecting will be prohibited within the developed facilities or along the Tangle River. Firewood must be brought from outside the river corridor. The use of chainsaws for cutting campsite firewood will be allowed in the developed facilities.

**Fireworks:**

The use of fireworks will be prohibited.

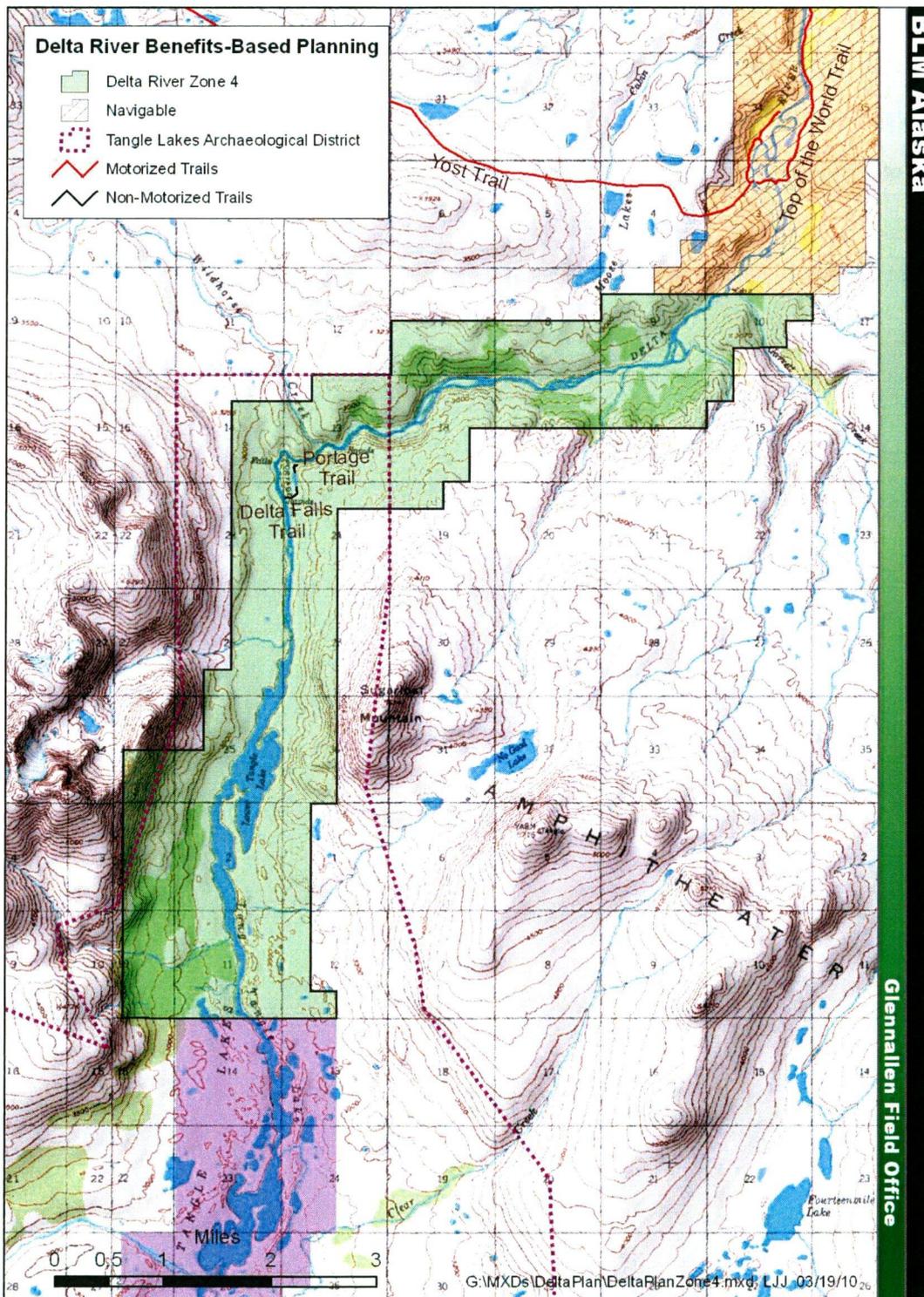
**Disposal of Human and Pet Waste:**

Proper disposal of human wastes per Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) regulation 18 AAC 72.020 will be required. Pet waste, including pack animal wastes, must be properly disposed of and any campsites cleaned of animal waste prior to vacating the campsite.

### 3.4 Delta River Zone 4

Delta River Zone 4 includes the upper Delta River from Long Tangle Lake to the confluence of Garrett Creek, containing approximately 8,309 acres of BLM-managed lands. The southern portion of the zone is located within the TLAD.

Map 5: Delta River Zone 4



## **Delta River Zone 4 EARMP AMMENDMENT LAND USE PLANNING DECISIONS**

### **PRIMARY MARKET STRATEGY:**

Destination

### **PRIMARY MARKET:**

Nonmotorized boaters and hikers from Alaska

### **NICHE DECISION:**

The zone provides opportunities for visitors to engage in primitive recreational experiences that are characterized by solitude, self-reliance, and tranquility in an undisturbed natural environment.

### **MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE DECISION:**

The primary focus within the zone will be to manage and provide opportunities for nonmotorized river boating and fishing activities. The zone will be managed to protect and enhance the qualities and characteristics that are found within a primitive environment. Recreational emphasis will be on providing for a primitive nonmotorized experience in an undisturbed, naturally appearing landscape.

### **PRIMARY TARGETED OUTCOMES:**

#### **Activities:**

- nonmotorized river boating
- fishing

#### **Experiences:**

- enjoying solitude
- escaping everyday responsibilities and social pressures
- having time to reflect

#### **Benefits:**

- relief of mental tension and stress
- closer relationship with the natural world

### **SETTING CHARACTER DECISION – PRIMITIVE NONMOTORIZED:**

#### **Physical:**

**Remoteness:** The zone will be managed for a primitive nonmotorized experience with a very low concentration of users.

**Naturalness:** The zone is extremely natural in appearance and sights or sounds of the road system are nonexistent.

**Facilities:** 20 primitive campsites will be designated for overnight use. At the river portage, the BLM will maintain two trails and one outhouse. Warning signs will be limited to those necessary to ensure user safety. The boater registration kiosk and survey box will be removed, and the outhouse will be removed if portable toilets are required in the future.

**Social:**

**Contacts:** Manage for 2-3 encounters per day on the weekend and 0-2 encounters per day during the week.

**Group Size:** Manage for an average group size of 2-4 people.

**Evidence of Use:** Minor evidence of use, including slight vegetation trampling at campsites and on portage routes will be expected.

**Administrative:**

**Mechanized Use:** Decisions regarding mechanized use are described below under *Travel Management*.

**Management Controls:** Agency personnel will conduct field patrols approximately three times per season.

**Visitor Services:** River patrol crews will make contact with river users.

## **Delta River Zone 4 DELTA SRMA IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS**

### **MANAGEMENT:**

#### **Adaptive Management Actions:**

Actions described in Chapter 4.0 for the management of litter, human waste, fire rings, campsite impacts, and private/commercial user capacity will be adopted. Impact levels will be monitored; if standards are exceeded, management actions will be implemented as described.

#### **Special Recreation Permits (SRP):**

Commercial group sizes will be limited to 10 people per campsite. Commercial guides and their clients will be required to use designated campsites and portable toilets. Competitive events may be authorized based on compatibility with specified ORVs for the zone.

#### **Travel Management:**

Portions of Delta River Zone 4 are located within the TLAD. Special Rules for the TLAD limit OHV travel to designated OHV trails from May 16 - Oct. 15, or until such time that adequate snow cover or ground frost is present to protect archaeological resources. There are no existing designated OHV trails within the zone.

Unauthorized OHV routes will be closed and rehabilitated. Signs that identify OHV use limitations will be used to reinforce TLAD trail restrictions. The BLM will monitor visitor use to

ensure the protection of resources and compliance with TLAD trail restrictions. Education and enforcement will be used to help limit the proliferation of unauthorized trails.

Portage trails will be maintained to prevent resource damage and trail proliferation, using native materials (e.g., rocks, spruce) and primitive trail construction methods. Trail reroutes or closure of spur trails within the portage areas may be used to prevent the proliferation of redundant trails. If trail proliferation does occur, rock cairns and signage may be used to mark the portage routes. Additional nonmotorized trails may be designated and developed in the future in the Garrett Creek drainage. Public use of pack animals, mechanized travel (e.g., mountain bikes) and dog mushing will be allowed throughout the zone. The BLM will recommend the use of certified weed-free forage and bedding for pack animals and dog mushing.

Motorized boating and airplane landings will not be prohibited, unless monitoring shows that adverse impacts are occurring to recreational, fisheries, riparian, and/or water quality resource values. Upon a finding that any of these resource values are being adversely affected as a result of motorized boating or airplane landings, an ANILCA closure process would be implemented in compliance with the procedures outlined in 43 CFR 36.11(h). New airstrips will not be authorized within the management zone.

#### **Facilities:**

Facilities will include one outhouse and two portage warning signs. Portage signs will remain discrete, but noticeable. The existing boater registration kiosk and survey box will be removed, and the outhouse will be removed if portable toilets are required in the future and a portable toilet cleanout facility is developed. Public use cabins will not be considered for development. The absence of facilities is a characteristic that makes this zone unique, providing solitude in a natural, primitive setting.

#### **Education and Interpretation:**

The BLM will develop information to inform and educate visitors about current river resource conditions, rules and regulations, recreational opportunities, and Leave No Trace low-impact camping techniques. River crews will make contact with users to educate low-impact camping and river ethics.

#### **MARKETING:**

Recreational opportunities within the zone will be marketed by providing information on the BLM-Alaska's website, social media sites, and publications.

User groups, communities, volunteers, and other interested parties may help to monitor and maintain river resources through partnerships and special events.

#### **MONITORING:**

The BLM will ensure that BBM outcomes and objectives are being met and setting prescriptions are being maintained through the administration of BBM visitor satisfaction surveys.

Conduct monitoring and periodic assessments for impacts to recreational, fisheries, riparian and/or water quality resource values within the management zone, using the following guidelines to establish baseline information to quantify possible adverse impacts during the life of the plan:

**Recreational Resources:**

Recreational monitoring will be conducted to determine the level of motorized boating and airplane landings. The BLM-Alaska will conduct monitoring through the administration of river user surveys, river overflights, and river patrols to determine if motorized boating use or airplane landings are occurring and to quantify the level of use.

**Fisheries Resources:**

Stock assessment monitoring of Arctic Grayling will be considered based on risk analysis and future adaptive management practices to ensure that motorized boating and/or airplane landings do not adversely affect the high Arctic grayling population densities. Stock assessment will include distribution and population abundance of Arctic grayling in the watershed. Fish inventories and distribution of other fishery resources will be performed for future land use activities in the watershed on an as-needed basis. The BLM-Alaska will also develop and participate in research partnership efforts to gain a better understanding of Delta River ecology and hydrology.

**Riparian Resources:**

Habitat assessments will be completed to evaluate the physical condition of riparian and wetland areas. Using established BLM protocols, proper functioning condition (PFC) assessments will be performed to determine if riparian and/or wetland vegetation is being adversely affected by motorized boating and airplane landings. The desired condition for riparian and wetland vegetation is to maintain diverse age-class distribution and composition, presence of species that indicate the maintenance of riparian/wetland soil moisture characteristics, deep-rooted riparian species, vigorous riparian vegetation, adequate vegetative cover to protect streambanks and dissipate energy during high flows, and communities with an adequate source of coarse and/or large woody material.

**Water Quality:**

Water quality baseline data will be periodically collected to assess possible adverse impacts, including monitoring for petroleum hydrocarbons resulting from motorized boating and/or airplane landings.

Using an adaptive management approach, the BLM will monitor and evaluate whether identified standards are being maintained for litter, human waste, fire rings, private and commercial user capacities, and campsite impacts. The BLM will do this monitoring using river patrols, river surveys, and visitor registration. Management actions (described in Chapter 4.0) will be implemented in response to monitored conditions.

**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

Special Rules for the river corridor will be developed in accordance with 43 CFR 8351.2-1 to codify the following administrative restrictions:

**Travel Management:**

The use of snowmachines and OHVs will only be allowed during periods of adequate snow cover (at least 6" of ground frost or 12" of snow cover).

**Group Size:**

Group sizes will be limited to a maximum of 10 people per campsite. Groups in excess of 10 people per campsite must obtain written authorization with special stipulations from BLM-Alaska.

**Occupancy and Use:**

Camping will be limited to 14 consecutive days within the river corridor within any 60-day period. Designated campsites must be used when camping within 200 feet of the river or lake shoreline. Dispersed camping (more than 200 feet from the shoreline) will be allowed when using Leave No Trace low-impact camping methods.

It is prohibited to discharge a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property at any time within 150 yards of a residence, building, developed or undeveloped recreation sites, or occupied area; or at any time across or on any public road, or across or on any trail or body of water whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge.

**Chainsaw Use and Firewood Gathering:**

The use of chainsaws for campsite firewood will be prohibited. Only dead and down wood may be used for campfires. The cutting of green trees and green vegetation will not be allowed.

**Fireworks:**

The use of fireworks will be prohibited.

**Supply Caching:**

The caching of supplies will only be allowed only through written authorization with special stipulations from the BLM.

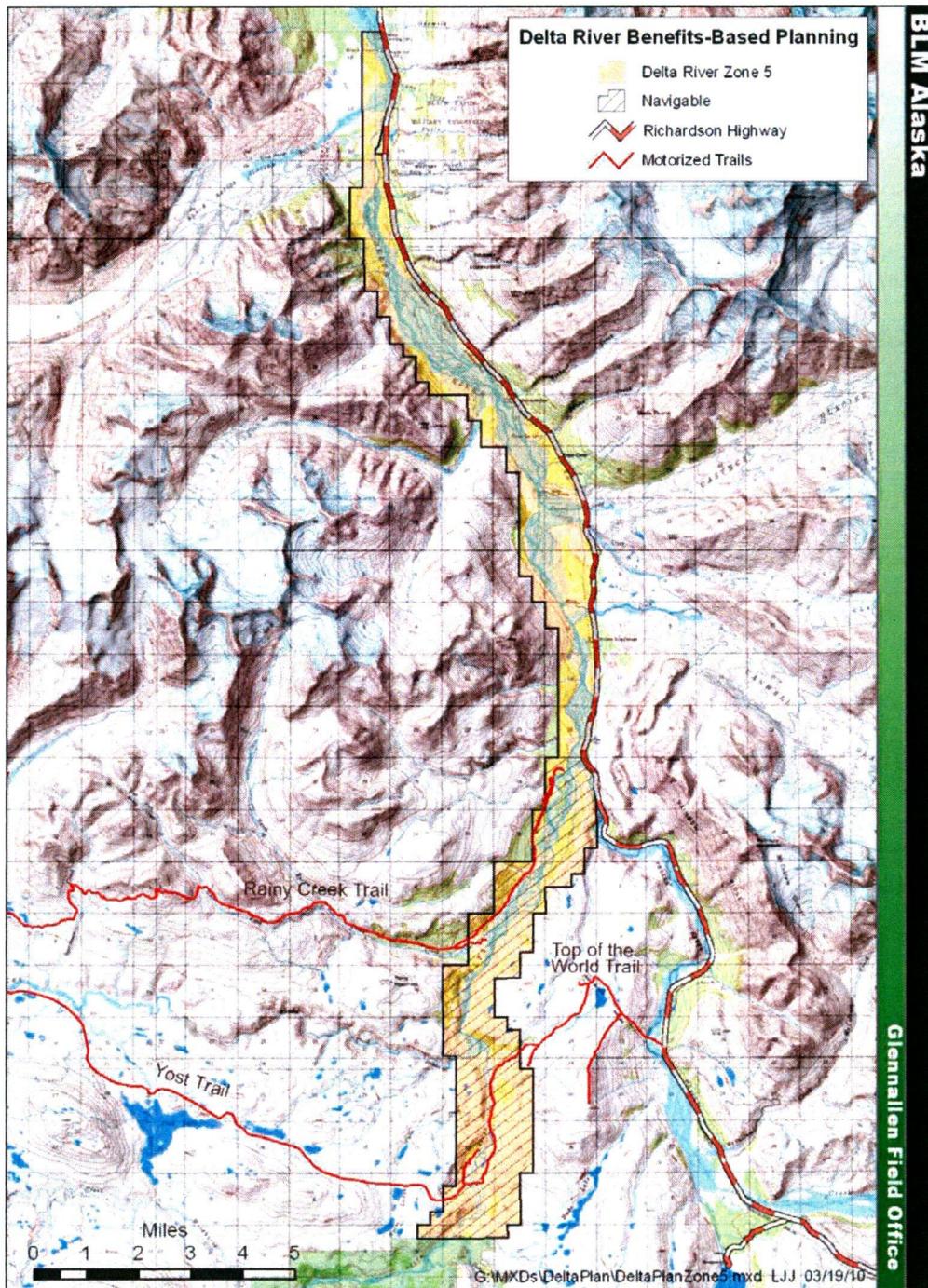
**Disposal of Human Waste:**

Proper disposal of human wastes per Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) regulation 18 AAC 72.020 will be required. Commercial guides and their clients will be required to use portable toilets.

### 3.5 Delta River Zone 5

Delta River Zone 5 includes the lower Delta River, downstream of the Garrett Creek confluence to the end of the river corridor at Black Rapids. The zone contains approximately 16,065 acres of BLM-managed lands. The navigable portion of the lower river corridor, located between the confluences of Garrett Creek and Phelan Creek, is owned by the State of Alaska below the ordinary high water marks.

Map 6: Delta River Zone 5



## **Delta River Zone 5 EARMP AMMENDMENT LAND USE PLANNING DECISIONS**

### **PRIMARY MARKET STRATEGY:**

Destination

### **PRIMARY MARKET:**

Motorized and nonmotorized boaters and OHV users from Alaska

### **NICHE DECISION:**

The zone provides opportunities for visitors to engage in motorized and nonmotorized recreational experiences within a naturally appearing landscape on the lower Delta River and surrounding uplands within the zone.

### **MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE DECISION:**

The primary focus within the zone will be to manage and provide opportunities for visitors to engage in motorized and nonmotorized river boating and motorized OHV use on designated OHV trails. Recreational emphasis will be on providing a semiprimitive motorized experience in a naturally appearing landscape.

### **PRIMARY TARGETED OUTCOMES:**

#### **Activities:**

- motorized river boating
- nonmotorized river boating
- OHV use

#### **Experiences**

- spending time with family and friends
- teaching and developing outdoor skills
- enjoying scenery and natural landscapes

#### **Benefits**

- greater self-reliance and confidence
- closer relationship with the natural world
- gaining and developing outdoor skills

### **SETTING CHARACTER DECISION – SEMIPRIMITIVE MOTORIZED:**

#### **Physical:**

**Remoteness:** The zone will be managed for a semiprimitive motorized experience, with a low to moderate concentration of users.

**Naturalness:** The zone is natural in appearance, but may be within site of the Richardson Highway, OHV trails, or developed facilities that are located along the Richardson Highway.

**Facilities:** Six primitive campsites will be designated for overnight use. A river takeout caution sign, boater registration kiosk, and river survey box will be located at the Mile 212.5 takeout on the Richardson Highway.

**Social:**

**Contacts:** Manage for 3-5 encounters per day on the weekend and 1-3 encounters per day during the week.

**Group Size:** Manage for an average group size of 4-6 people.

**Evidence of Use:** Minor evidence of use, including slight vegetation trampling at campsites, will be expected. OHV trails will be evident from the river in the surrounding viewshed.

**Administrative:**

**Mechanized Use:** Decisions regarding mechanized use are described below under *Travel Management*.

**Management Controls:** Agency personnel will conduct field patrols approximately three times per season.

**Visitor Services:** River patrol crews will make contact with river users and river surveys will be available at the Mile 212.5 Richardson Highway takeout.

## Delta River Zone 5 DELTA SRMA IMPLEMENTATION DECISIONS

### MANAGEMENT

#### Adaptive Management Actions:

Actions described in Chapter 4.0 for the management of litter, human waste, fire rings, campsite impacts, and private/commercial user capacity will be adopted. Impact levels will be monitored; if standards are exceeded, management actions will be implemented as described.

#### Special Recreation Permits (SRP):

Commercial group sizes will be limited to 10 people per campsite. Commercial guides and their clients will be required to use designated campsites and portable toilets. Competitive events may be authorized based on compatibility with specified ORVs for the zone.

#### Travel Management:

Designated OHV trails include the Top of the World/Yost Trail and the Rainy Creek Trail. Two unauthorized OHV trails at the confluence of Eureka Creek will be closed to OHV use and rehabilitated. Trail maintenance activities, including trail hardening and the creation of trail reroutes, may be used on designated OHV trails to eliminate trail braiding and resource impacts. Signs that identify OHV use limitations will be used to reinforce trail restrictions. The

BLM will monitor trails to ensure the protection of resources and compliance with trail restrictions. Education and enforcement will be used to help limit the proliferation of unauthorized trails.

Nonmotorized trails may be designated and developed in the future in the Eureka Creek drainage. Public use of pack animals, mechanized travel (e.g., mountain bikes) and dog mushing will be allowed throughout the zone. The BLM will recommend the use of certified weed-free forage and bedding for pack animals and dog mushing.

There will be no restrictions on motorized boating or airplane landings. New airstrips will not be authorized within the zone. The BLM will monitor water quality within the zone. If measured petroleum hydrocarbon levels exceed State water quality standards, the BLM will consider restrictions to meet the standards.

#### **Facilities:**

Facilities at the Mile 212.5 Richardson Highway takeout will include a boater registration kiosk, river survey box, and takeout warning sign. Access points to the river downstream of Black Rapids will remain unimproved. Public use cabins will not be considered for development.

#### **Education and Interpretation:**

Information will be developed to inform and educate visitors about current river resource conditions, rules and regulations, recreational opportunities, and Leave No Trace low-impact camping techniques. River crews will make contact with users to educate low-impact camping and river ethics. The primary goal within this zone is to provide interpretation of area resources through self-discovery.

#### **MARKETING:**

Recreational opportunities within the zone will be marketed by providing information on the BLM-Alaska's website, social media sites, and in publications.

User groups, communities, volunteers, and other interested parties may help to monitor and maintain river resources through partnerships and special events.

#### **MONITORING:**

The BLM will administer BBM visitor satisfaction surveys to ensure BBM outcomes and objectives are met and setting prescriptions maintained.

Using an adaptive management approach, the BLM will monitor and evaluate whether identified standards are being maintained for litter, human waste, fire rings, private and commercial user capacities, and campsite impacts. Monitoring will be conducted using river patrols, river surveys, and visitor registration. Management actions (described in Chapter 4.0) will be implemented in response to monitored conditions.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE:**

Special Rules for the river corridor will be developed in accordance with 43 CFR 8351.2-1 to codify the following administrative restrictions:

**Travel Management:**

OHVs must remain on designated OHV trails, and will not be allowed to operate off designated OHV trails for any purposes (including game retrieval), except during periods of adequate snow cover (at least six inches of ground frost or 12 inches of snow cover). All OHVs will be limited to 2,000 lbs. Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW). OHV restrictions apply to all users, including rural residents engaged in subsistence uses (defined in ANILCA Section 811). Exceptions to the 2,000 lbs. GVW limitation may be permitted on a case-by-case basis for access to active mining claims via the Rainy Creek Trail and for rural residents engaged in subsistence uses who obtain prior authorization from the BLM-Alaska Glennallen Field Office. Prior authorization may be obtained in person, by mail, and by phone from the BLM-Alaska Glennallen Field Office.

**Group Size:**

Group sizes will be limited to a maximum of 10 people per campsite. Groups in excess of 10 people per campsite must obtain written authorization with special stipulations from the BLM.

**Occupancy and Use:**

Camping will be limited to 14 consecutive days within the river corridor within any 60-day period. Designated campsites must be used when camping within 200 feet of the river or lake shoreline. Dispersed camping (more than 200 feet from the shoreline) will be allowed when using Leave No Trace low-impact camping methods.

It is prohibited to discharge a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property at any time within 150 yards of a residence, building, developed or undeveloped recreation sites, or occupied area; or at any time across or on any public road, or across or on any trail or body of water whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge.

**Chainsaw Use and Firewood Gathering:**

Chainsaw use for the cutting of campsite firewood will be allowed, including the cutting of down and standing dead wood at least 200 feet from the river's edge. The cutting of green trees and green vegetation will be prohibited. Chainsaws may be used for personal firewood and houselog gathering only through written authorization with special stipulations from the BLM.

**Fireworks:**

The use of fireworks will be prohibited.

**Supply Caching:**

The caching of supplies will be allowed only through written authorization with special stipulations from the BLM.

**Disposal of Human Waste:**

Proper disposal of human wastes per Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) regulation 18 AAC 72.020 will be required. Commercial guides and their clients will be required to use portable toilets.

## 4.0 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Adaptive management is used to prescribe the desired conditions for resources and visitor experiences for a given area by:

- Selecting specific indicators (i.e., qualities that reflect the overall condition) for resource and visitor experiences.
- Setting quantifiable standards against which the indicator is measured.
- Monitoring conditions on-the-ground.
- Management actions are triggered and implemented when standards are not being met.
- Continually improving and adjusting the program based on knowledge gained over time.

Adopting standards and management actions corridor-wide, rather than by each recreation management zone, helps to prevent confusion to the river user when specific management actions are implemented, and allows the BLM to standardize educational and outreach efforts targeted at reducing the levels of impact and educating the public about new management actions. (Management actions within Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3 will not be dependent upon an adaptive management approach of monitoring indicators and standards. Management actions within this zone affect the developed facilities, and will be instituted immediately as part of the developed facility supplemental rules and regulations).

For RMZs 1, 2, 4, and 5, selected indicators, standards, and phased management actions are identified. Phase 1 management actions will be implemented immediately upon plan approval. If monitoring results indicate that the standard is exceeded over the specified timeframe, Phase II management actions will be implemented as described. Monitoring will continue to occur for the specified time period before moving to the next subsequent phase, and management actions from the previous phases may continue, depending on effectiveness.

If conditions improve in a particular phase and meet prescribed standards, management actions will continue as prescribed for that phase, and will not revert back to the previous phase. In some cases, if a management action fails to address unacceptable impacts; subsequent phases of management actions would be initiated to meet those standards. Between each set of phased management actions, monitoring would occur before moving to the next phase. If conditions improve over time, management actions can be reassessed and adapted to maintain desired conditions. Although the management actions were developed to be mutually exclusive and independent of each other, similar management actions for different impact issues may be triggered by the monitoring results of one impact issue, but not the other. In this case, the prescribed management actions for the affected impact issue would apply to both impact issues.

**The following adaptive management actions will be implemented on a corridor-wide basis within all recreation management zones (except for Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3).**

### 4.1 Litter

*Indicator:* Percentage of designated campsites at which litter occurs.

*Standard:* Less than 20% of designated campsites (13 sites) have litter present.

*Monitoring:* The monitoring of litter will be conducted by river patrol crews, recording the number of designated campsites visited and the number of these campsites with litter present, throughout the entire season. Percentages for each trip will be averaged for the season. If the standard is exceeded for two consecutive years (20% or more of campsites monitored have litter present), phased management actions will be implemented.

Phase 1: Maintain existing BLM cleanup patrols (3 per season) and provide Leave No Trace (LNT) information at the boat launches and on the BLM-Alaska website. Conduct visitor contacts at the boat launches and on the river, stopping at occupied campsites to educate proper litter disposal. Develop a volunteer program with commercial guides, local communities and river users to assist with cleanup and monitoring needs. Involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested parties to help maintain resources through partnerships and special events.

Phase 2: Add one additional BLM cleanup patrol (4 per season). Continue volunteer and educational component described under Phase I actions.

Phase 3: Dismantle all fire rings, require all users to use fire pans and remove ash from the river corridor. (This action would address the problem of litter left behind in fire rings, which accounts for almost all of the litter found in the river corridor).

## 4.2 Human Waste

*Indicator:* Percentage of designated campsites that human waste (or toilet paper) is present.

*Standard:* Human waste present at less than 10% of designated campsites (7 sites).

*Monitoring:* The monitoring of human waste will be conducted by river patrol crews, recording the number of designated campsites visited and the number of campsites with visible human waste or toilet paper present, throughout the entire season. Percentages for each trip will be averaged for the season. If the standard is exceeded for two consecutive years (10% or more of campsites monitored have human waste or toilet paper present), phased management actions will be implemented.

Phase 1: Maintain existing BLM cleanup patrols (3 per season) and provide LNT information at the boat launches and on the BLM-Alaska website. Require commercial guides and their clients to use portable toilets. New outhouses will not be constructed. Conduct visitor contacts at the boat launches and on the river, stopping at occupied campsites to educate proper human waste disposal. Develop a volunteer program with commercial guides, local communities and river users to assist with cleanup and monitoring needs. Involve user groups, volunteers, and other interested parties to help maintain resources through partnerships and special events. Increase educational efforts by conducting LNT workshops with groups such as the Boy Scouts of America, Copper River Watershed Project and the Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment. Publicize current state laws and regulations regarding the proper disposal of human waste: *Human waste shall not be disposed of on state-owned shorelands (such as gravel bars and sand bars), in accordance with AS 46.03.800 - 810. On all lands including state, federal and private, human waste may be disposed of in a cathole at least 100 feet away from the ordinary high water mark of streams, rivers, or lakes in accordance with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) regulation 18 AAC 72.020.*

Phase 2: Add one additional BLM cleanup patrol (4 per season). Continue volunteer and educational component described under Phase I management action.

Phase 3: Require all users to use portable toilet systems and carry out human waste and toilet paper. The outhouse at the Delta River portage will be removed once a portable toilet cleanout facility is developed for waste disposal.

## 4.3 Fire Rings

*Indicator:* Number of fire rings per designated campsite.

*Standard:* Less than 20% of designated campsites (13 sites) with more than one fire ring.

*Monitoring:* The monitoring of fire rings will be conducted by river patrol crews, recording the number of designated campsites visited and the number of campsites with greater than one fire ring, throughout the entire season. Percentages for each trip will be averaged for the season. If the standard is exceeded for two consecutive years (20% or more of campsites monitored have greater than one fire ring), phased management actions will be implemented.

Phase 1: River patrol crews would dismantle all but one fire ring per site and encourage the use of portable fire pans.

Phase 2: Dismantle all fire rings and require all campers to use fire pans and remove ash from the river corridor. Continue restrictions related to wood cutting and collection.

#### 4.4 Private and Commercial User Capacity

**Indicator:** Number of user days that groups are required camp within sight or sound of other campers (camp encounter), pass up occupied designated campsites (camp competition), or share designated campsites due to campsites being occupied.

**Standard:** Less than 20% of total user days annually

**Monitoring:** Monitoring will be conducted through the administration of river surveys, overflights, and field patrols to document evidence of camp encounters, camp competition, and camp sharing. River surveys would be available at the launch sites and distributed during river patrol trips. Questionnaires would define and tally camp encounters, which would then be expressed as a weighted percentage (based on all river users for that season compared to river survey responses). If the standard is exceeded for two consecutive years (20% or more of total user days that groups are required to camp within sight or sound of other campers (camp encounter), pass up occupied campsites (camp competition), or share campsites (due to campsites being occupied), phased management actions will be implemented.

**Phase 1:** Designate campsites and develop a campsite map that will allow users to select campsites that will minimize camp encounters and camp competition. Prohibit the use of chainsaws for campsite firewood in RMZs 1, 2, and 4 to reduce noise related camp encounters. Limit group size to 10 people maximum per campsite. Groups in excess of 10 people per site must obtain written authorization that may include special stipulations from the BLM. Monitor number of permitted commercial use permits and designate campsites for commercial groups. Development of additional campsites may be considered to accommodate increased use, especially in high concentration areas to relieve pressure on heavy use sites and to minimize camp encounters. Locations for new campsites would be chosen that would minimize camp encounters based on location and terrain.

**Phase 2:** Institute a voluntary registration system for overnight trips. Potential voluntary systems could include a reservation board and a web-based registration system. Users plan their trip by reserving campsites on the board or on the web. Other users would be able to see available campsites and plan their trips accordingly. Use of the campsites would be first come, first served. These measures would enable visitors to avoid high use days and reduce campsite competition.

**Phase 3:** Continue the voluntary registration system defined in Phase II, but registration would become mandatory, with no use limits or user fees.

**Phase 4:** Limit the number of overnight trips launching per day by implementing a mandatory permit system. A mandatory permit system would be developed through a public process consistent with existing laws, regulations, and policies.

#### 4.5 Campsite Impacts

**Indicator:** Percentage of bare ground disturbance and density of social trails and satellite sites at designated campsites. Bare ground is determined using photopoint monitoring techniques and GPS analysis. All designated campsites were inventoried in 2011 and categorized as "heavy", "moderate", and "light" impact sites, depending on the level of bare ground disturbance, social trails, and satellite sites.

**Standard:** **Heavy impact sites:** These sites are heavily impacted (more than 66% of campsite area is impacted down to mineral soil), with more than one satellite site and social trail. Rehabilitation at these sites would be difficult without total rest for years; high use levels in these areas might also result in the creation of new campsites if these were closed.

**Standard:** *no increase in bare ground on the river bank and no increase in satellite sites or social trails from the existing condition.*

**Moderate impact sites:** These are sites where passive rehabilitation or rest could make a large difference. Current area of bare ground is smaller than heavy impact sites, but has the potential to spread (between 34% and 65% of campsite area is impacted down to mineral soil). Moderate impact sites have up to one satellite site and one social trail.

*Standard: less than 66% bare ground disturbance and no more than one satellite site or social trail.*

**Light impact sites:** These are sites that are hard to find, even with a map, and have very little bare ground disturbance (between 0% and 33% of campsite area is impacted down to mineral soil). There are no associated satellite sites or social trails. These sites have the most potential for rehabilitation to their original, natural condition.

*Standard: less than 33% bare ground disturbance and no new satellite sites or social trails.*

**Monitoring:** A complete baseline inventory was conducted on all campsites in 2011, which consists of detailed sketches, measurements, inventory forms and digital photos of all sites. This information is supplemented with GPS data and estimates of bare ground at each campsite using photopoint monitoring techniques. Monitoring for newly developed campsites will occur annually. Measurement of existing designated campsites to determine trend in bare ground, satellite sites, and social trails will occur every five years. Phased actions will occur based on non-compliance with standards for each campsite category or change in site categorization level after five year monitoring period.

**Phase 1:** Implement group size limit of 10 people per designated river campsite. Groups in excess of 10 people per site must obtain written authorization that may include special stipulations from the BLM. Designate campsites and develop a campsite map. Development of additional campsites may be considered in high concentration areas to relieve pressure on heavy use campsites and to minimize camp encounters. Campsites will be monitored for distance from active eagle nests. If occupation of a campsite is causing disturbance, (i.e. adults displaced from nest, repeatedly leaving eggs or nestlings) the campsite will be closed.

**Heavy impact sites:** Close developing satellite sites and social trails using natural materials (e.g., trees, rocks, root wads, brush) to discourage use. Increase in bare ground on the riverbank will be minimized using passive rehabilitation, funneling use into one area. Native materials may be used to create natural steps to help prevent riverbank erosion.

**Moderate impact sites:** Use passive rehabilitation to halt expansion of core area and bare ground disturbance. Developing satellite sites and social trails will be discouraged using natural materials and passive rehabilitation.

**Light impact sites:** Same as described for moderate impact sites. If not indicated on the designated campsite map, or if it is newly developed site, close the campsite using passive rehabilitation and natural materials to block site visibility from the river.

**Phase 2:** Groups in excess of 10 people will be prohibited in all designated river campsites.

**Heavy impact sites:** If satellite sites or social trails continue to develop, close them to allow for rest and rehabilitation by using physical barriers and signage.

**Moderate impact sites:** Where passive rehabilitation described under Phase I is not effective, temporarily close these campsites until bare ground has revegetated within site categorization standards.

**Light impact sites:** Where passive rehabilitation described under Phase I is not effective, close designated campsites. Rehabilitate inactive or newly damaged sites using passive rehabilitation techniques until bare ground has revegetated.

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- 43 CFR 1610. BLM planning regulations.
- 42 USC 4321 *et seq.* National Environmental Policy Act.
- 43 USC 1701 *et seq.* The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

## **APPENDICES**

**1.0 Master Memorandum of Understanding Between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management**

**2.0 Delta River SRMA Wilderness Inventory**

**3.0 Approved Plan Monitoring and Management Actions**

**4.0 IBLA Appeals Information Form 1842-1**

MASTER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
Juneau, Alaska

AND

THE U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Anchorage, Alaska

This Master memorandum of Understanding between the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, hereinafter referred to as the Department, and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, hereinafter referred to as the Bureau, reflects the general policy guidelines within which the two agencies agree to operate.

WHEREAS, the Department, under the Constitution, laws, and regulations of the State of Alaska, is responsible for the management, protection, maintenance, enhancement, rehabilitation, and extension of the fish and wildlife resources of the State on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau, by authority of the Constitution, Laws of Congress, executive orders, and regulations of the U.S. Department of Interior has a mandated responsibility for the management of Bureau lands, and the conservation of fish and wildlife resources on these lands; and

WHEREAS, the Department and the Bureau share a mutual concern for fish and wildlife conservation, management, and protection programs and desire to develop and maintain a cooperative relationship which will be in the best interests of both parties, the concerned fish and wildlife resources and their habitats, and produce the greatest public benefit; and

WHEREAS, it has been recognized in the Alaska National Interest lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and subsequent implementing Federal regulations that the resources and uses of Bureau lands in Alaska are substantially different than those of similar lands in other states; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress and the Alaska legislature have enacted laws to protect and provide the opportunity for continued subsistence use of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources by rural residents; and

WHEREAS, the Department and the Bureau recognize the increasing need to coordinate resource planning, policy development, and program implementation;

NOW THEREFORE the parties herto do hereby agree as follows:

THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AGREES:

1. To recognize the Bureau as the Federal agency responsible for multiple-use management of Bureau lands including wildlife habitat in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, ANILCA, and other applicable law.
2. To regulate and manage use of fish and wildlife populations on Bureau lands in such a way as to maintain or improve the quality of fish and wildlife habitat and its productivity.
3. To consult with the Bureau in a timely manner and comply with applicable Federal laws and regulations before embarking on enhancement or construction activities on or which would affect Bureau lands.
4. To act as the primary agency responsible for management of all uses of fish and wildlife on State and Bureau lands, pursuant to applicable State and Federal laws.
5. To notify the Bureau of any animal damage control activities on Bureau lands; and to obtain Bureau approval for the use of pesticides, herbicides, or other toxic chemical agents in the course of animal damage control.
6. To provide all maintenance on facilities, structures, or other construction owned by the Department on Bureau lands; and to hold the Bureau harmless for liability claims resulting from these constructions, facilities, and/or structures.

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AGREES:

1. To recognize the Department as the primary agency responsible for management of use and conservation of fish and wildlife resources on Bureau lands.
2. To recognize the right of the Department to enter onto Bureau lands at any time to conduct routine management activities which do not involve construction, disturbance to the land, or altercations of ecosystems.
3. To recognize the Department as the primary agency responsible for policy development and management direction relating to uses of fish and wildlife resources on State and Bureau lands, pursuant to applicable State and Federal laws.
4. To incorporate the Department's fish and wildlife management objectives and guidelines in Bureau land use plans unless such

provisions are not consistent with multiple use management principles established by FLPMA, ANILCA, and applicable Federal law.

5. To adopt the State's regulations to the maximum extent allowed by Federal law when developing new or modifying existing Federal regulations governing or affecting the taking of fish and wildlife on Bureau lands in Alaska.
6. To notify the Department of any portion of the Department's fish and wildlife management objectives, guidelines, or State regulations that the Bureau determines to be incompatible with the purposes for which Bureau lands are managed.
7. To manage Bureau lands so as to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife populations.
8. To inform the Department of proposed development activities on Bureau lands which may affect fish and wildlife resources, subsistence and other uses, and to provide or require appropriate mitigation where feasible.
9. To permit, under appropriate agreement or authorization, the erection and maintenance of facilities or structures needed to further fish and wildlife management activities of the Department on Bureau lands, provided their intended use is not in conflict with Bureau policy and land-use plans.
10. To recognize that the taking of fish and wildlife by hunting, trapping, or fishing on Bureau lands in Alaska is authorized in accordance with applicable State and Federal law unless State regulations are found to be incompatible with Bureau regulations.

THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AND BUREAU OF LAND  
MANAGEMENT MUTUALLY AGREE:

1. To coordinate planning for management of fish and wildlife resources on Bureau lands and adjacent lands having common fish and wildlife resources so that conflicts arising from differing legal mandates, objectives, and policies either do not arise or are minimized.
2. To cooperate in planning, enhancement, or development activities on Bureau lands which require permits, environmental assessments, compatibility assessments, or similar regulatory documents by responding in a timely manner with requirements, time tables, and any other necessary input.
3. To consult with each other when developing or implementing policy, legislation, and regulations which affect the attainment of wildlife resource management goals and objectives of the other agency.

4. To cooperate in the management of fish and wildlife resources and habitat (including planning, regulation, enforcement, protection, restoration, research, inventories, and habitat enhancement) on Bureau lands and adjacent lands having common fish and wildlife resources consistent with the species and habitat management plans and objectives of both agencies.
5. To develop specific plans for cooperative development and joint management of habitat areas determined to be essential to the continued productivity or existence of fish and wildlife populations.
6. To consult with the Department prior to entering into any cooperative land management agreements which could affect fish and wildlife resources.
7. To cooperate in the development of fire management plans which may include establishment of priorities for the control of wild- fires, or use of prescribed fires.
8. To make facilities, equipment and assistance mutually available on request for use in fish and wildlife work and Habitat improvement consistent with Bureau and Department requirements.
9. Neither to make nor sanction any introduction or transplant of any fish or wildlife species on or affecting Bureau lands without first consulting with the other party and complying with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations.
10. To provide to each other upon request fish and wildlife data including subsistence and other uses, information, and recommendations for consideration in the formulation of policies, plans and management programs regarding fish and wildlife resources.
11. To cooperate in the preparation of announcements and publications and the dissemination of fish and wildlife information; any material obtained from cooperative studies may be published or reproduced with credit given to the agencies or organizations responsible for its acquisition or development. Any news release relating specifically to cooperative programs will be made only by mutual consent of the agencies.
12. To cooperate and coordinate in the issuance of permits to persons, industry, or government agencies for activities affecting designated anadromous fish streams on Bureau lands, in accordance with Alaska Statute 16.05.870 and to cooperate in the formulation of comments and recommendations on permits issued by other governmental agencies in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Clean Water Act and other applicable laws.

13. To resolve, at field office levels, all disagreements pertaining to the cooperative work of the two agencies which arise in the field and to refer all matters of disagreement that cannot be resolved at equivalent field levels to the State Director and to the Commissioner for resolution before either agency expresses its position in public.
14. To meet annually at the Director/Commissioner level and discuss matters relating to the management of fish and wildlife resources and their habitats on, or affected by, respective programs; to provide for other meetings at various administrative levels for discussion of law enforcement, educational programs, cooperative studies, research, fish and wildlife surveys, habitat development, hunting, fishing, trapping seasons, and such other matters as may be relevant to fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.
15. To develop such supplemental memoranda of understanding and cooperative agreements between the Bureau and the Department as may be required to implement the policies contained herein.
16. That this Master Memorandum is subject to the laws of the State of Alaska and the United States. Nothing herein is intended to conflict with current directives, laws or regulations of the signatory agencies. If conflicts arise or can be foreseen, this Memorandum will be amended or a new Memorandum of Understanding will be developed.
17. That this Master Memorandum of Understanding is subject to the availability of appropriated State and Federal funds.
18. That this Master Memorandum of Understanding establishes procedural guidelines by which the parties shall cooperate, but does not create legally enforceable obligations or rights.
19. That this Master Memorandum of Understanding supersedes all previous Master Memoranda of Understanding between the Bureau and Department and all supplements and amendments thereto.
20. That this Master Memorandum of Understanding shall become effective when signed by the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the State Director of the Bureau of Land Management and shall continue in force until terminated by either party by providing notice in writing 120 days in advance of the intended date of termination.
21. That amendments to this Master Memorandum of Understanding may be proposed by either party and shall become effective upon approval by both parties.

STATE OF ALASKA

Department of Fish and Game

By Don W. Collinsworth

Don W. Collinsworth  
Commissioner

Date 6-28-83

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

By Curtis V. McVee

Curtis V. McVee  
Director

Date 8/3/83

Supplement to the  
MASTER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
between  
THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
AND  
THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
U.S.DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ALASKA

SIKES ACT IMPLEMENTATION

This supplemental memorandum of understanding is pursuant to the Master Memorandum of Understanding between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Alaska, dated August 3, 1983 Public Law 93-452, of October 18, 1974, 16 u.s.c.670a et seq., commonly referred to as the Sikes Act, provides the broad authority to: 1) Plan and carry out fish and wildlife conservation and habitat rehabilitation programs on Bureau lands consistent with overall land use plans; 2) Protect significant habitat for threatened and endangered species; and 3) Enforce regulations to control off road vehicle (ORV) traffic or other public use of lands subject to conservation and rehabilitation programs conducted under the Act.

The Act in no way diminishes the authority of the State of Alaska to manage resident fish and wildlife populations.

It is the purpose and intent of this supplement to provide a working relationship and procedure for implementation of the Sikes Act on Bureau lands in Alaska between ADF&G and BLM.

Terms used in this supplement are defined as follows:

- 1) Conservation and rehabilitation program - Includes programs necessary to protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife resources to the maximum extent practicable on Bureau lands consistent with any overall land-use and management plans for the lands involved.
- 2) Habitat Management Plan (HMP) – BLM's intensive, detailed action plan for wildlife management on a specific geographic area of biological interest on Bureau lands. The HMP is a cooperative plan with the State Wildlife agency and is based on current public input. The HMP shall be the implementing document for the Sikes Act.
- 3) Bureau Lands - These are public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING P.L. 93-452, ADF&G and BLM mutually agree to the following:

- 1) HMPs will be implemented for areas where land-use plans have been prepared, unless otherwise authorized by the State Director, BLM.
- 2) HMPs will be based on priorities within Alaska, as mutually selected by the Commissioner, ADF&G, and the State Director, BLM. Guidelines for establishing HMP priorities shall be based on the following:
  - a) The basic resource values which may be enhanced and benefits produced by implementation of active management programs and/or regulations.
  - b) The identification, through the BLM or ADF&G planning systems, of areas having a need for intensive wildlife management.
  - c) The potential for wildlife habitat to be altered by land use activities such as energy and industrial development, urban expansion, road construction, and ORV traffic.
  - d) The need to protect important and/or critical fish and wildlife habitat such as salmon spawning areas, moose winter range, or the habitats of endangered or threatened species.
- 3) Protection will be afforded to those fish and wildlife species designated as threatened or endangered by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game or by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- 4) HMPs will specify fish and wildlife habitat improvements or modifications needed.
- 5) Rehabilitation of Bureau lands will be undertaken where necessary to support HMP recommendations and consistent with the availability of funds for that purpose.

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- 6) Hunting, fishing, and trapping of resident fish and wildlife on HMP areas will be in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of the State of Alaska.
- 7) It is herein recognized that the Secretary of the Interior has the authority to promulgate regulations to control the public use of Bureau lands consistent with the HMP, including, but not limited to ORV use. BLM and ADF&G will coordinate federal and state hunting, fishing and trapping regulations during Sikes HMP development.
- 8) Funds authorized and appropriated for HMP implementation on Bureau lands in Alaska shall include, but not be limited to all activities associated with scientific resource management, such as the following: protection, research, census, law enforcement, habitat management, propagation, live trapping, transplantation, and regulated taking. Funds may be allocated for hiring of personnel, contractual services, physical habitat improvement projects, and grants to colleges. It shall be the joint responsibility of the Commissioner, ADF&G, and the State Director, BLM, to define areas and projects for priority funding under the Sikes Act. It shall be the responsibility of the State Director, BLM to secure funding through BLM's program funding procedures. Final disbursement of Sikes Act Funds shall be made through the State Director, BLM, after consultation with the Commissioner, ADF&G.
- 9) Plans and programs initiated on Bureau lands under the Sikes Act in Alaska shall not conflict with comprehensive plans required of the State under any Federal or State Acts.
- 10) BLM and ADF&G will discuss the following Sikes Act items during the course of their annual coordination meeting:
  - a) A progress report on the current status of HMP implementation.
  - b) The review of wildlife values produced under the existing conservation and rehabilitation programs.

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- c) The priorities for HMP implementation.
- d) The program and budget recommendations for the upcoming and succeeding fiscal years.

This supplement shall become effective on the date when last signed and shall remain in force until terminated by mutual agreement, by amendment or abolishment of the Act by Congress, or by either party upon thirty days notice in writing to the other party of its intention to terminate upon a date indicated.

STATE OF ALASKA  
Department of Fish and Game

By *Don W. Collinsworth*  
Don W. Collinsworth  
Commissioner

Date 6-28-83

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management

By *Curtis V. McVee*  
Curtis V. McVee  
State Director

Date 8/3/83

## Delta River SRMA Wilderness Inventory

### 6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Form 1

#### Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record

#### 1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?

No  X  (Go to Form 2)      Yes

(If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas.):

a) Inventory Source:

b) Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s):

c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):

d) BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):

#### 2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source:

Area#/Name	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No

**6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Form 2****Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics****Area Number/Name:** Tangle Lakes Zone 1**Acreage:** 13362 Acres**(1) Is the area of sufficient size?**Yes  No 

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation and summary of major human uses/activities)

Tangle Lakes Zone 1 is accessed from the Delta NWSR wayside and includes the southern portion of the Upper Tangle Lakes system, commonly referred to as Second Lake, Mud Lake or 3rd Lake, Fourth Lake, and Fifth Lakes, and beyond to the extent of the river corridor boundary. All lands within the zone are contiguous unencumbered BLM lands, surrounded by state selected lands outside the river corridor boundary. Vegetation appears predominantly natural, consisting of dwarf birch, willows, grasses and sedges. Topography consists of rolling high alpine tundra, interspersed with many undulating ridges and draws in the landscape. Primary human uses/activities include boating, hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing.

**(2) Does the area appear to be natural?**Yes  No  N/A 

Description:

Tangle Lakes Zone 1 appears to be natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature. Any work of human beings is substantially unnoticeable. There are approximately 15 primitive campsites within the management zone. Traces of previous use are evident at some campsites, and consist primarily of small rock fire rings and minor vegetation trampling.

**(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**Yes  No  N/A 

Description:

Tangle Lakes Zone 1 will be managed to provide a semi-primitive nonmotorized recreation experience, where one expects to meet a few other groups of users, but solitude is still possible, particularly at campsites. Vegetative screening, topography and location between designated campsites offer seclusion and reduce the presence of the sights, sounds and evidence of other people in the area. The prevailing uses are nonmotorized hiking and boating activities. There is little evidence of motorized use, except for the use of small kicker motors that are used to travel on the lakes within the zone. The use of motorized watercraft occurs predominantly during subsistence hunting season (August 1-September 30).

**(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

Tangle Lakes Zone 1 offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational activities. The predominant recreational activities within this area include nonmotorized lake boating and hiking. There are no BLM developed facilities located within the zone. The absence of facilities within this zone is a characteristic that makes this zone unique, providing solitude in a natural, primitive surrounding.

**(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?**

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

Tangle Lakes Zone 1 is located entirely within the Tangle Lakes Archeological District (TLAD). The TLAD is one of the densest areas for late Pleistocene and early Holocene archaeological sites in the North American Subarctic, making the area significant for answering questions about the poorly known early peoples who migrated to Alaska (Bowers 1989). The result has been a relatively rich picture of the area's prehistory and history based upon one of the largest and densest cluster of archaeological sites in this part of Alaska. Many of these sites, and almost all of those within the TLAD, are considered to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing properties to the archaeological district.

## 6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Summary of Analysis Form

**Area Name and/or Number:** Tangle Lakes Zone 1

### Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  Yes  No
2. Does the area appear to be natural?  Yes  No  N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

### Prepared by:

Heath Emmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner 3/2/2011

### Reviewed by:

Beth Maclean, Field Manager 3/2/2011

\* This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

## 6301-WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS 1

*(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road<sup>2</sup> for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)*

### **Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area:** Tangle Lakes Zone 1

**Route or Route Segment<sup>3</sup> Name and/or Identifier:** There are no routes or rights-of-way located within Tangle Lakes Zone 1. The wilderness characteristics inventory route analysis is not applicable.

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<sup>1</sup> This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

<sup>2</sup> Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

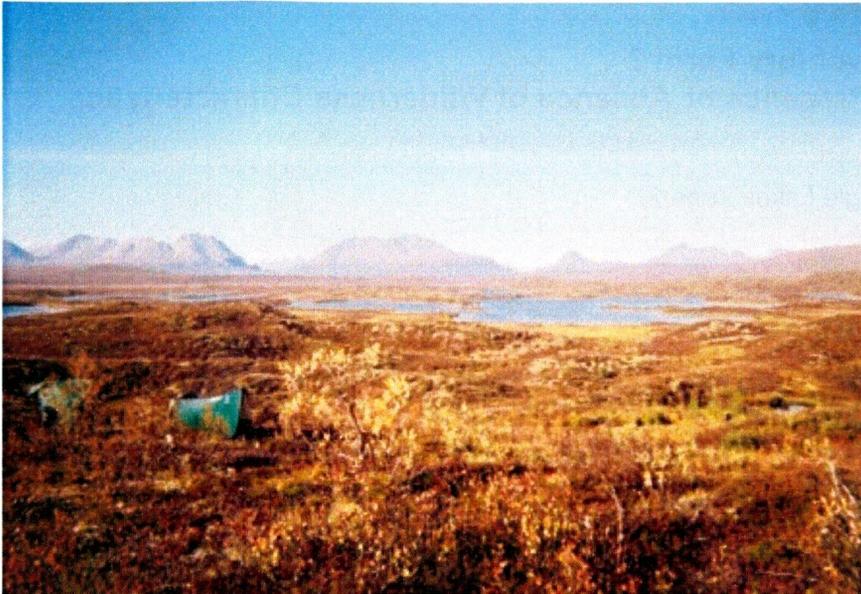
c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

<sup>3</sup> If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

**6300-1 Wilderness Inventory  
Appendix D - Photo Log Form**

**Photographer(s):** Heath Emmons, Paul Boos  
**Inventory Area Name & No.:** Tangle Lakes Zone 1

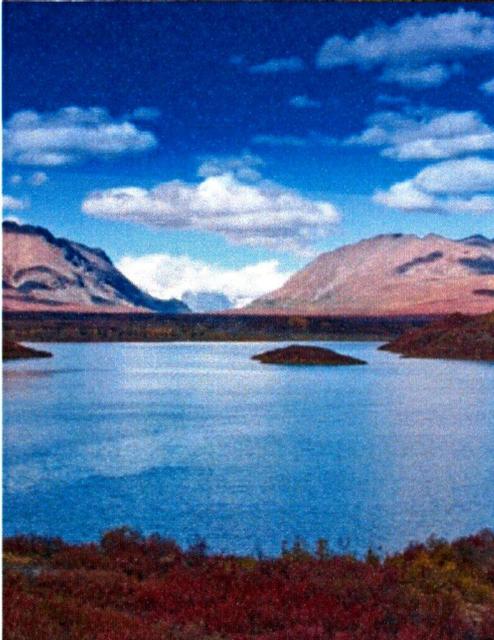
Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Section
8/4/2006	001	North	Tangle Lakes Zone 1 from ridge to Dickey Lake looking north	N/A	14N	9E	36
9/15/2010	002	North	Tangle River	N/A	22S	9E	17
9/15/2010	003	North	Upper Tangle Lake	N/A	22S	9E	8



Frame 001



Frame 002



Frame 003

**6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Form 2****Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics****Area Number/Name:** Tangle Lakes Zone 2**Acreage:** 6603 Acres**(1) Is the area of sufficient size?**Yes  No 

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation and summary of major human uses/activities)

Tangle Lakes Zone 2 includes the first lake and portage area of the Upper Tangles (accessed from the DNWSR Wayside), Round Tangle Lake, and portions of Long Tangle Lake. All lands within the zone are contiguous unencumbered BLM lands, except for approximately 30 acres of private property that are located within the zone. Outside of the river corridor boundary, the surrounding lands are both state lands and state-selected lands. Vegetation appears predominantly natural, consisting of dwarf birch, willows, grasses and sedges. Topography consists of rolling high alpine tundra, interspersed with many ridges and draws in the landscape. Primary human uses/activities include both motorized and nonmotorized boating, hunting, hiking, berry picking, and wildlife viewing.

**(2) Does the area appear to be natural?**Yes  No  N/A 

Description:

Tangle Lakes Zone 2 appears to be natural and affected primarily by the forces of nature. Any work of human beings is substantially unnoticeable, except for a developed nonmotorized trail system in the vicinity of the campground. There are approximately 25 primitive campsites located within the management zone. Vegetation and soils are predominantly natural, but some impacts exist at campsites, consisting primarily of small rock fire rings and minor vegetation trampling.

**(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**Yes  No  N/A 

Description:

Tangle Lakes Zone 2 will be managed to provide a semiprimitive motorized recreation experience, where one expects to meet other groups of users, and solitude is still possible, but usually difficult to find. The use of motorized watercraft occurs frequently throughout the summer within this zone, with use increasing substantially during the Fourth of July season and subsistence hunting season (August 1-September 30). The Denali Highway is almost always in view, and the larger lakes within the zone do not offer much vegetative and topographic screening that would provide the seclusion needed to reduce the presence of sights, sounds and evidence of other people in the area.

**(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:**

Tangle Lakes Zone 2 does offer opportunities for some primitive recreational activities, but these are not considered outstanding and unconfined. The use of motorized watercraft occurs frequently throughout the summer within this zone, with use increasing substantially during the Fourth of July holiday and subsistence hunting season (August 1-September 30).

Nonmotorized users sometimes find themselves competing for space and solitude with other motorized users, or vice versa, and social conflict issues between motorized and nonmotorized users are present within this zone. Developed hiking trails within the zone have concentrated users to specific routes that help to protect natural resources, but also reduce solitude and the feeling of being unconfined in a trail-less environment.

**(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

**Description:**

Tangle Lakes Zone 2 is located entirely within the Tangle Lakes Archeological District (TLAD). The TLAD is one of the densest areas for late Pleistocene and early Holocene archaeological sites in the North American Subarctic, making the area significant for answering questions about the poorly known early peoples who migrated to Alaska (Bowers 1989). The result has been a relatively rich picture of the area's prehistory and history based upon one of the largest and densest cluster of archaeological sites in this part of Alaska. Many of these sites, and almost all of those within the TLAD, are considered to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing properties to the archaeological district.

## 6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Summary of Analysis Form

**Area Name and/or Number:** Tangle Lakes Zone 2

### Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  Yes  No
2. Does the area appear to be natural?  Yes  No  N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

### Prepared by:

Heath Emmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner 3/2/2011

### Reviewed by:

Beth Maclean, Field Manager 3/2/2011

\* This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

## 6301-WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS<sup>1</sup>

*(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road<sup>2</sup> for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)*

### Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area: Tangle Lakes Zone 2

**Route or Route Segment<sup>3</sup> Name and/or Identifier:** There are no routes or rights-of-way located within Tangle Lakes Zone 2. The wilderness characteristics inventory route analysis is not applicable.

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<sup>1</sup> This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

<sup>2</sup> Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. "Improved" does not necessarily mean formal construction. "Maintained" does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

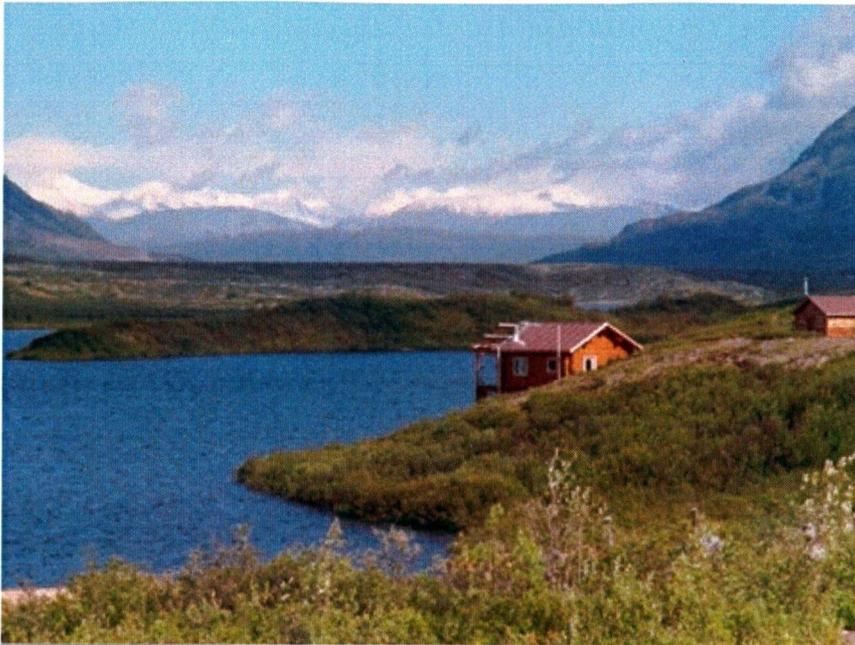
c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

<sup>3</sup> If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

**6300-1 Wilderness Inventory  
Appendix D - Photo Log Form**

**Photographer(s):** Heath Emmons, Marcia Butorac, Tamara Hamby  
**Inventory Area Name & No.:** Tangle Lakes Zone 2

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Section
6/2006	001	North	Looking north past private parcels	N/A	21S	9E	35
7/2006	002	South	Jetboat on First Lake of Upper Tangle Lakes	N/A	22S	9E	5
7/2006	003	South	Airboat on Round Tangle Lake	N/A	21S	9E	34
7/2003	004	North	Floatplane on First Lake of Upper Tangle Lakes	N/A	22S	9E	8



Frame 001



Frame 002



Frame 003



Frame 004

**6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Form 2****Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics****Area Number/Name:** Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3**Acreage:** 248 Acres**(1) Is the area of sufficient size?**Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation and summary of major human uses/activities)

Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3 includes the Tangle Lakes Campground, Delta Wayside, Denali Highway, and portions of the Tangle River that flows through the developed facility areas. All lands within the zone are contiguous unencumbered BLM lands, except for approximately 2 acres of private property that are located within the zone. Outside of the river corridor boundary, the surrounding lands are both state lands and state-selected lands. Vegetation appears predominantly natural, consisting of dwarf birch, willows, grasses and sedges. Topography consists of rolling high alpine tundra, interspersed with many ridges and draws in the landscape. Primary human uses/activities include developed camping at BLM facilities, hiking, berry picking, and wildlife viewing.

**(2) Does the area appear to be natural?**Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3 has been modified by gravel roads, recreation facilities, and evidence of adjacent private property, and does not appear to be natural due to the presence of the Tangle Lakes Campground, Delta Wayside, Denali Highway, and portions of the Tangle River that flows through the developed facility areas. The work of human beings is substantially noticeable, as roadways, developed campsites, boat launches, interpretive panels, and outhouses overpower the landscape with the zone. There will be approximately 45 developed campsites with the planned redesign of the Tangle Lakes Campground, and it is common for highway travelers and bus tour companies to use the developed facilities as they pass by on the Denali Highway. Vegetation and soils within the zone have been greatly altered, with large areas of impacted vegetation and bare ground disturbance commonly associated with high use recreational facilities.

**(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3 will be managed to provide a high density, roaded-natural recreational experience, where user concentrations may be high in popular recreational sites, such as waysides, campgrounds, and water access points. The area is accessible by paved or

gravel roads to conventional motorized vehicles. Facilities exist for user convenience and safety, with a moderate level of management presence. Solitude is difficult to find in the developed facilities due to the presence of highway vehicles, recreational vehicles, generators, and large groups that are situated relatively close together.

**(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3 does offer some opportunities for primitive recreational activities (fishing and hiking), but these are not considered outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation. All activities are always in the presence of motorized vehicles and the noises associated with a developed camping facility and the Denali Highway. Generally, there is not an expectation of an outstanding primitive and unconfined experience when recreating in this zone; on the contrary, those who recreate within this zone usually want the amenities and security that the developed facilities offer.

**(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3 is located entirely within the Tangle Lakes Archeological District (TLAD). The TLAD is one of the densest areas for late Pleistocene and early Holocene archaeological sites in the North American Subarctic, making the area significant for answering questions about the poorly known early peoples who migrated to Alaska (Bowers 1989). The result has been a relatively rich picture of the area's prehistory and history based upon one of the largest and densest cluster of archaeological sites in this part of Alaska. Many of these sites, and almost all of those within the TLAD, are considered to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing properties to the archaeological district.

**6300-1 Wilderness Inventory  
Summary of Analysis Form**

**Area Name and/or Number:** Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3

**Summary**

Results of analysis:

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  Yes  No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural?  Yes  No  N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  N/A
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

**Prepared by:**

Heath Emmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner      3/2/2011

**Reviewed by:**

Beth Maclean, Field Manager      3/2/2011

\* This form documents information that constitutes and inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

## 6301-WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY

### APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS<sup>1</sup>

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road<sup>2</sup> for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)

**Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area:** Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3

**Route or Route Segment<sup>3</sup> Name and/or Identifier:** Denali Highway

#### I. LOCATION:

Refer to attached map \_\_\_\_\_ and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log.

#### II. ROUTE CONTEXT

**A. Current Purpose<sup>4</sup> (if any) of Route:** (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe: State of Alaska Developed Highway for travel and/or commerce activities.

#### B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes  No  Unknown

2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

Public highway travel across BLM lands

3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes  No  Unknown or N/A

Explain: The Denali Highway is a primarily unpaved gravel road that connects the Glenn Highway and the Parks Highway systems.

<sup>1</sup> This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

<sup>2</sup> Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. "Improved" does not necessarily mean formal construction. "Maintained" does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis.

Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

<sup>3</sup> If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

<sup>4</sup> The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

### III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

#### A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes  (if either A.1 or A.2 is checked "yes" below)  
 No  (if both A.1 and A.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?) Yes  No

Examples: Paved  Bladed  Graveled  Roadside Berms  Cut/Fill  Other

Describe: The Denali Highway is a highway access route constructed by the State of Alaska in 1953 to connect Paxson, Alaska to Cantwell, Alaska.

2. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?)  
 Yes  No

If "yes": by Hand Tools  by Machine

Examples: Culverts  Hardened Stream Crossings  Bridges  Drainage  Barriers   
 Other

Describe: The State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Works, routinely improves and maintains the Denali Highway in accordance with established highway maintenance protocols.

#### B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively* regular and continuous use?):

Yes  (if either B.1 or B.2 is checked "yes" below)  
 No  (if both B.1 and B.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Is there evidence or documentation of maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes  No  If "yes": by Hand Tools  by Machine

Explain: The State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Works, routinely improves and maintains the Denali Highway in accordance with established highway maintenance protocols.

2. If the route or route segment is in good<sup>5</sup> condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?

Yes  No  Not applicable

#### C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?)

Yes  No

<sup>5</sup> Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route)<sup>6</sup>:

Approximately 45,000 highway travelers use the route annually. Primary use is during the summer months. The highway is not maintained from October to May, and highway travelers are advised to travel at their own risk.

#### IV. CONCLUSION:

**Does the route or route segment<sup>7</sup> meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A and III.B and III.C all checked yes)?**

Yes  = Wilderness Inventory Road

No  = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explanation<sup>8</sup>: Items III.A, III.B, and III.C have all been checked yes; therefore this route meets the definition of a road.

Evaluator(s): Heath Emmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: 3/2/2011

<sup>6</sup> Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

<sup>7</sup> If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

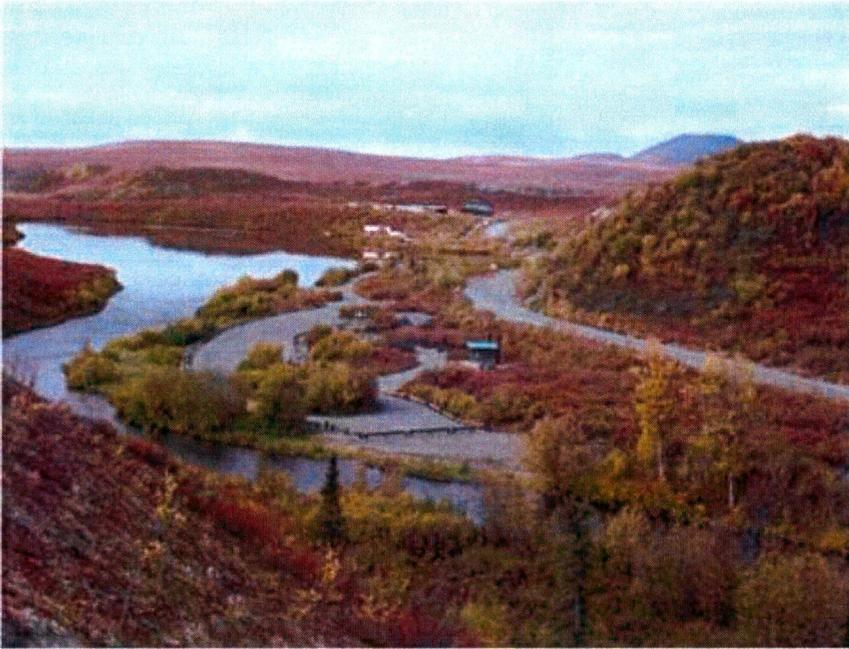
<sup>8</sup> Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

## 6300-1 Wilderness Inventory

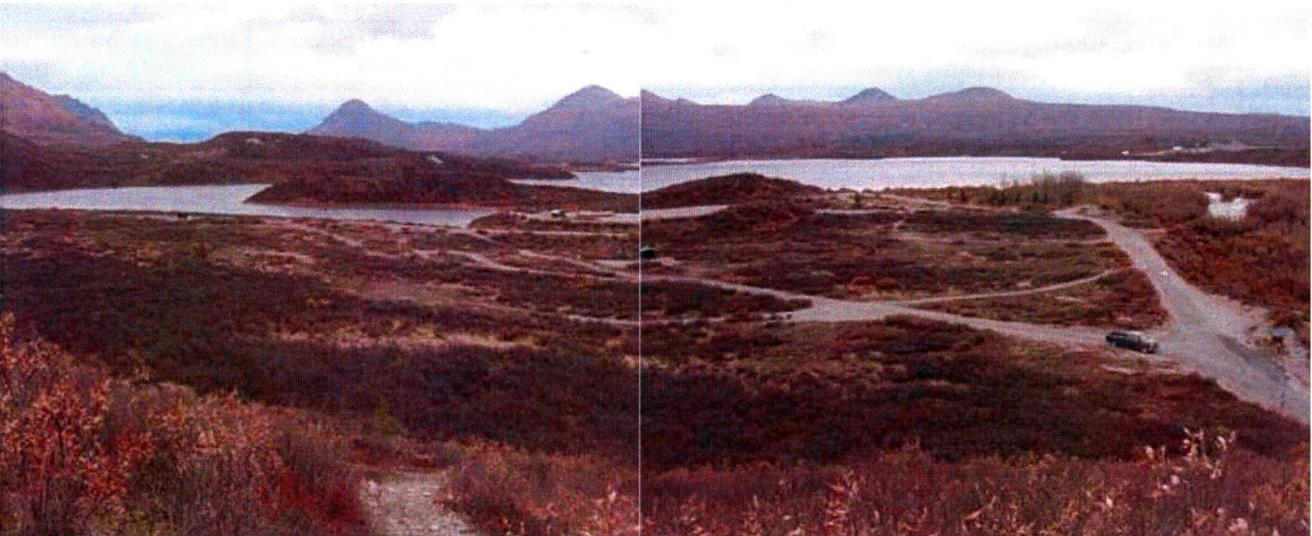
### Appendix D - Photo Log Form

**Photographer(s):** Heath Emmons, Marcia Butorac  
**Inventory Area Name & No.:** Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Section
8/2005	001	West	Delta WSR Wayside	N/A	21S	9E	33
8/2005	002	North	Tangle Lakes Campground	N/A	21S	9E	34
8/2005	003	North	Tangle Lakes Campground	N/A	21S	9E	34
8/2006	004	West	Congestion at Delta Wayside	N/A	21S	9E	33
8/2005	005	North	Congestion at Tangle Lakes Campground	N/A	21S	9E	34
9/2005	006	South	Private Property within Zone 3	N/A	21S	9E	34
9/2001	007	Northeast	Congestion at Tangle Lakes Campground	N/A	21S	9E	34

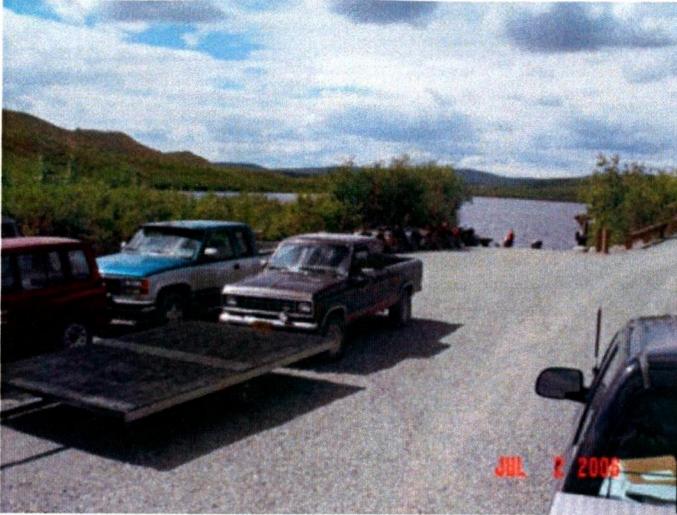


Frame 001



Frame 002

Frame 003



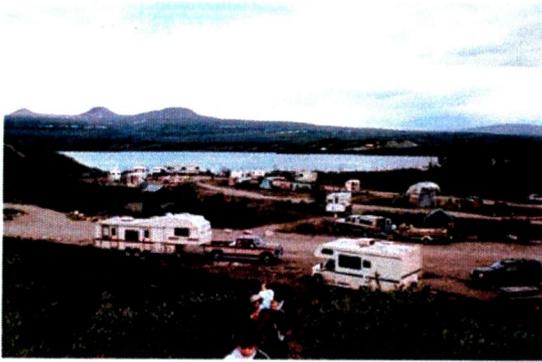
Frame 004



Frame 005



Frame 006



Frame 007

**6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Form 2**  
**Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

**Area Number/Name:** Delta River Zone 4  
**Acreage:** 8309 Acres

**(1) Is the area of sufficient size?**

Yes  No

**DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS:** (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation and summary of major human uses/activities)

Delta River Zone 4 includes the Upper Delta River from Long Tangle Lake to a point just downstream of the confluence of Garrett Creek. All lands within the zone are contiguous unencumbered BLM lands, surrounded by both state lands and state-selected lands outside the river corridor boundary. Vegetation appears predominantly natural, consisting of white spruce, dwarf birch, willows, grasses and sedges. Topography consists of rolling high alpine tundra and deep river canyons, interspersed with undulating ridges and draws in the landscape. Primary human uses/activities include nonmotorized boating, with associated hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing activities.

**(2) Does the area appear to be natural?**

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

Delta River Zone 4 is characterized by an essentially unmodified natural environment. There are approximately 20 primitive campsites within the management zone and two river portages constructed of native rock and spruce materials. Facilities are rustic and built for site protection and river safety only. There is little or no evidence of motorized use, including OHV trails. Traces of previous use are evident at some campsites, and consist primarily of small rock fire rings and minor vegetation trampling.

**(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

Delta River Zone 4 will be managed to provide a primitive, nonmotorized recreation experience, where the concentration of other users is very low and evidence of use is minimal. Sights and sounds of the road system are nonexistent, and area will be managed for its primitive attributes and solitude. Vegetative screening, topography and location between designated campsites offer seclusion and reduce the presence of the sights, sounds and evidence of other people in the area. The prevailing use is nonmotorized boating, with associated hiking and hunting activities that occur from campsites into the uplands. There is little evidence of motorized use, as shallow water and topography limit the rare occurrence of motorized boats entering the zone.

**(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to**

**unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**Yes   X        No \_\_\_\_\_      N/A \_\_\_\_\_

## Description:

Delta River Zone 4 offers outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational activities. The predominant recreational activities within this area include nonmotorized river boating, with associated hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing activities. Aside from the rustic facilities located at portage area, there are no other BLM facilities located within the zone. The absence of facilities within this zone is a characteristic that makes this zone unique, providing solitude in a natural, primitive surrounding.

**(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?**Yes   X        No \_\_\_\_\_      N/A \_\_\_\_\_

## Description:

The southern half of Delta River Zone 4 is located within the Tangle Lakes Archeological District (TLAD). The TLAD is one of the densest areas for late Pleistocene and early Holocene archaeological sites in the North American Subarctic, making the area significant for answering questions about the poorly known early peoples who migrated to Alaska (Bowers 1989). The result has been a relatively rich picture of the area's prehistory and history based upon one of the largest and densest cluster of archaeological sites in this part of Alaska. Many of these sites, and almost all of those within the TLAD, are considered to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as contributing properties to the archaeological district.

## 6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Summary of Analysis Form

**Area Name and/or Number:** Delta River Zone 4

### Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  Yes  No
2. Does the area appear to be natural?  Yes  No  N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

### Prepared by:

Heath Emmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner      3/2/2011

### Reviewed by:

Beth Maclean, Field Manager      3/2/2011

\* This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

## 6301-WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS<sup>1</sup>

*(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road<sup>2</sup> for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)*

**Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area:** Delta River Zone 4

**Route or Route Segment<sup>3</sup> Name and/or Identifier:** There are no routes or rights-of-way located within Delta River Zone 4. The wilderness characteristics inventory route analysis is not applicable.

---

<sup>1</sup> This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

<sup>2</sup> Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. “Improved” does not necessarily mean formal construction. “Maintained” does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

<sup>3</sup> If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

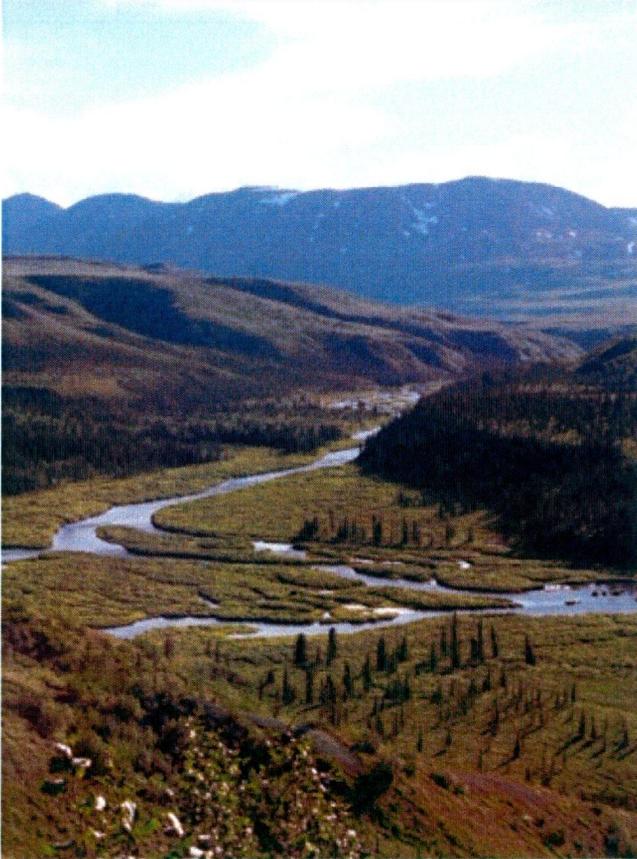
**6300-1 Wilderness Inventory**  
**Appendix D - Photo Log Form**

**Photographer(s):** Heath Emmons, Tamara Hamby, Dennis Green  
**Inventory Area Name & No.:** Delta River Zone 4

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Section
7/2006	001	North	Lower Tangle Lake looking north to Alaska Range	N/A	21S	9E	35
7/2006	002	South	Garrett Creek drainage looking south	N/A	20S	10E	10
7/2006	003	North	Garrett Creek drainage looking north	N/A	20S	10E	10
7/2006	004	South	Delta Falls, first waterfall, looking south	N/A	20S	9E	14



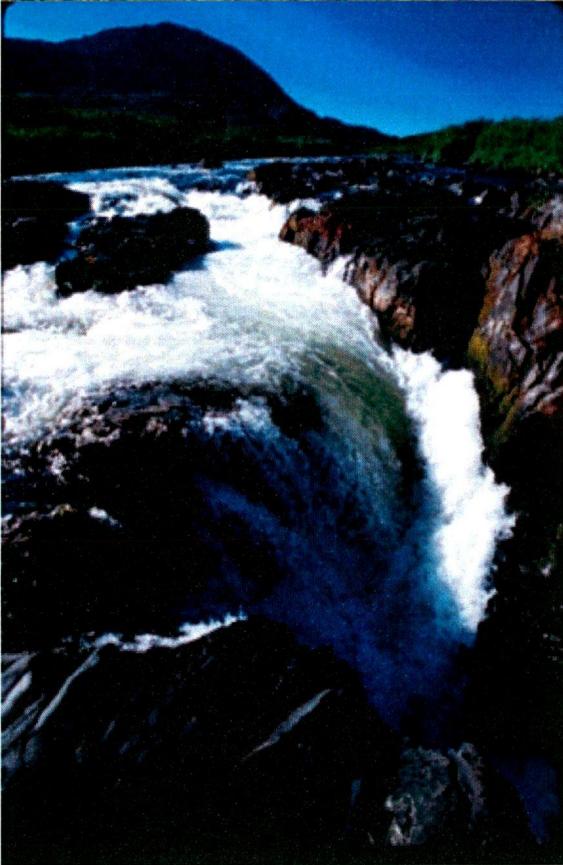
Frame 001



Frame 002



Frame 003



Frame 004

## 6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Form 2

### Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

**Area Number/Name:** Delta River Zone 5

**Acreage:** 16065 Acres

**(1) Is the area of sufficient size?**

Yes  No

**DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS:** (Include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation and summary of major human uses/activities)

Delta River Zone 5 includes the lower Delta River just downstream of the Garrett Creek confluence, to the end of the river corridor at Black Rapids. All lands within the zone are contiguous unencumbered BLM lands, although two federal patented mining claims operate in the Eureka and Rainy Creek drainages. Outside of the river corridor boundary, the surrounding lands are state and state-selected lands, with robust exploration for locatable minerals occurring on state mining claims. Vegetation appears predominantly natural, consisting of white spruce, dwarf birch, willows, grasses and sedges. Topography consists of rolling high alpine tundra and deep river canyons, interspersed with undulating ridges and draws in the landscape. Primary human uses/activities include both motorized and nonmotorized boating, hunting, and off highway vehicle (OHV) riding.

**(2) Does the area appear to be natural?**

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

The majority of Delta River Zone 5 appears to be natural, except for the presence of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System and two developed OHV routes that are primarily used for hunting and mining access. There are approximately 6 designated campsites located within the management zone. Vegetation and soils are predominantly natural, but traces of previous use are evident at most of the campsites, consisting primarily of rock fire rings, bare ground disturbance, and moderate vegetation trampling.

**(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**

Yes  No  N/A

Description:

Delta River Zone 5 will be managed to provide a semiprimitive motorized recreation experience, where one expects to meet other groups of users, and solitude is still possible, but usually difficult to find. The use of motorized watercraft and OHVs occur within this zone throughout the summer season, increasing substantially during subsistence hunting season (August 1-September 30). Mining access occurs throughout the year; it is not uncommon to experience heavy machinery either crossing directly through the river corridor or travelling on the Rainy Creek mining trail. In the northern portion of the zone, the Richardson Highway and Trans-

Alaska Pipeline System are almost always in view, lacking vegetative and topographic screening that would provide the seclusion needed to reduce the presence of sights, sounds and evidence of other people in the area.

**(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Delta River Zone 5 does offer common opportunities for primitive recreational activities, but these are not considered outstanding and unconfined activities. The use of motorized watercraft or OHVs occurs throughout the summer within this zone, and users sometimes find themselves competing for space and solitude with these motorized users. There is not an outstanding expectation of primitive and unconfined recreation when viewing an OHV or heavy mining equipment crossing or running parallel to the river, and care must be taken in the narrow, braided portion of the zone to reduce the potential for swamping or collisions with passing motorboats. Social conflict issues between motorized and nonmotorized users are common within this zone.

**(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?**

Yes  No \_\_\_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Delta River Zone 5 is located entirely outside of the TLAD boundaries, although there are still areas with important geological and historical values. Lands within this zone offer a rich history of mining dating back to the early 1900's as miners penetrated into the Eureka and Rainy Creek regions in search of gold. Cultural resources of this historic period include traces of mining equipment, cabin sites, and trail routes passing through the Delta River corridor towards Eureka Creek. Rainy Creek was a historic gold mining area within the Eureka mining district, which was organized in 1900. Mining activity was distributed all along Rainy Creek and approximately 250 men worked the area for gold between 1900 and 1910.

Delta River Zone 5 is also representative of major geological processes at work. Large glaciated valleys and numerous esker ridges present unique glacial and river-related geologic features. A rock moraine near the Black Rapids Glacier provides interesting views of large alluvial fans and glacial processes at work, and the area is further characterized by a narrow corridor of flood plains, exposed bedrock terraces, and mountain slopes adjacent to the river with a narrow rock chasm and gorge demonstrating magnificent geologic processes. Opportunities available within this area include rock and fossil collecting, photography, and the study of glacial features such as moraines, kettles, kames, and eskers. There are also nine known fossil localities with the lower Delta River corridor. One of the better investigated localities a few hundred meters east of the lower Delta River corridor and next to the Richardson Highway contain a variety of ancient corals and bi-valve shellfish from the Permian and Pennsylvanian geologic periods, which span from about 323 to 248 million years ago (Lindsey 1986:35-44).

## 6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Summary of Analysis Form

**Area Name and/or Number:** Delta River Zone 5

### Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements?  Yes  No
2. Does the area appear to be natural?  Yes  No  N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation?  Yes  No  N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values?  Yes  No  N/A

Check one:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

### Prepared by:

Heath Emmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner 3/2/2011

### Reviewed by:

Beth Maclean, Field Manager 3/2/2011

\* This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

## 6301-WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS<sup>1</sup>

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road<sup>2</sup> for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)

**Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area:** Delta River Zone 5

**Route or Route Segment<sup>3</sup> Name and/or Identifier:** Rainy Creek Mining Trail

### I. LOCATION:

Refer to attached map \_\_\_\_\_ and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log.

### II. ROUTE CONTEXT

**A. Current Purpose<sup>4</sup> (if any) of Route:** (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe: Mining claim access trail

### B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes \_\_\_ No **X** Unknown \_\_\_

2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ N/A **X**

Explain:

<sup>1</sup> This form documents information that constitutes and inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

<sup>2</sup> Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. "Improved" does not necessarily mean formal construction. "Maintained" does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

<sup>3</sup> If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

<sup>4</sup> The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

### III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

#### A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes  (if either A.1 or A.2 is checked "yes" below)  
 No  (if both A.1 and A.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?) Yes  No

Examples: Paved  Bladed  Graveled  Roadside Berms  Cut/Fill   
 Other

Describe: Access route was constructed by mining claimants with BLM approval in 1993 using heavy machinery to access federal patented mining claims in the Rainy Creek drainage.

2. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?) Yes  No

If "yes": by Hand Tools  by Machine

Examples: Culverts  Hardened Stream Crossings  Bridges  Drainage   
 Barriers  Other

Describe: Mining claimants repair damaged sections of access route annually caused by high flow events and natural processes.

#### B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively regular and continuous use*?):

Yes  (if either B.1 or B.2 is checked "yes" below)  
 No  (if both B.1 and B.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Is there evidence or documentation of maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes  No  If "yes": by Hand Tools  by Machine

Explain: Mining claimants repair damaged sections of access route annually caused by high flow events and natural processes.

2. If the route or route segment is in good<sup>5</sup> condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?

Yes  No  Not Applicable

Explain: Annual maintenance is approved by BLM

<sup>5</sup> Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

**C. Relatively regular and continuous use:** (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?)

Yes  No

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route)<sup>6</sup>:

Vehicle tracks are routinely observed and mining claimants access their mining claims during the summer and winter months.

#### IV. CONCLUSION:

**Does the route or route segment<sup>7</sup> meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A and III.B and III.C all checked yes)?**

Yes  = Wilderness Inventory Road

No  = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explanation<sup>8</sup>: Items III.A, III.B, and III.C have all been checked yes; therefore this route meets the definition of a road.

Evaluator(s): Heath Emmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: 3/2/201

<sup>6</sup> Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

<sup>7</sup> If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

<sup>8</sup> Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

## 6301-WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS INVENTORY APPENDIX C – ROUTE ANALYSIS<sup>1</sup>

(Factors to consider when determining whether a route is a road<sup>2</sup> for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes.)

**Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Area:** Delta River Zone 5

**Route or Route Segment<sup>3</sup> Name and/or Identifier:** Top of the World Trail

### I. LOCATION:

Refer to attached map \_\_\_\_\_ and BLM corporate data (GIS). List photo point references (where applicable) or reference attached photo log.

### II. ROUTE CONTEXT

**A. Current Purpose<sup>4</sup> (if any) of Route:** (Examples: Rangeland/Livestock Improvements (stock tank, developed spring, reservoir, fence, corral), Inholdings (ranch, farmhouse), Mine Site, Concentrated Use Site (camp site), Recreation, Utilities (transmission line, telephone, pipeline), Administrative (project maintenance, communication site, vegetation treatment)).

Describe: OHV access trail

### B. Right-of-Way (ROW):

1. Is there a ROW associated with this route?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No **X** Unknown \_\_\_\_

2. If yes, what is the stated purpose of the ROW?

3. Is the ROW still being used for this purpose?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_ N/A **X**

Explain:

<sup>1</sup> This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

<sup>2</sup> Road: An access route which has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to insure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.

a. Improved and maintained – Actions taken physically by people to keep the road open to vehicle traffic. "Improved" does not necessarily mean formal construction. "Maintained" does not necessarily mean annual maintenance.

b. Mechanical means – Use of hand or power machinery or tools.

c. Relatively regular and continuous use – Vehicular use that has occurred and will continue to occur on a relatively regular basis. Examples are: access roads for equipment to maintain a stock water tank or other established water sources, access roads to maintained recreation sites or facilities, or access roads to mining claims.

<sup>3</sup> If a portion of a route is found to meet the wilderness inventory road criteria (see Part III) and the remainder does not meet these criteria (e.g., a cherrystem road with a primitive route continuing beyond a certain point), identify each segment and explain the rationale for the separate findings under pertinent criteria.

<sup>4</sup> The purpose of a route is not a deciding factor in determining whether a route is a road for wilderness characteristics inventory purposes. The purpose of a route does provide context for factors on which such a determination may be based, particularly the question of whether maintenance of the route ensures relatively regular and continuous use. The purpose also helps to determine whether maintenance that may so far have been unnecessary to ensure such use would be approved by BLM when the need arises.

### III. WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROAD CRITERIA

#### A. Evidence of construction or improvement using mechanical means:

Yes  (if either A.1 or A.2 is checked "yes" below)

No  (if both A.1 and A.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Construction: (Is there evidence that the route or route segment was originally constructed using mechanical means?) Yes  No

Examples: Paved  Bladed  Graveled  Roadside Berms  Cut/Fill  Other

Describe: The route is a user-created route for OHV access.

2. Improvements: (Is there evidence of improvements using mechanical means to facilitate access?) Yes  No

If "yes": by Hand Tools  by Machine

Examples: Culverts  Hardened Stream Crossings  Bridges  Drainage   
Barriers  Other

Describe: BLM regularly maintains and repairs damaged sections of this OHV access route caused by regular OHV use and natural processes, using both hand tools and machinery.

#### B. Maintenance: (Is there evidence of maintenance that would ensure *relatively regular and continuous use*?)

Yes  (if either B.1 or B.2 is checked "yes" below)

No  (if both B.1 and B.2 are checked "no" below)

1. Is there evidence or documentation of maintenance using hand tools or machinery?

Yes  No  If "yes": by Hand Tools  by Machine

Explain: BLM regularly maintains and repairs damaged sections of this OHV access route caused by regular OHV use and natural processes, using both hand tools and machinery.

2. If the route or route segment is in good<sup>5</sup> condition, but there is no evidence of maintenance, would mechanical maintenance with hand tools or machines be approved by BLM to meet the purpose(s) of the route in the event this route became impassable?

Yes  No  Not Applicable

Explain: Annual maintenance is performed by BLM

#### C. Relatively regular and continuous use: (Does the route or route segment ensure relatively regular and continuous use?)

<sup>5</sup> Good condition would be a condition that ensures regular and continuous use relative to the purposes of the route. Consider whether the route can be clearly followed in the field over its entire course and whether all or any portion of the route contains any impediments to travel.

Yes  No 

Describe evidence (e.g., direct, vehicles or vehicle tracks observed, or indirect, evidence of use associated with purpose of the route such as maintenance of facility that route accesses) and other rationale for whether use has occurred and will continue to occur on a *relatively* regular basis (i.e., regular and continuous use relative to the purpose(s) of the route)<sup>6</sup>:

This designated OHV route is a popular OHV route to access subsistence hunting opportunities and for general motorized recreation, but is only used for approximately 4 months per year.

#### IV. CONCLUSION:

**Does the route or route segment<sup>7</sup> meet the definition of a wilderness inventory road (i.e., are items III.A and III.B and III.C all checked yes)?**

Yes  = Wilderness Inventory Road

No  = Not a road for wilderness inventory purposes

Explanation<sup>8</sup>: Only Items III.A and III.B have been checked yes; therefore this route does not meet the definition of a road for wilderness inventory purposes.

Evaluator(s): Heath Emmons, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date: 3/2/2011

<sup>6</sup> Include estimate of travel rates for the stated purposes, e.g., trips/day or week or month or season or year or even multiple years in some facility maintenance cases.

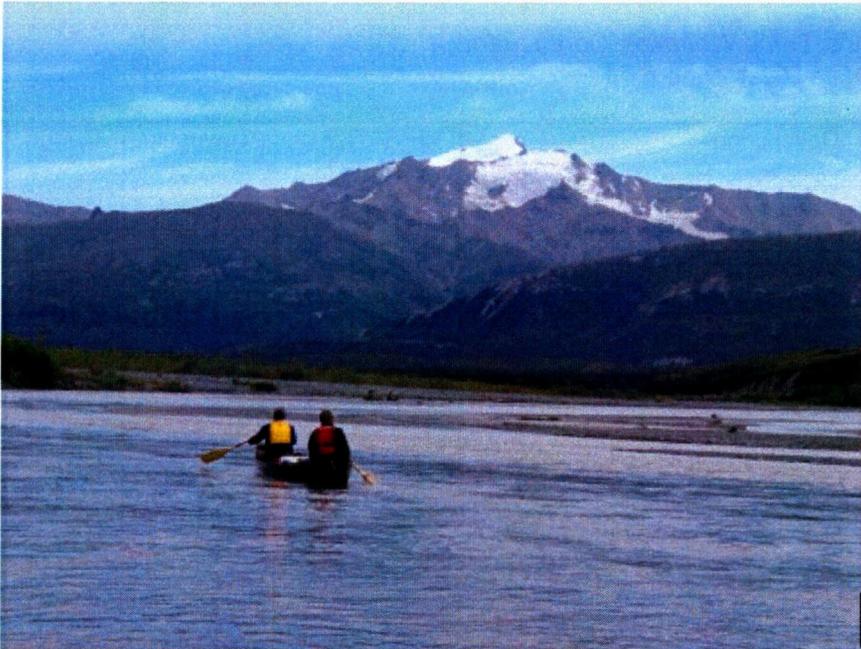
<sup>7</sup> If part of the route meets the wilderness inventory road definition and the remainder does not, describe the segment meeting the definition and any remaining portion not meeting the definition and why.

<sup>8</sup> Describe and explain rationale for any discrepancies with citizen proposals.

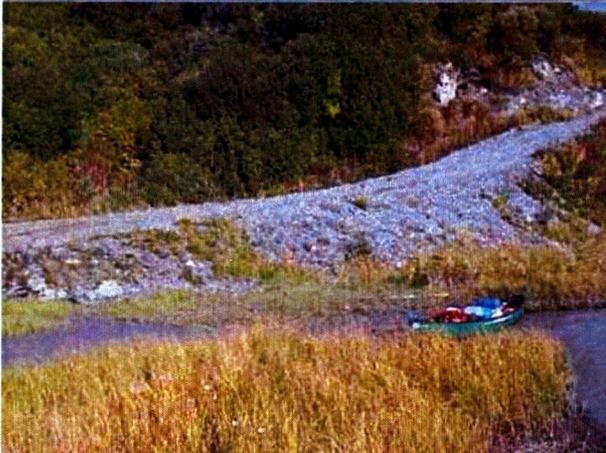
## 6300-1 Wilderness Inventory Appendix D - Photo Log Form

**Photographer(s):** Heath Emmons, Doug Whitaker, Cory Larson  
**Inventory Area Name & No.:** Delta River Zone 5

Date	Frame #	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Section
8/2007	001	North	Looking north to the river takeout and Alaska Range	N/A	18S	10E	24
9/2001	002	Northeast	Rainy Creek Mining Trail	N/A	18S	10E	36
9/2001	003	South	Rainy Creek Mining Trail	N/A	18S	10E	36
8/2004	004	East	Trans Alaska Pipeline viewed from river	N/A	18S	10E	36
8/2004	005	East	Trans Alaska Pipeline facility viewed from river	N/A	17S	10E	23
8/2009	006	West	Jetboat activity	N/A	19S	10E	27
8/2009	007	East	Top of the World OHV Trail scarring on hillside viewed from river	N/A	19S	10E	26
8/2009	008	West	Top of the World OHV Trail rutting	N/A	19S	10E	26
8/2009	009	West	Top of the World OHV Trail	N/A	19S	10E	26
8/2009	010	Northeast	Top of the World OHV Trail	N/A	19S	10E	26
7/2002	011	West	Top of the World OHV Trail river crossing	N/A	20S	10E	3



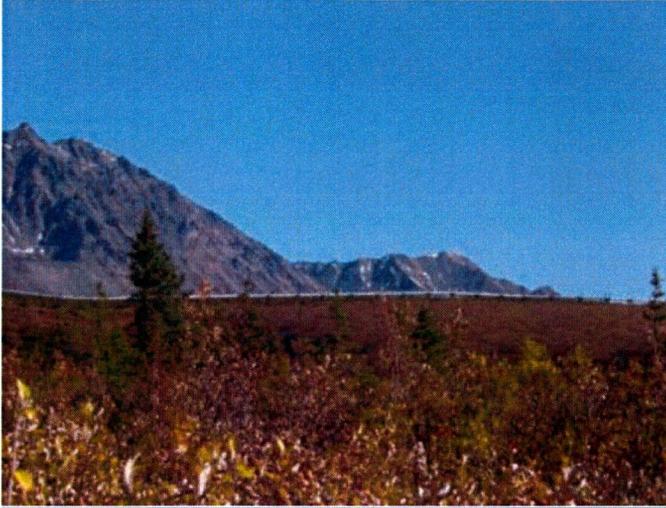
Frame 001



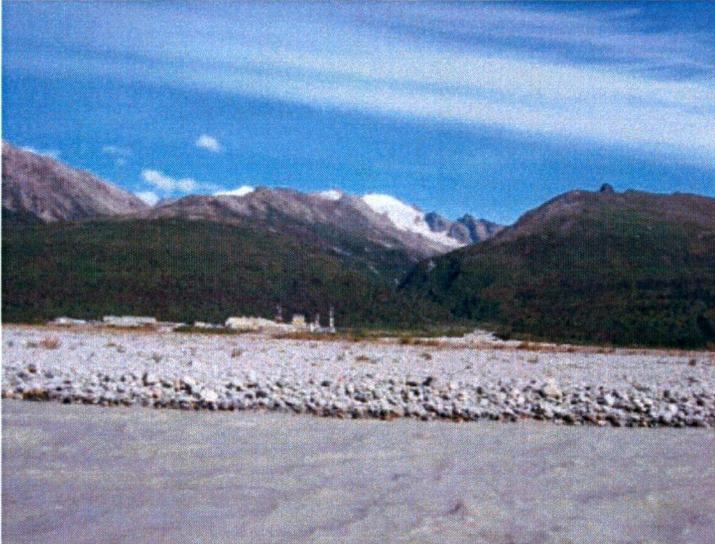
Frame 002



Frame 003



Frame 004



Frame 005



Frame 006



Frame 007



Frame 008



Frame 009



Frame 010



Frame 011

### 3.0 Approved Plan Monitoring and Management Actions

#### Litter Management (Recreation Management Zones 1, 2, 4, & 5)

<b>Indicator Standard</b>	Percentage of sites at which litter occurs Less than 20% of sites (13 sites) with litter present
<b>Phase 1</b>	Maintain existing cleanup patrols, increase education and partnerships.
<b>Phase 2</b>	Add one additional cleanup patrol and continue education.
<b>Phase 3</b>	Dismantle fire rings; require fire pans and removal of ash from the river corridor.

#### Human Waste Management (Recreation Management Zones 1, 2, 4, & 5)

<b>Indicator Standard</b>	Percentage of sites that human waste (or toilet paper) is present Less than 10% of sites (7 sites) with human waste/tp present
<b>Phase 1</b>	Maintain existing cleanup patrols, increase education, LNT workshops, and partnerships. Require commercial guides and clients to use portable toilets. Publicize state statutes regarding human waste disposal.
<b>Phase 2</b>	Add one additional cleanup patrol and continue education.
<b>Phase 3</b>	All users will be required to use portable toilets and pack out human waste and toilet paper. Outhouse at river portage will be removed when a portable toilet cleanout facility is developed.

#### Fire Ring Management (Recreation Management Zones 1, 2, 4, & 5)

<b>Indicator Standard</b>	Number of fire rings per site Less than 20% of sites (13 sites) with more than one fire ring
<b>Phase 1</b>	Dismantle all but one fire ring per site, increase education, and encourage the use of firepans.
<b>Phase 2</b>	Dismantle all fire rings; require the use of firepans and removal of ash from the river corridor.

#### Private and Commercial User Capacity Management (Recreation Management Zones 1, 2, 4, & 5)

<b>Indicator</b>	Number of user days that groups are required to camp within sight or sound of other campers, pass up occupied campsites, or share campsites due to campsites being occupied.
<b>Standard</b>	Less than 20% of total user days annually
<b>Phase 1</b>	Group size limitation of 10 people per campsite, designate campsites and develop campsite map, consider development of additional campsites in high use areas.
<b>Phase 2</b>	Voluntary registration system for overnight trips, first come/first served.
<b>Phase 3</b>	Voluntary registration system progresses to mandatory registration system.
<b>Phase 4</b>	Mandatory permit system.

## Campsite Impact Management (Recreation Management Zones 1, 2, 4, & 5)

<b>Indicator</b>	Percentage of bare ground disturbance and density of social trails and satellite sites at designated campsites. Sites have been inventoried and categorized as heavy, moderate, and light impact sites.
<b>Standard</b>	<b>Heavy impact sites:</b> No increase in bare ground on the riverbank and no increase in satellite sites or social trails from existing condition. <b>Moderate impact sites:</b> Less than 66% bare ground disturbance and no more than one satellite site or social trail. <b>Light impact sites:</b> Less than 33% bare ground disturbance and no new satellite sites or social trails.
<b>Phase 1</b>	Group size limitation of 10 people per campsite, designate sites and develop campsite map. Consider the development of additional campsites. <b>Heavy Impact sites:</b> Close developing satellite sites and social trails using native materials to discourage use. Use passive rehabilitation to funnel use along the riverbank. <b>Moderate Impact sites:</b> Use passive rehabilitation to halt expansion of core area, satellite sites, and social trails. <b>Light Impact sites:</b> Same as described for moderate impact sites. Temporarily close site if not designated using passive rehabilitation methods.
<b>Phase 2</b>	Groups in excess of 10 people will be prohibited in all designated campsites. <b>Heavy Impact sites:</b> Close satellite sites and social trails using physical barriers and signage. <b>Moderate Impact sites:</b> Where passive rehabilitation is not effective, temporarily close sites until bare ground has revegetated within site categorization standards. <b>Light Impact sites:</b> Passive rehabilitation, temporary closure of sites.

### Special Recreation Permit (SRP) Management:

Limit commercial group sizes to 10 people per campsite. Require commercial guides and their clients to use designated campsites and portable toilets. Competitive events will be considered and may be authorized based on compatibility with specified ORVs for the management zone.

### Group Size:

In RMZs 1, 2, 4, and 5, group sizes will be limited to a maximum of 10 people per campsite. Groups in excess of 10 people per campsite must obtain written authorization with special stipulations from the BLM. In RMZ 3 (campground) group sizes will be limited to a maximum of 10 people and 2 vehicles per designated campsite (one of which may be a recreational vehicle). Groups in excess of 10 people may camp in the designated group camping areas.

### Occupancy and Use:

Camping will be limited to 14 consecutive days within the river corridor within any 60 day period. Designated campsites must be used when camping within 200 feet of the river or lake shoreline. Dispersed camping (more than 200 feet from the shoreline) will be allowed when using Leave No Trace low impact camping methods.

Discharging a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging

property at any time within 150 yards of residence, building, developed or undeveloped recreation sites, or occupied area; or at any time across or on any public road, or across or on any trail or body of water whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of such discharge is prohibited.

### **Chainsaw Use and Firewood Gathering:**

Only dead and down wood may be used for campfires and the use of chainsaws for the cutting of firewood for campsites will be prohibited in RMZs 1, 2, and 4. Chainsaw use will be allowed in RMZ 3 for cutting of wood brought from home and in RMZ 5 for the cutting of standing dead at least 200 feet from the river's edge.

### **Fireworks:**

Fireworks are prohibited within the WSR corridor.

### **Supply Caching:**

The caching of supplies will only be allowed through written authorization with special stipulations from the BLM.

### **Education and Interpretation:**

Information describing available recreational opportunities and Leave No Trace low impact camping techniques will be provided at the boat launches, on the BLM website and social media, and in BLM brochures. Information will be provided throughout the developed facilities describing facility rules and regulations and interpretation of area resources to promote a cultural and natural resource awareness of the area. River crews will make contact with river users to discuss LNT river ethics and provide informal presentations at boat launches. Interpretive displays will be installed on nonmotorized trails, focusing on TLAD cultural significance and subsistence lifestyles. Volunteer hosts are available to provide education and information to visitors.

### **Marketing:**

In RMZ's 1, 4, and 5, recreational opportunities will be marketed by providing information on the BLM website and in BLM brochures. In RMZs 2 and 3, recreational opportunities will be marketed to a wider audience using the BLM website, social media, magazine articles, brochures, and outdoor shows.

### **Monitoring:**

The administration of visitor satisfaction surveys will be used to assure that BBM outcomes/objectives are being met and setting prescriptions are being maintained. Adaptive management standards will be monitored using river patrols, river surveys, and visitor registration.

### **Facility Management:**

**Tangle Lakes Zone 1:** No facility developments identified. Public use cabins would not be developed.

**Tangle Lakes Zone 2:** No facility developments identified. Public use cabins would not be developed. No additional outhouses would be developed at the portage. Acquisition of area lodges will not be considered for a visitor center.

**Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3:** Facility developments will be limited to campground renovation and wayside improvements. User fees will be implemented for the use of the campground only. Public use cabins would not be developed. Possible river educational contact station and portable toilet cleanout facility will be developed if needed in the future.

**Delta River Zone 4:** River survey box and boater registration kiosk will be removed. Outhouse will be removed if portable toilets are required in the future and portable toilet cleanout facility is developed. Portage warning signs will remain discrete, but noticeable. Public use cabins would not be developed.

**Delta River Zone 5:** Facility developments at the Mile 212.5 Richardson Highway takeout would include takeout warning signs, river survey box, and boater registration kiosk. Public use cabins would not be developed.

### **Travel Management:**

**Tangle Lakes Zone 1:** No designated OHV trails. OHV use is prohibited, except during periods of adequate snow cover (at least 6" ground frost or 12" snow cover). Unauthorized trails will be closed and rehabilitated. Snowmachines and OHVs may be used to travel cross country during periods of adequate snow cover.

Portage trails will not be marked or maintained unless trail proliferation or resource damage is occurring. Motorized boating will not be prohibited unless monitoring shows that adverse impacts are occurring to recreational, wildlife, riparian, and/or water quality resource values. Upon a finding that any of these resource values are being adversely affected as a result of motorized boating, an ANILCA closure process would be considered in compliance with the procedures outlined in 43 CFR 36.11(h).

Airplane landings will not be prohibited unless monitoring shows that adverse impacts are occurring to recreational, wildlife, riparian, and/or water quality resource values. Upon a finding that any of these resource values are being adversely affected as a result of airplane landings, an ANILCA closure process would be considered in compliance with the procedures outlined in 43 CFR 36.11(h). New airstrips will not be authorized within the management zone.

**Tangle Lakes Zone 2:** No designated OHV trails. OHV use is prohibited, except during periods of adequate snow cover (at least 6" ground frost or 12" snow cover). Round Tangle Lake and Mile 22 Denali Highway North Trails are unauthorized OHV trails and will be closed to OHV use. Snowmachines and OHVs may be used to travel cross country during periods of adequate snow cover.

Lower Tangles Ridge Trail, Rock Creek Trail, Upper Tangles Ridge Trail, and the Round Tangle Lake Trail will be designated as nonmotorized trails. Portage trail will not be marked or maintained unless trail proliferation or resource damage is occurring.

No restrictions on motorized boating.

Airplane landings will not be restricted. New airstrips will not be authorized.

**Tangle Lakes Developed Zone 3:** No designated OHV trails. OHV use is prohibited, except during periods of adequate snow cover (at least 6" ground frost or 12" snow cover). Snowmachines and OHVs may be used to travel cross country during periods of adequate snow cover. Use of OHVs in the Tangle River will be prohibited. Within the developed facilities, OHV use will only be allowed for ingress and egress to campsites in designated areas and on gravel travel routes designated for motorized travel.

No formal restrictions on motorized boating. Motorized boating is naturally restricted by shallow river conditions.

No formal restrictions on airplane landings. Airplane landings are not practical in the developed facilities due to the lack of suitable airstrips. New airstrips will not be authorized.

**Delta River Zone 4:** No designated OHV trails. Unauthorized OHV trails will be closed and rehabilitated. OHV use is prohibited, except during periods of adequate snow cover (at least 6" ground frost or 12" snow cover). Snowmachines and OHVs may be used to travel cross country during periods of adequate snow cover.

Portage trail will be marked and maintained using signs and native construction materials. Additional nonmotorized trails may be designated in the future in the Garrett Creek drainage.

Motorized boating will not be prohibited unless monitoring shows that adverse impacts are occurring to recreational, riparian, fisheries, and/or water quality resource values. Upon a finding that any of these resource values are being adversely affected as a result of motorized boating, an ANILCA closure process would be considered in compliance with the procedures outlined in 43 CFR 36.11(h).

Airplane landings will not be prohibited unless monitoring shows that adverse impacts are occurring to recreational, riparian, fisheries, and/or water quality resource values. Upon a finding that any of these resource values are being adversely affected as a result of airplane landings, an ANILCA closure process would be considered in compliance with the procedures outlined in 43 CFR 36.11(h). New airstrips will not be authorized within the management zone.

**Delta River Zone 5:** OHVs must remain on designated OHV trails (Top of the World and Rainy Creek Trails) and will not be allowed to operate off designated trails for game retrieval, except during periods of adequate snow cover (at least 6 inches of frost or 12 inches of snow cover). OHVs will be limited to 2000 lbs. Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW). OHV restrictions apply to all users, including subsistence users (defined in ANILCA Section 811). Exceptions to the 2000 lb. GVW limitation may be granted for access to active mining claims via the Rainy Creek Trail and to subsistence users who obtain authorization from the BLM, Glennallen Field Office. Two unauthorized OHV trails at the confluence of Eureka Creek will be closed and rehabilitated.

Nonmotorized trails will remain dispersed and undeveloped. Additional nonmotorized trails may be designated in the future in the Eureka Creek drainage.

No restrictions on motorized boating.

Airplane landings will not be restricted. New airstrips will not be authorized.

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