

SENSITIVE AREAS: PART FIVE - AREAS OF LOCAL CONCERN

Some areas within the Cook Inlet Subarea warrant special attention due to the presence of highly productive wildlife habitat, the ability to sustain a large part of a villages' subsistence needs, the occurrence of unusual historical sites or large mineral deposits, recreation, energy development, hazardous areas, or the presence of important fisheries. These have been identified as Areas Meriting Special Attention, Important Use Areas, Special Use Areas, or Sensitive Areas through the Anchorage Coastal Management Plan, Kenai Peninsula Borough Coastal Management Program, Port Graham/Nanwalek Area Which Merits Special Attention Plan (Kenai Peninsula Borough), Matanuska-Susitna Borough Coastal Management Plan, Point Mackenzie Area Which Merits Special Attention Plan (Matanuska-Susitna Borough). They are summarized below.

DESIGNATED AREA	REASONS FOR DESIGNATION	LAND OWNERSHIP/ VILLAGES TO CONTACT
Anchor River Mouth	Area is habitat for Salmon, steelhead, dolly varden, halibut, wildlife and seabirds. Used for recreational purposes. Boat launching area.	Private, State (Anchor River Recreation Area)
Andesitic Dike at Potter Marsh on the Old Seward Highway	Unique geology.	State
Bird Creek Regional Park	Spawning ground for anadromous fish. Is habitat for moose, brown and black bear, lynx, wolverine, hare, grouse, dall sheep and birds. Used for recreational and scenic purposes.	Municipality of Anchorage
Bridge Creek Watershed	Important moose habitat. Major water supply for the City of Homer and marine-related industrial development. Used for recreational and scenic purposes.	Private, State
Cape Starichof	Area is habitat for Salmon and steelhead. Used for recreational and scenic purposes.	Kenai Peninsula Borough, private, State

DESIGNATED AREA	REASONS FOR DESIGNATION	LAND OWNERSHIP/ VILLAGES TO CONTACT
Chuitna Area	Important waterfowl habitat near Beluga. Major drainages are anadromous. Significant moose harvesting area. Contains mineral and other natural resources as well as Archeological sites. Used for recreational and scenic purposes.	Surface and subsurface: Kenai Peninsula Borough, private, State Major private ownerships: Cook Inlet Region, Inc., Tyonek Native Corporation Port and industrial sites: Kenai Peninsula Borough
Eagle River (drainage)	Used for recreational and scenic purposes. Provides flood control. Contributes to water supply.	Eklutna Incorporated, Fort Richardson Military Reservation (Seaward ownership), State
Fish Creek	Unique coastal marsh system. Visual and recreational open space resource.	Tidelands owned by the Municipality of Anchorage. Other owners include Alaska Railroad (right-of-way) and private ownership by adjacent property owners.
Goose Bay State Game Refuge	Protection and management of fish and wildlife populations and habitats. Provides limited public recreational opportunities.	State; also private, university and Federal inholdings
Kasilof River	Important habitat for salmon, moose and migratory waterfowl. Wetlands naturally retain floodwaters. Presence of historic and archeological sites. Used for recreational and scenic purposes.	Federal, Kenai Peninsula Borough, private, State
Kenai River	Migration, spawning and rearing area for salmon and other anadromous fish. Important waterfowl, bird, eagle and wildlife habitat area. Wetlands and floodplain areas provide natural water storage and water quality functions. Used for recreational and scenic purposes.	Federal, municipal, private, State

DESIGNATED AREA	REASONS FOR DESIGNATION	LAND OWNERSHIP/ VILLAGES TO CONTACT
Knik/Matanuska River Floodplain	Mitigates flood hazard potential along the Knik/Matanuska River. Contains areas of essential habitat for waterfowl and wildlife. Offers recreational opportunities.	State
Nancy Lake State Recreation Area	Used for recreational and scenic purposes.	Private, State
Nikiski Industrial Area	Commercial development.	Kenai Peninsula Borough, Federal, private, State
Ninilchik/Deep Creek	Area is habitat for salmon, steelhead, halibut, dolly varden, moose, shorebirds and clams. Historic Russian village and church. Used for recreational and scenic purposes.	Kenai Peninsula Borough, private, State
Old Girdwood Townsite South of Seward Highway	Provides resting and habitat area for migratory waterfowl and other birds. Site used for recreational and scenic purposes.	Private, State
Palmer Flats State Game Refuge	Protection and management of fish and wildlife populations and habitats. Offers limited public recreational opportunities.	State
Point Campbell-Point Woronzof Coastal Wetlands	Supports numerous species of wading birds and migratory waterfowl. Used for recreational and scenic purposes.	State
Point Campbell Dunes and Delta	Contains evidence of five glacial periods. Only Anchorage locality where active sand dune migration can be observed.	Municipality of Anchorage
Point Mackenzie Industrial Port/Park Site	Port development.	Matanuska-Susitna Borough, State
Point Woronzof Bluffs	Contains the only known fossil beds in the Anchorage area.	Municipality of Anchorage, State
Port of Anchorage Area	Port and marina activity.	Alaska Railroad, Municipality of Anchorage

DESIGNATED AREA	REASONS FOR DESIGNATION	LAND OWNERSHIP/ VILLAGES TO CONTACT
Port Graham/Nanwalek Area	Important area for subsistence hunting, fishing, and food gathering. Possesses unique cultural value and historical significance.	Chugach Alaska Corporation (subsurface), Nanwalek Village Corporation, Port Graham Village Corporation, State (submerged lands and tidelands)
Port Graham Waterfront	Area is habitat for salmon and clams. Contains timber resources. Presence of historic and archaeological sites (some undiscovered). Used for recreational and scenic purposes.	State
Seldovia Watershed	Black bear habitat. Potential timber resources. High scenic value.	Private
Seward Highway/ Turnagain Arm	Designated national scenic byway.	State
Susitna Flats State Game Refuge	Protection and management of fish and wildlife populations and habitats. Offers limited public recreational and commercial opportunities.	Private inholdings within the refuge, State
Upper Resurrection Bay	Area is habitat for fish, birds and wildlife. Spawning area for anadromous fish. Supports important recreational fishery. Unique geology. Used for recreational and scenic purposes.	Alaska Railroad, City of Seward, State

An August 2000 survey of Native tribes in the Subarea conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency yielded additional information about sensitive areas near villages, as viewed from the local perspective. The tribes responding to the survey, as well as the primary sites of concern and the reasons for their importance as indicated by the tribes, are listed below.

1. Chickaloon Village Traditional Council

SENSITIVE AREA	REASONS FOR DESIGNATION
Waterways	None stated
Chickaloon River	Salmon
Moose Creek	Salmon

SENSITIVE AREA	REASONS FOR DESIGNATION
Mantanuska River	Salmon, protection of inlet (affects other tribes)
Main office/school	Important to the tribe
Health and government building	Important to the tribe

2. Knik Tribe

SENSITIVE AREA	REASONS FOR DESIGNATION
Goose Bay	Subsistence activities
Fish Creek	Subsistence activities
Cook Inlet	Subsistence activities

3. Port Graham Village Council

SENSITIVE AREA	REASONS FOR DESIGNATION
Port Graham Hatchery	Salmon enhancement
Port Graham Bay	Subsistence activities
Head of Port Graham Bay	Spawning stream
Mouth of Port Graham Bay	Subsistence activities
Johnson Slough	Spawning stream

SENSITIVE AREAS: PART SIX – KEY REFERENCES

The following documents will provide information on critical fish and wildlife concentrations and other resource data. The information contained in these documents is not, for the most part, duplicated in this regional plan. Also identified, are Geographic Information System (GIS) databases, which may have automated resources information for the area.

Documents:

Agler, B. A., S. J. Kendall, P. E. Seisar, and D. B. Irons. 1995. Estimates of marine bird and sea otter abundance in lower Cook Inlet, Alaska, during summer 1993 and winter 1994. Final report, OCS Study, MMS 94-0063. 124 pp.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1985. Alaska Habitat Management Guide, Southwest Region, Vol. 1 and 2. (Description of life histories, habitat requirement, distribution, abundance and human uses of fish and wildlife).

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1985. Alaska Habitat Management Guide, Southwest Region Map Atlas. (1:1,000,000 scale color maps of fish and wildlife distribution).

*Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1985. Alaska Habitat Management Guide Reference Maps, southwest Region, Vol. 1-4. (1:250,000 scale maps of fish and wildlife distribution and human use).

*Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1994. An Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes, Southwest Region. (Maps of locations of anadromous streams and species known to utilize them).

Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1991. State of Alaska Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, and Sanctuaries. (Maps of these specially designated state lands).

Bennett, A. J. 1996. Physical and Biological Resource Inventory of the Lake Clark National Park - Cook Inlet Coastline, 1994-96. Unpublished report, U. S. National Park Service, Anchorage, Alaska. 137 pp.

Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response, Inc. 1993. Technical Manual.

Conant, B., J. I. Hodges, and D. J. Groves. 2000. Alaska - Yukon waterfowl breeding population survey. Unpublished report, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Juneau, Alaska. 32 pp.

Environmental Protection Agency and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 1994. Environmental Sensitivity Mapping for Developing and Evaluating Spill Response Plans. Working Paper Review Draft.

Gill, R.E., Jr., and T.L. Tibbitts. 1999. Seasonal shorebird use of intertidal habitats of Cook Inlet, Alaska. Final Report. U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division and OCS Study, MMS 99-0012. 55pp.

Kenai Peninsula Borough. 1989. Kenai Peninsula Borough Coastal Management Program.

Kenai Peninsula Borough. 1992. Port Graham/Nanwalek Area Which Merits Special Attention Plan.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough. 1987. Matanuska-Susitna Borough Coastal Management Plan.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough. 1995. Point Mackenzie Area Which Merits Special Attention Plan.

Michel, J. and J. Dahlin. 1993. Guidelines for Developing Digital Environmental Sensitivity Index Atlases and Databases. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Michel, J. and S. Christopherson and F. Whipple. 1994. Mechanical Protection Guidelines. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Coast Guard.

Minerals Management Service. 1992. Shipwrecks of the Alaskan Shelf and Shore.

Minerals Management Service. 1989. Offshore Scientific and Technical Publications.

Minerals Management Service. 1990. Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Assessment Program Comprehensive Bibliography.

Municipality of Anchorage. 1979. Anchorage Coastal Management Plan.

Research Planning Institute, Inc. 1985. Sensitivity of Coastal Environments and Wildlife to Spilled Oil. Cook Inlet/Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. An Atlas of Coastal Resources. (Color Atlas)

Research Planning Institute, Inc. Cook Inlet Sensitive Areas. (four seasonal summary maps)

U.S. Department of Commerce (NOAA). (Current Year's Edition). Tidal Current Tables: Pacific Coast of North America and Asia.

Geographic Information System (GIS) Databases:

Alaska Department of Natural Resources: Rich McMahon, Anchorage, 762-2377

National Park Service: George Dickison, Anchorage, 257-2489

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Catherine Berg, Anchorage, 271-1630

U.S. Forest Service: Ken Holbrook, Anchorage, 271-2819

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: John Whitney, Anchorage, 271-3593

Kenai Peninsula Borough: Mary Toll, 262-7750

Municipality of Anchorage: Thede Tobish, 343-4261

Cook Inlet Keeper: Bob Shavelson, 235-4068

Bureau of Land Management: Gust Panos, 271-5545