

**STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER**

KUSKOKWIM AREA PLAN AMENDMENT SC-88-001A20

**Management Unit 5 – Kuskokwim River
Subunit 5g – Nunsatuk North
Subunit 5h – Nunsatuk River**

related to the
Granite Mountain Remote Recreational Cabin Sites – ADL 231543

The Commissioner of the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources finds that the following amendment to the Kuskokwim Area Plan, described more fully in the Attachments, meets the requirements of *AS 38.04.065 Land Use Planning and Classification* and *11 AAC 55.010-030 Land Planning and Classification* for land use plans and hereby adopts the amendment. The Department of Natural Resources will manage state lands within the area of the revision consistent with this designation and management intent.

Subunit 5g – Nunsatuk North

- Designation: remains Settlement
- Acreage: no change, approximately 23,000 acres
- Management Intent: Remains the same except for the removal of the 50-foot building setback from wetlands.

Subunit 5h – Nunsatuk River

- Designation: from Resource Management to Settlement
- Acreage: no change, approximately 6,200 acres
- Management Intent: Land is appropriate for disposal. Use updated Subunit 5g management intent.

/s/

Concurrence by: Brent Goodrum
Director
Division of Mining, Land, and Water
Department of Natural Resources
State of Alaska

5/11/17

Date

/s/

Approved by: Andrew T. Mack
Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
State of Alaska

5/31/2017

Date

ATTACHMENT

to the

KUSKOKWIM AREA PLAN AMENDMENT SC-88-001A20 Management Unit 5 – Kuskokwim River; Subunits 5g and 5h

related to the

Granite Mountain Remote Recreational Cabin Sites – ADL 231543

Location: Located within DNR's Southcentral Region along the Kuskokwim River approximately 50 air miles southwest of McGrath and 38 air miles northeast of Stony River.

Authority: The authority to revise plans derives from *AS 38.04.065(b) Land Use Planning and Classification*. *11 AAC 55.030(f) Land Use Plan* defines when a revision constitutes a plan amendment.

Current Plan: Management intent for subunit 5h provides that because of the high level of public use, the unit will be kept in public ownership in the near term and managed for general use. The parcel will be reevaluated when the plan is updated to determine whether it should be kept in public ownership or offered for sale. This subunit contains approximately 750 acres that could be offered for sale. Subunit 5g management intent remains the same except for the removal of a 50-foot building setback from wetlands. Subunit 5g contains approximately 4,600 acres that could be offered for sale.

Proposed Plan Amendment: Amend the designation of subunit 5h from Resource Management to Settlement. Amend the management intent to state: "Land is appropriate for disposal." Amend subunit 5g management intent to remove the 50-foot building setback from wetlands.

Explanation: The Kuskokwim Area Plan was adopted in 1988, and has not been update since. In addition to the management intent for subunit 5h, the Land Allocation Summary in Chapter 2 – Settlement identifies subunit 5h as one of five areas which have some of the highest potential for settlement of any state land in the planning area; and that will be kept in public ownership in the near term; when the plan is updated - approximately every five years - they will be reevaluated to determine whether they should continue to be retained in the public ownership, or offered for sale. The subunit 5h is appropriate for Settlement as provided in the Granite Mountain Remote Recreational Cabin Sites Preliminary Decision dated February 22, 2017. Removal of subunit 5g 50-foot building setback from wetlands is appropriate because offering dispersed, low-density RRCS settlement will not pose a risk to water quality or other values; enforcement in such a remote area is not practical; and extra expense of wetlands delineation and added survey work is economically unrealistic.

Assessment: The following alternatives are being considered:

1. (Preferred) Amend the Kuskokwim Area Plan as described above to allow for the offering of the Granite Mountain Remote Recreational Cabin Sites offering. Amending the plan is the preferred alternative as it will allow for the offering of lands with high settlement potential.

2. (Status Quo) Do not amend the Kuskokwim Area Plan. This alternative is not preferred as it would disallow the offering of settlement appropriate land and deny many Alaskans the opportunity to obtain land in this area.

Requirements of AS 38.04.065 (b): The factors identified in this section of statute have been considered in the Preliminary Decision for the proposed Granite Mountain RRCS issued on February 22, 2017 and the proposed action is consistent with that portion of the statute.