

Questions and Answers Regarding Proposed Changes to Regulations Relating to Public Use Areas
Division of Mining, Land and Water
Department of Natural Resources
October 16, 2026

Question 1:

Can a map of the area in question be made available?

Answer:

The Department has now provided a map of the area affected by the proposed regulations. It has been attached to this notice, and can also be found here:

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/jonesville/>

Question 2:

The proposed regulation prohibits target shooting throughout the Moose Range except in a 'lawfully designated shooting area.' Please identify all currently designated shooting areas within the Moose Range and the legal process by which additional shooting areas may be designated in the future.

Answer:

None have been designated. Currently, a cooperative resource management agreement (CRMA) for a shooting range is out to public notice between the State of Alaska and the Mat-Su Borough to establish one near Slipper Lake. Please refer to

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=225313> for more information. Future shooting areas may be designated by administrative decision from the Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW).

Question 3:

Multiple questions addressed the proposed speed limit in 11 AAC 96.016(e):

- a. What specific safety incidents or documented problems support the 10-mph speed limit?
- b. A 10-mph speed limit in designated areas may sound reasonable on paper, but what is the justification for that specific limit? What problems are these regulations intended to solve, and what evidence shows these restrictions are necessary?
- c. Adding these permitting requirements without public comment or justification is unreasonable. What is the reason for this proposed change to the current policy?
- d. What is the proposed regulation trying to change or what is the DNRs goal?
- e. Why were less restrictive alternatives to the 10-mph speed limit not sufficient?
- f. What does it matter? Who rides it only 10 miles an hour?

Answer:

This speed restriction applies only in areas where people and vehicles are in close proximity. In the Knik River Public Use Area at Man-Made Lake, the mix of small children, campers, fire rings,

and heavy foot traffic created repeated close-call situations. The 10-mph limit was implemented there to address those issues and has proven effective in reducing conflicts and improving safety.

Because Slipper Lake has the same kind of high-use patterns and similar safety concerns, the same measure was applied to ensure consistent protection for everyone using the area. The goal is simply to maintain safe conditions, using a 100-foot buffer in locations where families and recreationists are immediately adjacent to moving vehicles.

Question 4:

Multiple questions addressed the proposed permit in 11 AAC 96.016(e):

- a. What objective standards will determine who receives permission to exceed the speed limit?
- b. What will the permit require; what will cost; who will qualify for the permit; and what are the grounds for revocation?
- c. One commenter also requested that the department publish the terms of the permit, then re-open the public comment period.

Answer:

If a person applies for a permit and proposes alternative safety measures that adequately protect pedestrians and other users, DMLW may review the request and, if appropriate, approve the request in writing. For example, an organized event with clearly defined and effective safety controls may be considered for a permit to exceed the posted speed limit. An example of an existing permit type for events can be found here:

<https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/cdn/pdf/forms/OTC-Events-Permit-Dec24.pdf>

At this time, DMLW has not drafted a specific permit under 11 AAC 96.016(e) for exceeding the speed limit. Because no permit language currently exists, details such as requirements, qualifications, costs, and grounds for revocation have not yet been established. Should DMLW develop such a permit in the future, the department will provide the terms and conditions at that time. However, DMLW does not intend to extend the public comment period.