

An Amendment to the document referred to as the “Comprehensive Plan for
Moose Pass, 1993” Regarding Municipal Entitlement Land known as
Kenai Area Plan Unit 380G(1)

August 2021

Background

The Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) has selected lands owned by the State of Alaska (SOA) within Moose Pass through the State of Alaska municipal entitlement program (AS 29.65). The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), which administers the municipal entitlement program through its Division of Mining, Land, and Water (DMLW), has reviewed and made final determinations for all KPB municipal entitlement selections to date. Some of the lands were conditionally approved, meaning that they would receive final approval for conveyance only after certain conditions required of the state were met.

The Final Finding and Decision dated February 24, 2015 (FFD) placed conditions on approval of several tracts of land within Moose Pass. KPB has met conditions for the majority of these lands. Two tracts, totaling approximately 40 acres of land within Moose Pass, had conditions requiring a plan amendment to address DMLW concerns regarding future use of the land. Conditions initially had to be fulfilled by February 24, 2020. KPB has been granted an extension until February 24, 2022 to meet said conditions.

This plan amendment will address future land use of the two tracts of selected lands to meet the conditions of approval required by the state. The lands are referred to within the FFD as 380G(1). The following requirement stated within the FFD will be addressed in this amendment:

At a minimum this plan is to ensure adequate screening from the Seward Highway, the protection of anadromous streams, and the provision of a lakeshore buffer of at least 100-feet. The plan shall provide management detail to locate uses and shall identify mitigation stipulations to ensure the protection of significant wetlands, riparian areas, and the hydrologic connections from streams to Lower Trail Lake.

Amendment to “Comprehensive Plan for Moose Pass, 1993” document

Under the Section 1, Background and Objectives, of the Moose Pass comprehensive plan, this plan amendment adds a new subsection C(5) titled “Kenai Area Plan Management Subunit 380G(1)” as follows:

C. Land Ownership and Use

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5. *Kenai Area Plan Management Subunit 380G(1)*

Intent: The lands herein identified as Unit 380G(1) are located between the Seward Highway and Alaska Railroad rights-of-way to the west and the Upper and Lower Trail Lakes to the east. These lands are a component of the scenic viewshed from the Seward Highway and are situated next to anadromous waterbodies. The strategies outlined below aim at protecting the viewshed of the highway corridor as well as the anadromous waterbodies adjacent to Unit 380G(1).

Location: The lands within the area designated as Unit 380G(1) are located between mileposts 26.5 and 27 of the Seward Highway, east of the highway along Lower and Upper Trail Lakes. Unit 380G(1) is made up of a northern and a southern part. The northern part is described as that that part of Government Lot 3 within the S1/2SE1/4 of Section 1, T. 4 N., R. 1 W. and Government Lot 2 of Section 12, T. 4 N., R. 1 W., SM. The southern part is Government Lot 7, Section 12, T. 4 N., R. 1 W., SM.

Classification: Unit 380G(1), has been Classified “Recreational” as defined in Kenai Peninsula Borough Classification Resolution 2016-045.

Management strategies: To protect the Seward Highway viewshed and the anadromous waterbodies, in addition to the management direction under the Recreational land classification, the following management strategies should be followed:

- a) For the northern part of Unit 380G(1), in order to protect the Seward Highway viewshed a 15-foot vegetation buffer should be maintained along the Alaska Railroad right-of-way on the west side of the property. Currently there is adequate vegetation both between the Seward Highway and Alaska Railroad rights-of-way and within the railroad right-of-way adjacent to Unit 380G(1). However, in the event this vegetation is removed, the 15-foot vegetation buffer within Unit 380G(1) would help protect the viewshed from the Seward Highway. The southern part of said unit has an approximately 500-foot separation from the Seward Highway; therefore, no vegetative buffer is needed.
- b) In order to protect the anadromous waterbodies of Upper and Lower Trail Lakes from increasing public use, the KPB provisions for protection of anadromous waters (KPB 17.10.21(18)) should be extended from 50 feet to 100 feet along the lake shore within Unit 380G(1).