



SUSITNA-WATANA
HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

River Recreation Flow and Access Study



Presentation Outline

- 2012 Study Results
- FERC Study Approval
- Winter Executive Interview Protocol
- River Recreation and Access Internet Survey Tool

2012 Study Objectives

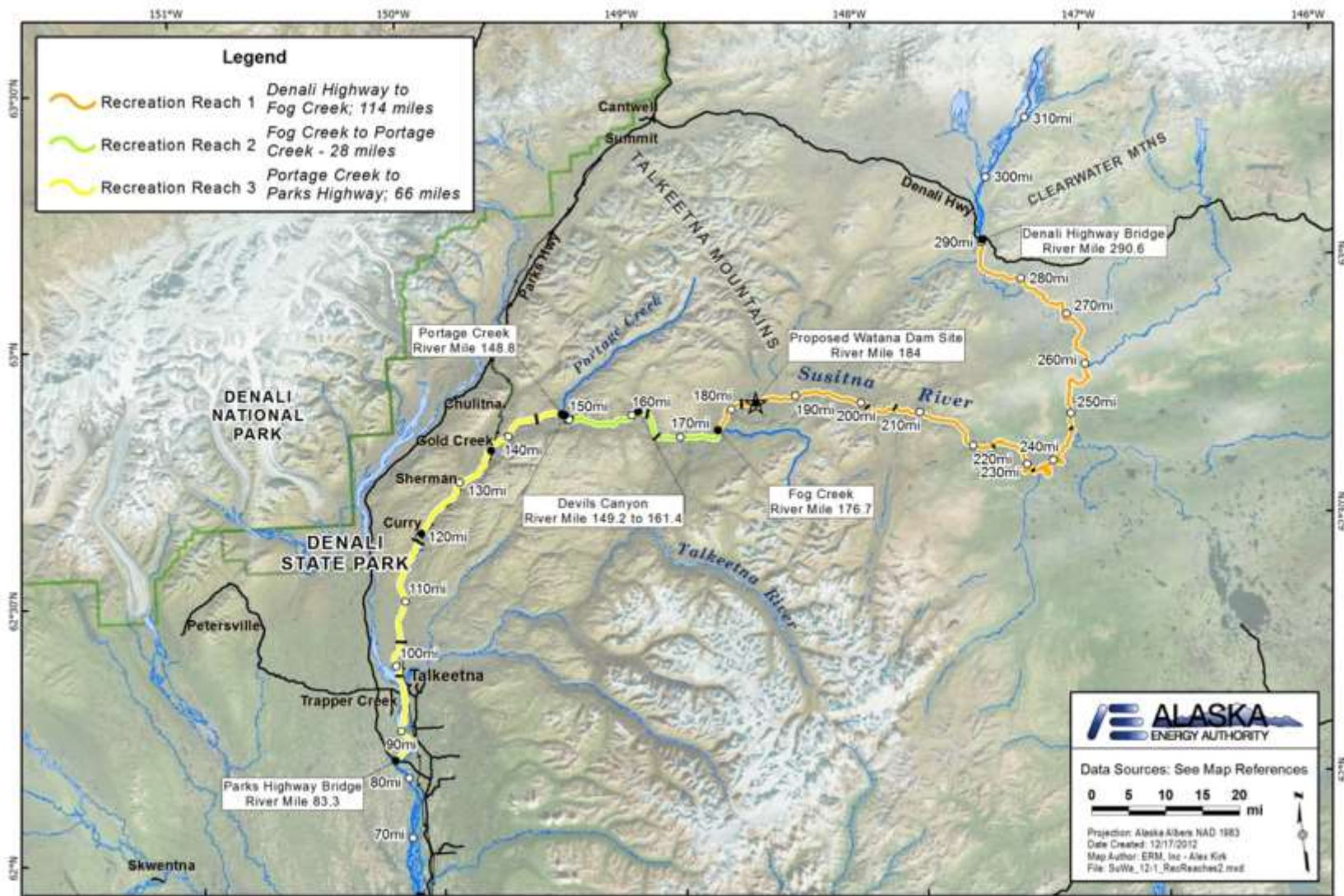
- Identify the study area
- Identify recreational opportunities
- Identify user groups
- Evaluate appropriate analysis methods

Tasks completed for 2012 objectives

- Reviewed river recreation information sources
 - Guidebooks, trip reports, websites, previous studies, site visit
- Delineated river recreation reach breaks
- Documented river recreation users
- Mapped river features and access to each reach
- Conducted Initial interviews

Boating Reach Delineation

- Reach 1: Upper Susitna
 - Reach 2: Devil's Canyon
 - Reach 3: Lower Susitna
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- ✓ Breaks based on gradient, navigation difficulty, recreation opportunities and access
 - ✓ User groups vary by reach and season



Tributaries:

- river recreation,
- transportation corridors
- camping/fishing



Motorized

- Jet boats and airboats
- Snowmachine

Non-Motorized

- Raft, canoe, kayak, packraft
- Ski, snowshoe, dogteam
- Adventure racing
- Fat tire biking & walking/hiking

FERC Study Plan Modifications

- Study area – assess terminus using interdisciplinary study results
- Focus group session for whitewater boating
 - [tentative plan - Q3 2013]
- Focus group session for winter ice and snow travel
 - [tentative plan - Q1 2014]

Winter 2013 Plans

- Winter River corridor observations
- Collect information on winter events and participation
- Initial survey of reaches 1, 2, and 3
- Some executive interviews
- Interdisciplinary coordination



Study Focus

- Recreation quality and value
- Longitudinal use and crossing river for access
- Seasonal use patterns & extent of use
- Environmental conditions related to recreation use patterns



Winter River Recreation Executive Interview Protocol

- Commercial vs. non-commercial users
- Activities—breakdown on motorized and non-motorized activities
- Recreation vs. transportation
- Locations, frequency of use, timing
- Necessary ice conditions for use
- Events—history, location, participation

River Recreation And Access Internet Survey Tool

- Background information
- Flow information
- Information about this river trip
- River access
- Evaluating this trip
- Susitna compared to other rivers