SUSITNA-WATANA
HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Aesthetic Resources

Phase 1 Overview

January – June, 2013

ALASKA ENERGY AUTHORITY

Aesthetics Program Overview

2013

- Viewshed Modeling
- Identification of Analysis Locations (Visual & Soundscape)
- Baseline Data Collection
- Interdisciplinary Coordination

2014

- Impact Analysis (Photosimulations, Contrast Rating, Visual Resource Inventory Analysis)
- Identification of Design and Other Mitigation Options

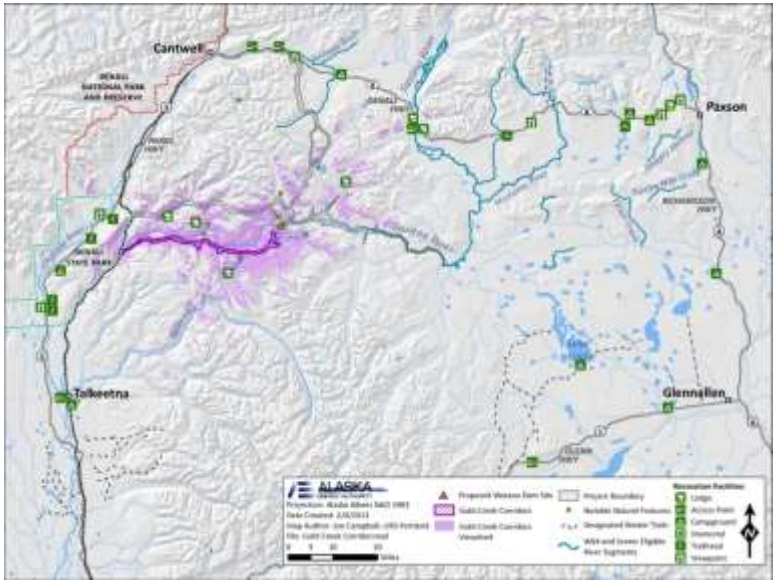
Baseline Data Collection

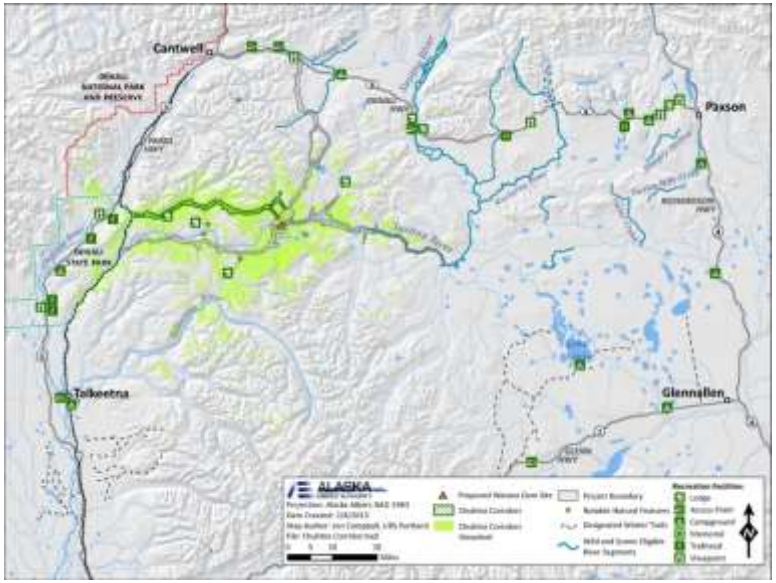
- Characterize and document landscape attributes
- Assess landscape absorption, siting & design options
- Collect high-quality photographs
- Install sound monitoring equipment

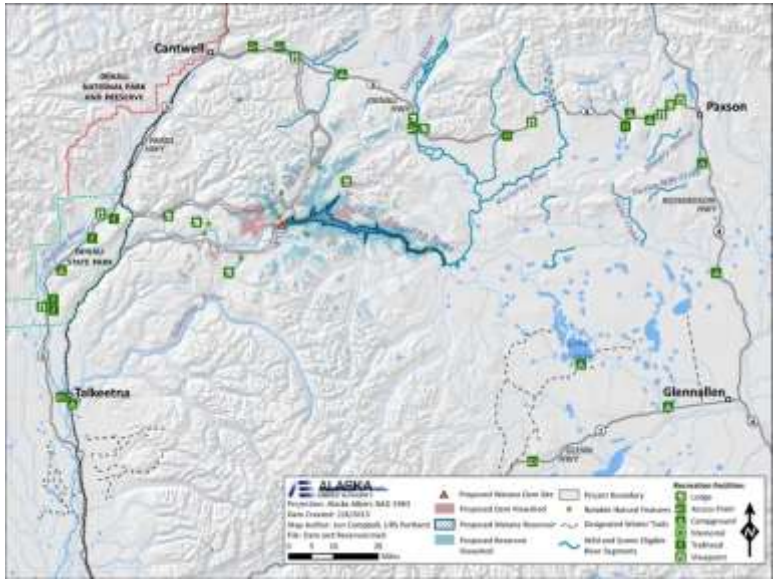
Baseline Data Collection

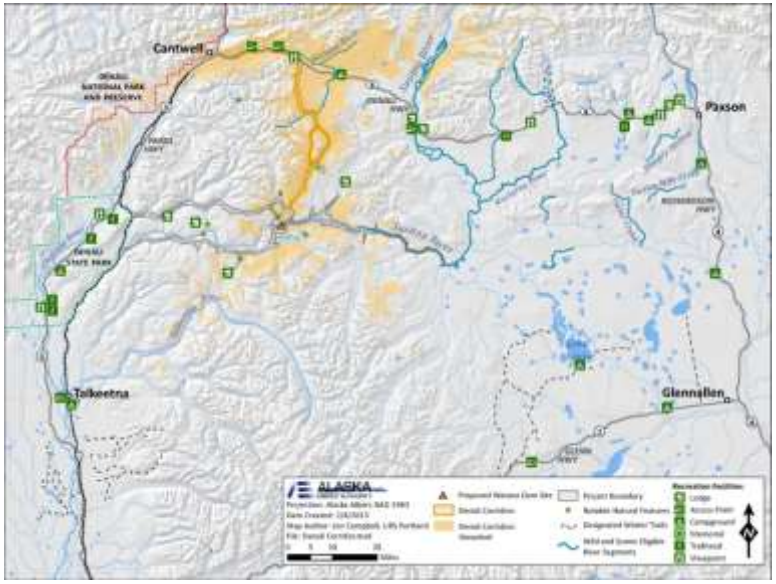
- Winter (March) & Spring (May) field work complete
- Data collected on lands owned or administered by the DNR, BLM, Ahtna, and private landowners
  - Joined by DSP ranger in field
- Data for other Corporation lands collected from aerial observations / photography

Primary Study Area

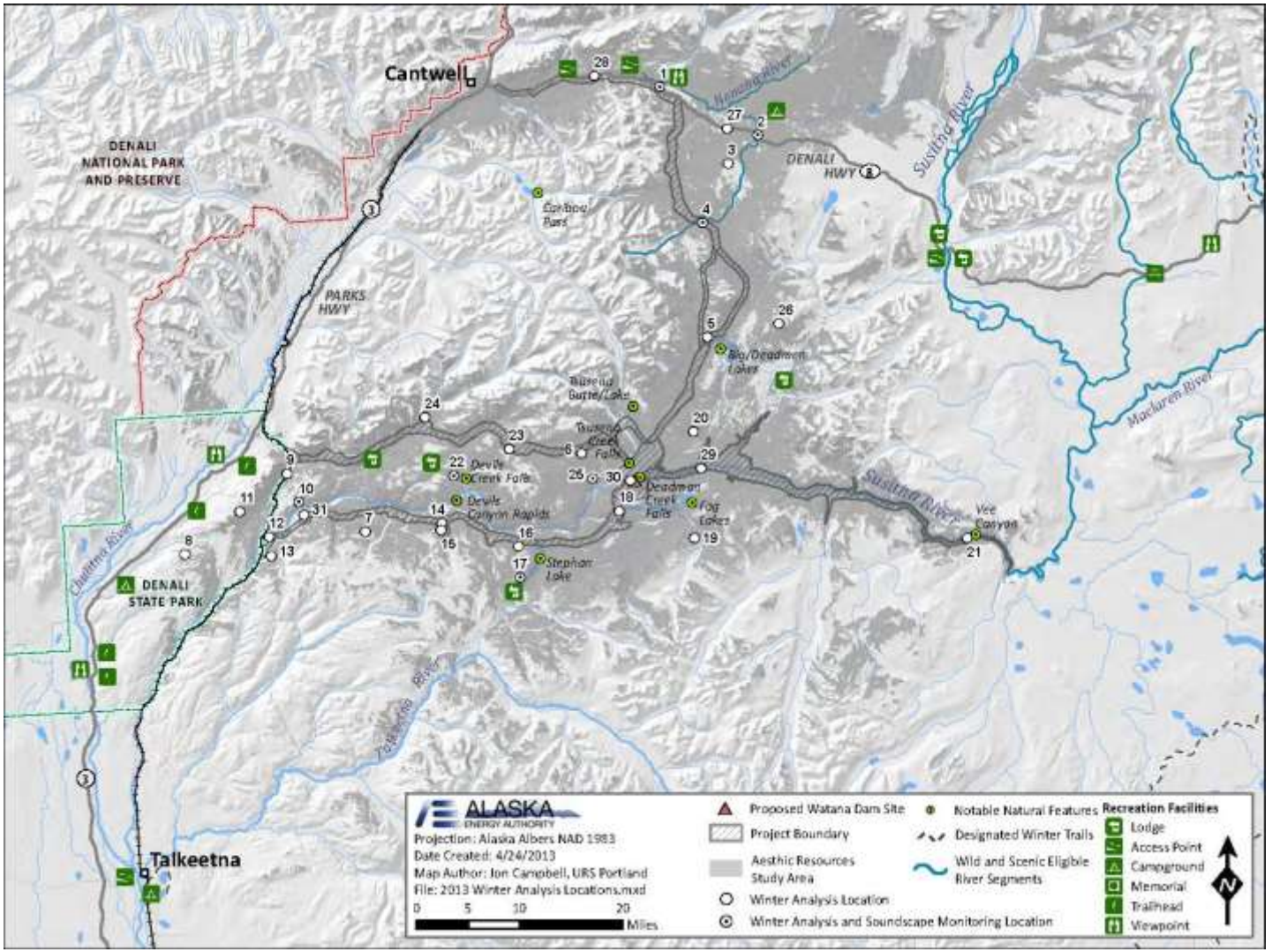




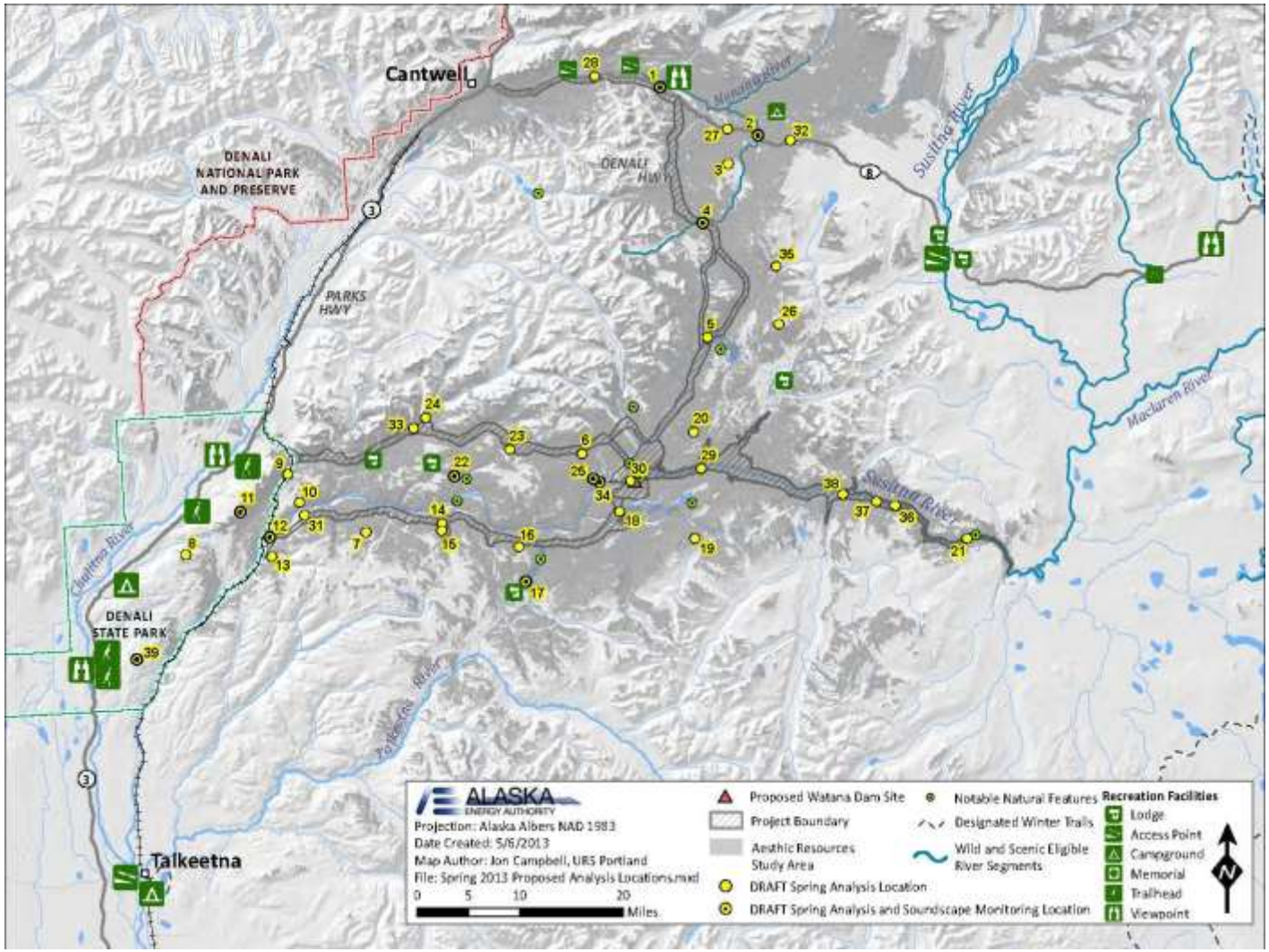




Winter Analysis Locations



Spring Analysis Locations



Soundscape – Winter Survey (March)

- 7 Long-Term Kits Deployed
- Duration: 1-6 Days
- Short Term Measurements: 6

Observations:

- Minimal distant fixed wing aircrafts observed
- Distant military jets and sonic booms observed north of the Project area near the Denali Highway.
- Scarce wildlife noise, intermittent birdcall in some areas.
- High wind speeds experienced at many locations.

Soundscape – Spring Survey (May)

- 8 Long-Term Kits Deployed
- Duration: 5-9 Days
- Short Term Measurements: 2

<u>Observations</u>

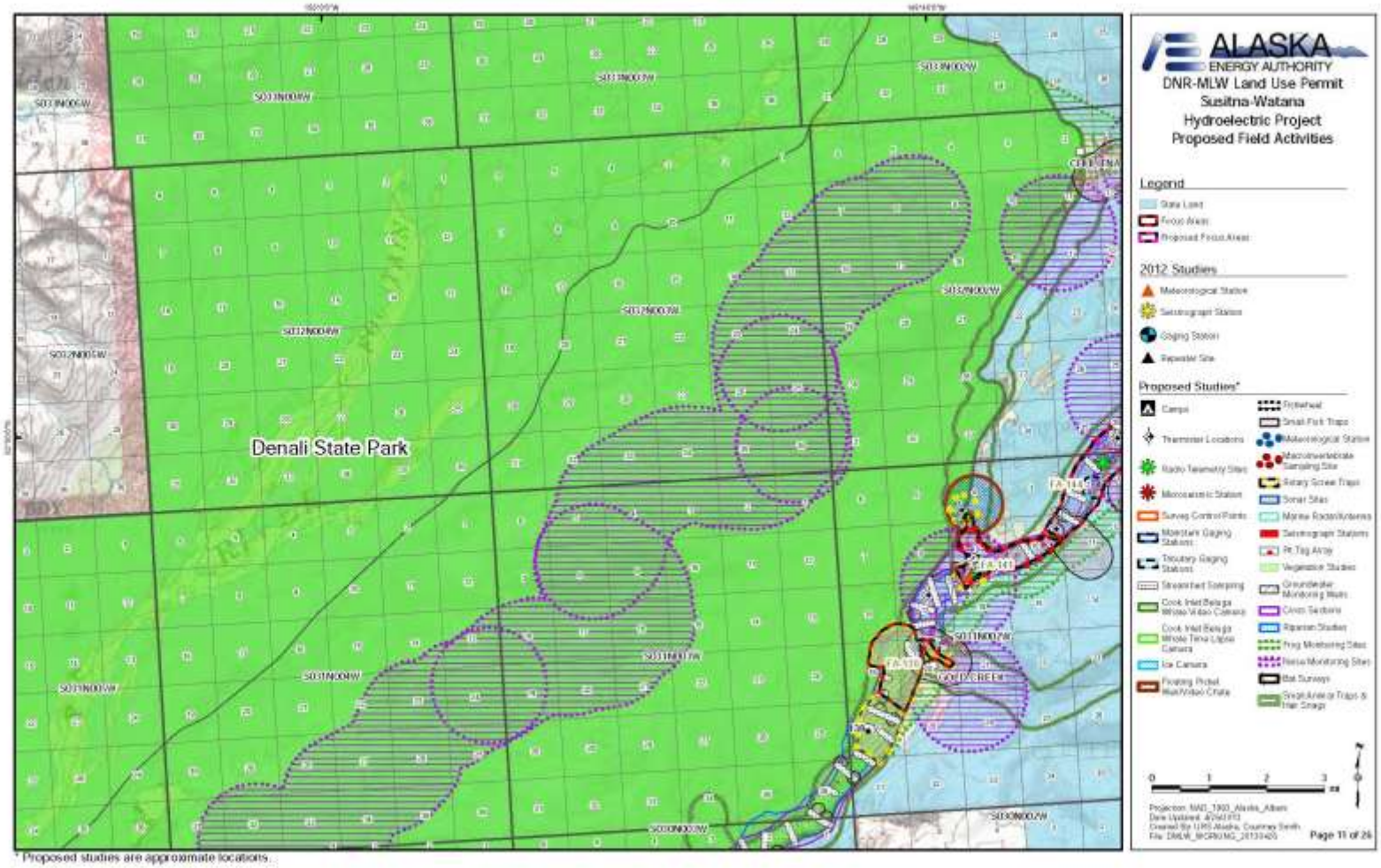
- Recursive distant fixed wing aircrafts observed
- Sonic booms observed on east side of project area (V Canyon).
- Abundant birdsong noted in most locations.

Next Steps - 2013

- Update Viewshed Models
- Soundscape Monitoring Site Planning
- Interdisciplinary Coordination
- Selection of Summer ALs
- Implementation of Summer Fieldwork
- Finalize Photography
- Interim Study Report

Potential Summer Analysis Locations
(Soundscape and Visual)

Soundscape Monitoring
Site Selection & Timing



* Proposed studies are approximate locations.

Next Steps - 2014

- Refine Viewsheds if necessary
- Continue Interdisciplinary Coordination
- Complete any remaining ALs
- Develop Photosimulations
- Develop Sound Models
- Impact Analysis
- Design & Mitigation Recommendations