



April 15, 2013

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

**Re: Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 14241-000;
Submission of Final Intercept and Mail Survey Instruments,
Recreation Resources Study (RSP 12.5)**

Dear Ms. Bose:

On February 1, 2013, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC) issued its Study Plan Determination (SPD) for 44 of the 58 proposed individual studies in the Alaska Energy Authority's (AEA) Revised Study Plan (RSP) for the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project, FERC Project No. 14241 (Project).¹ In the SPD, the Commission approved AEA's proposed Recreation Resources Study plan (RSP 12.5) but required AEA to file additional information for certain survey instruments. The purpose of this filing is to submit the information requested in the Commission's SPD.

When approving the Recreation Resources Study plan, the Commission recommended that AEA implement several modifications to the recreation survey instruments. AEA's response to the Commission's recommended modifications appears in Attachment 1.

In addition, the SPD noted that several licensing participants had commented on drafts of the intercept and mail survey instruments that were attached to the RSP. As such, the Commission recommended that AEA seek additional comments from the Recreation TWG prior to finalizing the survey instruments, as follows:

Final intercept and mail survey instruments should be filed with the Commission by April 15, 2013. The Recreation TWG should be allowed a minimum of 15 days to review the instruments before filing them with the Commission. The filing should include stakeholder comments on the instruments and how such comments were addressed.²

In response to the Commission's recommendation, AEA convened a Recreation TWG meeting on February 25, 2013, to review the draft survey instruments (which had been modified since their inclusion in the RSP) and discuss AEA's plans for pre-testing

¹ Study Plan Determination for the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project, Project No. 14241-000 (issued Feb. 1, 2013) [hereinafter, "SPD"].

² SPD, Appendix B, at B-59.

such instruments. During the meeting, the Recreation TWG discussed additional changes to the instruments, and AEA committed to posting revised draft instruments on its licensing website by March 7, which would begin the 15-day period for review and comment by the Recreation TWG.³

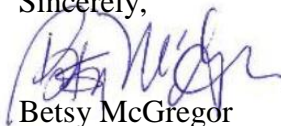
On March 7, AEA posted the draft intercept and mail survey instruments for comment by the Recreation TWG, and requested that written comments be submitted by March 22, 2013.⁴ In response, AEA received comments from the National Park Service, Talkeetna Community Council, Inc., and Coalition for Susitna Dam Alternatives. Based on these comments received, AEA has revised the final intercept and mail survey instruments. AEA's response to these comments appears in Attachment 2 to this letter.⁵

Finally, the final recreation survey instruments that the Commission's February 1 SDP requested for filing are attached. The final intercept survey instrument appears in Attachment 3, and the final mail survey instrument appears in Attachment 4.

AEA appreciates the comments received, which appear in Attachment 5, as well as the continued involvement of the entire Recreation TWG in the development of the survey instruments, which are now final. AEA looks forward to reviewing the results of the recreational surveys during quarterly TWG meetings, as set forth in the Commission-approved RSP.

If you have questions concerning this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me at (907) 771-3957.

Sincerely,



Betsy McGregor
Environmental Manager
Alaska Energy Authority

Attachments

cc: Wayne Dyok
Distribution List (w/o Attachments)

³ The agenda and meeting notes for the February 25 Recreation TWG meeting, as well as draft survey instruments, are available at AEA's licensing website, <http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org/meetings/past-meetings>.

⁴ The updated draft survey instruments and comment instructions are available at AEA's licensing website, <http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org/type/documents>, under the section entitled "Recreation Surveys."

⁵ Although the Commission's February 1 SPD directed that AEA only seek additional public comment on the draft intercept and mail survey instruments, several commenters filed comments on other matters, such as the Recreation Resources Study generally or other instruments and protocols approved in the February 1 SPD. AEA has reviewed these comments; due to the focused scope of this filing (which involves only the intercept and mail surveys), however, no response to these other issues is provided herein.

Attachment 1

AEA Response to FERC Staff Recommendations on Draft Recreation Survey Instruments

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AEA Response to FERC Staff Recommendations on Draft Recreation Survey Instruments

<u>FERC Study Plan Determination</u>	<u>AEA Study Team Action</u>
Modify study area to include the area one-quarter mile west of the George Parks Highway and one-quarter mile north of Denali Highway.	Included in study plan and added to study area maps.
Include a specific component that evaluates whether the recreation experience is “Guided/Unguided” and defines the party size.	Updated survey instruments to include new questions that address guided or unguided and party size. See questions 6a and 13 in the final intercept survey instrument and questions 18 and 22 in the final mail survey instrument.
Add one or more questions addressing potential user conflict.	Updated survey instruments to include new questions in both intercept and mail surveys. See question 9 in the final intercept survey and question 26 in the final mail survey instrument.
Remove “Don’t Know” and “Refused” from intercept survey.	The “don’t know” and “refused” reference coding blocks were removed from the online version of the intercept survey, but have been retained for the field surveys to accurately document participation rates (but the blocks are not visible to the survey participant).
Intercept surveys should be conducted through all fall and winter months of 2013-2014, using abbreviated survey intercept locations.	The AEA recreation study team will be conducting monthly intercept surveys through March 2014. During the months of March-October, intercept sites will include those presented in the RSP, and when weather/snow levels permit along the Denali Highway road access. During the low daylight months and extreme cold weather of November-January, sampling will be limited, when weather permitting, to the West entrance of the maintained Denali Highway, Talkeetna, Lake Louise, and at special events, such as dog sled and snow machine races as discussed with the Recreation TWG in the February 25 th TWG meeting.

Attachment 2

AEA Response to Comments on Recreation Resources Intercept and Mail Survey Instruments

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AEA Response to Comments on Recreation Resources Intercept and Mail Survey Instruments

General Comments				
Reference Number	Commenter	Comment Date	Comment or Study Request	AEA's Response
REC-1	NPS	3/7/13 & 3/25/13	"Study area maps accompanying the survey should also include the likely location of operational buildings, the airport, and alternative routes for the transmission line and access road. The location of the dam should also be shown."	None of the maps used in the Intercept and Mail surveys will include any project information. Including project information has the potential to bias the response and is not relevant to recreational baseline use of the study area.
REC-2	NPS	3/25/13	"The surveys that have not already been field tested (i.e., all of them except the Recreation Intercept Survey Protocol) should be given trial runs with naive subjects – i.e., subjects who are not agency or consultant employees – prior to the actual study so that confusing language can be eliminated and other flaws detected."	The lessons learned in the Intercept survey field pre-test have been directly applied to the same questions asked in the Regional Residents Household Mail Survey. Additionally, new questions only found in the Mail Survey have been pre-tested by Veritas (Questions 1-12 of the survey).
REC-3	NPS	3/7/13	Concerns about project descriptions that introduce the surveys.	Project description information has been removed from the survey instruments.
Comments Regarding February 22 version of the Intercept Survey				
REC-3	NPS	3/6/13	"We do not feel that Questions 10 and 11 of the Intercept Survey adequately address user conflict. They appear to focus on detraction to scenic quality and the effect of noise on the enjoyment of an area. These are primarily aesthetic issues." WE also find the term "signs of infrastructure or human activity" in response to Question 10 to be nebulous, likely to require further explanation by the surveyor for the respondent to understand. NPS goes on to suggest a survey question with three parts regarding conflicts and the nature of the conflicts (see NPS 3/6/13 comment attached).	Based on this comment, as well as recommendations of FERC staff, AEA made changes to the final version of Questions 9, 10 and 11 to more directly address user conflict and generally follow the format of the survey question NPS proposed in its comments.
REC-4	NPS	3/6/13	"We also find the use of the term "signs of infrastructure or human activity" in Question 10 to be nebulous, likely to require further explanation by the surveyor for the respondent to understand."	The pre-test of the Intercept instrument conducted in March did not indicate any problems in comprehension by respondents and required no additional explanation by surveyors. For this reason, this language in the final version of the Intercept and Mail surveys remains unchanged.

REC-5	Talkeetna Community Council, Inc.	3/22/12	"Following NPS's request to add winter intercept sites to the Winter Recreation Survey (AEA had deemed these "too dangerous") we had expected to discuss these sites at the February 25 th TWG. What is the status of these sites?"	During the months of March-October, intercept sites will include those presented in the RSP, and when weather/snow levels permit along the Denali Highway road access. During the low daylight months and extreme cold weather of November-January, sampling will be limited, when weather permitting, to the West entrance of the maintained Denali Highway, Talkeetna, Lake Louise, and at special events, such as dog sled and snow machine races.
REC-6	NPS	3/25/13	"NPS notes that with the addition of the conflict question, it will be important for the survey administrators to be familiar with the most likely types of conflict, e.g. motorized vs. non-motorized recreation; hunting and trapping vs. non-consumptive activities, and non-recreational activities (subsistence and Watana field staff) vs. recreation."	The surveyors are trained to administer the survey, including the questions on conflict, in a consistent, objective, and professional manner. Survey staff will not suggest conflict or present types of conflicts when administering the survey.
REC-7	NPS	3/25/13	"Q. 3 – For this survey and others that use the same tables and classification, NPS recommends the following minor changes to improve clarity: 1) add the word "tent" to the heading of the 6 th column from the left to denote car camping, e.g. at pull-outs along the Denali Highway; and 2) replace "wilderness" in the 7 th column heading with "remote." None of the project area is in designated Wilderness so this will avoid confusion."	AEA adopted these recommended changes in the final versions of the Intercept and Mail surveys.
REC-8	NPS	3/25/13	"Q. 13 & 14 – For this survey and the other instruments that use the same questions, NPS recommends the following changes to the questions that attempt to differentiate between party and group size: reverse the order of the questions, eliminate the easily confusable terms "party" and "group," and simply ask first how many people are traveling together with the survey subject, and second, how many of these people, if any, are sharing expenses with the subject."	The questions (verbatim and in same order) have been used successfully in prior research projects conducted by AEA's subconsultant for recreational resources (including more than 7,000 AVSP VI intercept and online surveys). Additionally, the order and language of the survey questions have been field pre-tested in the Intercept survey, indicating no problems or confusion by the respondents. For this reason, AEA did not include these changes recommended by NPS when finalizing the Intercept survey.

Comments Regarding the February 22 version of the Mail Survey				
REC-9	Talkeetna Community Council, Inc.	3/22/13	"There appears to be no project description in the mail survey."	The final version of the Mail survey does not include a project description. The purpose of the survey is to gather baseline data on recreation use in the study area, not to provide information on the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project. See also AEA's response to REC-1.
REC-10	Talkeetna Community Council, Inc.	3/22/12	"Will there be a cover letter of any kind [for the mail survey]?"	A cover letter will accompany the mail survey booklet, informing recipients as to the purpose of the survey (measuring recreation demand), the importance of their completing the survey, and contact information if they have any questions about how to complete the survey.
REC-11	NPS	3/25/13	"The first six pages of this survey appear to be statewide in focus, and there is no project description or introduction explaining the purpose of the survey. NPS recommends deleting the first six pages (which will only fatigue the subjects, making it less likely that they will complete the survey)."	AEA did not adopt these changes recommended by NPS when finalizing the Mail survey. While the first six pages are statewide in focus, this information will provide data to support data collection efforts for other study plans approved by the Commission. For example, the data from these questions will inform the analysis for Section 15.6 Social Conditions and Public Goods and Services Study. One of the Study's objectives is to evaluate what the potential project changes, "might mean to...recreational activities, recreation and subsistence use values, quality of life, community use patterns, non-use environmental values, and social conditions in the area (AEA 2012, p. 15-10)." The data from the questions in the first six pages will be used to analyze recreation changes. Importantly, "the study will address changes in recreation by using a Random Utility Model (RUM) combining existing data, recreation preference functions from the existing literature, and new data collection from the Recreation and Aesthetics study (see Section 12.5 and 12.6) (AEA 2013, p. 15-14)." The questions in the first six pages are the "new data collection from the Recreation and Aesthetics study." The RUM will be used to develop a mathematical representation of outdoor recreation preferences for the population expected to be affected by the project (this population includes individuals within and outside the Study Area). The mathematical representation will characterize recreation demand in a way that allows identifying recreation

				<p>preferences and behaviors that occur under the Current and With-Project conditions. Information needed to develop the mathematical representation of recreation demand includes trips taken to locations within and outside the Study Area by the population expected to be affected by the project. It is possible to collect this information from secondary sources; however, primary data is preferred. The primary data collection from the first six pages will allow cost-effective and accurate (i.e., primary-data based) assessment of outcomes that the United States Department of Interior (USDOI) and the National Park Service (NPS) requested be considered in their previous comments. See the comment response in REC-15 for a description of these comments and how the analysis addresses them.</p>
REC-12	NPS	3/25/13	NPS recommends "providing a one-page introduction similar to the edited versions from other surveys."	<p>AEA did not adopt these changes recommended by NPS when finalizing the Mail survey. The purpose of the survey is to gather baseline data on recreation use in the study area, not to provide information on the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project. A cover letter will accompany the mail survey booklet, informing recipients as to the purpose of the survey (measuring recreation demand), the importance of their completing the survey, and contact information if they have any questions about how to complete the survey.</p>
REC-13	NPS	3/25/13	"A map showing not only the boundary of the current study area, but project facilities, should also be included."	<p>See AEA's response to comment REC-1.</p>

REC-14	NPS	3/25/13	<p>"The current version of this survey fails to solicit information about displacement, as requested by NPS and others in our ILP study requests. Please consider adding this to an existing question (e.g. Q. 29) or as a separate question."</p>	<p>AEA did not adopt these changes recommended by NPS when finalizing the Mail survey. However, the recreation demand analysis described in AEA's response to the comment in comment REC-11 and on pages 15-14 through 15-16 of the Revised Study Plan (AEA 2012) provides the ability to evaluate displacement. Specifically, the mathematical representation of recreation demand, which will be informed by the data collected from the first six pages of the survey, will allow for cost-effective and accurate (i.e., primary-data based) assessment of outcomes that the USDOl and the NPS requested be considered in their previous comments regarding evaluating the effects of the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project on recreation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "It will be necessary to model demand for future sport fishing and hunting in the area over the likely term of the license, i.e., 50 years. Then...the applicant will need to investigate how both existing and future availability of recreational experiences in the area would change following construction and operation of the proposed project" (USDOl 2012). • "...better questions for capturing pre- and post-project differences would endeavor to assess demand for potential new facilities such as reservoir-based fishing, serviced campgrounds, maintained trails, a hut system, etc. It is also important to determine whether some current visitors to the area might go elsewhere if the project significantly changed the recreational character of the area" (NPS 2012). <p>The recreation demand model is designed to evaluate the types of changes under With-Project conditions presented in USDOl and NPS' comments, including the evaluation of displacement. Specifically, the recreation demand model will be used to predict how recreation will change under the With-Project conditions. These predictions will include evaluations of how many of what type of trips may be reallocated into, as well as out of, the Study Area under the With-Project Conditions. The recreation demand model will also inform the analysis of changes in social welfare associated with predicted trip increases into the Study Area and displaced trips out of the Study Area.</p>
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REC-15	NPS	3/25/13	"Q. 13 (j) Please clarify that "car camping" (sleeping in a tent in an undeveloped area) is included in this row. Otherwise please add a row."	AEA adopted this recommended change in the final version of the Mail survey.
REC-16	NPS	3/25/13	"Q. 14. There seems to be a disproportionate focus on hunting details in this question. Subsistence users should not be checking the activities on the left hand side unless they are referring to their recreational activities. The question needs an introduction to instruct subjects who engage in both subsistence and recreational activities how to answer."	In response to this comment by NPS, AEA added a new question to the final version of the Mail survey to accurately establish if the respondent was hunting for subsistence or recreation (or both). The purpose of this new question is not to gather information on subsistence hunting, but to clearly determine if the respondent is taking part in a recreational hunt. Since many Alaskan hunters interpret "subsistence" differently, the most accurate way to know if someone is hunting recreationally or for subsistence is to ask them the type of tag they hunted with. Only data from recreational hunters will be used in the recreation demand analysis and in other reporting.
REC-17	NPS	3/25/13	"Q. 18. Please edit this table to add "tent" or "car camping" to the "undeveloped" column heading and to replace "wilderness" with "remote.""	AEA adopted these recommended changes in the final version of the Mail survey.
REC-18	NPS	3/25/13	"Please add "Denali State Park" and/or "K'esugi Ridge", "along the Denali Hwy" and "River" (name river) to left hand side location choices."	Due to space limitations (and not wanting to eliminate space for "additional locations"), AEA did not adopt these recommendations to the final version of the Mail survey. However, such locations will be captured along with other additional locations if noted by the respondents.
REC-19	NPS	3/25/13	"Please reverse order of Qs. 20 & 21 and edit as suggested in the Intercept Survey comments, above [i.e., party and group size questions] to make it easier for subjects to understand."	The questions (verbatim and in same order) have been used successfully in prior research projects conducted by AEA's subconsultant for recreational resources (including more than 7,000 AVSP VI intercept and online surveys). Additionally, the order and language of the questions have been field pre-tested in the Intercept survey, indicating no problems or confusion by the respondents. For this reason, AEA did not include these changes recommended by NPS when finalizing the Intercept survey.

REC-20	NPS	3/25/13	"Q. 24, Please replace this the same conflict question added to the intercept survey; or add this as a new question."	AEA adopted this recommended change in the final version of the Mail survey.
REC-21	NPS	3/25/13	"Q. 28, Please add the "opportunity to experience challenge or self-reliance," and "other" (write-in) to this question."	In response to this comment from NPS, AEA added a new factor to this question with slightly altered language: "The opportunity to challenge yourself." An "other" was not added, as it could not be analyzed similar to the other factors since not everyone had the opportunity to rate the importance of any particular "other" factor.
REC-22	NPS	3/25/13	"Q. 40 What is the purpose of the cabin ownership question? The answer might be relevant if it asked whether the subject owns a cabin in the study area, but in that case, we should also ask if they own a second home in the area."	This question was included to address the data needs for the Social Conditions and Public Goods and Service Study (Study 15.6). The question will be used to identify whether repeated, sequential trips to an individual location reported in the survey are more likely to be single or multiple-day trips. In pretesting the survey, respondents reported visiting the same site on sequential days because they had a cabin at the location and stayed at the cabin for one or more nights before returning home. Identifying whether trips are single versus multiple day will improve the evaluation of the effect that travel costs have on recreators' trip-taking decisions. Evaluating the effect of travel costs is important for the analysis because the RUM used to inform outdoor recreators' trip-taking preferences is a multiple-site, travel-cost-based evaluation of recreators' trip-taking decisions.

Attachment 3

Final Recreation Intercept Survey Instrument

Susitna-Watana Recreation Intercept Survey

Interviewer Name _____ Refusals _____ S1 _____ S2 _____ Q1 _____

Date _____ Survey Location (grid number) _____

Time _____ Survey Location (additional info) _____

Hi, I'm _____ with the McDowell Group. We're conducting a recreation study for the State of Alaska as part of the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project. I'd like to ask you a few questions about your recreation in the Study Area. (Show Study Area Map) When you participate you will be entered in a drawing for your choice of a \$1,000 gift certificate from Amazon.com or Cabela's.

S1. Are you participating in any outdoor recreational activities on this outing?

- Yes No (thank and end survey)

S2. Have you completed an in-person Susitna-Watana Recreation survey this year?

- Yes (thank and end survey) No

1. Are you in the Study Area just for the day, on an overnight visit, just passing through on your way to somewhere else, or do you live in the Study Area? (Show Study Area Map)

- Just passing through (Probe, then thank and end survey)
 Day visit → **Where are you visiting in the Study Area?** (check boxes Q4)
 Overnight visit (skip to Q1a)
 Live in the study area (if they are overnighing away from home continue/if day visit skip to Q4)

1a. In total, how many nights will you spend in the Study Area on this trip? # _____ DK/ref.
1b. As of today, how many nights have you spent in the Study Area so far? # _____ DK/ref.

2. Considering your entire trip, are you overnighing in any of these places on this trip? (Show list 1-9)

2a. Are you overnighing anywhere else in the Study Area on this trip?
 (Show map, probe for specific grid locations.)

3. How many nights are you spending in _____? 3a. In what type of lodging?

	Q 2/3	2a. Grid #	Hotel/ motel/ B&B	Lodge	Private home	Established campground (RV/tent/etc.)	Undeveloped/ on-road RV/ camper/car/ tent	Remote camping (tent)	Other	Q4. DAY VISIT ?
01	<input type="checkbox"/> Talkeetna	#51								01 <input type="checkbox"/>
02	<input type="checkbox"/> Talkeetna Lodge	#41								02 <input type="checkbox"/>
03	<input type="checkbox"/> Trapper Creek	#51								03 <input type="checkbox"/>
04	<input type="checkbox"/> McKinley Princess	#41								04 <input type="checkbox"/>
05	<input type="checkbox"/> Byers Lake	#21								05 <input type="checkbox"/>
06	<input type="checkbox"/> Cantwell	#1								06 <input type="checkbox"/>
07	<input type="checkbox"/> Brushkana	#3								07 <input type="checkbox"/>
08	<input type="checkbox"/> Tangle Lakes	#19								08 <input type="checkbox"/>
09	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake Louise	#60								09 <input type="checkbox"/>
10	<input type="checkbox"/> Other									10 <input type="checkbox"/>
11	<input type="checkbox"/> Other									11 <input type="checkbox"/>
12	<input type="checkbox"/> Other									12 <input type="checkbox"/>
13	<input type="checkbox"/> Other									13 <input type="checkbox"/>
14	<input type="checkbox"/> Other									14 <input type="checkbox"/>
15	<input type="checkbox"/> Other									15 <input type="checkbox"/>
16	<input type="checkbox"/> Other									16 <input type="checkbox"/>
17	<input type="checkbox"/> Other									17 <input type="checkbox"/>
18	<input type="checkbox"/> Other									18 <input type="checkbox"/>

4. Are you visiting anywhere in the Study Area without spending the night? _____ ↑

- None

5. Please tell me if you have participated, or will participate, in any of the following recreational activities within the Study Area on this outing. (Show list below, check all that apply) Are you participating in any other kinds of recreation on this outing? (Record under "other")

5a. Can you tell me where you have or will _____ in the study area on this outing?
(Show map, ask for each activity. Record grid numbers.)

6. Which activity was the primary reason for this outing to the Study Area? _____ (activity letter) 1□DK/ref.

6aa. How many days will you (primary activity) on this outing? _____ (day=any part of a day) 02□ DK/ref.

6a. Did you hire a guide for (primary activity) on this outing? 01□ Yes 02□ No 03□ DK/ref.

6b. Have you ever been to the study area for (primary activity) before this outing?

1□ Yes 2□ No (skip to Q7) 3□ DK/ref. (skip to Q7)

6c. What year did you first (primary activity) in the study area? _____ 1□ DK/ref.

6d. In general, how often do you (primary activity) in the study area? (Read 1-5)

- 1□ More than 10 times per year
- 2□ Two to ten times per year
- 3□ Once every year
- 4□ Once every few years
- 5□ Less often
- 6□ DK/ref.

7. Have you engaged in any other recreational activities in the study area in the last 12 months?

1□ Yes 2□ No (skip to Q7c) 3□ DK/ref. (skip to Q7c)

7a. Which activities did you participate in on those outings? (Show list, check all that apply, ask for other)

7b. On about how many days in the last 12 mths, not counting this outing, did you (activity) within the study area?

	Q5. This outing	Q5a. Where grid #	Q7a. Past 12 mos.	Q7b. # of days
A. Alaska Railroad	1□		1□	
B. Bird watching	2□		2□	
C. Bicycling	3□		3□	
D. Camping-remote tent	4□		4□	
E. Camping-RV/cabin/campground	5□		5□	
F. Collecting berries/mushrooms	6□		6□	
G. Dog sledding	7□		7□	
H. Fishing for salmon	8□		8□	
I. Fishing for other species	9□		9□	
J. Flightseeing	10□		10□	
K. Hunting	11□◆		11□	
L. Hiking/backpacking	12□		12□	
M. Motorized boating (jet, prop, air)	13□		13□	
N. Rafting/canoeing/kayaking/pack raft (non-motorized)	14□		14□	
O. Riding ATV's	15□		15□	
P. Skiing	16□		16□	
Q. Snow machining	17□		17□	
R. Snowshoeing	18□		18□	
S. Walking/running	19□		19□	
T. Wildlife viewing	20□		20□	
U. Other _____	21□		21□	
V. Other _____	22□		22□	
W. Other _____	23□		23□	
X. Other _____	24□		24□	

◆ 5b. (If hunting): Please show me which one of these is your primary harvest objective for this hunt. No individual information you provide will be shared with anyone. All data will be presented as group totals. (Show list; select only one.) 2□ No (skip back up to Q6)

- 01□ Caribou – Federal subsistence
- 02□ Caribou – State draw permit one bull
- 03□ Caribou – State registration permit any caribou
- 04□ Caribou – State community harvest community
- 05□ Caribou – Non-resident
- 06□ Moose – Federal subsistence
- 07□ Moose – State draw permit any bull
- 08□ Moose – State draw permit cow
- 09□ Moose – State community harvest
- 10□ Moose – State harvest ticket
- 11□ Moose – Non-resident
- 12□ Bear (brown or black)
- 13□ Waterfowl
- 14□ Ptarmigan
- 15□ Other _____

(Skip Back Up to Q6)

7c. On this outing, did you travel more than one-half mile from a trailhead or main road into the Study Area? Yes No (skip to Q8) DK/ref (skip to Q8)

7d. Where was your most recent excursion into the Study Area of more than one-half mile?

(show detail map) grid number/s _____ DK/ref.

7e. How often did you encounter other people on that excursion? (read 1-3)

Never 1 to 6 times >6 times DK/ref.

7f. On that excursion, did you travel on established trails, off-trail, or both?

Established trails Off-trail Both DK/ref.

7g. On that excursion, did you camp in the Study Area more than one-half mile from a trailhead or road? Yes No DK/ref.

8. Overall, how crowded have you felt on this outing while in the Study Area using a scale of 1 – 10, where 1 means “not at all crowded” and 10 means “very crowded”? (Circle answer)

Not at all crowded							Very crowded			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	<input type="checkbox"/> DK/ref.

8a. If 7 to 10: Do you recall any place in particular where you felt crowded?

(Show map, record grid number. Record place name if mentioned. Probe) DK/ref.

Grid #	Place name if mentioned
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

9. On this outing did you experience any conflict with other individuals or groups that negatively impacted your recreation experience?

Yes No (skip to Q10) DK/ref (skip to Q10)

9a. What type of activity was the other individual or group engaged in?

(could be recreation or other activity)

_____ DK/ref (skip to Q10)

9b. What specifically caused the conflict?

_____ DK/ref

10. Do you recall seeing any signs of infrastructure or human activity that detracted from the scenic quality within the area?

Yes No (skip to Q11) DK/ref. (skip to Q11)

10a. Specifically, what did you see that detracted from the scenic quality?

(Do not read, check all that apply, probe)

- 01 Roads
- 02 Communication towers
- 03 Power lines
- 04 Railroad
- 05 Trash
- 06 Trails
- 07 Vehicles (RV, ORV, motorcycles, cars, etc.)
- 08 People
- 09 Other: _____
- 10 DK/ref.

11. Do you recall if any noises detracted from your enjoyment of the area?

Yes No (skip to Q12) DK/ref. (skip to Q12)

11a. Specifically, what type of noises? (Do not read, check all that apply, probe)

- 01 Noise from other people
- 02 Gunshots
- 03 Airplanes
- 04 Jet aircraft sonic boom
- 05 Helicopters
- 06 Boats
- 07 Four wheeler/ATV
- 08 Cars/trucks/RV
- 09 Chainsaw
- 10 Other _____
- 11 DK/ref.

12. Next, I am going to show you a list of outdoor recreation facilities, infrastructure, and sources of information in the Study Area. Please tell me whether you think there should be a lot more, a little more, a little less, a lot less, or the same number in the future.

	A lot more	A little more	The same	A little less	A lot less	Don't Know
a. Maintained roads	1	2	3	4	5	6
b. Designated parking areas	1	2	3	4	5	6
c. Roadside toilets	1	2	3	4	5	6
d. RV accessible sites at campgrounds	1	2	3	4	5	6
e. Trail maps	1	2	3	4	5	6
f. Designated trails for non-motorized use	1	2	3	4	5	6
g. Designated trails for off-road vehicles	1	2	3	4	5	6
h. Directional road signs	1	2	3	4	5	6
i. Visitor information	1	2	3	4	5	6
j. Visitor centers	1	2	3	4	5	6
k. Public use cabins	1	2	3	4	5	6
l. Boat launches	1	2	3	4	5	6
m. Facilities for the disabled	1	2	3	4	5	6

[Read] Next, I would like to ask you about the size of your traveling party.

13. Including yourself, how many people are traveling in your immediate party? By party, I mean those sharing expenses such as food, lodging, and transportation.

1 # _____ in party 2 DK/ref.

14. Including yourself, what is the total number of people traveling in your group? By group, I mean friends or relatives that are traveling with you, but not necessarily sharing expenses.

1 # _____ in group 2 DK/ref.

15. Are you a resident of Alaska?

1 Yes 2 No (skip to Q15c) 3 DK/ref. (skip to Q15c)

15a. What is your home zip code? _____ 01 DK/ref.
(skip to Q20)

15b. What community do you live in? _____ 01 DK/ref. (skip to Q20)
(skip to Q20)

15c. Do you live in the United States?

1 Yes 2 No (skip to Q16) 3 DK/ref. (skip to Q22)

15d. What is your home zip code? _____ 01 DK/ref. (skip to Q17)
(skip to Q17)

15e. What community and state do you live in? _____ 01 DK/ref. (skip to Q17)
(skip to Q17)

16. In what country do you live? (Do not read)

01 DK/ref.

- 51 Australia
- 52 Austria
- 53 Belgium
- 54 Canada
- 55 China
- 56 France

- 57 Germany
- 58 India
- 59 Italy
- 60 Japan
- 61 Korea
- 62 Mexico

- 63 Netherlands
- 64 New Zealand
- 65 Russia
- 66 Spain
- 67 Sweden
- 68 Switzerland

- 69 Taiwan
- 70 United Kingdom
- 71 Other

NON-ALASKA RESIDENTS

17. Now I'd like you to estimate your traveling party's total spending within Alaska so far on this trip.

Your best guess is fine. \$ _____ 1 DK/ref.

18. Did your party purchase any multi-day packages that included lodging, transportation, and activities?

- 1 Yes → 18a. Can you estimate the price per-person for this package? \$ _____ 1 DK/ref.
- 2 No
- 3 DK/ref.

19. Please tell me in which of these areas you have spent money on this trip.

(Read a-e, circle letter.) (show map if needed.)

19a. About how much has your party spent on lodging in (area)? Transportation in (area)?

(Repeat for each area visited and category. If "none," enter \$0. If "don't know," enter DK.)

	Lodging	Transportation	Food/ Beverage	Gifts/souvenirs/ clothing	Other
a. Anchorage area	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
b. Mat-Su Borough	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
c. Denali Borough	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
d. Fairbanks area	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
e. Kenai Peninsula Borough	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

SKIP TO READ BEFORE Q22

ALASKA RESIDENTS

[Read] Now, I would like to ask you about your trip expenditures.

20. Can you estimate your traveling party's total spending so far on this outing?

Your best guess is fine. \$ _____ 1 DK/ref.

21. Please tell me in which of these areas you have spent money on this outing.

(Read a-e, circle letter.) (show map if needed.)

21a. About how much has your party spent on lodging in (area)? Transportation in (area)?

(Repeat for each area visited and category. If "none," enter \$0. If "don't know," enter DK.)

	Lodging	Transportation	Food/ Beverage	Gifts/souvenirs/ clothing	Other
a. Anchorage area	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
b. Mat-Su Borough	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
c. Denali Borough	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
d. Fairbanks area	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
e. Kenai Peninsula Borough	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

ALL RESPONDENTS

[Read] I have just a few more questions for demographic purposes.

22. In what year were you born? 19 _____ 01 DK/ref.

23. Including yourself, how many people live in your household for at least six months of the year?

_____ 01 DK/ref.

24. Please point to the category that best describes your household [income] in 2012?

2 No

- 01 Less than \$20,000
- 02 \$20,001 to \$35,000
- 03 \$35,001 to \$50,000
- 04 \$50,001 to \$75,000
- 05 \$75,001 to \$99,999
- 06 \$100,000 to \$149,999
- 07 \$150,000 or more

25. Is anyone in your party disabled or have special needs related to outdoor recreation activities?

- Yes No (skip to Read) DK/Ref (skip to Read)

25a. Specifically, what type of needs do they have?

- Wheelchair access to trails DK/ref.
 Wheelchair access to facilities Other: _____

[Read] To be entered in the drawing for your choice of a \$1,000 Amazon.com or Cabela's gift certificate, I need your first name and email address. (If no email, ask for phone #) Your contact information will not be used or shared for any other purpose beyond this study.

- Refused (thank and end survey)

First name _____ Email/phone _____

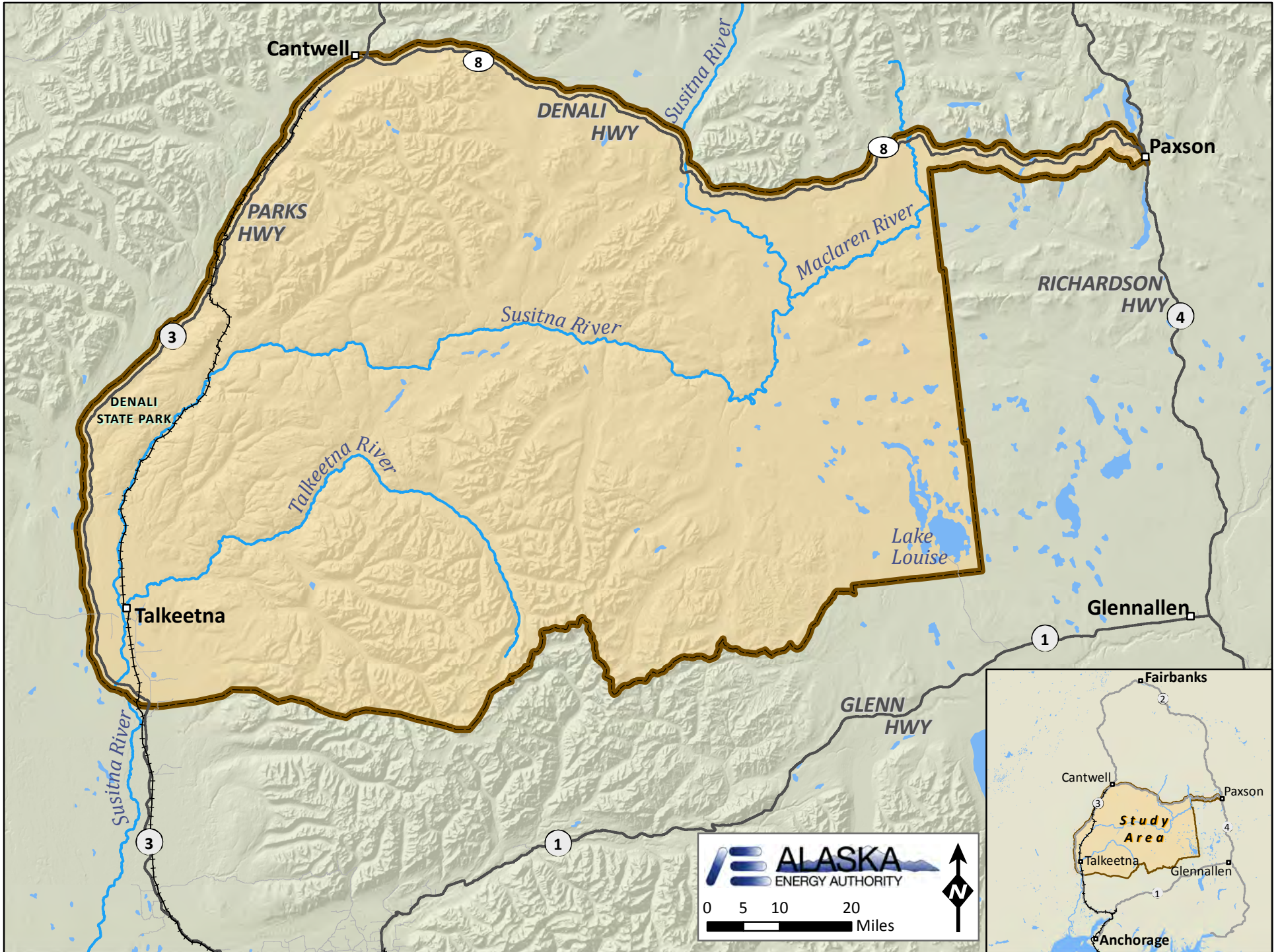
26. As part of this recreation study we may be conducting additional research. Would you be willing to participate in a follow-up survey? Yes No

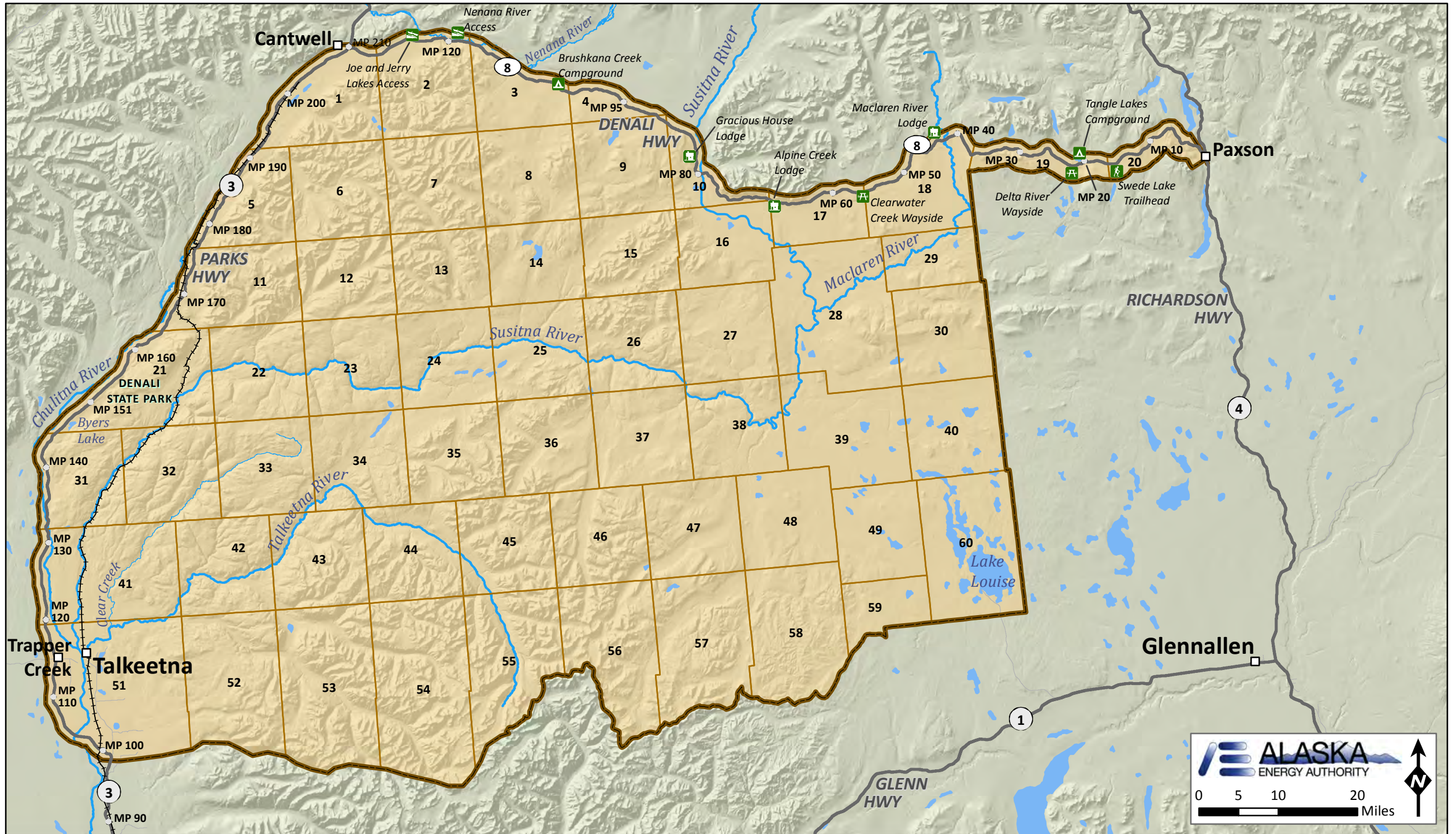
Thank you for participating in this survey!

27. Observed mode of transportation.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 01 Car/Van/Truck | <input type="checkbox"/> 06 Alaska Railroad | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Motorcoach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02 RV/Motorhome/Camper | <input type="checkbox"/> 07 Snowmachine | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Pedestrian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 03 Motorcycle | <input type="checkbox"/> 08 Dogsled | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 04 Four-wheeler | <input type="checkbox"/> 09 Bicycle | |

28. Gender (DO NOT ASK) Male Female Unknown





ALASKA
ENERGY AUTHORITY

0 5 10 20 Miles

Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project Intercept Site Recreation Tally

Date _____ Arrival Time _____ Location-grid # _____
 Day of the week Su M Tu W Th F Sa Location description _____
 Surveyors _____

Number of surveys completed at this location _____

Upon arriving at location, enter number observed and estimated capacity:

Observed:

- _____ Cars/vans/trucks
- _____ RVs/campers
- _____ Motorcoach
- _____ OHV/ATVs
- _____ Motor Boats (jet, prop, air)
- _____ Non-Motor Boats
- _____ Snowmachines
- _____ Motorcycles
- _____ Bicycles
- _____ Occupied campsites
- _____ Occupied picnic sites/tables

Estimated total capacity on/of:

- _____ Boat trailers
- _____ ATV trailers
- _____ Snowmachine trailers
- _____ Horse trailers
- _____ Dog sleds (# of dog box units)
- _____ Racks (bike/ski/kayak/etc.- specify)

Other observation comments:

Case#	Surveyed	Party size	Party type ¹	Recreation type				
				Act 1	Act 2	Act 3	Act 4	Other
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								

1 Party type: F=family, C=couple, I=Individual, G=apparent non-family group

Activity codes

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 01 <input type="checkbox"/> Alaska Railroad | 09 <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing for salmon | 16 <input type="checkbox"/> OHV/ATV |
| 02 <input type="checkbox"/> Attending special event | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing other | 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Skiing |
| 03 <input type="checkbox"/> Bird watching | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Flightseeing | 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Snow machine |
| 04 <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling | 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting | 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Snow shoeing |
| 05 <input type="checkbox"/> Camping remote | 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/backpacking | 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife viewing |
| 06 <input type="checkbox"/> Camping RV/cabin/campground | 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Motorized boat | 21 <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| 07 <input type="checkbox"/> Collecting berries/mushrooms | 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Raft/canoe/kayak | |
| 08 <input type="checkbox"/> Dog sledding | | |

Attachment 4

Final Recreation Mail Survey Instrument

2013 Alaska Recreation SURVEY



Alaska Outdoor Recreation

Thank you for helping us learn more about outdoor recreation activities in Alaska. The next four pages contain questions about your snow machining, fishing, recreational boating, and hunting outings. Below is a tutorial of how to complete the questions. The text in red illustrates the type of information that you would provide as answers to your questions. **Please review this tutorial before going to Question 1 on the next page.**

Tutorial for your review and reference

Recreational Snow Machining Anywhere In Alaska

- Do you ever snow machine recreationally in Alaska? (Circle the correct choice) **Yes** GO TO QUESTION 2
No GO TO NEXT PAGE
- In the table below, please list all of the locations where you snow machined recreationally between January and April 2013. If you **did not** snow machine on any day between January and April 2013, please check this box and go to Question 4 on the next page.

Snow Machining between January and April 2013																																																																																																																																																							
Describe the location where you snow machined <small>Please be as specific as possible.</small>	Write the name where you accessed this location <small>Trailhead name, nearest town or point of interest, highway milepost</small>	Number of snow machining days <small>How many days did you snow machine at this location?</small>	Snow Machining Location	When did you snow machine at each location? <small>Please write the number of each Snow Machining Location in the calendar below. The Snow Machining Location numbers are presented in the column to the left. Write in the Snow Machining Location number for each day that you snow machined at that location between January and April 2013.</small>																																																																																																																																																			
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<i>Willow Lake Loop Trail</i>	<i>Willow</i>	<i>2</i>	2																																																																																																																																																				
<i>Sterling Highway (Resurrection Pass Trail)</i>	<i>Cooper Landing</i>	<i>1</i>	3																																																																																																																																																				
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<p>If you snow machined at more than 9 locations and would like to complete additional trip summaries, you can complete them online at www.alaskarecreationsurvey.com or check the box to the right and we will mail you additional summaries once we receive this completed questionnaire.</p>			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please send me additional summaries																																																																																																																																																				

3. What is the total number of days you snow machined between January and April 2013? 12 days

PLEASE CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

Recreational Snow Machining Anywhere In Alaska

If you have any questions on how to complete this summary, please refer to the tutorial on Page 1.

1. Do you ever snow machine recreationally in Alaska? (Circle the correct choice) Yes  GO TO QUESTION 2
 No  GO TO NEXT PAGE

2. In the table below, please list all of the locations where you snow machined recreationally between January and April 2013. If you **did not** snow machine on any day between January and April 2013, please check this box and go to Question 4 on the next page.

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<i>Example: Turnagain Pass Trail</i>	<i>Trailhead in Sunnyside</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>0</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">2013</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>January</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>February</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16 0</td></tr> <tr><td>17 0</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>March</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1 0</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>April</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6 0</td></tr> <tr><td>7 0</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11 0</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16 0	17 0	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1 0	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6 0	7 0	8	9	10	11 0	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
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3. What is the total number of days you snow machined between January and April 2013? _____ days



Recreational Fishing Anywhere In Alaska

If you have any questions on how to complete this summary, please refer to the tutorial on Page 1.

4. Do you **ever** fish recreationally in Alaska? **Yes** What type of species do you target (**circle all that apply**)? Halibut Rockfish Trout
 (Circle the correct choice) Coho Sockeye Chinook Chum Pink Salmon Grayling Dolly Varden/Arctic char Other
- No** **GO TO NEXT PAGE**

5. In the table below, please list all of the locations where you fished recreationally between May and October 2012. If you **did not** fish on any day between May and October 2012, please check this box and go to Question 7 on the next page.

Fishing between May and October 2012

Fishing between May and October 2012																																																																																													
Describe the waterbody where you fished <small>Please be as specific as possible.</small>	Write the name where you accessed this location <small>Boat launch, nearest town or point of interest</small>	Number of fishing days <small>How many days did you fish at this location?</small>	Fishing Location	When did you fish at each location? <small>Please write the number of each Fishing Location in the calendar below. The Fishing Location numbers are presented in the column to the left. Write in the Fishing Location number for each day that you fished at that location between May and October 2012.</small>																																																																																									
<i>Example: Kenai River</i>	<i>Cooper Landing Boat Launch</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0</i>	<div style="text-align: center;">2012</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> May <table border="1" style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2 <input type="checkbox"/></td><td>3 <input type="checkbox"/></td><td>4 <input type="checkbox"/></td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> June <table border="1" style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9 <input type="checkbox"/></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>10 <input type="checkbox"/></td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 <input type="checkbox"/>		10 <input type="checkbox"/>	11	12	13	14	15	16		17	18	19	20	21	22	23		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
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6. What is the total number of days you fished recreationally between May and October 2012? _____ days

Recreational Boating Anywhere In Alaska

If you have any questions on how to complete this summary, please refer to the tutorial on Page 1.

7. **Other than fishing**, do you **ever** go recreational boating in Alaska? Yes What type of recreational boating do you do (**circle all that apply**)?
 (Circle the correct choice) Canoeing Kayaking Motor/Air boating Drift boating Rafting Sailing Other
- No GO TO NEXT PAGE
8. In the table below, please list all of the locations where you went recreational boating between May and October 2012. If you **did not** go recreational boating on any day between May and October 2012, please check this box and go to Question 10 on the next page.

Recreational Boating between May and October 2012																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
Describe the waterbody where you went recreational boating <small>Please be as specific as possible. If you went fishing, please complete a fishing summary.</small>	Write the name where you accessed this location <small>Boat launch, nearest town or point of interest</small>	Number of recreational boating days <small>How many days did you go recreational boating at this location?</small>	Recreational Boating Location	When did you go recreational boating at each location? <small>Please write the number of each Recreation Boating Location in the calendar below. The Recreation Boating Location numbers are presented in the column to the left. Write in the Recreation Location number for each day that you went recreational boating at that location between May and October 2012.</small>																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
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9. What is the total number of days you went recreational boating between May and October 2012? _____ days

PLEASE CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

Recreational Hunting Anywhere In Alaska

If you have any questions on how to complete this summary, please refer to the tutorial on Page 1.

10. Do you **ever** hunt recreationally in Alaska? **(Circle the correct choice)** Yes What type of game do you hunt **(circle all that apply)?**
 Big game Small game Upland Birds Waterfowl Other
- No GO TO NEXT PAGE

11. In the table below, please list all of the locations where you hunted recreationally between June and November 2012. If you **did not** go hunting on any day between June and November 2012, please check this box and go to the next page.

Hunting between June and November 2012																																																																																															
Describe the location where you hunted <small>Please be as specific as possible.</small>	Write the name where you accessed this location <small>Highway milepost, nearest town or point of interest</small>	Number of hunting days <small>How many days did you hunt at this location?</small>	Hunting Location	When did you hunt at each location? <small>Please write the number of each Hunting Location in the calendar below. The Hunting Location numbers are presented in the column to the left. Write in the Hunting Location number for each day that you hunted at that location between June and November 2012.</small>																																																																																											
<i>Example: Denali Highway</i>	<i>Cantwell</i>	6	0	2012																																																																																											
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If you hunted at more than 8 locations and would like to complete additional trip summaries, you can complete them online at www.alaskarecreationsurvey.com or check the box to the right and we will mail you additional summaries once we receive this completed questionnaire.			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please send me additional summaries	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> August <table border="1" style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> September <table border="1" style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
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12. What is the total number of days you hunted recreationally between June and November 2012? _____ days

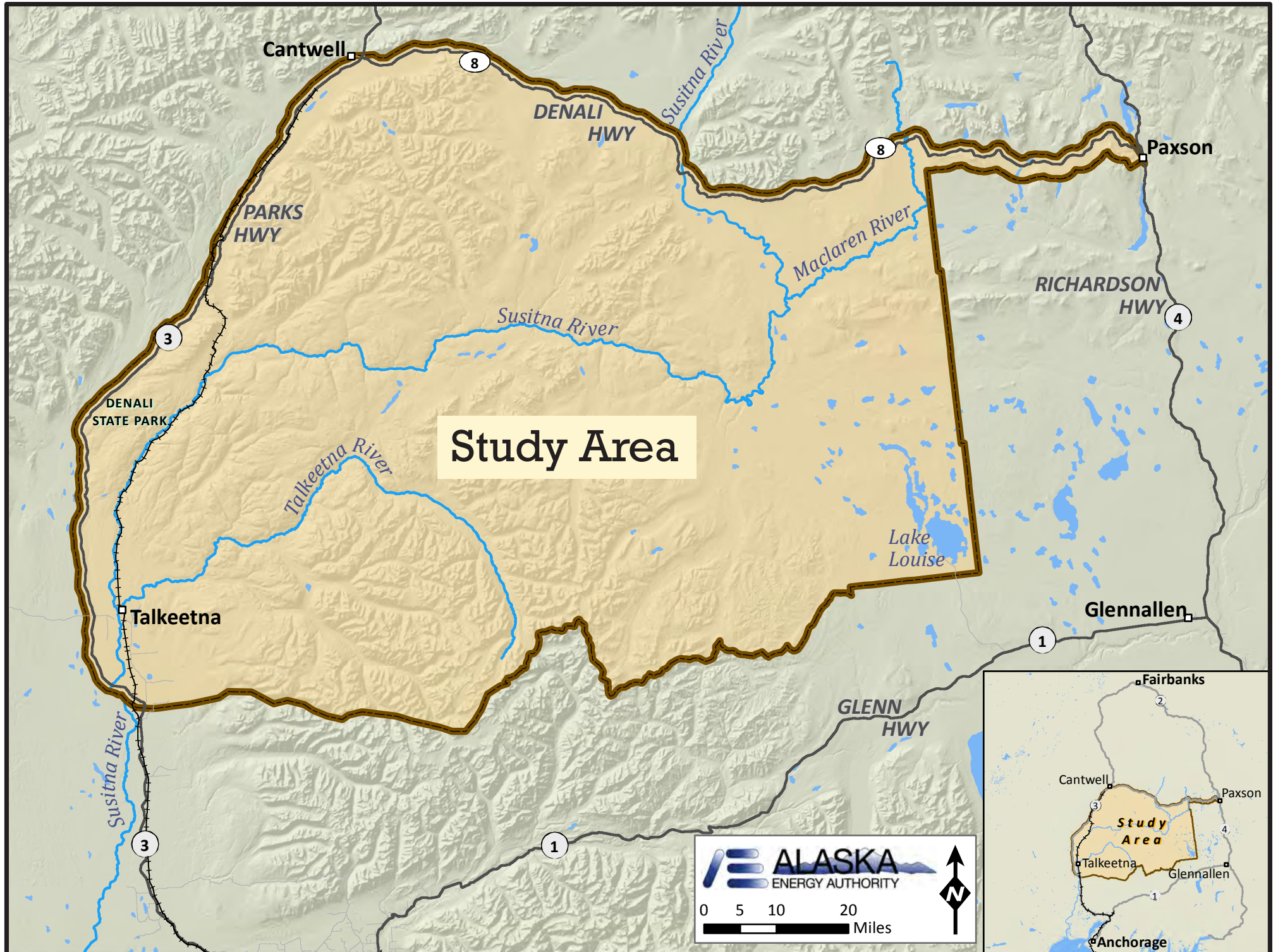
Recreation in the Study Area

13. Do you live within the Study Area highlighted on the map on page 7? 1 Yes (skip to Q14a) 2 No

14. Did you visit the Study Area for any outdoor recreational activities between May 2012 and April 2013?

1 Yes (continue to Q14a-c) 2 No (skip to Q33 on page 14)

Recreation Activities	RECREATION Between May 2012 and April 2013		Most Recent Trip
	14a. Check box for each activity that you participated in within the Study Area.	14b. About how many days (all or part of a day) did you participate in this activity within the Study Area?	14c. What activities did you participate in on your most recent visit to the Study Area?
A. Riding the Alaska Railroad	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
B. Bird watching	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
C. Bicycling	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
D. Camping - remote tent	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
E. Camping - RV/cabin/campground/roadside tent	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
F. Collecting berries/mushrooms	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
G. Dog sledding	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
H. Fishing for salmon	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	8 <input type="checkbox"/>
I. Fishing for other species	9 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	9 <input type="checkbox"/>
J. Flightseeing	10 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	10 <input type="checkbox"/>
K. Hunting	11 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	11 <input type="checkbox"/>
L. Hiking/backpacking	12 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	12 <input type="checkbox"/>
M. Motorized boating (jet, prop, air)	13 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	13 <input type="checkbox"/>
N. Rafting/canoeing/kayaking/pack raft (non-motorized)	14 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	14 <input type="checkbox"/>
O. Riding ATV's	15 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	15 <input type="checkbox"/>
P. Skiing	16 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	16 <input type="checkbox"/>
Q. Snow machining	17 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	17 <input type="checkbox"/>
R. Snowshoeing	18 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	18 <input type="checkbox"/>
S. Walking/running	19 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	19 <input type="checkbox"/>
T. Wildlife viewing	20 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	20 <input type="checkbox"/>
Please write in any additional recreational activities you participated in while in the Study Area between May 2012 and April 2013			
U. Specify other activity _____	21 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	21 <input type="checkbox"/>
V. Specify other activity _____	22 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	22 <input type="checkbox"/>
W. Specify other activity _____	23 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	23 <input type="checkbox"/>
X. Specify other activity _____	24 <input type="checkbox"/>	# ____ days	24 <input type="checkbox"/>



Your Most Recent Outing to the Study Area

15. What was your **primary recreational activity** on your most recent outing in the Study Area?

CHECK ONLY ONE ACTIVITY

- 01 Riding the Alaska Railroad
 02 Bird watching
 03 Bicycling
 04 Camping-remote tent
 05 Camping-RV/cabin/campground/roadside tent
 06 Collecting berries/mushrooms
 07 Dog sledding
 08 Fishing for salmon
 09 Fishing for other species
 10 Flightseeing
 11 Hunting
 12 Hiking/backpacking
 13 Motorized boating (jet, prop, air)
 14 Rafting/canoeing/kayaking/pack raft (non-motorized)
 15 Riding ATV's
 16 Skiing
 17 Snow machining
 18 Snowshoeing
 19 Walking/running
 20 Wildlife viewing
 21 Other activity _____

15a. (IF HUNTING WAS YOUR PRIMARY ACTIVITY)

Which of these was your **primary harvest objective**? (Do not include trapping.)

Please select only one.

- 01 Caribou – Federal subsistence
 02 Caribou – State draw permit one bull
 03 Caribou – State registration permit any caribou
 04 Caribou – State community harvest
 05 Caribou – Non-resident
 06 Moose – Federal subsistence
 07 Moose – State draw permit any bull
 08 Moose – State draw permit cow
 09 Moose – State community harvest
 10 Moose – State harvest ticket
 11 Moose – Non-resident
 12 Bear (brown or black)
 13 Waterfowl
 14 Upland game birds
 15 Other _____

16. Where did you participate in your primary activity on your most recent outing in the Study Area? Grid # _____
 (Please write in the grid number/s found on the map on page 10.)

17. Had you **ever** been to the Study Area for this primary activity prior to your most recent trip?

- 1 Yes 2 No (skip to Q18 on the next page) 3 Live in study area

17a. What year did you first visit the study area for this activity? Year _____

(If you live within the Study Area, please indicate what year you moved there.)

17b. In general, how often do you participate in this activity in the Study Area?

- 01 More than 10 times per year 04 Once every few years
 02 Two to ten times per year 05 Less than once every few years
 03 Once every year

PLEASE CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE 

Your Most Recent Outing to the Study Area

18. Did you hire a guide for any portion of your most recent outing to the Study Area? 01 Yes 02 No (skip to Q19)

18a. Did you hire the guide for your primary activity? 01 Yes 02 No

19. On your last outing, did you spend a night anywhere in the Study Area (besides your primary residence if you live in the Study Area)?

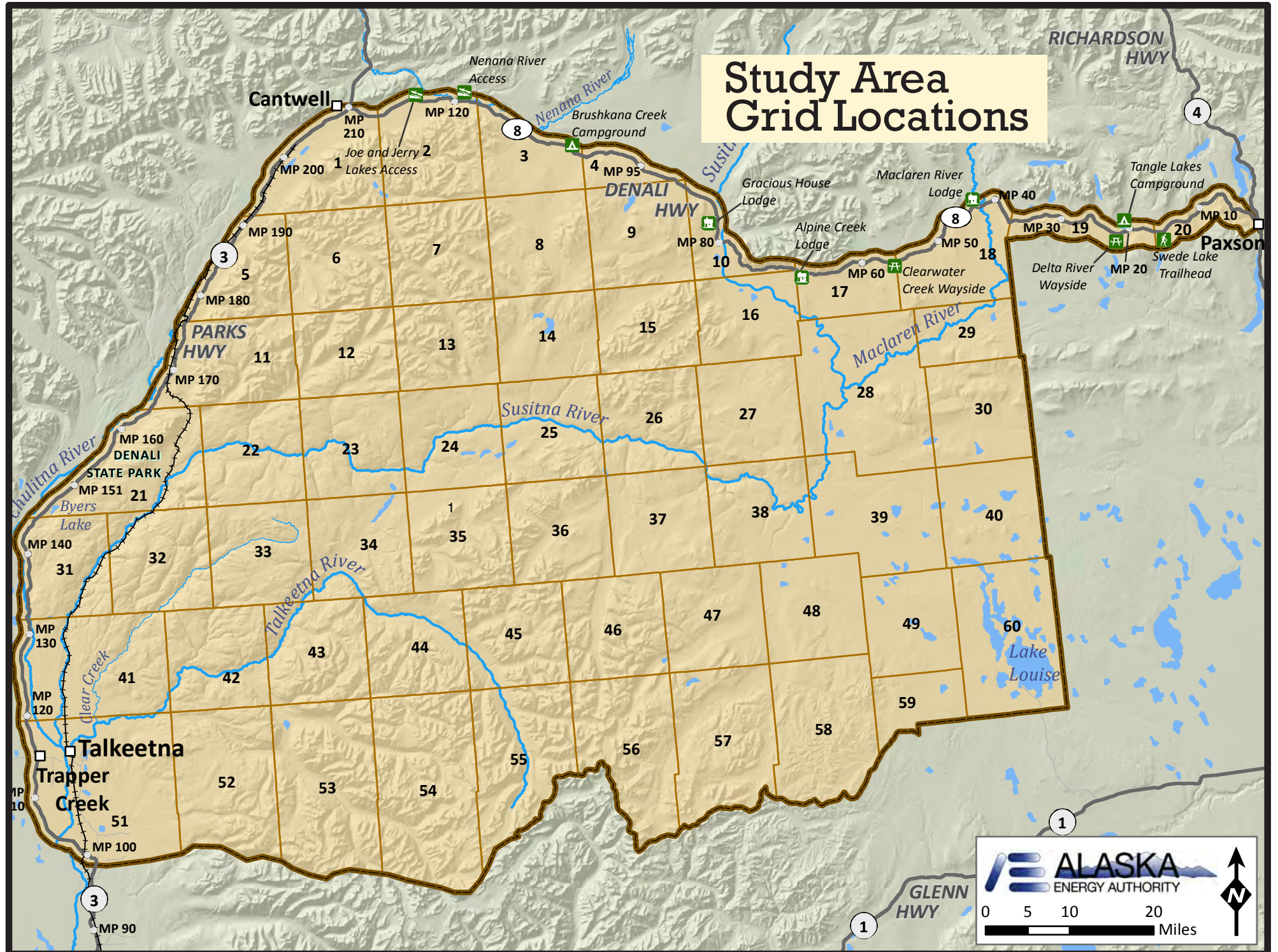
01 Yes 02 No (skip to Q22 on page 11)

20. How many nights did you spend in the Study Area on your last outing? # _____ (If you live in the Study Area, count only nights away from home.)

21. Please record how many nights you spent in each location below and the type of lodging. For additional locations, write in the location name and the grid number found on the map on page 10.

	Grid Number	Hotel/motel/ B&B	Lodge	Private home	Established campground (RV/tent/etc.)	Undeveloped/on- road RV/ camper/ car/ tent	Remote camping (tent)	Other
<i>EXAMPLE: Denali Hwy Mile 45</i>	#3					4	2	
Talkeetna	#51							
Trapper Creek	#51							
Byers Lake	#21							
Cantwell	#1							
Brushkana Creek Campground	#3							
Tangle Lakes	#19							
Lake Louise	#60							
Additional location:								
Additional location:								
Additional location:								
Additional location:								
Additional location:								
Additional location:								

PLEASE CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE



Your Most Recent Outing to the Study Area

22. Including yourself, how many people were traveling in your immediate PARTY, sharing expenses such as food, lodging, and transportation on your most recent outing in the Study Area?

_____ in party

23. Including yourself, what was the total number of people traveling in your GROUP on your most recent outing in the Study Area?
(A group is defined as friends or relatives traveling with you, but not necessarily sharing expenses.)

_____ in group

24. Was there anyone in your party with a disability or special need related to outdoor recreation activities?

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes → | 24a. Specifically, what type of needs do they have? | 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair access to trails |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No | | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Wheelchair access to facilities |
| | | 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

25. On your last outing in the Study Area, did you feel very crowded, somewhat crowded, or not crowded?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 01 <input type="checkbox"/> Very crowded | 02 <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat crowded | 03 <input type="checkbox"/> Not crowded (skip to Q26) |
|--|--|---|

25a. If somewhat or very crowded: Do you recall any places in particular where you felt crowded? 1 No (continue to Q26)
Please write in the name of the location/s below and the grid numbers of those locations (Map on page 10).

Place names	Grid #
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

26. On your last outing did you experience any conflict with other individuals or groups that negatively impacted your recreation experience in the Study Area?
1 Yes 2 No (skip to Q27)

26a. What type of activity was the other individual or group engaged in? (This could be recreation or other activity.)

26b. What specifically caused the conflict?

27. What signs, if any, of infrastructure or human activity detracted from the scenic quality within the Study Area? (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 01 <input type="checkbox"/> Nothing | 06 <input type="checkbox"/> Roads | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| 02 <input type="checkbox"/> Communication towers | 07 <input type="checkbox"/> Trails | |
| 03 <input type="checkbox"/> Power lines | 08 <input type="checkbox"/> Roadside camping areas | |
| 04 <input type="checkbox"/> Railroad | 09 <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles (RV, ATV, motorcycles, cars, etc.) | |
| 05 <input type="checkbox"/> Trash | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> People | |

Your Most Recent Outing to the Study Area

28. What noises, if any, detracted from your enjoyment of the Study Area? (Check all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 01 <input type="checkbox"/> Nothing | 05 <input type="checkbox"/> Helicopters | 09 <input type="checkbox"/> Noise from other people |
| 02 <input type="checkbox"/> Gunshots | 06 <input type="checkbox"/> Boats | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Heavy equipment (road work, quarries, construction) |
| 03 <input type="checkbox"/> Airplanes | 07 <input type="checkbox"/> Four wheeler/ATV | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Chainsaw |
| 04 <input type="checkbox"/> Jet aircraft sonic boom | 08 <input type="checkbox"/> Cars/trucks/RV | 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

29. On your most recent outing, did you travel more than one-half mile from a trailhead or main road into the Study Area on foot, in an off-road vehicle, by watercraft, or by a small airplane that landed in a remote part of the Study Area?

- 1 Yes 2 No (skip to Q30)

29a. Which modes of transportation did you use to travel more than one-half mile into the Study Area? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 01 <input type="checkbox"/> Walked/hiked | 04 <input type="checkbox"/> Non-motorized watercraft (canoe, kayak, raft etc.) |
| 02 <input type="checkbox"/> Off-road vehicle | 05 <input type="checkbox"/> Airplane (Landed more than one-half mile into the Study Area.) |
| 03 <input type="checkbox"/> Power boat | 06 <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

29b. If you traveled by foot or off-road vehicle, did you travel on established trails, off-trail, or both?

- 1 Established trails 2 Off-trail 3 Both 4 Did not travel by foot or off-road vehicle

29c. Did you camp in the Study Area more than one-half mile from a trailhead or main road? 1 Yes 2 No

30. When considering your most recent outing, how important were the following factors in your decision to recreate in the Study Area? (Please circle your answer)

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
a. Wildlife viewing opportunities	1	2	3
b. The opportunity to hunt	1	2	3
c. The opportunity to fish	1	2	3
d. The opportunity to experience remote Alaska	1	2	3
e. The opportunity to experience solitude	1	2	3
f. The opportunity to challenge yourself	1	2	3
g. The scenery	1	2	3

Your Most Recent Outing to the Study Area

31. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (Please circle your answer)

I recreate in the Study Area because...	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Neutral</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
a. This area means a lot to me.	1	2	3	4	5
b. No other place can compare to this area.	1	2	3	4	5
c. Recreating here is more important to me than doing it in any other place.	1	2	3	4	5
d. This area is close to my home.	1	2	3	4	5
e. My family has been coming to this area for generations.	1	2	3	4	5

32. Below is a list of outdoor recreation facilities, infrastructure, and sources of information in the Study Area. Please indicate whether there should be more, less or the same in the future. (Please circle your answer)

	A lot more	A little more	The same	A little less	A lot less
a. Maintained roads	1	2	3	4	5
b. Designated parking areas	1	2	3	4	5
c. Roadside toilets	1	2	3	4	5
d. RV accessible sites at campgrounds	1	2	3	4	5
e. Trail maps	1	2	3	4	5
f. Designated trails for non-motorized use	1	2	3	4	5
g. Designated trails for off-road vehicles	1	2	3	4	5
h. Directional road signs	1	2	3	4	5
i. Visitor information	1	2	3	4	5
j. Visitor centers	1	2	3	4	5
k. Public use cabins	1	2	3	4	5
l. Boat launches	1	2	3	4	5
m. Facilities for the disabled	1	2	3	4	5

Demographics

33. In what year were you born? 19_____

34. Your gender: 1 Male 2 Female

35. Are you married? 1 Yes 2 No

36. Including yourself, how many people live in your household for at least six months of the year? # _____

37. Do children under the age of 18 live in your household? 1 Yes 2 No

38. Which category best describes your household income before taxes for 2012?

01 Less than \$20,000 04 \$50,001 to \$75,000 07 \$150,000 or more

02 \$20,001 to \$35,000 05 \$75,001 to \$99,999

03 \$35,001 to \$50,000 06 \$100,000 to \$149,999

39. Which category best describes your race?

01 White 04 American Indian or Alaska Native 07 Some other race

02 Black or African American 05 Asian

03 Hispanic 06 Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

40. What is the highest degree or level of school you have COMPLETED?

01 Less than 9th grade 04 Some college, no degree 07 Graduate or professional degree

02 9th to 12th grade, no diploma 05 Associate's degree

03 High school graduate, GED, or alternative 06 Bachelor's degree

41. Are you a professional guide for any recreation activities?

1 Yes → **Q 41a. What type of activities do you guide? (Check all that apply)**

2 No (continue to Q42) 01 Snow machining 03 Hunting 05 Other _____

02 Fishing 04 Boat/float tour

42. Do you or your family own a cabin in Alaska?

1 Yes → **Q42a. Approximately where is your cabin located?** _____

2 No Cabin location

43. As part of this recreation study we may be conducting additional research. Would you be willing to participate in a follow-up survey? Your contact information will not be used or shared for any other purpose.

1 Yes 2 No

43a. To follow up with you, may we have your email address or phone number?

Email address or phone number _____

Thank you for participating in this survey!



PASSCODE

Attachment 5

Recreation TWG Comments on Draft Intercept and Mail Survey Instruments

NPS 3/6/13 Comments

In its comments on the RSPs, NPS commented about the absence of questions about user conflict in the Intercept Survey. FERC's study plan determination agreed that a specific question relative to user conflict should be included in this survey. Our interest is in probing an important qualitative, experiential issue: the interaction between various, occasionally conflicting, recreation activities and uses. Examples of this would be:

- Motorized craft (jetboats, airboats, other power boatse, tc.) v. non-motorized craft (canoes, hard shell and inflatable kayaks, rafts, etc.)
- Boaters v. wading and shoreline anglers
- ATV/OHVs and other motorized vehicles v. non-motorized trail uses (hiking, snowshoeing, bicycling, XC skiing, mushing, hunting, trapping)

Other types of user conflict may center around unsafe behavior by other users, overall safety and security, use of alcohol by other users, and interaction between visitors and residents.

We do not feel that Questions 10 and 11 of the current version of the Intercept Survey adequately address user conflict. They appear to focus on detracting to scenic quality and the effect of noise on the enjoyment of an area. These are primarily aesthetic issues. We also find the use of the term "signs of infrastructure or human activity" in Question 10 to be nebulous, likely to require further explanation by the surveyor for the respondent to understand.

In order to focus this area of inquiry on recreation activity and user conflict, we suggest a question such as the following:

Question # __ During this visit to the study area:

A) Did you experience any **conflict** with other recreation users (*i.e.*, anyone or activity that negatively impacted your experience)?

- Yes No

B) If **YES**, what was the activity of the other recreation user? (Check One)

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ATV (2, 3, or 4 wheel) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mtn./Fat tire biker | <input type="checkbox"/> Angler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motorized boater | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiker | <input type="checkbox"/> Hunter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Motorized boater | <input type="checkbox"/> Snowshoer, XC skier, musher | <input type="checkbox"/> Trapper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camper | <input type="checkbox"/> Aviator | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |

C) If you experienced conflict, please check the reasons that contributed to the conflict. (Check All That Apply)

- Unsafe Conduct Rowdiness Loudness Proximity to where we were
 Other (specify): _____

Comments of the National Park Service on Susitna Watana Hydro Project FERC P-14241

3/7/13 Recreation Survey Instruments

General Comments

The goal of the various surveys is to collect information about **baseline** recreational opportunities and experiences in the Watana project area. These surveys are not intended to assess support for or opposition to the project. Therefore it is important that the surveys avoid appearing to “sell” the project to survey subjects. To this end, NPS appreciates the deletion of language from project descriptions that emphasized potential project benefits such as its theoretical power production absent any environmental flow release requirements, while failing to disclose any negative impacts.

NPS has further recommendations about the project descriptions that introduce the surveys and protocols. The latest drafts include information about the number of generating units and their faceplate power ratings. Instead of providing this technical information, which is not relevant to a survey subject’s understanding of the project’s footprint or likely impacts on recreation, NPS suggests that the project introduction be edited to replace these generation details with references to the new access road, airport, and operations buildings that would be constructed in the project area. These facilities, along with the transmission line already included in the project summary, are likely to affect recreational access and the character of recreational experiences in the project area, so are highly relevant to survey subject’s understanding of the purpose of the surveys and the geographical area that would be affected by the project.

Study area maps accompanying the surveys should also include the likely location of operational buildings, the airport, and alternative routes for the transmission line and access road. The location of the dam should also be shown. Where the locations of reaches, the dam, etc. are referred to in the surveys, consistent nomenclature should be used. NPS recommends that PRMs instead of RMs be used to ensure that survey subjects are able to relate to study plans and reports from other disciplines, and to ensure that the recreation and aesthetics results consistent with the other studies.

Is it accurate to state that the reservoir would be “2 miles wide at widest” at the mouths of tributaries when the reservoir is full? If not, please correct this statement. Please include the length as well as the width of the reservoir.

The surveys that have not already been field tested (i.e., all of them except the Recreation Intercept Survey Protocol) should be given trial runs with naïve subjects – i.e. subjects who are not agency or consultant employees -- prior to the actual study so that confusing language can be eliminated and any other flaws detected.

Recreation Intercept Survey

Our comments are on 3/7/13 version of this document, which lacks several changes made before and during the 3/15-17 field test, including the addition of the NPS-recommended conflict question, deletion of the memorable scenery location question, and other as-yet unpublicized changes we have been told were made as a result of the field test. NPS notes that with the addition of the conflict question, it will be important for the survey administrators to be familiar with the most likely types of conflict, e.g. motorized vs. non-motorized recreation; hunting and trapping vs. non-consumptive activities; and non-recreational activities (subsistence and Watana field staff) vs. recreation.

Q. 3 – For this survey and the others that use the same tables and classifications, NPS recommends the following minor changes to improve clarity: 1) add the word “tent” to the heading of the 6th column from the left, to denote car camping, e.g. at pull-outs along the Denali Highway; and 2) replace “wilderness” in the 7th column heading with “remote.” None of the project area is in designated Wilderness so this will avoid confusion.

Q. 13 & 14 -- For this survey and the other instruments that use the same questions, NPS recommends the following changes to the questions that attempt to differentiate between party and group size: reverse the order of the questions, eliminate use of the easily-confusable terms “party” and “group,” and simply ask first how many people are traveling together with the survey subject, and second, how many of these people, if any, are sharing expenses with the subject.

Winter Recreation Executive Interview Protocol

Q. 1. “First of all, do you use the ~~river~~ **Susitna River corridor** in the capacity . . .” NPS suggests this consistent wording; winter use is not really of the river *per se* but of the river corridor including the floodplain and riparian areas, which, when frozen and snow covered, are not easily distinguished.

Q.5. NPS suggests adding references to problems with overflow to both the transportation and recreation sections of this question. E.g., solicit detail about the timing and location of

overflow, and the degree to which it impedes safe travel, especially for repeat users of a given area.

Q. 9. The surveyor should be prepared to prompt for information about conflicts between users and uses, including details concerning who or what the interview subject sees as the provoker vs. the provoked.

Questions 10 and 11 are somewhat duplicative. NPS recommends merging into a single question asking whether the Susitna corridor “offers unique opportunities” and if not, what other areas are similar. Then substitute a new question, to go *before* the uniqueness question, asking subjects what attributes of the area are important to them, e.g. AK Range scenery, good trail conditions, proximity to access points, easy route finding, solitude, nature, time with friends and family, etc. This question will help provide information about winter recreational experiences, not just the supply of opportunities.

River Recreation and Access Internet Survey

Like the Winter Recreation survey, this survey also lacks questions about the attributes of the recreational experience, e.g. challenge, solitude, scenery, appropriateness for novice boaters, etc. NPS strongly suggests substituting a question like this for each reach in place of the existing questions 42-44 about whether the river’s recreational opportunities are better/worse than average. On any river, there will be trade-offs between opportunities for high challenge vs. opportunities for a family float. The project may alter the supply of such opportunities in different ways, increasing some and decreasing others. We need to characterize which opportunities are valued now in order to understand the baseline and evaluate future effects. A displacement question – one which asks where the subject would go if project-related changes decreased or eliminated the kinds of opportunities sought by the subject – would be a very useful addition to this survey. NPS requested that displacement data be collected for this project in its original ILP Study Request.

P.1. Please rewrite the project description in the introductory paragraph to help subjects understand --infrastructure, flows, access, experiences. They don’t need to know how many turbines there will be. They do need to know that a new access road and facilities such as an airport and multiple buildings will be constructed north of the dam site.

NPS suggests that the following language can be simplified: “Your participation in this survey is important to the study’s success. Please base responses on your direct experience from your trip rather than guidebooks, ~~group opinions or historic flow preferences.~~ ~~Advances in boat design have expanded the range of suitable flows on many rivers.~~” A discussion of changes in

boat designs is not relevant to the survey's goals. Also, the second sentence could be read to 1) instruct subjects not to talk about their own historic flow preferences, when in fact we do want them to tell us what flows they prefer if they know this, and 2) to discount any conclusions about optimal flows they may have reached after discussions with others on the same trip, when in fact this is a perfectly valid way for boaters to assess flow suitability. Let's just focus on asking them to relate their own experiences.

At the bottom of this page, please add a reference to the 2014 Focus Groups that FERC required to be added to the RSP. It seems likely that many internet survey subjects will also participate in the focus group.

Q. 17. Suggested edit: "**availability of time** ~~with family/friends~~"

Q. 20 & 21. NPS suggests that these questions may be confusing to some subjects. For example, most anglers would see fishing as their primary activity and boating as a means to fish (secondary). Hunters are likely to view the hierarchy of hunting vs. floating the same way – in remote areas of Alaska, the primary reason for boating during the cold, rainy fall is to transport heavy game out of roadless areas at less expense than flying. Those using planes to access the river might be confused about whether this use was recreational or a form of transportation.

Q. 26 – This question provides an opportunity to find out if the survey subjects rented watercraft for their trip. "Did you hire a commercial outfitter as a guide **or rent a boat** for the river portion of this most recent trip on the Susitna River?"

Q. 28 & 29. Is anyone using snowmobiles to access the river for float trips? If not, this column should be deleted.

Q. 32. By not collecting any information about where boaters who floated past Sunshine ended their trip we are missing an opportunity to learn more about Lower River recreation. This will be important information if, as seems likely based on 2012 study reports and revised study plans for other resources, project operations result in a narrower, deeper Lower River with reduced or eliminated braiding, encroachment of riparian vegetation onto existing gravel bars, loss of tributary deltas and associated backwater pools, and consequent loss of spawning habitat. These morphological changes are likely to affect recreational access and destinations.

Indian Creek is upstream of Gold Creek so these should be re-ordered in the table.

Q. 33 This question introduces scenario testing to a survey that otherwise focuses on collecting baseline data. NPS strongly objects to the inclusion of this question. We contend that it violates the survey's objectivity because it evaluates a single scenario that addresses only one of the many project-induced changes that could affect river recreation: changed access. It

is not even clear to NPS what exactly “changed access” means (More roads to the river? Project infrastructure that puts public lands off-limits to recreationists? A dam blocking downstream river trips?), and thus is likely to be even less clear to survey subjects. The existing question completely glosses over a major form of “changed access” that will affect users of Reach 1: the inundation of Class I-III moving water by a large, stillwater reservoir and termination of the riverine portion of any float trip. NPS strongly urges elimination of this question until a set of scenarios can be developed collaboratively by AEA and all stakeholders and tested for all categories of recreation.

Such scenarios will need to include project details that are as yet unknown, e.g. the preferred location of the new access road and other project infrastructure, and information about likely changes to river morphology, flows, riparian vegetation, ice and sediment dynamics, and fish and game habitat. Until other biophysical studies are completed, it would be difficult to develop a set of scenarios that accurately encompass the likely range of project-related effects.

Whitewater Table

Surveyors should anticipate questions about the difference between WW boating and “technical” boating and be prepared to explain the difference.

NPS suggests editing the “Number of Portages” caption to read “Portage or Lining Difficulty.” For portages, it’s not just the number, but the length and difficulty that matter, and lining is a commonly-used alternative in Alaska to a full portage around an obstacle or un-runnable segment. The surveyor should be prepared to explain that “difficulty” encompasses the number, length, and hazardousness of these detours.

Q. 39 Please edit the final entry to read “# of times I had to portage **or line** around around unnavigable sections . . .”

Recreation Mail Survey

The first six pages of this survey appear to be statewide in focus, and there is no project description or introduction explaining the purpose of the survey. NPS recommends deleting the first six pages (which will only fatigue the subjects, making it less likely that they will complete the survey) and providing a one-page introduction similar to the edited versions from the other surveys. A map showing not only the boundary of the current study area, but project facilities, should also be included.

The current version of this survey fails to solicit information about displacement, as requested by NPS and others in our ILP study requests. Please consider adding this to an existing question (e.g. Q. 29) or as a separate question.

Q. 13(j) Please clarify that “car camping” (sleeping in a tent in an undeveloped area) is included in this row. Otherwise, please add a row.

Q. 14 – There seems to be a disproportionate focus on hunting details in this question. Subsistence users should not be checking the activities on the left hand side unless they are referring to their recreational activities. The question needs an introduction to instruct subjects who engage in both subsistence and recreational activities how to answer.

Q. 18 – Please edit this table to add “tent” or “car camping” to the “undeveloped” column heading and to replace “wilderness” with “remote.”

Please add “Denali State Park” and/or “K’esugi Ridge”, “along Denali Hwy” and “River” (name river) to left hand side location choices.

Please reverse order of Qs 20 & 21 and edit as suggested in the Intercept Survey comments, above to make it easier for subjects to understand.

Q. 24 – Please replace this with the same conflict question added to the intercept survey; or add this as a new question.

Q. 28 – Please add the “opportunity to experience challenge or self-reliance,” and “other” (write-in) to this question.

Q. 40 What is the purpose of the cabin ownership question? The answer might be relevant if it asked whether the subject owns a cabin in the study area, but in that case, we should also ask if they own a second home in the area.



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3/22/13

**Comments to Alaska Energy Authority
Draft Recreation Resources Study and River Recreation Flow and Access Study
2013 Surveys**

The goals of Revised Study Plan 12, Recreation and Aesthetic Resources, is to research, describe and establish recreational supply and demand (current and future projections) and to assess reasonably foreseeable recreation needs by both Alaskans and visitors.

1. The Coalition for Susitna Dam Alternatives (CSDA) asserts the necessity of the inclusion of the Lower Susitna River in the Recreation and Aesthetics Study Area.

This is necessary in order to get a true picture of how project impacts will affect and change the character, availability, and access for recreational opportunities. The Revised Study Plans and 2012 studies of ice processes, instream flows, riparian vegetation, etc are showing project impacts below Sunshine and the intersection of the Susitna River with the Parks Highway. The Federal Power Act, regulations, and the Integrated Licensing Process requires equal consideration for non-power values of the river. By having a lesser study area, this is not happening.

There are many stakeholder concerns on project impacts in the lower river regarding the Deshka River recreational activities, the Iditarod Sled Dog Race and the Iron Dog Snowmachine Race to name a few activities.

The decision to broaden the study area will be made by the applicant in 2014. Thus, a whole season will be lost. There are questions about how that impacts the overall data collection especially if there are unusual weather related events.

2. There are concerns with the introductory sections of the draft River Access Survey Instrument for Internet and the draft Winter Corridor Recreation Executive Interview. These introductions are the same for both surveys.
 - The statement *“Preliminary studies have indicated the surface powerhouse should have 3 generating units with an installed capacity of 600 megawatts of renewable energy.”* should be deleted. This is unnecessary. The goal of these surveys is to get the subjects to tell what they do and where they go in the overall project area. All those subjects need is a good description of the project area and the geographical extent of the facilities.
 - The next sentence should have extra language. After *“powerhouse and related facilities”* should be added **“of permanent roads, transmission line and an 8000 foot cargo jet runway.”** The current introductory language minimizes the project footprint and emphasizes the project benefits which are unknown at this time.
 - It is incorrect to describe the reservoir in the introduction as *“two miles wide (at widest).”* AEA’s own maps show that the reservoir width at Deadman Creek will be 7 miles wide. And if the dam height is increased in the future, the reservoir would be even wider. The language should read **“with current dam height, it will be seven miles (at widest).”**

Submitted by Becky Long

Talkeetna Community Council, Inc.
PO Box 608
Talkeetna, Alaska 99676

To : bmcgregor@aidea.org

**Subject: Comments Re. AEA's Revised Study Plan
Recreation Survey Instruments
Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project No. 14241-000**

These comments are submitted by the Talkeetna Community Council, Inc. (TCCI), the elected local advisory body that represents public interests for the Community of Talkeetna, Alaska, an unincorporated National Historic Townsite located within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough 90 river miles south of the proposed Susitna-Watana Dam.

The Talkeetna Community Council has many concerns about the Proposed Susitna-Watana Dam; with this statement TCCI presents the most critical concerns regarding AEA's Recreation Survey Instruments. The proposed studies will attempt to represent base line data for existing Susitna watershed conditions as well as attempt to identify potential impacts from operations of the proposed project.

The studies which focus on recreation are of critical concern to the community of Talkeetna and other No. Susitna residents. The recreational opportunities available in the Susitna watershed are valuable to both quality of life and regional economics. TCCI maintains the importance of thoroughly examining the natural conditions and resources present in the current Susitna River watershed and how they determine the ecological and economic future of the region.

TCCI concerns include, but are not limited to, the following key issues:

RE: 12-6 River recreation and Access Survey (formerly 12-4 in AEA RSP)

Project Description

TCCI has reviewed the survey instrument and requests the project description include an expansion of "related facilities" in the last line:

“The powerhouse, dam, and related facilities would be linked by a transmission line (or lines) connecting to the Railbelt Intertie”

The description should clearly identify facilities such as “ access corridor, 5,000 foot runway, and temporary construction camp.” The access corridor and runway will be permanent and will have pertinent impacts on recreation.

Reservoir Width - the width of the reservoir at Watana Creek exceeds the current description of “ two miles at it’s widest”. Correction required.

2013 Executive Interview Protocol - Winter Recreation on the Susitna River (Winter River Corridor Executive Interview)

TCCI requests the same additions/corrections to the project description in this instrument as noted above.

Other Survey Instruments-

TCCI has reviewed the original draft of the River Recreation and Access Survey and has not received the updated changes following TWG edits. In the original RSP drafts there were discrepancies in project descriptions - some noted “the dam and reservoir *will* alter downstream navigation and access” and others notes “the dam and reservoir *could* alter downstream navigation and access”. They should both consistently read “will”.

Recreation Studies -

On page 12-52 of the RSP the study notes :

“if possible, trappers using the river corridor will be interviewed”.
“ A few winter residents in cabins upstream of Talkeetna will be queried”

The study should mandatorily include trappers using the river as well as ALL residents of Chase who depend on the river for access.

Recreation and Recreation Flow Studies should be extended below the Susitna River Bridge to include the Lower River. TCCI is especially concerned with recreational outfitters and launch owners who will be negatively effected by altered flows in both summer and winter.

Questions -

1.) There appears to be no project description in the mail survey. Will there be a cover letter of any kind?

2.) Following NPS's request to add winter intercept sites to the Winter Recreation Survey (AEA had deemed these "too dangerous") we had expected to discuss these sites at the February 25th TWG. What is the status of these sites?

Conclusion - TCCI is regularly contacted by consultants or surveyors working within the council boundaries. As mentioned in the introduction of these comments, the council is particularly focused on the recreational suite of studies. The TCCI Susitna Dam Committee has requested to be included in the executive interview process and has received no contact regarding survey details. We have requested the executive interview list to ensure all pertinent operators in our boundary are represented. TCCI has spoken with Bob Koenitzer regarding the executive interview list which has been compiled and he has directed us to AEA for our review request. Please advise as to when this draft will be available for review and comment

Whitney Wolff
Co-Chair TCCI Susitna Dam Committee

Kirby Gilbert

From: Betsy McGregor <BMcGregor@aidea.org>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 5:23 PM
To: Kirby Gilbert; Kramer, Tim (tim.kramer@urs.com)
Subject: FW: Talkeetna Community Council Inc. - Recreation Survey Comments

-----Original Message-----

From: Whitney Wolff [<mailto:traleika@alaska.net>]
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 4:17 PM
To: Betsy McGregor
Subject: Talkeetna Community Council Inc. - Recreation Survey Comments

Please note: TCCI included the length of the runway at the dam at 5K and it should be corrected to 8K.

Thanks,
Whitney Wolff
TCCI