



SUSITNA-WATANA
HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

River Recreation Flow and Access Study

Q4 2013 Progress Report
Q4 Technical Working Group Meeting

November 7, 2013



Susitna River Recreation Survey

www.susitnariversurvey.com



The State of Alaska has contracted with URS/Environmental Resources Management (ERM) to survey individuals recreating on the Susitna River. Please take the time to complete the Susitna River Recreation Survey, and encourage other river recreators to do the same!

To take the survey, go to:

www.susitnariversurvey.com

Respondents who complete the survey will be eligible to win a \$250 gift certificate redeemable at Amazon or Cabela's. Your response to this survey will be kept confidential.

Thank you for helping with this important survey!

If you have any questions about completing this survey, please contact Erik Steimle at erik.steimle@erm.com

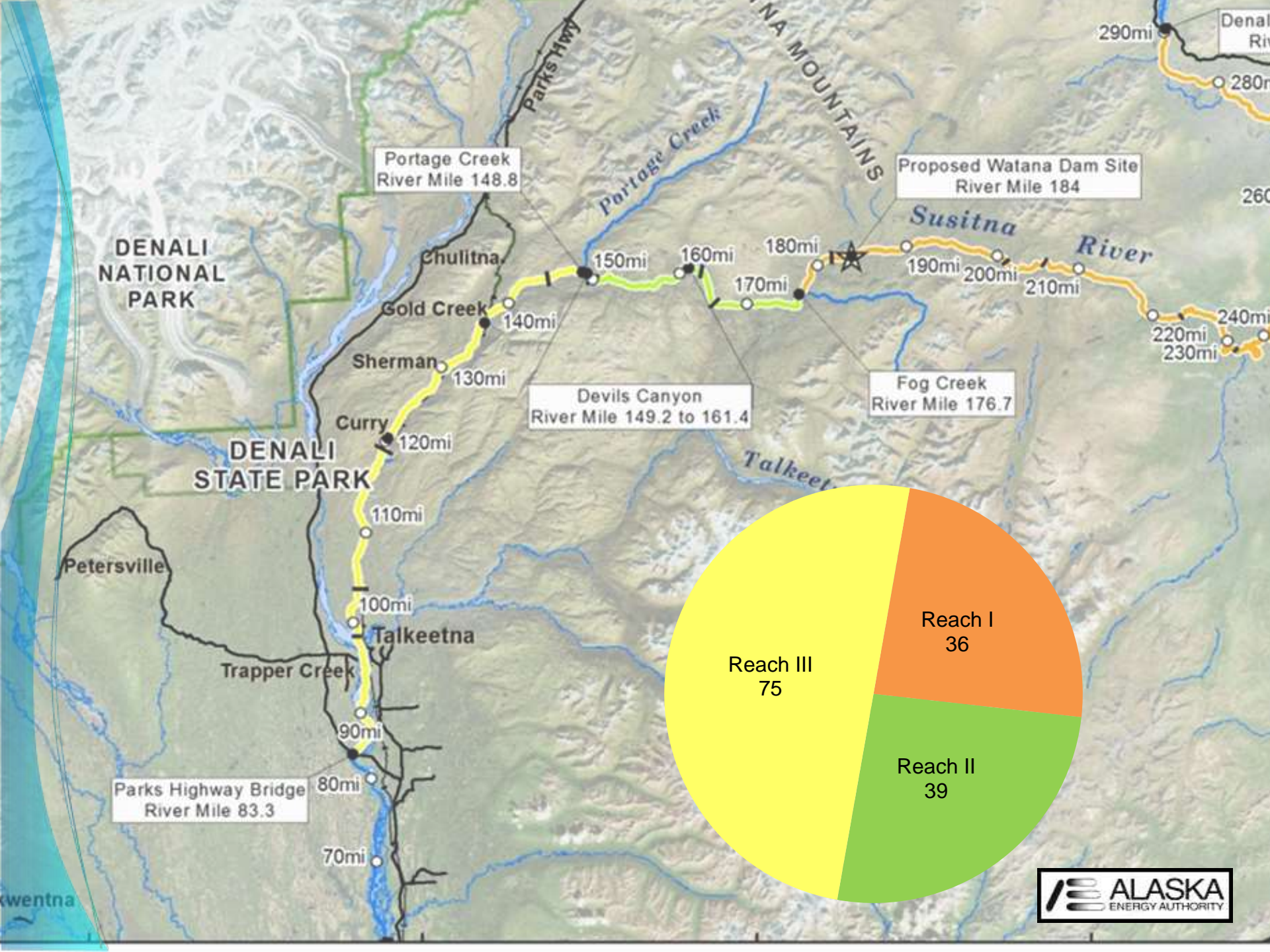
- Joined a number of outdoor forum listserves and posted an announcement of the internet survey
- Approximately 1500 cards distributed to individuals and businesses

Q4 Update

September– October 2013

- **Susitna River Recreation Internet Survey**
 - 88 surveys completed by the Oct 4th data download for analysis
 - Additional 111 surveys partially completed
 - Received entries for trips dating back to 1970's





DENALI NATIONAL PARK

DENALI STATE PARK

TALKEETNA MOUNTAINS

Proposed Watana Dam Site
River Mile 184

Portage Creek
River Mile 148.8

Devils Canyon
River Mile 149.2 to 161.4

Fog Creek
River Mile 176.7

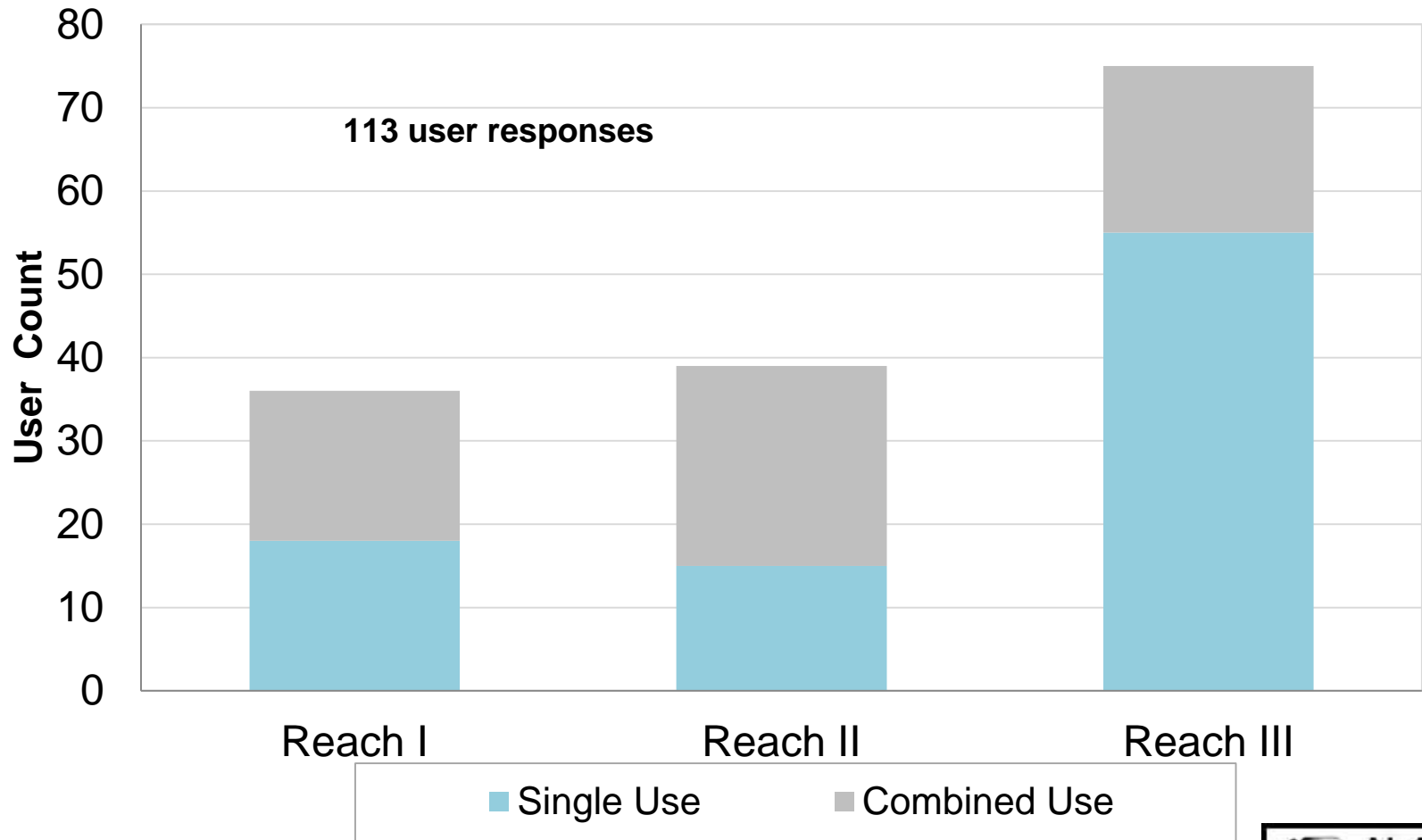
Reach I
36

Reach III
75

Reach II
39

Spatial Distribution of River Recreators in Reaches 1, 2, & 3

Responses through Oct 4



Q4 Update

Sept – Oct 2013

- Sept 12 - 16, 2013 field investigation of fall use and activities in Reaches I, II, and III.
- Photo and video documentation of rapids in Devils Canyon during September Flow regime
- Interdisciplinary coordination with ice processes, fish resources, hydrology, and geomorphology study efforts
- Posted river recreation survey url on various outdoor forums
- Analyzing River Recreation Internet survey data (downloaded data Oct. 4th)
- Conducting river recreation executive interviews with summer and fall users including WW boaters in Devils Canyon



Remaining Q4 Tasks 2013

- Continued coordination with ice processes, fish resources, hydrology, and geomorphology study efforts
- Completion of summer use executive interviews
- Completion of Devils Canyon executive interviews
- Coordinate River Recreation Focus Group Meeting(s) in Anchorage for Q1 2014

River Recreation Flow and Access Study Plan

- No variances from approved study plan