



November 31, 2006

Dear Friends,

Alaska offers a great variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and cultural experiences. From fishing on the many beautiful streams to traveling on our thousands of miles of trails, the experiences are as diverse as the people of this great state and are embodied in the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation's various parks and programs.

In recent years the Division has faced many challenges trying to fulfill our mission to provide the high quality facilities and services people have come to expect. As a result, we initiated this strategic planning process to improve the effectiveness of the Division and better provide for the needs of state residents and visitors.

I am confident that this document represents the priorities outlined by the public. The seven goals and various objectives, along with the strategies to achieve them, will serve as a blueprint for the management of state park areas and division programs and will help the Division tackle the challenges of the future.

I am particularly proud of the fact that, as part of this planning process, many Alaskans took the time to attend meetings, submit comments and respond to our questionnaire. Alaskans clearly care deeply about our state parks and division programs and the many public benefits they provide. With my utmost gratitude and appreciation, I want to thank the staff, partners and hundreds of Alaskans who contributed toward making this plan a shared vision for our division's future.

Sincerely,

Jerry Lewanski, Director
Alaska State Parks





November 31, 2006

Dear Alaskans:

I am pleased to present this Ten-Year Strategic Plan for the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. This plan represents a collective process designed to reflect the views of the public and their vision for how the Division can best meet their needs today and in the future.

The strategic plan is about the future: the future of outdoor recreation opportunities in Alaska and its natural landscapes, environments, cultural resources, and most importantly, the future of the diverse people who reside in and visit the state.

The planning process was purposefully designed to be inclusive and I hope that many of you took every opportunity to participate in the process to develop a plan that presents a shared vision for the future. The challenge now is to ensure that the many strategies incorporated into the plan are aggressively pursued and the plan is used as a roadmap to improve the Division's existing operations and pursue new initiatives. I encourage all of you to support our staff, Citizens Advisory Boards, and partners as they implement these strategies over the next ten years.

The success of the planning process will be ultimately be measured by the success of its implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Michael Menge", is written over a light blue circular stamp. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michael Menge, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources

