

PRD Comments - General

Commenter #	Comment
032	I like the draft strategic plan and believe that it addresses a number of worthwhile goals. It is not, however, what I think of as a strategic plan. The goals and "visions" in the draft are too broad and not specific enough to address the major challenges that the parks now or will soon face. Put plainly, I think the plan is too "touchy-feely."
043	I suggest that you change the cover and plan to reflect 2007 through 2017 as 2006 is about over and the plan is not yet complete. If the plan is reflected in the next budget you should have a page that shows what in the plan has been carried forward in the next budget submittal.
057	There are so many recommended plans, strategies, agreements, charters, programs, analyses, and studies in this document that I question where we are really trying to go. Do we intend to become a closeted bureaucracy of paper pushers and bean counters? Has anyone stopped to look at all these plans and see if we can't make some of the proposals more specific? "Plan" is a 4-letter word that is hard to sell.
067	Page 3, Paragraph 2: "Division leaders must decide -or seek to influence those who decide- what kind of parks we want to leave our children...". I believe that division leaders and park managers 'together' in unison and co-operatively 'with Alaska residents' ought to be responsible for the parks we leave our children. I would like to see residents included in this sentence and I would like residents included in all planning efforts for state parks future developments.
072	As a group that promotes the health aspects of trails and outdoor recreation, we would hope the plan embraced health throughout its text as an urgent issue. Building a strong State Park system will assuredly give Alaskans access to trails, open spaces and recreation facilities for their mental and physical well-being. Great parks will help build healthy Alaskans.
076	We believe the Alaska State Parks system is important for the physical and mental well-being of Alaskans, and encourage you to embrace that role in your strategic plan!
079	In its present language, the Draft does nothing to recognize or address the inevitable conflict between two objectives which have continually proven themselves to be at odds: Objective II of the Recreation Section ("provide...facilities and infrastructure") and Objective II of the Natural and Cultural Resources section ("ensure...resources, natural viewshed and ecological communities remain intact"). Clearly these goals are not incompatible. But at present, State Parks leadership is doing little to ensure that they are made complementary. Instead, the language of the Draft Plan is substantially biased, in both length and specificity, toward infrastructure and development.
082	I applaud the efforts by DNR to acknowledge our state park system as a truly valuable asset/resource. The system must be managed as a comprehensive recreational resource, while allowing for the unique qualities that were considered as each unit was originally set aside. I do think it would be useful to provide an addendum or link to a full list of park units...many do not fully realize how vast and varied our park system is. A comprehensive list of the units along with a description of intent in setting aside that unit would be very helpful, and I'm guessing, rather eye-opening for many.
083	My concern is with the overall hierarchy of management goals for Alaska state parks. As Alaska's most protective land designation, a state park is recognized for its unique and valuable natural assets. The management of state parks, therefore, should prioritize the protection of natural resources and only allow uses of the park that are found to be consistent with that primary management goal. My review of the draft strategic plan found that the plan is vague in addressing the protection of our State Parks and overall seems to prioritize service to visitors over natural resource protection.

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091	<p>Emphasize maintenance needs and staffing anyplace applicable-and need for outdoor recreation education for safety, reduce user conflicts reduce need for regulation, enhance enjoyment of outdoors and drawn new users to outdoor recreation.</p> <p>Also mention state parks allow hunting and traditional Alaska subsistence activities.</p> <p>Take words "Strategic Plan" off cover. Replace with something like "the Future and Goals" of the Division of "Parks and Outdoor Recreation 2006-2016."</p> <p>Put mention of strategic inside.</p> <p>Put a picture of a gold panner ATV rider and better snowmachine picture. Someone hunting.</p>
092	<p>DNR & State Parks logo needed on cover.</p> <p>More winter photos, more winter opportunities focus.</p> <p>Add conclusion, last page.</p> <p>Add/move some terms to beg rather than in glossary.</p>
093	<p>Include pictures of a jetboat (or outboard) trapping, hunting in the plan.</p>
096	<p>A larger vision: Overall I am struck by how timid and narrow the plan is. I know it is hard to be optimistic after years of budget cuts and rising expenses but Alaska is a very wealthy state! As Alaska grows the parks are going to be ever more valuable. A strategic plan that calls for selling off unprofitable units and only adding new units if they meet a cost benefit ratio will not give Alaska the park system it deserves (and can afford). We should plan to rebuild and reopen the units that have been closed because of budget cuts. The plan should include a list of potential additions to the State Parks and have a goal of adding X number of new park units.</p> <p>Grapefruit Rocks State Recreation Area: Out the Elliott Highway is an ideal addition to State Park - the Grapefruit Rocks area. The area is state land with some minimal protection but through the years there have been a number of threats. An early design for the pipeline had a pump station on the rocks for the good foundation. A limestone mine was permitted nearby. And the state sold off nearby land to a church group. The area is popular with rock climbers, hikers, berry picking, and hunting and would make a great park.</p>
