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STATE OF ALASKA
Keith H. Miller, Governor



ANNUAL REPORT OF PROGRESS, 1968 - 1969
FEDERAL AID IN FISH RESTORATION PROJECT F-9-1
SPORT FISH INVESTIGATIONS OF ALASKA

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
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Volume 10

THE STATE OF ALASKA
MILLER, GOV.

INTRODUCTION

This report of progress involves the findings and work accomplished under the State of Alaska, Federal Aid in Fish Restoration, Project F-9-1, "Sport Fish Investigations of Alaska".

The work conducted during this reporting period constitutes effort on nine separate studies which are crucial in evaluating the sport fishing resources of the State. Recreational demands have necessitated broadening our knowledge of the fishery. All 20 jobs were of continuing nature enabling the Department to keep abreast of present and future impacts on certain fish species. Specifically, the work included work on inventory and cataloging of the sport fish and sport fish waters of the State, sport fishery creel census and access. Special emphasis was given to Dolly Varden, silver salmon, anadromous fish, grayling, salmon, sheefish, pike, and char. The information gathered has provided supporting documentation for better fish management and a basis for necessary future investigations.

The subject matter contained in these reports may be inconclusive. The findings and interpretation are subject to re-evaluation as the work progresses.

CAMP
MILLER, GOV.

ALASKA
Alaska Resources

RESEARCH PROJECT SEGMENT

STATE: ALASKA Name: Sport Fish Investigations of Alaska.
Project No: F-9-1 Title: Investigations of Public Fishing Access Requirements
Job No: 18-G

Period Covered: July 1, 1968 to June 30, 1969.

ABSTRACT

Land ownership information was obtained from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management in the U.S. Department of Interior and Borough land offices. The Federal multiple-use classification was reviewed in depth as it insures public access for recreational fishing and hunting on 24,506,400 acres of land.

Thirteen units classified for public recreation, comprising 176,249.66 acres and an additional 2.8 million acres classified for private entry under the open-to-entry program, were reviewed for recreational fishing access in connection with parallel sport fish inventory studies. As a result, the Department of Fish and Game obtained rights-of-way 10-feet wide on both sides of 21 fishery streams in the Susitna River area. Twenty-six key sites were also set aside for access by the State Division of Lands at the request of the Department.

The newly created Resource Management lands classification of the Department of Natural Resources will enable the Department of Fish and Game to take a more active role in multiple-use management of State lands. The Department of Fish and Game will provide information on the fish and wildlife resources for the best possible management.

The Kenai Peninsula subregion print out was completed with a more refined cataloging system consisting of 1,552 lakes. The Statewide catalog now consists of 3,534 waters.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough granted public access to Upper Bonnie Lake and a 100-foot right-of-way to Florence Lake.

Private land grants to 18 waters were reviewed.

Access trails were constructed to five lakes, and negotiations for access to two waters are in progress.

Field investigations were conducted in the Iliamna and Seward Peninsula areas.

Tables and Appendix are also included in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that the project of investigating Alaska's public sport fishing access requirements be continued.
2. It is recommended that the electronic data processing of water, land and limnological cataloging information be continued.

3. It is recommended that work be continued on canoe trails to insure access to streams which would encourage sport fishing pressure into remote areas.
4. It is recommended that research be continued in developing a uniform access road and trail sign system.
5. It is recommended that studies be conducted to determine possible considerations available to private landowners for granting of public easements.

OBJECTIVES

1. To investigate potential recreational fishing areas in the public domain, State-selected lands, borough grant lands, and private lands.
2. a) To make recommendations for the classification of lands for public fishing access purposes.
b) To make recommendations to appropriate land agencies for programs and practices which would enhance and protect the fishery resource in areas suitable for multiple land use.

TECHNIQUES USED

Information concerning biological and limnological characteristics of waters studied was obtained from survey forms and file cards maintained by the Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division. While working with the Sport Fish staff biologists, fishery information was also obtained using standard biological field survey methods.

Ownership information concerning land around lakes and streams was obtained from public records at the Alaska Division of Lands office and the offices of the Bureau of Land Management in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

The multiple-use classifications of various size land areas demonstrate the flexible nature of the newly developed program which is the result of the Classification and Multiple Use Act passed by Congress in 1964. The Walker-Fork, Salmon Lake, North Fork-Birch Creek classifications are primarily for recreation purposes, and access to key waters will be insured because of this timely action. The Bornite-Kobuk Valley classification will allow the mining industry to proceed in an orderly manner with required safeguards which will furnish protection to fish spawning areas in the Kobuk River.

The Baldwin Peninsula classification was primarily for orderly community development and also offers watershed protection to the Kotzebue area. The Ram Creek Watershed classification protects the water used by the residents of King Cove, and the Safety Sound classification primarily concerns antiquities sites.

The proposed multiple-use classification for the Gulkana-Copper River area was published in the Federal Register on May 16, 1968, and received final classification December 28, 1968 (Table 1). The actions served to segregate approximately 22 million acres from appropriation under the Agricultural Land Laws, Native Allotment Act, Trade and Manufacturing Site Act, townsites, and selections by the State of Alaska.

Land status was also obtained from borough offices in Anchorage, Soldotna, Fairbanks, and Palmer. Federal and State land records were checked periodically for the occurrence of changes in land ownership patterns.

TABLE 1 - Bureau of Land Management Classifications of Public Lands for Multiple-Use Management in Alaska.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Federal Register Document Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Gulkana-Copper River	68-15514	December 28, 1968	22,070,000
Livengood to North Slope	69-3516	March 24, 1969	<u>2,436,400</u>
		Total	24,506,400

The locations and surface areas of lakes located on the Kenai Peninsula were obtained from United States Geological Survey 1:63,360 scale maps. Acreages of surveyed lakes were obtained from lake survey forms at the Soldotna field office of the Sport Fish Division. The grid method was used for determining the acreage of unsurveyed lakes.

FINDINGS

Federal Multiple-Use Classifications

The Bureau of Land Management of the U.S. Department of the Interior filed for eight proposed Multiple-Use Classifications during this reporting period. The proposed classifications, located in various areas of the public domain, encompass 22,236,337.85 acres of land (Table 2).

TABLE 2 - Bureau of Land Management Proposed Classifications of Public Lands for Multiple-Use Management in Alaska.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Federal Register Document Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Bornite-Kobuk Valley	68-5535	May 8, 1968	5,145.00
Gulkana-Copper River	68-5843	May 15, 1968	22,070,000.00
Walker-Fork	68-4843	April 23, 1968	640.00
Salmon Lake	68-4844	April 23, 1968	8,005.00
North Fork-Birch Creek Rec. areas	68-4354	April 11, 1968	1,230.00
Baldwin Peninsula	68-11973	October 2, 1968	148,000.00
Ram Creek Watershed	68-13451	November 6, 1968	3,160.00
Safety Sound-Nome	68-4353	April 5, 1968	<u>157.85</u>
		TOTAL	22,236,337.85

The Bureau of Land Management received adverse and favorable comments concerning the Gulkana-Copper River classification. The Ahtna Tanah Nintah Native Association protested the proposed classification due to its possible effect on their aboriginal claims. The classification had no effect on aboriginal claims as it did not affect title transfer. Local residents also protested the proposal to close the area to homesteading.

The State Department of Natural Resources was greatly concerned as the proposed classification had no provisions for State selection. The Bureau of Land Management subsequently made available approximately seven million acres in the classified area for possible State selection. An equally large area was left open for State selection of administrative sites.

The Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Fish and Game entered into a joint Memorandum of Understanding to provide for the best possible management and utilization of the natural resources within the

classified area. The agreement is similar to the one previously established for the Iliamna Multiple-Use Classification Unit.

The Livengood to Sagavanirktok and Umiat classification which received final action during this reporting period is oriented to the petroleum industry on the Arctic Slope. This classification will provide a corridor to the Arctic Slope for pipeline, roadway and railway construction.

Fishery use and access conditions were investigated during a trip to the Seward Peninsula. Sport fisheries on seventeen waters adjacent to the road system serving Nome and the surrounding area were examined. Many of the heavily placer-mined streams are contained within mineral claims near the more extensively fished areas. The lack of mining activities and limited demand for private recreational sites have helped to keep the major fishing areas free of "No Trespassing" signs. The Bureau of Land Management multiple-use classification tentatively preserves the existing available public access routes. Cooperative programs involving the Bureau of Land Management and Department of Fish and Game will include steps to permanently retain the necessary access.

The Bureau of Land Management and Division of Lands have recently established a campground on Salmon Lake located 40 miles north of Nome on the Kougarok Road and within the Bureau of Land Management multiple-use classification area.

A cooperative field trip with Bureau of Land Management personnel was taken to Lake Iliamna during May. The purpose of the trip was to investigate the sport fish potential and possible access sites in the proposed disposal areas within the unit classified for multiple use in 1967. Streams flowing into the eastern half of Lake Iliamna were examined; the remainder are scheduled for inspection during 1969.

Withdrawal Actions

The one significant withdrawal action was contained in Presidential Proclamation No. 3890 issued on January 21, 1969, which enlarges the boundary of Katmai National Monument. The monument will now include all of Naknek Lake and approximately four miles of the Upper Naknek River. The enlargement will protect the watershed from unmanaged private entry and possible land use detrimental to salmon and trout spawning and insure continued use of the sport fishery which is heavily utilized by residents and military personnel at King Salmon.

Public Land Law Review Commission

The Public Land Law Review Commission was established by the United States Congress on September 19, 1967 (78 STAT. 982, 43 U.S.C. 1391-1400) to: (1) "Study existing statutes and regulations governing the retention, management, and disposition of the public lands;" (2) "review the policies and properties of the Federal agencies charged with administrative jurisdiction over such lands insofar as such policies and practices relate to the retention, management, and disposition of these lands;" and (3) "compile data necessary to understand and determine the various demands on the public lands which now exist and which are likely to exist in the foreseeable future."

The settlement of Alaska has been undertaken with land laws which have been in effect for as long as a century. The unsuitability of Alaska's soils and weather for agricultural purposes, combined with the trend toward urban living and a need for public recreation lands, have brought to light shortcomings in the application of those laws. Watershed protection, vital to fish populations, cannot be adequately managed with indiscriminate land disposal and use.

At the present time, Federal public lands make up approximately 95 percent of the total land area of Alaska. Upon completion by the State of the public lands selection now in progress, the public lands will still comprise approximately two-thirds of the total State land area.

The Commission let 34 contracts to various groups to study various subjects and to submit reports which would enable the Commission to effectively evaluate existing land laws. The University of Wisconsin was awarded the contract to gather all the background information for the Alaska portion of the study which, due to its unique situation in regard to public lands, was considered a separate problem. Initial reports on birds, fish and wildlife put out by the University of Wisconsin staff members were reviewed.

Trails

A joint project with the Division of Game, Lands Section, was undertaken to determine procedures for the dedication of trails with 44 LD 513 action. A centerline survey was conducted for a trail which provided access to Moose Lake, located 16 miles west of Glennallen. The 8.38-mile trail begins at Tolsona Lake, bears northwesterly to Moose Lake, then south to the Glenn Highway.

Action for 44 LD 513 dedication must be initiated by a Federal agency which has provided funds for a particular project. Such rights-of-way may be appropriated under the principles of the instructions of January 13, 1916 (44 LD 513), with the consent of the agency having jurisdiction or control over the land. The survey description and plat were submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for that agency to make the formal request to the Bureau of Land Management for the dedication of the trail; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service having the vested interest through the expenditure of Federal Aid Dingell-Johnson and Pittman-Robertson funds.

Angler use of twelve stream and lake systems was increased by the publication of the "Alaska Canoe Trails" brochure. The publication, which was prepared by a joint effort of the Department of Fish and Game, Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, is a guide to the major highway-accessible water routes of Alaska. Information used in the brochure, as well as the funds involved in the printing, was furnished by all the participating agencies. The dispensing of information on the little known but accessible canoe routes disperses fishing pressure and enables an angler to have a high-quality fishing trip for a relatively low price. The brochure provides fairly detailed information on 889 miles of stream travel.

Assistance was given to the Bureau of Land Management in developing a series of signs for foot and canoe trails in Alaska. The final result of this project will be a proposed uniform trail-marking system for the use of all agencies involved with the construction and marking of trails.

State of Alaska Land Selections

The Alaska Division of Lands selected 7,823,929 acres of Federal Public Domain lands during 1968. Almost all of the selections were made in potentially petroleum-rich areas at Bristol Bay, the Arctic Slope and the Gulkana Basin. Tentative approval was obtained on 156,261 acres and patent received on 160,327 acres during 1968. The tentative approval and patented acreages were lowest for any year since Statehood. The State Land Program is presently being delayed primarily by the Native Land Claims which now encompass 388,820,240 acres. Overlapping claims make the total greater than the land area of Alaska.

State Classification

The Division of Lands classified for public recreation 13 units of State-patented lands consisting of 176,249.66 acres during the 1968 reporting period (Table 3). The largest parcels of land included the proposed Keystone Canyon State Park and a unit in the Upper Susitna drainage for a proposed recreation area bordering Mt. McKinley National Park.

One of the most important changes in the State land entry laws since Statehood occurred during this reporting period with final legislative action on HCSSB 363 on April 24, 1968. The Act amends Alaska Statute 38.05 and relates to the classification of certain State lands as "land open to entry".

The original bill, as submitted, drew much opposition from sportsmen's clubs, conservation groups and the Department of Fish and Game, who were concerned about the indiscriminate type of entry and its effect on preventing access to the remote areas. The Division of Lands suggested changes which made the final bill potentially less destructive to public areas and more acceptable to the concerned groups.

The 2.8 million acres of land classified as "Open to Entry" by the State Division of Lands are all located in fairly remote areas. None is within one mile of an established road, and key areas designed by the access project were withheld from this form of land entry.

Interest was initially high for those individuals wishing to obtain an isolated recreation site. The cost of survey and the additional prospect of having to purchase the land caused many people to lose interest. Large-scale land developers and speculators will be able to more readily absorb the survey cost by subdividing the original five acres. The resultant smaller parcels will greatly reduce the aesthetic and recreation values of the initially isolated areas.

One notable example of how unplanned entries affect future access is in the Susitna Valley open-to-entry area along an oil company road which goes south of the Petersville Road toward the Deshka River. An increasing number of five-acre parcels is being applied for along both sides of the road and is effectively preventing legal access to the vast area behind the entries.

The Sport Fish Access Project cooperated with the Alaska Division of Lands whereby key areas within the 1,882,019-acre Susitna Valley open-to-entry area were set aside for public access. Pedestrian stream bank rights-of-way 10-foot wide were established on both sides of 21 fishery streams (Appendix A).

Twenty-six sites requested by the public access project were excluded from the lands available to private entry through the open-to-entry program (Appendix B).

Further action on the 26 sites, which are in addition to the 13 Reserve-Use sites consisting of 148 acres requested in 1965, will depend upon the results of field studies.

Reserve-Use Applications

Reserve-Use applications were submitted to the Division of Lands on waters where classification and economic development was anticipated. Thirteen Reserve-Use applications were filed for sites along the Sterling Highway from the Kenai River to Fox River near Homer because of proposed land sales by the Alaska Division of Lands. Reserve-Use applications were requested on Kasilof, Spade, Round, MacKeys, Church, Varden, Clam Gulch, Arrow, Dogleg, and Crooked Lakes and two unnamed lakes. The object

TABLE 3 - Land Classification Orders Issued by the Alaska Division of Lands for Public Recreation During the 1968 Reporting Period.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Acres</u>
506	9/25/68	T 7S R 11W SM	Halibut Cove, Kachemak Bay, Homer	12,663.00
506 #1	10/24/68	T 7S R 11W SM	Halibut Cove, Kachemak Bay, Homer	320.00
507	4/30/68	T 2S R 1W SM	Resurrection Bay, Seward	1,610.00
510	4/17/68	T 8S R2-3W CRM	Keystone Canyon, Valdez	77,840.00
512	4/17/68	T 1N R 1W FM	Birch Hill, Fairbanks	200.00
513	4/12/68	T 2S R 1E SM	Thumb Cove, Resurrection Bay	33.00
514	4/12/68	T 5N R 8W SM	Kenai River, Naptown	25.75
515	4/24/68	T 2N R 11W SM	Johnson Lake, Soldotna	157.85
528	5/15/68	T 1S R 1W FM	Chena River Campground	26.86
538	6/24/68	T17N R 1W SM	Lucile Lake, Wasilla	79.12
577	11/07/68	T27N R 4W SM	Susitna River, Talkeetna	81,765.00
598	11/18/68	T 1N R 1W FM	Creamer's Dairy, Fairbanks	1,520.00
614	2/20/69	T27S R 22W SM	Kodiak Island, Settlers Cove Area	9.08
			Total Acreage	176,249.66

of these Reserve-Use sites is to insure sufficient access and to disperse the fishing pressure due to the high angler participation in the salmon sport fishery in this area.

Reserve-Use applications were also submitted to provide future parking space and launching sites where major streams cross the Petersville Highway. Streams recently becoming accessible by automobile and accorded Reserve-Use applications were Kroto, Peters and Twenty-Mile Creeks.

Four existing Department of Fish and Game Reserve-Use applications were closed out at the request of the Division of Lands during this report period. An application on Carpenter Lake (26285) was closed out when investigation revealed a more advantageous site to be available on the lake. Three applications (26315, 26316 and 26317) located on Stormy Lake on the Kenai Peninsula were no longer needed when State legislative action created a public recreation area which encompassed the three sites. Application 26663 on the Kenai River was greatly reduced when field examination indicated no need for the surplus land.

A new land-classification category entitled "Resource Management Lands" provides that the Division of Lands will work closely with other State agencies, primarily the Department of Fish and Game, in formulating a land-use policy consistent with the principle of multiple use. The Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Natural Resources are planning a joint study of the recreational values of the Wood River-Tikchik Lake area. The Division of Lands, in cooperation with the Department of Fish and Game, will be preparing a comprehensive plan for the potential development of that parcel of State land as a recreation area.

The Department of Fish and Game obtained a site on Nuyakuk Lake which will be used as headquarters for staff members conducting research and management activities in the Wood River-Tikchik area. The site consists of three buildings which were constructed by the Air Force during the winter of 1967 and 1968 for a salvage operation involving a National Guard airplane which dropped through the ice. The Air Force transferred ownership of the facility to the Department of Fish and Game when the salvage operations were completed. The conveyance for the buildings was an agreement between the USAF, acting by and through the Commander of the Alaska Air Command, and the State of Alaska, represented by the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game.

A ten-acre parcel of land on which the transferred facilities are located was obtained from the Department of Natural Resources by a letter of non-objection. The camp will be vacated if and when the Department of Natural Resources feels that the facility is not compatible with the most desirable use of the area.

A major project during this reporting period was to further refine the cataloging system which presently contains entries for 3,534 waters. The four Sport Fish Division management regions were divided into 29 subregions, with boundaries generally determined by watersheds or convenient administrative areas. Southeastern Alaska subregions are northern southeast, central southeast, southern southeast, and Yakutat. The southcentral region contains 10 subregions which include Cordova-Valdez, Kenai Peninsula, Anchorage-Matanuska Valley, Upper Susitna, Susitna west side, Copper River, Wrangell-McCarthy, Bristol Bay, Aleutian Islands, and Alaska Peninsula.

The interior region contains 14 subregions which include Fairbanks-Steese and Chena, Fairbanks-Forty-Mile, Fairbanks-Elliott, Fairbanks-Tanana, Fort Yukon, Middle Yukon, South Tanana, McGrath, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Nome, Kotzebue Sound, Koyukuk, Arctic Slope, and Upper Tanana-White River.

The Kodiak region is all contained within the Kodiak-Afognak Island subregion. General information on the new format includes lake name, code number, type of water (lake, stream, river, marine), township, range, meridian, section, sport fish region and subregion. Access information will include U.S. Geological Survey 1:63,360 map number, land-ownership status, acreage of public-access site, case number used by land control agencies, and foot frontage of the site. Information concerning the water includes a designation as to whether it is glacial or clear, landlocked or drained by an outlet. Data obtained by staff biologists concerning maximum depth, surface acres and species of fish present is also included. A space was provided in the format for a coding which would enable any amount of additional material to be stored on the tape and retrieved on demand. Such additional information could include fish stocking history, rehabilitation projects and code numbers for cataloging systems of other agencies.

Available information on the 1,552 lakes in the Kenai Peninsula was recalled and printed in four different formats to demonstrate the flexibility of the program and to determine which format would be most useful to the access project and staff field biologists. The cost of the program, exclusive of the biologists' time in putting the data on forms, was \$408.00 for thirty hours of programmer time, three hours of keypunch time and one hour's use of the computer.

Wayside Fishing Information

Sport fishing information requested by the Alaska Division of Lands, Parks and Recreation Section, was obtained for 48 State public wayside and campground areas covering the entire State. Sport Fish biologists from the various regions provided information on the sport fisheries for waters served by the campgrounds. Information included species present, when, where, and how to fish and a suggestion to refer to the Sport Fish Regulations for daily bag and possession limits. The information will appear on bulletin boards at each wayside or campground.

Alaska State Housing Authority

The Alaska State Housing Authority requested assistance from the access project to supply information needed for planning projects in the Matanuska-Susitna and Kenai Peninsula Boroughs. Biological, limnological and land-ownership information on lakes was furnished for the preparation of comprehensive development plans for the respective Borough Planning Commissions.

Research is being conducted to determine the feasibility of a tax relief program for landowners who grant easements to the public for hunting and fishing access. Letters of inquiry to gather background material and implementation information were sent to states that have initiated such programs. Areas considered for such possible action are access trails to lakes in the Matanuska Valley and stream-bank easements along the Anchor River. Application of this program would be primarily with the borough governments, as the State of Alaska has no property tax.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly passed resolutions which will furnish public access to two fishing lakes in the Matanuska Valley.

Assembly Resolution Serial No. 68-25:

This resolution granted a right-of-way 100-feet wide along a Borough-owned parcel of land in Township 19 North, Range 5 West, Section 23, S.M. to provide access to Florence Lake.

Assembly Resolution Serial No. 69-3:

This resolution provided for a public access site on Upper Bonnie

Lake at the terminus of a trail presently being negotiated by the Department of Fish and Game with private landowners.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly, however, declined to follow through on a planned purchase of the land around Falk Lake. The Falk Lake property has, in the past, been a popular fishery with access being allowed by the landowners. The land presently owned by the Matanuska Valley Bank is closed to the public because of liability problems.

Private Grants of Right-of-Way

The review of existing easement grants revealed that 18 waters have received some form of public access from private landowners (Table 4).

TABLE 4 - Public Access Right-of-Way Grants.

<u>Water</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Length in Feet</u>	<u>Date of Grant</u>
Big Beaver Lake	T17N R3W SM	Smith	4,306	3/1/61
Bradley Lake	T17N R1E SM	Kepler	1,864	5/3/55
Canoe Lake	T17N R1E SM	Sherrod	3,857	8/18/64
Echo Lake	T17N R1E SM	Kepler	1,686	5/3/55
Irene Lake	T17N R1E SM	Sherrod	554	8/18/64
Kepler Lake	T17N R1E SM	Kepler, Swoboda, Carlow, Van Zanten	2,498	9/13/64
Kepler Lake	T17N R1E SM	Kepler	1,864	5/3/55
Lucile Lake	T17N R1W SM	Kennedy	1,500	2/27/63
Reed Lake	T18N R1E SM	Thompson	350	1/18/66
Ryan Lake	T 3N R3W CRM	Strunk	573	3/5/63
Tex Smith Lake	T 4N R6W CRM	Smith	462	6/10/53
Tolsona Lake	T 4N R4W CRM	Ballard	2,199	4/11/61
Salcha River	T 5S R4E FM	Kukowski	1,600	3/14/67
Long Lake	T17N R1E SM	Johnson	5,764	6/26/63
Knik Lake	T16N R3W SM	Bjorn	1,306	7/27/57
Meiers Lake	T17N R2E SM	Peirstorff, Rice	200	12/8/58
Gooding Lake	T18N R1E SM	Lewis	1,325	4/26/63
Triangle Lake	T17N R1E SM	Johnson	2,534	6/26/63
Gen Lake	T17N R1E SM	Johnson	3,253	6/26/63
TOTAL			37,695	

Most of the private grants were obtained on waters located in the Matanuska Valley where the access problem is complex due to the large number of lakes, intensive land use and a great demand for fishing from local and Anchorage residents.

Negotiations are underway to provide a foot trail 10-foot wide, from Lower Bonnie Lake to Upper Bonnie Lake. The trail is 6,026 feet long and involves three landowners, two of whom reside out of the state at the present time. Negotiations are also in progress to gain access through the University of Alaska Experimental Farm to a site on the north shore of Matanuska Lake. An access site on the lake was granted to the Department of Fish and Game for public use by a private landowner. The site itself, however, will remain inaccessible until the University of Alaska Board of Regents grants an easement.

Constructed Public Access Trails

Access trails were constructed into several lakes which experience varying degrees of public utilization to determine the degrees of development needed to satisfy the needs of the public (Table 5). Experimental

trails created with herbicides in 1962 and 1963 did not appear suitable as the trees and brush have to be physically removed to stimulate public use of a particular route. Trails were constructed during this reporting period by cutting and removing the underbrush and low limbs from large trees along the trail route. No tread work, bridging or cutting and filling was done in an effort to leave the trail close to a natural state.

TABLE 5 - Angler Access Trails Located and Marked in 1968.

<u>Water</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Approximate Length of Trail</u>
Upper Fire Lake	MP 17.2 Glenn Highway	800 feet
Our Creek, Moose Lake	MP 170 Glenn Highway	3,960 feet
Reed Lake	9 miles N.E. of Wasilla	350 feet
Irene Lake	3.9 miles S.W. of Palmer	7,920 feet
Triangle Lake	3.9 miles S.W. of Palmer	60 feet
Canoe Lake	3.9 miles S.W. of Palmer	30 feet
	TOTAL	13,120 feet

Metal, fluorescent-orange, diamond-shaped, Fish and Game trail signs have been placed along foot trails that lead to Reed, Irene and Canoe Lakes during this reporting period. Other public access signs made of weather-proof cardboard are being placed where the Department of Fish and Game has constructed trails or obtained access sites for fishing recreation. Four different signs were acquired to designate the public access sites and trails and to respect the adjacent private property.

DISCUSSION

The two Multiple-Use Classification actions carried out by the Bureau of Land Management and the eight proposed classifications will insure an orderly disposition of affected public lands adjacent to sport fishery waters. Recreation and industry-oriented classifications will serve their intended purposes but not necessarily in a singular manner. Protection of the Fish and Game resources within the classified areas will be assisted by the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Land Management and the Department of Fish and Game.

The coordination of material and funds from several agencies for the "Alaska Canoe Trails" brochure is an example of what can be done with hunter and angler access trails for foot or vehicular traffic. The advent of multiple-use classification not only relieves the pressure of trails being lost to private entries but charges the land-administering agencies with the task of opening up the land and the resources for use by the public.

The "Open-to-Entry" program initiated by the State of Alaska was as regressive as the Bureau of Land Management classification was progressive. Random, unplanned land entries in key areas with no regulations or zoning to direct ultimate land use will quickly destroy the recreation values of the affected areas. Effort by the Alaska Division of Lands in processing applications for the retention of important sites will allow anglers access to the water which is surrounded by such settlement. The ten-foot wide pedestrian rights-of-way along both sides of requested streams is

minimal and should be considered stop-gap until State legislation creates such an easement along all navigable streams.

The proposed cooperative research program being planned by the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Game in the Wood River-Tikchik area will place the two agencies together to jointly seek and evaluate data which will be used to manage the largest parcel of land selected by the State for recreational purposes.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough assisted with angler access problems on two lakes when the Assembly passed resolutions dedicating small parcels of land for access. Action on a third lake was defeated when members of the Assembly opposed the purchase of land for public recreation on the basis of it creating liability problems and establishing a precedent of providing a service which could be provided by a private entrepreneur.

The water cataloging program was materially improved with the listing of Kenai Peninsula lakes. The new format will be more useful to staff biologists in the field and to other governmental agencies. The extension and ultimate completion of this program will provide a framework to include the basis for biological, limnological and land-ownership information for all waters in the state.

Increased public use of existing sites and trails granted by private landowners and a greater demand for private recreation sites have caused considerable difficulty in gaining additional easements to fishing waters. State or Federal funds may have to be expended to acquire sites and easements in the future. Agreements with local governments or the State Department of Natural Resources may have to be drawn up to provide for the continued maintenance of such sites.

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Appendix A - Streams with Pedestrian Rights-of-Way 10-Foot Wide Along Both Banks Within the Susitna Valley Open-to-Entry Area.

<u>Stream</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Division of Lands Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Division of Lands Number</u>
Alexander Creek	T17N R 7W SM	40906	T17N R 8W SM	40907
	T19N R 8W SM	40921	T18N R 8W SM	40914
	T19N R 9W SM	40922		
Anderson Creek	T17N R 7W SM	40906		
Chunilna Creek	T27N R 4W SM	40954	T28N R 3W SM	40957
Donkey Creek	T24N R12W SM	40950		
Donkey Creek Slough	T23N R11W SM	40944	T23N R12W SM	40945
	T24N R12W SM	40950		
Fish Creek	T17N R 6W SM	40905	T18N R 7W SM	40913
	T19N R 7W SM	40920		
Fish Lake Streams	T22N R 9W SM	40938	T21N R 9W SM	40932
Fish River	T17N R 5W SM	40904		
Kroto Creek	T19N R 6W SM	40919	T20N R 6W SM	40924
	T21N R 6W SM	40929	T22N R 6W SM	40936
	T22N R 7W SM	40937	T21N R 7W SM	40930
	T23N R 6W SM	40941	T23N R 7W SM	40942
	T24N R 7W SM	40947	T25N R 7W SM	40953
	T27N R 7W SM	40956		
Kroto Slough	T18N R 7W SM	40913	T18N R 6W SM	40912
	T17N R 7W SM	40906		
Lake Creek	T21N R 9W SM	40932	T22N R 9W SM	40938
	T23N R 9W SM	40943	T24N R 9W SM	40948
	T24N R10W SM	40949		
Lewis River	T16N R 9W SM	40903		
Lower Sucker Creek	T17N R 8W SM	40907	T18N R 8W SM	40914
	T18N R 9W SM	40915		
Moose Creek	T20N R 8W SM	40925	T21N R 6W SM	40929
	T22N R 6W SM	40936	T23N R 6W SM	40941
	T24N R 6W SM	40946	T25N R 6W SM	40952
	T27N R 6W SM	40955		
Shell Creek	T21N R12W SM	40934		
Talachulitna Creek	T17N R11W SM	40909	T17N R12W SM	40910
	T17N R13W SM	40911		
Talachulitna River	T17N R10W SM	40908	T18N R10W SM	40916
	T18N R11W SM	40917	T18N R12W SM	40918
	T19N R12W SM	40923	T20N R11W SM	40926
	T20N R12W SM	40927	T21N R12W SM	40934
Trapper Creek	T20N R 6W SM	40924	T21N R 5W SM	40928
	T21N R 6W SM	40929	T27N R 6W SM	40955
	T28N R 6W SM	40958	T22N R 5W SM	40935

Appendix A (Cont) - Streams with Pedestrian Rights-of-Way 10-Foot Wide Along Both Banks Within the Susitna Valley Open-to-Entry Area.

<u>Stream</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Division of Lands Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Division of Lands Number</u>
Troublesome Creek	T29N R 5W SM	40959	T30N R 4W SM	40960
Yentna River	T17N R 7W SM	40906	T22N R11W SM	40940
	T18N R 7W SM	40913	T23N R11W SM	40944
	T18N R 8W SM	40914	T19N R 8W SM	40921
	T23N R12W SM	40945	T20N R 8W SM	40925
	T24N R12W SM	40950	T21N R 9W SM	40932
	T21N R 8W SM	40931	T24N R13W SM	40951
	T22N R10W SM	40933	T22N R10W SM	40939
Nine-Mile Creek	T24N R 6W SM	40946	T25N R 6W SM	40952

Appendix B - Public Access Sites that were Excluded from the Open-to-Entry Area by Public Access Project Request.

<u>Water</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Fish Creek	T18N R 7W SM	36	40
Alexander Creek	T18N R 8W SM	35	20
Talachulitna River	T19N R12W SM	3	160
Yentna River	T20N R 8W SM	27	60
Yentna River	T23N R12W SM	16	10
Moose Creek	T24N R 6W SM	9	40
Sawmill Creek	T25N R 6W SM	12	40
Unnamed Lake Outlet	T25N R 6W SM	35	20
Talachulitna River	T19N R12W SM	4	160
Talachulitna River	T20N R12W SM	12	250
Talachulitna River	T20N R12W SM	13	140
Talachulitna River	T20N R12W SM	26	330
Talachulitna River	T20N R12W SM	34	170
Talachulitna River	T20N R12W SM	35	320
Lockwood Lake	T19N R 7W SM	9	20
Eight-Mile Lake	T20N R10W SM	6	40
Unnamed Lake	T21N R12W SM	3	40
Unnamed Lake	T22N R14W SM	8	10
Parker Lake	T23N R 7W SM	36	60
Unnamed Lake	T27N R 3W SM	27	40
Unnamed Lake	T27N R 7W SM	3	10
Unnamed Lake	T28N R 6W SM	26	20
Bunco Lake	T28N R 7W SM	2	40
Billie Lake	T29N R 5W SM	22	10
Unnamed Lake	T29N R 6W SM	10	40
Unnamed Lake	T29N R 6W SM	35	20
TOTAL			2,110



A Series of Lakes in the Matanuska Valley Offers fine Fishing to Southcentral Alaska Anglers through the Joint Effort of Access, Research and Management Biologists.