Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project Document ARLIS Uniform Cover Page

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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

Betsy McGřegðr 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, <u>http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org/meetings/past-meetings</u>.

⁴ The updated draft survey instruments and comment instructions are available at AEA's licensing website, <u>http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org/type/documents</u>, 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

ATTACHMENT 1

AEA Response to FERC Staff Recommendations on Draft Recreation Survey Instruments

FERC Study Plan Determination	AEA Study Team Action
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

ATTACHMENT 2

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

General Co	mments			
Reference Number	Commenter	Comment Date	Comment or Study Request	AEA's Response
REC-1	NPS	3/7/13 & 3/25/13	the likely location of operational buildings, the airport, and alternative routes for the transmission line and access road. The	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 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 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 Febr	uary 22 versior	n of the Intercept Survey	
REC-3	NPS	3/6/13	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	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	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."	
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	s Regarding the	February 22 v	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 are, 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 torecreational 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

				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.
REC-12	NPS		NPS recommends "providing a one-page introduction similar to the edited versions from other surveys."	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.
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."	See AEA's response to comment REC-1.

DEC 14 NDS 2/25/12 "The current version of this survey fails to calicit information about 1/	AEA did not adopt those changes recommended by NDS when
requests. Please consider adding this to an existing question (e.g. a Q. 29) or as a separate question."	 AEA did not adopt these changes recommended by NPS when inalizing 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 USDOI and the NPS requested be considered in their previous comments regarding evaluating the effects of the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project on recreation: "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. Thenthe 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" (USDOI 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 recreation demand model is designed to evaluate the types of changes under With-Project conditions presented in USDOI and NPS' comments, including the evaluation of displacement. Specifically, the recreation demand model will be used to predict now 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 pre

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."	
REC-16	NPS	3/25/13	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."	establish if the respondent was hunting for subsistence or recreation (or both). The purpose of this new question is not to
REC-17	NPS	3/25/13		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		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)	

Time _

with the McDowell Group. We're conducting a recreation study for the Hi, I'm 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?

1⊓ Yes 2□ No (thank and end survey)

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

1□ Yes (thank and end survey) 2**D** 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)
 - 1 Just passing through (Probe, then thank and end survey)
 - 2□ Day visit → Where are you visiting in the Study Area? (check boxes Q4)

3□ Overnight visit (skip to Q1a)

4 Live in the study area (if they are overnighting 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? #	1 □ DK/r	ef.
1b. As of today, how many nights have you spent in the Study Area so far? #	1□ DK/r	ef.

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

- 2a. Are you overnighting 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 ⊡ Talkeetna	#51								01
02 Talkeetna Lodge	#41								02
03□ Trapper Creek	#51								03 🗖
04 McKinley Princess	#41								04
05 Byers Lake	#21								05
₀₀□ Cantwell	#1								06 🗖
07 Brushkana	#3								07 🗖
08□ Tangle Lakes	#19								08 🗖
09 Lake Louise	#60								09
10 Other									10
11 Other									11
12 Other									12
13 Other									13
14 Other									14
15 Other									15
16 Other									16🗖
17 Other									17
18 Other									18

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

1 None

5.	Please tell me if you have participated, or will participate, in any of the following recreational activities within the Study Area on <u>this</u> 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 (Show map, ask for each activity. Record g	vill in the study area on this outing? rid numbers.)						
6.	Which activity was the primary reason fe	r <u>this</u> outing to the Study Area? (activity letter) 1□DK/ref.						
	6aa. How many days will you (primary ac	ivity) on this outing? (day=any part of a day) 02□ DK/ref.						
	6a. Did you hire a guide for (primary act	vity) on this outing? 01 Ves 02 No 03 DK/ref.						
	6b. Have you ever been to the study are	a 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 activi	y) 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 recreation	nal 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	10		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	80		8□	
I. Fishing for other species	90		9□	
J. Flightseeing	10□		10□	
K. Hunting	11□♦		110	
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 <u>primary</u> 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)

- o1□ 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

- 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.			u ting, di ⊐ Yes			tore than (ip to Q8)		mile fror I DK/ref			or main r	oad into	o the Study
		7d.	Where	was yo	our most	recen	nt excursi	ion into th	ne Study	Area	of more	than on	e-half m	nile?
			(show	detail m	ap) grid	numb	er/s		_1□ DK/re	ef.				
		7e.	How o	ften did	you en	counte	er other p	eople on	that exc	ursion	? (read	1-3)		
			1□ Ne\	/er	2 □ 1	1 to 6 ti	imes	3□	∎ >6 time	es	4	DK/ref.		
		7f.	On tha	at excur	sion. die	d vou f	travel on	establish	ed trails	. off-tra	ail. or b	oth?		
				ablished		-	Off-trail			Both	,	4 □ DK/	ref.	
		7g.		atexcur ₁⊡ Y			camp in t I No	he Study		o re tha DK/ref		alf mile	from a f	trailhead or
8.								outing wh means "v					cale of	1 – 10,
Not	t at a	all cro	owded								Very cr	owded		
1		2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11 🗖	DK/ref.	
	8a.	(Sl		ap, recor	d grid nu	umber.		icular whe				□ DK/re	f.	
										-				
9.	On	this	outing	a did vo	u experi	ience a	anv confl	ict with of	ther indi	- vidual:	s or aro	ups that	negativ	velv
					tion exp						- J -		J	
	1	Υe	es	2	No (ski	ip to Q	10) 3 ⊡	DK/ref (sl	kip to Q1	0)				
	9a.				ivity wa : on or oth			vidual or	group ei	ngageo	d in?			
										1 🗆 D	0K/ref (s	kip to Q1	0)	
	9b.	w	hat spe	ecifically	/ caused	d the c	onflict?							
										_1 □ D)K/ref			
10.			recall the are		any sigr	ns of ir	nfrastruc	ture or hu	ıman act	ivity tł	nat detra	acted fro	om the s	scenic quality
	1	Yes	;	2 □ No	(skip to	Q11)	3 ⊡ DK/I	ref. (skip to	o Q11)					
		-	not rea		t did you k all that			cted from	the sce	nic qua	ality?			
	03🗖	Pov	nmunic ver line Iroad	ation tov s	wers		₀8⊐ Peo	icles (RV, ple er:						
		Tra					10□ DK/I							
11.	Do	you	recall	if any <u>n</u>	<u>oises</u> de	etracte	ed from y	our enjoy	ment of	the are	ea?			
		Yes			kip to Q1)K/ref. (ski						
	11a	ı. S	pecific	ally, wh	at type	of nois	ses? (Do	not read, o	check all	that ap	oply, pro	be)		
	01 🗖	Noi	se from	other p	eople	05 🗖	Helicopt	ers		o9 ⊐ Ch	nainsaw			
			nshots	-			Boats							
	03 🗖	Airp	lanes			07 🗖	Four wh	eeler/ATV		11 🗆 Dł	<td></td> <td></td> <td></td>			

04□ Jet aircraft sonic boom 08□ Cars/trucks/RV

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
I. 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.

62 Mexico

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

1 🗖	#	in party	2□	DK/ref.
10			20	Divion

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 Alas	ka?					
	10	Yes 2□	No (skip to	o Q15c)	3 ⊐ DK/re	ef. (skip to Q15c)		
	15a.	What is your home zi		kip to Q20)	01	DK/ref.		
	15b.	. What community do y	vou live in?	(skip to Q2	0)	01 🗖 🖸	0K/ref. (skip t	o Q20)
	15c.	Do you live in the Uni	ted States?	•				
		1□ Yes 2□ No (ski	ip to Q16)	3 □ DK/ref.	(skip to	Q22)		
	15d.	. What is your home zij		skip to Q17)	01□	DK/ref. (skip to Q1	7)	
	15e.	What community and	state do yo	ou live in?	(s	kip to Q17)	01 □ Dł	K/ref.(skip to Q17)
16.	In w	hat country do you live	e? (Do not ı	ead)	01 🗖	DK/ref.		
	52 □ 53 □	Australia Austria Belgium Canada	57 Germ 58 India 59 Italy 60 Japar			Netherlands New Zealand Russia Spain	69 7 70 0 71 0	nited Kingdom
	55 🗖	China	61 Korea	l	67 🗖	Sweden		

68 Switzerland

56 France

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 \square Yes → 18a. Can you estimate the price per-person for this package? $_$ 1 \square DK/ref. 2 \square 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 <u>party's</u> total spending <u>so far</u> 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	₀₅ ⊐ \$75,001 to \$99,999
₀₂□ \$20,001 to \$35,000	₀₀□ \$100,000 to \$149,999
₀₃□ \$35,001 to \$50,000	₀7 □ \$150,000 or more
₀₄⊐ \$50,001 to \$75,000	

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

1□ Yes 2□ No (skip to Read) 3□ DK/Ref (skip to Read)

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

 1□
 Wheelchair access to trails
 4□ DK/ref.

 2□
 Wheelchair access to facilities
 3□ 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.
1 Refused (thank and end survey)

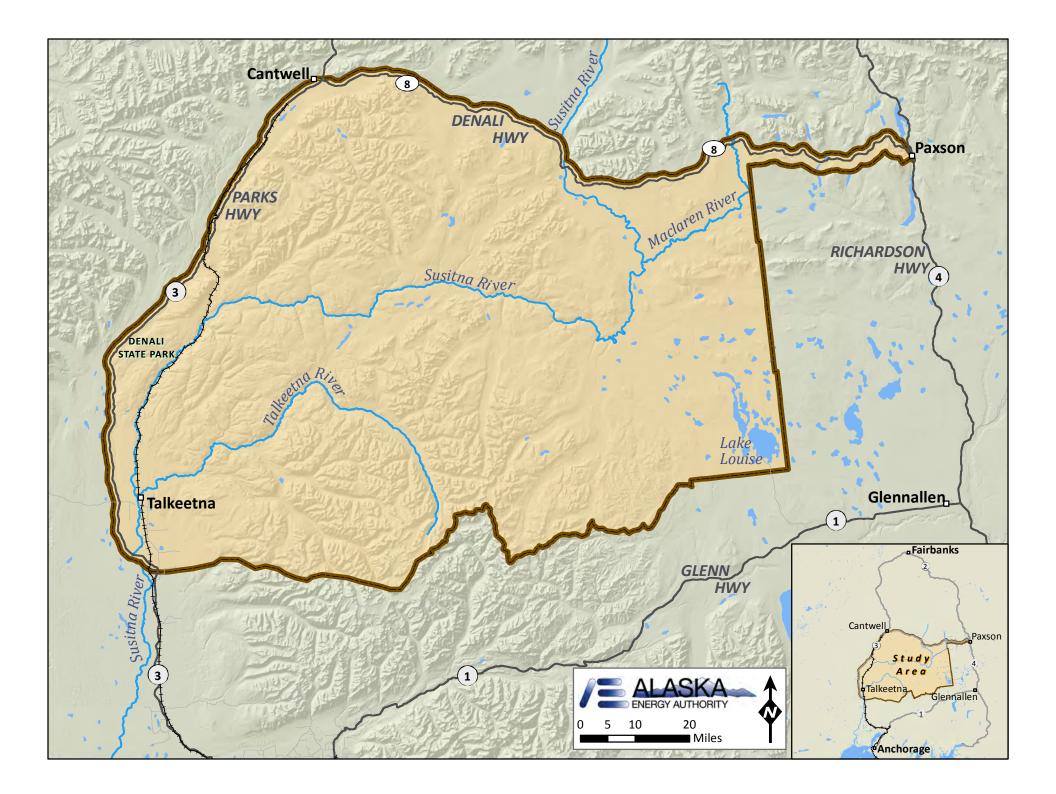
First name_____ Email/phone_

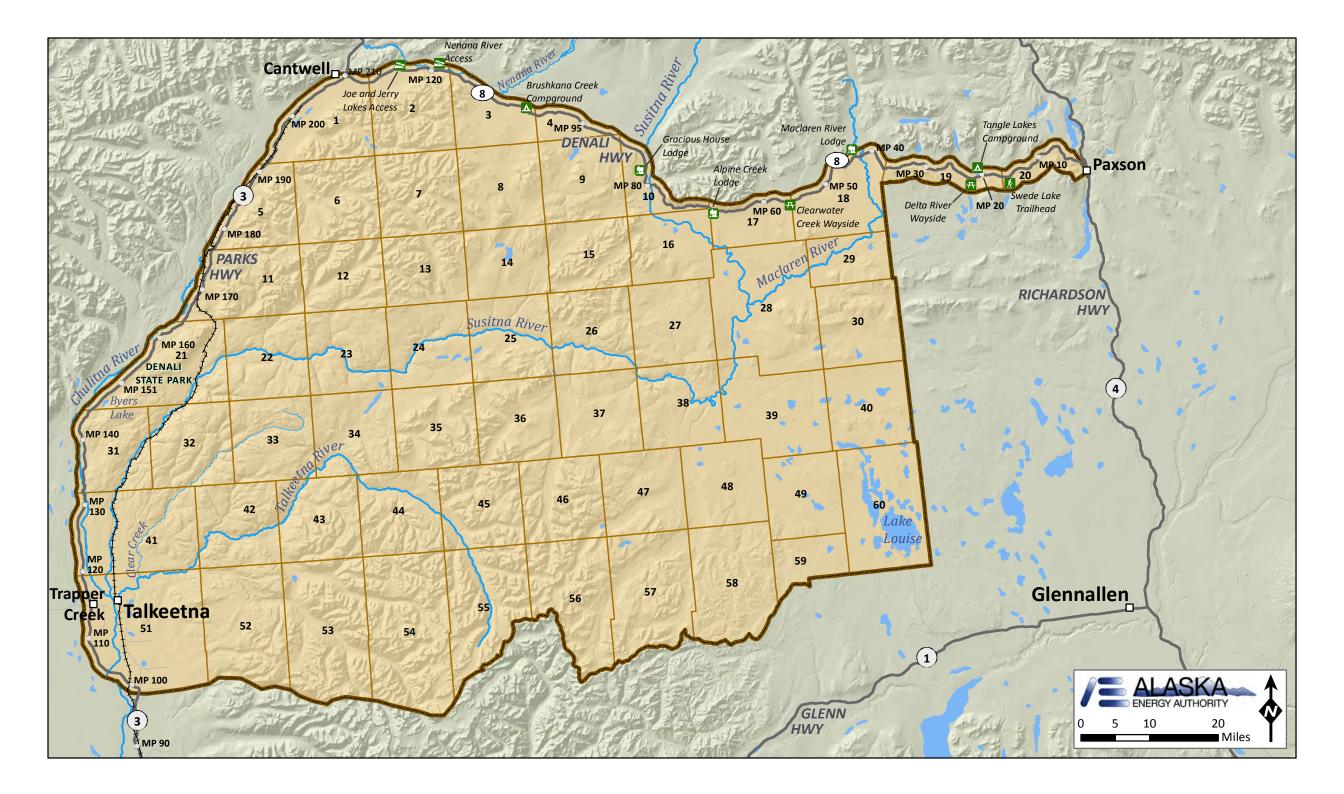
26. As part of this recreation study we may be conducting additional research. Would you be willing to participate in a follow-up survey? 1 Yes 2 No

Thank you for participating in this survey!

27. Observed mode of transportation.

o1□ Car/Van/Truck o2□ RV/Motorhome/Campe o3□ Motorcycle o4□ Four-wheeler	r	06□ Alaska Ra 07□ Snowmac 08□ Dogsled 09□ Bicycle		11	Motorcoach Pedestrian Other:
28. Gender (DO NOT ASK)	1 □ Male	2□ Female	3 ⊡ Unknown		





•	cept Site Recreation Tally
Day of the week Su M Tu W Th F Sa Surveyors	
Number of surveys completed at this locat	ion
Upon arriving at location, enter number ob	served and estimated capacity:
Observed:	Estimated total capacity on/of:
Cars/vans/trucks	Boat trailers
RVs/campers	ATV trailers
Motorcoach	Snowmachine trailers
OHV/ATVs	Horse trailers
Motor Boats (jet, prop, air)	Dog sleds (# of dog box units)
Non-Motor Boats	Racks (bike/ski/kayak/etc specify)
Snowmachines	Other observation comments:
Motorcycles	
Bicycles	
Occupied campsites	
Occupied picnic sites/tables	

Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric

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 Alaska Railroad
- 02 Attending special event
- 03□ Bird watching
- 04 Bicycling
- 05□ Camping remote
- 06 Camping RV/cabin/campground
- 07□ Collecting berries/mushrooms
- 08□ Dog sledding

- 09**□** Fishing for salmon
- 10 Fishing other
- 11 Flightseeing
- 12 Hunting
- 13□ Hiking/backpacking
- 14 Motorized boat
- 15 Raft/canoe/kayak

16□ OHV/ATV
17□ Skiing
18□ Snow machine
19□ Snow shoeing
20□ Wildlife viewing
21□ Other

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**.

	Recreational Snow Machining Anywhere In Alaska							
Tutorial	1. Do you <u>ever</u> snow mach	1. Do you <u>ever</u> snow machine recreationally in Alaska? (Circle the correct choice) Yes GO TO QUESTION 2 No GO TO NEXT PAGE						
for your review and reference	2. In the table below, pleas on any day between Jan		-	_	onally between January and April 2013. If you <u>did not</u> snow machine Juestion 4 on the next page.			
		Snow N	/Iachining betv	ween Janua	ry and April 2013			
	Describe the location where you snow machined Please be as specific as possible.	Write the name where you accessed this location Trailhead name, nearest town or point of interest, highway milepost	Number of snow machining days How many days did you snow machine at this location?	Snow Machining Location	When did you snow machine at each location? 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.			
	Turnagain Pass Trail	Trailhead in Sunnyside	6	0				
	Denali Highway (South Parks HIghway)	North of Willow by Susitna North	3	1	2013			
	Willow Lake Loop Trail	Willow	2	2	January February			
	Sterling Highway (Resurrection Pass Trail)	Cooper Landing	1	3	$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ \hline 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 \\ \hline 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 \\ \end{bmatrix} \begin{array}{c} \text{S} & \text{M} & \text{T} & \text{W} & \text{T} & \text{F} & \text{S} \\ \hline 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 \\ \hline 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\ \hline \end{array}$			
				4	13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 17 18 19 20 21 22 23			
				5	27 28 29 30 31 24 25 26 27 1 28			
				6				
				7	March April S M F S M T F S 10 21 1 2 3 4 5 60			
				8	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$			
				9	17 18 19 20 21 22 23 21 22 23 24 25 26 27			
	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.			Yes, please send me additional summaries	31			
	3. What is the total number	of days you snow machin	ned between Januar	ry and April 20	13? 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 <u>did not</u> 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 Please be as specific as possible.	Write the name where you accessed this location Trailhead name, nearest town or point of interest, highway milepost	Number of snow machining days How many days did you snow machine at this location?	Snow Machining Location	When did you snow machine at each location? 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.				
Example: Turnagain Pass Trail	Trailhead in Sunnyside	6	0	2013				
			1	January February				
			2	S M I W I F S S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 1 2 1 2 1 2 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 3 4 5 6 7 8 9				
			3	13 14 15 16 17 18 19 10 11 12 13 14 15 16				
			4	20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				
			5					
			6	March April				
			7	$\begin{bmatrix} S & M & T & W & T & F & S & M & T & W & T & F & S \\ \hline S & M & T & W & T & F & S & M & T & W & T & F & S \\ \hline 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 \\ \hline \end{bmatrix}$				
			8	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 16 17 18 19 20				
			9	17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 28 29 30				
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.		Yes, please send me additional summaries	- 31					

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

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 <u>ever</u> fish recreationally in Alaska? (Circle the correct choice)
- Yes
 - What type of species do you target (circle all that apply)? Halibut Rockfish Trout 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							
Describe the waterbody where you fished Please be as specific as possible.	Write the name where you accessed this location Boat launch, nearest town or point of interest	Number of fishing days How many days did you fish at this location?	Fishing Location	When did you fish at each location? 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.			
				2012			
Example: Kenai River	Cooper Landing Boat Launch	10	0	June			
			1	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$			
				6 7 8 9 10 11 12 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0			
			2	13 14 15 16 17 18 19			
				20 21 22 23 24 25 26 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 27 28 29 30 31 24 25 26 24 25 26 27 28 29 30			
			3				
			3	July August			
				SMTWTFS SMTWTFS			
			4				
				$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$			
			5	22 23 24 25 26 27 28 19 20 21 22 23 24 25			
			6				
				October September sмтwтғs			
			-	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$			
			7	1 7 8 9 10 11 12 13			
If you fished at more than 7 locations and would like to complete		to complete		2 <u>3 4 5 6 7 8</u> <u>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</u>			
additional trip summaries	s, you can complete them o	nline at	Yes, please send me	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 21 22 23 24 25 26 27			
	vey.com or check the box t ummaries once we receive		additional	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 28 29 30 31			
questionnaire.		the outpictou	summaries	23 30 24 25 26 27 28 29			

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.

- Other than fishing, do you ever go recreational boating in Alaska? Yes 🐨 What type of recreational boating do you do (circle all that apply)? 7. (Circle the correct choice)

Canoeing Kayaking Motor/Air boating Drift boating Rafting Sailing Other

days

- No GO TO NEXT PAGE
- 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 8. 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 Please be as specific as possible. If you went fishing, please complete a fishing summary.	Write the name where you accessed this location Boat launch, nearest town or point of interest	Number of recreational boating days How many days did you go recreational boating at this location?	Recreational Boating Location	When did you go recreational boating at each location? Please write the number of each Recreation Boating Location in the calendar below. The Recreational Boating Location numbers are presented in the column to the left. Write in the Recreational Location number for each day that you went recreational boating at that location between May and October 2012.				
Example: Valdez Harbor	Valdez	9	0	2012				
			1	May June S T W T S M T W T S M T W T S M T W T F S M T W T F S M T W T F S M T W T F S M T T S M T T S M T T S M T T S M T T S M T T S M T T S M T T S M T T S M T T S M T T S M T T S M T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T				
			2	$\begin{bmatrix} 5 & 7 & 8 & 9 & 10 & 11 & 12 \\ 13 & 14 & 15 & 16 & 17 & 18 \\ 20 & 21 & 22 & 23 & 24 & 25 & 26 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 & 8 & 9 \\ 10 & 11 & 12 & 13 & 14 & 15 & 16 \\ 17 & 18 & 19 & 20 & 21 & 22 & 23 \end{bmatrix}$				
			3	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$				
			4	July August S M T F S M T F S 1 2 3 4 0 5 6 7 7 1 2 3 4				
			5	8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 21 20 13 14 15 16 17 18				
			6	22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				
			7	September SMTWTFS Cotober				
If you went recreational boating at more than 7 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.		Yes, please send me additional summaries	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$					

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 **W**hat type of game do you hunt (circle all that apply)? Big game Small game Upland Birds Waterfowl Other

GO TO NEXT PAGE No

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 Please be as specific as possible.	Write the name where you accessed this location Highway milepost, nearest town or point of interest	Number of hunting days How many days did you hunt at this location?	Hunting Location	When did you hunt at each location? Please write the number of each Hunting Location in the The Hunting Location numbers are presented in the co in the Hunting Location number for each day that you between June and November 2012.	olumn to the left.Write		
Example: Denali Highway	Cantwell	6	0	2012			
			1	June s	July w T F S 4 5 6 7		
			2	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 15 16 17	11 12 13 14 18 19 20 21		
			3	17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 22 23 24	25 26 27 28		
			4	August Se SMTWTFSSMT	ptember W T F S		
			5	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 2 3 4	5 6 7 8 12 13 14 15		
			6	19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 23 24 25	19 20 21 22 26 27 28 29		
			7		ovember		
			8		1 2 3 7 8 9 10		
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.			Yes, please send me additional summaries	21 22 23 24 25 26 27 18 19 20	14 15 16 17 21 22 23 24 28 29 30		

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

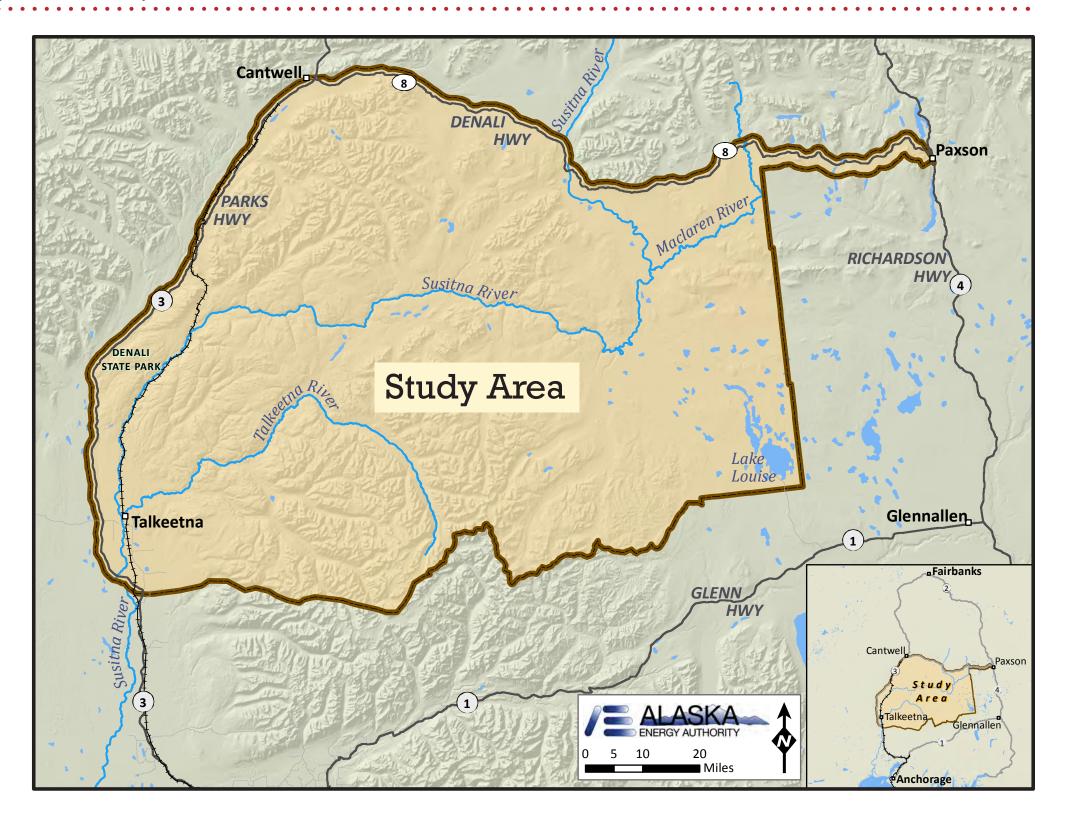
14. Did you visit the Study Area for any outdoor recreational activities between May 2012 and April 2013?

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

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

PLEASE CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

7 | 2013 Recreational Survey



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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	15a. (IF HUNTING WAS YOUR PRIMARY ACTIVITY) Which of these was your <u>primary</u> harvest objective? (Do not include trapping.)
01 🗌 Riding the Alaska Railroad	
02 Bird watching	Please select only one.
03 Bicycling	
04 Camping-remote tent	
05 Camping-RV/cabin/campground/roadside tent	02 🗌 Caribou – State draw permit one bull
06 Collecting berries/mushrooms	03 🗌 Caribou – State registration permit any caribou
07 Dog sledding	04 🗌 Caribou – State community harvest
08 🗌 Fishing for salmon	05 🗌 Caribou – Non-resident
09 Fishing for other species	06 🗌 Moose – Federal subsistence
10 Flightseeing	07 🔲 Moose – State draw permit any bull
11 Hunting	08 Moose – State draw permit cow
12 Hiking/backpacking	09 🗍 Moose – State community harvest
13 Motorized boating (jet, prop, air)	10 Moose – State harvest ticket
14 🗌 Rafting/canoeing/kayaking/pack raft (non-motorized)	
15 Riding ATV's	11 Moose – Non-resident
16 Skiing	12 🔲 Bear (brown or black)
17 Snow machining	13 Waterfowl
18 Snowshoeing	14 🔲 Upland game birds
19 Walking/running	15 Other
20 Wildlife viewing	
21 Other activity	
16. Where did you participate in your primary activity on your most re- (Please write in the grid number/s found on the map on page 10.)	cent outing in the Study Area? Grid #
1 Yes 2 No (skip to Q18 on the next page) 3 Live in state	
17a. What year did you first visit the study area for this activity? (If you live within the Study Area, please indicate what year you mov	Year ved there.)
17b. In general, how often do you participate in this activity in the St	udy 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 03 Once every year 05 Less than once every few	years PLEASE CONTINUE TO NEXT PAGE

Your Most Recent Outing to the Study Area

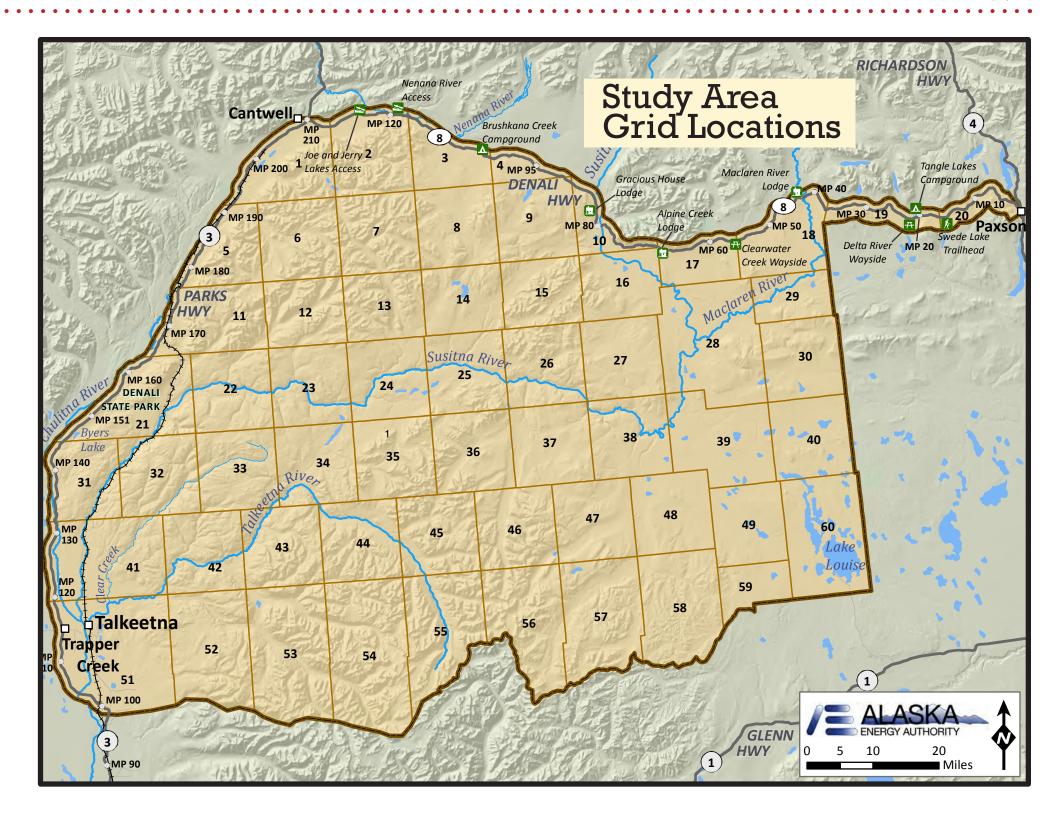
18. Did you hire a guide for any portion of your most recent outing to the Study Area?				02 No (skip to Q19)	
18a. Did you hir	e the guide for your primary activity?	01 🗌 Yes	02 🗌 No		
19. On your last outing, did you spend a night anywhere in the Study Area (besides your primary residence if you live 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
EXAMPLE: Denali Hwy Mile 45	#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:								





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

Place names

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

$1 \square \text{Yes} \rightarrow$	24a. Specifically, wha	t type of needs do they have?	1 Wheelchair access to trails
2 🗌 No			² Wheelchair access to facilities
			3 Other:
25. On your las	st outing in the Study A	rea, did you feel very crowded	l, somewhat crowded, or not crowded?
01 Very c	rowded	02 Somewhat crowded	03 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 pag	e 10).	

26. On your last o	outing did you experience any c	onflict with other individuals o	or groups that negatively in	npacted your recreation e	xperience 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.)

Grid #

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

01 🗌 🛚	lothing
02 C	ommunication towers

06 Roads 07 **Trails**

11 Other:

- 03 **Power lines**
- 04 Railroad
- 05 Trash

⁰⁹ Vehicles (RV, ATV, motorcycles, cars, etc.)

08 Roadside camping areas

10 People



. . .

. . .

.

		Your Mo	ost Recent Outing to the Study Area
28.	What noises, if any, detracte	ed from your enjoyment of th	e Study Area? (Check all that apply)
	01 Nothing	05 Helicopters	09 🗌 Noise from other people
	02 Gunshots	06 Boats	10 Heavy equipment (road work, quarries, construction)
	03 Airplanes	07 🗌 Four wheeler/ATV	11 Chainsaw
	04 🗌 Jet aircraft sonic boom	08 Cars/trucks/RV	12 Other
29.	in an off-road vehicle, by v 1 Yes 2 No (skip to Q 29a. Which modes of tran	watercraft, or by a small air 30) sportation did you use to tra	one-half mile from a trailhead or main road into the Study Area on foot plane that landed in a remote part of the Study Area? wel more than one-half mile into the Study Area? (Check all that apply)
	01 Walked/hiked		atercraft (canoe, kayak, raft etc.)
	02 Off-road vehicle 03 Power boat	·	more than one-half mile into the Study Area.)
	29b. If you traveled by foc	ot or off-road vehicle, did you	a travel on established trails, off-trail, or both?
	1 Established trails	2 Off-trail 3 B	oth 4 Did not travel by foot or off-road vehicle
	29c. Did you camp in the	Study Area more than one-h	alf 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	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
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



. . .

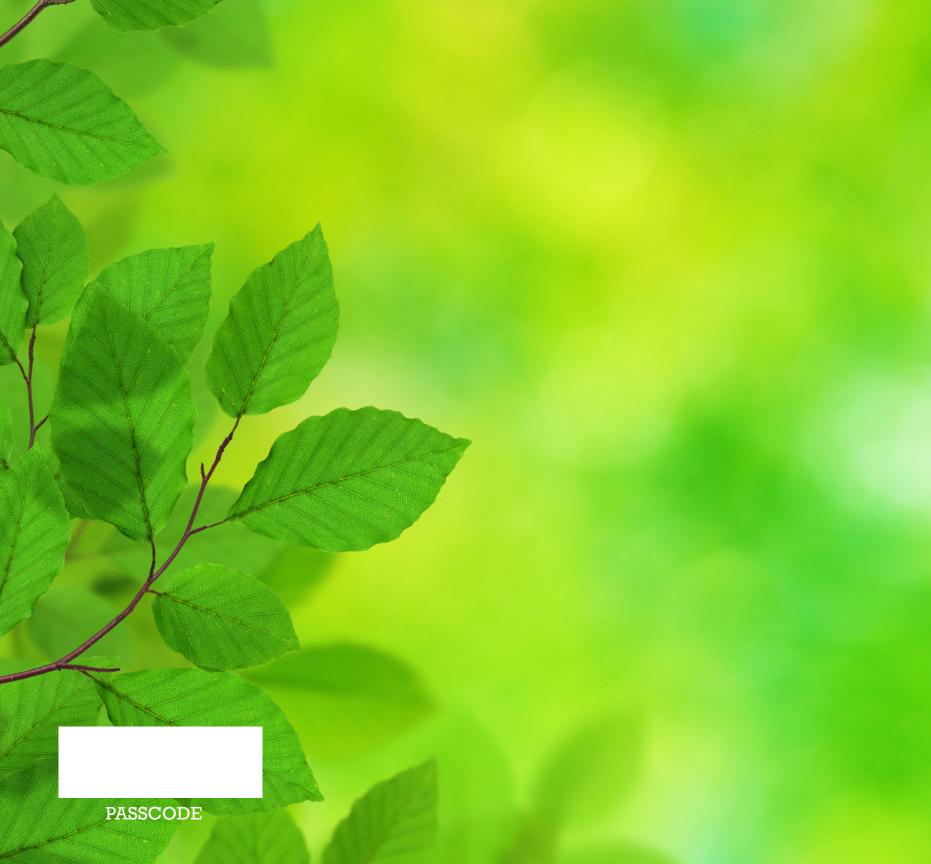
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.

Demographics

33. In what year were you born? 1	9	
34. Your gender: 1 Male 2	E Female	
35. Are you married? 1 Yes	2 🗌 No	
36. Including yourself, how many	people live in your household for at least si	x months of the year? #
37. Do children under the age of l	8 live in your household? 1 Yes 2	🗌 No
38. Which category best describe	s your household income before taxes for 20	12?
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 describe	s 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 Islando	er
40. What is the highest degree or 1	level of school you have COMPLETED?	
01 🗌 Less than 9 th grade	04 🗌 Some college, no degr	ee 07 Graduate or professional degree
${}_{02} igcap 9^{ ext{th}}$ to $12^{ ext{th}}$ grade, no diploma	a 05 🗌 Associate's degree	
03 🗌 High school graduate, GED	, or alternative 06 🗌 Bachelor's degree	
41. Are you a professional guide fo	or any recreation activities?	
1 Yes> Q 4	la. What type of activities do you guide? (C	heck all that apply)
² No (continue to Q42)	01 Snow machining 03 Hunting	05 Other
	02 Fishing 04 Boat/float tou	ır
42. Do you or your family own a ca	ıbin in Alaska?	
	2a. Approximately where is your cabin loca	ted?
2 🗌 No		Cabin location
	y we may be conducting additional research not be used or shared for any other purpose.	. Would you be willing to participate in a follow-up survey?
	No	
43a. To follow up with you, m	ay we have your email address or phone nu	mber?
Email address or phone	number	Thank you for participating

Thank you for participating in this survey!



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 <u>specific</u> 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

Section Section 2.

• 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 <u>not</u> feel that Questions 10 and 11 of the current version of the Intercept Survey adequately address user conflict. They appear to focus on detraction to <u>scenic quality</u> and the <u>effect of noise</u> 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)

ATV (2, 3, or 4 wheel)	Mtn./Fat tire biker	D Angler
Motorized boater	Hiker	Hunter
Non-Motorized boater	Snowshoer, XC skier, musher	Trapper
Camper	Aviator	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 ProjectNo. 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.

<u>Reservoir Width</u> - 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></bmcgregor@aidea.org>
Sent:	Friday, March 22, 2013 5:23 PM
То:	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