

**Appendix B: Kenai River Special Management Area (KRSMA) and
Cooper Landing Land Use Plan
Draft Impact Analysis**

Kenai River Special Management Area (KRSMA)

Sterling Highway, Milepost 45 - 60

Preliminary Comparison of Alternatives with the Goals and Objectives of the KRSMA

According to the Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan (KRCMP) (DNR, 1997), the purpose of the Kenai River Special Management Area is “to protect and perpetuate the fishery and wildlife resources and habitat in the unit and adjacent area” and “to manage recreational uses and development activities in the unit and adjacent area”. The KRSMA boundaries and proposed additions to the KRSMA are shown on Figure B-1. The KRCMP sets forth recommendations, goals, and objectives for a variety of land use plans including public facility projects. Recommendations, goals, and objectives of the KRCMP that are applicable to the Sterling Highway Project, MP 45 – 60 are presented below.

Land Use

Objectives:

- To ensure that development occurring within the area of the Kenai River watershed is undertaken in a managed and coordinated fashion to ensure the continued integrity of the watershed, and under generally similar rules.
- To focus people and facilities creating potential impacts to those areas of the Kenai River watershed that are best able to accommodate the impacts of heavy recreational use or rural/urban development.
- To ensure that natural areas within the Kenai River watershed, if developed, are done so that neither the fishery nor the habitats related to the fishery of the Kenai River are adversely affected.
- To manage timber harvest, mining, oil and gas, and other development within the Kenai River watershed so as to avoid significant adverse impacts to the resources of the KRSMA, including but not limited to water, soils, fisheries, wildlife, visual quality, and recreation.
- To ensure that development does not impair the functioning of wetlands important to the maintenance of habitat and hydrologic functions.
- To identify and protect public areas of cultural and historic significance.

Public Facilities

Recommendation:

Public agency managers shall site and design new facilities to avoid or minimize habitat impacts, both from construction impacts and subsequent public use. The following policies and standards are to be followed in implementing this goal:

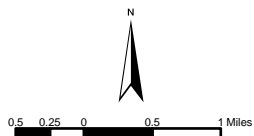
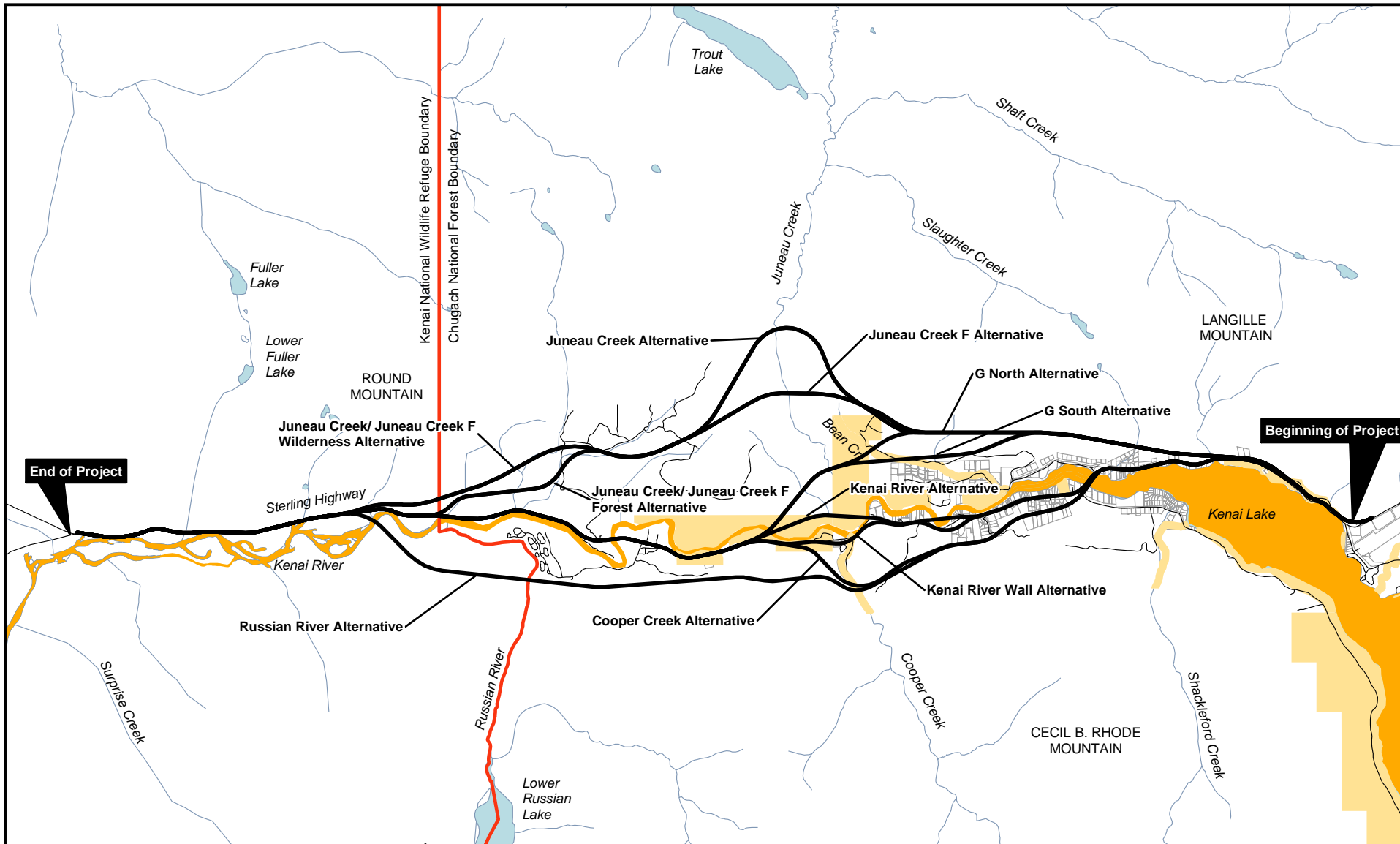
- As a general design standard, only water-related, or water-dependent public facilities are to be located adjacent to near shore areas.
- Create development setbacks for all non-water dependent public facilities adjacent to the river, using a general setback standard of 300 feet.
- Public road construction projects in upland areas should be located away from the Kenai River and should employ standard best management practices to preclude siltation to the river and its adjacent wetlands and tributaries. Construction activities should avoid or minimize damage or destruction to riverine areas, wetlands, and tributaries; the placing of structures or fill in the aforementioned areas, and direct runoff into these areas. River crossing structures should be minimized to the fewest number possible.
- The Alaska Department of Transportation is studying a project to construct a bypass (Sterling Highway MP 45-60) around the community of Cooper Landing and the Kenai River corridor. If the bypass route is selected, the current road should be made more enjoyable and safer.

In order to examine the consistency of Sterling Highway alternatives with the recommendations, goals, and objectives of the KRSMA, the following list of key goals was developed to compare the alternatives. A comparison of the highway alternatives and the goals and objectives of the KRSMA is presented in Table B-1.

- Approximate amount of the alternative's footprint located within the KRSMA or proposed additions to the KRSMA.
- Alternative located away from the Kenai River? (KRCMP states road construction projects should be located away from the Kenai River.)
- Approximate acres of wetlands located within the alternative's footprint. (KRCMP advises construction projects should minimize impacts to wetlands.)
- Number of new crossings of the Kenai River. (KRCMP advises river crossings of the Kenai should be minimized to the fewest possible.)
- Number of new crossings of tributaries of the Kenai River. (KRCMP advises crossings of tributaries of the Kenai River should be minimized to the fewest possible.)
- Potential impacts to the visual quality of the Kenai River watershed. (KRCMP states that development in Kenai watershed should avoid significant adverse impacts to the visual quality of the area.)
- Number of historic or archaeological sites potentially adversely impacted by the alternatives. (KRCMP states that cultural and historic properties should be identified and protected.)

Table B-1**Comparison of alternatives with the recommendations, goals, and objectives of the KRSMA**

Alternative	Approximate amount of alternative's footprint within the KRSMA	Approximate amount of alternative's footprint within proposed additions to the KRSMA	Is alternative located away from the Kenai River?	Approximate acres of wetlands within alternative's footprint	Number of new crossings of Kenai River	Number of new crossings of tributaries of Kenai River	Potential Impacts to visual quality of the Kenai River watershed	Number of historical or cultural areas adversely impacted
Kenai River Wall Alternative	4.5 acres	18 acres	No	3 acres	0	0	1.3 miles of retaining walls	21
Kenai River Alternative	6 acres	25.6 acres	No	4 acres	4	1	5 new bridges	22
Cooper Creek Alternative	4.2 acres	21.1 acres	Partially located away from river	5 acres	0	1	1 new bridge	17
Russian River Alternative	5 acres	11.9 acres	Yes	9 acres	1	2	3 new bridges	Unknown number but potentially high
G South Alternative	5.5 acres	31 acres	Partially located away from river	16 acres	1	2	3 new bridges	18
G North Alternative	5.5 acres	30 acres	Partially located away from river	23 acres	1	2	3 new bridges	18
Juneau Creek "F" Wilderness Alternative	3.5 acres	11.7 acres	Yes	32 acres	0	2	1 new bridge	7
Juneau Creek "F" Forest Alternative	3.5 acres	11.7 acres	Yes	33 acres	0	2	1 new bridge	6
Juneau Creek Wilderness Alternative	3.5 acres	11.7 acres	Yes	37 acres	0	2	1 new bridge	6
Juneau Creek Forest Alternative	3.5 acres	11.7 acres	Yes	37 acres	0	2	1 new bridge	5



Legend

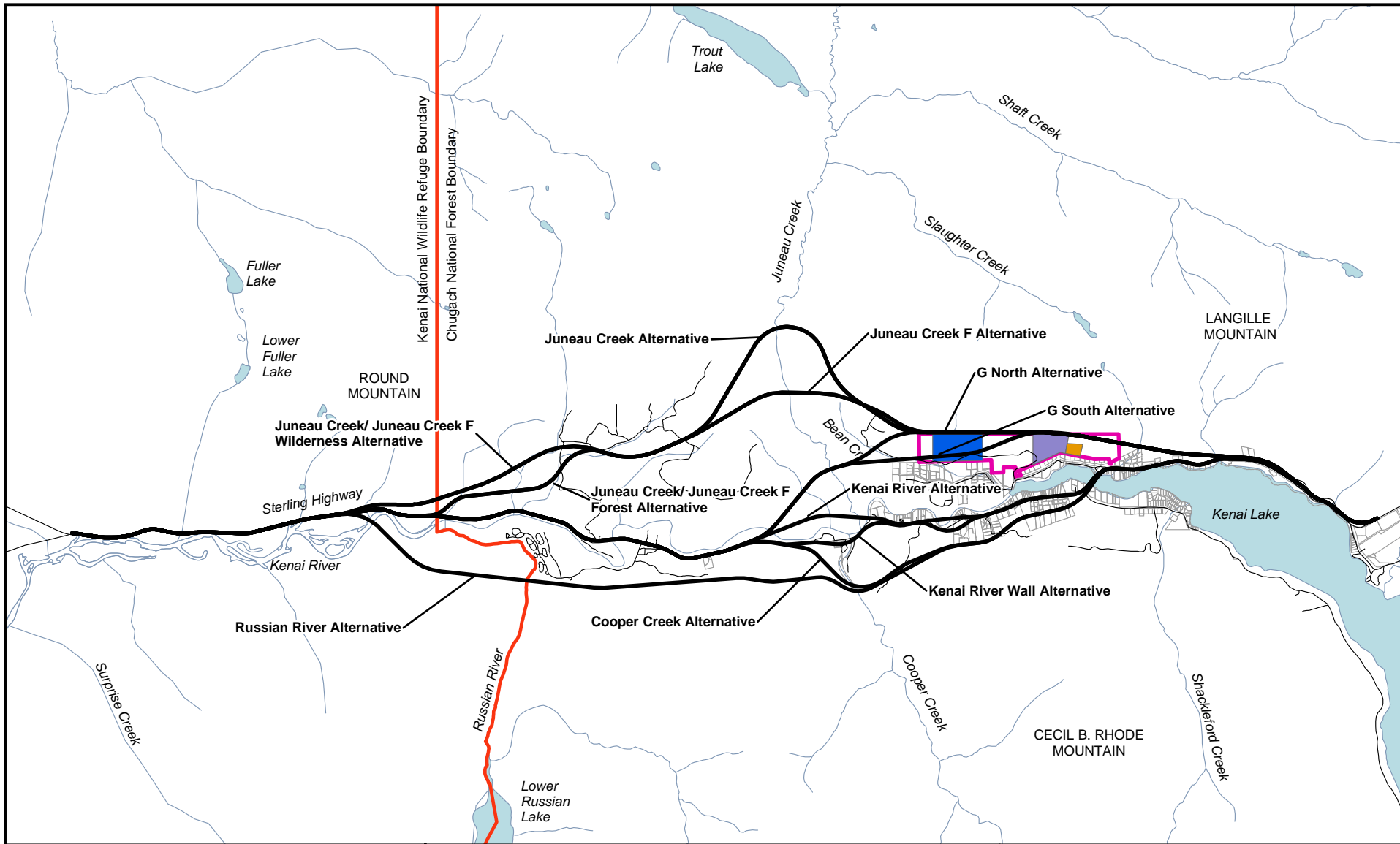
- Kenai River Special Management Area (KRSMA)
- Proposed Additions to KRSMA

**Reasonable Alternatives Evaluation
Kenai River Special Management Area**



Figure B-1

Date: 4/2/03	File Source: DNR
File: x:\gisdata\sterling_gis\mxd\docs\reasonable_alts\krsma_reason_alts	HDR Job No.: 07072-170
By: JJD	Project No.: 53014



Date: 4/21/03	File Source: KPB
File: x:\gisdata\sterling_gis\mxd\docs\reasonable_alts\CL_land_use_plan	HDR Job No.: 07072-170
By: JJD	Project No.: 53014

Legend

- Development Boundary
- Birch Ridge Subdivision
- Grouse Ridge Subdivision
- Senior Site

**Reasonable Alternatives Evaluation
Cooper Landing Land use Plan
Development Boundary**

Figure B-2