

Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility and Parks
Cooperative Agreement
Management and Protection Of Chugach State Park

INTRODUCTION

This cooperative agreement is being entered into to further the interests of both parties in meeting their responsibilities to the public to provide a safe and clean supply of domestic water.

Chugach State Park (Parks/DNR) was established in 1970. In establishing the park, the people of Alaska stated that the *"The park is established to protect and supply a satisfactory water supply for the use of the people, ..."* (AS 41.21.121). The watersheds of Ship Creek Valley and Eklutna Lake Valley presently provide 75 percent of the Municipality of Anchorage's domestic water supply.

Prevention of contamination is one of the most cost-effective methods of ensuring safe drinking water supplies. If source water becomes contaminated, expensive treatment or replacement of the water source may be required before safe drinking water can be delivered to the public.

Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility (AWWU), a department of the Municipality of Anchorage, receives its drinking water from Eklutna and Ship Creek watersheds and delivers it to the residents of the Municipality. Anchorage's water quality is excellent. In 1998 Anchorage's drinking water was selected as the "Best Tasting Water" of 160 municipal water systems in the United States at the 1998 United States Conference of Mayors USA City Water Taste Test.

Recent amendments to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act required states to implement Source Water Protection Programs. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, with assistance from AWWU, recently completed source water assessments for Ship Creek and Eklutna. The information on sources of contaminants in the watersheds and the susceptibility of the drinking water supply to contamination will be used to determine appropriate protection efforts.

The purpose of this cooperative agreement is to establish a close working relationship between Parks/DNR and the staff of AWWU to insure the continued production of a safe and clean public water supply.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT AGREE AS FOLLOWS:

PARKS/DNR WILL:

1. Under the authority AS 41.21.121, manage Ship Creek and Eklutna Lake Valley watersheds with watershed protection as the highest land and water resource management goal.
2. Monitor all public use in both watersheds to identify and correct problems that could lead to a lowering of water quality. Further, evaluate and, if appropriate, prohibit, by administrative regulation, the use of internal combustion engines on Eklutna Lake and prohibit the landing of floatplanes except under a Special Park Use Permit issued pursuant to ACC 18.010.
3. Use Best Management Practices in the construction, operation and maintenance of trails and other recreational facilities to avoid or minimize contamination of the public water supply.
4. Support, to the extent possible, activities of AWWU staff who are in the park to monitor water quality in the two watersheds.
5. Consult with AWWU staff prior to authorizing or conducting any significant land use activities in the two watersheds.
6. Notify AWWU and ADEC of any fuel spills or other contaminants on parklands in the watersheds.
7. Prepare, in consultation with AWWU, a spill response plan for the Eklutna Lake and Ship Creek Watersheds.

AWWU WILL:

1. Monitor water quality at the Eklutna and Ship Creek Water Treatment Plants and, if necessary, in the two watersheds.
2. Assist and train park staff in techniques for monitoring water quality.
3. Advise park staff on Best Management Practices for managing land use activities in domestic watersheds.
4. Consult with park staff about land use issues as they relate to water quality concerns.
5. Assist park staff in developing a spill response plan for the Eklutna Lake and Ship Creek Watersheds.

IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED THAT:

1. Nothing in this agreement affects the rights or interests of Eklutna, Inc. to lands they own in the Eklutna Lake area which are managed as state park lands pursuant to the provisions of the North Anchorage Land Agreement. The North Anchorage Land Agreement was entered into in 1982 by the Municipality of Anchorage, Eklutna, Inc. and the State of Alaska under the authority of Section 1425 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980.
2. This agreement shall remain in effect until cancelled by either party with 60 days written notice.
3. This agreement may be modified or amended by mutual written agreement.
4. This agreement is in the public interest.

5. The principal contacts, or their successors, for the purposes of this agreement are:

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HC 52 Box 8999
Indian, Alaska 99540

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SIGNATURES:

Jim Stratton
Director
Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Date

Mark Premo, P.E.
General Manager
AWWU

Date

George Wuerch, Mayor
Municipality of Anchorage

Date