



The catalyst for this process is a North Campus manager (NCM) position. Funding should be secured to hire manager as a year

trail mapping, soil survey data, and a vegetation classification. This type of information will be of considerable value to all users.

#### A4. Action: Review and update existing plans for safety and security

All campus emergency plans should be reviewed by the UAF Fire and Police Departments, the Environment Health and Safety Office, and Facilities Services to determine appropriate actions specific to North Campus. NCS will provide information on NC resources to facilitate this review. Items of particular concern will include fire response, routes for best access for rescue purposes, and possible hazardous materials location

#### A5. Action: Develop and implement plans for areas of special concern.

Five areas of special concern on North Campus have been identified: the former West Ridge Campground, the Rifle Range, Smith Lake, Ballinalake, and the Arboretum. The specific concerns and suggested re pertaining to these areas appear in the Guidelines and Implementation chapter. The NCS will develop individual plans that solve problems associated with each of the areas.

#### A6. Action: Develop criteria for the design of Tanana Loop extension that pertain to issues of concern.

The CMP identifies the completion of Tanana Loop as a major action that is directly related to three o goals in the plan. The successful design of this road requires that many issues of concern be identified, verified, and prioritized for solution, including those related to the North Campus. Many issues were identified by the North Campus Subcommittee in the course of their work. However, these issues are considered within the broad context of development of the campus as a whole and the increasing pressures of growth on West Ridge.

#### A7. Action: Adopt and implement a wayfinding and signage plan.

A wayfinding and signage plan (W/S) will guide and inform users of the North Campus, including current location, permitted uses, access, and general information. A comprehensive W/S system that provides needed information to the diverse users of the North Campus is needed.

#### A8. Action: Remove abandoned infrastructure and restore original site features.

As part of the permitting process, specific plans for removing infrastructure at the close of a project or activity will be required. Reclamation will also be required in order to stabilize and return an affected area to its original state. Abandoned infrastructure (equipment, materials, fences, etc.) from past projects that currently remains in the NC but is no longer used shall be removed, as it poses a hazard and detracts from the esthetic value of the NC. The NCM will be responsible for documenting abandoned infrastructure, contacting responsible units, and making arrangements for removal. Responsible units will bear the costs.

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- Existing educational uses will be preserved, while evolving educational needs will be considered when evaluating future growth.
- Recreation opportunities will continue to be available at current levels, including the diversity of quality ski trails and supporting infrastructure.
- Multi-use trails may be improved.
- Although recreational use may increase, there may not be a corresponding increase in designated trails.
- Skiing will neither take priority over, nor compromise, other uses.
- Negative impacts to groomed ski trails will decrease with better management of access and improved communication among users.

Through the implementation of this plan, North Campus will become a multiuse area that provides opportunities for research, education and recreation.

A1. Action: Implement an effective management process.

1. Continue the functions of the North Campus Subcommittee

#### GUIDELINES:

The NCS will be involved in setting priorities for planning and management of North Campus lands. It will have primary responsibility for approving and monitoring routine activities affecting the area (e.g. rout









2. If additional information is required of an applicant, request it as soon as possible, in writing.
3. Advise the applicant of approval or denial of the application immediately.
4. All appeals will be forwarded to the MPC for immediate consideration by the Executive Committee. The MPC will be informed of the appeal and, if the complexity of the proposal merits, will be considered by the entire body.

A3. Action: Develop and implement a system to monitor conditions, features, and uses

#### GUIDELINES:

A monitoring system is required to ensure that the recommendations of the plan are met. The monitoring system will compare current conditions to desired conditions. The GIS database that has been developed will provide a key component in the monitoring of the conditions on site. Monitoring of conditions will be one of the primary responsibilities of the North Campus manager.

#### IMPLEMENTATION:

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- Trailheads: locations
- Gates: locations
- Fences: locations, lengths
- Digital Elevation Models
- Visual bands aerial image, circa 2002

The main trails and roads are mapped, as are some of the user trails; however, many user trails remain unmapped. A multispectral image of the North Campus should be acquired to aid in the management of and planning for scientific research on North Campus. The multispectral image can be used for classification of vegetation communities. This process will be greatly facilitated by the existing vegetation classification done on the Arboretum that can be used for highly accurate training areas. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has completed the fieldwork for the Fairbanks Soil Survey. The data are currently being digitized..

#### IMPLEMENTATION:

1. The NCM will have p3(ve)i[g

A5. Action: Develop and implement plans for areas of special concern.

1. Develop and implement a plan for the ridge top area (previous campground) of West Ridge

**GUIDELINES:**

The area formerly known as the West Ridge Campground requires consideration for best use. Given its proximity to the Georgeson Botanical Garden and the Arboretum, as well as other current uses, there may be ways to enhance the ridge top area that will be of benefit to all users. The NCS shall review current and past uses of the area and develop potential strategies for improvement, which may include no formalized use of the area.

**IMPLEMENTATION:**

1. Identify all potential stakeholders and issues associated with the ridge top area
  2. Form an ad hoc working group with wide stakeholder involvement to review and evaluate all uses of the area (past, current and potential); develop a plan for the area if appropriate that will be mutually agreeable, and include control of access, prevention of vandalism to research, safety concerns, and minimize environmental effects to the area.
  3. Identify funding sources to implement the plan for the area.
2. Investigate the feasibility of reestablishing a campground on campus

**GUIDELINES:**

## IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Determine actual uses and frequency, both by the university and community;
  2. Assess the range for safety as well as noise; this should be done in collaboration with the UAF Athletics and Recreation Department and Facilities Services;
  3. If documented usage indicates a clear need for the range, form an ad hoc working group with appropriate stakeholders, and develop a plan for its continued use and improvement. Include noise mitigation measures, controlled access, and specific hours when the rifle range can be used.
  4. Identify funding sources to implement the plan for the area.
  5. All requests for use will be processed by the NCM.
4. Develop and implement a plan for Smith Lake access

## GUIDELINES:

Smith Lake is a unique area of North Campus. In 1950, the Board of Regents created a "park" around the lake. There are legitimate concerns about the various access points to the lake, as well as the park designation itself.

Access to Smith Lake has been an ongoing issue for many years. Specific concerns related to the parking situation on Sheep Creek Road have been raised by the Alaska Department of Transportation. Although access is more of an issue during the winter months when Smith Lake provides early season skiing, as well as a flat area for beginners and children, there has been no effective solution to the Smith Lake access issue. The NCS shall develop an access plan for Smith Lake.

## IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Review all pertinent documents related to Smith Lake and the specific designation of a "park" that may have implications for access. Revisit the designation to determine its applicability to the current plan.
2. Formally identify the actual 100-yard buffer zone boundaries around Smith Lake.
3. Consider the following restrictions on all trails within the hundred-yard buffer, if it is retained:
  - a. The trail connecting the south side of Smith Lake to the Potato Field can be no wider than 30 ft. measured from tree to tree.
  - b. The trail connecting the northwest side of Smith Lake to the Field Road can be no wider than 30 ft. measured from tree to tree.
  - c. The trail connecting the east end of Smith Lake to the Field Road can be no wider than 15 ft. measured from tree to tree.
  - d. The remainder of the trails will be no wider than 5 ft. measured tree to tree.

access the NCA; however, encroachment into the NCA is strongly discouraged. A preferable alternative is reroute road to the south, allowing parking on the campus side of the road.

c. The North Campus Subcommittee should be highly involved in the planning process and subsequent decisions made regarding parking along West Tanana Drive which will affect the NCA.

d. Converting the intersection of the West Tanana Drive, Sheep Creek Cutoff, and Sheep Creek Road into a three-stop should be investigated.

7. Identify funding sources to implement the plan.

4. Develop and implement a plan for Ballaine Lake

#### GUIDELINES:

Ballaine Lake poses a special subset of management concerns. The lake is easily accessible from Farmer's Loop Road, is stocked with fish by ADF&G, and receives heavy use. Because of the heavy use there continue to be strong concerns about bank erosion, litter, and human waste. Issues to consider include:

a. Effective management strategies with increased use

b. Should additional infrastructure be installed at the site (waste containers and portable toilets)?

c. Bank erosion should be monitored and mitigation steps taken if needed. Mitigation steps might include boardwalks or temporarily closing certain sections of the bank to use.

d. Management signs are needed (such as "please keep this area clean", "stay on designated trails," etc.).

## GUIDELINES:

Until the Tanana Loop extension design is completed, there is no way to know exactly where and what the impacts of this roadway will be on North Campus. Based on preliminary designs, however, there are anticipated impacts which must be considered prior to design work. Although potential impacts have been identified during the NC planning process, these impacts must be further scrutinized. It will be essential that the NCM and the NCS lead a process that clearly identifies, from the list of recommendations, those that are insignificant and possible "red herrings;" those that can be easily mitigated, say through planned relocation, and those that present significant difficulties and require substantial funding or other resources to solve. Issues discussed herein have not been fully reviewed yet to determine their relative merit.

When design work does commence on the road, there should be at least one representative from both the NCS and the MPC on the user group.

The most significant potential impacts of the proposed Tanana Loop extension are:

- . long term research plots, as well as some storage and instrumentation buildings require relocation
- . increased lights and noise could significantly compromise wildlife research
- . new security measures may be required as accessibility increases
- . trail alignments and access may be impacted and require relocation

Based upon the information that is currently available regarding the potential alignment of Tanana Loop, the following recommendations for its design include:

General:

As a part of the project, include a study for relocation of critical areas, including the following:



enough space to accommodate buses for school events and a large staging area



## IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Post signs at all NC entry points with NCM contact information, and notification of research permit and group use requirements.
2. Limit access points in order to control access and funnel users through trailheads with adequate information.
3. Install "confidence" markers along trails, and at all trail junctions post directional signs with maps and use restrictions.
4. All signs will be in compliance with UAF sign guidelines.
5. All naming activities (trails, ski huts, etc.) must follow UA policies and practices. All existing names that have not been formally approved must go through this process.

A8. Action: Remove abandoned infrastructure and restore original site features

## GUIDELINES:

NC values are maintained by restoring lands to original conditions when developed land uses have ended.

All structures and equipment from projects or activities must be removed within a reasonable time from the end date of the project. A "reasonable time" will be defined by the complexity of the equipment removal, the time of year in which the project ends, and potential for project renewal. Responsibility and funding for removal must be identified in advance as part of the approval process. Each project must be directly affiliated with, and under the responsibility of, a UAF school, institute, or department and file appropriate permit applications. This is also applicable to any affiliated organizations. The reclamation process, including possible reestablishment of natural vegetation, needs to be a best effort as determined by the NCS.

New or expanded structures or equipment will be subject to the permitting process described in A2.

## IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Review the database to determine how many existing projects have signed reclamation agreements on file and draw up agreements for those that are not on file and get them signed
2. Develop a schedule for project reclamation. Where old projects are identified but the responsible unit is unknown, work with Facilities Services to reclaim the area.
3. Conduct periodic on-site review of all research sites to identify any existing or potential problems; notify primary investigators whose projects are scheduled for completion for details of clean up plan, including removal of all equipment.
4. Review all proposals that require new or expanded structures, equipment, or significant land use.

A9. Action: Resolve trails designation and use issues

## GUIDELINES:

This document supersedes all previous trails plans, including the earlier UAF Skarland Trails Management Plan that was never formally approved. However, numerous trail issues still require resolution pertaining to designation and/or use. Two examples are the connector trail behind the ASF antenna and the trail. There is also a network of informal trails that is not necessarily disputed but evolves over time, often for no other reason than being the shortest route between two points. Some of these trails may result in unnecessary degradation of the land and could be eliminated.

For approved trails, the following apply:

a. On designated, groomed ski trails: dogs, walkers and wheeled vehicles are not allowed in winter.

