

## **What is a State Recreation Area?**

### **Definition and Purpose**

A state recreation area is a relatively spacious unit and possesses a diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities. The dominant management objective of the unit is to provide a maximum level of outdoor recreational opportunities based on the natural values of the unit and its ability to sustain use without significant adverse effects on natural systems.

### **Characteristics**

A state recreation area possesses recreational and/or natural resources of statewide or regional significance. Geographical distribution of these units and their relationships to population centers are important factors in the designation of an area as a state recreation area. The minimum size of a unit should be 200 acres so that the unit may have diverse natural landscapes capable of supporting a wide variety of outdoor recreational activities. The uniqueness and significance of an area's natural and cultural resources are not key criteria for the establishment of state recreation areas as is the case with state parks.

The majority of the lands within a state recreation area will be classified as natural and recreational development. Cultural zones will be established where appropriate. Only in special cases will any lands be classified as wilderness. Wilderness zones, if established, will be based upon documented public desire for wilderness-oriented recreation within the unit.

### **Development and Activities**

The management of a state recreation area allows for carefully planned and controlled resource modification to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities as long as the intensity of modification does not diminish the unit's natural and cultural values. Such modifications must be based upon a formal decision to enhance public enjoyment of the state recreation area's natural values or to provide for site-appropriate outdoor recreational activities. Lands within the unit will be developed to provide diverse, high quality outdoor recreational outdoor experiences in keeping with regional use patterns and preferences. Other than state recreation sites, state recreation areas are generally the most intensively developed type of unit in the State Park System. (Taken from: *Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework; 1982* [currently under revision])

## **What is a State Recreation Site?**

### **Definition and Purpose**

A state recreation site is a relatively small area and provides one or more outdoor recreational opportunities. A state recreation site may also be established to provide access to outdoor recreational lands and opportunities

not managed as part of the State Park System. Management objectives are site-specific, but generally emphasize recreational use over resource protection.

### **Characteristics**

State recreation sites possess recreational resources of statewide or regional significance. The unit should be of sufficient size to allow for future expansion of recreational facilities, to provide an adequate buffer between adjoining land uses, and to provide an adequate buffer for the protection of the quality of recreational opportunities in the unit.

Normally, from one-quarter to three-quarters of a state recreation site's land area will be classified as a recreational development zone. Because of the small size and recreation-use-oriented objective of these units, the wilderness zone will not be applied. Sensitive areas such as wetlands, beaches or streambanks normally will be classified as natural zones. Cultural zones will be identified and established where the presence of historic or archaeological resources is significant enough to warrant this designation.

### **Developments and Activities**

The management of a state recreation site allows for resource modification to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities as long as natural and cultural resource values are protected. Activities and developments will vary according to the intent and purpose for which the unit is designated. Developments and activities which may be found at state recreation sites include – but are not limited to – picnic areas, campgrounds, parking lots, boat launches and scenic overlooks. (Taken from: *Alaska State Park System: Statewide Framework*; 1982 [currently under revision])