LAKESHORES AND STREAM CORRIDORS

A. GOALS

1. Provide for common use of water by people for the maximum benefit to people through the established statutes and regulations related to water management.

2. Protect riparian habitat, breeding areas for fish and wildlife, lakeshores and river corridors for fish and wildlife and other recreational uses.

3. Assure water quality is maintained.

B. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The overall management intent for lakeshores and stream corridors is to maintain and protect riparian zones, water quality, lake shorelines and river banks while allowing for multiple use of the resources. Public access to public waters will be maintained.
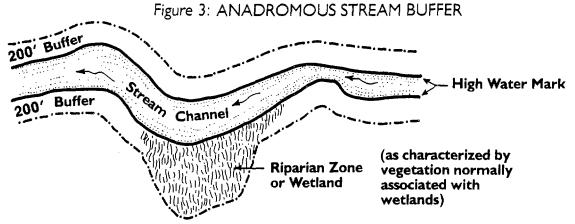

C. GUIDELINES

1. RIPARIAN ZONES

    a. Activities Requiring Review. Any timber harvest/habitat enhancement activity altering the habitat/vegetation within the riparian zone shall require concurrence by DNR and ADF&G and other appropriate state and federal agenices as necessary, subject to existing laws. The following activities require review and concurrence.

       (1) Road and trail construction.

       (2) Habitat enhancement projects/vegetation removal.

       (3) Timber harvest and sales.

       (4) Material removal.

    b. Coal Mining Requirements. Coal mining activities that are approved and occur within riparian zones will follow existing procedures established in ASCMCRA, as well as the guidelines in this plan.

    c. Interagency Review. Mining for other leasable minerals and activities associated with mining for locatable minerals require interagency review of the land use permits and leasing authorizations prior to approval.
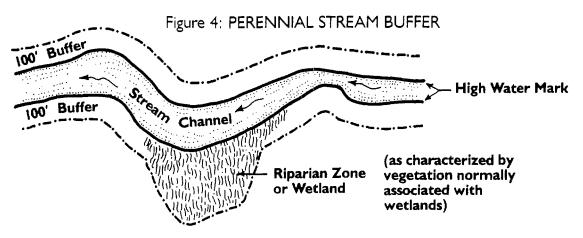
2. STREAM BUFFERS

In order to protect water quality, riparian habitat, and recreational values, a buffer of essentially undisturbed land and vegetation should be protected along streams.

a. Group I - Anadromous Fish Streams. The buffer area shall be normally 200 feet on both sides of the high water mark and shall include all streamside riparian vegetation zones (see Map 3 on page 23 and Figure below). In the case of coal development, the buffer will follow existing standards in the Alaska Surface Coal Mining Control and Reclamation Act (ASCMCRA), and will require a minimum 100 foot setback on all streams.

Figure 3: ANADROMOUS STREAM BUFFER

b. Group II - Perennial Streams not known to have anadromous fish but which are identified on a U.S.G.S. 1 to 63,360 topographic map or field verified by ADF&G and DNR: The buffer shall be 100 feet wide on both sides of the high water mark and shall encompass the adjacent riparian vegetation zones. (See Map 8 on page 47 and Figure below.)

Figure 4: PERENNIAL STREAM BUFFER

c. Buffer Adjustments

(1) Riparian Zone Less Than 100'. The buffer width on Group II streams may be reduced to the width of the riparian zone or 50 feet, whichever is greater, if field verification by ADF&G and DNR concludes the riparian zone is less than 100 feet wide.

(2) Slope Effects. Buffer widths on Group I and II streams should be adjusted to reduce potentially adverse impacts of development within sloping buffer areas. Buffer widths should conform to the following table:

Average Side Slope	Buffer Width
0 - 20%	SB
20 - 40%	SB + 25%
40% or greater	SB + 50%

SB = Standard buffer (Group I = 200; 100' for coal) and Group II = 100')

(3) Wind Effect. Riparian buffer widths should be widened as necessary to increase resistance to windthrow of the residual buffer trees in areas subject to strong winds.

d. Activities Allowed in Group I and II Stream Buffers

(1) Selective-tree cutting as approved by ADF&G and DNR.

(2) Disease and insect control and prevention with pesticides and/or tree removal as approved by ADF&G, DNR and DEC.

(3) Grazing as approved by ADF&G and DNR, consistent with the grazing guidelines in this chapter on pages 103-117.

(4) Road and trail access to and/or across streams for recreation, habitat enhancement, or forest product harvest purposes as approved by ADF&G and DNR.

(5) Access to and/or across streams for utility lines such as powerlines and waterlines, etc. as approved by ADF&G and DNR. Utility systems should not be located so that they parallel stream systems; rather they should cross streams in a perpendicular fashion to the extent feasible and prudent.

3. LAKESHORE BUFFERS

    a. <u>5 Acre Lakes.</u> Buffer widths for lakes up to 5 acres in size are set at 200' landward of the lake's high water mark.

    b. <u>5-100 Acre Lakes.</u> Buffer widths for lakes between 5 and 100 acres in size are set at 300' landward of the lake's high water mark.

    c. <u>100+ Acre Lakes.</u> Buffer widths for lakes exceeding 100 acres in size are set at 400' landward of the lake's high water mark.

    d. <u>Slope Effects.</u> Buffer widths for lakes should be adjusted to reduce potentially adverse impacts on wetlands from development on adjacent side slopes. Buffers should be the standard buffer width for side slopes of 0-20%, 25% percent additional buffer should be added to the normal buffer width for side slopes of 20-40% and 50% additional buffer should be added to the normal buffer width for side slopes of 40% or greater.

    e. <u>Activities Allowed.</u> Activities allowed within lakeshore buffers include the following:

        1. Selective-tree cutting as approved by ADF&G and DNR.

        2. Disease and insect control and prevention with pesticides and/or tree removal as approved by ADF&G, DNR and DEC.

        3. Grazing as approved by ADF&G and DNR, consistent with the grazing guidelines in this chapter on pages 103-117.

        4. Road and trail access to lakes for recreation (including sportfishing), habitat enhancement, or forest product harvest purposes as approved by ADF&G and DNR. These roads and trails should not be located so that they parallel the lakeshore within the buffer.

        5. Access to lakes for utility lines such as powerlines and waterlines, etc. as approved by ADF&G and DNR. Utility systems should not be located so that they parallel lakeshores.

NOTE: See page 137 for a summary of all buffer requirements.