


## Appendix F—Public Meeting Posters


# Values Statement # 1

### Protect the natural integrity of the North Campus Area while providing opportunities for education, research, outreach and recreation

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The North Campus Area is comprised of approximately 1200 acres with natural covertypes including mixed deciduous and coniferous forests, and Black Spruce forests. The natural integrity of the area has persisted by maintenance of a low level of development for the varied uses, with a minimum of permanent structures or impacts. This natural integrity is required by all uses whether research, education, community outreach or recreation. While the uses require naturalness of the area, it is also the uses that could potentially threaten the naturalness. It is achieving a balance between uses of the North Campus Area and maintenance of its natural integrity that is the goal of the first values statement.






**Value Statement 1 has several subcomponents to be explored:**

- The value statement focuses on future use of North Campus, with actions recommended to mitigate impacts from past use (such as infrastructure left from previous projects).
- Should there be no net loss of natural areas on campus?
- Should all currently allowed uses in the North Campus Area be allowed to the future?
- Naturalness of the area includes several components such as water quality, vegetation, and visual impacts. What else should be included?
- Should the visual impact of the trail corridors be maintained - i.e., ensure a viewshed on the trail is maintained?

**Relationship Between Outreach and Recreation and Value Statement 1**


Outreach is a component of UAF's mission statement and is defined as: Application of teaching, research, and other scholarly and creative activity to constituencies outside the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The NCPA considers the recreation opportunities provided to the community to be part of outreach. Recreation on the North Campus not only provides benefits to the faculty, staff and students at UAF but is also extremely important to the community. While outreach and recreation will continue on the North Campus Area, they have the potential to impact the natural integrity of the area. However, like other uses, they also have the potential to create an ethic of stewardship for the land.



**Relationship Between Research and Value Statement 1**


Research is another component of UAF's mission. The North Campus Area is a valuable resource for research, providing a boreal forest environment in close proximity to the developed UAF campus. This provides extraordinary opportunities for monitoring and maintenance of research projects. Research taking place in the North Campus Area ranges from studies of forest growth to monitoring soil around to detect nuclear explosions associated with the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Some research has the potential to negatively impact the natural integrity of the area through infrastructure and the specimen gathering. However, much of the research in the area contributes to the understanding of the Boreal Forest Ecosystem and how it can be better managed.



**Relationship Between Education and Value Statement 1**

The North Campus Area is a vital part of the educational mission of UAF, is formal UAF courses, thesis and dissertation research, and community education programs. Education uses range from groups of students identifying plant life to systematically sampling soil over several years. Group sizes can vary from students to more than 100. With respect to Value Statement 1, education can negatively impact the natural integrity of the North Campus Area as users access certain areas. Also, manipulations of the land or plant communities may negatively impact the natural integrity of the North Campus Area. However, it must be noted educational uses may promote an increased environmental awareness and stewardship of the area.



# Values Statement # 2

Preserve access on the North Campus Area for education, research, outreach and recreation

Proximity of the North Campus Area to the developed UAF campus and community in general provides a valuable resource for education, research, outreach and recreation. Access to users, both on campus and off, needs to be protected in perpetuity. Access is defined as the authorization of a use to occur in the North Campus Area. It is important to note that access for a use is not an absolute property right for all variations of that use. For example, access for research does not mean all research projects have authorization to occur on the North Campus Area. The University should fill in the gaps to facilitate the access requirements of allowed uses, as well as facilitate uses and make the necessary infrastructure available for access.



There are several subcomponents of access to be explored:

- There may be difference in types of trails such as: (1) athletic trail, (2) nature trail, and (3) access / research trail



- There may be a difference in management for a recreation trail vs. access / research trail

- Need to examine visual corridors along main trails, research access trails, etc.



- With respect to trails for access, the University should encourage minimization of showing of permiatrac on North Campus lands
- Research may not be allowed if physical structures remain after research is complete
- Access is for all users of NCA (assuming use is allowed)
- Access should be used to promote education, research, outreach and recreation
- Management must look at impact of research access on a case by case basis, as some access corridors may re-vegetate quickly
- A manager is needed to facilitate a research database

This map illustrates the wide variety of legitimate uses and designations within the NCA. The multiple uses of the land can lead to management issues



Questions specific to overall access include:

- Is current access adequate?
- What types of access points would you like to see more of?
- What types of access points would you like to see less of?
- Should access points be clearly marked?

# Values Statement # 3

Continue to provide opportunities for community involvement that are compatible with the mission of North Campus.

Closely related to Value Statement 2, this value statement revolves around ensuring the community is involved with the North Campus Area. This includes many aspects. Two aspects of community involvement are recreation and the educational uses listed below. However, community involvement also includes ensuring the visual landscape is maintained and seeking community input on management plans.

**Community use:**

- UAF Summer Fine Arts Camp
- Statewide High School Science Symposium
- TOTE Family Fun Fest Museum
- Upward Bound Math Program
- Fairbanks (J), Historic skiers
- Elderhostel
- Adventures in Lifelong Learning
- Equinox Marathon
- Society of American Foresters' Outdoor Education
- Outdoor Days

The North Campus Planning Subcommittee would like input from the community on what is desired from the North Campus Area.

Feedback from the community is required to incorporate into the management plan.



Questions specific to community involvement opportunities include: Feel free to write answers on poster.

- Should further community use (school field trips, commercial use, etc) be sought? \_\_\_\_\_
- What types of community involvement would you like to see more of on Campus? \_\_\_\_\_
- What types of community involvement are incompatible with North Campus? \_\_\_\_\_
- To what extent should the community be involved in determining the future of North Campus? \_\_\_\_\_
- Should a community advisory board be created to guide the future direction of North Campus? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are the best ways to seek community involvement in the management of North Campus Area? \_\_\_\_\_

Winter walk



North Campus Area with trails and roadwork



Summer walk



# Specific Issues

## Conflict within broad categories of activities

Conflicts can occur within broad categories of activities / uses, for example within recreation. In these situations, the conflict is not over general uses of North Campus, but over which use should have priority.

### 1. Skiers / Walkers

One such conflict occurs between those desiring to use the winter trails for walking and those desiring to use the trails for skiing. The groomed ski trails can make for good walking paths, yet walking on the ski trails can diminish the quality of the grooming. However, given the prominence of groomed ski trails, walkers desiring to use the North Campus Area in winter, are severely limited.

- Should walkers not be allowed on groomed ski trails?
- Should the network of winter walking trails in the North Campus Area be enlarged?
- Should prohibitive signs be more prominent, so walkers are aware of the conflict?

### 2. Dogs on ski trails

Dog owners also desire to use the north campus area in the winter, including walking with dogs and skiing with dogs. However, dogs can also damage the grooming on the ski trails and leave behind waste that is undesirable on ski trails.

- Should dogs not be allowed on groomed ski trails?
- Should dogs be allowed on maintained walking trails?
- Should the presently existing separate dog use trails be maintained?

In the winter the NCA has 2.5 miles of dog trails, 4 miles of trail groomed for walking, 3 miles of groomed ski trails, and 11 miles of trail groomed for skiing.



## 3 Winter trails / summer trails

40% of ski trails are more than 30 feet wide.



The design of a trail for winter use can impact summer users and vice versa. For example, trails for skate skiing are wider, and this may negatively impact the experience of those using the trails in the summer.

- What trail width is appropriate?
- What percentage of trails should be slotted for widened trails?



Overhanging branches can be removed to allow more snow to reach the ski trails in the winter. However, this can impact summer uses of the trails.

- Is it acceptable to remove branches, without removing the entire tree, to allow more snow to reach the trail?



Specific trees that have many branches that hang over the trail could be removed to allow more snow to reach the ski trail in the winter. This may impact summer use of the trails.

- Is it acceptable to remove specific trees to allow more snow to reach the trail?

Some ski trails have sharp corners, through heavily wooded areas, that are difficult to navigate. This can result in safety issues for skiers. One solution is to remove trees and straighten the corner.

- Is it acceptable to remove trees to straighten difficult to navigate corners on ski trails?

Some winter trails are in areas of permafrost. While this is not an issue in the winter, they sometimes have standing water throughout most of the summer. Summer use may cause erosion and damage to the vegetation. The damaged vegetation may in turn stimulate melting of the permafrost. One potential solution would be to limit summer use.

- Is it acceptable to limit summer use in areas that are persistently wet in summer?
- Is it acceptable to put surfaces such as woodchips on trails to insulate the ground to protect the permafrost?



## Conflict between broad categories of activities.

Education, research and outreach and recreation can sometimes be in conflict with each other. While all uses desire the North Campus Area for its proximity and natural environment, recreation development sometimes conflicts with research and likewise research can limit recreational access. Some specific conflict become apparent in the following ways.

- trampling of research plots
- lights interfering with research
- trail development through unique and highly valued research areas
- limitation on access for recreation



## Designs for winter trails



# Specific Issues, cont.

## T-field road

The T-field road is one area where an unusually high amount of conflict seems to occur. There is a high concentration of research along the road and it is also used to access many other research projects. The road is also excellent for skiing due to flatness and lack of tree cover to prevent snow from reaching trail. In the summer, conflicts are minimal, however, in the winter researchers desiring access by motor vehicle are in conflict with those desiring to use the road for skiing. The management difficulty is maintaining access to research sites, while preserving its value as a ski trail.

Prohibiting motorized access in the winter may be one potential solution. - How acceptable is it to prohibit motorized access in winter?

Another potential solution is to require advance notice from the researcher interested in motorized access be provided to the NCA manager. The motorized access could then be incorporated into the grooming schedule.

- How acceptable is it to require advance notice for winter motorized access to the T-field road?



## Exposed roots

In some areas along the trail, erosion has exposed roots. The exposed roots make the trees more susceptible to disease. Potential solutions would include covering the trails with a surface such as wood chips, restricting use, or doing nothing.

- How acceptable is covering the trails with a surface such as wood chips to cover exposed roots?
- How acceptable is restricting use to prevent damage to trees with exposed roots?
- How acceptable is taking no action to prevent damage to trees with exposed roots?



## Lights along trails

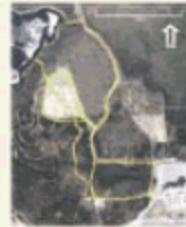
Currently there are lights on approximately 2.2 miles of ski trails. The lights are along the T-field road, the potato field, and the lighted loop. The trails are frequently used at night. Some may like to see the amount of lighted ski trails expanded, others may not feel expanding the amount of lighted ski trails is appropriate on the North Campus Area.

- How acceptable is it to expand the amount of lighted ski trails on the North Campus?

If you feel the amount of lighted ski trails should be increased, please indicate on the map where you think they should, or should not be located.



## Lighted trail



## Smith Lake Parking

- Is a parking lot that is closer to Smith Lake than is currently available needed?
- What types of trail access to Smith Lake should be maintained; i.e. summer trails, winter trails groomed for skiing, etc?



- Where should the parking lot be located?
- How big should the parking lot be?

Please indicate on the map what you think is the appropriate location for a Smith Lake parking lot, or an area that is not appropriate.



## Campground

In the past a campground was maintained on West Ridge, near where the SAR dish is currently located. Many of the campfires are still in place.

- Should the campground be reopened?



## West Ridge camping area



## Tanana Loop Rd.

The master planning committee has proposed completing the Tanana Loop road. The map shows one of the proposed locations. This location would negatively affect several features of the North Campus Area.

- The Biological Reserve
- The Startard six mile ski trail
- How acceptable is the completion of the Tanana Loop road in the location shown on the map?
- Are there other locations for the Tanana Loop road that should be considered?



## Parking in North Campus

If the Tanana Loop road is completed it will eliminate some current parking. One potential solution is to create a parking area in the North Campus.

- How acceptable is it to create a parking area in North Campus?

# Relationships between Value # 2 and Education, Recreation and Research

## Education

Due to its proximity to campus and its diverse natural character the North Campus Area is useful as an outdoor classroom.

UAF classes that use the NCA include:

- Art
- Biology
- Military Science
- Natural Resource Management

Negative interaction of education with other uses could involve:

- Inadvertent trampling of research plots.
- Removal of vegetation from a vegetation sensitive research site.
- Class groups walking on groomed ski trails

Questions specific to educational use:

- Should some areas be reserved specifically for educational use?
- Should some areas be restricted to educational use?

Approximately 40% of the NCA is used for education



## Research

The NCA is utilized for a diversity of research, including Master's theses, Ph.D. dissertations, faculty members' research programs, and research programs of various UAF institutes and centers. There are currently over 20 identified UAF sponsored research projects taking place in various areas within the NCA.

This research is funded by:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Department of Defense
- National Science Foundation
- And others...

The NCA is ideal for research conducted by UAF faculty and students due to its unique environment and proximity to campus. Many of these research projects make use of the trail system in the NCA. Ongoing research includes: soils, forest growth, permafrost, micrometeorology, infrasound, and various biological studies. There are three areas within the NCA that are specially designated as research areas: the Arboretum, the Biological Reserves, and the CIGO site. Benefits of research are numerous: enhancement of the educational mission of the University, increased knowledge of the processes of the boreal forest and permafrost, and financial returns to the University. As is often the case the impacts are not one-sided. Research equipment has been tampered with, and research plots can be disturbed by other users, however there are concerns with the infrastructure required for research. This includes power lines, buildings, and trail access to the research project. There are concerns with safety and ensuring infrastructure is removed after the research project has been completed. There are areas of the NCA where infrastructure has remained after the completion of a project.



Research-specific questions include:

- What types of research activities are compatible with the North Campus Area?
- What types of research activities are incompatible with the North Campus Area?
- Should there be a maximum disturbance allowance of proposed research?
- Should there be more specially designated research areas in the North Campus Area?

## Recreation and Outreach

The recreational use of the North Campus Area provides many benefits to the surrounding community as well as UAF faculty, staff and students. Many recreation take place in the NCA, including:

- |                          |                      |                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Cross country skiing     | Berry picking        | Mountain biking  |
| Walking                  | Painting / sketching | Wildlife viewing |
| Running                  | Mushroom-picking     | Horseback riding |
| Self guided nature walks | Dog walking          | Snowshoeing      |

Participants in these various forms of recreation have different excitation/psychological outcomes. Interestingly, some of the different forms of recreation actually share the same desired outcomes, but the methods of achieving them may differ greatly and require different management settings. The most common concerns with recreational use are negative interactions between users of different types of recreation.

Questions with respect to access for outreach:

- Is current access for these programs adequate?
- Are there specific areas on the North Campus Area where access should be for outreach programs?
- Should a special access permit be required for these programs?

Questions for recreation access:

- Is current level of recreation access adequate?
- What types of recreation access would you like to see more of?
- Where should additional recreation access points be located?

Research locations



Summer trails

