

MANAGEMENT UNIT 12: Klutina Lake and River

Background

This management unit includes Klutina Lake, Klutina River, and land around the lake. Almost all the land around Klutina Lake has been selected by the state and Ahtna, Inc. The land along the northeast end of the lake has already been conveyed already to Ahtna, Inc., and the land around the outlet is privately owned. Native land selections have priority over state selections, and Ahtna, Inc., has indicated that this area has a high priority for conveyance.

Klutina Lake is accessible via a four-wheel-drive road from Copper Center that ends at the lake. The historic Valdez to Copper Center trail follows the northern and western shore of the lake. An easement established under ANCSA Section 17(b) follows the road and trail and should continue through any additional conveyances around the north and west side of the lake. The lake is a popular hunting, fishing, and recreation area; the shoreline has a high potential for archaeological sites.

Klutina Lake and Klutina River (to the Copper River) are navigable and are state owned. Klutina River from the lake to Copper Center is popular for floating, jet boating, guiding and fishing. All of the land that abuts the river is owned by Ahtna, Inc., or other private landowners.

Management Intent

Subunit 12A - Land Around Klutina Lake. The land around the lake should be managed for recreation, habitat, and forestry values. Development of commercial recreation facilities and private recreation cabins is likely on existing private land and possible on lands conveyed to Ahtna, Inc. Management of state land will largely be determined by what land the state ultimately owns around the lake. Most state-owned land around the lake will be retained in public ownership for multiple use with emphasis on forestry, recreation, and wildlife habitat. Many areas have been identified as suitable for recreational settlement, including the area along the western and southern shores of the lake. Should the state receive title to areas suitable for such settlement, a land offering of approximately 500 acres (net) is proposed in this unit.

More specific decisions on managing state land in this area are not possible due to uncertain land ownership. If the state acquires title to enough land in this area to permit settlement or recreation facilities, it may be necessary to convene an interagency planning team to determine the location of such developments. After land ownership issues are resolved, the potential for any legislative designations to protect public recreation lands in public ownership should be evaluated.

Any state-owned land around the lake would be open to mineral entry except land offering areas and St. Anne Creek. St. Anne Creek is important for salmon spawning and resident fisheries and would be closed to new mineral entry.

Subunit 12B - Klutina Lake and River. The lake and river will be managed to protect salmon spawning areas, other fish habitat, and public recreation. The lake and river (above Manker Creek) will be closed to mineral location to protect these resources. Leases would be limited to water dependent uses compatible with the management intent of this subunit.

Recreation use of the Klutina River has increased for floating, boating, and fishing. As recreation use of the river increases, the state should evaluate the need for

public campgrounds and additional access points between the lake and Copper Center. A public take-out for floaters should be established at Copper Center.

Management Guidelines

Trails. An easement should be reserved for the Copper Center to Valdez trail across state lands and any land conveyed to Ahtna, Inc., around the north and west shore of Klutina Lake.

Mineral Closures. Land within 200 feet of Klutina River (above Manker Creek) and St. Anne Creek, the streams themselves, and the bed of Klutina Lake will be closed to mineral location.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Trail management
- Public access
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Settlement
- Public access
- Lakeshore management

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

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SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
12A	State and Native selections	Forestry Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Settlement	State-owned land would be open to mineral entry except St. Anne Creek	Available for leasing	Remote cabins	Status of most land is uncertain. Estimated net land offering - 500 acres
12B	State - Klutina Lake and Klutina River	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Lake and river above Manker Creek closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings	Includes only land under the lake and river that is navigable

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

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RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

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RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	12A	12B
Fish	salmon - s/r/m steelhead	salmon - s/r/m steelhead
Forestry	moderate conif.	N/A
Historic-Cultural	high for prehistoric settle- ments along shoreline	high for prehistoric settlements along shoreline
Minerals	low	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown
Recreation	very high around Klutina Lake and River; floating, fishing, boating, camping	very high along Klutina Lake and River; floating, fishing, boating
Settlement Suitability	moderate to high	N/A
Transportation	road to lake; airstrip below mouth of lake	Klutina Lake and Klutina River are navigable; Klutina Lake Road.
Wildlife	B-2 habitat; A-2 habitat	A-2 habitat

Important trails:

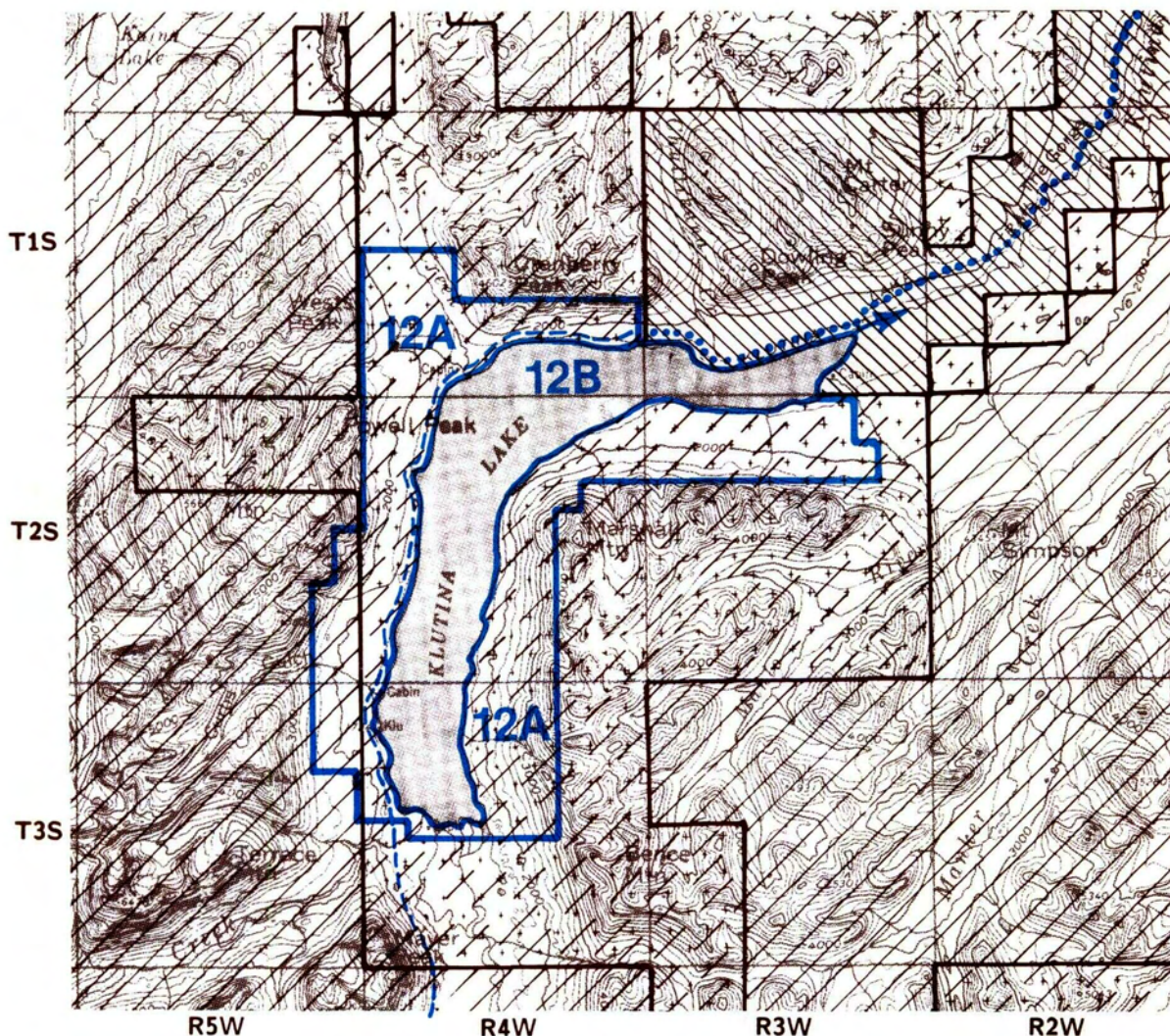
Subunit 12A: Klutina Lake trail, part of historic trail from Valdez to Copper Center.

4-wheel drive road-trail from Klutina Lake to Copper Center (17(b) easement). Trail continues around north and west shores of lake

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

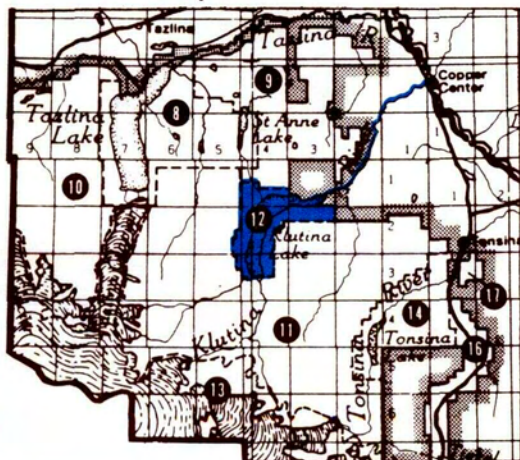
MANAGEMENT UNIT 12

Klutina Lake



Unit 12b extends on the Klutina River to the Copper River

Location Map










U.S.G.S. Quad:

Valdez

Map scale:

1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands
-  Public easements to state land - ANCSA 17(b)

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.