

MANAGEMENT UNIT 16: Tiegel/Richardson

Background

This management unit includes the land along the Richardson Highway - Trans-Alaska Pipeline Utility Corridor from Tonsina to the Tsina River. The entire unit (except two small recreation sites) is federal (BLM) land that the state will select. The U.S. Secretary of the Interior will need to revoke Public Land Order (PLO) 5150 to allow the state to receive this land. The state has requested that this federal withdrawal be revoked.

In addition to serving as one of Alaska's most important transportation routes, the area is also used for recreation, has some forestry values, and provides access to adjacent lands for hunting, hiking, and trapping. The road through the area follows the Little Tonsina and Tiegel Rivers and is very scenic. The spruce bark beetle has infested and killed many of the trees in this area.

Management Intent

Land that the state selects and acquires in this area will be managed for multiple use with emphasis on transportation, recreation, forestry, and settlement. The area will be opened to mineral entry (under BLM, most of this area is closed by PLO 5150) except the pipeline right-of-way. Little Tonsina River will be closed to new mineral entry to protect salmon spawning and rearing areas and recreation values. The state should not select all land in the Tiegel Block as a condition of receiving title to these lands proposed for selection.

Up to 500 acres (net) of settlement land will be offered for private ownership if the state receives title to land in this unit. Areas offered for settlement will be carefully located to avoid harming views from the highway. Land in avalanche chutes and run-outs will not be transferred to private ownership through land offerings. DOT/PF will also be consulted in decisions regarding land sales to minimize impacts on traffic flow and avoid safety hazards caused by the location of access roads for land offerings. Because of these potential hazards, most suitable settlement land will be found in the northern part of this management unit.

The existing state recreation site at Little Tonsina and rest area at Mount Billy Mitchell will be retained in public ownership and managed as state recreation sites.

Management Guidelines

Trails and Access to Federal Land. The state will reserve access to federal lands through areas proposed for land offerings consistent with the guidelines in Chapter 2 of this plan.

Potential Gas Line Corridor. A route for the Yukon-Pacific natural gas line from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez is proposed through this unit. The route roughly parallels the TAPS line. A corridor 600 feet wide on both sides of the TAPS line should be reserved in state ownership for a possible future gas line until a more specific route is established.

Gravel Pits. Existing gravel pits will be retained in public ownership for material sites.

Scenic Values. All development along the Richardson Highway corridor should be located and designed to minimize impacts on views from the highway. The planning

process for future land offerings in this area will identify and protect the scenic resources.

Trails. The Squaw Creek Trail to Tonsina Lake, an old mining trail, is used to access hunting, fishing, and recreation areas. An easement through T. 5 S., R. 1 W. should be reserved if Native selections are approved. The trailhead on the Richardson Highway should be marked.

Avalanche Zones. Land leases for permanent facilities and all land offerings will exclude areas identified as avalanche chutes or run-out areas on DOT/PF and DNR-Division of Mining and Geological and Geophysical Surveys' inventories of avalanche zones.

Highway Access for Land Offerings. DNR will coordinate with DOT/PF to minimize the impacts of land offerings on traffic flow and safety along the Richardson Highway.

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
- Forestry
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Settlement
- Transportation
- Public access
- Stream corridors and instream flow

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		
16A	Federal-BLM	Forestry Settlement Transportation	Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Open except TAPS corridor	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Trapping cabins	State will make selection. Estimated net land offering 500 acres
16B	Federal-BLM	Recreation site		Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land leases Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Existing Mount Billy Mitchell rest area
16C	State	Recreation site		Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land leases Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Existing Little Tonsina state recreation site

* 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		
	16A	16B	16C
Fish	salmon - s/r/m	N/A	salmon
Forestry	moderate conif., serious bark beetle infestation	N/A	N/A
Historic-Cultural	WOMCAT telegraph trail	unknown	unknown
Minerals	low	low	low
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown	unknown
Recreation	high scenic values along Tiekel River	existing rest area (Mt. Billy Mitchell)	existing rec. site (Little Tonsina)
Sand and Gravel	existing sites and potential areas	none ident.	none ident.
Settlement Suitability	moderate areas in north; other areas low to moderate	high	high
Transportation	Richardson Hwy., TAPS line		Richardson Hwy. Richardson Hwy.
Wildlife	moose, brown bear, black bear	moose, brown bear, black bear	moose, brown bear, black bear

Important trails:

16A: Several public crossings of TAPS line

Stuart Creek trail at Stuart Creek on Richardson Hwy.

Squaw Creek Trail on Richardson Hwy.

Bernard Creek trail from Tonsina to Bernard Creek on Richardson Hwy.

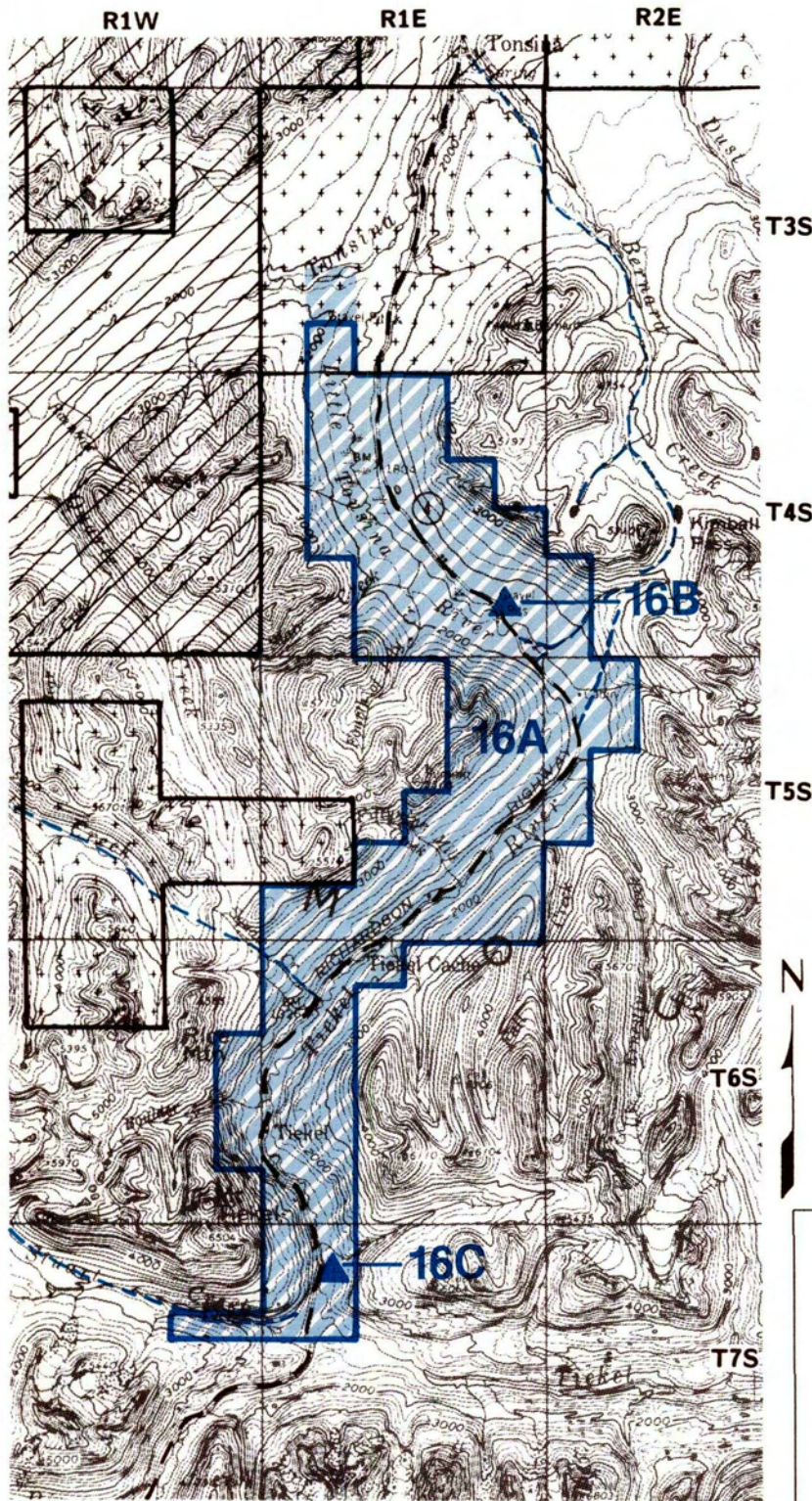
Notes: Tiekel River Fisheries: BLM and ADF&G are working to introduce silver salmon into the Tiekel River

Valley narrows to the south; some areas prone to avalanches

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

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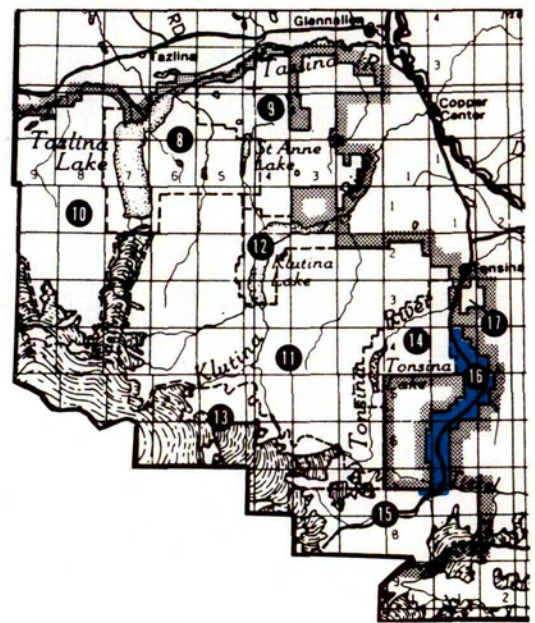
Tiegel/Richardson










U.S.G.S. Quad:
Valdez

Map scale:
1:250,000

Location Map



-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Proposed State Selections
-  Trails on public lands

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.