

MANAGEMENT UNIT 6: Crosswind Lake Area

Background

This management unit consists of state-owned and state-selected land to the east, south, and west of Crosswind Lake, but does not include Crosswind Lake (management unit 7). Most of this unit is swampy and wet, and summer use is restricted to fishing on larger lakes that can be reached by float planes. Twin Lakes and Island Lake (all in subunit 6A, south of Crosswind Lake) are popular recreation areas accessible by floatplanes. The island in Island Lake is considered a unique geologic feature. Many winter trails traverse the management unit. The area has many small ponds that serve as excellent nesting habitat for trumpeter swans. The U.S. Air Force is currently evaluating the area south and east of Crosswind Lake as a possible site for an Over-the-Horizon Backscatter Radar System.

Management Intent

The state-owned or state-selected in management subunit 6A will be retained in public ownership and managed for multiple use, with emphasis on wildlife habitat (moose, trumpeter swans, and caribou) and dispersed recreation. The land will remain open to mineral entry. During swan nesting periods (May 1 to August 31), surface uses regulated by permits or leases, including access by tracked vehicles and other heavy equipment, will be restricted. Most of the land is too wet for such vehicles during this time period. Land offerings, leases, or permits for settlement will not be allowed because of potential conflicts with swan habitats and the generally poor quality of the land. Twin Lakes and Island Lake will be managed as wilderness lakes (see p. 2-41).

All land in subunits 6B and 6C has been selected by the state and Ahtna, Inc. Most of this land is likely to be conveyed to the Native corporation. Any state selected lands in these subunits not conveyed to Ahtna, Inc., should be relinquished except where the land abuts other state land outside this unit (see Chapter 4 for further discussion of relinquishments).

ADF&G, DNR, Ahtna, Inc., and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) should pursue a memorandum of understanding that assures protection of trumpeter swans and their nesting habitat on BLM, state, and Ahtna, Inc., lands in this area. If state-selected lands become state owned, they will be managed for multiple use with emphasis on protection of wildlife habitat. If state owned, these lands become open to mineral entry.

Management Guidelines

Trumpeter Swan Nesting and Concentration Areas. The guidelines for Documented High Value Trumpeter Swan Nesting and Concentration Areas on page 2-10 apply to this entire unit. The Alaska Legislature should consider designating this area as a Critical Habitat Area to retain the land in public ownership and provide greater long term protection to the trumpeter swans.

Reservation of Trail Easements. If additional land in this area is conveyed to Ahtna, Inc., the state should ensure that easements are retained on the trail to Ewan Lake from the Glenn Highway. The section of this trail from the highway in T. 4 N., R. 3 W., has already been reserved through an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Section 17(b) easement. The trailhead on the Glenn Highway should be marked.

Backscatter Radar. A large portion of this unit is one of the study areas for a potential USAF backscatter radar facility. If this unit is selected, the radar facility and access roads should be developed to minimize impacts on trumpeter swans and swan habitat and to enhance public use of the area.

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
- Lakeshore management
- Public access

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		
6A	State	Wildlife habitat	Public recreation	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Grazing, Most land leases* ² Land offerings Remote cabins	Swan guidelines apply
6B	State selected- Native selected	Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Grazing, Most land leases* ² Land offerings Remote cabins	Swan guidelines apply; Possible relinquishment (see guidelines)
6C	State selected- Native selected	Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Possible relinquishment (see guidelines)

*¹ 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.

*² See management guidelines, Page 2-10.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

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RESOURCE	SUBUNIT		
	6A	6B	6C
Fish	salmon	none docum.	none docum.
Forestry	moderate conif. moderate decid. - scattered	moderate conif. moderate decid. - scattered	low
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	low	low	low
Recreation	high; Twin Lake & Island Lakes - fishing	moderate; Moose Creek - fishing	low
Settlement Suitability	low; unsuitable	low; unsuitable	low; unsuitable
Transportation	floatplanes to Twin Lakes, Island Lake	Ewan Lake is navigable	none ident.
Wildlife	A-1 habitat - trumpeter swan, moose, caribou	A-1 habitat - trumpeter swan, caribou	B-1 habitat

Important Trails:

Subunit 6A: Three trails from Glenn Hwy. to Crosswind Lake and continuing to Ewan Lake
Trail from Lake Louise Road to north shore of Crosswind Lake

Subunit 6B: Trail from Glenn Hwy. north to Ewan Lake [17(b) easement, reserved across
Ahtna, Inc., land]

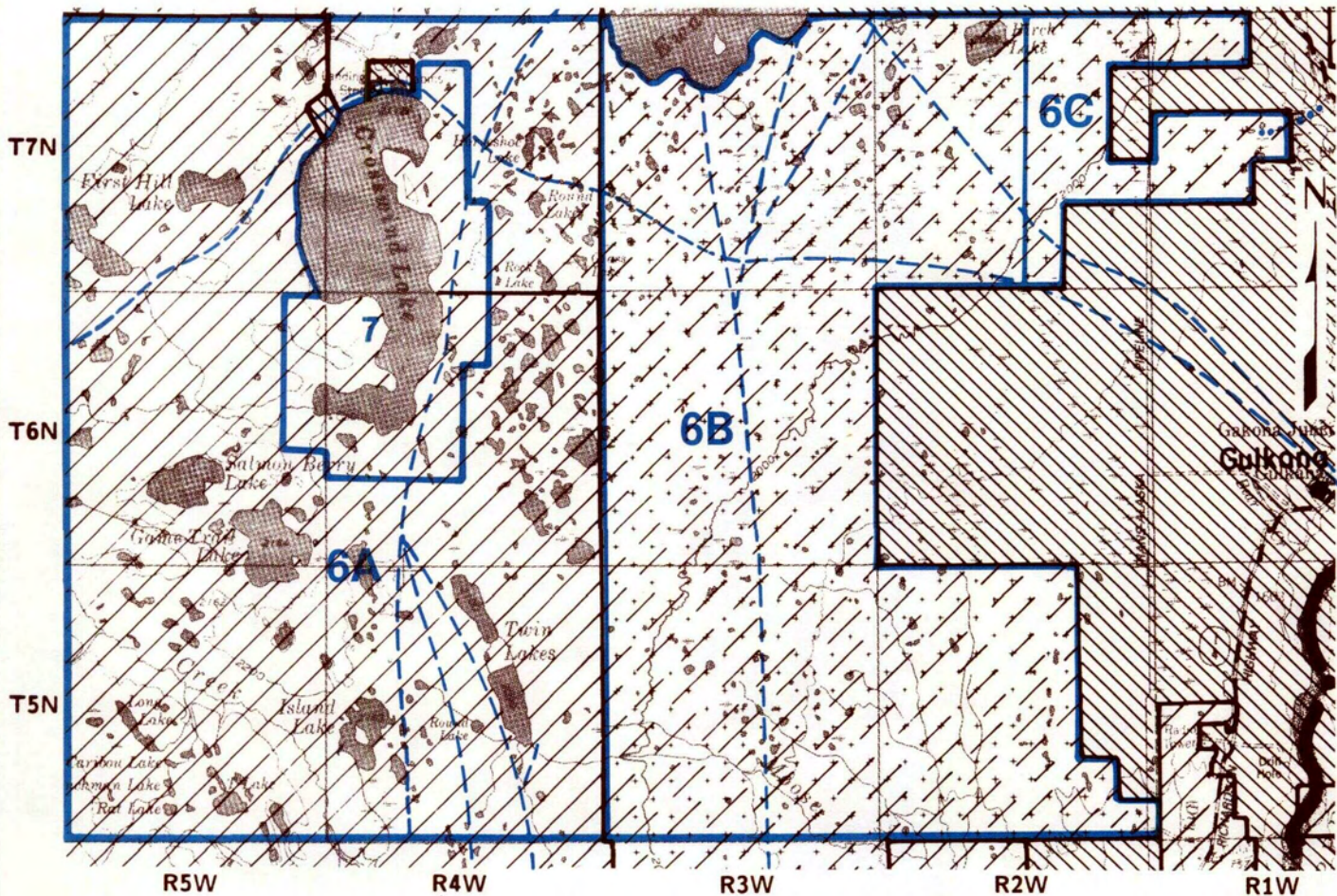
Trail from Gulkana to Crosswind Lake. Trail from Gulkana to Ewan Lake (neither have
easements reserved across Ahtna, Inc., land)

Subunit 6C: Trails same as 6B

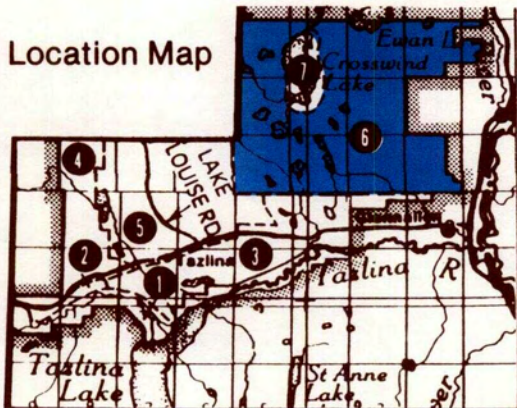
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources,
see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 6

Crosswind Lake Area



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quads:
Gulkana

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.