

Unit D – Upper Jim Alpine

Unit Description

This unit boundary encompasses state lands within T 17N, R 3E, Seward Meridian, above the 1000 ft. contour line as depicted on Map 3-1, *Knik River Management Plan Units* pp 3 - 3. The dominant feature of this unit is the rugged alpine of the Upper Jim Creek drainage.

Land ownership

There are approximately 9,402 acres of state land within the Upper Jim Alpine Unit. See Map 1-2 on pp. 1 - 5 for generalized land status of the planning area and surrounding lands.

Access

Access is from adjacent state, federal, or lands owned by Eklutna Inc. Numerous user created trails originate from Maud Road, Maud Road Extension, and the Rippy Trail and provide access to the adjacent Upper Jim Alpine Unit.

Recreational Use

This unit receives low levels of use primarily related to hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, and climbing. No motorized occurs in this unit.

Fisheries Habitat

The headwaters of Jim Creek are the primary waterbodies in this unit. Habitat for resident fish species is absent. No waterbodies are catalogued by ADFG as anadromous. See Appendix B, Map B-1 for a depiction of those streams and waterbodies included in ADFG's catalogue of waters important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fish.

Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife habitat consists of sub-Alpine and Alpine environments. The lower elevations are forested while the higher elevations are rock and scree.

Dall sheep are commonly found in the vegetated sub-alpine to alpine environments. Ewes with lambs congregate in the area of Jim Creek Canyon. A mineral lick utilized by sheep and goats has been identified west of upper Jim Creek. Mountain goat habitat is located at the higher elevations. Moose utilize the alpine and sub-alpine habitat during snow-free periods for feeding and rearing. Bear habitat encompasses the entire unit. Small game species such as rabbit and spruce grouse and ptarmigan can be found in the vegetated areas. See wildlife habitat maps in Appendix B.

1 **Commercial Use**

2 Commercial use of the unit is unknown at this time. Currently, no land use
3 authorizations for commercial operators have been issued by DNR in this unit. Hunting
4 guides may operate in this unit.

5
6 **Facilities**

7 No facilities exist within this unit.

8
9 **Trails and Easements**

10 User-created trails exist; however, no developed or managed trails exist at this time.

11
12 **Cultural and Historical**

13 No cultural or historical artifacts or sites have been reported to date.

14
15 **Issues**

16 Because of the difficulty in access, there are few if any issues affecting management.
17 Low levels of non-motorized use and no motorized use occurs in the unit.

18
19 There are other issues concerning this unit that apply to the entire public use area. These
20 areawide issues are summarized in Chapter 2 rather than in every unit. Many areawide
21 issues are addressed by draft regulations recently released for public review and comment
22 and now are in the process of being finalized.

23
24 **Management Intent**

25 The management intent for the Upper Jim Alpine Unit is to manage for low levels of public
26 use and to enhance recreational opportunities by applying management guidelines that apply
27 to the entire public use area. The unit will be managed with an emphasis on enhancing non-
28 motorized opportunities, while mitigating impacts to habitats for fish and wildlife.

29
30 **Management Guidelines**

- 31 • (None)

32
33 **Management Recommendations**

- 34 • A non-motorized hiking trail(s) may be developed to connect the trail system in
35 Wolverine Valley with trails in the Knik River drainage. This trail would be reserved
36 as a non-motorized easement.

37
38 **Facilities Recommendations**

- 39 • (None)

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41 **Public Use Sites**

42 No public use sites are established.

1 **Land Use Designation**

2 All state land is co-designated Public Recreation and Wildlife Habitat. All state land will be
3 retained in public ownership.

4

5 **Allowed/Prohibited Uses**

6 All land uses (including commercial recreation) may be authorized except for uses/activities
7 that are designated as “prohibited” in Chapter 4, pp 4 - 4. Uses may be allowed if they are
8 consistent with the legislation, pertinent state laws, regulations, and management guidelines.

9