

Unit G – Glacier

Unit Description

This unit encompasses state lands within Township 15N, R5 & 6E, and Township 16N, R 5E, Seward Meridian as indicated on Map 3-1, *Knik River Management Plan Units* pp 3 - 3. The dominant feature of this unit is the Knik Glacier and surrounding alpine areas.

Land ownership

There are approximately 32,046 acres of state land within the Glacier Unit. See Map 1-2 on pp. 1 - 5 for generalized land status of the planning area and surrounding lands.

Access

Access is possible from adjacent state and federal lands as well as from the Knik River.

Recreational use

This unit receives low levels of recreational use related to hiking and climbing and recreation with snowmobiles and OHV's.

Fisheries Habitat

Lake Fork Knik River is the primary waterbody. Habitat for resident fish species may occur in this unit. The Knik River is catalogued by ADFG as an anadromous stream. Coho salmon present in the Lake Fork Knik River. 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

Because this unit is dominated by the Knik Glacier, there is little habitat for wildlife other than uplands west of the glacier. These uplands provide summer rearing and browsing habitat for moose as well as habitat for sheep and goats. Bear habitat encompasses the entire unit. See wildlife habitat maps in Appendix B.

Commercial Use

Low levels of commercial use occur in this unit.

Facilities

There are no facilities within this unit.

Trails and Easements

No trails or easements exist within this unit.

Cultural and Historical

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

Issues

Lake George has been receiving increased use by commercial and non-commercial pilots causing some additional dispersed recreational use to the south of this area. Over time this use may migrate north into the Glacier Unit. Another issue identified by the public was increased access related to the receding glacier. Although the glacier may be receding, it is doubtful that use patterns will dramatically change before the current plan is amended or revised.

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

Management Intent

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

Management Guidelines

- (None)

Management Recommendations

- A non-motorized trail may be developed on the uplands west of the Knik Glacier. This trail will be reserved as a non-motorized easement to DNR.

Facilities Recommendations

- (None)

Public Use Sites

A portion of the Glacier Public Use Site occurs within this unit as depicted on Map 2-2, pp. 2 - 29.

Land Use Designation

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

Allowed/Prohibited Uses

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