

Unit H – Metal Creek

Unit Description

This unit encompasses state lands within Township 16N, R 5 & 6E, Township 17N, R 5 & 6E, and Township 18N, R 6E, Seward Meridian as depicted on Map 3-1, *Knik River Management Plan Units* pp 3 - 3. The dominant feature of this unit is the rugged alpine and narrow valley of Metal Creek.

Land ownership

There are approximately 28,900 acres of state land and 15 acres of private land within the Metal Creek Unit. There are 32 active mining claims in the unit. See Map 1-2 on pp. 1 - 5 for generalized land status of the planning area and surrounding lands.

Access

Access is provided primarily by the Knik Glacier Trail (RST 17) on the west side of Metal Creek. This trail terminates a few miles up the valley at an impassable landslide. A few user created trails are located within the unit as well. The active mining claims are a primary destination for many of users of this unit.

Recreational Use

Low levels of recreational use occur on a limited basis, primarily during snow-free periods.

Non-motorized use occurs at low levels. Non-motorized users access the area for a wide variety of recreational opportunities including, hiking, wildlife viewing, and hunting.

Motorized use occurs at low levels in the southern portion of this unit. Motorized users access this unit for hunting as well as other forms of recreation.

Fisheries Habitat

Metal Creek is the primary waterbody. Habitat for resident fish species may occur in Metal Creek. Metal Creek has not been catalogued as an anadromous stream by the Department of Fish and Game. 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

Habitat in this unit consists of vegetated valley floor and sub-alpine to unvegetated alpine areas of rock and scree. This habitat is used by many game and non-game species.

Migratory waterfowl habitat is limited. See Appendix B, Map B-2 for waterfowl habitat.

1 Large and small game species utilize available habitat. Moose utilize habitat primarily
2 for rearing and browsing. Bear habitat encompasses the entire unit. Small game species
3 such as rabbit and spruce grouse can be found in the vegetated areas. See wildlife habitat
4 maps Appendix B.

6 **Facilities**

7 There are no facilities except those related to mining claims.
8

9 **Trails and Easements**

10 The Knik Glacier Trail (a state recognized RS 2477) provides access to the southern
11 portion of this unit. A few user created trails provide access to areas adjacent to the Knik
12 Glacier Trail.
13

14 **Cultural and Historical**

15 Historic structures and artifacts or sites related to mining and Native cultures may be
16 located in the Metal Creek Unit.
17

18 **Issues**

19 Because of the difficulty in access, there are few management issues. Access for private
20 landowners and miners will be maintained.
21

22 There are other issues concerning this unit that apply to the entire public use area. These
23 arewide issues are summarized in Chapter 2 rather than in every unit. Many arewide
24 issues are addressed by draft regulations recently released for public review and comment
25 and now are in the process of being finalized.
26

27 **Management Intent**

28 The management intent for the Metal Creek Unit is to manage for low levels of public use
29 and to enhance recreational opportunities by applying management guidelines that apply to
30 the entire public use area. It will be managed to provide the full spectrum of public uses,
31 while mitigating impacts of use on fish and wildlife habitat and protecting public safety.
32 Access for private land owners and access for mining will be maintained. DNR will also
33 address impacts to principle fish and wildlife habitats through the TMP described in
34 Appendix D.
35

36 **Management Guidelines**

- 37 • DNR will maintain access for mining activities and for private landowners.
38

39 **Management Recommendations**

- 40 • (None)
41

42 **Facilities Recommendations**

- 43 • (None)
44

1 **Public Use Sites**

2 No Public Use Sites have been identified.

3

4 **Land Use Designation**

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

7

8 **Allowed/Prohibited Uses**

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

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