

MANAGEMENT UNIT 32: Slana-Mentasta

Background

This management unit includes several scattered tracts of state-owned and state-selected land north of Slana, at Carlson Lake, north of Mentasta, and in the Mentasta mountains. Most of the land with multiple resource values has been selected by the state and Ahtna, Inc. The land is now used for hunting, fishing, and trapping. Prospecting has occurred in the past, but there is no active mining in the area. Porcupine Creek State Recreation Site is a 5-acre, well-used camping facility. Many of the campers want to visit the nearby Wrangell - St. Elias National Park, which has no camping facilities. The Slana River is used by many canoeists because it is slow, meandering, and scenic. State land in subunit 32E, north of Mentasta, does not appear to have useable legal access. Land between the road and subunit 32E has been conveyed to Ahtna, Inc. There is no useable easement to subunit 32E. No significant resources have been identified on this land that would justify acquiring better access at this time. Some of the land in management subunit 32A may be suitable for settlement; however, the land status is uncertain and may remain unresolved for many years.

Management Intent

State land in this unit will be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on wildlife habitat, hunting, fishing, and dispersed recreation. Carlson Lake, if conveyed into state ownership, will be managed as a recreation lake (see p. 2-41).

State land in this unit, except the recreation site and Ahtel Creek, are open to mineral entry. Lower sections of Ahtel Creek will be closed to protect salmon spawning areas.

Management Subunit 32B is the existing Porcupine Creek State Recreation Site. The existing facility includes only 5 acres of state-owned land. This is a popular campground because it is on the Tok cut-off from the Alaska Highway to Southcentral Alaska and is on the northern border of the Wrangell - St. Elias National Park. This part of the National Park is accessible via the Nabesna Road; however, the Park Service has no plans to provide a campground in the area. As a result, the Porcupine Creek facility will need room for expansion. If the state receives title to land around the existing site, land suitable for expansion of the facility will be added to the recreation site.

Management Guidelines

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

Slana River Access. The state should ensure that a public access easement to the Slana River at the Nabesna Road bridge is retained or acquired.

Mineral Closures. Land within 200 feet of Ahtel Creek and the creek itself is closed to mineral location.

Trails. Any additional land conveyances to Native corporations in the Bear Creek Valley should include consideration that public access to public land in Upper Bear Creek Valley is retained.

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
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Settlement

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 32 - Slana/Mentasta
(Page 1 of 2)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
32A	State-Native selected	Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry except Ahtel Creek	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	
32B	State-Native selected	Recreation site		Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins Land leases	Porcupine Creek State recreation site
32C	State-Native selected	Public recreation Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Carlson Lake
32D	State	Wildlife habitat	Forestry Public recreation	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Includes selection along Slana River

* 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.

3-215

ACE 6329577

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 32 - Slana/Mentasta
(Page 2 of 2)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
32E	State	Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	
32F	State	Wildlife habitat		Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	

* 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.

3-216

ACE 6329578

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 32 - Slana-Mentasta (page 1 of 2)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	32A	32B	32C	32D
Fish	salmon	none docum.	none docum.	salmon
Forestry	low	low	low	low
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Minerals	low	low	low	low
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Recreation	high for floating and fishing along Slana River	existing recreation site - Porcupine Creek	high for fishing, hiking and camping - Carlson Lake	high for floating and fishing along Slana River
Settlement Suitability	variable	moderate	moderate	low, moderate
Transportation	Tok Cut-off Hwy., Duffy's Tavern airstrip	Tok Cut-off Hwy.	Tok Cut-off Hwy.	Tok Cut-off Hwy., Old Mentasta Rd.
Wildlife	B-1 and B-2 habitats	B-1 habitat	B-1 and B-2 habitats	B-1 and B-2 habitats

Important trails:

Subunit 32A: Historic Eagle Trail from Slana - Porcupine Creek to Mentasta.

Subunit 32C: Trail to Carlson Lake from Tok Cut-off; reserved via 17(b) easement.

Notes: Porcupine Creek State Recreation Site is in 32B

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

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 32 - Slana-Mentasta (page 2 of 2)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT	
	32E	32F
Fish	none documented	none documented
Forestry	low	low
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown
Minerals	low	low
Oil and Gas	unknown	unknown
Recreation	low	low
Settlement Suitability	low	unsuitable
Transportation	none	none
Wildlife	B-2 habitat	B-2 habitat

=====

Important trails:

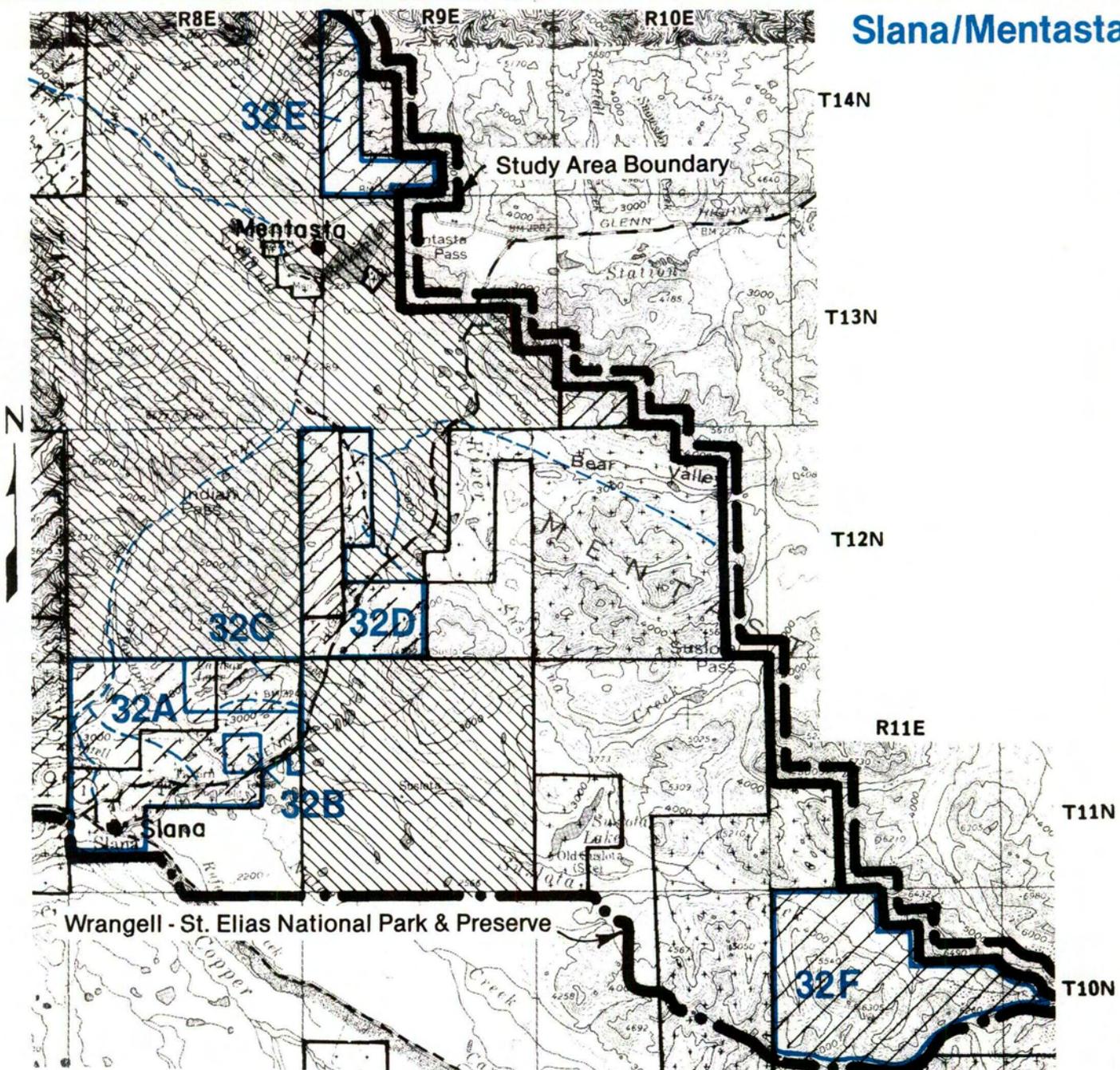
Subunit 32E: Trail along old road reserved from Tok Cut-off via ANCSA section 17(b) easement.

Subunit 32F: Appears to have no developed access; only access would be via section line easement.

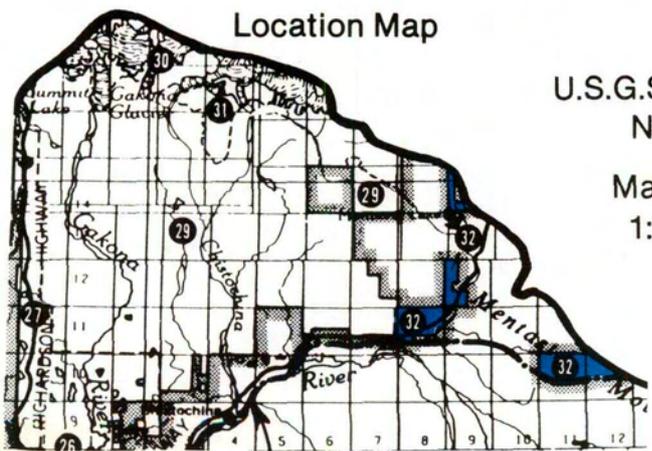
For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 32

Slana/Mentasta



Location Map



U.S.G.S. Quad:
Nebesna

Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  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.

ACE 6329581