Appendix C

TRAILS AND TRANSPORTATION

The four trail maps in this appendix show the general location of the most important trails in the planning area, including 17(b) easements and state Omnibus roads. These four maps differ from those in Chapter 3 in that they include the Iditarod National Historic Trail System (INHTS) and Iditarod Race trail. These trail systems are only located on the Ophir, Medfra, McGrath, and Iditarod quadrangles. For trail locations in other parts of the planning area, see the management unit maps in Chapter 3. The trails depicted on these maps are used primarily for access to hunting, fishing, mining, and recreation areas or transportation between villages. They vary from winter overland routes for sled dogs and snow machines to more established motor vehicle routes such as the Ophir - Sterling Landing Road. Maps in this appendix do not include less heavily-used local trails such as traplines and seismic lines which traverse the planning area. Unless there is a 17(b) easement or state Omnibus road, trails on private lands are not shown.

Public easements shown on these maps which cross Native corporation lands were reserved under Section 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). These easements were set aside to ensure access to public land. State Omnibus roads are routes that were conveyed to the state by the Secretary of Commerce under the 1959 Alaska Omnibus Act.

In Chapter 4, "Recommendations for Additional Access," additional access needs are identified. At some time in the future the state may identify additional access needs over private lands including, but not limited to, acquiring easements, relocating existing easements, or asserting RS 2477 rights. Publicly used trails across state, private, and federal lands are subject to valid existing rights, including rights-of-way established under Revised Statute (RS) 2477. RS 2477 (formally codified as 43 USC 932; enacted in 1866) provides that, "The right-of-way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted." The statute was repealed by Public Law 94-579, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as of October 21, 1976, subject to valid existing claims. The validity of these trails must be determined on a case-by--case basis.

Most off road activity on state land does not need a permit. By statute and regulation, off-road use of vehicles such as jeeps, snow machines, and small all-terrain vehicles may require a permit to cross anadromous fish steams. Four-wheel drive vehicles and all-terrain vehicles do not require permits. Use of larger vehicles will require a permit on state land.

In some cases the trails depicted in this appendix may cross parcels of private land that are too small to show at this scale. These maps are not appropriate for locating and using trails on the ground. Reliance on them for travel could result in trespass on private property. Additional material regarding potential rights-of-way and easements may be obtained through the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, or BLM.

The following additional sources of trails information in this area can be consulted:

1. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land & Water Management, Resource Allocation Section: Kuskokwim Area Plan Trails and Transportation Element, 1988.

2. Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land and Water Management, Resource Allocation Section: Kuskokwim Area Plan - Trails and Transportation Working Maps, 1988.

3. Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities: Inventory of Trails, 1974.

4. Bureau of Land Management. The Iditarod National Historic Trail, Seward to Nome Route -- A Comprehensive Management Plan, 1986.

Trails & Transportation

U.S.G.S. Quad: Ophir

- No Pattern — Public Owned Land
- Native Owned Land
- Management Unit Boundary
- Trails on public lands
- Access easements to public land ANCSA 17 (b) easements & State Omnibus roads
- Iditarod Race Trail
- Iditarod National Historic Trail System
- Possible road corridor between Ophir & Poorman

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands.

Map Scale:
1:500,000

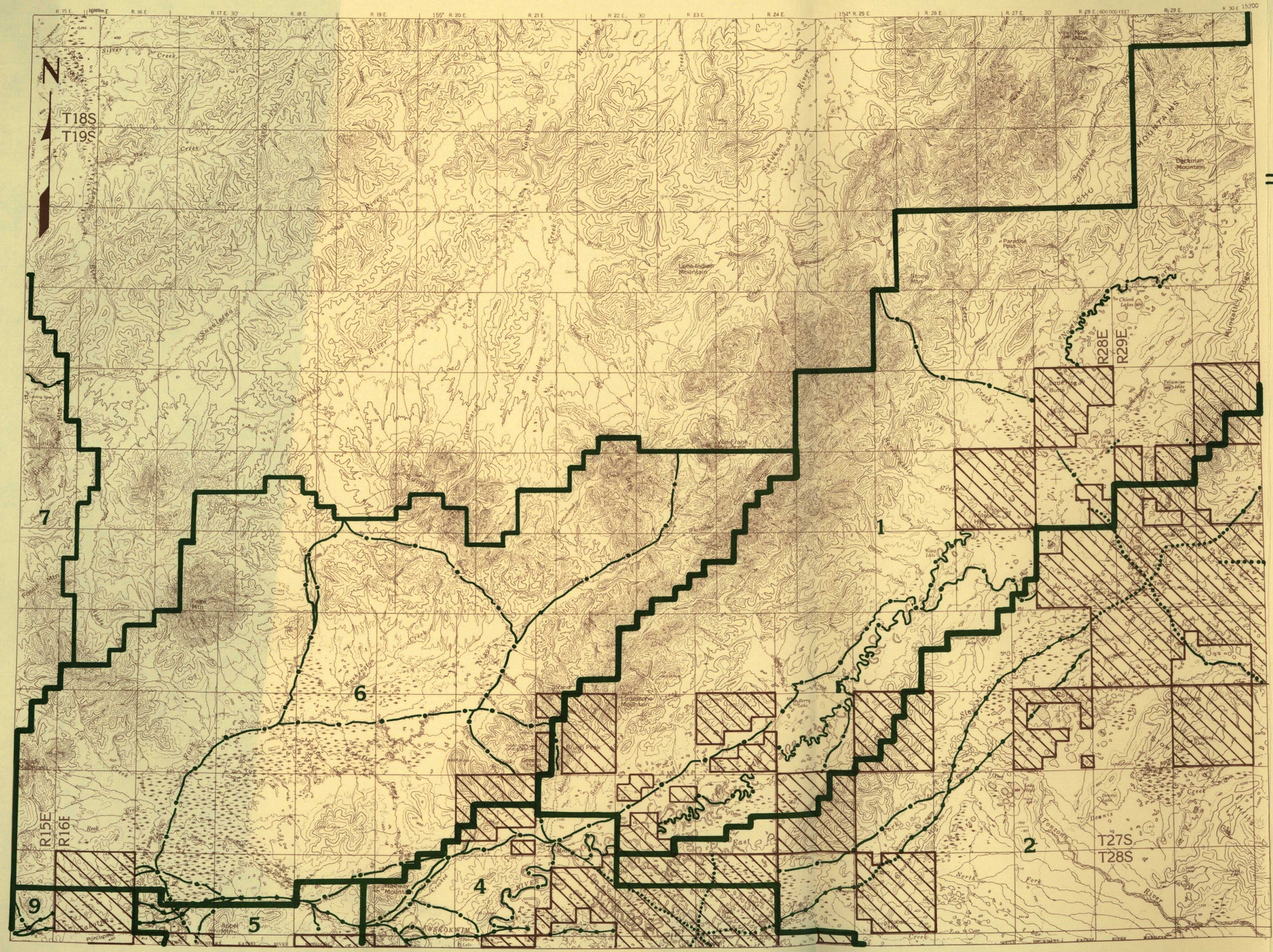
Trails & Transportation

U.S.G.S. Quad: Medfra

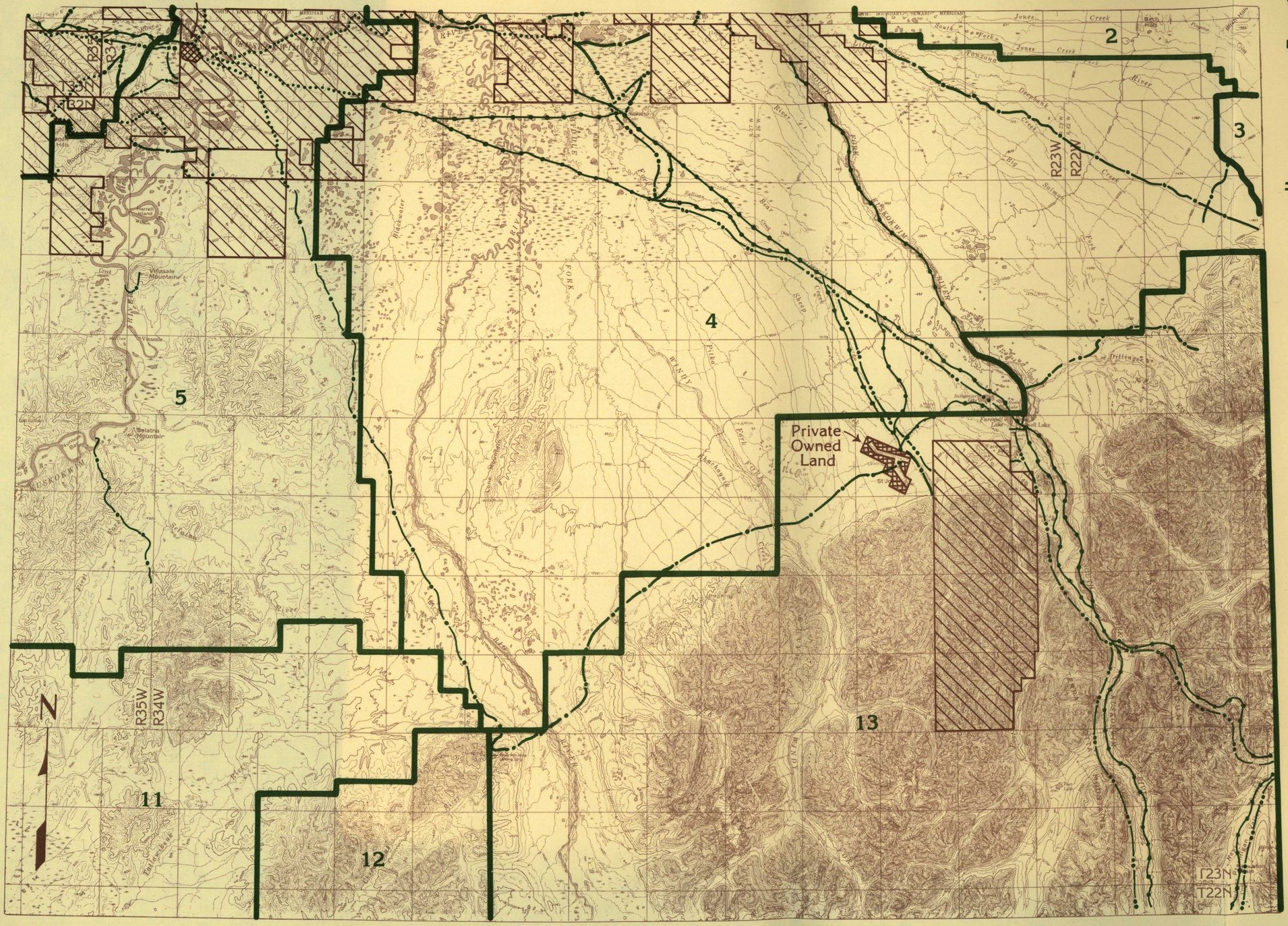
- No Pattern — Public Owned Land
- Native Owned Land
- Management Unit Boundary
- Trails on public lands
- Access easements to public land ANCSA 17 (b) easements & State Omnibus roads
- Iditarod Race Trail
- Iditarod National Historic Trail System

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands.

Map Scale:
1:500,000



Private Owned Land.



Trails & Transportation

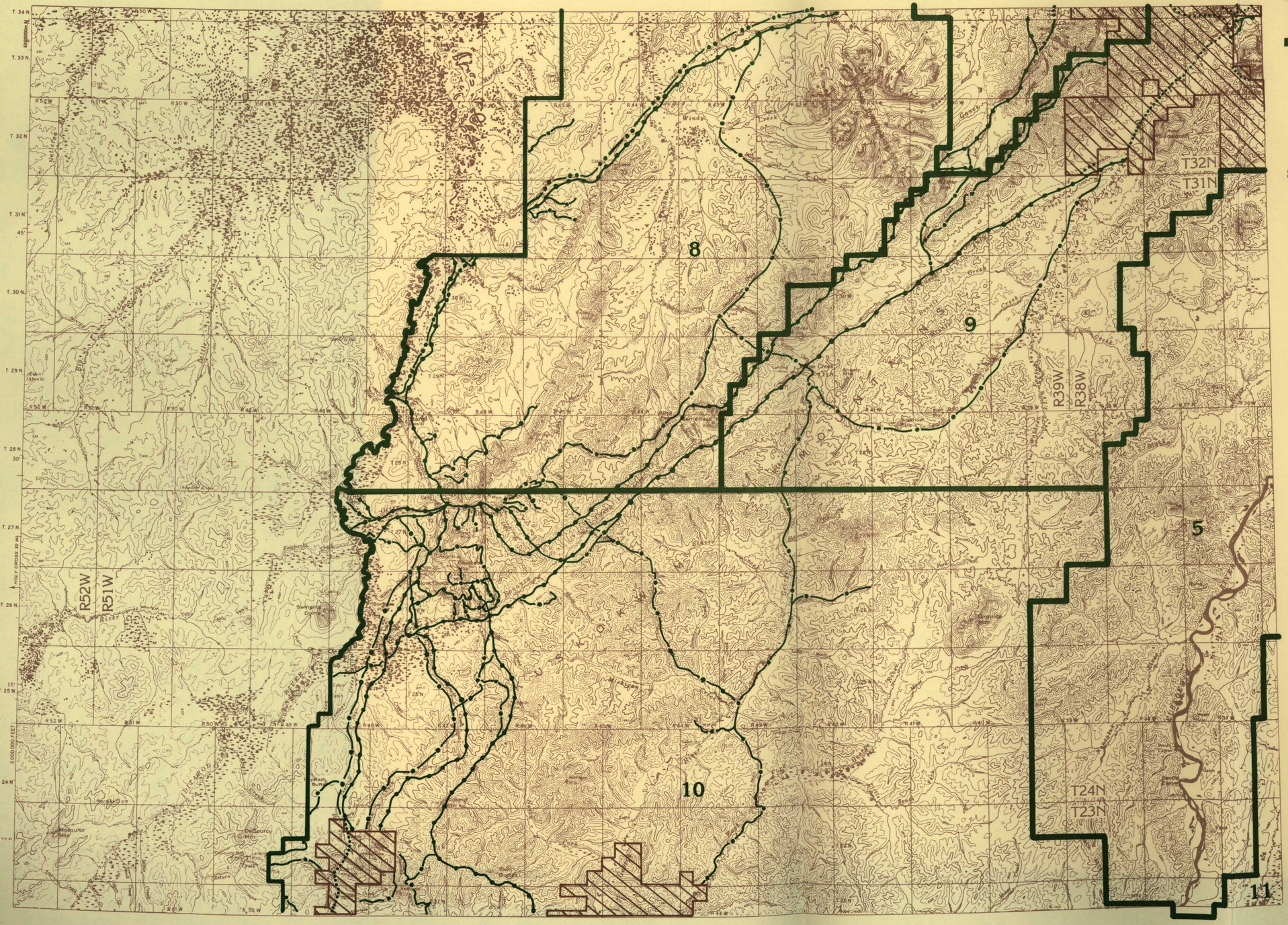
U.S.G.S. Quad: McGrath

- No Pattern — Public Owned Land
- Native Owned Land
- Management Unit Boundary
- Trails on public lands
- Access easements to public land, ANCSA 17 (b) easements & State Omnibus roads
- Iditarod Race Trail
- Iditarod National Historic Trail System

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands.

Map Scale:
1:500,000

Trails & Transportation



U.S.G.S. Quad: Iditarod

- No Pattern — Public Owned Land
- Native Owned Land
- Management Unit Boundary
- Trails on public lands
- Access easements to public land, ANCSA 17 (b) easements & State Omnibus roads
- Iditarod Race Trail
- Iditarod National Historic Trail System

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands.

Map Scale:
1:500,000