

Chapter 3

Land Management Policies for Each Management Unit

Introduction.....	1
Organization of Chapter.....	1
Land Use Designations	2
Designations Used in This Plan	2
Explanation of Mineral and Coal Designations	4
Management Intent	4
Management Guidelines	6
Duration and Flexibility of Plan	6
Glossary	7
Plan Structure.....	7
Plan Regions	7
Management Units	8
Region Descriptions.....	9
Plan Maps.....	9
Land Status Depicted In Plan Maps.....	10
Resource Allocation Table.....	10
Lisburne Region (L).....	13
Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Lisburne Region.....	16
Resource Allocation Table for Tideland Units – Lisburne Region	20
Kobuk Region (U).....	23
Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Kobuk Region	26
Baird Mountains Region (B).....	29
Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Baird Mountains Region	32
Kotzebue Sound Region (K).....	35
Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Kotzebue Sound Region	38
Resource Allocation Table for Tideland Units – Kotzebue Sound Region.....	46
Norton Sound Region (N).....	49
Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Norton Sound Region	52
Resource Allocation Table for Tideland Units – Norton Sound Region	56
Northwest Seward Peninsula Region (S).....	57
Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Northwest Seward Peninsula Region.....	60
Resource Allocation Table for Tideland Units – Northwest Seward Peninsula Region ..	63
Southwest Seward Peninsula Region (W)	65
Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Southwest Seward Peninsula Region.....	68
Resource Allocation Table for Tideland Units – Southwest Seward Peninsula Region ..	71
Navigable Rivers and Lakes	73
Management Intent of Navigable Waterbodies	73
Public Trust Doctrine.....	73
Management Intent: Navigable Rivers and Lakes	75
Figure 3-1: Map Index – Northwest Area Plan	76

Chapter 3

Land Management Policies for Each Management Unit

Introduction

This chapter presents specific land management policy for all state uplands, tide and submerged lands, and shorelands within the planning area. Information on state lands is organized by region, of which there are seven. Figure 1-2 shows the planning area and regions.

The planning area of this plan is very extensive; it stretches from Wainwright on the Arctic Ocean in the north, to Unalakleet on Norton Sound in the south, then west to Cape York at the western end of the Seward Peninsula, thence east to Ambler. Within the planning area there are 7.6 million acres of general state uplands, 5.9 million acres of state-selected uplands, and 5.5 million acres of tidelands and submerged lands.

The management requirements of this area plan do not apply to non-state lands, which includes, in the context of this plan, University of Alaska lands, Mental Health Trust Authority lands, and other state-owned lands directly administered by the ADOT/PF and ADF&G.

Organization of Chapter

The chapter is organized into the following sections:

- *Land Use Designations*, which describe the general management direction for specific parcels of state land.
- *Management Intent*, which consists of an explanation of how specific units of state land are to be managed. Management intent language gives additional specificity to the general management direction provided by the land use designations.
- *Plan Duration and Flexibility*, which indicates the planning period and requirements for plan amendment.
- *Regional Setting*
- *Regional and parcel specific management* direction for state land.

Land Use Designations

A land use **designation** recognizes uses or resources that are of major importance in a particular management unit. Unit designations are based on current and projected future use patterns and the most significant resources identified in each unit. DNR will manage activities in the unit to encourage, develop, or protect the uses or resources for which the unit is designated.

When the plan assigns a designation to a unit, the designation is accompanied by region-wide management guidelines and by management intent specific to that unit. These three pieces of information – designations, management guidelines, and statement of intent – promote the most beneficial use and set conditions for allowing for non-designated uses. All three components must be taken into consideration when making an authorization decision.

Primary designated use. Many units have a primary designated use (versus units designated General Use). Primary designated uses may take precedence over other uses. Generally, however, DNR allows multiple uses. DNR initially presumes that all other uses are compatible with the primary use. However, if DNR determines that a use conflict exists and that the proposed use is incompatible with the primary use, the proposed use shall not be authorized or it shall be modified so that the incompatibility no longer exists (from 11 AAC 55.040 (c)). The plan may assign a designation to ensure a future use that will best serve the public interest, even if that use is not imminent.

Codesignated use. Where a unit has two or more designated uses, DNR will avoid or minimize conflicts between designated uses by applying the management intent statement and guidelines for the unit, the regional intent, and the Chapter 2 guidelines from this plan together with existing statutes, regulations, and procedures. Only those codesignations that are generally complementary to or compatible with each other are included in this plan. Codesignated uses should, therefore, be viewed as compatible unless specific conditions that exist at the time the Department is evaluating whether to grant an authorization indicate otherwise.

Designations Used in This Plan

Gu – General Use. Land that contains one or more resource values, none of which is of sufficiently high value to merit designation as a primary use, or, because of the size of the parcel, a variety of uses can be accommodated with appropriate siting and design controls is designated General Use. This designation may also apply where there is a lack of resource, economic, or other information with which to assign a specific land use designation, and/or the lack of current demand implies that development is unlikely within the planning period.

This designation also applies to tide and submerged land. Large areas of tide and submerged land are affected by this designation; tidelands not affected by a specific tideland management unit are included within a General Use designation. A wide variety of resources

and tideland values are present within areas affected by this designation. They are also important for harvest activities seasonally. Consult the Resource Allocation Table for the management unit designated General Use in each region to determine the resources and uses present in these areas.

Ha – Habitat. This designation applies to areas of varied size for fish and wildlife species during a sensitive life-history stage where alteration of the habitat or human disturbance could result in a permanent loss of a population or sustained yield of a species. This land will remain in state ownership except for areas where a tidelands conveyance to a municipality is allowed under AS 38.05.820 and AS 38.05.825.¹

This land will be maintained in an undisturbed, natural state except for improvements related to public health, safety, habitat restoration or rehabilitation, and public recreation. Authorizations within areas designated Habitat are not to be considered appropriate unless consistent with the previous objectives. Utilities and roads may be appropriate if designed to maintain habitat functions.

Hv – Harvest. Fish and wildlife harvest areas are subsistence, recreational and/or community harvest areas of varied size where alteration of habitat could permanently limit sustained yield to traditional users; or are areas of intense harvest where the level of harvest has reached, or is projected to reach, the harvestable surplus for the resource. This land will remain in state ownership except for areas eligible for a tidelands conveyance to a municipality under AS 38.05.820 and AS 38.05.825. This designation applies to uplands, tidelands and submerged lands.

Co – Coal. Areas considered to have coal potential and for which coal mining is considered to be an appropriate use, are designated Coal. See the “Explanation of Mineral and Coal Designations” at the end of this list of designations.

Mi – Minerals. Areas considered to have mineral potential and for which mining is considered to be an appropriate use, are designated Mineral. See the “Explanation of Mineral Designations” at the end of this list of designations.

Rd – Public Recreation-Dispersed. This designation applies to those areas that offer or have a high potential for dispersed recreation or tourism and where desirable recreation conditions are scattered or widespread rather than localized. Developed facilities are generally not necessary other than trails, trail signs, primitive campsites, and other minor improvements. This land will be retained in public ownership in an undisturbed, natural state except for improvements related to public health, safety, or recreation. Authorizations within areas designated Public Recreation-Dispersed are not to be considered appropriate unless necessary for public health, safety or recreation. Utilities and roads may be appropriate with appropriate design if recreation functions can be maintained.

¹ It is not intended, however, that state land will necessarily be retained in instances where the codesignation of Minerals and Habitat is used. See the “Explanation of Mineral Designations” at the end of this list of designations.

Se – Settlement. This designation applies to state uplands suitable for sale, leasing, or permitting to allow private recreational or residential use. This designation will generally be used for areas appropriate for land offerings for residential uses. Unsettled or unsold land in the unit will be managed for uses compatible with settlement. This may include uses such as selling additional lots, laying out new subdivisions, identifying greenbelts through subdivisions, reserving materials sites for subdivision roads and building lots, placing easements on access routes, or reserving lots for community facilities and open space. Areas designated Settlement should be closed to mineral entry prior to sale. This land may be conveyed to municipalities and individuals.

Tc – Transportation Corridor. This designation applies to land identified for the location of easements and rights-of-way under AS 38.04.065(f), including transportation, pipeline, or utility corridors, or is under consideration for a right-of-way lease. The intent of this designation is to provide a reserve of state land for the eventual development of easements and rights-of-way, including transportation, pipeline, or utility corridors. Land disposals, remote cabins, commercial leasing facilities, and other permanent disposals of state land is not permitted in this designation, except with the approval of ADOT/PF.

Explanation of Mineral and Coal Designations

Except where state land is closed to mineral entry, DNR will treat mining as if it were a codesignated use, or a use that is compatible with the principal surface use. This is important to note because DNR plans usually do not apply mineral/coal resource designations to large areas. The problems in locating and measuring subsurface resources make it difficult and potentially misleading for this plan to apply designations to subsurface resources in the same way they are applied to surface resources. Chapter 2, *Subsurface Resources*, also includes additional guidelines and a summary of statutes regulating mining and reclamation activities.

In this plan the codesignations of Minerals/Habitat and Coal/Habitat are used extensively. This reflects the presence of both mineral/coal and habitat values in a unit with this designation. When a codesignation of Minerals/Habitat or Coal/Habitat is applied, this implies that mining is or may be an appropriate use within a unit with this codesignation, but the habitat values within the unit must be taken into careful consideration when an authorization is under consideration. Stipulations are to be imposed in the authorization in order to ensure the continuation of the habitat value or resource within the unit.

Management Intent

The plan provides management intent for both the resources and types of authorizations that are expected to occur within the planning area as well as for specific management units. Management intent essentially describes how the Department intends to manage a resource or management unit and may both describe what is intended to occur as well as what is not intended to occur. It may also specify specific management direction. Also, the plan can

provide management guidance for a resource without designating it. For example, the plan may address the resource by providing management intent for a specific area or through area wide guidelines. In addition, other state, federal, or local regulations will determine the conditions for using undesignated resources.

In some cases, the management intent for a unit discourages specific uses because these uses may create conflicts with designated uses. **Discouraged uses** may be allowed if DNR determines that the use does not conflict with the management intent, designated uses, and the management guidelines. Discouraged uses include activities that should not be authorized or will not be allowed if there are feasible and prudent alternatives. If DNR determines that the discouraged use conflicts with the management intent or designated uses, and cannot be made compatible by following the management guidelines, DNR would allow it only through a plan amendment.

In some cases the plan may also identify **prohibited uses**. These are uses that have significant conflicts with other uses or resources and will not be permitted without a plan amendment. Prohibitions are rare, because the plan seeks to minimize land use conflicts through plan guidelines and intent rather than through prohibitions.

Management intent statements for each unit refer only to state management of state land. While these statements accommodate certain proposed uses on tidelands and submerged lands, there is no guarantee that other regulatory agencies will issue permits necessary for the proposed use. All proposed development uses referenced in the management intent statements are assumed to employ best management practices in siting and operating the proposed use.

Disposal or Retention in State Ownership. Certain land use classifications, by statute, allow land to be conveyed to municipalities under the municipal entitlement program². The same statute identifies those land classifications that may not be conveyed in municipal entitlement decisions.³ Another portion of statute (AS 38.04.015) identifies the general public interests in retaining areas of state land in public ownership. These principles were applied in developing the recommendations for retention of state land that is identified for specific parcels.

In this plan, the land use designation is the general indicator of whether land should be retained in state ownership or made available for disposal. However, some units have management intent that precludes disposal although the designation and classification might otherwise allow disposal. When this occurs, this restriction is noted in the management intent statement specific to the management unit in the Resource Allocation Table. This

² The municipal entitlements of the Northwest Arctic Borough and, within the planning boundary, the North Slope Borough, have been fulfilled.

³ AS 29.65.130 identifies those land use classifications that permit conveyance under the Municipal Entitlement Act. In this area plan, the designations of General Use and Settlement are considered appropriate for the conveyance of lands out of state ownership. These convert to the classifications of Resource Management Land and Settlement Land.

includes units already under management by another state agency or that contain certain unique or sensitive uses or resources that merit retention by the state. In addition, units already under management agreements with other state agencies are usually not available for conveyance. In no case can DNR convey the subsurface estate to municipalities or individuals. Submerged lands, tidelands, and shorelands must be retained in state ownership unless law requires conveyance or the conveyance is to a political subdivision of the state. These conveyances are subject to the Public Trust Doctrine, described at the end of this chapter.

Tidelands, Submerged Lands and Shorelands. DNR will provide reasonable access across state tidelands to upland owners. Upland access across state tidelands, including developed access facilities, may be allowed within all land use designations where DNR determines the proposed facilities are consistent with the management intent and applicable guidelines of the plan. However, state tideland use designations do not give the public access rights to adjacent private uplands.

Management Guidelines

Most state lands will be managed for multiple uses. Exceptions are lands that will be offered for private lease or ownership, recreation sites that are less than 640 acres, and certain other areas that have unique habitat or public recreation values. When used, management guidelines specify requirements for the use of or development within a management unit. Apart from this, the plan establishes management guidelines in order to allow various uses to occur without serious conflicts. Management guidelines can direct the timing, amount, or specific location of different activities to make the permitted uses compatible. For example, the plan provides guidelines that require that land disposals must be designed to protect public access and recreational opportunities.

Duration and Flexibility of Plan

This plan guides land uses for the **next 20 years or until revised**, subject to periodic reviews, for areas with designations involving settlement, industrial or commercial uses, or other forms of economic uses including material extraction, grazing, or uses related to community or recreational development. Designations related to passive use designations, including habitat, harvest, undeveloped recreation, heritage, and water resources do not have a specific planning horizon. The area plan is intended to guide the management of land within the latter areas until the plan is formally revised. In some instances, areas designated General Use may not be appropriate for development within the planning period and, if so, this is indicated in the management intent language.

The land use designations are intended to be flexible. DNR may permit uses not originally designated if DNR determines they are consistent with the management intent for the unit and consistent with applicable management guidelines.

Boundaries of land use designations shown on the following maps may be modified through implementation activities, such as site planning or disposal, as long as modifications adhere to the intent of the plan and follow the procedures described in Chapter 4 under the section *Type of Plan Changes*.

Glossary

Definitions of terms used frequently in the plan are found in the *Glossary, Appendix A*.

Plan Structure

Plan Regions

As indicated, the plan boundary (see Figure 1-2) encompasses an area estimated to be in excess of 41 million acres. Much of this land is associated with federal Conservation System Units (CSU)⁴ and with Native corporations. There are numerous federal CSUs within the planning region, occupying over 14 million acres, or 34% of the total area. There are three regional Native corporations; these have either received patent or an Interim Conveyance from the federal government. Native land is distributed throughout the planning area and, in addition to the 6.6 million acres owned by these corporations, they have selected 6 million additional acres. This acreage includes an ‘over-selection amount’ and it is likely that only 1-2 million acres will be conveyed to these entities. State-owned land and state-selected land, encompassing 7.6 and 5.9 million acres, respectively, is also distributed throughout the planning region, with no particular concentration within any one area.

State land (including state-selected land) is divided into 7 major geographic areas, termed ‘regions’ in this plan. Regions are typically large geographic areas characterized by lands contiguous to each other and having generally similar characteristics. Figure 1-2 depicts the 7 regions. With the exception of one region, all of these regions are retained from the 1989 area plan⁵. The regions that have been carried over in the 2008 Revision include: Lisburne, Kobuk, Kotzebue Sound, Northwest Seward Peninsula, Southwest Seward Peninsula, and Norton Sound. The ‘Baird Mountain’ region was added in the 2008 plan revision in order to encompass the state land that is either now owned or is in selection status within this large region (592,000 acres owned/selected).

Wherever possible the spatial boundaries used in the 2008 Revision are identical to those in the 1989 Area Plan, but in several cases they are similar, but slightly expanded. Areas of state-owned and selected land that adjoins the 1989 Area Plan regions have been included in

⁴ Federal Conservation System Units: Any unit in Alaska of the National Park System, National Wildlife Refuge System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems, National Trails System, National Wilderness Preservation System, or a National Forest Monument.

⁵ The region ‘Remnant Rivers’ has been replaced by a section on Navigability in this Chapter.

the 2008 Revision, in order to encompass areas of similar management and to provide a system of comprehensive management throughout the planning area. This has occurred in the Kotzebue Sound, Kobuk, and Norton Sound regions.

Management Units

In the area plan, units of state uplands and tideland have been separated into smaller geographic units called management units. State resource management is specific to this level. Management units⁶ may be large or small but usually have generally similar attributes; or they may be specific legal units like a tract within a residential subdivision; or they may be a discrete area of state land affected by a management agreement that is to be administered for a public purpose, like a port, vehicle storage facility or airport. There are 58 upland units and 26 tideland units. With the exception of settlement units and parcels affected by municipal selections, the remainder of the management units occupies large geographic areas. Wherever possible the management units, including their spatial boundaries, used in the 1989 plan have been retained.

All units have a discrete identifying number (i.e., unit number). These are depicted on the plan maps and are included in the Resource Allocation Table. This number provides a cross-reference between the plan maps and the tables containing information about the parcel. The Table contains information on the resources found within the unit as well as plan designation, management intent, and, if required, management guidelines.

Unit numbers are preceded by an alpha character that represents a particular place or area, with the following designations being applied: 'L' represents Lisburne, 'U', Kobuk; 'K', Kotzebue Sound; 'B', Baird Mountains; 'S', Northwest Seward Peninsula; 'W', Southwest Seward Peninsula; and 'N', Norton Sound.

A specific convention is used to identify the various types of upland and tideland units. Upland units have a geographic identifier (a single alpha character that represents one of the regions that are identified above) followed by a two-digit identifying number. Tideland tracts use the region geographic identifier, which is followed by 'T', followed by the number representing the specific management unit. Tideland areas include both tidelands and submerged lands. For example, an upland management unit in the Lisburne region is termed 'L-01' while a tideland unit in the same region is 'LT-01'.

⁶ This plan uses a somewhat different terminology to describe geographic space. Large geographic areas are described in the 2008 Revision as 'regions' and smaller geographic areas, as 'management units'. In the 1989 area plan, regions were called 'Management Units' and the smaller geographic units were used to identify management intent and management guidelines for specific parcels of state land, 'Management Sub-units'. To reflect planning terminology used throughout the state over the last 10 years, the larger areas are termed 'regions' and the smaller parcels that indicate management intent and designation for specific areas, are termed 'management units' in the 2008 Revision.

Region Descriptions

The regions are described in this section of the plan. These descriptions are necessarily generalized and indicate only the general features or characteristics of an area and only give an overview of how the region is to be managed by the Department. Included in these descriptions are the following:

Background: This component provides a description of the planning boundaries and related geographic information.

Distribution and Characteristics: The distribution of state lands within the region is explained. The general topography of the upland tracts is described.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land: The current uses of state land, both uplands and tidelands, as well as their resources, are described. Resources and uses include descriptions of recreational, settlement, minerals, habitat and harvest. The principal mode(s) of access to state uplands are identified.

Management Constraints: State and local land and resource plans affecting the planning region are identified.

Management Summary: This section describes the general way that state land, tidelands and uplands, are to be managed. This section is usually organized in a geographic basis. Note: *Specific management direction is contained in the Resource Allocation Tables.*

Plan Maps

There are 12 plan maps that cover the 2008 Revision. They can be found at the end of this chapter. See Figure 3-1⁷ for an index to these maps showing the entire plan area. Individual plan maps will indicate the region boundaries and boundaries for specific management units.

The plan maps also show land ownership, unit numbers, and plan designations. It should be reemphasized that while the land use designations provide the general management intent for each unit, management intent and guidelines (both management unit and areawide) must be considered for a complete explanation of the management policy and requirements affecting particular units. This is essential in order to get a comprehensive understanding of the overall management intent contained in the area plan. The management guidelines contained in Chapter 2 are particularly critical and must be consulted in adjudication decisions affecting individual parcels of state land.

⁷ Figure 3-1 precedes the region maps that are found at the end of this chapter.

Land Status Depicted In Plan Maps

The maps in this chapter are not intended to be detailed land ownership maps. Instead, they are a representation of state and federal land records current to the date of plan preparation. Land status for upland parcels, including private, Native corporation, municipal, and federal are derived from the Department's Geographic Information System land status coverage. This information is generalized and for this reason the land status for a particular land area can be misleading. For complete information, consult the land records of the Department of Natural Resources, federal Bureau of Land Management, Native corporations, and Northwest Arctic and North Slope Boroughs.

The plan maps show general patterns of land ownership by color. This includes the various types of state land (general state land, land selections and ANILCA topfiled selections) as well as federal, borough, Native and other private lands. However, because of the way that GIS maps are created, which entails a decision hierarchy on what land status to represent in priority sequence, the colors that represent an ownership pattern may not coincide with the actual pattern of such ownership. The Department has tried to make general land status on the plan maps as accurate as possible, but the ownership patterns of other entities may be incorrect.

The location of state-owned or state-selected parcels is derived from information in the Department's land status records and the federal Master Title Plat. Both the status and spatial boundaries of these parcels are accurately represented at the time of plan preparation (2008). However, because state land status changes with time, the same caution exists for these areas as for areas of non-state land. Both color and a distinct external boundary line indicate areas of state and state-selected land. If there is a conflict between the land status depicted by color and that indicated by a boundary line, the boundary line is correct. This line supersedes the color representations of land ownership.

Resource Allocation Table

Resource Allocation Tables provide information on specific parcels and is related to the plan maps through the unit number. The table includes the land use designation and the land management intent for an each specific upland or tideland unit. Essentially, the Tables detail the generalized description of state management intent included under the regional "Management Summary" for specific management units.

The tables are organized by Region and for each management unit it gives the unit identification number; location by Township and Range; and size expressed in acreage. Also included is a description of the resources and uses of a parcel, the designation(s), management intent, and management guidelines.

More specifically, the policies and resource information contained in the tables include:

Unit Number: Each parcel of state land has a unit number. Units are preceded with a letter indicating the Region that they are situated within; see previous description of ‘Management Units’.

Designation: Land use designations indicate the primary and co-primary uses and resources for each unit. Although most units are only affected by a single designation (primary), two compatible plan designations (termed “codesignations”) are sometimes specified. Where codesignations have been used, the uses reflected in the designations are believed to be generally compatible and complementary to each other. In a few instance, where a codesignation of Minerals/Habitat or Coal/Habitat is applied, this designation implies that mining is or may be an appropriate use within units so designated, but the habitat values within the unit must be taken into careful consideration when an authorization is under consideration. It is intended that stipulations are to be imposed in the authorization in order to ensure the continuation of the habitat value or resource within the unit.

Acreage: The approximate acreage in each unit is indicated.

MTR: The Meridian, Township, and Range of each management unit are indicated. Two meridians exist within the planning area: Umiat (northern) and Kateel (remainder of area). ‘U’ denotes the Umiat Meridian and ‘K’ denotes the Kateel Meridian. Note that there may be more than one township and range, as when a parcel crosses township and/or range boundaries. When this occurs, the other township(s) and/or range(s) are noted.

Management Intent: This column indicates the management direction for a specific management unit. It is consistent with the recommended designation, but includes more information on how state land is to be managed. In some small-sized parcels, the management intent is likely to be brief since the designation itself is often sufficient to indicate the management intent. This is not always the case with large parcels, and, in these instances, the management intent statement is critical to an understanding of how the various resources within the parcel are to be managed. This section may also indicate if the parcel is to be retained in state ownership, and it often describes those parcel resources or development concerns that must be taken into consideration in land disposals or other forms of development or use. In some instances the development of a parcel is not appropriate during the planning period and, when this occurs, this is stated.

Resources and Uses: This column summarizes the resources and uses for which the unit is designated and which are considered important in the unit. It also provides a generalized description of the unit, and may indicate the presence (or absence) of certain other resources that are important to land management decisions. Typical among this type of information is whether the parcel contains a heritage site, a significant concentration of wildlife or habitat, the current use of the parcel, adjacent land ownership, and if the state parcel adjoins a federal Conservation System Unit, the name of that unit.

Lisburne Region

The Lisburne Region includes the lands on the Lisburne Peninsula west of the National Petroleum Reserve within the North Slope Borough. Most of this land is owned by Native corporations. The remainder is a mix of state-owned and state-selected lands. The unit also contains small parcels of private land, such as Native allotments and federal mining claims. Much of the state-selected land overlaps Native selected land, and it is not certain how much of the state-selected land will end up in state ownership. The state also owns tidelands and submerged lands adjoining the coast. Federal land within this region is also extensive, but most of it has been selected either by the state or Native corporations, except for lands at Cape Thompson and Cape Lisburne that are part of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. This region includes the communities of Point Lay and Point Hope.

Distribution and Characteristics

State-owned uplands are scattered throughout the region, with concentrations in the southern part directly north of the DeLong Mountains. There are approximately 1.0 million acres of state-owned uplands and 1.0 million acres of state-selected uplands. State-selected uplands generally follow the same distribution as state-owned lands, either filling in areas currently in state ownership or extending from these lands. Reflecting the size of this region, topography is varied, consisting of the Arctic Coastal plain in the northern part of the region, by the Northern and Southern Foothills of the Arctic Mountains in the more central part, and by rugged mountainous terrain of the DeLong Mountains, a westward extension of the Brooks Range, in the western part. Vegetative patterns reflect topography. Tundra dominates within the lowlands and alpine vegetation in mountainous areas. River bottoms are characterized by high brush. There is very little development within the region and population is centered in the two villages of Point Lay and Point Hope.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Access is limited within the region to air and water, with water access primarily associated with the major rivers. Except for a limited road system associated with Point Hope and the Red Dog Mine roads are non-existent. Wheel plane landings are feasible along much of the outer coast, in the Lisburne Hills, and along portions of the Wulik River.

The dominant terrestrial mammal in the region are the caribou of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. The herd uses major portions of the region as part of its annual life cycle. Winter calving grounds occur in the more northern parts in the northern and southern Arctic Foothills. The western and southern parts of the region experience high use levels during the summer. This is associated with the migration of the caribou from the more northern winter

calving areas to areas of their summer range and to specific areas that provide insect relief. A small portion of the far western part of the region is also important as winter range, but this area does not occupy state land whereas the other areas occupy both state-owned and state-selected lands. Brown bear, moose, and polar bears are also present within the region as well as waterfowl and anadromous fish.

There is limited use of state land, reflecting the low and dispersed character of settlement. State land is used for dispersed recreation, sport hunting and fishing, subsistence, and, intermittent settlement, and resource exploration.

This region contains concentrations of bituminous coal and the occurrence of oil and gas is rated as high. Bituminous coal is situated on the western flanks of the Lisburne Hills and along the coast at Cape Sabine and Cape Lisburne. The coal formation extends inland from Cape Beauford to the National Petroleum Reserve (and continues some additional distance within the NPR). An oil and gas province occupies most of the area north of the Lisburne Hills, and it is rated at moderate to high potential.

Tideland areas are extensive, totaling 0.7 million acres, and a particularly high value tideland area occurs in the Kasegaluk Lagoon. An exceptionally large lagoon, it stretches from Naokak in the south to Icy Cape in the north, a distance of over 80 lineal miles. It provides important habitat for whales (primarily Beluga), waterfowl and shorebirds, and pinnipeds (ringed seals). Numerous seabird colonies, some with over 10,000 birds seasonally, and anadromous streams are present.

Management Constraints

Few state and local management plans affect this area. Only one state resource management plan affected this area, the 1989 Northwest Area Plan, which is now superseded by this update. The North Slope Borough maintains both a comprehensive plan and a district coastal management plan. Both were consulted in the development of this plan.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. State land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation.

Uplands. Large areas of the region are designated Habitat; these generally correspond to the winter calving and summer insect relief areas of the WACH. The remaining areas are to be managed for multiple uses. Although resource development is limited currently and is uncertain in the future, should it occur, it is likely to be associated with mineral or coal exploitation. While such activities are appropriate in areas designated General Use, and may be appropriate in areas designated Habitat, careful consideration must be given to potential

impacts upon the WACH as well as to the other species and habitats listed in the *Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest Areas* section of Chapter 2. Specific management requirements affect mineral resource utilization and are described in the *Subsurface Resources* section of Chapter 2. Local communities use nearby state lands for personal harvest of fish, wildlife and plant species. These resources and the opportunity to harvest them should be protected. Shorelands in this unit will be managed consistent with the general management intent for such areas described in the *Navigable Rivers and Lakes* section at the end of Chapter 3.

Tidelands. Large portions of the region are encompassed by tideland management units associated with lagoons (Kasegaluk Lagoon, Marryat Lagoon) and with an area along the coast south of Cape Lisburne. These areas are rich in sensitive resources and are designated Habitat. The remainder of the tidelands in this region is designated General Use and are to be managed for multiple uses, with consideration for the presence of sensitive species, and especially related to pinniped and whale migration and concentration.

Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Lisburne Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
L-01	Ha, Hv 112,480	12 Various	Manage unit to protect sensitive species and habitats, and to. Maintain harvest opportunities. Consult with ADF&G and the appropriate federal agencies on the siting of marine mammal haul-out locations and walrus use areas prior to issuing authorizations.	This unit occupies large areas of uplands adjacent to the Arctic Ocean, stretching from Icy Cape in the north to just north of Point Lay in the South. Almost all of this land is state-owned. Occupying the western edge of the Arctic Coastal Plain the topography is level and the vegetation is characterized by wet tundra. There are numerous lakes, some of which are quite large. Caribou are known to be present in the unit, although this area is considered to be their outer range. Areas adjacent to the coast and immediately inland, but also including lagoons, are characterized by high concentrations of waterfowl during the spring and fall periods. USFWS reports, presumably because of the loss of ice in the region, that walruses have begun hauling out in numerous places along the coast between Icy Cape and Cape Lisburne. This area is not known to have high mineral potential and there are few ARDF mineral occurrences. Public access is either by snow-machine or by floatplane in the summer, although there is an airstrip at Point Lay. Portions of this unit are important for harvest purposes by residents of Point Lay.
L-02	Gu 132,914	12 Various	Manage for multiple uses. The extraction of coal is considered appropriate. Maintain harvest opportunities. Uses may be authorized in this unit but consideration must be given to the impact upon the caribou herd by a potential use. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use that may impact this population. Consult with ADF&G and the appropriate federal agencies on the siting of marine mammal haul-out locations and walrus use areas prior to issuing authorizations.	This unit occupies large areas of uplands east of the Arctic Ocean and within the Arctic Coastal Plain. Relatively little of this unit consists of state-owned land; most of this unit consists of state topfiled selections. Occupying the western edge of the Arctic Coastal Plain, the topography is level and the vegetation is characterized by wet tundra. There are numerous lakes, some of which are quite large. Caribou are known to be present in the unit, although this area is considered to be part of their outer range. A seabird colony is located within a portion of this unit. This unit shares a common shoreline with a portion of Kasegaluk Lagoon which is important habitat for waterfowl, shorebird, and beluga whale and other marine mammals. The following subsistence resource is present in this unit: furbearer. Anadromous fish streams and their tributaries lie adjacent to and within the unit. USFWS reports, presumably because of the loss of ice in the region, that walruses have begun hauling out in numerous places along the coast between Icy Cape and Cape Lisburne. This area is not known to have high mineral potential and there are few ARDF mineral occurrences. Coal is known to be present in a geosyncline and is part of a bituminous coal deposit extending from the coast inland considerable distances. The coal deposit is situated some distance from the

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
				surface and it is anticipated that, should mining occur, there will be minimal surface disturbance, with most excavation occurring underground. An exploration Agreement has been issued for this area (2008). Public access is by snowmachine or floatplane in the summer, although there is an airstrip some distance away at Point Lay. The northern parts of this unit are important for harvest purposes by residents of Point Lay.
L-03	Ha, Co 553,030	11, 12 Various	Manage unit to protect the calving grounds of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. The extraction of coal is considered appropriate but must utilize management techniques that avoid or minimize impacts to the WACH, especially during the winter calving period. Maintain harvest opportunities. Uses may be authorized in this unit but consideration must be given to the impact upon the caribou herd by a potential use. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use that may impact this population. Maintain harvest opportunities.	This unit consists of both state-owned and state-selected land and is situated in the Amatusik Hills, northwest of the Brooks Range. Generally hilly topography characterizes the unit and vegetation consists of wet or alpine tundra, depending on altitude. Caribou are present in this unit seasonally during the winter and summer and portions are important for insect relief. The western calving grounds of the WACH caribou herd occupy nearly the entirety of the unit. Brown bears are also present seasonally, coinciding with the presence of caribou. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: caribou and furbearer. Coal is known to be present in a geosyncline and is part of a bituminous coal deposit extending from the coast inland considerable distances. The coal deposit is situated some distance from the surface and it is anticipated that, should mining occur, there will be minimal surface disturbance, with most excavation occurring underground. An exploration Agreement has been issued for this area (2008). This area is not known to have high mineral potential and there are few ARDF mineral occurrences. This unit is not known to contain mineral resources and no ARDF occurrences are present. Public access is limited and occurs by snowmachine or plane. The northern parts of this unit are important for harvest purposes by residents of Point Lay. Anadromous fish streams and their tributaries are present in the unit.
L-04	Ha, Co 485,444	11, 12 Various	Manage unit to protect the habitats associated with the WACH, which are primarily related to insect relief concentrations. The extraction of coal is considered appropriate but must utilize management techniques that avoid or minimize impacts to the WACH, especially during the summer high use period. Maintain harvest opportunities. Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the summer migration period and particularly to uses that may impact areas used for insect relief. The protection of caribou movement corridors is also to be an important	This unit consists of two large parcels of both state-owned and state-selected land inland from the Arctic Ocean and south of Cape Sabine. The topography of these units is characteristically hilly and vegetation is a mix of moist tundra along with high brush within the larger river valleys. The following subsistence resource is present in this unit: furbearer. Caribou are present in this unit seasonally during the summer and portions are important for insect relief. The western calving grounds of the WACH occupy portions of this unit. Brown bear are also present seasonally, coinciding with the presence of caribou. Bears congregate along certain of the anadromous streams as well.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
			consideration. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	Coal is known to be present in a number of specific geosynclines that occupy a variety of locations throughout the unit. The coal deposit is situated some distance from the surface and it is anticipated that, should mining occur, there will be minimal surface disturbance, with most excavation occurring underground. An exploration Agreement has been issued for this area (2008). This area is not known to have high mineral potential and there are few ARDF mineral occurrences. Public access to this area is limited, and is provided by fixed wing and float planes.
L-05	Co, Ha 83,449	11, 12 Various	Unit is to be managed to maintain this area for potential coal production and to protect sensitive habitats associated with the WACH, brown bear, and waterfowl concentrations. Authorizations issued in the southern parcel involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the summer migration period and particularly to uses that may impact areas used for insect relief. The protection of caribou movement corridors is also to be an important consideration. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. Maintain harvest opportunities. Consult with ADF&G and the appropriate federal agencies on the siting of marine mammal haul-out locations and walrus use areas prior to issuing authorizations.	Unit consists of two separate parcels: one near Cape Sabine on the Chukchi Sea and another south of Point Lay on the Arctic Ocean. These parcels both have important coal deposits, although their mineral potential is considered to be low and there are no ARDF occurrences. The northern parcel, which consists of state-owned land, is part of the Arctic Coastal Plain. The topography is uniformly level and vegetation is typically wet tundra. It is part of the outer range of the WACH and also has important fall spring waterfowl concentrations. Brown bear and waterfowl are also known to be present in the unit. The southern parcel appears to be a southern extension of the Arctic Coastal Range and is also topographically flat and has predominantly tundra type vegetation, although high brush vegetation is found along the major river valleys. This area is considered part of the WACH summer range and may also be used for insect relief. Brown bear concentrations also occur seasonally. This unit is used seasonally for harvest by residents of Point Lay. USFWS reports, presumably because of the loss of ice in the region, that walruses have begun hauling out in numerous places along the coast between Icy Cape and Cape Lisburne.
L-06	Ha 220,090	11 Various	Manage unit to protect habitat values, particularly those associated with the WACH, fish and musk ox concentrations. Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the summer migration period and particularly to uses that may impact areas used for insect relief. The protection of caribou movement corridors is also to be an important consideration. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	This large unit is situated at western end of the Lisburne Peninsula in hilly terrain (Lisburne Hills). Vegetation is characterized by moist tundra in lower elevations and alpine tundra in higher elevations. Lowlands adjacent to the Kukpuk and Ipewik rivers are vegetated by moist tundra or high brush. It consists mostly of state-owned land except for state-selected land in a far northwestern part and in the extension south of the two rivers. This area is important to the WACH during the summer migration period; parts of the unit are used for insect relief. Anadromous fish streams and their tributaries are present in the unit. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, furbearer, moose, small game, and vegetation. Portions of the unit are within the BLM Red-throated loon area and Cape Thompson muskox high use area. Although this area is not

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
				considered to have high mineral potential and there are no known ARDF occurrences, it has known coal potential. Public access is minimal and primarily occurs through snowmachine use from Point Hope.
L-07	Ha 21,663	11 Various	These parcels have been selected by the North Slope Borough under their Municipal Entitlement. A recent plan amendment (2007) designated these parcels as Habitat unless future municipal entitlement adjudication determines that these parcels are appropriate for conveyance. The 2008 Revision continues this approach. Should this occur, the parcels are re-designated Public Recreation and reclassified Public Recreation Land. The purpose of the redesignation is to convey the parcels to the Borough. If, however, the entitlement decision determines that their conveyance is inappropriate or the selection is relinquished, the Department intends to lower their priority for conveyance to the state so that the likelihood of state acquisition is low or nil. The designation of Habitat, under these conditions, continues.	This unit consists of four separate parcels along the Kukpuk River east of the Sigrikpak Ridge. Their topography is generally flat to moderately sloping and the vegetation within the stream valleys is high brush. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, furbearer, and small game.
L-08	Ha, Hv 407,745	11 Various	Manage unit to protect sensitive habitats and species. Particular importance is to be given to the maintenance of travel corridors and the protection of insect relief areas. Uses may be authorized in this unit but consideration must be given to the impact upon the caribou herd by potential uses. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use that may impact this population. Maintain harvest opportunities.	This very large parcel extends from L-04 in the north to parcel K-02/K-03 in the south, which is contained in the Kotzebue Sound region. It also extends eastward to the boundary with the Noatak National Preserve and Wilderness. Depending on location this parcel is characterized by hilly to mountainous topography, the latter part being orographically part of the Baird Mountains. Vegetation similarly varies, from high brush in lowland riverine valleys, to wet and moist tundra at intermediate elevations, to alpine tundra in mountainous environments. Caribou are present during summer periods and parts of the unit provide areas of insect relief. Brown bears are also seasonally present, coinciding with the presence of the caribou. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, furbearer, moose, sheep, small game, and vegetation. This unit is not believed to have a high mineral potential, although there are several ARDF occurrences in the central, mountainous parts of the unit. This area is seasonally important for harvest, coinciding with the presence of caribou. Access is limited although there is limited ATV and snowmachine use. There are several airstrips. Most of the unit consists of state land, although there are several large concentrations of state-selected land.

Total state uplands within region = 2,016,815 acres (8 units)

Resource Allocation Table for Tideland Units – Lisburne Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
LT-01	Ha, Hv 142,619	12 Various	Manage for sensitive species and habitat protection. Authorizations within this unit may be appropriate but must consider the impacts of the proposed use on the resources that occur within this unit. Particular concern is to be given to the protection of the waterfowl, pinnipeds and whales. See management guidelines in the <i>Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest Areas</i> section in Chapter 2 for more detailed management requirements.	This large tideland unit comprises the entirety of Kasegaluk Lagoon, an exceptionally large lagoon, stretching from Naokak in the south to Icy Cape in the north, a distance of over 80 lineal miles. (The lagoon actually extends further to the east, but this area is outside the plan boundary.) This lagoon supports an extremely productive and varied biosystem. Present within the lagoon are concentrations of shorebirds and waterfowl, beluga whale (summer months), and pinnipeds (ringed seal). Waterfowl concentrations occur during the spring and fall and large areas are occupied during molting. Beluga whale occupy large portions of the lagoon during the summer months and concentration areas occur directly offshore at lagoon entrances (Icy Cape, Utukok Pass, Akumik Pass, Kukpowruk Pass, and Naokok Pass). This lagoon also supports at least 10 fairly significant sea bird colonies of approximately 10,000 birds each. A number of large anadromous streams discharge into the lagoon. Point Lay, the only settlement within the immediate area of the lagoon, has minor port facilities. This unit is identified as a 'Most Sensitive Area' by ADF&G.
LT-02	Ha, Hv 86,498	11, 12 Various	Manage for sensitive species and habitat protection. Authorizations within this unit may be appropriate but must consider the impacts of the proposed use on the resources that occur within this unit. Particular concern is to be given to the protection of the pinnipeds and whales. See management guidelines in the <i>Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest Areas</i> section in Chapter 2 for more detailed management requirements.	Stretching from Cape Lisburne in the north to Point Hope in the south, this tideland unit contains a variety of significant species and habitats, but not of the same level of importance as those associated with LT-01 (Kasegaluk Lagoon). Nonetheless, it is also identified by ADF&G as a 'Most Sensitive Area'. Present in this unit are waterfowl, shorebirds, pennipids (ringed seal) and beluga whale. A large number of seabird colonies are present along the coast. Both the ringed seals and the Beluga use this area primarily for migration, which occurs during the March-May period for the ringed seals and March-July period for the beluga whales. Pacific walrus and bowhead whales are also known to use this unit for migration, which occurs during the May-June period for the walrus and March-May period for the bowhead whales. The northern portion of this unit is a migratory near shore pinch point for beluga and other whale species migration. The uplands immediately adjacent to this unit are considered to be important coastal denning areas of Polar Bears. There are at eight seabird colonies, two of which are considered large, of at least 10,000-100,000 or more birds. These occur at rocky promontories.
LT-03	Ha 14,275	11 Various	Manage for sensitive species and habitat protection.	This tideland unit consists of the Marryat Lagoon, adjacent to the community of Point Hope. It is a shorebird and seabird concentration area. Anadromous fish are also present.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
LT-04	Ha/Hv 323,998	11, 12 Various	Manage for sensitive species and habitat protection. Authorizations within this unit may be appropriate but must consider the impacts of the proposed use on the resources that occur within the unit. Particular concern is to be given to the protection of pennipeds, whales, the threatened Spectacled Eider, and seabird colonies. See management guidelines in the <i>Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest Areas</i> section in Chapter 2 for more detailed management requirements. Prior to issuing an authorization consult reference sources mentioned in 'Resources and Uses' and consult ADF&G, NMFS, or USFWS, as appropriate. It is also important to consult with ADF&G and federal agencies on marine haulout locations and walrus use areas. Note: Not included within this tideland unit are the patented tidelands to the City of Kotzebue.	This tideland unit includes all areas of the coast not otherwise included in a tideland polygon or identified as a pinniped haulout or seabird colony on the plan maps. A variety of species occur within this large area, often associated with migratory patterns. Present in coastal waters and/or on ice are shorebirds, seabirds, and waterfowl. Also present in the area are pinnipeds and whales. A generally similar distribution occurs in leads, except for the absence of pinnipeds. Migration patterns are characterized by ring seal migration during March-May and by whale migration March-July (northbound) and September-October (southbound). Bowhead and beluga whales are both present in off-shore waters. The southern portion of this unit is a migratory near shore pinch point for beluga and other whale species migration. For more information, see alaskacoast.state.ak.us/District/FinalFinalPlans/NorthSlope.htm The US FWS reports that, presumably because of the loss of ice in the region, walruses have begun hauling out in numerous places along the coast between Icy Cape and Cape Lisburne. Concentrations were observed in several places including Cape Lisburne, Corwin Bluff, and along the barrier islands north of this unit (LT-01). Ledyard Bay, in general, is considered a sensitive habitat area and is a federally designated critical habitat area for the threatened Spectacled Eider. Most of the Spectacled Eiders that breed on the Arctic Coastal Plain molt in Ledyard Bay.
LT-05	Gu 89,512acres	11 Various	Manage for multiple uses. Prior to issuing an authorization consult reference sources mentioned in 'Resources and Uses' and consult ADF&G or USFWS, as appropriate. See Management Guideline O in the <i>Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest Areas</i> section of Chapter 2.	This tideland unit includes the off-shore area south of Point Hope to Point Thompson. Sea bird colonies are present within this unit, with concentrations at Point Thompson. See alaskacoast.state.ak.us/District/FinalFinalPlans/NorthWestArctic.htm The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: beluga, bowhead whale, furbearers, marine mammal, polar bear, seal, walrus, and wood.

Total state tidelands within region = 656,903 (5 units)

Kobuk Region

The Kobuk Region consists of lands in the upper Kobuk basin where the major drainages are the Kobuk, Ambler, Redstone, Shungnak, Kogoluktuk, Mauneluk, Pah, and Reed rivers. The mountains ranges within this unit are a portion of the Brooks Range, the Purcell Mountains and the Zane Hills. The size of the region is approximately 5.1 million acres. The region is surrounded by five federal Conservation System Units (CSU): Kobuk Valley National Park, Noatak National Preserve, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge and the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge. Approximately 663,000 acres of the Gates of the Arctic, 236,000 acres of the Selawik NWR and 147,000 acres of the Koyukuk NWR are located within the region boundary. The terrain varies widely from exposed bedrock on mountain tops of the western Brooks Range, the Purcell Mountains and the Zane Hills; to extensive wetlands in the lower valleys. Spruce and hardwood forests are found along much of the Kobuk River and its major tributaries, with wet tundra behind the riparian forests.

Most of the state-owned/selected lands occupy the northeast portion of the region. A large block of state-selected and topfiled land straddles the 1989 plan boundary in the southeast corner of this region and this plan revision expands the plan boundary here to encompass these lands. The communities of Ambler, Shungnak and Kobuk are the three major villages in this region located on the Kobuk River. This region is mostly within the Northwest Arctic Borough with the exception being the state-selected/topfiled lands in the Purcell Mountains and Zane Hills.

Distribution and Characteristics

There are over 1.5 million acres of state-owned land and 1.0 million acres of state-selected land. Much of the state-selected land are topfiled selections over Native corporation selections, and it is not clear how much of this will be conveyed to the state. State-owned land includes most of the area between the Kobuk River and the Gates of the Arctic and Noatak CSUs to the north. Extensive areas of state-selected and topfiled land are roughly located within a 15 mile radius of the villages of Ambler and Kobuk as well as in the Purcell Mountains and Zane Hills.

The topography of this region is characteristically wetlands through the lower major river valleys. Mountains are found in the area north of the Kobuk River. Vegetation patterns generally reflect topography, with wet tundra through the lower valleys and spruce/hardwood forests adjacent to the principle river drainages. Alpine tundra and barren rock characterize upland, mountainous areas.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Access to and throughout this region is centered on the Kobuk River providing boat access or small plane traffic to the villages. There are gravel runways at the communities of Ambler, Kobuk and Shungnak. Other access is provided by snowmachine during the winter, ATVs during the summer and fall, and by skiffs and other small boats, powered and not powered, along the Kobuk River. Wheeled and float planes may also use the rivers and lakes at certain points important for recreation or mining access.

Moderate fish and wildlife values are found along the Ambler, Pah, Kobuk, and Selawik rivers. Anadromous fish, Arctic char, and whitefish are found along these rivers; sheefish spawn within the Kobuk and Selawik Rivers. Moose are distributed throughout the region, with principal winter concentrations found along the Pick, Kobuk, and Pah rivers. Caribou are scattered throughout the region. Fall migratory routes occur throughout the mountainous northern half of this region with heavy use between Ambler and Kobuk. The eastern half of this region is core winter range for the WACH. Dall sheep are present in the mountains on the north side of the Kobuk River. Waterfowl and other migratory birds use the wetlands and tundra of this region, especially during migration.

Hunting, fishing, and limited trapping are some of the major uses of the state-owned and selected uplands in the unit. The residents also use the land for gathering eggs, berries, plants, and firewood. This area is also used seasonally by guides and their clients; recreational users, especially for floating the Kobuk River; and miners.

A mineralized area considered to have high mineral potential occurs within the Brooks Range foothills north of the Kobuk River. Mining has occurred here since the 1800's and this area contains a number of significant mineral occurrences for gold, copper, zinc and lead. Both lode and placer prospects or deposits exist. State and federal mining claims blanket this area. Coal, oil, and gas resources are either of low potential or are not known to be present within the region.

Management Constraints

Few state and local management plans affect this area. Only one state resource management plan affected this area, the 1989 Northwest Area Plan, which is now superseded by this update. The Northwest Arctic Borough maintains a district coastal management plan and has land use zoning. Both were consulted in the development of this plan.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. State land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation. State land in this unit will be kept in

public ownership. This region is open to mineral entry and development⁸, and to mineral, coal, or oil and gas leasing. Shorelands in this unit will be managed consistent with the general management intent for such areas described in the *Navigable Rivers and Lakes* section at the end of Chapter 3. Local communities use nearby state lands for personal harvest of fish, wildlife and plant species. These resources and the opportunity to harvest them should be protected.

⁸ Except for a small area along the Kobuk River closed to mineral entry by MCO 568.

Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Kobuk Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
U-01	Gu 264,781	8, 9 Various	Manage for multiple uses. Since mineral potential within portions of this unit may actually have a high potential, it is likely that exploration and development of locatable minerals will occur during the planning period. Such developments are considered appropriate, but all such developments must follow the following management guideline. All authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon Dall sheep and the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the migration periods and to the protection of movement corridors and winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	This unit consists of seven parcels located throughout the region. Approximately half of the unit is state-owned land and the other half is state-selected. Significant land is located around Bismark Mountain, Kolliosak Lake, Coal Pass, Angayucham Mountains, north of Nutuvukti Lake, and on the southern slopes of the Zane Hills and Purcell Mountains. Moose, caribou, brown bear, and Dall sheep are present throughout. Winter concentrations for moose are along most rivers. Winter range for caribou is found especially at Kolliosak Lake, Coal Pass and Lake Shelby. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, fish, furbearers, moose, sheep, small game, vegetation, and waterfowl. Topography is either mountainous terrain or lowland forest. The vegetation varies from spruce and hardwoods along major streams to alpine tundra and barren exposed ridge tops. Some small portions of these parcels are considered to have high mineral potential with some ARDF occurrences present. Public access and recreation is mostly by plane to large lakes and rivers.
U-02	Mi, Ha 434,260	8, 9 Various	Manage unit for the habitat and harvest values present and the exploration and development of mineral deposits. All authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon Dall sheep and the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the migration periods and to the protection of movement corridors and winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. Protect cultural resources, public access and recreation.	This unit's larger parcel is one long contiguous parcel running for approximately 75 miles paralleling the Kobuk River along the foothills about 15 miles to its north. Located north of the Ambler and Shungnak Rivers along the southern edge of the Schwatka Mountains. A second parcel is a small piece of state-selected land near the Jade Mountains, 10 miles northwest of Ambler. Moose, caribou, brown bear, and Dall sheep are present throughout. Moose and caribou have known winter concentrations along the Ambler, and Kobuk Rivers. The Ambler, Kobuk, and Shungnak, are anadromous streams. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, furbearers, moose, sheep, small game, vegetation, and waterfowl. There are known cultural resources on the upper Shungnak and at Avaraart Lake. Important trails within the unit are the Ambler to Anaktuvuk Pass; Shungnak River and Mauneluk River trails. This unit is considered to have high mineral potential and is a major mining district. A large number of mining claims are found within the unit and the ARDF database shows many occurrences. Public Access is the road to the upper Shungnak river; floatplanes to Avaraart Lake; wheelplane along the Ambler River gravel bars; boat on the Ambler and Mauneluk River. Recreation activities include hunting, camping, dog sledding and floating rivers.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
U-03	Mi 509,765	8 Various	Manage unit for exploration and development of mineral deposits. All authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the migration periods and to the protection of movement corridors and winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	The majority of this unit is located in the Purcell Mountains and Zane Hills. The terrain is mostly exposed bedrock with some alpine tundra. Most of the unit is state-selected or topfired. Mineral potential is high to very high with numerous claims and known reserves. Moose and caribou winter concentration habitat is present in portions of unit. Hunting and trapping occur in unit. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, furbearers, moose, small game, and waterfowl.
U-04	Ha, Rd 40,465	8, 9 Various	Manage unit for cultural, habitat and harvest values as well as dispersed recreation and access. Uses may be authorized in this unit but consideration must be given to the impact upon the caribou herd by a potential use. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use that may impact this population. Maintain harvest opportunities.	Unit is located along the Kobuk River east of Kobuk village. There are recognized winter concentrations of moose and caribou. The unit is part of a caribou migration route. Kobuk River is anadromous and this section is critical habitat for sheefish spawning. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, fish, furbearers, moose, small game, vegetation, and waterfowl. Mineral closing order 568 affects these sheefish spawning areas. Established fall concentrations on migration routes of ducks and geese. Known cultural resource sites along the Kobuk River. Important trail for unit is Alantna-Shungnak-Kotzebue Trail. Public access is by floatplane and wheeled plane along Kobuk river and by boat along Kobuk and Pah rivers. Recreation is floating and camping along the Kobuk River. MCO 568 affects sheefish spawning areas on the Kobuk River.
U-05	Ha, Hv 1,284,641	8, 9 Various	Manage unit for habitat and harvest values. Protect dispersed recreation, access and cultural resources. Uses may be authorized in this unit but consideration must be given to the impact upon the caribou herd by a potential use. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use that may impact this population. Maintain harvest opportunities.	This unit consists of several large parcels throughout the region. The largest portion begins on the eastern edge of the Baird Mountains continuing east along the Schwatka Mountains. Dall sheep, brown bear, moose and caribou are present. Moose and caribou have winter concentrations in many areas. The WACH migrates throughout this unit with heavy use occurring in the part of the Kobuk drainage between Ambler and Kobuk. Anadromous streams include the Kobuk, Mauneluk, Ambler and Pah rivers. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, fish, furbearers, moose, sheep, small game, vegetation, and waterfowl. Known cultural resource sites around Norutak Lake and along Kobuk River, and probable sites in the Ambler River Corridor. Important trails within this region are the Ambler to Anaktuvuk Pass trail; Redstone River to Cutler River trail; Ambler to Redstone River trail; Kobuk to Shungnak trail; Shungnak River to Maunel River trail. Some small portions of these parcels are considered to have high mineral potential with some ARDF occurrences present. Public access is along the road to upper Shungnak, a wheelstrip at Bornite, floatplane to Norutak; boat on Ambler and Manueluk rivers. Recreation includes hunting, camping and floating on rivers.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
U-06	Tc 44,959	8, 9 Various	Manage unit for development of transportation corridor. Retain in state ownership. Protect habitat value.	Unit is part of ADOT/PF's Proposed Western Access Corridor from Candle to Shungnak. It consists of state selections trending southwest thru the Sheklukshuk mountains. Brown bear, moose and caribou are present. Mineral potential is low to very low. The vegetation varies from wetlands to alpine tundra. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, fish, furbearers, moose, small game, vegetation, and waterfowl. Access is by foot or snowmachine. Floatplane provides access by way of the nearby Kobuk River.
Total state uplands within region = 2,578,871 (6 units)				

Baird Mountains Region

This region includes the drainages of the Squirrel River and its tributaries, all of which flow into the Kobuk River, and a large mountainous area north of the Squirrel and Omar River drainages. A portion of the Kobuk River is also situated in the southern portion of the region. Native owned lands occupy three townships immediately south of the Klery Creek mining area and a mixture of state and Native selected lands occupy portions of the Kallarichuk Hills and the Squirrel River near the Kiana Hills. The remainder of the management unit is occupied by federally owned lands, most of which are situated within federal conservation units, including the Noatak National Preserve, Selawik National Wildlife Refuge, and the Kobuk Valley National Park. The state-owned/selected lands occupy the central portion of the management unit. There is only one small community, Kiana, which is situated in the far southern part of the region at the confluence of the Squirrel and Kobuk Rivers. This region is wholly within the Northwest Arctic Borough.

Distribution and Characteristics

There are over 0.2 million acres of state-owned land and 0.4 million acres of state-selected land. Much of the state-selected land are topfiled selections over Native corporation selections, and it is not clear how much of this will be conveyed to the state. State-owned land includes uplands in areas adjoining the Squirrel and Omar Rivers as well as in the central mountainous area, which is part of the Baird Mountain formation. Extensive areas of state-selected⁹ land occupy the uplands adjacent to the remaining portions of the Squirrel, Omar, and North Fork (Squirrel River) rivers. State-selected land also occupies two other principal upland areas: portions of the Baird Mountains and the Kallarichuk Hills. The topography of this region is characteristically mountainous in the central area of state land holdings and generally level adjacent to the Omar and Squirrel River drainages. Vegetation patterns generally reflect topography, and are characterized by bottomland spruce/poplar and lowland spruce/hardwood forests adjacent to the principle river drainages. Alpine and moist tundra characterize upland, mountainous areas.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Access to and throughout this region is limited. There are no roads or airport, although a dirt strip is present at Klery Creek and a gravel runway at the community of Kiana. Such access as exists is provided by snowmachine during the winter, ATVs during the summer and fall, and by skiffs and other small boats, powered and not powered, along the Kobuk and Squirrel Rivers. Float planes may also use the Squirrel and Kobuk Rivers at certain points important for recreation or mining access. Barge access is provided to Kiana.

⁹ Includes both State-selections and ANILCA Topfiled selections.

Moderate fish and wildlife values are found along the Squirrel, Kobuk, and Selawik Rivers and throughout the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Anadromous fish, Arctic char, and whitefish are found along these rivers; sheefish occur within the Kobuk and Selawik Rivers. Moose are distributed throughout the region, with principal winter concentrations found along the Squirrel, Kobuk, and Mangook Rivers. Caribou are scattered throughout the region. Fall migratory routes occur generally north of the Selawik NWR and occupy valleys through the Baird Mountains and a portion of the Baird Mountains is used for insect relief during the spring and summer. Dall sheep are present in the higher parts of the Baird Mountains. Waterfowl are distributed throughout the Squirrel, Kobuk, and Selawik Rivers, and occupy all of the Selawik lowlands, with nesting concentrations present east of Inland Lake. Nesting and molting concentrations of geese occur throughout the Selawik NWR, but particularly east of Inland Lake.

Hunting, fishing, and limited trapping are some of the major uses of the state-owned and selected uplands in the unit. The residents also use the land for gathering eggs, berries, plants, and firewood. The lands and waters provide habitat for moose, caribou, waterfowl, and Dall sheep. This area is also used seasonally by guides and their clients; miners; and recreational users, particularly along the Squirrel River for kayaking and canoeing.

A mineralized area considered to have high mineral potential occurs within the Baird Mountains, directly north of Klery Creek. This area contains a number of significant mineral occurrences, including the Omar, Frost, and Powdermilk Prospects and the Klery Creek placer deposit. Both lode and placer prospects or deposits exist. Principal metallic metals present are copper, zinc, gold, and lead. State mining claims blanket this area and the mining area along Timber, Klery, and Cross Creeks. Several federal mining claims also occur along these streams. Coal, oil, and gas resources are either of low potential or are not known to be present within the region.

Management Constraints

Few state and local management plans affect this area. Only one state resource management plan affected this area, the 1989 Northwest Area Plan, which is now superseded by this update. The Northwest Arctic Borough maintains a district coastal management plan and has land use zoning. Both were consulted in the development of this plan.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. State land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation. State land in this unit will be kept in public ownership, except for areas affected by municipal entitlement selections by the Northwest Arctic Borough, and will be managed for the development of mineral resources in

areas designated Minerals and for multiple uses in all other areas. This entire region is open to mineral entry and development, and to mineral, coal, or oil and gas leasing. Shorelands in this unit will be managed consistent with the general management intent for such areas described in the *Navigable Rivers and Lakes* section at the end of Chapter 3.

Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Baird Mountains Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
B-01	Ha 103,048	10 Various	Manage to protect sensitive species and habitats. Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the spring and summer migration periods and to areas that may be important during the winter. The protection of caribou movement corridors is an important consideration in any authorization. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	This parcel occupies the majority of the Squirrel River drainage with the exception of those parts that are in municipal selection status by the Northwest Arctic Borough. With the exception of a portion of the upper Omar River drainage, the remainder of the unit is in selection status. Occupying areas adjacent to the Squirrel River, an anadromous stream, and its tributaries, terrain is characteristically level and the vegetation, within most of the unit, is typically an upland spruce-hardwood forest. Areas more distant from the river are occupied by high brush. Riverine areas are used by moose for winter concentrations and by waterfowl seasonally. The WACH affects this unit during its spring, summer, and fall migrations and portions of it are used as part of their winter range. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, fish, furbearers, moose, salmon, small game, vegetation, waterfowl, and wood. The mineral potential of this area is considered to be low.
B-02	Gu 1,280	10 K018N008W	Use of this parcel for community development may be appropriate, given its adjacency to Kiana.	This small unit occupies an area near the Native village of Kiana that is a state topfiling under ANILCA. The terrain is generally level and the vegetation consists of an upland spruce-hardwood forest. Caribou of the WACH use this parcel as part of their migratory area. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, fish, furbearers, moose, salmon, small game, vegetation, waterfowl, and wood.
B-03	Ha 77,170	10 Various	This area may be considered appropriate for conveyance to the Northwest Arctic Borough as part of their municipal entitlement. Before this can occur, a final finding and decision must be made under the Municipal Entitlement Act to convey the land to the Borough. In the event that these decisions determine that conveyance is appropriate, those portions that are affected by such a decision are redesignated Public Recreation-Dispersed and are reclassified Public Recreation Land. This designation and classification becomes effective if/when an entitlement decision makes a determination that conveyance to the borough is appropriate. In the event that these decisions determine that conveyance is inappropriate, the Habitat designation continues.	This unit has generally similar characteristics as that of B-01, occupying portions of the Squirrel River drainage. These areas have been selected by the Northwest Arctic Borough as part of their municipal entitlement. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, fish, furbearers, moose, salmon, sheep, small game, vegetation, waterfowl, and wood.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
B-04	Mi, Ha 352,668	10, 11 Various	Manage for mineral and habitat values. Mining is an appropriate use but any mineral development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon Dall sheep and the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the spring, summer and fall migration periods and to areas that may be important during the winter. The protection of caribou movement corridors is an important consideration in any authorization. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	This large parcel is considered to have high mineral potential and there are numerous ARDF occurrences present. It is situated within the Baird Mountains and therefore the terrain is characteristically hilly to mountainous. Dall sheep are present as are caribou that are part of the WACH. This area experiences spring, summer and fall caribou migration and portions of the unit are important for winter range and during the summer, for insect relief. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, furbearers, moose, sheep, and small game. Except within the principal river drainages that may have high brush, the remainder of the unit is characterized by alpine tundra and barren ground. The entire unit consists of state-owned land. The Northwest Arctic Borough has some land within the external boundary of this unit. Portions of the Omar River are considered anadromous.
B-05	Gu 58,317	10 Various	Manage for multiple uses. Mining is recognized as an appropriate use. Since mineral potential within this unit is moderate, and portions may actually have a high potential, it is likely that exploration and development of locatable minerals will occur during the planning period. Such developments are considered appropriate, but all such developments must follow the following management guideline. Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon Dall sheep and the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the migration periods and to the protection of movement corridors. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	This unit is situated to the south of unit B-04, although mineral occurrences are present, this area is considered to have a somewhat lower mineral potential than associated with B-04. The terrain and vegetation of this unit is similar to B-04, and both Dall sheep and the caribou of the WACH are present. The upper northern part of this unit is used during the summer by the WACH for insect relief. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, furbearers, moose, small game, vegetation, waterfowl, and wood.

Total state uplands within region = 592,483 (5 units)

Kotzebue Sound Region

This region includes many drainages in the Northwest Arctic Borough that flow into Kotzebue Sound. This very large region extends from the Baird Mountains in the North to (and including) the northern part of the Seward Peninsula. The Chukchi Sea and Kotzebue Sound form the western boundary, and the eastern boundary extends inland to include the large lake connected to Kotzebue Sound, Selawik Lake, generally terminating at the location of the village of Selawik. State-owned land occupies large portions of the Brooks Range in the far northern part of the region and extensive areas south of Kotzebue Sound within the Seward Peninsula. State-selected land occupies areas west of the Noatak River in the north, while in the southern part of the region large areas of selections, including topfiled selections, occur along the edge of Kotzebue Sound (generally near the communities of Deering and Buckland) and directly south of Selawik Lake. The remainder of this region is either owned by the federal government or Native corporations, with scatterings of private land in the vicinity of Kotzebue and the smaller communities. Much of the federal land is occupied by federal Conservation System Units, which include, in this region, the Noatak National Preserve, Selawik NWR, and Cape Krusenstern National Monument along the north coast. Native and Native selected land is particularly concentrated within the Kotzebue Peninsula and areas adjacent to Kotzebue Sound.

The principal town in the region is Kotzebue. A number of Native communities also occur throughout the region: Noatak and Kivalina occur in the north, Noorvik is situated more centrally (east of Kotzebue), and the communities of Deering, Candle, and Buckland occur south of Kotzebue Sound in the Seward Peninsula.

Distribution and Characteristics

There are over 2.2 million acres of state-owned land and 1.1 million acres of state-selected land. Much of the state-selected lands are topfiled selections over Native corporation selections, and it is not clear how much of this will be conveyed to the state. State-owned land includes concentrations of uplands in the Brooks Range in the north and the Seward Peninsula in the south. Extensive areas of state-selected¹⁰ land occupy the uplands generally west of the Noatak River, along portions of the Kotzebue Peninsula, and scattered areas within the Seward Peninsula near the communities of Buckland, Deering, and Candle. The topography of this region is characteristically mountainous in the northern part of the region within the Mulgrave Hills and Brooks Range, but level to undulating adjacent to the Noatak River and northern parts of the Seward Peninsula. The remainder of the Seward Peninsula within this region is characterized by a system of valleys separated by a range of hills, of which the Kiwalik and Weather Ridge predominate. Vegetation patterns generally reflect

¹⁰ Includes both State-selections and ANILCA Topfiled selections.

topography and the pattern of principal drainages. Moist and alpine tundra are by far the most prevalent vegetative types, occupying large areas of either the flatter terrain within the region or its mountainous areas. Along the principal drainages both bottomland spruce/poplar or upland spruce/hardwood forests predominate.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Kotzebue is the transportation hub of the region, with a regional airport and barge facilities. Small planes provide access to outlying community airstrips, and other remote airstrips. Floatplanes provide access to the coast, the wetland areas west of Kelly River and east of Noatak, and the Red Dog mining district. A gravel road extends from the Chukchi Sea to the Red Dog Mine in the northern part of the region and provides access to the interior. The Deering-Immachuk Road provides access into the Immachuk mining district. A system of local and regional trails extends along the major rivers, along the coast, and around the villages. Access to and throughout this region is limited. Snowmachines are the main mode of travel during the winter.

High fish and wildlife values are found along the coast and along the main river drainages. Anadromous fish, Arctic char, and sheefish are found within these river systems. Moose, Dall sheep, brown bears and caribou are found within interior areas. Moose are distributed throughout the region, with principal fall and winter concentrations occurring along the Noatak and Kelly rivers. Fall and winter concentrations occur in the south, near the Buckland and Kurguk rivers. Dall sheep occur in the Delong and Baird mountains. Brown bear concentrations occur along the principal river drainages, including the Noatak, Buckland, and Koyuk rivers. Caribou are present throughout interior areas. Fall migratory routes do not form concentrated patterns and are distributed throughout the region. Winter range areas include a sizeable area near and west of the Noatak River as well as extensive areas throughout the Seward Peninsula, a relatively new phenomena. Waterfowl are distributed throughout the region but have concentrations along the Noatak, Buckland, Kiwalik, and Kurguk rivers. Nesting and molting concentrations of geese occur throughout the Selawik NWR, but particularly east of Inland Lake.

Hunting, fishing, egging, whaling, and limited trapping are some of the major uses of the state-owned and selected uplands in the unit. The residents also use the land for gathering eggs, berries, plants, and firewood. This area is also used seasonally by guides and their clients, recreational users, particularly along the Noatak River, and by miners.

Within this region there are many large areas with high or very high mineral potential. The most notable mineralized areas are the lead-zinc-silver deposits of the Red Dog Mining District, the coal deposits of the Chicago Creek area, and the gold and platinum deposits of the Kiwalik and West Fork Buckland Rivers. With the exception of the coastal plain, mining claims are distributed throughout the region, with concentrations occurring in the Red Dog District and near the communities of Candle and Buckland.

A variety of important tideland areas exist within this region. The most significant are those associated with the mouth of the Noatak River, the coastal area at the mouth of the Selawik River, and Eschscholtz Bay. Each of these areas has significant concentrations of seabirds and waterfowl, pinnipeds, and whales (beluga). Other important areas occur at Kilawik Lagoon at the southern end of Spafarief Bay and the tidelands near Cape Deceit near the small community of Deering.

Management Constraints

Few state and local management plans affect this area. Only one state resource management plan affected this area, the 1989 Northwest Area Plan, which is now superseded by this update. The Northwest Arctic Borough maintains a district coastal management plan and has land use zoning. Both were consulted in the development of this plan.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. State land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation.

Uplands. State land in this unit will be kept in public ownership and will be managed for the development of mineral resources in areas designated Minerals, habitat values associated with the principal drainages and high use areas by the WACH, the development of a transportation corridor in the southeastern part of the region, and for multiple uses in all other areas. All of this region is open to mineral entry and development, and to mineral, coal, or oil and gas leasing. Shorelands in this unit will be managed consistent with the general management intent for such areas described in the *Navigable Rivers and Lakes* section at the end of Chapter 3.

Tidelands. The more sensitive tidelands in this unit are to be managed as Habitat areas at the mouth of the Noatak River and in Eschscholtz Bay and adjacent to the several federal conservation system units that occur within this region. Tidelands in the remainder of the region are to be managed for multiple uses and are designated General Use. Careful consideration to habitat must be given in the issuance of authorizations in tidelands designated General Use as well as those designated Habitat.

Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Kotzebue Sound Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-01	Gu 177,207	7, 11 Various	Manage for multiple uses. Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the summer migration period and to the protection of movement corridors and protection of core insect relief areas. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	This large unit consists of a number of scattered parcels distributed throughout the northern part of the region generally northwest, north, and northeast of the Cape Krusenstern National Monument. Most of these units occupy lowlands although a few occupy hilly and mountainous terrain. Vegetation varies according to elevation, with lowland areas characterized by high brush in riverine valley, moist tundra in other lowland areas, and by alpine tundra in mountainous terrain. Most of this unit consists of state-owned land although there are a few areas that are in selection status. Access to this area is difficult, and is usually provided by ORV or snowmachine; several small airstrips exist at the villages that occur within this part of the region. Several parcels are within the WACH core insect relief area. Portions of the summer range occur in the northern most of the parcels; the remainder that are situated further southward are considered to be within the migratory area of the herd. Dall sheep occur in some of the mountainous areas. High intensity moose rutting occurs in the eastern portion of the Mulgrave Hills. Arctic peregrine falcon nesting may occur in the southern part of the unit. Dall sheep occur in some of the mountainous areas. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, fish, furbearers, moose, sheep, small game, vegetation, waterfowl, and wood.
K-02	Ha 71,986	11 Various	Manage to protect sensitive species and habitats. Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the summer migration period and particularly to uses that may impact areas used for insect relief. The protection of caribou movement corridors is also to be an important consideration. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	This unit is an extension of unit L-08, which occupies much of the southeastern part of the Lisburne Region, and consists entirely of state-owned land. Within the Kotzebue Sound Region, this unit is characterized by generally mountainous topography having alpine tundra. There are a few river valleys, and these are typically vegetated with high brush. Dall sheep are present in mountainous areas and the unit is used by the WACH for winter range, summer migration and insect relief. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, furbearers, moose, salmon, sheep, small game, vegetation, waterfowl, and wood. Mineral potential is considered to be low to moderate. Public access to this unit is limited and is provided by ORV and snowmachine.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-03	Mi, Ha 170,235	11 Various	Manage for mineral values. Any mineral development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the summer migration period and particularly to uses that may impact areas used for insect relief. The protection of caribou movement corridors is also to be an important consideration. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	This unit, which consists entirely of state-owned land, is considered to have mineral potential and there are numerous ARDF occurrences. Its topography is generally mountainous although there are several river valleys that contain large areas of lowlands, particularly within the Wulik River drainage. Alpine tundra and barren ground characterize the mountainous areas, whereas lowlands generally consist of a mixture of high brush and moist tundra. Dall sheep are present in mountainous areas and the unit is used by the WACH for summer migration and insect relief. The western portion is located in core winter range. Moose are present in portions of the unit. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, furbearers, moose, sheep, small game, vegetation, and waterfowl. Public access to this unit is limited and is provided by ORV and snowmachine. Portions of the Wulik River are used as a source of drinking water supply.
K-04	Ha 355,900	11 Various	Manage to protect sensitive species and habitats. Any development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the winter and to uses that may impact areas used for insect relief. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. There is a 1,157 acre parcel adjacent to the Red Dog Mine road that was selected by the Northwest Arctic Borough and may be considered appropriate for conveyance as part of their municipal entitlement. This plan authorizes reclassification of this parcel to Settlement if and when a final finding and decision is made under the Municipal Entitlement Act to convey this land.	This unit consists of scattered parcels of state-owned and state-selected land situated in the northern part of the Kotzebue Region. Parcels occur adjacent to the coast, adjacent to the principal drainages, the Wulik and Kivalina Rivers, and adjacent to the Noatak National Preserve and Noatak Wilderness. Depending on location, topography is characterized by lowlands adjacent to the coast and the river valleys, and by hilly and mountainous terrain in the eastern part of this unit near the National Preserve. Vegetation is characteristically moist tundra in lower elevations and high brush in the larger river valleys. Alpine tundra and barren ground characterize the hill and mountainous areas. The unit is believed to have low to moderate mineral potential; there are no ARDF occurrences. The Red Dog Mine road crosses this unit and the Northwest Arctic Borough has some land within the external boundary of this unit. Dall sheep are present in mountainous areas and the unit is used by the WACH as summer range. Western portions of the unit are within core insect relief areas. Portions of the unit may also be used for migration, but this level is currently low. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, eggs, fish, furbearers, moose, sheep, small game, vegetation, waterfowl, and wood. Public access to this unit is limited and is provided by ORV and snowmachine.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-05	Tc 60,681	10, 11 Various	Unit is to be managed to maintain this area for the potential development of a transportation route. See discussion in 'Resources and Uses' section. DNR is to consult with ADOT/PF to determine if a proposed use or activity is compatible with the transportation corridor. The purpose of this review is to determine if it would adversely affect the development of a transportation facility. Any development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations are to consider impacts to the WACH and upon moose rutting areas. Special consideration is to be given to the impacts of activities occurring during migration periods or when this area is used for its winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. Protect waterfowl concentrations.	This unit consists of three separate parcels near the village of Noatak situated west of the Noatak River. Its topography is uniformly flat and the vegetation patterns are characterized by bottomland spruce-poplar forest. Waterfowl concentrations occur near the Noatak River and the WACH uses portions of the unit for their migratory and winter range. High intensity moose rutting occurs in the area of the Mulgrave Hills. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, eggs, furbearers, moose, sheep, small game, vegetation, waterfowl, and wood. The mineral potential of this unit is considered to be low and there are no known ARDF occurrences. Public access is fairly extensive, particularly during the winter using snowmachines. An airstrip is available at Noatak. This unit, which consists entirely of state-selected land, was selected by the state for its potential use as a transportation route/facility. There are no planned state projects in this unit and this area is not identified in the ADOT/PF area transportation plan as a proposed facility. It is problematic if this unit will be conveyed to the state; the state selection is a topfiled selection and the state selection only attaches if the Native selection does not. Prior to issuing an authorization, adjudicators should determine if the state selection applies.
K-06	Ha 86,212	10, 11 Various	Manage unit to protect sensitive species and habitats, particularly those associated with the WACH, moose and waterfowl concentrations. Any development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon sensitive habitats and, particularly, the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to the impacts of activities occurring during migration periods or when this area is used for its winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	This unit is separated into numerous separate parcels predominantly occupying lowlands along the Noatak River. All of these parcels are in selection status and represent top-files over a Native selection. It is problematic if the state will receive these parcels and it is important for the adjudicator to review land status prior to issuing authorizations. All occupy lowland areas that are characterized by wet tundra. There is no known mineral potential and there are no ARDF occurrences. Waterfowl concentrations and nesting occur on some of the parcels, especially those closest to the Noatak River, and the WACH uses portions of the unit for their migratory and core winter range. A widespread area of winter moose concentration occurs in the southernmost part of the unit, generally south of and west of the Noatak River. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, eggs, furbearers, moose, sheep, small game, vegetation, waterfowl, and wood. Public access is limited and is concentrated instead on and adjacent to the Noatak River. RST 122 follows the eastern side of the Noatak River. An airstrip is available at Noatak.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-07	Gu 29,386	10 Various	Manage for multiple uses. Any development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon waterfowl concentrations and WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the summer migration period and to the protection of movement corridors. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	This unit consists of a single large unit west and somewhat south of the Noatak River and unit K-05 and several small, isolated parcels to the east. All of these parcels are in selection status and represent top-files over a Native selection. It is problematic if the state will receive these parcels and it is important for the adjudicator to review land status prior to issuing authorizations. Hilly upland topography characterizes much of this unit and the principal vegetation is wet tundra, although there are localized forested areas on better drained soils. There is no known mineral potential and there are no ARDF occurrences. Waterfowl concentrations occur in the wetter locations, especially those closest to the Noatak River, and the WACH uses portions of the unit for their winter range and as a core migratory path. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, furbearers, moose, sheep, small game, vegetation, waterfowl, and wood. Public access is limited and is concentrated instead on and adjacent to the Noatak River. RST 122 follows the eastern side of the Noatak River. An airstrip is available at Noatak.
K-08	Ha 83,248	5, 7, 10 Various	Manage unit for the protection of sensitive species and habitats. Any development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon waterfowl concentrations and WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the spring migration period and to the protection of movement corridors. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	This unit consists of three separate parcels, two of which are situated on the Baldwin Peninsula south of Kotzebue and the third, the uplands to the south of Spafarief Bay and Eschscholtz Bay. All are in selection status. All of these parcels are in selection status and represent top-files over a Native selection. It is problematic if the state will receive these parcels and it is important for the adjudicator to review land status prior to issuing authorizations. Lowland topography characterizes this unit, and the principal vegetation is either moist or wet tundra. Waterfowl concentrations occur in the southern part of the parcel situated on Spafarief Bay. Caribou of the WACH have limited use of the southernmost parcel as winter range and insect relief, and there is some spring migration that is present. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: caribou, eggs, fish, vegetation, waterfowl, and wood. Public access is limited and is provided by ORV or snowmachines. An airstrip is present at the community of Buckland.
K-09	Mi, Ha 297,303	5, 7 Various	Manage for mineral values. Any mineral development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the spring and fall migration	This very large unit consists of parcels situated directly south of Selawik Lake in the Selawik Hills or further to the southwest near the community of Buckland. With the exception of a few areas, this unit is entirely state-selected land. It is a topfiled selection and the adjudicator is cautioned to review land status prior to issuing an authorization.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
			periods and during the period they are using it as part of their winter range. The protection of caribou movement corridors is also to be an important consideration. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	The mineral potential of this unit is considered to be high and there are numerous ARDF occurrences. Topography varies, with lowlands present directly south of Selawik Land whereas hilly terrain is characteristic of the uplands in the Selawik Hills and their westward extension toward the community of Buckland. Within the lowlands, moist and wet tundra are present whereas the Selawik Hills are characterized by of high brush and alpine tundra. Caribou of the WACH are present in the parcel during the fall and spring migrations and they use it as part of their core winter range. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, furbearers, and small game. Public access is limited and is provided by ORV or snowmachines. An airstrip is present at the community of Buckland.
K-10	Ha 110,853	2, 5, 7 Various	Manage unit for the protection of sensitive species and habitats. Any development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon winter moose and winter WACH concentrations. Consult with ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	Unit consists of numerous parcels in the areas generally south and southeast of the community of Buckland. The unit is nearly evenly split between state-owned and state-selected parcels. The parcel west of the community of Buckland River and near that community is level and occupies by numerous lakes and wetlands; the remainder of the parcels occupy uplands that are somewhat hilly and are characterized by moist tundra and, in some river valleys, by an upland spruce-hardwood forest. Portions of this unit are within the WACH core winter range and are used for insect relief; moose winter concentration areas are present along that part of the unit adjacent to the Buckland River. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: caribou, furbearers, and small game. Although several mineral occurrences exist in the unit, most are situated in the adjacent unit, K-09.
K-11	Tc 92,712	5, 7 Various	Unit is to be managed to maintain this area for the potential development of a transportation route. See discussion in 'Resources and Uses' section. DNR is to consult with ADOT/PF to determine is a proposed use or activity is compatible with the transportation corridor. The purpose of this review is to determine if it would adversely affect the development of a transportation facility. Any development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations are to consider impacts to the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to the impacts of activities occurring during migration periods or when this area is used for its winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	Unit consists of state-selected lands extending from the bulk of state-owned and state-selected land situated generally south of the community of Buckland to the eastern boundary of the Kotzebue Sound (South) boundary. Unit was selected by the state for development as a transportation corridor. This corridor follows, generally, the Buckland River and North Fork, Buckland River. Portions of unit are affected by fall and spring migrations of the WACH and parts are used as core winter range. Winter moose concentrations occur along the lowlands adjoining the Buckland River. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: caribou, furbearers, and small game. Most of the terrain is characterized by lowlands and the vegetation is typically either high brush or wet tundra, depending on location.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-12	Gu 265,756	5, 7 Various	Manage for multiple uses. Any development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the winter and to the protection of movement corridors and insect relief areas. Consult with ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	Unit consists of both state-owned and state-selected land and is situated in hilly uplands generally south of the community of Buckland. The topography is hilly with some lowland areas and the vegetation is characteristically high brush and, at higher elevations, alpine tundra. Portions of unit are affected by fall and spring migrations of the WACH and parts are used as core winter range and for insect relief. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: caribou, furbearers, and small game. Although mineral occurrences are present in parts of the unit, this area is not considered to have a high mineral potential. High mineral potential areas are, however, present to the west of this unit in K-13 and east thereof, in K-09.
K-13	Mi, Ha 406,493	5, 7 Various	Manage for mineral and habitat values. Mineral development is considered appropriate within the unit but shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during migration periods and during the period they are using it as part of their winter range. The protection of caribou movement corridors is also to be an important consideration. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. Authorizations are not to be issued within one-half mile of the Spring Creek hot springs except for permits that are revocable at will and the use authorized by the permit has been determined to not adversely affect the hot springs or the activities that occur there.	This large unit extends from Kotzebue Sound in the north to the end of the Kilawik River drainage in the south, near Granite Mountain. It encompasses uplands adjacent to the Kilawik River; although large areas along this river have been recently conveyed out of state ownership to the North Slope Borough. The community of Candle, although not part of this unit, is situated in the northern part of the unit and is the principal community within the region. The mineral potential of this unit is considered to be high and mineral occurrences are common throughout the unit. Terrain is characteristically level and the vegetation is high brush near the Kilawik River or moist tundra in the remaining areas. Portions of unit are affected by fall and spring migrations of the WACH and parts are used as winter range and insect relief. Winter moose concentrations occur within areas near this river and waterfowl are present throughout the wetter parts of the unit. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, eggs, fish, furbearers, small game, vegetation, and waterfowl. Nearly the entire unit consists of state-owned land. Hot springs at Spring Creek, south of Granite Mountain, are an important community and regional resource, with individuals coming from long distances to use these springs. The springs are used by both the local community and hunting guides, among others.
K-14	Gu 651,362	2, 5, 7 Various	Manage for multiple uses. Any development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the winter and to the protection of movement corridors and areas used for insect relief. Consult with ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a	This large unit occupies the uplands between the Buckland and Kugruk Rivers. These uplands are often level in parts, especially those areas where there are a sizeable concentration of lakes and hilly in areas that are remote from this area and the major rivers. The mineral potential of the unit is low to moderate; most of the important mineral occurrences occur to the west in K-17 and to the east in K-13. Vegetation is moist or wet tundra in the more level areas and alpine tundra in the hilly areas. Portions of unit are affected

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
			long-term or permanent use.	by fall and spring migrations of the WACH and parts are used as winter range and for insect relief. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, furbearers, small game, and vegetation. Except for the northern part of the unit, the remainder of the unit consists of state-owned lands.
K-15	Mi, Ha 113,681	5, 7 Various	Manage for mineral and habitat values. Mineral development is considered appropriate within the unit but shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during migration periods and during the period they are using it as part of their winter range and as insect relief areas. The protection of caribou movement corridors is also to be an important consideration. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	This unit occupies primarily state-owned land, except for a small portion in the north, generally south of Chicago Creek within or near the Kugruk River drainage. Topography is level or hilly, depending on location, and the vegetation is characteristically wet tundra except for areas adjoining Kugruk River, which, in parts, contains a bottomland spruce-hardwood forest. Portions of unit are affected by fall and spring migrations of the WACH and parts are used as winter range and as insect relief areas. Moose winter concentrations occur along the Kugruk River. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, caribou, fish, furbearers, moose, salmon, small game, vegetation, waterfowl, and wood. The mineral potential of this unit is considered to be high and there are numerous ARDF mineral occurrences.
K-16	Gu 99,644	5, 7 Various	Manage for multiple uses. Protect waterfowl concentrations. Any development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the winter and to the protection of movement corridors and areas used for insect relief. Consult with ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	This unit occupies uplands of both state-owned and state-selected land that are characterized by wet tundra vegetation and generally level terrain to hilly terrain, depending on location. Portions of unit are used as part of the WACH winter range and for insect relief. A waterfowl nesting concentration areas occurs in this unit. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, furbearers, moose, small game, vegetation, and waterfowl.
K-17	Mi 66,957	5, 6, 7 Various	Manage for mineral values. Mineral development is considered appropriate within the unit but shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH, particularly during the winter when parts of this unit are used as part of their winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. Protect moose winter concentration areas.	Situated at the end of the Inmachuk River drainage, this unit is considered to have a high mineral potential. There are numerous ARDF mineral occurrences scattered throughout the unit. Portions of the WACH winter range occupy this unit and lowlands that are associated with the Immachuk River drainage are known to have moose winter concentrations. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, fish, furbearers, moose, small game, and vegetation. This unit consists almost entirely of state-owned land; only a small portion in the northeast contains state-selected land. Terrain is generally flat to gently rolling, although there are several incised stream valley in the more prominent drainages.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-18	Ha 136,269	5, 7 Various	Manage unit for the protection of sensitive species and habitats. Any development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH, particularly during the winter period when this area is used as part of their range and for insect relief. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. Protect moose winter concentration areas.	Consisting of a single large parcel and numerous small, scattered parcels in the far southwestern part of the Kotzebue Sound region, this unit comprises a mixture of state-owned and state-selected land. The large parcel occupies uplands adjacent to the Koyuk River; most topography is generally flat although there is local relief next to the river. Vegetation consists of a bottomland spruce-hardwood forest adjacent to this river and by either wet tundra or alpine tundra at other locations. Portions of the unit are used by the WACH as winter range and as insect relief areas. The lowland areas near the Koyuk River experience winter moose concentrations. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, eggs, fish, furbearers, moose, small game, vegetation, waterfowl, and wood.
K-19	Se 22,846	5 Various	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Effective (or allowable) developable acreage within this parcel is 800 acres. Maintain RS 2477. Maintain harvest opportunities.	This unit consists of generally flat land and is bisected by the Peace River. It is situated immediately north of the small community of Haycock. Caribou of the WACH use this area as part of their core winter range. A RS 2477 route (RST 458) traverses this parcel in a north-south direction. Local communities use this area for hunting.

Total state uplands within region = 3,298,731 (19 units)

Resource Allocation Table for Tideland Units – Kotzebue Sound Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
KT-01	Ha 5,802	11 Various	Manage unit to protect sensitive species and habitats. Authorizations within the City of Kivalina and in the area occupied by a material extraction site under ADL 412110 are considered appropriate. Any such development that is authorized shall avoid impacts to these species/habitats and/or shall mitigate impacts.	This tideland unit encompasses the large lagoon area north of the community of Kivalina, which is called ‘Kivalina Lagoon’. Waterfowl are present in the lagoon during migration periods, which occur during the spring and fall. Anadromous fish are also present. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bowhead whale, fish, furbearers, and polar bear.
KT-02	Ha 20,190	10 Various	Manage unit to protect sensitive species and habitat.	Occupying the tide and shorelands at the mouth of the Noatak River, this unit characteristically has concentrations of waterfowl and portions of the unit are known to be a spotted seal haulout concentration area. Waterfowl concentrations occur during the spring and fall, and the area is used for nesting. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: fish, marine mammal, salmon, seal, and vegetation. The area occupied by this unit has been designated as a ‘Most Environmentally Sensitive Area’ by ADF&G.
KT-03	Ha 182,637	5, 7 Various	Manage unit to protect sensitive species and habitat.	This tideland unit occupies Eschscholtz Bay, just south of the peninsula on which the community of Kotzebue is situated. It has a variety of resources, including beluga whales, pinnipeds (including haulout sites), waterfowl and seabirds (spring and fall concentration periods) and, in the southeastern part, a pacific herring spawning area. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: beluga, eggs, furbearers, marine mammal, seal, small game, and waterfowl. The unit also includes the tidelands surrounding the large seabird colonies at Choris Peninsula and Chamisso Island, which is part of the Alaska Maritime NWR. This colony exceeds 10,000 seabirds in size. The area occupied by this unit has been designated as a ‘Most Environmentally Sensitive Area’ by ADF&G. A floatplane access site is present east of Elephant Point.
KT-04	Ha 21,338	5, 7 Various	Manage unit to protect sensitive species and habitat.	Occupying the Kilawik Lagoon at the southern end of Spafarief Bay, this unit is characterized by waterfowl concentrations during the spring and fall periods. It is also a waterfowl nesting concentration area. The area occupied by this unit has been designated as a ‘Most Environmentally Sensitive Area’ by ADF&G.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
KT-05	Ha 5,781	5, 7 K008N019W, K008N020W	Manage unit to protect sensitive species and habitat.	Occupying the tidelands offshore of Cape Deceit near the small community of Deering, this unit is known to have waterfowl concentrations (fall concentration period) and spotted seal haulouts. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: fish, marine mammal, seal, waterfowl, and wood. The area occupied by this unit has been designated as a 'Most Environmentally Sensitive Area' by ADF&G.
KT-06	Ha, Rd 668,689	5, 6, 7, 10, 11 Various	Manage unit for its habitat values and, consistent with the best interest of the state, for compatibility with the upland management policies of federal conservation management plans. Authorizations at the terminus of the Red Dog Mine road are considered appropriate. Any such development that is authorized shall avoid impacts to sensitive species and habitat and/or shall mitigate impacts. See Management Guideline O in the <i>Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Harvest Areas</i> section of Chapter 2.	This tideland unit corresponds to the areas offshore of the three federal conservation system units within this region: Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Noatak National Preserve, and the Selawik National Wildlife Refuge. A wide variety of species occurs in this area; see the links noted below for more information. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, beluga, bowhead whale, eggs, fish, furbearers, marine invertebrates, marine mammal, polar bear, salmon, seal, small game, vegetation, walrus, waterfowl, and wood. Both sea bird colonies and spotted seal haul outs are present. For more information, see alaskacoast.state.ak.us/District/FinalFinalPlans/NorthWestArctic.htm or alaskacoast.state.ak.us/District/FinalFinalPlans/NorthSlope.htm
KT-07	Gu 1,785,381	5, 6, 7, 10, 11 Various	Manage for multiple uses. Prior to issuing an authorization consult reference sources mentioned in 'Resources and Uses' and consult ADF&G, NMFS, or USFWS, as appropriate.	This tideland unit includes all areas of the coast not otherwise included in a tideland polygon or identified as a pinniped haulout or seabird colony. A variety of species occur within this large area, often associated with migratory patterns. Present in marine, nearshore and estuarine waters are seabirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Also present area pinnipeds and whales. Migration patterns are characterized by ring seal migration during March-May and by whale migration (beluga) June-July; both are present in off-shore waters. Beluga whales concentrations occur in Kotzebue Sound and Eschscholtz Bay. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: beluga, bowhead whale, fish, furbearers, marine mammal, polar bear, salmon, seal, walrus, waterfowl, and wood. Portions of this unit may also include important marine habitats (shorefast ice, spring near shore lead systems, the Point Hope polyna, and productive near shore waters) that may be used by a number of marine mammal species (bowhead, beluga, gray and killer whales; harbor porpoises, ringed, bearded and spotted seals, walruses, and polar bears). For more information, see alaskacoast.state.ak.us/District/FinalFinalPlans/NorthWestArctic.htm

Total state tidelands within region = 2,689,818 (7 units)

Norton Sound Region

This region¹¹ includes lands that drain into Norton Sound from Rocky Point in the northwest to Saint Michaels and Stebbins in the south. The Kotzebue Sound (South) and Nome regions form its western and northern boundaries. Its eastern boundary is not formed on a definite legal or municipal boundary and is generally formed by the Yukon River drainage. Most of the uplands in this unit are under federal or Native corporation ownership, although, since the initial preparation of the NAWP in 1986, the state has increased its holdings in this region greatly. In addition, there are large areas of state-selected land. State-owned and selected land is scattered throughout the region, but is somewhat concentrated in the northwestern and southeastern parts of the region. There are also several small communities scattered throughout the region. Unlike other regions, there are no federal Conservation System Units in this region.

Unalakleet is the primary town in this region; but, Nome also serves as a regional hub. A number of smaller communities exist, including Elim, Koyuk, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, St. Michael, and Stebbins. These are scattered throughout the region along the coast.

Distribution and Characteristics

There are 0.4 million acres of state-owned and 1.1 million acres of state-selected land. Within this region, most are state selections rather than state topfiled (over Native corporation selections). It is therefore likely, depending on the outcome of the initial adjudication of state land on a statewide basis¹² that many of these areas will end up in state ownership. The basis for these selections in this region was related to mineral values or potential transportation corridors. The large holdings of state land near McCarthy Marsh and along the Norton Sound coast (eastern part) are both related to selections for transportation corridors. The remaining selections, which constitute the bulk of the state selections, occur adjacent to areas of state-owned land in the Darby Mountains and were selected for their mineral resource values. The northern part of this latter area is also related to the continuation of a transportation corridor situated to the west along the general alignment of a RS 2477 route (RST 216).

Reflecting the large area encompassed by this region, topography and vegetation vary but are characterized by two relatively distinct patterns. In the Darby Mountains hilly to mountainous terrain is common and the vegetation is alpine tundra or barren rock, whereas lowland areas, which are characteristic of almost all of the remainder of the region, are

¹¹ The boundaries of this region have been expanded from their original configuration in the 1989 area plan. The boundary has been extended to the west, to pick up the large areas of state-selected land and state-owned land that drain into the Norton Sound through, in part, Golovin Bay.

¹² Selections advanced by the DNR to the BLM in 2007.

uniformly flat and are comprised of moist or wet tundra. Only in a few, well drained locales are high brush present; this occurs on the western flanks of the Darby Mountains and the area east and northeast of Unalakleet.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Access to the region is by air, sea, or overland trail. Community airports exist at all villages. The airport at Unalakleet has jet facilities. Other access within the region is by boat along the navigable rivers and along the coast, and by snowmachine or dogsled along the numerous regional and local trails. Major trails follow the Inglutalik, Ungalik, Shaktoolik, Unalakleet, North, and Koyuk Rivers. The Iditarod Trail extends along the Unalakleet River and north along the coast through the Shaktoolik, Koyuk, and Elim.

Residents of the small communities use the region for hunting, fishing, reindeer herding, mining, and subsistent activities. Although the communities rely on coastal resources for much of their harvest, they also use the Koyuk River and other inland areas for harvesting caribou, moose, brown bear, and furbearers. Caribou migrate through this region, and it is an important part of their winter range. Waterfowl concentrations occur in coastal areas and in the wetlands and rivers adjacent to the coast. Moose are also present throughout the region and winter concentration areas occur along the principal drainages, including the Unalakleet, Koyuk, Ungalik, Tubukulik, and Fish rivers. Public recreation is concentrated along the Koyuk, Egavik, Shaktoolik, and Unalakleet rivers, St. Michael Bay, and Stuart Canal. Tidelands support herring, Beluga, ringed seal, walrus, ducks, geese, and anadromous fish. There are numerous seabird rookeries along the coast. All coastal areas, especially at Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Isaacs Roadhouse, Unalakleet River, Twenty-Two Mile Cabin, and the Innoko River, have known cultural values.

Within this region there are several areas with moderate to high mineral potential. The principal area, however, occurs in the Darby Mountains, where zinc, lead, silver and antimony are known to be present.

In addition, there are several important tideland areas within this region; these occur at Golovin Bay and Golovin Lagoon. Other tideland areas do not have the same concentration of sensitive resources, but are still valuable, depending on location, as concentration areas for waterfowl and seabirds, particularly within nearshore areas and coastal wetlands.

Management Constraints

Few state and local management plans affect this area. Only one state resource management plan affected this area, the 1989 Northwest Area Plan, which is now superseded by this update. The Bering Straits Coastal Resource Service Area maintains a district coastal management plan and this was consulted in the development of this plan.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. State land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation; further guidance is provided by management intent and management guidelines.

Uplands. State land will be primarily managed for the development of mineral resources in areas designated Minerals, the protection and maintenance of habitat values in areas designated Habitat, the development of possible transportation facilities in areas designated Transportation Corridor, and for multiple uses in areas designated General Use. Authorizations in this region shall ensure the maintenance of important habitat areas and species. Specific review requirements affect authorizations issued within areas designated Minerals or Transportation Corridor. All of this area is open to mineral entry and development and to mineral, and oil and gas leasing. Tidelands will be managed for the protection of the resources and uses indicated in the Resource Allocation Table. Grazing is recognized as an appropriate land use. Shorelands in this unit will be managed consistent with the general management intent for such areas described in the *Navigable Rivers and Lakes* section at the end of Chapter 3.

Tidelands. The two primary tideland resource areas, at Golovin Bay and Golovin Lagoon, are designated Habitat and are to be managed for the protection of the waterfowl and other sensitive species within these areas. The remainder of the tidelands are to be managed for multiple uses and are designated General Use. Adequate consideration must be given in the issuance of authorizations to the protection of sensitive species and habitats within each designation.

Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Norton Sound Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
N-01	Mi 244,246	2, 5 Various	Manage for mineral values. Grazing is recognized as an appropriate use. Mineral development is considered appropriate within the unit but shall consider impacts upon grazing activities and habitat and shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH, particularly during the winter when parts of this unit are used as part of their winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. Maintain access associated with local/regional trails and RST 16.	This large unit encompasses an area considered to have high to very high mineral potential; this area was selected by the state for its mineral value. Uranium prospects are under exploration (2008) within parts of the unit. Except for the westernmost part of the unit, mountainous topography is characteristic and generally coincides with the alignment of the Darby Mountains. This western area is part of much larger lowland and it is typically level and has relatively good drainage. Vegetation corresponds with elevation and drainage. Within mountainous terrain, alpine tundra and barren rock are common. The generally flatter western part is characterized by high brush. Portions of the unit are utilized by the WACH as part of their prime winter range. A number of streams within the western, level part of the unit support anadromous fish. An RS 2477 route (RST 216, Topkok-Candle) traverses the northern part of the unit in a generally west-east direction. Portions of this unit have been used historically for reindeer herding, although this activity is limited at present (2008).
N-02	Gu 298,041	2, 5 Various	Manage for multiple uses. Grazing and mining are recognized as appropriate uses. Maintain access. Maintain the potential for transportation corridor development. Ensure that authorizations that could affect this development are carefully reviewed to ensure that this use is not precluded. DNR is to consult with ADOT/PF to determine if a proposed use or activity is compatible with the transportation corridor. The purpose of this review is to determine if it would adversely affect the development of a transportation facility. Any development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon grazing activities, moose winter concentration areas, and the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the winter and to the protection of movement corridors. Consult with ADF&G prior to issuing an	This large unit consists of four large subunits: these occupy areas north of unit N-08 (McCarthy Marsh) and to the northeast and southeast of unit N-01. N-02 is an important habitat area and N-01 contains important mineral concentrations. Except for an area immediately northeast of N-01, which is a lowland with extensive wetlands, these areas are characteristically hilly mountainous and are considered to part of the Bendeleben and Darby Mountains. The one lowland area is characterized by wet tundra, and the mountainous areas, by alpine tundra in the higher elevations and by high brush in other areas. The unit is considered to have lower mineral potential than N-02, although some parts may have high mineral potential. With the exception of an area in the south, this entire unit is in state selection status. Moose are present and winter concentration areas probably exist within the larger drainages. Caribou are present in portions of this unit and the unit is within the core winter range. Several anadromous streams occupy the larger drainages. Portions of this unit have been used historically for reindeer

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
			authorization involving a long-term or permanent use, including mineral development.	herding, although this activity is limited at present (2008). The Iditarod Trail traverses a part of the unit. In addition, there are at least three other winter trails. A RS 2477 route (RST 216) traverses the northern most parts of the unit. State land in this part of the unit was selected for the purpose of reserving land for the eventual development of a transportation route.
N-03	Ha, Hv 16,312	2 Various	Manage for the maintenance of habitat values. Grazing is recognized as an appropriate use. Any development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon grazing activities and the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to activities occurring during the winter and to the protection of movement corridors. Consult with ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	This unit consists of a number of scattered, relatively small parcels that are believed to have habitat values. Depending on location, they are either located in hilly, inland areas; one smaller parcel is located on Golovin Bay. Each of these areas was identified in the 1989 Plan for its habitat values. It is likely that the WACH uses portions of these parcels as part of their winter range. Marine mammal haulout concentrations exist in the southern part of the unit adjacent to Golovin Bay. Anadromous streams are present within the unit. Grazing may have also occurred on these parcels. All are in selection status.
N-04	Tc 372,255	1, 2, 5 Various	Unit is to be managed to maintain this area for the potential development of a transportation route. See discussion in 'Resources and Uses' section. Grazing is recognized as an appropriate use. Protect bird concentration areas and anadromous streams. DNR is to consult with ADOT/PF to determine if a proposed use or activity is compatible with the transportation corridor. The purpose of this review is to determine if it would adversely affect the development of a transportation facility. Any development that may be authorized shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations are to consider impacts to principal habitat areas, particularly along the major drainages, grazing activities, and to the WACH. Special consideration is to be given to the impacts of activities occurring during migration periods or when this area is used for its winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use.	This unit was selected for potential use as a transportation corridor. Except for an area that occupies the area immediately adjacent to the coast in the northern part of this unit, it consists entirely of state-selected land. Unit is aligned in a north-south direction, essentially from the north boundary of this region to its southern end near the community of Saint Michael. This corridor is situated to the east of Norton Sound, about 15 miles from the coast. Its east-west extent is narrow, averaging about 5-6 miles, and, in its northern part, follows the alignment of the Ungalik River. In its southern extent, it is significantly wider and does not follow a waterway. It is believed that the transportation corridor is related to transportation movement on this river. Terrain throughout the unit is characteristically level and is typically characterized by wet tundra. Portions of this unit contain significant concentrations of wildlife. Areas adjacent to the principal rivers, all of which are anadromous, are particularly rich in species. Besides anadromous fish, many are characterized by waterfowl and there are several areas of nesting concentrations. The northern portions of this unit are affected by the WACH during the winter period; this is part of their winter range. Grazing has occurred within this unit historically.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
N-05	Ha 30,792	2 Various	Manage for sensitive species, grazing, and habitat values. Grazing is recognized as an appropriate use. Maintain Iditarod Trail. Although unlikely given the poor drainage and extensive wetlands, certain types of authorizations are, nonetheless, possible within this unit. Prior to issuance, the adjudicator shall carefully consider impacts upon sensitive species, grazing operations, and the WACH.	Comprising an area of significant waterfowl concentrations and coastal wetlands, this unit is situated immediately southeast of the community of Koyuk. Physiographically, it is part of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Coastal Lowland, and the terrain is uniformly level. The vegetation is similarly uniform and is characterized by wet tundra. The entire unit is poorly drained. The northern part of the unit is in selection status, while some of the southern part is owned by the state. Grazing has occurred within this unit historically. The Iditarod traverses this unit in a north-south alignment. The WACH is known to use parts of this area as part of its core winter range.
N-06	Gu 5,047	1 K018N010W, K018N011W, K019N010W, K019N011W	Use of this parcel for community development may be appropriate, given its adjacency to Unalakleet.	This small unit is situated in level terrain directly east of the community of Unalakleet. The entire unit is state selection status and lies within an area used by the WACH as part of their winter range.
N-07	Mi 247,785	1, 2 Various	Manage for mineral values. Grazing is recognized as an appropriate use. Mineral development is considered appropriate within the unit but shall consider impacts upon grazing activities and habitat, and shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH, particularly during the winter when parts of this unit are used as part of their winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. DNR is to consult with ADOT/PF to determine if a proposed use or activity is compatible with the transportation corridor that occurs in the southernmost of the three parcels. Maintain access associated with local/regional trails and RST 218.	Consisting of three separate parcels, the two larger parcels adjoin the coast while the third is situated inland and eastward of the transportation corridor that occupies unit N-04. The two westerly parcels consist of numerous lakes, ponds, and remnant rivers that occupy a generally flat coastal plain. Hilly terrain characterizes the easterly situated parcel. The former is occupied by wetlands, lakes, and wet tundra and the hilly area, by high brush and wet tundra. This unit is considered to have high mineral potential and was selected for that value by the state. The entire unit is in selection status and the adjudicator should review land status carefully prior to issuing an authorization. The northern part of the unit is within the winter range of the WACH. Several anadromous streams traverse this unit. Summer and winter trails are present, including a RS 2477 route (RST 218). An extension of Unit N-04 affects the most southern of the three parcels; it functions to connect the inland portions of N-04 to the coast.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
N-08	Ha 235,575	2, 5 Various	Manage for sensitive species, grazing, and habitat values. Grazing is recognized as an appropriate use. Maintain access routes and ensure protection of the transportation corridor. Although unlikely given the poor drainage and extensive wetlands, certain types of authorizations are, nonetheless, possible within this unit. Prior to issuance, the adjudicator shall carefully consider impacts upon sensitive species, grazing operations, and the WACH. Consult with ADF&G prior to issuing authorizations.	The McCarthy Marsh is an extensive lowland area that is characterized by numerous lakes, wetlands, and remnant rivers. Vegetation is characterized by low brush bog and marsh. The area of the Kwiktalik mountains contains a mixture of alpine tundra, barren ground, and high brush, depending on location. Mineral values are considered to be low to moderate, depending on location. The Marsh contains several important habitats: portions include a known moose wintering area and there are several tributaries of the Fish River that contain anadromous fish. Portions of the unit are utilized by the WACH as part of their prime winter range. There are a number of important regional trails and one RS 2477 route (RST 216). The northern parcel (McCarthy Marsh) was selected, in part, because of its importance as a transportation corridor. This RST occupies the portions of the area selected for its transportation function. Portions of this unit have been used historically for reindeer herding, although this activity is limited at present (2008).

Total state uplands within region = 1,450,052 (8 units)

Resource Allocation Table for Tideland Units – Norton Sound Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
NT-01	Ha 31,764	2 Various	Manage to protect habitat values. Consult ADF&G and USFWS (for marine mammals) prior to issuing authorizations.	This large tideland unit comprises the Golovin Lagoon; Golovin Bay is a separate unit (NT-02). This lagoon has a large waterfowl population and areas used by pacific herring for spawning. Anadromous fish are present.
NT-02	Ha 60,443	2 Various	Manage to protect habitat values. Consult ADF&G and USFWS (for marine mammals) prior to issuing authorizations. The development of port facilities within this unit may be appropriate, but must avoid, reduce, or mitigate impacts to critical species and habitats.	Golovin Bay provides important habitat for a number of species, including waterfowl, marine mammals, anadromous fish, and beluga whales. The development of a port site to accommodate freight and material movement is under consideration within portions of this unit.
NT-03	Gu 794,166	1, 2 Various	Manage for multiple uses. Prior to issuing an authorization consult reference sources mentioned in 'Resources and Uses' and consult ADF&G, NMFS, or USFWS, as appropriate. Refer to guidance in chapter 2 concerning the Spectacled Eider.	This tideland unit includes all areas of the coast not otherwise included in a tideland polygon or identified as a seabird colony on plan maps. The USFWS has designated the eastern half of Norton Sound as critical molting habitat for the Spectacled Eider, a federal threatened species and state species of special concern. Both the area around Rocky Point and Cape Darby contain marine mammal populations. A variety of species occur within this large area, often associated with migratory patterns. Present in nearshore areas and coastal wetlands are seabirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Also present are pinnipeds and whales. Offshore migration patterns include pinnipeds and whales. For more information, see alaskacoast.state.ak.us/District/FinalFinalPlans/NorthWestArctic.htm
NT-04	Ha 17,464	2 Various	Manage to protect habitat values.	This extensive tideland unit occupies the tideland areas at the mouth of the Koyuk River in Norton Sound. Present within this unit are coastal wetlands, extensive estuarine environments, and anadromous streams, in addition to extensive concentrations of shorebirds and waterfowl. For more information, see alaskacoast.state.ak.us/District/FinalFinalPlans/NorthWestArctic.htm . Also see the NOAA Environmental Sensitivity Index: Northwest Arctic, Alaska.
NT-05	Ha, Rd 35,371	1 Various	Manage to protect habitat values and, consistent with the best interest of the state, for compatibility with the upland management policies of the federal conservation management plan for the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.	The boundaries of this tideland unit match the upland boundaries of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Preserve. Within this unit are concentrations of waterfowl and both diving and wading birds. For more information see the NOAA Environmental Sensitivity Index: Northwest Arctic, Alaska.
NT-06	Ha, Hv 188,770	1 Various	Manage to protect habitat values.	This tideland unit runs from Tolstoi Point in the east to Stuart Island in the west. This area supports seabirds, seals, walrus, belugas, gray whales and Pacific herring. Eelgrass beds provide nursery areas for fish, crab, and are used for spawning by herring. For more information see the NOAA Environmental Sensitivity Index: Northwest Arctic, Alaska.

Total state tidelands within region = 1,127,979 (6 units)

Northwest Seward Peninsula Region

This region includes lands on the Northwest Seward Peninsula from Cape Woolley to the boundary of the Northwest Arctic Borough just west of Cape Espenberg. The state owns the central part of the Peninsula and the upper drainages of the Nuluk, Arctic, Serpentine, Kougarok, American, and Agiapuk rivers. There are state selections or overlapping state and Native selections on the southern edge of this block of state land, the western tip of the peninsula in the York Mountains, and the area of the Kigluaik Mountains. The remainder of the area is owned by Native corporations or the federal government. Several parcels of private land exist in this region and are associated with Native allotments. Federal lands on the northern half of the peninsula are within the Bering Land Bridge National Monument. A portion of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge is located near Cape York.

A primary town does not exist in this region; this function is performed by Nome. There are several smaller communities including Teller, Shishmaref, and Wales. These are all year-round communities.

Distribution and Characteristics

This region has over 1.5 million acres of state-owned land and 0.7 million acres of state-selected land. Most of the state-owned land exists in the central part of the Seward Peninsula, and is associated with areas of high to very high mineral value. Most of the remaining state selections are topfiled over Native corporation selections and it is unclear at this time how many of the state topfile selections will be conveyed to the state by the federal government. These selections occur south of the central block and many occur at and near the Kigluaik Mountains. These areas were primarily selected for their mineral potential, although other uses/values exist, including habitat and recreation.

Two types of terrain exist within the region: the more hilly to mountainous areas at the York Mountains, the central area to the east of the York Mountains, and the Kigluaik Mountains. Lowland areas, many of which are poorly drained and consist of extensive wetlands, occupy the areas north of the Kigluaik Mountains around the Imuruk Basin. Most of the hilly and mountainous areas are characterized by alpine tundra, wet tundra, and barren rock. High brush occupies several of the river valleys in the northern block.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Access to and throughout this region is limited. Four major communities have airports. Floatplanes and wheeled planes can land along much of the coastline on the beaches and lagoons. Access to the southern part of this unit occurs along the Teller-Nome Road, and

from the road to the coast by trail. The Kougarok Road ends near the southeastern portion of the unit south of Black Dome, and trails continue to Serpentine Hot Springs. Much winter travel is by snowmachines along the coast and on inland trails. Boat access is also common.

Moderate fish and wildlife values are found along some of the principal drainages. Anadromous fish, Arctic char, and whitefish are found in these rivers. Moose are distributed throughout the region, with principal winter concentrations found along the major river drainages in the central block. The WACH has begun to use this area more frequently than in the past, and part of their winter range occurs in the eastern part of the unit. Fall and spring migration routes occur through parts of the northern block. Waterfowl and marine mammals are common throughout the major lagoons in the unit, including Ikpek, Lopp, Shishmaref, and Cowback. Waterfowl are common in the Imuruk Basin.

Hunting, fishing, and limited trapping are some of the major uses of the state-owned and selected uplands in the unit. The residents also use the land for gathering eggs, berries, and plants. This area is also used seasonally by guides and their clients, and by recreational users along the Kougarok Road, in Imuruk Basin and in the Kigluaik Mountains. The latter is becoming an increasingly popular recreation area.

This unit is known to have high to very high mineral potential. Mineral potential is particularly high in the mountainous areas, including the York Mountains and the Kigluaik Mountains. High mineral values also exist in the northern and eastern parts of the large central block of state land.

Management Constraints

Few state and local management plans affect this area. Only one state resource management plan affected this area, the 1989 Northwest Area Plan, which is now superseded by this update. The Bering Straits Coastal Resource Service Area maintains a district coastal management plan and this was consulted in the development of this plan.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. State land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation. State land in this unit will be kept in public ownership; except for areas designated Settlement. They will be managed for the development of mineral resources in areas designated Minerals and for multiple uses in areas designated General Use. In areas designated Mineral/Habitat or Mineral/Public Recreation, these will be managed to accommodate mining activity but such activity must give particular attention to habitat and recreation values. This entire region is open to mineral entry and development, and to mineral, coal, or oil and gas leasing. Shorelands in this unit will be managed consistent with the general management intent for such areas described in the

Navigable Rivers and Lakes section at the end of Chapter 3. Tidelands will be managed according to designations applied to specific areas assigned a tideland unit. In these areas, which consist of lagoons and interior basins, habitat values and, in the case of the Imuruk Basin, recreation values are high. Tideland authorizations may be appropriate in such areas but impacts on habitat and recreation must be carefully evaluated.

Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Northwest Seward Peninsula Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
S-01	Ha 625,124	3, 4, 5, 6 Various	Manage for sensitive species, grazing, and habitat values. Grazing is recognized as an appropriate use. Mineral development may be appropriate within the unit but shall consider impacts upon grazing activities and habitat and shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH, particularly during the winter when parts of this unit are used as part of their winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. Maintain access associated with local/regional trails and RS 2477 routes. Utilization of state gravel resources for the improvement of the airstrip at Pilgrim Hot Springs and the access road connecting the airstrip to the main highway is considered appropriate.	This large unit encompasses areas important for habitat protection within the Northwest Seward Peninsula region. As such, it consists of numerous parcels of state land scattered throughout the region, although concentrations occur within American, Nuluk and South Fork Serpentine river drainages; the lowland areas north of the Kigluaik Mountains; and poorly drained lowlands consisting of numerous lakes and wetlands north of the Imuruk Basin. There is a mix of both state-owned and state-selected land designated Habitat in this region. The bulk of state-owned land occurs in the northern parcels, while state-selected land occurs in the large lowland tracts situated north of the Kigluaik Mountains and north of the Imuruk Basin. Winter moose concentrations occur in many of the principal drainages in the more mountainous areas in the north. The WACH occupies the far eastern, mountainous areas during the winter, although they are not present in other areas. Many of the parcels, especially south and east of Teller and near the Lopp Lagoon, are heavily utilized by both moose and muskox. Some areas are particularly important during moose breeding season when harems of moose are present in the upper drainages. In addition, three types of muskox are present: mixed age/sex groups that are sexually active, bachelor groups of bull muskoxen, and lone muskox. Portions of this unit share a common shoreline with a portion of Brevig Lagoon and the spit at the mouth of Port Clarence from Point Spencer south are noted as a marine mammal haul out area. Anadromous fish streams occupy most of the principal river drainages, and waterfowl concentrations occur in wetlands north of the Kigluaik Mountains. Portions of this unit have been used historically for reindeer herding, although this activity is limited at present (2008). The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, furbearers, and small game. Because of the large size of this unit and the presence of mineral access trails/roads, there are numerous RS 2477 routes, including RSTs 2, 80, 471, 472, 481, and 1817. See dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/trails/rs2477/ for location and RST number. The state may have need for the use of gravel on state land in the vicinity of Pilgrim Hot Springs for the improvement of the access road between the main highway and the Hot springs, and for the improvement of the airstrip.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
S-02	Mi 220,381	4, 6 Various	Manage for mineral values. Grazing is recognized as an appropriate use. Protect moose and bird concentration areas and anadromous streams. Mineral development is appropriate within the unit but shall consider impacts upon grazing activities and habitat and shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH, particularly during the winter when parts of this unit are used as part of their winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. Maintain access associated with local/regional trails and RS 2477 routes.	One of the largest areas of mineral concentration occurs within this unit. There are two extensive areas where mineralization occurs: throughout the York Mountains and in the mountains to the east. Hilly to mountainous topography characterizes this unit, and the most common vegetation, with the exception of some stream valleys with high brush, is typically wet or alpine tundra, or barren rock. Although associated with less productive habitat areas than N-01, there are, nonetheless, several important species and habitat areas within the unit. Anadromous fish streams occupy most of the principal river drainages, and winter moose concentrations occur in many of these drainages in the mountainous areas in the north. The WACH occupies the far eastern, mountainous areas during the winter, although they are not present in other areas. Seabird rookery sites occur within coastal portions of the unit. Arctic peregrine falcons are also present, as are shorebirds. Polar bear use areas occur along the seaward and inland portions of the coast. Portions of this unit have been used historically for reindeer herding, although this activity is limited at present (2008). The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, furbearers, and small game. Because of the large size of this unit and the presence of mineral access trails/roads, there are numerous RS 2477 routes, including RSTs 2, 80, 471, 472, 481, and 1817. See dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/trails/rs2477/ for location and RST number. A few winter trails pass through portions of this unit.
S-03	Gu 795,410	3, 4, 5, 6 Various	Manage for multiple uses. Grazing and mining are recognized as appropriate uses. Protect moose and bird concentration areas and anadromous streams. Mineral development may be appropriate within the unit but shall consider impacts upon grazing activities and habitat and shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH, particularly during the winter when parts of this unit are used as part of their winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. Maintain access associated with local/regional trails and RS 2477 routes.	Parcels designated General Use are primarily distributed throughout the York Mountains and the hilly area that occupies much of the Seward Peninsula, generally coinciding with areas that do not have high habitat or mineral values. Parcels with these designations also occur to the west and east of the Kigluaik Mountains. The vast majority of the state-owned parcels are situated in the large block of state land in the central part of the Seward Peninsula. Parcels in selection status tend to cluster within the Kigluaik Mountains. Topography in the large northern block is generally hilly to mountainous, depending on location. Vegetation is generally either alpine or wet tundra. Several anadromous streams drain the northern area and moose are present throughout. (The areas of moose winter concentration are located within units S-02 or S-04.) The eastern parcels in the large northern block may be used as part of the WACH winter range. Shorebirds are also known to be present. Portions of this unit have been used historically for reindeer herding, although this activity is limited at present (2008). The following

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
				subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, furbearers, and small game. Because of the large size of this unit and the presence of mineral access trails/roads, there are numerous RS 2477 routes, including RSTs 2, 80, 471, 472, 481, and 1817. See dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/trails/rs2477/ for location and RST number.
S-04	Mi, Ha 361,529	4, 5, 6 Various	Manage for habitat and mineral values. Grazing is recognized as an appropriate use. Mineral development may be appropriate within the unit but shall consider impacts upon grazing activities and habitat and shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH, particularly during the winter when parts of this unit are used as part of their winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. Maintain access associated with local/regional trails and RS 2477 routes.	Parcels with this designation are scattered primarily through the drainages of the large northern block of state land. These areas are known to have high to very high mineral values and certain habitat values associated with riverine areas. Most of these parcels are owned by the state except for several situated on the southern flanks of the York Mountains. This designation has been applied to capture that condition where both important habitat and mineral values exist. Moose are present in these parcels, and except for the far eastern tracts, which may experience WACH use during the winter, caribou are not present. There are some anadromous streams that traverse these parcels. Shorebirds are known to be present. Portions of this unit have been used historically for reindeer herding, although this activity is limited at present (2008). The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, furbearers, and small game. Portions of these units may contain RS 2477 routes; see dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/trails/rs2477/ for location and RST number.
S-05	Mi, Rd 175,393	3, 4 Various	Manage for recreation and mineral values. Mineral development may be appropriate within the unit but shall consider impacts upon habitat and recreational values/uses.	This unit comprises the Kigluaik Mountains, which contain both high mineral and recreation values. The unit is codesignated Mineral/Public Recreation to acknowledge the two uses and the two values that exist within this unit. Habitat values are also important in this unit. Mining potential is rated as very high and a number of federal claims already exist. It is also used by Nome residents for a variety of backcountry recreational activities. This unit is used by moose, muskox, caribou and sheep. Moose frequent this area during breeding season when harems of moose are present in the upper drainages. Three important muskox groups are present: mixed age/sex groups, bachelor bull groups, and lone muskox. Several anadromous streams are known to exist. Grazing may have been conducted in portions of this unit.
S-06	Se 19,260	4 Various	Land disposal is considered appropriate during the planning period. Effective (or allowable) developable acreage within this parcel is 800 acres. Preserve trail access.	This unit consists of a large settlement area within the Nuluk River drainage. A trail connecting Brevig and Shishmaref runs through this unit.

Total state uplands within region = 2,197,097 (6 units)

Resource Allocation Table for Tideland Units – Northwest Seward Peninsula Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
ST-01	Ha, Hv 229,194	4, 6 Various	Manage and protect wetlands, sensitive species and anadromous streams. Authorizations within this unit may be appropriate but must consider the impacts of the proposed use on the resources that occur within this unit.	This unit is located on the northwest coast of the Seward peninsula. The area encompasses intertidal wetlands, including Shishmaref Inlet, Arctic Lagoon, Ikpek lagoon, and Lopp lagoon. The adjacent uplands are primarily Native corporation lands and federal lands in the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. Sediments in the substrate range from fine sands to silts and organically rich muds. This unit is key habitat to various marine mammal, marine fish, waterfowl, shorebirds and seabirds. Gull/Tern nesting colonies occur on Sarichef Island and Lopp Lagoon. Polar bear denning sites also occur within this unit. Anadromous and resident fish, bivalves and crab are present. Whale, pinniped, waterfowl and seabird are seasonally present. Eel grass is occurs throughout Shishmaref Inlet and herring spawn here. There are known or a high probability of heritage resources along the coast. Public access occurs on coastal trails and important trails exist within the parcel. Hunting, fishing, camping, bird watching and boating occur in this unit.
ST-02	Ha, Hv 53,269	3, 4 Various	Manage for sensitive species and habitat protection. Authorizations within this unit may be appropriate but must consider the impacts of the proposed use on the resources that occur within this unit.	Occupying Imuruk Basin and the Tuksuk Channel, this unit is north of the Kigluaik Mountains. The adjacent uplands are state selections and Native corporation lands. Shoreline consists of intertidal wetlands with extensive salt and brackish-water marshes of fine sands and organic muds to moderately sloping mixed sand and gravel beaches. Eel grass is present along the shores. High value habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and seabirds. Anadromous and resident fish, bivalves and crab are present. There are known or a high probability of heritage resources. Hunting, fishing, camping, bird watching and boating occur in this unit.
ST-03	Ha, Hv 202,036	4 Various	Manage for sensitive species and habitat protection. Authorizations within this unit may be appropriate but must consider the impacts of the proposed use on the resources that occur within this unit.	This unit occupies Grantley Harbor, east of Teller; and Brevig Lagoon, west of Brevig Mission, and Port Clarence. Upland ownership is almost exclusively Native corporation lands. Shoreline habitat is a moderately sloping with mixed sand and gravel beaches. Eel grass is present along the shores and herring spawn here. Pacific herring spawn here. High value habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and seabirds. Anadromous and resident fish, bivalves and crab are present. A seabird rookery exists in Grantley Harbor; portions of the colony may be comprised of endangered species. There are concentrations of spotted seals in Port Clarence and along both sides of the outer spit. There are known or a high probability of heritage resources. Public access occurs along coastal trails. Hunting, fishing, camping, bird watching and boating occur in this unit.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
ST-04	Ha, Hv 3,404	3, 4 K007S038W, K008S038W	Manage for sensitive species and habitat protection.	Located north of Cape Woolley, this unit is comprised of mixed sand and gravel beaches, salt-water marshes and sheltered tidal flats. The adjacent uplands are native owned lands. High value habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and seabirds. Anadromous and resident fish, bivalves and crab are present. There are known or a high probability of heritage resources within this unit. Hunting, fishing, camping, bird watching and boating occur in this unit.
ST-05	Gu 177,750	3, 4, 6 Various	Manage for multiple uses. Prior to issuing an authorization consult reference sources mentioned in 'Resources and Uses' and consult ADF&G, NMFS, or USFWS, as appropriate.	This tideland unit includes all areas of the coast not otherwise included in a tideland polygon or identified as a pinniped haulout/polar bear den or seabird colony on plan maps. A variety of species occur within this large area, often associated with migratory patterns. Present in nearshore areas and coastal wetlands are seabirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Also present are pinnipeds and whales. For more information, see alaskacoast.state.ak.us/District/FinalFinalPlans/NorthWestArctic.htm
ST-06	Ha, Rd 199,612	4, 6 Various	Manage to protect sensitive species and habitats and, consistent with the best interest of the state, for compatibility with the upland management policies of the federal conservation management plan for the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. Prior to issuing an authorization consult reference sources mentioned in 'Resources and Uses' and consult ADF&G, NMFS, or USFWS, as appropriate.	Tidelands in this unit are situated off-shore of the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. Polar bears have been reported in nearshore areas. For more information, see alaskacoast.state.ak.us/District/FinalFinalPlans/NorthWestArctic.htm

Total state tidelands within region = 865,266 (6 units)

Southwest Seward Peninsula Region

This region includes land within drainages surrounding the north side of Norton Sound. Major rivers include the Sinuk, Nome, Solomon, and Casadepaga rivers. The unit also contains the three major roads that radiate out from Nome: the Nome-Teller Road, Kougarok Road and Nome-Council Road. Many parts of the region consist of gently rolling coastal lowlands, although hilly to some mountainous terrain occurs in the northeastern parts of the region. The pattern of vegetation reflects proximity to the coast, and the distribution of lowland and upland (hilly) areas. With the lowlands, which concentrate along the coast, wet tundra is characteristic, while a mixture of high brush and alpine tundra is typical of the remaining areas of uplands.

State land consists of both state-owned and state-selected land, with the land in selection status having high mineral potential. Nearly all of the land in this region was selected by the state for its mineral potential. Much of this land is also affected by Native selections, and the final aspects of land ownership will not be settled for some period of time. Parts of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge are situated within the region. Much of the remainder of the region is owned by Native corporations.

The principal town within the region is Nome. Other communities are much smaller and may only be seasonal. These include Teller, Council, Solomon, and White Mountain. Solomon and Council are mostly seasonal in character.

Distribution and Characteristics

There are 0.8 million acres of state-owned land and 0.6 million acres of state-selected land. The central and southern parts of the region consist mostly of state-owned land, while state-selected lands occurs on the periphery, in the east and northeast. The terrain and vegetative patterns of this land are similar to the overall distribution of land in the region. Areas adjacent and near the coast are typically lowlands consisting of wet tundra or, in better drained parts, high brush. The interior, hillier terrain is characterized by a mix of high brush, alpine or wet tundra, or, in the eastern part, by bottomland spruce-hardwood forest.

Residents currently use the land for hunting land and sea mammals and waterfowl, subsistence or commercial fishing and crabbing, berry picking, and reindeer herding. This unit includes extensive wetlands – particularly north of Golovin Lagoon and Safety Sound – that are important waterfowl nesting habitat. There is a small amount of forest land in the eastern part of the region.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Access to this region is by air, sea, roads, or trails. Airports exist at Council, Solomon, and White Mountain. A jet capable airport exists at Nome. Remote landing strips for small planes are scattered throughout the region. Boats are used mostly along the coast, in Safety Sound, and on the Niuluk, Pilgrim, Sinuk, and Fish rivers. Roads within the region extend from Nome north towards Taylor, east to Council, and northwest to Teller. Numerous trails, including the Iditarod Trail, provide local access.

Moderate habitat values occur within the region, with these values being high along the coastal lowlands and within the principal drainages of the region. Moose are present throughout the region and moose winter concentration areas exist along the main rivers. There are numerous anadromous streams. Waterfowl habitat is extensive along the wetlands of the coast, particularly at Safety Sound and northwest of Golovin Lagoon. Caribou have recently become present in the region following a long hiatus. Some of the state land is subject to the Fall and Spring migrations of the WACH and is used as part of their winter range.

Much of the region contains lands with high to very high mineral potential. State lands in this region were primarily selected for their mineral values. Grazing has also occurred historically throughout the region, although the presence of the WACH in more recent time has caused a decline in the number of reindeer and of the industry dependent upon that resource.

Management Constraints

Few state and local management plans affect this area. Only one state resource management plan affected this area, the 1989 Northwest Area Plan, which is now superseded by this update. The Bering Straits Coastal Resource Service Area maintains a district coastal management plan and this was consulted in the development of this plan.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. State land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation. State land in this unit will be kept in public ownership; except for areas designated Settlement. They will be managed for the development of mineral resources in areas designated Minerals and for multiple uses in areas designated General Use. In areas designated Mineral/Habitat, these will be managed to accommodate mining activity but such activity must give particular attention to habitat and recreation values. This entire region is open to mineral entry and development, and to mineral, coal, or oil and gas leasing. Shorelands in this unit will be managed consistent with the general management intent for such areas described in the *Navigable Rivers and Lakes*

section at the end of Chapter 3. Tidelands will be managed according to designations applied to specific areas assigned a tideland unit. In these areas, which consist of lagoons and sounds, habitat values are high and authorizations are only to be issued if these resources can be retained and protected. Tideland authorizations may be appropriate in such areas but impacts on habitat and recreation must be carefully evaluated.

Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Southwest Seward Peninsula Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
W-01	Ha 595,871	2, 3, 4, 5 Various	Manage for habitat values. Grazing is recognized as an appropriate use. Mineral development may be appropriate within the unit but shall consider impacts upon grazing activities and habitat and shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH, particularly during the winter when parts of this unit are used as part of their winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. Maintain access associated with local/regional trails and RS 2477 routes.	This unit consists of a number of large parcels in the southern and north-central parts of the region as well as a number of smaller parcels scattered throughout the region. Parcels near the coast characteristically occupy lowlands with wet tundra being the primary vegetation. High brush characterizes the hilly uplands that are situated away from the coast and at higher elevation. In addition, there is a large parcel situated in the far northeastern part of the unit that occupies extensive lowlands. These holdings are split between state-owned and state-selected parcels. Moose are present throughout this unit and winter concentration areas occur within some of the principal drainages. Waterfowl concentrations also occur within these areas, and a number of anadromous streams are present. Caribou use the northeastern and eastern parts of the unit as part of the WACH winter range. Grazing has historically occurred within this unit. The following subsistence resources are present in this unit: bear, furbearer, small game. Mineral potential is considered to be low to moderate and the majority of high value concentrations occur in adjacent areas codesignated Minerals/Habitat. There are a variety of trails, including the Iditarod and one RS 2477 route in the southeastern part of the unit (RST 216).
W-02	Mi 43,037	2, 3 Various	Manage for mineral values. Grazing is recognized as an appropriate use.	There are relatively few parcels that are designated Minerals; most of the higher value mineral parcels are codesignated Minerals/Habitat, reflecting the presence of both sets of values. Parcels that are designated Mineral are situated south of the main body of the Kigluaik Mountains. Most are situated north of Nome and west of the Taylor Highway. These parcels occupy hilly uplands whose vegetation is characteristically high brush. Moose are present on the parcels. It is not believed that the WACH occupies these parcels. Grazing has historically occurred within this unit.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
W-03	Gu 470,304	2, 3, 4, 5 Various	Manage for multiple uses. Grazing and mining are recognized as appropriate uses. Protect moose concentration areas and anadromous streams. Mineral development may be appropriate within the unit but shall consider impacts upon grazing activities and habitat and shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH, particularly during the winter when parts of this unit are probably used as part of their winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. Maintain access associated with local/regional trails and RS 2477 routes.	This unit occupies a number of large parcels and are scattered throughout the unit. Most occupy mountainous terrain which has high brush as its principal vegetation. Some areas may be occupied by alpine tundra or barren rock. Nearly the entire unit is state-owned. Moose are present on the parcels. Parcels in the northeastern and eastern parts of the unit are used as part of the WACH winter range. Grazing has historically occurred on the unit. Multiple anadromous streams are present in this unit. Although many parts of this unit are rated as low to moderate mineral value, there are several areas that are rated as high value. It is therefore likely that some portion of the area designated General Use may be subject to mineral exploration and development. There are several trails, local and regional, that provide access to and through this unit. There is also one RS 2477 route (RST 216).
W-04	Mi, Ha 176,686	2, 3, 4 Various	Manage for habitat and mineral values. Grazing is recognized as an appropriate use. Mineral development may be appropriate within the unit but shall consider impacts upon grazing activities and habitat and shall adhere to the following guideline: Authorizations issued in this unit involving long-term or permanent uses are to consider impacts upon the WACH, particularly during the winter when parts of this unit are used as part of their winter range. Consult ADF&G prior to issuing an authorization involving a long-term or permanent use. Maintain access associated with local/regional trails and RS 2477 routes.	This unit is codesignated Mineral and Habitat, reflecting the presence of both important areas of habitat as well as high to very high mineral potential areas. (Some of these parcels were designated Habitat in the 1989 Plan and have been converted to a codesignation because of the presence of mineral values that were not apparent at the time of original plan.) There is a mix of state-owned land and state-selected land. Moose are present throughout this unit and winter concentration areas occur within some of the principal drainages. Numerous anadromous streams are present. Caribou are believed to be present in the northeastern parts of this unit, with some areas being used by the WACH as part of their winter range. Grazing has historically occurred on the unit. There are several trails, local and regional, that provide access to and through this unit. There is also one RS 2477 route (RST 741).
W-05	Se 66,523	2, 3 Various	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Land disposals shall take into consideration grazing activities and habitat values in their configuration and design and shall follow the design principles described in Chapter 2 under <i>Settlement</i>. Closure to mineral entry and development to locatable minerals should occur once the configuration of the subdivision has been determined.	This unit consists of a number of parcels that are designated for settlement. Typically, these areas are relatively flat and have road access or access by trail. This unit is entirely state-owned land. There are five discrete settlement areas, which are noted on the plan map as: W-5A (Sinuk River; 21,004 total acres) W-5B (Nome River; 18,812 total acres) W-5C (North Salmon Lake; 400 total acres) W-5D (Casadepaga River; 9,667 total acres)

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
			Effective (or allowable) developable acreage within these parcels is as follows: W-5A (Sinuk River; 1500 acres) W-5B (Nome River; 2000 acres) W-5C (North Salmon Lake; 200 acres) W-5D (Casadepaga River; 1200 acres) W-5E (East Fork Pass; 1600 acres)	W-5E (East Fork Pass; 16,640 total acres) The total acreage identified above is the amount within the spatial boundaries of the parcel designated Settlement. The actual number of acres to be developed within these parcels is less than this and is identified in management intent. Note: There is an agreement between the BLM, Bering Straits Regional Corporation, and DNR that affects the adjudication of the state and regional corporation's selections in the area of Salmon Lake. The eastern part of the Salmon Lake area, affected by the regional corporation selection, is to be adjudicated so that the corporation receives title to this area. The state is to receive title to the western part of Salmon Lake, which is the area occupied in part by management unit W-5C. This agreement has, however, not been formally adopted at the time of this writing (October 2008).
W-06	Ha, Rd 23,814	3, 4 Various	Manage unit for its recreation and habitat values.	This unit occupies the area northwest and south of Salmon Lake, which is both a recreation area and an entranceway into the Kigluaik Mountains. The terrain is relatively flat along the Kougarok Road but most of the unit is mountainous. The principal use and value of this area is related to the wildlife habitat and scenic values within the unit and in the adjacent Kigluaik Mountains and to the recreation uses that occur within this unit and within these mountains.

Total state uplands within region = 1,376,257 (6 units)

Resource Allocation Table for Tideland Units – Southwest Seward Peninsula Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTR	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
WT-01	Ha 14,213	3 Various	Manage to protect habitat values. Contact USFWS and ADF&G prior to issuing authorizations.	Safety Sound is a large, nearly enclosed lagoon situated directly east of the city of Nome. This extensive tideland, including the closely connected lake, provides a protected habitat for a number of important and sensitive species, including waterfowl, anadromous fish, and marine mammals. Estuarine wetlands are present.
WT-02	Gu 198,896	2, 3 Various	Manage for multiple uses. Prior to issuing an authorization consult reference sources mentioned in ‘Resources and Uses’ and consult ADF&G, NMFS, or USFWS, as appropriate. Note: Not included within this tideland unit are the patented tidelands to the City of Nome.	This tideland unit includes all areas of the coast not otherwise included in WT-01 or identified as a seabird colony on plan maps. This coast is characterized by mixed sand and gravel beaches. Mineral Closing Order 568 affects portions of this unit. A variety of species occur within this large area, often associated with migratory patterns. Present in nearshore areas and coastal wetlands are seabirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Also present in the area are pinnipeds and whales. For more information, see maps at: alaskacoast.state.ak.us/District/FinalFinalPlans/NorthWestArctic.htm

Total state tidelands within region = 213,109 (2 units)

Navigable Rivers and Lakes

Management Intent of Navigable Waterbodies

The intent of the plan is to designate and provide management intent for the shorelands under all navigable waterbodies.¹³ There are so many navigable rivers and lakes in the planning area that it is not practical to state the management intent for each individual waterbody. Therefore the plan identifies general management intent and designations for most of the waterbodies within the planning area. In some cases, however, specific designations are identified for a particular waterbody because of the size, uniqueness, or particular values and functions of a river or lake.

The term “shorelands” is defined as land belonging to the state which is covered by non-tidal water that is navigable under the laws of the United States up to the ordinary high water mark as modified by accretion, erosion, or reliction (AS 38.05.965). See Figure 1-1 at the beginning of Chapter 1 for a diagram that illustrates the differences between shorelands, submerged lands, and uplands.

Shorelands are not identified on the plan maps within this Chapter. Identification of all such waterbodies is impractical on maps of the scale used in this plan. The DNR records on navigability and hydrology must be consulted in order to determine whether a specific stream or lake is likely to be navigable. These records are available in the Division of Mining, Land and Water in Anchorage.

For further information on the state’s navigability policy, go to dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/nav/nav_policy.htm

Public Trust Doctrine

The Public Trust Doctrine provides that public trust lands, waters and living natural resources in a state are held by the state in trust for the benefit of all the people, and establishes the right of the public to fully utilize the public trust lands, waters, and resources for a wide variety of public uses. Each state has the authority and responsibility for managing these public trust assets to assure the public rights are upheld.

¹³ The state and federal government do not agree on the ownership of some shorelands, tidelands, and submerged lands within and adjacent to National Parks and National Wildlife Refuge. Because of these differing interpretations of ownership, the public is advised to consult with both DNR and the applicable federal agency prior to undertaking projects or activities that might require a permit or lease from either agency.

The Public Trust Doctrine applies whenever navigable waters or the lands beneath those waters are altered, developed, conveyed, or otherwise managed. It also applies whether the trust lands are publicly or privately owned. Shorelands below the ordinary high water mark are considered public trust lands. In summary, all submerged lands – including tidelands out to the three-mile-limit and the beds of navigable lakes, streams and rivers – are all public trust lands.

The Alaska Constitution contains numerous provisions embracing principles of the Public Trust Doctrine that require the state to exercise authority to ensure that the right of the public to use navigable waters for navigation, commerce, recreation, and related purposes is protected. In Alaska, the Public Trust Doctrine extends beyond those submerged lands in which the state holds title to include all waters that are navigable. The state's waters are themselves reserved to the people for common use.

The Alaska Constitution (Article VIII, sections 1, 2, 3, 6, 13, and 14) and Alaska Statutes (38.05.127 and 38.05.128) contain some of the provisions, which are the legal basis for applying the Public Trust Doctrine in Alaska. In Alaska, this doctrine guarantees the public's right to engage in activities such as commerce, navigation, fishing, hunting, trapping, and swimming, while also providing for the protection of areas for ecological study.

The Alaska Constitution provides that “free access to the navigable or public waters of the state, as defined by the legislature, shall not be denied to any citizen of the United States or resident of the state, except that the legislature may by general law regulate and limit such access for other beneficial uses or public purposes.” The Alaska Supreme Court has concluded “the provisions in Article VIII [of the Constitution] were intended to permit the broadest possible access to and use of state waters by the general public.” *Wernberg v. State*, 516 P. 2d 1191, 1198-9 (Alaska 1973). The Alaska legislature has broadly defined the navigable and public waters available for public use in AS 38.05.965. Moreover, the legislature has endorsed a broad interpretation of the Public Trust Doctrine in Article VIII of Alaska's Constitution in finding that:

“Ownership of land bordering navigable or public waters does not grant an exclusive right to the use of the water and any rights of title to the land below the ordinary high water mark are subject to the rights of the people of the state to use and have access to the water for recreational purposes or any other public purposes for which the water is used or capable of being used consistent with the public trust.” Sec. 1, Ch. 82, SLA 1985.

The legislature has also declared that the right to use state waters does not include the right to enter or trespass upon private lands except in limited circumstances relating to safe portage described in AS 38.05.128(e). Nevertheless, with 99 percent of Alaska in public ownership at statehood, state laws regarding the transfer of land to private parties say the transfers must provide for public access to navigable waters. For instance, AS 38.05.127 implements the state's constitutional guarantee of access to navigable waters under Article VIII, Section 14. Under the statute, the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources must “provide for the specific easements or rights-of-way necessary to ensure free access to and

along the body of water, unless the Commissioner finds that regulating or eliminating access is necessary for other beneficial uses or public purposes.” The State’s responsibilities to implement the Public Trust Doctrine are considered and used throughout this plan. Any management actions will be consistent with the Public Trust Doctrine as defined by the Alaska Constitution, statutes, court decisions, and public involvement.

Management Intent: Navigable Rivers and Lakes

Because of their importance for recreation, commerce and habitat, certain rivers and lakes are given specific use designations. The plan designations applied to shorelands are identical to those used for uplands, tidelands, and submerged lands.

Specific Rivers

Because of its importance to regional transportation and commerce, in addition to its habitat and recreation values, the Kobuk River is codesignated Transportation and Habitat. Where the Kobuk traverses federal Conservation System Units, a third designation, Public Recreation, also applies.

Navigable Waters (Rivers and Lakes) within Federal Conservation Units

Navigable waters within Federal Conservation Units (National Parks, National Preserve, National Wildlife Refuge, other) that are anadromous are codesignated Habitat and Public Recreation. Navigable waterbodies that are not anadromous are designated Public Recreation. Both types of waterbodies are to be managed to protect their habitat and/or public recreation functions.

All other Navigable Rivers and Lakes

Navigable waterbodies within State-owned or State-selected land. The designation and management intent for navigable waterbodies that cross or are surrounded by state-owned and state-selected lands are the same as those of the upland unit, except that those portions of navigable waterbodies that are anadromous are designated Habitat (Ha).

Navigable waterbodies not within State-owned or State-selected land. Navigable waterbodies that are not within Federal Conservation Units and are not within state-owned, state-selected, or state-topfiled upland units, are designated Habitat if anadromous and General Use if not anadromous. Navigable waterbodies that are anadromous are to be managed to protect their habitat values, although uses can be authorized if these values are protected. Waterbodies designated General Use are to be managed to allow a diversity of uses consistent with the uses authorized on adjoining uplands in federal, private, or other state entity ownership. Upland uses are usually designated in an adopted land use or resource management plan, or can be inferred from the actual or planned use of the unit.

Figure 3-1: Map Index
Northwest Area Plan
October 2008

