

## Chapter 3

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## 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. See Figure 1-2 for a map of the plan area. Information on state lands is organized by region, of which there are eight<sup>1</sup>. The regions include Willow, Kashwitna, Kashwitna-Willow Uplands, Susitna Corridor, Big Lake-Houston, and Palmer-Wasilla, which also includes the subregion of Knik- Point MacKenzie. Two other regions are included: one that encompasses three tideland units for Knik Arm and one that includes the six Legislatively Designated Areas (LDAs) within the planning boundary. The regions generally correspond to the spatial boundary of Borough communities, to particular geographic areas or resources, or to LDAs.

Figure 1-2 shows the planning area and regions while Figure 3-1 provides an index to the 10 plan maps at the end of this chapter.

Within the planning area there are 213,196 acres of general state uplands and 42,545 acres of tidelands and submerged lands. Most state uplands, 386,000 acres, occur within LDAs, such as State Game Refuges and State Recreation Areas. Generally, area plans do not apply to LDAs, with management direction being provided through enabling legislation and subsequent management plans, although area plans classify these areas in order to enable certain types of authorizations to be issued. This plan's recommendations apply to the remaining areas of state-owned land scattered about the planning area that make up about 256,000 acres within 159 management units. Most of these uplands occur within the Houston/Willow/Kashwitna regions; there are few remaining tracts of state land within the more developed portions of the Borough within Wasilla, Knik, and Palmer. State tidelands and submerged lands are associated with the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet and with that portion of Cook Inlet adjoining the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> The Southeast Susitna Area Plan does not specifically include recommendations for the Fish Creek-Moraine Ridge Region. A management plan for this Region was adopted by the state and the Borough in 2010; see Map 5.

## 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.

**Co-designated 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 co-designations that

are generally complementary to or compatible with each other are included in this plan. Co-designated 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

**Ag - Agriculture.** Land that is agricultural or that, by reason of its climate, physical features, and location, is suitable for present or future agricultural cultivation or development and that is intended for present or future agricultural use.

**F - Forestry.** Land that is or has been forested and is suited for long-term forest management because of its physical, climatic, and vegetative conditions. This land will remain in state ownership. Approving authorizations in these areas will be conducted in compliance with the Coastal Development standards in the Alaska Coastal Management Act (6 AAC 80.040), the Forest Resources Practices Act, statutory requirements for Five-Year Schedules of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans, the Susitna Forestry Guidelines (or successor documents), and the specific management guidelines in the Forestry section of Chapter 2.

**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.

**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. This designation applies to uplands, tidelands, and submerged lands and to areas within LDAs.

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 with appropriate design if habitat functions can be maintained.

**Ma - Materials.** Sites suitable for extraction of materials, which include common varieties of sand, gravel, rock, peat, pumice, pumicite, cinders, clay, and sod. This land will remain in state ownership until the material on the site is no longer required for state purposes (such as road construction and maintenance, materials storage, and public or state facilities) after

which these lands may be used for alternative purposes. See the Resource Allocation Tables to identify the types of uses that might be appropriate to a specific parcel. These lands cannot be sold and cannot be used for an alternative use without redesignation of the area plan and reclassification, although some sites may be suitable for other uses after material resources are exhausted.

**Pr - Public Facilities-Retain.** These sites are reserved for a specific infrastructure to serve state interests. These units are classified Reserved Use Land and are not selectable by municipalities under state law (except under AS 38.05.810). Units designated “Public Facilities-Retain” will be retained in state ownership.

**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.

**Rp - Public Recreation-Public Use Site (Developed).** Areas used by concentrations of recreationists or tourists relative to the rest of the planning area or areas with a high potential to attract concentrations of people who recreate and tourists. These areas offer localized attractions or ease of access, and in many instances developed facilities. Examples include marinas, cabins, lodges, anchorages, scenic overlooks, road-accessible shore locations that are used for picnicking, sports, fishing, etc. The recreation and tourism uses for which these units are designated may be either public or commercial. This land will remain in state ownership unless otherwise noted in the management intent for the unit. The primary management intent for these sites is to protect the opportunity of the public to use these sites, and their public values for recreation. Many of these sites require additional management attention because of the use they are receiving.

**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.

**Wr - Water Resources.** This designation applies to areas of important water sources, watersheds, or hydropower sites. In this plan it also includes important wetland areas, the intent of which is to maintain these in an undisturbed, natural state. This land will be retained in state ownership in an undisturbed, natural state. Authorizations within areas designated Water Resources are not to be considered appropriate unless necessary for public health and safety. Utilities and roads may be appropriate with appropriate design if the integrity of wetland and water resource functions can be maintained essentially intact.

**Wd - Waterfront Development.** This designation applies to areas of tidelands, submerged lands, or shorelands for water-dependent or water-related facilities, usually for industrial or commercial purposes. Waterfront development includes: piers, wharves, harbors, mineral transfer facilities, seafood processing facilities, commercial recreation facilities, and other resource development support facilities except for activities related to forestry, which is covered by the Forestry designation. Approving authorizations in these areas will be conducted in compliance with the coastal development standards in the Alaska Coastal Management Act (6 AAC 80.040). This land may be available for conveyance to municipalities under AS 38.05.820 and AS 38.05.825 but cannot be sold to individuals.

## Explanation of Mineral Designations

Except where state land is closed to mineral entry, DNR will treat mining as if it were a co-designated 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 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.

## 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 areawide 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 program<sup>2</sup>. The same statute identifies those land classifications that may not be conveyed.<sup>3</sup> 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 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 in this chapter.

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<sup>2</sup> The Municipal Entitlement of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough will have been satisfied through implementation of recent entitlement decisions (2006) and as a result no further entitlement selections under AS 29 can occur.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

**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, timber harvest, 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 shown on the maps in this chapter 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 plan 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

The plan boundary of the area plan is wholly within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and encompasses the more central and developed portions of the Borough. This area includes the communities of Wasilla and Palmer, the Houston-Big Lake area, and the area west (to the Susitna River) and east (to the Hatcher Pass Management area) of the Parks Highway north to the intersection of the Parks Highway and the Talkeetna Spur Road. Within this area there are eight regions, or major geographic divisions. Regions are typically large geographic areas characterized by lands contiguous to each other and having generally similar characteristics. With the exception of one region, each contains state land for which the area plan provides guidance. One region encompasses the six LDAs within the planning boundary. In this instance, the plan does not provide management guidance other than to provide a plan designation for the LDAs, which is required in the event that the Department needs to issue leases or other authorizations that constitute disposals of state land. Except for the one Tideland region, the other regions contain both uplands and shorelands. Figure 1-2 in Chapter 1 depicts the plan boundary, the seven principle plan regions, and the LDAs.

At the time of this plan's preparation information on the Moraine Ridge-Fish Creek Region is not included. A separate Fish Creek Management Plan for this area was developed jointly with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and adopted in 2010.

### 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 units<sup>4</sup> 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 156 upland units and three tideland units.

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<sup>4</sup> Management units are also sometimes referred to as 'units' or 'parcels' in this plan.

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 convention being applied: 'P' represents Wasilla-Palmer ; 'S', Susitna Corridor; 'U', Kashwitna-Willow Uplands; 'H', Houston-Big Lake, 'W', Willow, and 'K', Kashwitna. 'T' is used for the Tideland Region and 'L', for Legislatively Designated Areas.

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 an area) followed by a two-digit identifying number. Tideland tracts have the geographic identifier of "T", followed by "T" indicating a tideland unit (for example TT-01). Tideland areas include both tideland and submerged lands.

## **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. In addition, there are short descriptions of the two somewhat unique regions that pertain to tidelands and Legislatively Designated Areas (LDAs). Because management intent for LDAs is established by legislation, information is necessarily limited and does not follow the following convention. Included in these descriptions for the major region are the following:

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

State Lands: The distribution of state lands within the region is explained.

Physical Features: The general topography of the upland tracts is described.

Resources and Uses: 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, habitat and harvest, water resources, and commercial timber.

Access: The principal mode(s) of access to state uplands are identified.

Management Constraints and Considerations: Local, state, and federal land and resource plans affecting the planning region are identified.

Management of State Land: 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 ten plan maps that cover the Southeast Susitna Area Plan. They are found at the end of this chapter and Figure 3-1 provides an index. These maps indicate the plan boundary (external boundary of the area plan), the boundaries of the eight regions, and the boundaries of the individual 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.

## **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 (GIS) 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 Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

The plan maps show general patterns of land ownership by color. This includes the various types of state land (general state land, LDAs, Mental Heath Trust Land, University of Alaska, and lands under management agreement to another state agency) as well as Borough and 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 units. 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 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’.

MTRS: The Meridian, Township, Range, and Section of each parcel are indicated. In all cases the Seward Meridian applies. There may be more than one township and range, as when a parcel crosses township and/or range boundaries. Similarly, when the parcel encompasses more than one section, typical for large tracts, the affected sections are identified. The only exception to this convention is for the very large tracts associated with Forestry and Habitat designations; in these instances, only townships and range are given.

Acreage: The approximate acreage in each unit is indicated.

Plan 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 “co-designations”) are sometimes specified. Where co-designations have been used, the uses reflected in the designations are believed to be generally compatible and complementary to each other.

Management Intent: This column indicates the management direction for a specific parcel. 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 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; if it is appropriate for transfer to a city, borough, or non-profit entity; and often describes those parcel resources 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 whether a state land use or a plan of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough affects the parcel.

## **Palmer-Wasilla Region**

The Palmer-Wasilla Region occupies the more central, developed part of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Relatively few state land parcels are situated within this region and most of those have already been allocated to particular uses, like a state recreation site. This region also includes Knik-Point MacKenzie subregion, which is also characterized by few parcels of state land. Maps 6 through 9 depict this region.

### **Distribution and Characteristics**

State-owned uplands are scattered throughout this region and total about 13,600 acres; which is the smallest acreage of state land by region within the planning boundary. Most of this land is generally level or gently rolling and contains a mix of both vegetated uplands and shrub type palustrine wetlands. There is, however, a block of about 5,500 acres that is situated in moderately to steeply sloping terrain near the base of Bald Mountain in the far northwestern part of the region. This area is heavily vegetated and a portion is important to the state's forest harvest base. Much of the state land is adjoined by either private or borough selected/owned land, most of which remains vacant although a significant amount contains residential uses. Where residential uses occur, access (roads and trails) and limited infrastructure (electrical, telephone) is often available. Other significant blocks of state land either adjoin the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge (SGR) or contain extensive areas of wetlands that are used seasonally for winter recreation. Both of these areas are typically flat and are isolated from other uses.

### **Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land**

Access to these lands is either readily available or they can be accessed fairly easily through a combination of road and trail access.

Except for the areas adjacent to the Palmer Hay Flat SGR, the only significant wildlife species concentration occurs in the northwestern block where moose calving, rutting, and winter concentration areas are present. In areas adjacent to the Palmer Hay Flats SGR, there are areas of waterfowl and shorebird concentrations, which are seasonal in nature. Anadromous streams cross a few of the units within the region and, depending on location, contain king, silver, pink, sockeye, or chum migration, rearing, or spawning areas.

State land receives moderate to limited use, with the type of use reflecting the pattern of recreation activity in an area and whether facilities are associated with the state land. Most state land is used either to provide habitat protection or to areas for winter recreation (dog mushing, cross country skiing). Such use is necessarily dispersed and limited in amount.

Much more intense use is associated with state facilities which are state recreation sites, although the amount of acreage associated with this use is less than 100 acres. Limited uses of state land include its use as security facilities, experimental forests, or for gravel extraction.

## **Management Constraints**

Several state and local management plans affect the planning area and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the Palmer-Wasilla Region. Only one state resource plan affected this region, the 1982 Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan, which is now superseded with this update. Local plans include the local land use plans of community councils within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Borough Comprehensive Plan, and the Borough Coastal Management Plan. The revision of the Coastal Management Plan is under review by the Department and has not been completed at the time of this writing. These plans provide management guidance of a general nature and helped in the formulation of recommendations.

## **Management Summary**

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. Most state land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation, which means that most land will be managed either for its habitat resources or recreational values. About 3,700 acres will be managed for these related purposes. (Note: 40,100 acres associated with LDAs will be managed in a similar fashion.) Portions of the state land (2,240 acres) in the northwestern part of the region will be managed for its forestry resources. These areas are an important part of the state's timber harvest base in the Susitna Valley. A few areas (563 acres), usually located next to streams, lakes, or adjacent to or within residential areas, are recommended for land disposal during the planning period. Consult the Resource Allocation Table and maps for specific recommendations.

There are two LDAs that are geographically located within this region; they include the Goose Bay and the Palmer Hay Flats SGRs, which total 40,100 acres. These areas are designated Habitat.

## Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Palmer-Wasilla Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
P-01	Ha 3,640	Map 4 S018N002W: 1-4, 9-12.	Manage parcel to protect the moose calving, rutting, and winter concentration areas.	Parcel adjoins the Hatcher Pass Management Plan area to the north, and this unit has similar characteristics to those of the more northern area. Parcel is heavily vegetated and is moderately sloped except for deeply incised stream valleys. Small, scattered portions of the parcel are occupied by shrub type wetlands. Moose are present throughout the parcel. Calving, rutting, and winter concentration areas occur in the northern part of the unit and the remainder of the unit is important as a winter concentration area.
P-02	F 1,600	Map 4 S018N002W: 8-10, 16	Manage parcel consistent with Susitna Forest Guidelines and Forest Resources Practices Act. Provide mitigation measures to mitigate significant impacts on moose wintering concentration areas. Recreation use of this parcel is to be considered in a FLUP prepared by DOF. Significant trails are to be protected and recreational activity is to be accommodated in timber harvest design.	Parcel is heavily vegetated (boreal type forest) in parts with areas of shrub-type palustrine wetlands. Terrain varies from generally flat to moderately steep. Moose are present within unit and portions contain a known moose wintering concentration area. Parcel is part of the state's sustained yield area for purposes calculating the annual allowable cut and is currently classified Forest Land. It is included in a Priority 1 area of the DNR Division of Forestry.
P-03	F 640	Map 4 S018N002W: 8, 17	Appropriate for land disposal during the planning period.  Settlement areas should avoid areas of wetlands, concentrating development in better drained, better soil types. Protect anadromous stream and Bench Lake. Maintain a 100' protection area around lake and along anadromous stream. Maintain public access and provide a public use site on lake.	Bench Lake occupies central part of unit; parcel is generally flat except for a stream valley adjoining the northern inlet stream. Unit is heavily vegetated (boreal forest) in areas of better soils; other portions are occupied by shrub-type wetlands. Parcel is not included in a Priority 1 forestry area. The Little Susitna State Recreation River, a Legislatively Designated Area, is situated immediately south. State land important for forestry purposes is situated to north.  Nancy Lake AWC #247-41-10100-2231-0010, provides habitat for coho and sockeye salmon, burbot, Dolly Varden, rainbow trout, whitefish. Northern pike also present.
P-04	Se 98	Map 6 S018N002W: 23	Settlement in Tracts B and C should be carefully evaluated given adjacent wetlands and residential land use patterns. If determined to be appropriate for land disposal, either avoid or ensure that wetland functions are retained. Vegetated buffers should be provided in areas that adjoin existing residential development. Tract A is not to be developed and is to be retained in state ownership.	Parcel consists of the remaining state land (Tracts A, B, and C) within ASLS 79-154. Tract A consists of a common area of 52 acres. Tract A is to be retained in state ownership and is not to be developed. Tracts B and C are occupy terrain that is flat and are composed of both uplands and wetlands. Residential land uses are situated some distance from this parcel.



Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
P-05	Gu 320	Map 6 S018N002W: 25	Unit is to operate as an experimental forest, consistent with the requirements of the ILMA (ADL 201911). If the Division of Forestry ceases to operate the experimental forest, this parcel converts in classification to Settlement.	Parcel is affected by an ILMA to Division of Forestry for the purpose of operating an experimental forestry.
P-06	Se 160	Map 7 S018N001W: 20	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period.	Parcel is in the process of being developed as a state subdivision (Chignaki Pond). It occupies a flat, well vegetated site having direct road access.
P-07	Pr 320	Map 7 S018N001W: 36	Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the ILMA (ADL 64415). If lease is terminated or ceases, the west one-half of this unit converts to the classification of Settlement.	Parcel is affected by an ILMA (ADL 64415) to DMVA (Alaska National Guard). West one-half of parcel is undeveloped. Reevaluate the use of this western area for settlement when the ILMA expires in 2015. Unit converts to the classification of Settlement when/if the lease terminates.
P-08	Pr 25	Map 7 S018N001E: 16	Manage unit consistent with land lease requirements. Public access for sportfishing needs to be maintained. Maintain 100' protection area adjacent to lake.	Parcel is affected by land lease application (ADL 216795) to DPOR for proposed Wolf Lake SRS located on the east side of Wolf Lake.  Wolf Lake supports resident populations of Dolly Varden and is stocked with rainbow trout.
P-09	Pr 48	Map 7 S018N001E: 34	Manage unit consistent with ILMA requirements. Public access for sportfishing needs to be maintained. Maintain 100' protection area adjacent to lake.	Parcel is affected by ILMA (ADL 65710) to DPOR for the Finger Lake Wayside, located between Palmer and Wasilla.  ADF&G stocks lake with rainbow trout, arctic grayling, king salmon and arctic char.
P-10	Pr 1,256	Map 6 S016N002W: 1, 2, 11, 12; S017N002W: 36	Manage unit consistent with requirements of Management Agreements and maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.	Parcel affected by Management Agreements (ADLs 215477, 225320, 227786) to ADF&G and is contiguous to Palmer Hay Flats SGR, the purpose of which is to create similar management authority and intent to the Palmer Hay Flats SGR.  Cottonwood Creek, AWC# 247-41-10300, also flows through unit, supports Coho and sockeye salmon, Dolly Varden, rainbow trout.  The Iditarod Trail crosses parcel.
P-11	Pr 8	Map 7 S017N001W: 9	Manage unit consistent with requirements of Management Right.	Parcel affected by Management Right to ADOT/PF (ADL 221535).

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
P-12	Pr  30	Map 7  S017N001W: 22	Manage unit consistent with requirements of Management Right.	Parcel affected by Management Right to DPOR (ADL 220647).
P-13	Se  185	Map 7  S017N002W: 36	Appropriate for land disposal during planning period.  Settlement areas should avoid areas of wetlands, concentrating development in soil types with better drainage. Maintain a 100' protection area adjacent to Lucy Lake and along outlet stream.	Parcel is situated on the north side of Lucy Lake, directly north of an existing subdivision (EPF 220050). The unit is generally flat, consisting of isolated palustrine wetlands, wetlands adjacent to an inlet stream on the north side of Lucy Lake, and vegetated uplands adjacent to the lake. Road access exists at the western end of the parcel and immediately to the north; Knik Road is situated to the south.  Lucy Lake outlet stream, AWC# 247-41-10300-2001, is anadromous downstream of the lake. Lucy Lake supports Dolly Varden and may support anadromous fish. Numerous tributaries to Lucy Lake are within the parcel and support Dolly Varden spawning; some have had fish passage restoration projects completed on them.
P-14	Pr  119	Map 7  S017N001W: 16	Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the ILMA.	Parcel affected by ILMA (ADL 201961) to ADOT/PF for use as a gravel extraction site and as a permanent maintenance station on Goose Bay Road. Indefinite term.
P-15	Pr  640	Map 7  S017N001E: 21, 22, 28	Manage unit consistent with requirements of the Management Rights and the warranty deed.	Affected by Management Rights agreement (ADLs 228846, 226116) between Nature Conservancy and ADF&G. Warranty deed to ADF&G precludes all uses except related to the Palmer Hay Flats SGR. Adjoins Palmer Hay Flats SGR.
P-16	Rd  80	Map 7  S018N001W: 18	If conveyed to state, retain parcel and manage for consistency with the statutory objectives of the Little Susitna State Recreation River.	Parcel is in state selection status. Unit is generally flat, has direct access to a residential road, and adjoins the Little Susitna River. Residential land uses are located nearby.  Little Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10100, bisects unit as well as contains braids, sloughs and backwaters of the Little Susitna River. Supports coho, sockeye, king, chum, pink salmon as well as Dolly Varden. Tributary, Swift Creek, AWC# 247-41-10100-2305 occurs within unit. Little Susitna River a high recreational use river and unit is identified as Public Use Site # PU 1c.2 in the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan. A significant portion of the unit is also within the 100 year flood plain of the Little Susitna River.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
P-17	Se 80	Map 7 S018N001W: 20	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period following the termination of the agricultural lease.	Unit occupies level ground and has immediately access from Shrock Road. An agricultural lease (ADL 33716) currently affects the parcel and portions of the unit have been cleared, probably for agricultural purposes. Residential uses are situated immediately to the south and west. Conversion to settlement cannot occur until the current agricultural lease terminates. There are not apparent wetlands that occupy the unit, although several small drainages cross portions of the parcel.
P-18	Se 40.0	Map 6 S017N002W: 14	Unit is appropriate for land disposal during planning period.	Unit occupies a heavily vegetated, generally level parcel situated on a major road. This parcel is affected by ADL 229739, which identifies this parcel for pre-disposal as a residential subdivision. Lucille Creek may occupy a portion of the site. Part of the unit has previously been cleared.

## Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Knik-Pt. MacKenzie Subregion

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
M-01	Rd 3,087	Map 8 S016N003W: 6, 15-19	Manage unit for dispersed recreation use and provide for continued use under Management Agreement as long as this remains valid. Protect RS 2477 and anadromous streams. Retain parcel in state ownership. Maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.	Parcel occupies a generally flat area consisting primarily of palustrine wetlands interspersed with vegetated uplands. It is affected by a Management Agreement (ADL 228636) which allows private entity to manage, develop, and maintain a system of winter recreation trails (primarily dog mushing). A qualified RS 2477 route (RST 118) and the Iditarod Trail cross portions of parcel. Goose and Fish Creeks, both anadromous streams, also affect the parcel.
M-02	Rd 240	Map 8 S016N003W: 16	Manage unit for dispersed recreation use. Protect RS 2477 and anadromous stream. Retain parcel in state ownership. Maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.	Generally flat parcel containing vegetated uplands interspersed by wetland areas, particularly adjacent to streams. Fish Creek, an anadromous stream, bisects the parcel. A qualified RS 2477 route (RST 118) and the Iditarod Trail cross portions of parcel. An extensive winter recreation area, primarily consisting of dog mushing trails, abuts this unit to the north.
M-03	Wr 400	Map 8 S016N003W: 21, 28	Manage unit for dispersed recreation use. Protect anadromous stream and wetlands. Retain parcel in state ownership.	Parcel occupies a generally flat area consisting almost entirely of palustrine wetlands. Fish Creek, an anadromous stream, crosses a small part of this parcel in section 28.
M-04	Wr 80	Map 8 S016N003W: 32	Manage unit for dispersed recreation use. Protect anadromous stream and wetlands. Retain parcel in state ownership.	Unit consists of generally flat terrain occupied by extensive wetlands. Goose Creek, an anadromous stream, and an easement (100') for an electric transmission line (ADL 63268) cross the parcel.
M-05	Se 90	Map 8 S015N004W: 12	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Provide a 200' protection area adjacent to the Goose Bay SGR. Retain or establish an access route into the SGR.	Unit is generally flat and vegetated and adjoins a lake situated to the west. An existing (60') gravel road is located to the southwest (ADL 228754). A pre-disposal action (ADL 226725) affects the unit, the purpose of which is to set aside state lands for eventual land disposal. Unit abuts Goose Bay SGR.
M-06	Pr 78	Map 8 S015N003W: 7, 8.	Unit is to be managed for public purposes consistent with the requirements of the lease.	Unit is affected by a Public and Charitable Lease to the state Division of Corrections for a minimum security prison and correction program (ADL 218069).
M-07	Pr 120	Map 8 S015N003W: 8, 9	Unit is to be managed for public purposes consistent with requirements of Management Agreement.	Parcel is affected by a Management Right agreement to ADOT/PF for an airstrip (ADL 203546).

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
M-08	Wr  200	Map 8  S015W004W: 23, 26	Unit is to be managed to maintain the hydrologic functions of the wetlands and its habitat values.	Consisting of two separate parts, this parcel is uniformly flat and consists almost entirely palustrine wetlands. It is situated directly south of the Goose Bay SGR.

Total state land within region (26 units) – 13,583 acres

## **Kashwitna-Willow Uplands Region**

The Kashwitna-Willow Uplands Region occupies the undulating to hilly terrain situated east of the developed areas along the Parks Highway and the community of Willow. It also extends eastward to the Hatcher Pass Management Area along the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road, encompassing the areas immediately north and south of that road. The eastern boundary of this region coincides with the Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area and the plan boundary of the Hatcher Pass Management Plan. This area is generally undeveloped, is heavily forested, and a portion of the unit is an important part of the Department's forest inventory base for South-central Alaska. Although most of the area is heavily vegetated with upland vegetation characteristic of a sub-arctic boreal forest, wetlands are interspersed throughout this region. These typically occupy the lowlands and are characterized by generally flat terrain. Maps 1 and 2 depict this region.

### **Distribution and Characteristics**

This is the largest of the regions having holdings of state land not situated within LDAs. Totalling nearly 108,000 acres, state land is generally contiguous within this region except for scattered private and Borough land east of Willow and along portions of the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road. Most land is generally level to gently rolling in the western part east of the Parks Highway and in the southern part south of the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road, and contains a mix of vegetated uplands and scrub or forest type palustrine wetlands. That portion of the region along the eastern and northern parts of the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road is, however, fairly mountainous and, depending on location, characterized by either forested and shrub vegetation or by alpine vegetation. Limited residential development occurs within this state land, with almost all of this occurring along the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road, although limited residential settlement adjoins it in the Kashwitna and Willow regions. State land is adjoined primarily by Matanuska-Susitna Borough land or private land. With few exceptions, this non-state land is either vacant or contains limited residential uses. Where residential development occurs, access (roads and trails) and limited infrastructure (electrical, telephone) may sometimes be available.

### **Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land**

Except for areas along the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road, access to the lands within the region is either non-existent or limited. Limited access is provided through a series of local and regional trails.

Moose are generally present throughout the region and there are a number of winter concentration, rutting, and calving areas. Waterfowl are generally distributed throughout the region and swan nesting sites are present in a number of lakes. Lacking suitable habitat, Dall sheep and caribou are not present within the region. Anadromous streams cross a few of the units within the region and, depending on location, contain king, silver, pink, or chum migration, rearing, or spawning areas. Willow Creek, Montana Creek, and the Little Susitna River are regionally significant anadromous fish streams that cross through the region.

State land receives moderate to limited recreation use, with the type of use reflecting the local patterns of recreation activity. Given the dispersed character of state land, its main use is for winter recreation (dog mushing, cross country skiing), although limited summer trail and ATV use occurs, particularly during the fall hunting season. The primary streams (Montana, Willow, and Little Susitna) all receive intensive summer fishing use. Such use is necessarily dispersed and limited in amount, with most occurring outside of the region generally west of the Parks Highway. There is very limited agricultural use, but timber harvest is an important use on portions of state land in areas east of Houston. The forested areas within the region are important components of the Department's sustained yield inventory in South-central Alaska.

## **Management Constraints**

Several state and local management plans affect the planning area and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the Palmer-Wasilla Region. Only two state resource plans affected this region, the 1982 Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan and the 1991 Kashwitna Management Plan, which are now superseded with this update. Local plans include the local land use plans of community councils within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Borough Comprehensive Plan, and the Borough Coastal Management Plan. These plans provide management guidance of a general nature and helped in the formulation of recommendations. The Enforceable Policies of the Coastal Management Plan were particularly pertinent.

## **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. One third of the state land in this region (38,516 acres) is designated Habitat (Ha) or Water Resources (Wr), both of which are protective designations. Areas designated Water Resources are associated with strips of land, sometimes as much as 0.5 miles in width, on each side of the principal anadromous streams of Willow and Montana Creeks, and the Little Susitna River. These areas are also co-designated Public Recreation-Dispersed (Rd), reflecting their recreational use. The vast bulk of the Habitat areas (24,600 acres) are situated on the large contiguous tracts of state land south of the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road and encompass significant areas important for moose winter concentrations and calving. Areas along the Willow-Fishhook

(Hatcher Pass) Road (2,300 acres) are designated Public Recreation-Dispersed, reflecting the importance of this area as an entranceway to the Hatcher Pass Management Area. Most of the remaining parts of the region are either designated Forestry (F) or Settlement (Se). Areas designated Forestry (56,447 acres) include the forested uplands in the central and easterly parts of the region. Settlement areas (9,713 acres) are situated south of the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road or are scattered throughout the more accessible, better situated and drained level areas throughout the region north and south of this road. Consult the Resource Allocation Table and maps for specific recommendations.

The SSAP supersedes both the Deception Creek Land Use Plan and the Kashwitna Management Plan. The former functioned as a management plan for the Deception Creek area east of Willow and south of the Hatcher Pass Road. It was adopted in 1989 as a component of the Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan. The latter primarily affected the Kashwitna-Willow Uplands Region, although portions extended into the eastern parts of the Kashwitna Region, most of which are now owned by the borough. The Kashwitna Management Plan amended the Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan (1982) and superceded that plan within the Kashwitna management unit. Since the Deception Creek or Kashwitna management plans have been replaced by the SSAP, only the area plan should be consulted for guidance in decision making.



## Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Kashwitna-Willow Uplands Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
U-01	F  56,447	Map 1  S018N002W; S018N003W; S019N003W; S020N003W; S021N003W; S022N003W; S023N003W	<p>Manage unit consistent with requirements of Forestry section of Chapter 2 and with applicable Susitna Forestry Guidelines and Forest Practices Act requirements. Protect anadromous streams and moose winter concentration and rutting areas. Maintain the Central Mail Trail, Mail Trail Connector, and Willow Mountain Trail corridors. Other recreational areas and corridors may exist within this unit and a review to determine if other such uses exist should occur prior to or concurrent with Forest Land Use Plan preparation.</p> <p>DOF is to consult with DMLW prior to initiating any timber harvests in parcels adjacent to management units that are intended for another use. DOF needs also to coordinate with ADF&amp;G on FRPA and FLUP requirements, especially adjacent to Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area.</p>	<p>This extensive unit, occupying nearly the entirety of the Kashwitna-Willow Uplands Region, consists of vegetated uplands containing extensive forest resources. Most of this area is occupied by upland spruce hardwood forest except along the drainages of Montana and Kashwitna Creeks, where a bottomland spruce-poplar forest predominates. The bottomland spruce-poplar forest contains white spruce, locally mixed with cottonwood and balsam poplar. Paper birch and quaking aspen also occupy areas within this forest type. The upland spruce-hardwood forest is a fairly dense, mixed forest composed of white spruce, Alaska paper birch, quaking aspen, black cottonwood, and balsam poplar. Numerous significant anadromous streams cross this unit in an east-west direction; they are not part of this unit and are included in a separate management unit, U-03. See U-03 for the management intent and guidelines for these anadromous streams, which include Montana, Kashwitna, and Willow Creeks. Portions of the unit contain both moose winter concentration and rutting areas.</p> <p>Portions of this unit, principally in townships S021N003W and S020N003W, contain multiple use trail system, some of which are managed by the Borough. These systems include the Central Mail Trail, Mail Trail Connector, and Willow Mountain Trail. These trails are depicted either on DNR status plats or in the Borough 'Trail Guide' map.</p> <p>This large area has been classified Forestry for over 25 years and constitutes, together with unit S-03 in the Susitna Corridor Region, a significant portion of the Division of Forestry's sustained yield inventory in the Susitna Valley.</p> <p>Unit abuts Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area and also contains numerous anadromous fish streams in the Willow Creek, Deception Creek, Little Willow Creek, Kashwitna River, Sheep Creek, Goose Creek, Montana Creek and Little Susitna River drainages.</p>
U-02	Se  2,846	Map 1  S023N003W: 29-33	<p>Unit may be appropriate for land disposal during the planning period, depending on the availability of road access.</p> <p>Avoid or protect streams and adjacent wetlands in subdivision design.</p>	<p>Parcel occupies gently rolling terrain and is mostly vegetated with a mix of shrubs and trees. Several small streams cross the parcel and palustrine wetlands adjoin these streams. Borough land adjoins the parcel to the south. Road access is available within 0.5 miles.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
U-03	Wr, Rd 11,855	Map 1 Various	Manage this unit to protect and maintain the anadromous streams within this unit and their adjacent uplands. Except for required roads and utilities, safety, and recreational facilities, other forms of uses or structures, including timber harvest, are prohibited.	The major streams draining the Kashwitna-Willow Uplands Region are included within this unit. These streams include the following: Sheep, Kashwitna, Montana, Little Willow and Willow Creeks. In addition to the streams, adjacent uplands, often as much as 0.5 miles of either side of stream, are included within the unit. Each of these streams has an important run of salmon, and both Willow and Montana Creeks support important South-central sport fisheries.
U-04	Se 2,868	Map 1 S022N003W: 5, 7, 8, 17-20	Unit may be appropriate for a residential land disposal during the planning period. Road access to the residential subdivision to the west will be required, and this may affect the timing of development. Protect small streams and adjacent wetlands in subdivision design.	Parcel occupies gently rolling terrain and consists of vegetated uplands interspersed by isolated palustrine wetlands. A small stream occupies the central part of the parcel; there are several small lakes. Borough land adjoins this parcel to the west and south, portions of which have been developed as a residential subdivision with road access. The North Fork of Kashwitna Creek, a portion of which is included in unit U-03, adjoins this parcel to the east. This area is to remain undeveloped. Residential land uses exist immediately to the west of the unit in the Borough subdivision.
U-05	Wr, Rd 574	Map 2 S021N003W: 2	Manage this unit to maintain the protection of Little Willow Creek that begins in unit U-03.	Unit adjoins Little Willow Creek and is generally flat and heavily vegetated. No immediate access to parcel, and should be difficult to develop in the near term. The Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area adjoins this parcel to the east.
U-06	Ag, Se 790	Map 3 S020N003W: 19, 30	Unit is appropriate either for an agricultural/settlement disposal or residential disposal during the planning period. Protect central area of wetlands and the Roger Creek river system. Maintain the Talkeetna Mail – Central Trail Loop.	Parcel is generally flat and consists of a mix of vegetated uplands and shrub/forest palustrine wetlands, with the majority of the central area of the site occupied by wetlands. Agricultural uses occur immediately to the west of the parcel. Parcel is considered to have soils suitable for agriculture. Road access is available for southwest. The Talkeetna Mail – Central Trail Loop (ADL 228207), a public use easement, traverses the unit in a north-south orientation. The trail system is managed under a cooperative resource management agreement with the Borough (ADL 228819). The upper end of the Rogers Creek system occurs in this unit.
U-07	Rd 360	Map 3 S020N003W: 29, 30	Manage unit to protect habitat and recreation values. Maintain public use easement associated with Central Mail Trail. Except for required roads and utilities, safety, and recreational facilities, other forms of uses or structures, including timber harvest, are prohibited. Parcel is to be retained in state ownership.	Parcel is generally flat and heavily vegetated. Little Willow Creek and the 'Central Mail Trail', a major multiple use trail managed by the Borough, cross major portions of the parcel. Borough land adjoins the parcel immediately to south. See also unit U-06.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
U-08	Se 940	Map 4 S019N003W: 4, 5	<p>Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Protect anadromous stream (100' protection area) and wetlands in subdivision design.</p> <p>Consideration is to be given in subdivision design to the orientation of residential units to views (primarily to south) and to the maintenance of any recreation uses, although none are discernible currently (2008).</p> <p>DMLW is to consult with DOF prior to the initiation of any land disposals in this unit and within U-08. Timber harvest within the areas of settlement may be appropriate but must be compatible with the overall residential development plan and with development phasing.</p>	<p>This large parcel is situated immediately south of Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road, which is bordered by residential uses. Topography is generally level in the western part, coinciding in part with wetland areas, to moderately sloping in the eastern part. Upland areas are heavily vegetated. Two small drainages, one of which is anadromous stream 247-41-10200-2120-3020-4021 provides habitat for coho salmon, cross the parcel.</p>
U-09	Se 100	Map 4 S019N003W: 3	<p>Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. The trail is to be maintained. Rerouting of the ADF&amp;G trail may be necessary in subdivision design.</p>	<p>Unit is moderately sloping and heavily vegetated, although there are a few palustrine wetlands. A 50' trail under ILMA to ADF&amp;G affects the central part of the parcel, and is oriented in a north-south direction (ADL 46664). Residential uses and Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road are situated nearby (0.25 miles north).</p>
U-10	Se 261	Map 4 S019N003W: 1, 2	<p>Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Avoid or protect wetlands in subdivision design. Maintain a 50' protection area adjacent to lakes.</p>	<p>Parcel is irregularly configured, with Borough land surrounding it on all sides. It consists of gently rolling topography with vegetated uplands interspersed throughout by palustrine wetlands. Residential uses are nearby and parcel has road access. Contains several lakes.</p>
U-11	Se 5	Map 4 S019N003W: 1	<p>Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Maintain a 50' protection area adjacent to the lake.</p>	<p>Unit adjoins lake and is surrounded by Borough land. It is vegetated and has topography that is level to slightly sloped. Residential uses are situated nearby along road, about 0.5 miles distant. Some of the site contains palustrine wetlands.</p>
U-12	Se 1,889	Map 4 S019N003W: 10-12	<p>Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Maintain trail access; reroute if necessary. Development should be concentrated in upland areas; wetlands should be avoided or protected in subdivision design. Maintain a 50' protection area adjacent to lakes.</p>	<p>This large parcel consists of a mix of vegetated uplands, lakes, and wetlands, the latter predominating in its eastern part. Upland areas are heavily vegetated consisting of paper birch, black spruce, and occasional white spruce and cottonwoods. Parcel has been pre-identified by DNR for settlement/disposal (ADL 229577, Teakwood Lake Subdivision). A 50' primitive trail (ADL 46664) affects portions of the parcel.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
U-13	Ha 9,373	Map 4 S019N003W: 14-15, 22-24, 25-28, 34-36	Manage unit to protect moose winter concentration area, anadromous stream, and wetlands. Protect recreation and trail access.	This extensive parcel, except for a generally flat area in its northeastern part, is moderately to heavily sloped. It consists of both vegetated uplands and palustrine wetlands, with the latter predominating, particularly in the more level areas. It contains an extensive moose winter concentration area and is crossed by an anadromous stream. A 50' primitive trail (ADL 46664) affects portions of the parcel. Bullion Mountain Scenic Area is within this unit.
U-14	Se 15	Map 4 S019N002W: 6	Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. A 50' non-disturbance area affects the uplands adjacent to the lake.	Unit adjoins lake and Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road is nearby. Residential uses are nearby.
U-15	Ma 25	Map 4 S019N002W: 6	Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the ILMA. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Parcel is affected by a Public Use Permit (ADL 202813) for the extraction of gravel. Issued to ADOT/PF for the purpose of providing suitable gravel for local state road projects. Indefinite amount specified in FUP.
U-16	Rd 2,271	Map 4 S019N002W: 2-6	Manage unit for its public recreation values and retain in state ownership. Roads and utility lines are considered appropriate uses within the unit. Maintain the easements associated with the Willow Sled Trail and the transmission facility. Retain in state ownership.	This extensive parcel adjoins Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road in an east-west direction and functions as an entranceway into the Hatcher Pass area. It is heavily vegetated and is slightly to moderately sloped, depending on location. An electrical transmission line easement (ADL 44316) affects the area of the parcel south of the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road. Portions of the Willow Sled Trail (ADL 46665), a multi-use trail, crosses in a north-south orientation through section 5. Willow Creek AWC #247-41-10200-2120 bisects unit. Specific stream protection guidelines are required under existing plans.
U-17	Ma 108	Map 4 S019N002W: 2	Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the ILMA. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Parcel is affected by a Material Sale (ADL 223680) to ADOT/PF for the extraction of gravel for local road projects. <i>Note: Material Sale expired 7/01/90.</i> Willow Creek AWC #247-41-10200-2120 bisects unit. Specific stream protection guidelines are required under existing plans.
U-18	Ma 20	Map 4 S020N003W: 34	Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the Free Use Permit. Parcel is appropriate for alternative use(s) when gravel extraction ceases. Reclassification will be required in order to accommodate an alternative use.	Parcel is affected by a Free Use Permit to ADOT/PF (ADL 32188) for the purpose of excavating material for the construction of roads. Unit adjoins Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road. Specific stream protection guidelines are required under ILMA.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
U-19	Rp  52	Map 4  S020N003W: 36; S020N002W: 31	Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the P&C Lease.	Parcel is affected by a Public and Charitable (P&C) Lease to a non-profit entity (ADL 59832).
U-20	Gu  9	Map 4  S019N003W: 2	Manage unit consistent with requirements of ILMA. Upon termination of ILMA, consider alternative uses of parcel. Reclassification may be required in order to accommodate an alternative use.	Unit is affected by an ILMA for a communications site (ADL 227147).
U-21	Ma  46	Map 4  S019N002W: 5	Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the Free Use Permit.	Parcel is affected by a Free Use Permit (ADL 73305) to ADOT/PF for the purpose of extracting gravel for bridge reconstruction and the maintenance of Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road. Indefinite term. Specific stream protection guidelines are required under ILMA
U-22	Ha, Wr  16,715	Map 4  S019N002W; S018N002W: 6, 7	Manage unit to protect its habitat and water resource values. Maintain trail access.	This very large parcel consists of a mixture of very mountainous terrain characterized by alpine vegetation in its eastern part and by moderately sloping, heavily vegetated uplands in the western part. It adjoins the Hatcher Pass Management Plan (area) to the north and an area designated Public Recreation to the north. Moose winter concentration, rutting, and calving areas are distributed throughout much of this unit, particularly in its eastern part. An anadromous tributary of Deception Creek traverses portions of the unit as do portions of the Willow Sled trail, a multi-use trail.

Total state land within region (22 units) – 107,568 acres

## **Big Lake-Houston Region**

The Big Lake – Houston Region occupies the more central, developed part of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, similar to Palmer-Wasilla region. Most land within this region is owned by non-state entities, including the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the private sector, and much of the state land that remains is associated with the Little Susitna State Recreation River (SRR) or the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge, which are both LDAs. The remaining state land is scattered throughout the region and tends to be situated in areas with limited access. Maps 3 through 6 depict this region.

### **Distribution and Characteristics**

State uplands<sup>5</sup>, totaling approximately 17,000 acres, are scattered throughout the region with some amount of concentration occurring around the community of Houston and the area generally west of Big Lake. Most land is generally level or gently rolling and contains a mix of vegetated uplands and scrub or forested palustrine wetlands. Limited residential development surrounds most of this land, and much of the land within the two concentration areas adjoins the Little Susitna SRR. Most state land is either adjoined by either private land, land owned by Native corporations, or land managed or owned by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. With few exceptions, this non-state land is either vacant or contains limited residential uses. Several tracts are also situated within the Meadow Creek area; in these areas residential development is fairly significant. Where residential development occurs, access (roads and trails) and limited infrastructure (electrical, telephone) is often available.

### **Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land**

Except for areas in the far southern part of the region, access to these lands is either readily available or they can be accessed fairly easily through a combination of road and trail access.

Wetlands and areas within the Little Susitna SRR contain areas where moose are generally present and may also contain moose calving and moose winter concentrations. Waterfowl are generally distributed throughout the region and swan nesting sites are present in a number of lakes. Lacking suitable habitat, Dall sheep and caribou are not present within the region. Anadromous streams cross a few of the units within the region and, depending on location, contain king, silver, pink, or chum migration, rearing, or spawning areas. The Little Susitna River is a regionally significant anadromous fish stream and passes through the center of the region.

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<sup>5</sup> Not including Legislatively Designated Areas, which total 320,000 acres within this region.

With the exception of the Little Susitna SRR, state land receives moderate to limited use, with the type of use reflecting the local patterns of recreation activity. Given the dispersed character of state land, its main use is for winter recreation (dog mushing, cross country skiing), although limited summer trail and ATV use is likely. Such use is necessarily dispersed and limited in amount. Much more intense use is associated with the Little Susitna SRR and with the adjacent Nancy Lake State Recreation Area, situated to the north of the region. The former receives considerable use during the summer, with the intensity of that use related to salmon runs. This area also receives considerable winter recreation use (ATV, dog mushing, and snow-machining).

## **Management Constraints**

Several state and local management plans affect the planning area and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the Palmer-Wasilla Region. Only one state resource plan affected this region, the 1982 Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan, which is now superseded with this update. Local plans include the local land use plans of community councils within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Borough Comprehensive Plan, and the Borough Coastal Management Plan. These plans provide management guidance of a general nature and helped in the formulation of recommendations. The Enforceable Policies of the Coastal Management Plan were particularly useful.

## **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. The majority of state land (7,788 acres) is designated Settlement and is recommended for land disposal during the planning period. These areas adjoin current or projected residential areas and are relatively close to access and necessary infrastructure. It is not intended that all of this land be disposed of immediately. Before the development of state land becomes practicable, adjacent private and borough lands must be developed first, thereby providing access and infrastructure to state lands. The remainder of state land either designated General Use (4,082 acres), where no particular use could be discerned at this time, Public Recreation (844 acres) and Habitat (1,238 acres). Habitat areas are often associated with wetlands and areas adjacent to the Little Susitna SRR. Areas designated Public Recreation coincide with institutional uses or areas important for local recreational use. Consult the Resource Allocation Table and maps for specific recommendations.

There are two principle LDAs that are geographically located within this region: these include the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge (302,711 acres, designated Habitat) and the Little Susitna SRR (17,464 acres, designated Public Recreation). When these areas are included to determine overall state management within this region, almost all state land is associated with the LDAs, which are managed for habitat and public recreation purposes.



## Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Big Lake-Houston Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
H-01	Se 800	Map 6 S018N004W: 9, 16, 23	Dispose of remaining lots either as individual lots or combined with a larger land disposal involving state land to the east and south. Protect anadromous stream; maintain a 150' protection area adjacent to stream(s).	<p>Parcel occupies an area of a previous land disposal involving over 35 lots of approximately 40 acres each. Although most of the subdivision lots have been conveyed out of state ownership, some remain in state ownership and these may be combined with a potential land disposal on adjacent state land to the south. Parcel is flat, vegetated, and some structures are present. The current Settlement designation needs to be retained in the event lots are returned to the state and are available for resale.</p> <p>Lake Creek AWC# 247-41-10200-2254, supporting coho and sockeye salmon, flows adjacent to the unit. Unit contains wetlands and tributaries connected to Lake Creek that likely support anadromous fish. AWC stream # 247-41-10200-2020-3130-4020, supporting pink, sockeye and coho salmon, flows through unit.</p>
H-02	Se 1,600	Map 6 S018N004W: 21, 22, 27, 28	Area is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Settlement is considered appropriate in upland areas, particularly those areas adjacent to the lakes that occupy this unit. Maintain 100' protection area adjacent to lakes and anadromous streams. Avoid wetlands or retain wetland functions in subdivision design.	Parcel, which is generally flat, consists of an extensive mixed wetlands/vegetated uplands area situated south of Nancy Lakes and immediately west of the Parks Highway. Several lakes are situated within the unit, and two anadromous streams cross portions of the unit. The main lake may be connected to the Little Susitna River and support anadromous fish. Portions of the unit may be susceptible for residential development. The Little Susitna State Recreation River is situated just south of this parcel.
H-03	Rd 640	Map 6 S018N003W: 23	Unit is to be managed consistent with the requirements of the PC Lease. If parcel is no longer used by the lessor and reverts to the state, the remaining area should be integrated with parcel H-02 and considered for settlement through a land disposal. If this occurs, the classification converts to Settlement.	Parcel is affected by a Public and Charitable Lease (ADL 55337) to the Boy Scouts of America.
H-04	Wr 720	Map 6 S018N003W: 28	Manage unit to preserve and protect the habitat and hydrologic values and functions of the wetlands.	<p>Occupying flat terrain, this parcel consists of a combination of vegetated upland clusters interspersed with palustrine wetlands. Portions of the uplands adjoin a lake. The Little Susitna SRR adjoins the parcel to the west and north and private land to the east.</p> <p>Wetlands and streams connected to AWC# 247-41-10200-2020-3130-4020 and Lynx Lake 247-41-10200-2020-3130-0020 may support anadromous coho, sockeye and pink salmon.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
H-05	Se 436	Map 6 S018N004W: 36; S018N003W: 31	Portions of this parcel, coinciding with the scattered vegetated uplands, may be suitable for a residential land disposal. Should this occur, consideration is to be given to the protection of the SRR and the wetlands in subdivision design. A 50' non-disturbance area affects the lake.	Parcel consists of a combination of islands of vegetated upland interspersed with palustrine wetlands. Portions of the uplands adjoin a lake and portions border the Little Susitna SRR. There is no immediate road access, and it is likely that development of this unit, should it occur, would have to wait until such access was provided, which would be from the private land to the east. The parcel is almost uniformly flat. A multiuse recreational trail crosses portions of this parcel (ADL 228206)
H-06	F 775	Map 4 S018N003W: 6, 7	Unit is to be managed for its timber values. Local and regional trails are to be maintained.	Unit is slightly to moderately sloping in the central part, but flatter in other parts. It is forested throughout except for scattered palustrine wetlands and wetland areas adjacent to a small stream. There is no immediate road access, but the parcel is within 1 mile of the Parks Highway. The area to the west of the unit is a previous state subdivision and the land to the south is owned by the Mental Health Trust.  DOF indicates this parcel is contiguous with the DOF Zero Lake Management Block and is designated for limited timber sales for the small logger, which supply local sawmills.
H-07	Se 80	Map 4 S018N003W: 9	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period.	Parcel is moderately sloped and heavily vegetated (forested). There is no immediate road access but is within 1 mile of the Parks Highway. The unit is surrounded by Borough land.
H-08	Rd 60	Map 4 S018N003W: 16	Manage unit to preserve and enhance public recreation uses. Retain in state ownership.	Parcel occupies moderately rolling terrain and is heavily vegetated in its northern part. Southern portion of parcel is occupied by palustrine wetlands. A large lake adjoins parcel to northeast and a road provides access. This site is used for public recreation purposes.
H-09	Se 1,760	Map 6 S018N003W: 13-15, 24; S018N002W: 18	Area is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Protect anadromous stream and RST 95. Conserve areas of wetlands, focusing settlement in adjacent upland areas. Utilities and roads may cross wetlands. Maintain a 100' protection area adjacent to anadromous streams.	This large parcel consists of generally flat to moderately sloped terrain that is vegetated with shrubs and trees intermixed with wetlands. Access is available immediately to the south on a pioneer road. Little Susitna is situated immediately south of the unit, although upland portions of the SRR adjoin unit to southeast. An anadromous tributary of the Little Susitna River (see below) and a RS 2477 route (RST 95) traverse portions of the parcel.  Unit contains portions of anadromous streams 247-41-10100-2271, 247-41-10100-2285, and 247-41-10100-2285-3031 which provide habitat for coho salmon; others may exist.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
H-10	Se 240	Map 5 S018N005W: 24	Area is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Protect anadromous streams and wetlands that adjoin it, with development focused within vegetated uplands. Maintain a 100' protection area adjacent to anadromous streams.  Utilities and roads may cross wetlands.	Parcel is generally flat, consisting of palustrine wetlands adjacent to an anadromous stream(see below) that crosses part of the unit, and scattered, vegetated uplands. Little Susitna SRR adjoins unit to north and residential uses, part of a previous state subdivision (ASLS 84-50), to the south. West Papoose Lake is situated south of the unit.  Unit contains portions of anadromous streams 247-41-10100-2150 and 247-41-10100-2150-3010 which provide habitat for coho salmon; connected wetlands, streams and lakes may also provide habitat.
H-11	Se 1,162	Map 5 S018N005W: 23, 24, 26	Portions of unit may be appropriate for development. A study to determine feasibility and the areas of possible disposal should precede a disposal decision. Consideration must be given to the protection of lakes and wetlands, and to the buffering from existing uses in subdivision design. A 100' protection area affects anadromous lakes and streams.	Unit is moderately rolling and vegetated, and situated immediately north of a remote lot subdivision near West Papoose Lake. Parcel encompasses a previous remote lot subdivision (ASLS 84-50). Notes: 1) the Settlement designation is applied to this unit since there is still state land within the subdivision and there is the possibility of reconveyance of remote lot parcels. 2) The acreage estimate includes areas of remote lots and therefore the amount of state land that remains is considerably less than that indicated.  Unit contains portions of anadromous streams and lakes; western Papoose Twin Lake 247-41-10100-2150-3010-0010, stream 247-41-10100-2150-3010 and 247-41-10100-2150 which provide habitat for coho salmon; connected wetlands, streams and lakes may also provide habitat.
H-12	Ha, Wr 680	Map 5 S018N005W: 26, 33	Manage unit to protect wetlands. All uses, except those issued by permit or involving utilities, are prohibited.	Parcel consists of generally flat terrain occupied by extensive palustrine wetlands. There are a few areas of uplands. Adjoins the Little Susitna SRR on west and residential uses on north.
H-13	Se 442	Map 5 S017N005W: 25, 36	Area is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Within the southernmost parcel, the affect of the ADOT/PF transportation corridor should be taken into consideration prior to a decision being made on the suitability of a land disposal. Retain that portion of the unit that adjoins Papoose Twin Lakes as a public use site. Retain public access to lake. Protect anadromous stream and maintain a 100' protection area adjacent to it.	Unit consists of three separate parcels situated in sections 25 and 36. These are generally flat and consist of vegetated uplands interspersed with palustrine wetlands. Borough land is situated immediately to the south; Native land is situated to the east. Residential land uses exist near and at West Papoose Lake. Agricultural uses are also present. A small lake is situated in section 36. Road access is available immediately to the south and a 600' transportation corridor under ILMA (ADL 203838) to ADOT/PF bisects the parcel and is part of a road corridor that extends from Houston to Pt. MacKenzie.  AWC stream # 247-41-10100-2100 meanders east to west through the southern half of this unit and provides habitat for coho salmon.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
H-14	Se 2	Map 6 S017N004W: 36	Alternative uses of this area are appropriate if/when the ILMA is terminated.	Parcel is affected by ILMA (ADL 209163) to Division of Forestry, but should be considered for an alternative use if ILMA is rescinded, which is expected.
H-15	Se 7	Map 6 S017N004W: 36	Area is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period.	Parcel occupies moderately sloping topography and is heavily vegetated throughout. Road adjoins unit. Residential development adjoins parcel to north; the state forestry site (H-14) is situated to the west.
H-16	Se 80	Map 6 S017N003W	Area is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Avoid or protect wetland functions in subdivision design.	Consisting of separate parts, the area occupied by the unit is generally flat and contains a mixture of both wetlands and vegetated uplands. Residential land uses are present nearby. Depending on location, road access either directly abuts the parcel or is nearby.
H-17	Se 20	Map 6 S017N003W	Area is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Protect lake, inlet stream, and wetlands in subdivision design. A 100' protection area applies to stream. Avoid construction in riverine wetlands.	Except for a steep area in its southern part, unit is generally flat and contains vegetated uplands. A road bisects the parcel from east to west. A lake occupies portions of the parcel, and a small, anadromous inlet stream (see below) is present that is adjoined by riverine wetlands.  AWC stream # 247-50-10330-2050-3019-4011-5011 abuts to east; small lake within unit may be connected and provide habitat for coho salmon.
H-18	Se 776	Map 6 S017N003W: 16, 17, 20	Portions of this unit are appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Development within the area of the Meadow Creek floodplain and its adjoining wetlands shall be avoided. Protect anadromous stream and provide buffering from adjacent residential structures. Maintain a 200' protection area adjacent to Meadow Creek.	Parcel is generally flat and consists of vegetated upland areas interspersed with palustrine wetlands. It adjoins Meadow Creek on its north and south sides and is situated immediately north of Rocky Lake, an anadromous waterbody. Residential structures are situated on the northeast side of Rocky Lake, and the Rocky Lake State Recreation Site immediately adjoins Rocky Lake. The land use pattern in the vicinity consists of vacant land mixed with residential uses. Roads cross the parcel in a variety of locations.  Meadow Creek, AWC stream # 247-41-10330-2050, meanders east to west through the heart of this unit and provides habitat for coho salmon.
H-19	Se 100	Map 6 S017N003W: 27	Area is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period.	Unit is generally flat and contains a mixture of vegetated uplands and palustrine wetlands. Residential land uses surround the parcel and road access and airport are nearby.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
H-20	Ma  160	Map 6  S017N003W: 31	<p>Unit is to be administered consistent with the ILMT requirements. Use of this parcel for residential settlement should be considered in the development of the site reclamation plan.</p> <p>If this road is not to be constructed or upon termination of the ILMT, the consideration of alternative uses is appropriate. When the ILMT is terminated, the classification converts to Settlement and reuse of the site for settlement should be carefully considered.</p>	<p>Parcel is affected by ILMT (46749) to ADOT/PF under ADL 225357. ILMT was issued for the construction of South Big Lake Road (1990). Unit is undeveloped and heavily vegetated, and is characterized by moderately sloping terrain. A public use right-of-way for the construction of the South Big Lake Road crosses the parcel. Parcel has immediate road access.</p>
H-21	Gu  1,280	Map 5  S016N005W: 11, 14	<p>Manage for multiple use, including timber harvest if determined appropriate in a Forest Land Use Plan. Portions of this unit may be appropriate for settlement in upland, vegetated areas when a specific route is chosen or if it is decided that the road is no longer needed. Reclassification of the parcel to Settlement will be required to enable the land disposal.</p> <p>The Forest Land Use Plan, in its preparation, shall evaluate the effect of potential timber harvests upon wetlands, streams, and other sensitive areas prior to authorization of a timber sale.</p> <p>If a timber sale is determined to be appropriate, DOF is to coordinate with DMLW. DMLW has a similar responsibility to consult with DOF if a land disposal is under consideration.</p> <p>Consult the Susitna Basin Recreation River Management Plan for specific requirements that may affect development adjacent to the Little Susitna River LDA.</p>	<p>Parcel is generally flat and contains a mix of vegetated uplands and palustrine wetlands. There are at least six lakes in the unit. A 600' transportation corridor under ILMA (ADL 203838) to ADOT/PF bisects the parcel in a north-south orientation and is part of a road corridor that extends from Houston to Pt. MacKenzie. May be appropriate for settlement in uplands areas once a specific route is chosen by ADOT/PF or it is decided that the road is no longer needed. Borough and University land adjoin the unit. Parcel is included in the DOF Priority 1 inventory and is part of the Division's sustained yield base for the Susitna Valley.</p> <p>AWC #247-41-10100-2100, an anadromous stream, flows through the northwest corner of the unit. Waters connected to this stream or to the Little Susitna River may also support anadromous fish. The Little Susitna River flows to the west of this unit.</p>
H-22	Gu  640	Map 8  S016N005W: 24	<p>Manage for multiple uses, including timber harvest if determined appropriate in a Forest Land Use Plan. The suitability of development for residential and other purposes should be evaluated when road access becomes available. Reclassification of the parcel to Settlement will be required to enable the land disposal. Maintain RST routes and protect existing trails. Maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.</p> <p>If a timber sale is determined to be appropriate, DOF is to coordinate with DMLW. DMLW has a similar responsibility to consult with DOF if a land disposal is under consideration.</p>	<p>Unit is generally flat and contains a mix of vegetated uplands and palustrine wetlands. This is an isolated parcel of state land; University and Borough land adjoin the parcel. There is no direct road access, although portions of the road system are within 1.5 miles. Agricultural uses occur to the south of the parcel. Parcel is included in the DOF Priority 1 inventory and is part of the Division's sustained yield base for the Susitna Valley. Two trails cross this unit, RST 118 and Susitna 70-12.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
H-23	Gu 920	Map 6 S016N004W: 7, 8	<p>Manage unit to protect wetlands, the anadromous stream, and its various tributaries. Portions of this unit may be appropriate for timber harvest. The Forest Land Use Plan, in its preparation, shall evaluate the effect of potential timber harvests upon wetlands, streams, and other sensitive areas prior to authorization of a timber sale.</p> <p>If a timber sale is determined to be appropriate, DOF is to coordinate with DMLW. The unit to the east (H-24) is designated Settlement and coordination between the two divisions is essential prior to either granting authorizations.</p>	Unit occupies an area of extensive palustrine wetlands having few vegetated uplands. It contains an anadromous stream with an extensive tributary system, much of which occurs within the parcel. The parcel is generally flat. Parcel is included in the DOF Priority 1 inventory and is part of the Division's sustained yield base for the Susitna Valley.
H-24	Se 283	Map 6 S016N004W: 8	<p>Portions of this unit are appropriate for land disposal during the planning period within upland areas. Development within wetlands and stream courses is to be avoided. A screening buffer between the area of land disposal and current, adjacent residential land uses is to be provided. A recreation public use site is to be retained in state ownership; a AS 38.05.127 easement affects the lake.</p> <p>DMLW must consult with DOF if a land disposal is under consideration. The unit to the west (H-23) is included within the DOF sustained yield base for the Susitna Valley.</p>	Parcel is generally flat and contains a mix of palustrine wetlands and vegetated uplands. Some of the vegetated uplands adjoin Diamond Lake. Residential uses adjoin the western side of this lake. Road access is nearby, within this residential area. Diamond Lake is a stocked lake.
H-25	Ha, Wr 160	Map 6 S016N004W: 12	Manage unit to protect its habitat and water resource values. Accommodate dispersed recreational use.	Unit contains extensive palustrine wetlands. The area immediately to the east (Unit M-01) is under an ILMA to a non-profit organization for the purpose of maintaining winter recreation trails, which are used extensively for dog-mushing. This parcel is not part of the ILMA but adjoins it, and there may be similar recreational use of this parcel. Borough land surrounds the parcel.
H-26	Rd 58	Map 8 S016N004W: 28	Retain this parcel in state ownership and manage for its public recreation values. Protect trails and maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.	Parcel adjoins the southern shore of Jewel Lake. Although not developed as an improved road, access is available. Site is vegetated in part but also contains palustrine wetlands, some of which may include standing water (ponds). Owing to location and poor access, there is little public recreation use of this parcel, although some trails pass through this parcel, including the Iditarod Trail. Borough land adjoins the unit to the east.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
H-27	Gu 1,242	Map 2 S016N005W: 17, 18	Manage unit for multiple uses. Parcel is not considered appropriate for development given its location, poor soils, and the presence of extensive wetlands. Maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.  Additionally, the unit is to be managed to protect the water resources and habitat present within the unit and that are related to the adjacent Susitna Flats State Game Refuge.	Unit occupies a flat, low-lying area characterized by extensive wetlands. There are at least three lakes present. A road bisects the parcel, providing connection to Susitna and Knik. This parcel occupies an area that would normally lie within the Fish Creek Management Plan area, but this management plan, for whatever reason, chose to exclude these sections from its planning boundary. Given the extensive distribution of wetlands, there is little possibility of development occurring on this parcel. The Iditarod Trail crosses parcel from east to west and the Susitna Flats State Game Refuge adjoins the unit.
H-28	Rd 80	Map 6 S017N003W: 17, 20	Manage unit for recreational uses and to protect the entranceway of Meadow Creek into Big Lake. A 200' riparian buffer affects Meadow Creek. Authorizations are to avoid wetland areas.	Parcel occupies an area occupied in its eastern parts by Meadow Creek, an anadromous stream, and by an extensive, associated palustrine (emergent) wetland complex. Areas situated to the west and generally adjacent to Big Lake are characterized by shrub and emergent wetlands. The entire unit occupies level terrain. Big Lake is an important recreation area.
H-29	Rd 5	Map 6 S017N003W: 16, 21	Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the ILMA.	Unit is affected by a ILMA (ADL 50071) to DPOR for public recreation use at the Rocky Lake Wayside. Contains campground and other recreational facilities. Adjoins Rocky Lake.
H-30	Ha 1,238	Map 6 S018N004W; 25, 35, 36	Manage unit for its habitat and public recreation values.	Parcel consists of wetlands and uplands arranged in a linear fashion. Portions of the uplands adjoin the Little Susitna SRR.
H-31	Pr 420	Map 6 S017N004W	Manage unit pursuant to ADL 18248. Retain in state ownership. Maintain riparian buffer on lakes and streams. Protect trails.	Unit is flat terrain dominated by wetlands. Three lakes are present. The Federal Aviation Administration maintains a Vortac transmitter site under permit ADL 18248 on this parcel.
H-32	F 480	Map 6 S018N003W	Manage unit consistent with requirements of Forestry section of Chapter 2 and with applicable Susitna Forestry Guidelines. Manage pursuant to ADL 220524. Protect habitat and recreation values on lakes, trails, and streams. Maintain 100' protection area (no cut) on lakes and streams.	Unit is moderately sloping, consisting of both forested uplands and wetland areas, with three streams crossing parcel. Zero Lake is on the eastern boundary. Unit is affected by lease ADL 220524 to the Division of Forestry. A road provides access from the Parks Highway.

Total state land within region (32 units) – 17,346 acres

## **Susitna Corridor Region**

Extensive areas of state land remain within the Susitna Corridor Region. Totalling about 45,000 acres, it is distributed in a north-south orientation and occupies lowland riverine areas on the east side of the Susitna River. Much of this land is associated with forested areas immediately adjacent to the Susitna River and with wetlands bordering these areas to the east. This region contains a significant inventory of forested land important to the Division of Forestry's sustained yield inventory for South-central Alaska. Some limited agricultural use occurs. This region does not include the Susitna River. Land management and land use designations for the Susitna River is provided by the Susitna Area Plan. Maps 3 and 5 depict this region.

### **Distribution and Characteristics**

Large blocks of contiguous state land occupy riverine areas immediately adjacent to the Susitna River as well as wetlands east of the forested areas. This is the second largest inventory of state land within the planning boundary, following only the Kashwitna-Willow Uplands region in size. Most of this land occupies generally level or gently rolling terrain, is almost completely vacant, and consists of two large contiguous tracts of spruce-poplar forest and both shrub and forested palustrine type wetlands. Lands owned by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough adjoin this area on the east side. There are few residential areas within the region, and these are situated at or near Red Shirt Lake.

### **Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land**

Access to the land within the region is poor or nonexistent in its western part, where forested and wetland areas are prevalent. Relatively good road access is available to the northeastern part of the region, with three roads emanating from adjacent residential development and accessing this area. These roads, in turn, connect to the Parks Highway at Willow. A bridge over the Little Susitna River does not exist within this region and until it does it is unlikely that the state lands within the southern part of the region can be developed. There are no current plans to construct such a bridge.

Both wetlands and the forested uplands include areas where moose are generally present or that have winter calving areas. Waterfowl are generally distributed throughout the region and swan nesting sites are present in a number of lakes. Lacking suitable habitat, Dall sheep and caribou are not present within the region. Anadromous streams cross a few of the units within the region and, depending on location, contain king, silver, pink, or chum migration, rearing, or spawning areas. Extensive wetland areas exist within the region, with palustrine, lacustrine, and riverine types all being present, depending on location.



Because of its relatively remote location, state land receives moderate to limited use, with the type of use reflecting the local patterns of recreation activity. Given the dispersed character of state land, its main use is for winter recreation (dog mushing, cross country skiing), although limited summer trail and ATV use is likely. Such use is necessarily dispersed and limited in amount. Much more intense use is associated with the Little Susitna SRR and Nancy Lake State Recreation Area (SRA), both of which are situated to the east. The Little Susitna SRR receives considerable use during the summer, with the intensity of that use related to salmon runs. This area also receives considerable winter recreation use (ATV, dog mushing, and snow-machining). The Nancy Lake SRA receives both summer and winter use. The area of state land that is forested is part of the Division of Forestry's timber base, although no timber harvest operations are likely to occur in this area during the planning period. Areas west of Crystal Lake have experienced agricultural land sales and some limited agricultural operations have occurred. There may be additional development of agricultural uses in this area given that much of the agricultural land remains vacant.

## **Management Constraints**

Several state and local management plans affect the planning area and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the Susitna Corridor Region. Only one state resource plan affected this region, the 1982 Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan, which is now superseded with this update. Local plans include the local land use plans of community councils within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Borough Comprehensive Plan, and the Borough Coastal Management Plan. These plans provide management guidance of a general nature and helped in the formulation of recommendations. The Enforceable Policies of the Coastal Management Plan were particularly useful.

## **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. Reflecting the significant presence of wetlands (palustrine, lacustrine, and riverine), most state land (26,754 acres) is co-designated Habitat and Water Resources. Much of the remainder (14,304) is designated Forestry, reflecting the forested resources in the region. The remainder is allocated to settlement (3,018 acres), with most of this occurring west of the two larger lakes that adjoin the region, Crystal and Red Shirt Lakes. Several previous state subdivisions have been developed in the Red Shirt Lake area, and the area northwest of Crystal Lake has experienced agricultural land sales. Consult the Resource Allocation Table and maps for specific recommendations.

## Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Susitna Corridor Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
S-01	Rd  395	Map 3  S019N005W	Manage unit for its recreation values. Retain in state ownership.	Parcel occupies generally flat terrain and consists of vegetated uplands in its western part and palustrine wetlands in its eastern. It abuts the Susitna River and the Willow Creek State Recreation Area. The wetlands are extension of those that make up unit S-02. Road access is available within 0.5 miles.
S-02	Wr, Ha  21,930	Maps 3 and 5  S016N007W; S017N006W; S017N007W; S018N005W; S018N006W; S019N005W; S019N006W	Protect wetlands, anadromous streams, and habitat values. Maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.	This large unit extends throughout the region, consisting of extensive areas of palustrine wetlands mixed with riverine and lacustrine wetlands adjacent to certain streams and lakes. Moose winter calving areas are present and numerous anadromous streams exist. Contains portions of the Iditarod Trail.
S-03	F  14,304	Maps 3 and 5  S017N006W; S017N007W; S018N005W; S018N006W; S019N005W; S019N006W	Manage unit consistent with requirements of Forestry section of Chapter 2, applicable Susitna Forestry Guidelines, and FRPA standards. Protect wetlands, anadromous streams, and moose winter calving areas. Maintain a 200' undisturbed riparian protection buffer adjacent to the Susitna River and its braided channels. Maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.	<p>This large unit extends throughout most parts of the region, and consists of extensive stands of a spruce-poplar forest situated within riverine areas adjacent to the Susitna River. This tall, relatively dense forest system primarily contains white spruce, locally mixed with large cottonwood and balsam poplar on both level floodplains of the Susitna River and on low river terraces. Alaska paper birch and quaking aspen are also often present. The southern portions of this unit contain a moose winter calving area. This unit is adjacent to the main stem and braided channels of Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200, and provides habitat for Coho, Pink, Chum, King, Sockeye salmon and eulachon, Dolly Varden. The lower S-03 unit also contains anadromous streams AWC# 247-41-10200-2070 and 247-41-10200-2060 and tributaries that support coho salmon. Unit also contains portions of the Iditarod Trail.</p> <p>This large area has been classified Forestry for over 25 years and constitutes part of the primary core of the Division of Forestry's sustained yield inventory in the Susitna Valley.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
S-04	Se  569	Map 3  S019N005W: 22, 27	Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Protect inlet stream to larger lake and provide a public use site on lake; maintain a 100' protection area adjacent to the lake and the outlet stream. Consider recreational uses and values in subdivision design and maintain (or realign) recreational trails if found to be present. Particular attention is to be given to the winter recreational uses that occur in the northern part of this parcel, which may include the Iditarod Trail, when the restart occurs from Willow. Maintain public recreation access to lake. Protect wetlands in subdivision design.	Parcel occupies generally flat terrain and is occupied by vegetated uplands interspersed with some palustrine wetlands. Portions within sections 22 and the NE ¼ of 27 adjoins Vera Lake, an ADF&G stocked lake. Residential uses occupy parts of the larger lake abutting the eastern part of the unit. Road access is immediately available. An ILMA to ADOT/PF, to construct a road between Pt. MacKenzie and Houston, occupies portions of this parcel. The development of this road is problematic and is dependent on the results of the Knik Arm Bridge crossing feasibility studies and the current (2007) Fish Creek Management Plan, now being prepared. This area was previously classified Agriculture but the Division of Agriculture has subsequently determined that the soils are not suitable for this purpose. Wetland areas adjacent to this unit experience extensive recreational use during the winter.
S-05	Unit deleted			
S-06	Wr, Ha  116	Map 3  S018N006W: 11, 14, 15	Protect habitat and water resources values.	Unit occupies a relatively large, heavily vegetated island that is separated from the remainder of the region by a slough.
S-07	Se  1,232	Map 3  S018N005W: 5-8	Portions of unit may be appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Evaluate feasibility of additional subdivision activity prior to a disposal decision. Protect wetlands and maintain public use easement in subdivision design. A 100' protection area affects the anadromous stream.	Unit occupies a generally flat, vegetated area of uplands that, especially in its southern part, is interspersed with palustrine wetlands. A previous state subdivision (ASLS 76-29 occupies the central portion of the parcel. Residential uses are present. A 50' public use easement crosses portions of the unit (Big Swamp Trail; ADL 229107-E). There is no immediate road access. Borough land is situated immediately to the east. Unit contains anadromous stream, Rolly Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2070 and tributaries that support coho salmon.
S-08	Se  1,218  (Includes area of previous ASLS.)	Map 5  S018N005W: 17, 20, 28, 29, 32	Portions of unit may be appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Evaluate feasibility of additional subdivision activity in this unit prior to a final disposal decision. Protect wetlands and their functions. Maintain public access trails listed in 'Resources and Uses'.	Similar to unit S-07, parcel occupies a generally flat, vegetated area of uplands. Most wetland areas are situated in the adjacent unit, S-02, although parts of sections 20 and 29 contain palustrine wetlands. A previous state subdivision (ASLS 71-44) occupies a portion of section 32. Residential land uses are present. Red Shirt Lake is situated about 0.5 miles to the east. There is no immediate road access. Borough land is situated immediately to the east. RST 149, alternate Iditarod Trail route, and trails 70-22 and 70-4 traverse parcel.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
S-09	Ha, Wr 883	Map 5 S017N007W: 33; S016N007W: 4, 5, 8, 9	Protect fish and wildlife habitat and water resource values.	Unit occupies an island and is separated from the main body of the region by a slough. It consists of a central part of palustrine wetlands and upland areas within the remainder of the tract. Portions of the unit contain a moose wintering concentration area and a moose calving area.
S-10	Ha, Wr 3,825	Map 5 S016N007W: 3, 4, 9-11, 13- 15; S017N007W: 33, 34	Protect habitat, anadromous streams, wetlands, and water resource values.	Unit consists of primarily palustrine wetlands with some interspersed vegetated uplands, especially in the northern part. Portions of the unit contain a moose wintering concentration area and a moose calving area.
S-11	Ag 337	Map 5 S017N007W: 36	Unit is appropriate for agricultural land disposal during the planning period. Protect wetlands in subdivision design. Maintain Iditarod Trail easement of 400 feet total width.	Unit consists of vegetated uplands interspersed with some palustrine wetlands. It is generally flat, has soils conducive to agriculture, and has been classified Agriculture for over 25 years. Contains portions of the Iditarod Trail.
S-12	Rd 42	Map 5 S016N007W: 14, 15	Unit is to be managed for public recreation purposes and retained in public ownership.	Parcel is situated on the Susitna River, contains upland vegetation, and is generally flat. It has been classified as Public Recreation-Dispersed for over 25 years.

Total state land within region (11 units) – 44,850 acres

## **Willow Region**

The Willow Region is in the northern half of the planning area and encompasses the majority of the Willow Creek and Deception Creek drainages. The Parks Highway and Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road are the major arterial roads for the region, and the built up core of the community of Willow lies to the south and west of their intersection. There is a complex of lakes west of the Parks Highway and north of the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area (SRA) that is a developing residential area and the state has a few scattered parcels here. Most land within this region is owned by non-state entities, including the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the private sector, and much of the state land that remains is associated with the Legislatively Designated Areas, Nancy Lake and Willow Creek SRAs. See Map 3.

### **Distribution and Characteristics**

State uplands, totaling approximately 6,000 acres, are scattered throughout the region with more than half lying in one large block north of the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road and Willow Creek and west of the Shirley Towne Bridge. Private land occupies the riparian area and state lands generally begin one half mile north of Willow Creek. A large block of borough land lies to the north. This state land is generally level or gently rolling and contains a mix of forested uplands and scrub or forested palustrine wetlands. There are some agricultural soils present.

There is a one square mile section of state land that lies one mile east of the Parks Highway across from Nancy Lake. Three lakes are present on this mostly forested land that also contains some palustrine wetlands. Large blocks of borough land are immediately north and south of this parcel.

A 494 acre piece of state land encompasses the Willow Airport and associated lands along the Parks Highway corridor. While most of this parcel is affected by the footprint of the airport there are some bordering lands that are forested and as yet undeveloped.

A few state parcels occupy forested riparian lands adjacent to Willow Creek State Recreation Area. The remainder of state lands are scattered parcels, 10-60 acres in size, exhibiting a mix of forest and wetlands. Most are found in proximity to the numerous lakes in the western half of this region and are on the edge of private residential development. Road access and some utilities are present or are within one mile of each parcel.

## **Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land**

The majority of the parcels of state land have road access. The remainder have trail access and/or are within one mile of a road. Some of the small state land parcels adjoining lakes are likely to be the only remaining public access points for these lakes and gain increasing importance as residential development occurs on non-state land.

Some of the larger pieces of state land, especially those along the north side of Willow Creek, provide movement corridors for moose and bear from the Talkeetna Foothills to the Susitna River corridor. The few scattered lakes in the eastern half of this region provide habitat for waterfowl including swans. Anadromous streams cross a few of the units within the region and, depending on location, contain king, silver, pink, or chum migration, rearing, or spawning areas. Willow and Deception creeks are regionally significant anadromous fish streams that pass through the center of the region.

Private and commercial recreation are important activities in this region. Fishing is the major summer recreation with human use dispersed on the state land within this region. The nearest concentrated use is in the adjacent Willow Creek State Recreation Area (SRA). In the winter, recreation turns to snow-machining, dog mushing, skiing and snowshoeing. There are extensive winter trail systems including the Emil Stancec Trails north of Willow Creek, the Haessler-Norris Trails between Deception Creek and the Parks Highway, and the West Gateway Trails criss-crossing the lands between the Parks Highway and the Susitna River. These trails mainly follow the waterways and wetland complexes and are so extensive as to touch almost all of the state land parcels in this region.

## **Management Constraints**

Several state and local management plans affect the planning area and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the Willow Region. Only two state resource plans affected this region, the 1982 Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan and the 1989 Deception Creek Land Use Plan, which are now superseded with this update. Local plans include the Willow Area Trails Plan, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Plan and the Borough Coastal Management Plan. These plans provide management guidance of a general nature and helped in the formulation of recommendations. The Enforceable Policies of the Coastal Management Plan were particularly useful. The Willow Community Council began their comprehensive plan process in 2007 with results unavailable for this Southeast Susitna Area 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. The majority of state land (2,080 acres) is designated Settlement and is recommended for land disposal during the planning period. These areas adjoin current or projected residential areas and are relatively close to access and necessary infrastructure. It is not intended that all of this land be disposed of immediately. Before the development of some of this state land becomes practicable, adjacent private and borough lands must be developed first, thereby providing access and infrastructure to state lands. The remainder of state land is designated Water Resources (2,400 acres), Forestry (610 acres), Public Facilities (494 acres), Public Recreation (411 acres)<sup>6</sup> or Materials (30 acres). The area designated for Habitat is a wetland area adjacent to the Willow Creek corridor. The Forestry area is a section of land in the southeast corner of this region that is adjacent to a much larger block of state land designated for forestry. Areas designated Public Recreation are parcels providing access to waterbodies that receive local recreational use. The Public Facilities designation applies to the area of the Willow Airport. Consult the Resource Allocation Table and maps for specific recommendations.

Two LDAs are geographically near or generally within this region: the Willow Creek SRA and Nancy Lake SRA, consisting of 3,594 and 22,476 acres, respectively.

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<sup>6</sup> In addition, two LDAs, which together total 26,070 acres, are in or near this region and are managed for public recreation purposes.

## Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Willow Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
W-01	F 610	Map 3 S019N004W: 36	Manage unit consistent with requirements of Forestry section of Chapter 2 and with applicable Susitna Forestry Guidelines. Maintain public use easement on Windy Lake Loop. Protect habitat and recreation values on lakes, trails, and anadromous stream. Maintain 100' protection area (no cut) on lakes and a 50' protection area (no cut) on both sides of the Haessler-Norris Trails.	Unit is generally flat, consisting of both vegetated uplands and wetland areas. Upland areas are a spruce-hardwood mix. Three lakes are located within parcel, the largest being Windy Lake, AWC# 247-41-10100-2231-3050-4011-0010. The Haessler-Norris Winter Trail System, Windy Lake Loop Trail bisects parcel. There is no immediate road access to parcel, but it lies within 1.1 miles of Parks Hwy and 0.6 miles of minor road. Anadromous stream 247-41-10100-2231-3050-4011 crosses parcel. This parcel is closed to mineral entry (Mineral Closing Order 250).
W-02	Rd 45	Map 3 S019N004W: 34	Manage parcel for its recreational values. Retain in state ownership.	Unit is generally flat, consisting of both vegetated uplands and wetland areas and contains a heavily used winter recreational trail network. Frying Pan Lake is 0.1 miles to north and there is one small lake within parcel. Frying Pan Lake Trails (part of the Haessler-Norris Winter Trail System) run through eastern part of this parcel. This parcel is closed to mineral entry (Mineral Closing Order 250).
W-03	Rp 2	Map 3 S019N004W: 34	Unit is to be managed for public recreation. Retain in state ownership.	Unit is a forested point of land on Frying Pan Lake. This lake is used as part of the Haessler-Norris Winter Trail System. There is no immediate road access but parcel is within 0.4 miles of Parks Hwy and 0.4 miles of a minor road. Land surrounding lake is in Matanuska-Susitna Borough, University and other private ownership. This is the only remaining state land on this lake, which is used for public recreation purposes.
W-04	Rp 36	Map 3 S019N004W: 28	Manage unit consistent with the ILMA. Protect anadromous lake and stream. Retain public access.	Unit is adjacent to Nancy Lake and bisected by the Parks Highway and Old Parks Highway. Nancy Lake, AWC# 247-41-10100-2231-0010, provides habitat for coho and sockeye salmon, burbot, Dolly Varden, rainbow trout and whitefish. Northern Pike are also present. Anadromous stream Lilly Creek 247-41-10100-2231-3080 is on parcel. Unit is affected by an ILMA (ADL 37437) to Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation for the Nancy Lake Wayside. The parcel is part of the borough's Nancy Lake Northeast Shore Recreation Land Use District (RLUD).
W-05	Se 30	Map 3 S019N004W: 33	Unit may be suitable for settlement if access develops through adjacent private lands. Subdivision design should protect wetlands that connect to Nancy Lake SRA immediately to west and maintain its function as recreational open space for local residents.	Unit is half lake/wetland and half forested uplands. The only current access is by private road. Small lake used for recreational open space by immediate neighborhood residents.



Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
W-06	Rp 6	Map 3 S019N004W: 29	Unit shall remain in public ownership and be maintained as a recreation corridor that functions to connect the two lakes. Public access to and along both lakes is to be maintained.	Small forested parcel connects Honeybee Lake and Lynne Lake and is bisected by road, providing public access to lakes. Both lakes are stocked by ADF&G.
W-07	Unit deleted; not state land.			
W-08	Se 80	Map 3 S019N004W: 20	Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Subdivision design should protect wetland values and provide a public use site on and access to and along Jack Lake. If anadromous fish habitat is identified by ADF&G, it should be protected. Portion east of railroad will need access development.	Unit is mostly wetlands with intermittent strips of vegetation. It encompasses most of eastern shore of Jack Lake. While Jack Lake is not listed in the Anadromous Waters Catalog, it is hydrologically connected to Gene Lake, AWC# 247-41-10200-2120-3018-0010. The Alaska Railroad crosses through the northeast corner of the parcel. The Kelly Lake Loop Trail (part of the Haessler-Norris Winter Trail System) runs through southeastern portion of this parcel.
W-09	Rp 7	Map 3 S019N004W: 16	Unit is to be managed for public recreation. Retain in state ownership.	Unit occupies a forested peninsula on Stevens Lake, a popular recreation lake. This is the only remaining state land on this lake. It is School Trust land (SCH 45).
W-10	Wr 1,600	Map 3 S020N004W	Manage unit to protect and maintain its hydrologic values. Protect anadromous waters and trails.	This largely flat and consists of a mixture of vegetated uplands and wetlands. An extensive wetlands complex exists in portions of this parcel.
W-11	Pr 494	Map 3 S019N004W: 5-8, 17	Manage unit consistent with the Management Right and ILMAs to ADOT/PF. Wetland area west of Gene Lake and small parcels east of Willow Lake are to be managed for public recreational access. Protect anadromous waters and maintain trails. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit comprises area along Parks Highway corridor between Willow Lake and Gene Lake. It contains Willow Airport and portions of Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad. Talkeetna Trail runs through a portion of this unit. Most acreage is affected by ADOT/PF Mgt. Rt. ADL 227587 and ILMA ADLs 22488 & 40293. Remaining area is the wetland area west of Gene Lake, AWC# 247-41-10200-2120-3018-0010, and small parcels east of Willow Lake. There is also a small strip of land (ROW) along the section line at southern border of municipal entitlement (ADL 216873, now patented to MSB) that was not included in that ADL. Willow Lake, adjacent to this unit, is managed for floatplane access by ADOT/PF pursuant to an Interagency Land Management Transfer (ILMT) ADL 18500 issued to ADOT/PF in 1964.
W-12	Rd 50	Map 3 S019N004W: 5	Manage unit to be consistent with the recreation uses and values of the adjacent State Recreation Area. Retain in state ownership. Protect anadromous stream.	Unit occupies a forested area along an anadromous stream (247-41-10200-2120-3017), a tributary of Willow Creek. It adjoins Willow Creek State Recreation Area and lies one mile east of Parks Hwy. Access to this parcel requires the crossing of the Alaska Railroad right-of-way or Willow Creek.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
W-13	Rp 10	Map 3 S019N004W: 5	Manage unit to be consistent with the recreation uses and values of the adjacent State Recreation Area. Retain in state ownership. Protect anadromous stream.	Unit occupies a generally level, forested area near the mouth of Deception Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2120-3020. It adjoins Willow Creek State Recreation Area and the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road.
W-14	Ma 30	Map 3 S019N004W: 3	Manage material site consistent with Free Use Permit to ADOT/PF. Protect anadromous stream. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit occupies forested area adjacent to Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road and functions as a material site under permit to ADOT/PF (ADL 25125, issued in 1965 for an indefinite term). Portions of unit are within floodplain of Willow Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2120. Leasehold Location Order 11 applies to area.
W-15	Se 1,650	Map 3 S020N004W: 33-36	<p>Portions of this unit are appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Development of this large area should only occur after the development of a framework plan that identifies potential subdivision areas, areas that require protection, and a generalized development phasing plan. Development should be sequential, beginning at the southeastern part of the unit that accesses the Willow-Fishhook (Hatcher Pass) Road. An open space system that is intended to be protected in subsequent subdivision development is to be provided in the framework plan. Consideration should be given to large lot design in a portion of the unit to allow for the harboring of animals. Subsequent subdivision development, in its general characteristics, is to conform to the framework plan. The public should be given an opportunity to comment on a draft plan.</p> <p>The framework plan and any subsequent subdivision designs should either avoid wetlands (or retain their functions), maintain trails (or realign them), and provide space for the recreational uses that occupy areas as opposed to specific trail locations.</p>	This unit comprises portions of several sections and is generally flat, consisting of both vegetated uplands and wetland areas. Portions of this parcel are susceptible to residential development. The intertie (ADL 213063) and RST 1691 (Herning Trail) run through unit. Portions of the Emil Stancec Winter Trail System occupy this unit. Leasehold Location Order 8 and Mineral Closing Order 343 affect portions of this unit. Section 36 is School Trust land (SCH-46).
W-16	Wr 800	Map 3 S020N004W: 28,33	Protect the water resource values of this wetland. Maintain trails. Protect anadromous waters.	Unit occupies area of wetlands along Rogers Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2130-3020, and an unnamed tributary to Willow Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2120-3017. Intertie ADL 213063 bisects unit. Portions of the Emil Stancec Winter Trail System occupy this unit.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
W-17	Se 320	Map 3 S020N005W: 36	<p>The northern portion of unit, that part above the bluff, is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period, except as noted below. Protect the viewshed from the adjacent SRA by using building setbacks and partially vegetated buffers, or similar techniques designed to protect the viewshed.”</p> <p>This portion of the unit will not be considered for land sales for three years following plan adoption to allow for the consideration of this site’s potential for a facility supporting the Iditarod Race. A best interest determination must find that it is in the best interest of the state to proceed with a land disposal for this purpose.</p> <p>The area south of the bluff is to be retained as open space and managed to be consistent with the recreational uses and values of the adjacent Willow Creek SRA. The southern area is to be retained as state land. Protect anadromous waters.</p>	The unit occupies forested, level ground in the northern part above the bluff line. Its southern portion adjoins the Willow Creek State Recreation Area. Mineral Closing Order 539 affects this unit. Secondary roads come to northern edge of property. Portions of the Emil Stancec Winter Trail System are in this unit. Unit occupies section 36, School trust land (SCH-47).
W-18	Rd 180	Map 3 S020N005W: 24	Manage unit consistent with Management Right ADL 225812. Maintain the public use easement. Protect anadromous stream.	Most of parcel occupies a level, forested area along Little Willow Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2130. This property (OSL 1070) is currently managed according to a Management Right (ADL 225812) to ADF&G. A public right-of-way (ADL 225875) occupies part of the unit.
W-19	Rd 75	Map 3 S020N004W: 36	Manage unit for its recreational value. Preserve public access and protect the anadromous stream. Retain in state ownership.	This parcel occupies a mostly level, forested area along Willow Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2120, a major anadromous stream in the region. There is an instream flow reservation on Willow Creek (LAS 11562). A bridge situated within the geographic area of the parcel provides access to the remainder of the large unit to the north (W-15). Unit occupies section 36, School Trust land (SCH-46).

Total state land within region (18 units) – 6,025 acres

## **Kashwitna Region**

The Kashwitna Region is one of the largest regions in the planning area and, given the amount of state land, one of the most important. It encompasses the area north of the Willow community, occupying the area along the Parks Highway between the Little Willow River north to the Talkeetna Spur Road and the Susitna River Bridge. It extends west to the Susitna River and east to the foothills area, which, for the purposes of this plan, is defined by a township line at Range 3 (west). See Maps 1 and 2.

### **Distribution and Characteristics**

The state-owned uplands are scattered throughout the region and total approximately 24,000 acres. About 15,600 acres are associated with large palustrine wetland complexes situated generally one mile east of the Parks Highway; these extend in a north-south direction for 6.5 miles and in a west-east direction for one to three miles. Another 6,500 acres of state land are associated with fairly level, isolated, well drained parcels that are situated in remote locations or, in some instances, near the large wetland complex or adjacent to roads. About 1,700 acres are associated with areas that are now used for active recreational use; this includes a number of parcels that are affected by Management Agreements to another state agency for either recreation or habitat protection, or both. Most recreational use is associated with sport fishing during the summer months in these parcels. However, it is likely that the large wetland complex is used during the winter months for recreation.

The terrain is relatively flat with an approximately equal mix of forested uplands and wetlands. The forested areas consist of a dense mix of birch and spruce trees that are moderately to heavily wooded. The wetlands vary from small pockets to large, open low-lying areas. Several drainages cross the region from the Talkeetna Mountains in the east and drain into the Susitna River in the west; these include Montana Creek, Goose Creek, Sheep Creek and Kashwitna River, all of which support anadromous fish. The major lakes in the region include: Kashwitna, Emil, Caswell, and Woman. Some of these sustain important waterfowl concentrations during migratory periods.

### **Access, Resources and Uses of State Land**

Access to lands within this region occurs directly from the Parks Highway or from connecting roads to the highway. For parcels in more remote areas, immediate road access is not typically available and for this reason development of these parcels is problematic during the planning period.

Waterfowl, brown bear and moose are distributed generally throughout the region, although moose winter concentrations occur in the wetland areas. Dall sheep and caribou are not present in the region. Montana, Goose, Sheep and Kashwitna rivers are anadromous streams and cross a few of the units within the region. These streams and their tributaries contain anadromous fish.

State land receives moderate or limited use depending on the location and access, and is almost entirely related to recreation. The main use for remote parcels is generally winter recreation such as dog mushing or snow machining. Summer use is limited, and likely to be only hiking or ATV use. There may be some limited use of these lands for hunting. The primary streams in the region (Montana, Sheep, and Kashwitna) all receive intense summer fishing use. Such use is necessarily dispersed and limited in amount, although there is a high concentration of such use at public recreation sites particularly at the mouth of Montana creek. In addition to dispersed recreation, small amounts of state land are used for gravel extraction or have developed recreation sites that are used during the summer months.

## **Management Constraints**

A number of state and local management plans were considered in the development of recommendations for the Kashwitna region. Local plans include the Willow Area Trails Plan, the 2005 Y Community Council Area Comprehensive Plan, and the Borough Comprehensive Plan. Three state resource plans affected this region, the 1982 Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan, a portion of the 1985 Susitna Area Plan, and the 1991 Kashwitna Management Plan, which are now superseded with this update.

## **Management Summary**

State land within this region is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. Reflecting the substantial area occupied by wetlands, the bulk of state land (15,579 acres) is designated Water Resources and is to be managed to protect wetland values. Nearly 3,000 acres designated Settlement are considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. These generally consist of areas that are well drained forested uplands, which have existing or nearby road access. They adjoin current or expected areas of residential development, and some of these areas are close to road access and necessary infrastructure. State land that does not have a current use or is unlikely to be developed during the planning period use is designated General Use (3,103 acres). Typically these are isolated, remote parcels lacking road access and that, because of poor access and difficult terrain or the presence of intervening wetlands, are not expected to develop during the planning period. The Public Recreation designation, consisting of roughly 1,700 acres, is applied to those

areas under a Management Agreement and/or where public recreation now occurs and is widespread. The remaining 278 acres of state land are designated Materials Land (Ma) and include current gravel extraction operations or areas where such extraction is likely or is affected by a Management Right or similar authorization.

## Resource Allocation Table for Upland Units – Kashwitna Region

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-01	Rd 36	Map 1 S024N005W: 24	Protect recreational values of unit. Authorizations other than public recreation are considered inappropriate. Retain in state ownership.	Unit occupies gravel bar and is generally flat and vegetated. It is situated adjacent to Susitna River and across a creek west of Parks Hwy. There is no immediate road access; access is by boat only. Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200, provides habitat for coho, pink, chum, king, sockeye salmon and eulachon, Dolly Varden.
K-02	Ma 179	Map 1 S024N005W: 25	Manage unit consistent with requirements of ILMA. When ILMA terminates reevaluate this unit for alternate use. Reclassification to an alternative use will be required.	Unit is situated adjacent to Susitna River and is heavily forested. There is no immediate road access. Unit is affected by ILMA (ADL 45666) to ADOT/PF as a material site. Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200, provides habitat for coho, pink, chum, king, sockeye salmon and eulachon, Dolly Varden.
K-03	Rd 232	Map 1 S023N004W: 6	If conveyed to state, protect recreational values of unit and Susitna River. Authorizations other than public recreation are considered inappropriate. Retain in state ownership.	Unit is situated adjacent to Susitna River, north of Montana Creek. Unit is heavily forested. Parcel is in selection status. There is no immediate road access. Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200, provides habitat for coho, pink, chum, king, sockeye salmon and eulachon, Dolly Varden.
K-04	Rd 100	Map 1 S023N004W: 7	If conveyed to state, protect recreational values of unit and Susitna River. Authorizations other than public recreation are considered inappropriate. Retain in state ownership.	Unit is situated adjacent to Susitna River, south of Montana Creek Recreation site. Unit is heavily forested. Parcel is in selection status. There is no immediate road access. Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200, provides habitat for coho, pink, chum, king, sockeye salmon and eulachon, Dolly Varden.
K-05	Se 77	Map 1 S023N004W: 5	That part of the unit west of Montana Creek is considered appropriate for land disposals during planning period. Protect Montana Creek and floodplain in subdivision design. A 200' protection area affects the area adjacent to Montana Creek.  The area east of Montana Creek is not to be developed and is to be retained in state ownership.	Unit is located adjacent to the Parks Hwy with Montana Creek bisecting the unit. The portion west of Montana creek is somewhat flat and heavily forested. The remainder of the unit includes the Montana river, its flood plain, and an area that is heavily wooded. Montana Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2250, provides habitat for chum, coho, king & pink salmon.
K-06	Rd 56	Map 1 S023N004W: 5, 8	Protect recreational values of unit and Montana Creek. Authorizations other than public recreation are considered inappropriate. Retain in state ownership.	Unit is situated on Montana Creek upstream from a private campground and east of the Parks Highway. It contains a mix of shrubs and trees, with Montana creek bisecting the southern part of the unit. There is a small parking area in the southwest corner along the highway which is used as an access point to Montana creek. Montana Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2250, provides habitat for chum, coho, king & pink salmon.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-07	Se 11	Map 1 S023N004W: 8	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposals during planning period. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit is located along Montana Creek Road, just south of Montana Creek. The terrain is generally flat and consists of forested uplands. The creek has been rip-rapped in the area adjacent to the north side of Montana Creek Road. Montana Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2250, provides habitat for chum, coho, king & pink salmon.
K-08	Rd 45	Map 1 S023N004W: 7, 8	Manage unit for its public access and public recreation values, and consistent with the requirements the ILMA. Retain in state ownership.	Unit is located at confluence of Susitna River and Montana Creek and is affected by ILMA (ADL 221511) for Montana Creek State Recreation area which includes a private campground. Used heavily during summer months for sport fishing and general public recreation. Has road access. Contains 200' Alaska Railroad easement and bridge. Montana Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2250, and Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200 provides habitat for chum, coho, king & pink salmon.
K-09	Rd 18	Map 1 S023N004W: 8	Manage unit for its public recreation values. Retain in state ownership. Authorizations other than public recreation are considered inappropriate.	Unit is adjacent to Parks Highway and just south of a private campground. This unit is used heavily during summer months for parking access to Montana Creek. It is heavily vegetated. Montana Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2250, provides habitat for chum, coho, king & pink salmon.
K-10	Se 100	Map 1 S023N004W: 9	Unit is appropriate for land disposals during planning period. Development is to avoid the wetlands that adjoin the unit on the east. A 50' protection area between residential uses and this wetland area is to be provided. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit consists of densely forested uplands bordering a wetland complex. Road access exists along much of the unit. Winter trails exist at the edge of the wetlands, and it is believed that the wetlands on the adjacent unit (K-11) are used for winter recreation.
K-11	Wr 1,460	Map 1 S023N004W: 4, 9, 16	Protect wetlands and Goose Creek for the hydrologic and recreational values. Maintain Montana loop trail.	Unit has extensive palustrine wetlands with a few islands of forested uplands. Winter recreation occurs along the Montana loop trail. Road access is available at the northeast end of the unit. Goose creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2230, provides habitat for chum, pink, coho, king salmon and crosses the south end of unit.
K-12	Se 520	Map 1 S023N004W: 10, 15	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposals during planning period. Avoid wetlands and Goose Creek in subdivision design. The large wetland complex that in the west of the unit is to be maintained as undisturbed open space. Maintain easement for Willow-Healy Intertie. Maintain a 150' protection area adjacent to Goose Creek and its tributaries. Provide for public access and recreation along river corridor. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit contains forested uplands along the Herring-Question Creek trail. Goose Creek, AWC# 247-41-10200-2230 & 247-41-10200-2230-3022, trends north to south. Two forks of Goose Creek bisect unit at north end and again at the south end provides habitat for chum, pink, coho and king salmon. A tributary to Goose Creek, AWC#247-41-10200-2230-3144, also bisects unit at the north end, provides habitat for coho. The Willow-Healy Intertie (ADL 213063) bisects unit from the northeast to the southwest. Road access exists in northeast corner of unit. CIRI Native corporation lands are situated to the east and south.
K-13	Unit deleted			



Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-14	Unit deleted			
K-15	Wr 40	Map 1 S023N004W: 22	Manage unit for public recreation values and retain in state ownership.	Unit is mostly palustrine wetlands. There is no immediate road access. The Willow-Healy Intertie (ADL 213063) crosses unit from north to south on the western side of unit. Unit is surrounded by CIRI Native Corporation lands.
K-16	Unit deleted			
K-17	Unit deleted			
K-18	Se 560	Map 1 S023N004W: 25, 36	Unit is considered appropriate for settlement during planning period. Protect wetlands. A 100' protection area affects the area adjacent to Caswell Creek. Provide for public access and recreation along river corridor.	Unit is moderately sloped, has well vegetated uplands and elongated wetlands. Caswell Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2190, is located in the southwest corner and provides habitat for coho salmon. Road access is nearby in the south and northwest corner. A pre-disposal action (ADL 229734) affects the northern portion of this unit.
K-19	Se 220	Map 1 S023N004W: 27	Unit is considered appropriate for settlement during planning period. Avoid or protect wetlands. Maintain easement for Willow-Healy Intertie. Maintain a 150' protection area adjacent to Sheep Creek. Provide for public access and recreation along river corridor.	Unit is a mix of wetlands and well drained forested uplands. The Willow-Healy Intertie (ADL 213063) crosses from north to south on the western side of unit. Unit contains Sheep Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2200 and provides habitat for chum, pink, coho, king salmon.
K-20	Unit deleted			
K-21	Unit deleted			
K-22	Wr, Rd 150	Map 1 S022N004W: 8, 17 S022N005W: 7, 18	Manage unit for its wetland and scenic values. Protect spring that is used by the public for drinking water.	Unit occupies level terrain consisting almost entirely of wetlands. A spring is located along the highway within the northwestern part of section 17 and is used extensively by the public. Both the Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad bisect portions of the parcel. This parcel is readily viewed from both the Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad and is also important in terms of its scenic values.
K-23	Wr 1,440	Map 1 S023N004W: 33, 34 S022N004W: 4, 9	Protect and maintain Sheep Creek and adjacent wetlands. Maintain Willow-Healy Intertie easement. Retain in state ownership.	Unit contains extensive wetlands, is sparsely vegetated and generally flat. Sheep Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2200, provides habitat for chum, pink, coho, king salmon, and crosses the unit in a north-south orientation. Road access exists in the south east corner. The Willow-Healy Intertie (ADL 213063) affects unit along the east side.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-24	Se 40	Map 1 S023N004W: 32	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period.	Unit is flat and heavily forested. There is residential use nearby and the Parks Hwy is 0.5 miles away. Road access is nearby to the north.
K-25	Unit deleted			
K-26	Unit deleted			
K-27	Se 200	Map 1 S022N004W: 4, 9	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Settlement should occur on forested uplands. Protect wetlands in subdivision design. Maintain 150' protection area adjacent to Sheep Creek. Provide for public access and recreation along river corridor.	Unit has large block of forested uplands adjacent to a substantial wetlands complex. Adjoins wetlands and Sheep Creek in unit K-23. Nearby lake has public access. Sheep Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2200, provides habitat for chum, pink, coho, and king salmon.
K-28	Se 120	Map 1 S022N004W: 9	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Settlement should occur on forested uplands. Avoid or protect wetlands in subdivision design. Maintain 150' protection area adjacent to Sheep Creek. Provide for public access and recreation along river corridor.	Similar to K-27 unit.
K-29	Se 190	Map 1 S022N004W: 8, 17	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Avoid or protect wetlands in subdivision design. Maintain 150' protection area adjacent to anadromous stream. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along the Parks Highway and Alaska Railroad.	Unit consists of level terrain vegetated with forested uplands. The area immediately to the west of this unit is occupied by wetlands (K-29B). Residential development has occurred to the east of the unit around Parker Lake. Both the Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad bisect portions of the parcel. This parcel is readily viewed from both the Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad and is also important in terms of its scenic values.
K-30	Wr 400	Map 1 S022N004W: 8	Protect and maintain wetlands.	Unit occupies a generally flat area consisting primarily of palustrine wetlands and small isolated islands of forested uplands.
K-31	Se 140	Map 2 S022N004W: 16	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Settlement should occur on forested uplands. Avoid or protect wetlands in subdivision design. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit is a mix of wetlands and forested uplands. Road access exists in both northwest and south portions of unit. The Willow-Healy Intertie (ADL 213063) affects the west side of unit. CIRI Native Corporation lands to the west and north. Borough lands are to the east.
K-32	Ma 99	Map 2 S022N004W: 20	Manage unit consistent with requirements of the ILMA. Alternative uses are appropriate if ILMA is terminated.	Unit is affected by ILMA (ADL 43689) to ADOT/PF as a material site for a road project from Willow Creek to the Susitna River. The Parks Hwy bisects the unit.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-33	Se 320	Map 2 S022N004W: 22	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during planning period. Settlement should occur on the forested uplands along roadway. Avoid or protect creek and wetlands in subdivision design. Maintain 100' protection area adjacent to anadromous stream. Provide for public access and recreation along river corridor. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit consists of forested uplands surrounding a broad open wetland south of Hidden Hills road. A tributary to Caswell Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2190-3020, and trending east-west separates the wetlands from the uplands, and provides habitat for coho salmon. Several other tributaries in unit likely to provide habitat for anadromous and resident fish. CIRI Native Corporation lands are located to the east and south. Borough lands are located to the north and west.
K-34	Wr 40	Map 2 S022N004W: 22	Protect and maintain water resources.	Unit consists mainly of large open wetland with sparse vegetation. A creek crosses the northeast corner. Residential land uses are nearby and road access is available.
K-35	Rd 60	Map 2 S022N004W: 36	Manage unit for public recreation values and retain in state ownership.	Unit is located at the south end of the Caswell lakes subdivision. It is generally flat, densely forested and spans the Kashwitna river. There is road access from the north, west and the river.
K-36	Wr Rd 25	Map 2 S022N004W: 32	Protect and maintain water resources and wetlands. Provide for public access and recreation. Retain in state ownership. Maintain Alaska Railroad easement. A 100' protection area affects area adjacent to Caswell Creek.	Unit is located of the Alaska Railroad and is mostly wetlands with minor areas of forested uplands around the perimeter and contains Caswell creek. Caswell Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2190, provides habitat for coho salmon. There is no immediate road access. A 100' Alaska Railroad easement affects unit.
K-37	Gu 35	Map 2 S022N004W: 32	Manage unit for multiple uses. The suitability of development should be reevaluated if road access becomes available.	Unit is located east of the Alaska Railroad and contains densely forested uplands. There is no immediate or nearby road access. A 100' Alaska Railroad easement affects unit.
K-38	Rd 1,023	Map 2 S022N004W: Tract A	Protect recreational values of unit. Authorizations other than public recreation are considered inappropriate. Retain in state ownership.	Unit occupies area adjacent to the Susitna River west of Sheep Creek slough. The terrain is generally flat and heavily forested. There is no immediate road access. Sheep Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2200, and Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200, provide habitat for chum, pink, coho, and king salmon. Additionally, sockeye salmon, eulachon, and Dolly Varden are found in the Susitna River.
K-39	Rd 29	Map 2 S021N004W: 6	Manage unit consistent with requirements of the ILMA.	Unit is located at the confluence of the Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200 and Caswell Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2190, provide habitat for coho, pink, king, sockeye salmon, eulachon and dolly varden. Unit is affected by ILMA (ADL 224561) to ADF&G to develop a fishing access site. There is no immediate road access; access is by boat only.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-40	Rd 34	Map 2 S021N004W: 5	Manage unit for public recreation values and retain in state ownership. Maintain Alaska Railroad easement.	Unit consists of two parts. The Alaska Railroad splits the unit north to south and the Kashwitna River traverses the southern portion of the unit. The unit is densely forested. Kashwitna River, AWC #247-41-10200-2200 provides habitat for chum, pink, coho, king salmon and Dolly Varden.
K-41	Gu 640	Map 2 S021N004W: 3	Manage unit for multiple uses. The suitability of development should be reevaluated if road access becomes available.	Unit has large central block of forested uplands surrounded by palustrine wetlands. A creek system crosses the unit from east to west. 197 1/2 Mile Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2170 provides habitat for Coho salmon. Tributaries also likely support anadromous fish.
K-42	Wr 12,162	Map 2 S021N004W: 4, 9, 10, 14-17, 21-23, 26-29, 32-34 S020N004W: 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16	Manage unit to protect and maintain wetland and forest resources. Retain in state ownership. Maintain Willow-Healy Intertie easement.	Unit is part of a large wetland complex. There are mixed pockets of forested uplands and broad open wetlands. The Willow-Healy Intertie (ADL 213063) affects this unit. There is no available road access and none is planned. Several creeks cross this unit including: portions of 197 1/2 Mile Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2170; 196 Mile Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2170-3006; Little Willow Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2130; Stream, AWC #247-41-10200-2130-3036; Stream AWC #247-41-10200-2130-3021; Iron Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2130-3030; Rogers Creek Stream AWC #247-41-10200-2130-3020 providing habitat for a number of salmon species; coho, pink, chum and king.
K-43	Gu 773	Map 2 S021N004W: 10, 14, 15	Manage unit for multiple uses. The suitability of development should be reevaluated if road access becomes available.	Unit is a combination of elongated islands of forested uplands mixed with palustrine wetlands. This unit is relatively remote and there is no immediate, or nearby road access. 196 Mile Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2170-3006, flows along southern unit boundary and through eastern portion of unit and provides habitat for coho salmon.
K-44	Rd 59	Map 2 S021N005W: 13	Manage unit consistent with requirements of the Management Right.	Unit is located at the confluence of the Susitna river and Kashwitna River, and is managed by ADF&G under a Management Right (ADL 227841). Road access exists. Kashwitna River, AWC #247-41-10200-2200 provides habitat for chum, pink, coho, king salmon and Dolly Varden. Susitna River, AWC# 247-41-10200, provides habitat for coho, pink, chum, king, sockeye salmon and eulachon, Dolly Varden.
K-45	Se 80	Map 2 S021N004W: 19	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposals during planning period. Settlement should occur along the highway. Protect wetlands and maintain a 100' protection area adjacent to 197 1/2 mile creek. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit is split by the Parks Hwy. Forested uplands are situated close to the highway. Wetlands occupy the northwest and the southern portion of the unit. 197 1/2 Mile Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2170 which provides habitat for coho salmon bisects the unit east to west. Associated wetlands and tributaries also likely support anadromous fish.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-46	Gu 380	Map 2 S021N004W: 20	Manage unit for multiple uses. The suitability of development should be reevaluated if road access becomes available.	Unit is a mix of interspersed forested uplands and palustrine wetlands. 196 Mile Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2170-3006, flows through unit and provides habitat for coho salmon; a tributary also likely supports anadromous fish. An unnamed lake is situated in the north end.
K-47	Se 34	Map 2 S021N004W: 19	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposals during planning period. Maintain Alaska Railroad easement. Maintain 100' protection area adjacent to 196 Mile creek.	Unit is forested uplands situated in the southern and western half with the remaining lands as wetlands. 196 Mile creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2170-3006, traverses the northern portion of unit and provides habitat for Coho salmon. There is no immediate available road access but the Parks Hwy is less than a ¼ mile away. The Alaska Railroad is located along the eastern boundary.
K-48	Unit deleted			
K-49	Unit deleted			
K-50	Unit deleted			
K-51	Se 69	Map 2 S021N004W: 31	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposals during planning period. Maintain a screening strip of native vegetation along road.	Unit is located west along Parks Hwy and consists entirely of forested uplands. The Parks Hwy crosses the northeast corner. There is road access at the south end of the unit. This unit is affected by a pre-disposal (ADL 229512) as a potential future subdivision-Truthly Kashwitna.
K-52	Gu 1,275	Map 2 S021N004W: 35, 36	Manage unit for multiple uses in the eastern part of unit that is not affected by the restriction which is described below. Land disposals are not considered appropriate. The area affected by this restriction is not to be developed and is to be retained in state ownership.  The area generally within one-half mile of the creek center line is to be managed similar to unit U-03 in the Kashwitna region. See management intent for this unit; development within this area is inappropriate.	Unit is a combination of forested uplands and palustrine wetlands. There are two unnamed ponds within this unit. Little Willow creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2130, flows through the west half of unit and provides habitat for coho, chum, king and pink salmon.
K-53	Unit deleted			
K-54	Unit deleted			
K-55	Se 52	Map 3 S020N004W: 18	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposals during planning period. Protect wetlands and maintain 100' protection area adjacent to tributary.	Unit consists of two subunits that adjoin a 200' Alaska Railroad easement. The terrain is generally flat with a combination of forested uplands and palustrine wetlands, although the former predominate. There is no immediate road access but the Parks Hwy is less than ¼ mile away. An unnamed tributary to Little Willow Creek, AWC #247-41-10200-2130-3021 provides habitat for coho salmon.

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
K-56	Wr 37	Map 3 S020N004W: 18	Manage to protect wetlands and riverine area adjacent to tributary of Little Willow Creek.	Unit is generally flat with a combination of forested and wetlands, although the latter predominate. Adjoins a tributary of Little Willow Creek., which provides habitat for coho salmon (AWC #247-41-10200-2130-3021).
K-57	Unit deleted			
K-58	Se 34	Map 2 S020N004W: 6	No authorizations or disposals are permitted or allowed except by DO 142.	Unit is included in a Final Finding Decision (ADL 229606) that designates this unit as part of the Mental Health Replacement Lands. The unit is affected by Department Order (DO) 142. This land is subject to additional adjudication and may be conveyed to the Mental Health Trust.
K-59	Se 110	Map 2 S020N004W: 7	No authorizations or disposals are permitted or allowed except by DO 142.	Unit is included in a Final Finding Decision (ADL 229606) that designates this unit as part of the Mental Health Replacement Lands. The unit is affected by Department Order (DO) 142. This land is subject to additional adjudication and may be conveyed to the Mental Health Trust.
K-60	Se 39	Map 2 S020N005W: 12	No authorizations or disposals are permitted or allowed except by DO 142.	Unit is included in a Final Finding Decision (ADL 229606) that designates this unit as part of the Mental Health Replacement Lands. The unit is affected by Department Order (DO) 142. This land is subject to additional adjudication and may be conveyed to the Mental Health Trust.
K-61	Se 80	Map 2 S020N005W: 13	No authorizations or disposals are permitted or allowed except by DO 142.	Unit is included in a Final Finding Decision (ADL 229606) that designates this unit as part of the Mental Health Replacement Lands. The unit is affected by Department Order (DO) 142. This land is subject to additional adjudication and may be conveyed to the Mental Health Trust.

Total state land within region (47 units) – 23,823 acres

## **Tidelands and Submerged Lands**

This region consists of the tidelands and submerged lands owned by the state within the planning area, which coincides in its southern boundary with the corporate boundary of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough as it adjoins the boundary of the Municipality of Anchorage. Not included within this region are the tidelands owned by private entities or the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, nor those situated within the three LDAs situated along the Knik Arm of Cook Inlet that contain tidelands (Goose Bay, Palmer Hays Flats, and Susitna Flats State Game Refuges). Most of the important habitat within the region occurs within the three state game refuges. See Maps 8 through 10.

### **Distribution and Characteristics**

This very extensive area of tidelands and submerged lands occupies the area within the corporate boundary of the Borough, with the exceptions noted above. This area is important seasonally as a feeding area for beluga whales. Concentrations of shorebirds, waterfowl, and seabirds occur throughout the two management units, particularly within marshes and wetlands (most of which are situated with the three state game refuges). Extensive areas of emergent and estuarine wetlands are concentrated along the shore in areas with higher elevation not exposed to tides on a frequent basis.

Portions of this region experience relatively high volumes of ship traffic, generally associated with cargo movements to/from the ports in the Municipality of Anchorage and at Point MacKenzie. Recreational use of the tidelands is essentially limited to occasional boat use, usually associated with access to prime fishing and hunting areas, and to duck hunting on the tide flats during the fall.

### **Management Constraints**

Several state and local management plans affect the planning area and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the tideland region. Local plans include the Borough Comprehensive Plan and its Coastal Management Plan.<sup>7</sup> These plans provide management guidance of a general nature and helped in the formulation of recommendations. The Enforceable Policies of the Coastal Management Plan were particularly useful.

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<sup>7</sup> The Point MacKenzie Area Meriting Special Attention (AMSA) affects a very small area of tidelands within Knik Arm, but these areas are owned by the Borough and are therefore not included in 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. The smallest of the three tideland units (TT-03) is adjacent to borough tidelands at Pt. MacKenzie. It is designated Waterfront Development to accommodate port development. Tideland unit TT-02, designated Habitat, will be managed to protect its habitat values related to marshes and estuarine wetlands. The tidelands of this unit are similar in character to those found in the Palmer Hay Flats, which are situated immediately to the east. The largest tideland unit (TT-01), also designated Habitat, is to be managed to provide for multiple uses while protecting critical species (primarily beluga whale feeding areas) and important habitats associated with marshes and estuarine wetlands having shorebird or waterfowl concentrations. Authorizations are to ensure that impacts to beluga whale feeding areas, important during the summer months in certain areas, are to be avoided or reduced to acceptable biological levels. Concentration areas of seabirds, shorebirds, or waterfowl are to be avoided.



## Resource Allocation Table for Tidelands and Submerged Lands

Unit #	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
TT-01	Ha 35,929	Map 10 Various	<p>Multiple uses are allowed within this tideland parcel. Protect Beluga whale feeding and migration areas; consult US FWS and NMF prior to issuing authorizations.</p> <p>Proposed authorizations are to avoid estuarine wetlands and important recreation and fish and wildlife habitat. Impacts upon the adjacent Palmer Hay Flats LDA should be minimized or mitigated.</p>	<p>Parcel consists of a very large area of tidelands adjacent to the uplands of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. It primarily consists of regularly or irregularly exposed estuarine wetlands of generally unconsolidated sediments. Except for Beluga whale and anadromous fish passage, there few other significant resources associated with this tideland. The area of the Borough port and the route corridor for the proposed Knik Arm Crossing are not included within this tideland. They are located on municipally owned tidelands. Adjacent tidelands within the three state game refugees (Palmer Hay Flats, Goose Bay, and Susitna Flats) contain marshes and estuarine wetlands have plentiful seasonal concentrations of seabirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds.</p>
TT-02	Ha 3,963	Map 9 S016N002W: 11-17	<p>Manage to protect the habitat values. Authorizations should, in addition, consider and mitigate any adverse impacts upon the adjacent Palmer Hay Flats LDA.</p> <p>Proposed authorizations are to avoid estuarine wetlands and important recreation and fish and wildlife habitat. Impacts upon the adjacent Palmer Hay Flats LDA should be minimized or mitigated.</p>	<p>Parcel consists of an extensive area of tidelands west of the Palmer Hay Flats LDA. Consisting of both estuarine and palustrine (emergent) wetlands, this tideland area contains exposed marsh type vegetation similar to the type found in the LDA. Attributes of this wetland area are similar to those of the Palmer Hay Flats LDA. Important waterfowl and shorebird concentration area.</p>
TT-03	Wd 2,653	Map 10 S014N004W: 12, 13, 24  S014N003W: 7, 18, 19	<p>Manage this tideland area for waterfront development and accommodate port related development, roads, and utility corridors. Avoid areas of estuarine wetlands and summer feeding and migration areas of beluga whales.</p> <p>Tideland area is considered appropriate for conveyance to the MSB.</p>	<p>Tideland area is subject of application for conveyance of tidelands to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) under AS 38.05.825. The borough owns tidelands immediately adjoining this unit to the south.</p>

Total state land within region (3 units) – 42,545 acres

## Legislatively Designated Areas

Most of the state land within the planning boundary is situated in six Legislatively Designated Areas (LDAs), encompassing a total of 386,000 acres out of the 642,000 acres of state land within the plan boundary. About 43,500 acres are associated with state recreation rivers (Little Susitna SRR-17,464 acres) and state recreations areas (Nancy Lake and Willow Creek SRAs – 26,070 acres)<sup>8</sup>. The remainder (343,000 acres) is associated with the three state game refuges (SGR) within the plan boundary, which include Goose Bay, Palmer Hay Flats, and Susitna Flats. The Department is responsible for the administration of the two state recreation areas and the state recreation river and shares responsibility for the administration of SGRs. Where allowed by law, certain uses and actions may occur within SGRs and DNR is responsible for these authorizations, subject to review by the Commissioner, ADF&G.

LDAs are special purpose sites that are managed according to the requirements of the legislation specific to the site and to the general class of LDA<sup>9</sup>, and any subsequent management plans or regulations that implement the requirements of the legislation. The effect of the LDA designation is to reserve state land out of the public domain and use or protect it for the purposes stipulated in enabling legislation.

For these reasons, area plans do not apply to the types of LDAs in the planning boundary, except for the plan designation that is assigned, which is subsequently converted to a land classification in a Land Classification Order. Certain types of authorizations issued by the Department involve a disposal of state land and administrative regulation requires that the land, with certain exceptions, must first be classified. The State Game Refuges (L-01) are assigned the plan designation of Habitat and the State Recreation River (L-02), Public Recreation-Dispersed. These designations are not intended to provide a general management direction similar to the way that designations are applied in other parts of this plan, however. Management direction for authorizations within LDAs is provided either through the enabling legislation, state administrative regulation, or management plan. If management plans or administrative regulations are not available, the general management intent specific to the LDA or to the category of LDA are to be followed.

The LDAs that are the subject of this discussion are contained in many of the plan maps.

The management units that corresponds to the LDAs is L-01 (Habitat-343,000 acres in three SGRs) and L-02 (Public Recreation- 17,000 acres in one SRR).

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<sup>8</sup> The state recreation areas are managed by DPOR and no land use designation is required.

<sup>9</sup> Article VIII, paragraph 7 of the State Constitution.

## Navigable Rivers and Lakes

### Management Intent of Navigable Waterbodies

#### Background

The intent of the plan is to designate and provide management intent for the shorelands under all navigable waterbodies. 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 shore-lands, submerged lands, and uplands.

Shorelands are not identified on the plan designation maps. 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 Public Access and Assertion Defense unit 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](http://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.

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 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. 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: Specific Rivers and Lakes**

Because of their importance for recreation, water resources, 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. Note that the Susitna River, which forms the western boundary of the planning region, is not included within the SSAP and therefore is not designated or classified in this plan. The Susitna Area Plan 1985 provides management intent and designations/classifications for this body of water.

Rivers: Cottonwood, Deception, Goose, Kashwitna, Lilly, Lucille, Fish, Montana, Little Willow, Little Susitna, Rogers, Sawyer, Sheep, Wasilla, and Willow. These rivers/creeks are given the co-designation of Water Resources and Habitat. The plan designation of Habitat converts to the land classification of Wildlife Habitat and Water Resources to the classification of the same name. This co-designation only applies to that portion of rivers not within LDAs. Portions of Willow and Little Susitna River are within LDAs; the specific classifications that now apply to these LDA's are retained.

Lakes: Kashwitna, Cottonwood, Finger, Nancy, Wolf, Bruce, Benka, Carpenter, Kaulmach, Knik, Marion, Rocky, and Seventeenmile and lakes within the Kepler-Bradley State Recreation Area. These lakes are used for a variety of recreational purposes and are given the designation of Public Recreation-Dispersed.

Lakes: Anderson, Bench, Big, Blodgett, Caswell, Cloudy, Dry, Flat, Gene, Horseshoe, Kings, Little Beaver, Lynx, Lucille, Mirror, Rainbow, Stephen, Sunshine, Threemile, and Wasilla.. They are assigned the co-designation of Public Recreation-Dispersed and Habitat. These are lakes that have both recreation functions and are also anadromous.

### **Management Intent: Other Rivers and Lakes**

#### Navigable Rivers and Lakes within LDAs.

Anadromous lakes or streams within LDAs are co-designated Public Recreation-Dispersed and Habitat. Lakes and streams that are not anadromous are designated Public Recreation-Dispersed.

All other Navigable Rivers and Lakes.

The designation and management intent for navigable waterbodies that cross or are surrounded by state land are the same as those of the upland tract, except that those portions of navigable, anadromous streams where spawning and rearing occur are designated Habitat<sup>10</sup>.

Navigable rivers and lakes that are not within general state land or LDAs are designated General Use. These waterbodies 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 (e.g. Mental Health, University, and state tracts quitclaimed to a state agency other than DNR). 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 parcel.

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<sup>10</sup> Includes but is not limited to the following: Iron, No Name (inlet of Nancy Lake), Crocker, 196 Mile, 197 Mile, Caswell, Little Montana, Lake, and O'Brien Creeks.

# **Fig 3 - 1** **Map Index** **Southeast Susitna** **Area Plan**



- Plan Boundary
- Map Boundaries
- State Land (Patent/TA/Selected)
- towns
- Highway

