

Chapter 3

Land Management Policies for Each Management Unit

Introduction.....	1
Organization of Chapter.....	2
Land Use Designations	2
Designations Used in This Plan	3
Explanation of Mineral and Coal Designations	5
Management Intent	6
Management Guidelines	7
Duration and Flexibility of Plan	8
Glossary	8
Plan Structure.....	8
Plan Regions	8
Management Units	9
Region Descriptions.....	10
Plan Maps.....	11
Land Status Depicted In Plan Maps.....	11
Resource Allocation Table.....	12
North Parks Highway Region (N).....	15
Resource Allocation Table – North Parks Highway Region	18
South Parks Highway Region (S)	25
Resource Allocation Table – South Parks Highway Region	28
Petersville Road Region (P).....	37
Resource Allocation Table – Petersville Road Region.....	41
Sunflower Basin Region (B).....	51
Resource Allocation Table – Sunflower Basin Region	55
Susitna Lowlands Region (U).....	61
Resource Allocation Table – Susitna Lowlands Region.....	66
Mount Susitna Region (M)	77
Resource Allocation Table – Mount Susitna Region.....	81
Alaska Range Region (R)	89
Resource Allocation Table – Alaska Range Region.....	92
Glenn Highway Region (G)	95
Resource Allocation Table – Glenn Highway Region.....	98
Chugach Mountains Region (C)	109
Resource Allocation Table – Chugach Mountains Region.....	111
Talkeetna Mountains Region (T)	113
Resource Allocation Table – Talkeetna Mountains Region	116
Legislatively Designated Areas (L)	119
Resource Allocation Table – Legislatively Designated Areas	121

Navigable Rivers and Lakes	123
Management Intent of Navigable Waterbodies	123
Public Trust Doctrine.....	123
Management Intent: Specific Rivers and Lakes	125
Management Intent: Other Rivers and Lakes	125
Table 3-1: Navigable Streams & Creeks	126
Table 3-2: Navigable Lakes	127
Figure 3-1: Index for Location of Detail Maps.....	130
Map 3-1	131
Map 3-2	133
Map 3-3	135
Map 3-4	137
Map 3-5	139
Map 3-6	141
Map 3-7	143
Map 3-8	145
Map 3-9	147
Map 3-10	149

Chapter 3

Land Management Policies for Each Management Unit

Introduction

This chapter presents specific land management policy for state uplands 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 eleven. These include: Alaska Range, Chugach Mountains, Glenn Highway, Mount Susitna, North Parks Highway, Petersville Road, South Parks Highway, Sunflower Basin, Susitna Lowlands, Talkeetna Mountains, and one region that includes all of the Legislatively Designated Areas within the plan boundary. These regions are the same as the 1985 plan except for the exclusion of the Lake Louise, Beluga, and the Denali portion of the Talkeetna Mountains regions. These areas were not included either because another area plan covers the region (Beluga – Kenai Area Plan), the continuing uncertainty of whether certain areas will be conveyed to the state as part of the state entitlements derived from statehood, and suitability of incorporating a region into another planning area (Lake Louise). The plan's external boundary generally corresponds to the corporate boundary of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough except for the Denali area within the Talkeetna Mountains region, which is excluded.

Figure 1-2 shows the planning area and regions and Figure 3-1 shows the coverage of the 10 plan maps inserted at the back of this chapter. Note that this plan does not include areas under the Hatcher Pass Management Plan or the Knik River Public Use Area. Major management plans cover both of these areas and, to have a clear separation between the management of the SMAP and the two management plans for these areas, these areas are not included within the boundary of the SMAP. The requirements of the SMAP do not apply to these two areas. The management plans for these areas serve the function of a land use plan under AS 38.04.065.

Within the planning area there are approximately 9 million acres of state uplands; this estimate also includes the areas of state shorelands. Significantly, about 3 million acres of this total are associated with Legislatively Designated Areas (LDAs), which include the Nelchina Public Use Area (2.33 million acres), Denali State Park (323,428), Recreation Rivers (261,883), Matanuska Valley Moose Range (131,679) and a portion of Chugach State Park (14,194). 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 within the planning area that make up about 6 million acres within ten regions, and 170 management units. All of these regions contain sizeable holdings of state land, but the largest regions are

associated with the more remote and mountainous terrain associated with the Alaska Range region (1,554,476 acres), Talkeetna Mountains region (788,639), and Chugach Mountains region (761,413). Most of this state land has been either tentatively approved or patented to the state, and therefore the state exercises its management authorities over this land. Relatively few areas remain in selection status; the only significant concentration occurs in the Talkeetna Mountains region within the Nelchina Public Use Area. The state exercises ANILCA 906(k) authority over the area of federal land affected by state selections.

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

Organization of Chapter

The chapter is organized into the following sections:

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

Land Use Designations

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

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

Primary designated use. Many units have a primary designated use (versus units designated General Use). Primary designated uses shall 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. This designation converts to a land use classification of Agriculture Land.

Co – Coal. Areas considered to have coal potential and for which coal mining is considered to be an appropriate use, are designated Coal. See the *Explanation of Mineral and Coal Designations* at the end of this list of designations. This designation converts to a land use classification of Coal Land.

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 and Practices Act (AS 41.17 and 11 AAC 95), and the specific management guidelines in the Forestry section of Chapter 2. This designation converts to a land use classification of Forest Land.

Gu – General Use. Land that contains one or more resource values, none of which is of sufficiently high value to merit designation as a primary use, or, because of the size of the parcel, a variety of uses can be accommodated with appropriate siting and design controls is designated General Use. This designation may also apply where there is a lack of resource,

economic, or other information with which to assign a specific land use designation, and/or the lack of current demand implies that development is unlikely within the planning period. This designation converts to a land use classification of Resource Management Land.

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 or that contain a unique or rare assemblage of a single or multiple species of regional or statewide significance. Land designated Habitat is intended to remain in state ownership, and is to be maintained in an undisturbed, natural state except for improvements related to public health, safety, habitat restoration or rehabilitation, and public recreation. Utilities and roads may be appropriate with appropriate design if habitat functions can be maintained. Authorizations within areas designated Habitat are to be considered inappropriate unless consistent with these stipulations and with the management intent for the management unit. This designation converts to a land use classification of Wildlife Habitat Land.

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 re-designation of the area plan and reclassification, although some sites may be suitable for other uses after material resources are exhausted. This designation converts to a land use classification of Material Land.

Mi – Minerals. Areas considered to have mineral potential and for which mining is considered to be an appropriate use, are designated Mineral. See the *Explanation of Mineral and Coal Designations* at the end of this list of designations. This designation converts to a land use classification of Mineral Land.

Pr – Public Facilities-Retain. These sites are reserved for a specific infrastructure to serve state interests. This may include green infrastructure values such as open space and riparian buffers. 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. This designation converts to a land use classification of Reserved Use Land.

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. This designation converts to a land use classification of Public Recreation Land.

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. This designation converts to a land use classification of Public Recreation Land.

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. This designation converts to a land use classification of Settlement Land.

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. This designation converts to a land use classification of Water Resource Land.

Explanation of Mineral and Coal Designations

Except where state land is closed to mineral entry, DNR will treat mining as if it is compatible with the principal surface use. This is important to note because DNR area 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 program¹. The same statute identifies those land classifications that may not be conveyed.² 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. 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.

Shorelands. DNR will provide reasonable access across state shorelands to upland owners. Upland access across state shorelands, 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 shoreland designations do not give the public access rights to adjacent private uplands. ADF&G Habitat Division requires a Fish Habitat Permit if the shorelands are within an anadromous or potentially anadromous stream.

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

¹ 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.

² 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.

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 or uses related to community or recreational development. Designations related to habitat, harvest, undeveloped recreation, heritage sites, forestry, 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 less developed and more remote portions of the Borough. Specifically, it includes the areas of the Borough lying west of the Susitna and Chulitna Rivers; north of the intersection of the Parks Highway and the Talkeetna Spur Road along the Parks Highway, Talkeetna Spur Road, and Alaska Railroad; large areas of the Chugach Mountains and Talkeetna Mountains; and an area along the Glenn Highway. This area includes the communities of Talkeetna and Trapper Creek along the Parks Highway and Talkeetna Spur

Road, and the two small communities of Sutton and Chickaloon along the Glenn Highway. Within this area there are ten 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 Legislatively Designated Areas (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. Figure 1-2 depicts the plan boundary, the 10 plan regions, and the Legislatively Designated Areas (which constitute a region).

It is also important to understand those areas not included within the planning boundary of the 2010 Susitna Matanuska Area Plan. Four large areas are excluded. The more central, populated area of the Borough is covered by the Southeast Susitna Area Plan (SSAP). This includes the area east of the Susitna River and north of Knik Arm extending generally along the Parks Highway from Palmer to the Susitna River bridge. The SSAP includes the communities of Willow, Big Lake, Houston, Knik, Point MacKenzie, and Wasilla. Management plans also cover two large areas: the area north of Palmer/Wasilla and east of Willow is covered by the Hatcher Pass Management Plan and the area of the Knik River Public Use Area, by the Knik River PUA Management Plan. Finally, the area around Lake Louise and along the Denali Highway is also excluded. This area will be the subject of an area plan once decisions are made on land ownership within the Denali Highway area. Until that time the 1985 Susitna Area Plan (SAP) provides land use designations and policies for this area. With the exception of the majority of the Southeast Susitna Area Plan, the areas above were covered in the 1985 SAP.

Management Units

In this plan, areas of state uplands and tidelands have been separated into smaller geographic units called management units. State resource management is specific to this level. Management units³ 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.

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.

³ Management units are also sometimes referred to as “units” or “parcels” in this plan.

Unit numbers are preceded by an alpha character that represents a particular place or area, with the following convention being applied: ‘N’ represents North Parks Highway; ‘S’, South Parks Highway; ‘P’, Petersville Road; ‘B’, Sunflower Basin; ‘U’, Susitna Lowlands; ‘M’, Mount Susitna; ‘A’, Alaska Range; ‘G’, Glenn Highway; ‘C’, Chugach Mountains; and ‘T’, Talkeetna Mountains. ‘L’ is used for Legislatively Designated Areas.

A specific convention is used to identify the various types of upland units; these have a geographic identifier (a single alpha character that represents an area) followed by a two-digit identifying number. For example, an upland parcel in the Talkeetna Mountains region has the identifying number “T-01.”

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 is a short description of the somewhat unique region that pertains to 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 10 plan maps that cover the Susitna Matanuska Area Plan. See *Figure 3-1* to locate the map for a particular area. These maps indicate the plan boundary (external boundary of the area plan), the boundaries of the 11 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, Legislatively Designated Areas, Mental Heath Trust land, and University of Alaska land) 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 (2010). 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 are related to the plan maps through the unit number. The table includes the land use designation and the land management intent for 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 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 (MTRS) of each parcel are indicated. In all cases the Seward Meridian applies. There may be more than one township and range 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, General Use, Settlement, 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, if appropriate, 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.

Description: 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.

North Parks Highway Region

The North Parks Highway Region encompasses an area of approximately 257,000 acres and is situated in the northern part of the planning area. It includes most land immediately adjacent to the Parks Highway and Alaska Railroad from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough boundary at Broad Pass south to the railroad bridge over the Susitna River downstream of Devil's Canyon. The eastern boundary is formed by the transition from a generally lowland area occupied by the Parks Highway and Alaska Railroad to the mountainous terrain of the Talkeetna Mountains in the east. The western boundary is formed by the Matanuska-Susitna boundary, which generally coincides with the Denali National Park and Preserve. Refer to Figure 3-1 to locate the map of a particular area.

Distribution and Characteristics

Although most land use development occurs near the Parks Highway and Alaska Railroad, most of the land within the region exists west of that area within the mountainous terrain of the Alaska Range; part of which is occupied by glaciers. The vegetation consists of alpine tundra and barren rock in the mountainous areas and by an upland spruce-hardwood forest in areas of lower elevation and within the river drainages that empty into the Broad Pass area. All of the land within the western part of this region is owned by the state or has been selected for conveyance to the state, and totals approximately 234,000 acres. The remainder of the region is occupied by the large, gently sloping area known as Broad Pass. Land ownership in this part of the region is still predominately state, but mixed with federal, borough, and private holdings. The areas of federal ownership have been selected by the state. The Broad Pass area is characterized mostly by woody wetlands with deciduous and evergreen forest predominating in areas with better soils. Development, although sparse, tends to occur within or near forested areas along the railroad or highway.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Except for the remote mountainous areas, access to areas near the Parks Highway and Alaska Railroad is generally good. Most state land does not immediately adjoin either the highway or railroad, but can be accessed from these transportation facilities by foot travel, snowmachine or off-road vehicles. Access to state land west of the Chulitna River is made difficult during the summer months by the need to cross this river. There are some airstrips and several major trails lead from the highway into the back country. Approximately two miles north of Hurricane Gulch there is a suspension bridge across the Chulitna River, providing foot access to the west.

Except for recreation and wildlife, the resources associated with state land are limited, reflecting the absence of good agricultural soils, merchantable timber, or coal/mineral resources. There is some limited mining activity but this tends to occur in the more remote, western areas closer to stream headwaters outside the region. There is no oil and gas potential in the region and only a low potential for coal.

Dispersed recreation associated with the use of snowmachines and off-road vehicles (ORV) is fairly high. The Parks Highway in this region provides one of the most scenic drives in the planning area. The area east of the Chulitna River between North Chulitna Butte and Summit Lake contains favorable terrain and conditions for cross-country skiing and snowmachining. Winter recreation is especially popular and consists of cross-country skiing, snowmachining, and dog-mushing, especially in the part between Broad Pass and Hurricane. Summer recreation is associated with hiking, fishing, and camping, and with floating/canoeing or boating on the Chulitna River.

The Chulitna River and Indian Creek, the main rivers in the region, are both anadromous streams. The East and West Forks of the Chulitna River are important salmon producing streams for the Cook Inlet commercial fishery as well as popular sport fishing areas. Moose and Dall sheep are present within the region, and several moose rutting and winter concentration areas exist. Waterfowl are also present with dispersed nesting sites spread throughout the region.

Management Constraints

Several local management plans affect this region and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the North Parks Highway Region. Only one state land use plan affects this area: the 1985 Susitna Area Plan, which is being revised with this update. Local plans include the Borough Comprehensive Plan and Coastal Management Plan. These plans contain both generalized land use recommendations and resource management requirements and were helpful in the formulation of recommendations. There are no 'local' comprehensive plans.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table for this region. Most state land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation, which means that most will be managed for its wildlife habitat, settlement, and for multiple uses.

Most of the mountainous areas within the region, which constitute the vast majority of all state land, have limited resource values and little current use, and are to be managed for multiple uses (General Use). Areas so designated (Approximately 100,000 acres) are not intended for development within the planning period except for specific sites that might be

appropriate for commercial recreation, utilities, or mineral exploration and development. The remaining areas within the region are situated within the low-lying, generally flat to rolling terrain of the Broad Pass area as well as similar areas along the Chulitna River. Areas with poorer soils are often characterized by woody wetlands (generally of the palustrine type) and are either inappropriate for development or are more properly protected for their hydrologic and habitat values, and are designated Habitat (Approximately 58,000 acres) while some areas, with more of a recreational focus, are designated Public Recreation-Dispersed (Approximately 5,000 acres). Areas of better soils characterized by upland forested vegetation and with relatively good accessibility provided from the Parks Highway and the Alaska Railroad are designated Settlement. Such areas (Approximately 33,000 acres) are intended for residential development during the planning period. Some of these areas have already experienced subdivision activity and the primary focus within these areas is to retain those areas identified for a common or public use on the subdivision plat. Other areas have not been subdivided, or have experienced only limited development, and are suitable for further subdivision or remote settlement activity. A large area in the northwestern part of the region near Lookout Mountain, known geologically as the “Golden Zone,” is designated Minerals (Approximately 37,000 acres), reflecting the presence of polymetallic veins that occur in this area.

Resource Allocation Table – North Parks Highway Region

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
N-01	Ha	Map 3-1	Manage unit to protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat and associated hydrologic values. Retain land in state ownership. Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.	This large unit occupies the lowlands within, generally, the Broad Pass area. Much of the land in this area is in selection status, although there are also extensive state holdings. Private and Borough land is also present. The topography of this unit is characteristically level or gently rolling with much of the area occupied by wetlands in areas of poorly drained soils and by upland forest (evergreen) in the areas within better soils. Waterfowl are present and a spring trumpeter swan concentration area occurs in portions of the unit. Moose and caribou winter concentration areas also occupy portions of the unit. The Middle Fork Chulitna River, which is an anadromous stream, is also present and supports spawning coho & Chinook salmon. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.
	24,076	Various		
N-02	Gu	Map 3-1	Manage the unit for multiple uses.	Mountainous topography characterizes this unit; vegetation is almost entirely shrub except for the one large river valley, which is occupied by mixed upland forest. Most of the unit is in selection status, although portions are state-owned. Waterfowl are present in the unit and portions of the unit are occupied by moose and caribou winter concentration areas. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.
	7,031	Various	Development is unlikely within this unit and, except for certain types of utilities, is probably inappropriate given its mountainous terrain. Any development that may occur must carefully consider its impact upon waterfowl as well as moose and caribou winter concentration areas. Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.	
N-03	Gu	Map 3-1	Manage the unit for multiple uses.	This large unit consists almost uniformly of mountainous terrain, some of which contains glaciers in its upper reaches. In the higher elevations, vegetation is characterized by barren rock or alpine tundra. The remainder of the unit is characterized by shrub type vegetation except within the easterly river drainages, which contain a mixed spruce-hardwood forest. Moose are present within the drainages. The Chulitna River, which is an anadromous stream, adjoins this unit and supports spawning coho & Chinook salmon. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.
	93,256	Various	Development is unlikely within this unit and, except for certain types of utilities, is probably inappropriate given its mountainous terrain. Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.	

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
N-04	Ha 30,795	Map 3-1 S020N010W; S020N009W	Manage unit to protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat and associated hydrologic values. Retain land in state ownership. Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.	This unit is bounded on the west and east by the West and East Forks of the Chulitna River, respectively. Terrain is generally flat to gently rolling with many wetland areas. Shrub vegetation characterizes the wetland areas, while a spruce spruce-hardwood forest occupies areas of better drained soils and areas adjacent to the principal drainages. Waterfowl, including trumpeter swans, occur in the wetter areas. Moose are present and the area adjacent to the East Fork is known to be winter concentration and rutting area. Anadromous streams, including the Chulitna River, traverse portions of the unit. DOT 87-6 (Bull River Rd) – goes from Colorado across Bull River & W. Fork Chulitna River to the Golden Zone Mine. Portions of this unit are in selection status.
N-05	Se 243	Map 3-1 S022N016- 018W	The central part of the subdivision (Tract C) is to be retained in state ownership and is not to be further subdivided.	Alaska subdivision 88-066 occupies this unit; although all of the lots have been conveyed out of state ownership, central portions of the unit remain state land. This area, occupied by Tract C, is surrounded by lots. The Chulitna River, which is an anadromous stream, adjoins the unit and supports spawning coho & Chinook salmon.
N-06	Se 1,354	Map 3-1 S020N010W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Current material sale sites within this unit are appropriate; future sales may also be appropriate providing they do not interfere with state land disposals. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Chulitna River. Land is to be retained for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.	This unit occupies generally flat terrain between the Alaska Railroad on the west and the East Fork of the Chulitna River and Parks Highway on the east. Most of the parcel consists of state land, although several small areas are under selection by the state. These are included in this unit. Vegetation consists of a bottomland spruce-poplar forest, with a scattering of wetlands forest. A material sale site (ADL 224050) occupies a portion of the eastern part of the unit. Both moose and waterfowl are present. Portions of this unit are in selection status.

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
N-07	Se 10,133	Map 3-1 Various	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Current material sale sites within this unit are appropriate; future sales may also be appropriate providing they do not interfere with state land disposals.</p> <p>As part of subdivision design or the siting of future material sites, carefully evaluate the effects of such uses on moose winter concentration areas and protect any particularly significant moose concentration areas that are identified. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Chulitna River. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffer. Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.</p> <p>Note: Area plan requirements do not apply to the small tract of Mental Health Trust Land in section.</p>	<p>This large unit occupies generally level to somewhat rolling terrain. Vegetation is a mix of evergreen forest, mixed forest, wetlands, and shrub. Evergreen forest occupies areas near the mountains in the east and near the Chulitna River in the west. The central part of the unit consists of a mix of upland spruce-hardwood forests interspersed with wetland (primarily emergent and forested). Moose are present in the unit and portions function as a winter concentration area. Waterfowl are also present. The Healy-Willow Intertie (electric line) crosses through the center of the unit. A number of material sales sites are situated in the northern part of the parcel. Portions of the parcel may be important for winter recreation. East Fork Chulitna River and other anadromous streams occur in the unit.</p> <p>Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.</p>
N-08	Rd, Ha 330	Map 3-1 S021S011W	<p>Unit is to be managed to protect wildlife, the river drainages of Honolulu and Little Honolulu Creek, and to support recreational use.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership. Protect RST 52 from encroachment.</p>	<p>Unit occupies flat terrain vegetated by a mix of evergreen and mixed spruce-poplar forest. Its area includes that portion of Honolulu and Little Honolulu Creek just before and at the junction with the Chulitna River, and it borders the Chulitna River. The parcel is situated just south of the confluence of the East Fork of the Chulitna River, the Chulitna River, and Honolulu Creek. Honolulu Creek, Little Honolulu Creek, and the Chulitna River are anadromous streams. Trumpeter swans, other waterfowl, and moose are present on this site; a moose concentration area occurs during the winter. This site has moderate to high recreation use. Anadromous streams also occur in the unit.</p> <p>The unit consists of both state-owned and state-selected land. State-selected land occupies much of Section 36 within the area of USS 1930. Check land ownership records prior to issuing any authorizations within this portion of the parcel.</p> <p>RST 52 (Chulitna Trail) crosses part of the parcel.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
N-09	Se 8,958	Map 3-1 S021S011W; S022S011W	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. The current material sale site is considered appropriate; future sales may also be appropriate providing they do not interfere with state land disposals.</p> <p>As part of subdivision design, carefully avoid wetland areas and evaluate moose winter concentration/rutting areas. Protect any particularly significant moose concentration areas and provide adequate movement corridors if necessary. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Chulitna River. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals.</p> <p>Protect RST 52 from encroachment.</p>	<p>This large unit consists of flat to gently rolling terrain and is situated on uplands adjacent to the Chulitna River. Most of this area is situated to the west of the river, although some also occur to the east of this river in the far southeastern part of the unit. Vegetation is primarily shrub throughout most of the parcel except for areas immediately adjacent to the Chulitna River. In these areas, evergreen or spruce-poplar hardwoods predominate. Wetlands are interspersed throughout the parcel, but tend to concentrate in the more westerly parts where shrub vegetation predominates. The Chulitna River, which traversed the unit, is an anadromous stream.</p> <p>A fairly large number of remote lots are present in the northern part of the unit, and it is likely that this area will continue to be attractive for remote settlement.</p> <p>RST 52 (Chulitna Trail) crosses part of the parcel.</p> <p>Moose and waterfowl are present in the unit and moose winter concentration/rutting areas are also present in parts of the unit.</p>
N-10	Rd 4,768	Map 3-1 S021S011W	<p>Manage unit for public recreation values. Retain in state ownership.</p> <p>Continued use of the existing material site is considered appropriate, subject to authorization by SCRO.</p>	<p>This large unit occupies a fairly flat upland between the East Fork of the Chulitna River and the main stem of the Chulitna River; Hurricane Creek, and its associated gorge, bisects the unit from east to west. Vegetation consists of mixed forest and woody wetlands. Moose and waterfowl are known to be present, and a portion of the unit is associated with moose winter concentration and rutting areas. A material extraction site (ADL 224967) occupies sections 12 and 13, and the Willow-Healy Intertie crosses the unit in a north-south direction. An anadromous stream occurs in the far northern part of the unit.</p>
N-11	Ma 240	Map 3-1 S021S011W	<p>Continued use of the material site is considered appropriate, subject to authorization by SCRO.</p> <p>Settlement may also be an appropriate use if it is determined that the need for the material site no longer exists.</p>	<p>This fairly small parcel has been designated as a material site for at least 20 years but has not seen any use. It occupies generally flat terrain vegetated by a bottomland spruce-poplar forest. Moose may be present.</p>
N-12	Se 765	Map 3-1 S033N002W	<p>Areas of state land within ASLS 80-131 identified as "Tracts" on the subdivision plat are to be retained in state (or common) ownership. No further subdivision of this unit is considered appropriate. Moose wintering and calving area.</p>	<p>A previous state subdivision (ADL 80-131) occupies this unit. All or nearly all of the lots are privately owned. The state retains a number of areas within and adjacent to the subdivision to provide open space. Part of moose wintering and calving concentration area.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
N-13	Se 5,087	Map 3-1 S033N002W	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period.</p> <p>As part of subdivision design, carefully evaluate moose rutting and winter concentration areas and provide greenspace or movement corridors as necessary. Avoid or protect any particularly significant moose concentration areas.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals.</p>	<p>This area has been designated for at least 20 years as settlement. The unit occupies fairly level terrain that is characterized by mixed forest in its central part and by shrub vegetation within the northern and southern parts of the parcel. Waterfowl and moose are present and a moose rutting and winter concentration area affects portions of the unit. The Willow-Healy Intertie bisects the unit from north to south, and the Parks Highway touches the far southwestern part of the unit.</p>
N-14	Ha 3,097	Map 3-1 S032N002W; S033N002W	<p>Manage unit to protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat, associated hydrologic values, and scenic values. Retain in state ownership.</p>	<p>This unit consists of three subunits two of which are situated adjacent to Indian Creek, while the other occupies the steep slopes of Chulitna Butte. All are situated immediately east of South Denali State Park. The two parcels that adjoin Indian Creek are characterized by deciduous or evergreen forest and also occupy areas that are fairly steep. The parcel occupying Chulitna Butte is mostly covered by shrub and some mixed forest. Several of the subunits contain moose rutting and winter concentration areas. Indian Creek is an anadromous stream. Waterfowl and trumpeter swans may also be present. The Willow-Healy Intertie affects several of the parcels.</p>
N-15	Se 6,804	Map 3-1 S032N002W; S031N002W	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals.</p> <p>As part of land disposal, carefully evaluate moose rutting and winter concentration areas and provide greenspace or movement corridors as necessary. Protect anadromous streams. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Susitna River.</p>	<p>Unit occupies a mix of fairly level and somewhat steep terrain most of which is characterized by deciduous or evergreen forest interspersed by wetlands. Moose and waterfowl are present. The Willow-Healy Intertie passes through the parcel. A fairly large lake is present and several remote lots adjoin the lake. Anadromous streams, including the Susitna River, adjoin the unit.</p> <p>DNR has conducted a number of remote sales in this area and there are numerous remote lots scattered throughout.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
N-16	Mi 37,055	Map 3-1 F019S011W; F020S011W; F021S011W	Manage unit for its mineral values.	<p>This large management unit is situated in the northwestern part of the region in mountainous terrain associated with the Alaska Range (Lookout Mountain). Glaciers occupy its westernmost portions.</p> <p>The parcel occupies the mineral area known as the “Golden Zone,” which, geologically, is a belt of about 30 mineral occurrences stretching from the Ready Cash site in Section 28, F020S011W to the Nim site located in the northeast portions of F019S010W. This area consists of polymetallic veins, sulfide disseminations, skarns, and Copper-Gold porphyry and breccia. Moose are present in the unit. DOT 87-6 (Bull River Rd) – goes from Colorado across Bull River & W. Fork Chulitna River & provides access to Lookout Mtn.</p>

Total state land within region (16 units) – 234,000 acres

South Parks Highway Region

The South Parks Highway Region encompasses an area of approximately 369,000 acres and is situated in the northern part of the planning area. This region encompasses the area from Chulitna Pass south to Montana Creek, west to the Chulitna and Susitna Rivers, and east to the foothills of the Talkeetna Mountains. It also includes a strip of land along the Susitna River and Alaska Railroad in the foothills of the Talkeetna Mountains just east of Denali State Park. The lower portions of several significant river drainages – primarily Montana Creek and Talkeetna River – are contained within the region. That portion of the Susitna River that adjoins the region is also part of the South Parks Highway region. Refer to Figure 3-1 to locate the map of a particular area.

Distribution and Characteristics

Land ownership within this region is mixed, with state-owned land predominating north of the Talkeetna River but mixed ownership is characteristic to the south of that river. There are approximately 263,000 acres of state-owned and state-selected land in this region, consisting of approximately 10,000 acres of land affected by an LDA designation and approximately 253,000 acres of state general domain land. Mixed land ownership consists mostly of private and borough land, with some state holdings. State land is scattered throughout the more accessible, western parts, although concentrations occur in the eastern, inaccessible part near the Talkeetna Foothills. This western area has experienced considerable growth over the last 25 years, consisting first of recreational cabins but more recently of residential homes that are used throughout the year. Some commercial development has occurred along the principal road within this region – the Talkeetna Spur Road – with concentrations occurring in its last half mile before the intersection with the Parks Highway. Terrain within the region varies from fairly level in the area along and about four miles east of the Talkeetna Spur Road and directly north of the Talkeetna River, but changes to moderately steep topography east thereof and approximately three miles north of the Talkeetna River. Vegetation consists of deciduous vegetation with scattered wetlands within the fairly flatter, western parts of the region but changing to shrub as elevation rises and the moderately to steeply sloping terrain of the Talkeetna Foothills is encountered. Evergreen forest is scattered throughout portions of the eastern parts of the region. The eastern and northern areas of the region are more inaccessible and present more of a challenge to settlement. Growth in these areas has been limited in these areas compared to the generally flatter, western parts of the region.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

The presence or proximity of the Talkeetna Spur Road and the Alaska Highway, together with the network of local and borough roads, makes the South Parks Highway region one of the most accessible in the planning area. However, most of the remaining state land does not have immediate road access. Access to the more remote concentrations of state land in the eastern and northern parts near Chunilna Creek is by foot travel, snowmachine or off-road vehicle. Water access is also provided by the Talkeetna and Susitna rivers. Local trails emanate from the river or the terminus of existing roads and are used to access remote areas.

A variety of resources exist on state land, although, as a result of state land disposals and conveyance of state land to the borough over the past 20 years, the amount of state land is much less than it was in the 1980's when the SAP was first prepared. Areas of agricultural soils remain in areas north of the Talkeetna River, although the size of these areas has substantially decreased. Some tracts of good agricultural soils also occur in scattered areas south of the Talkeetna River within areas of fairly level terrain, but most of these have been conveyed out of state ownership. Merchantable timber stands exist in the southern part and these have remained pretty much intact over the years. They are a continuation of the extensive timber holdings that adjoin the Talkeetna Mountains within the Southeast Susitna Area Plan. Mining activity is much less than it was in the past, but there are still concentrations of claims along Chunilna Creek and at Gold Creek. Coal potential in the region is low and oil and gas potential is unknown but expected to be limited.

The region receives a high level of recreation use. Streams in the region are important producers of salmon for the Cook Inlet commercial fishery and also support high levels of sport fishing. Other recreational activities include hiking, hunting, camping, boating, dog mushing, snow machining, and cross-country skiing. Recreational use of the Talkeetna River is particularly high, especially during the summer, and is associated with tourism and sport fishing.

Chulitna River, Montana Creek, and the Talkeetna River, the main rivers in the region, are anadromous streams. Moose are present within the region, and moose rutting, winter concentration, and calving areas exist; the latter is particularly extensive in the southern part of the region.

Management Constraints

Several local management plans affect this region and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the South Parks Highway Region. Local plans include the Borough Comprehensive Plan and Coastal Management Plan. These plans contain both generalized land use recommendations and resource management requirements and were helpful in the formulation of recommendations. Also consulted were the two local comprehensive plans that affect this management unit. The latter provide more specificity than the regional comprehensive plan and contain recommendations pertinent to state land.

Several state management plans affect this region: the 1985 Susitna Area Plan (SAP), which is being revised in this update, and the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan, which controls the management of state land within the Talkeetna River State Recreation River. The latter is not affected by the SAP revision.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table for this region. Most state land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation, which means that most will be managed for its wildlife habitat, settlement, and timber values.

Much of the remaining state land is suitable for settlement and land disposals in areas designated Settlement are recommended (Approximately 103,000 acres). Most of this land was similarly classified in the 1985 SAP and has experienced land disposals and subsequent residential development. A small amount of land with good agricultural soils remains in areas north of the Talkeetna River, and it is recommended that this area (Approximately 6,000 acres) be managed for its agricultural potential and is designated Agriculture. Agricultural land disposals are considered appropriate for these areas. Habitat designations (Approximately 34,000 acres) apply primarily in mountainous areas within the Talkeetna Foothills north of the Talkeetna River as well as to riverine areas adjoining the Talkeetna River. Some of these Habitat areas are also co-designated Public Recreation-Dispersed (Approximately 11,000 acres), or Water Resources (Approximately 15,000 acres). Although almost the entire Talkeetna River is designated a State Recreation River, some sections were not, and the Public Recreation-Dispersed designation (Approximately 3,000 acres) has been applied to these areas. The extensive area in the southern part of the region (Approximately 13,000 acres) that contains merchantable timber is to be managed for its timber values, and is designated Forestry. The management of areas designated Forestry will be guided by the Forest Resources and Practices Act; Susitna Forestry Guidelines, or its successor; and this area plan. Finally, the numerous parcels of state land that exist at and near the Talkeetna Townsite, most of which are of small size, are to be retained in public ownership and used for public purposes, if required. These areas are designated Public Facilities-Retain (Approximately 1,000 acres).

Resource Allocation Table – South Parks Highway Region⁴

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-01	Se 7,387	Map 3-1 S031N002W; S030N003W	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period.</p> <p>Land is retained for the purpose of supporting state land disposals.</p> <p>As part of land disposal, carefully evaluate moose rutting and winter concentration areas and provide green space or movement corridors as necessary. Avoid or protect any particularly significant moose concentration areas. Protect anadromous streams. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Susitna River.</p> <p>Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.</p>	<p>This unit consists of three geographically separated subunits situated directly east and upslope of the Susitna River. Topography varies by location but is mostly gently rolling with vegetation consisting of evergreen and deciduous forest interspersed by woody wetlands. Moose and waterfowl are known to be present; portions of the settlement subunit in S030N003W contain a moose rutting and winter concentration area. The Susitna River is an anadromous stream as well as several others that run through the unit.</p> <p>This unit has been classified settlement since the original SAP, but land disposals have not yet occurred.</p> <p>RST-489 and other public access easements are in this unit.</p>
S-02	Ha 8,074	Map 3-1 Various	<p>Manage unit to protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat values. Retain land in state ownership.</p> <p>Protect trails and easements.</p> <p>Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.</p>	<p>This unit consists of three geographically separated subunits situated directly east and upslope of the Susitna River. Topography varies by location but is generally moderately sloped. Vegetation consists of evergreen and deciduous forest interspersed by woody wetlands. Portions of the settlement subunit in S030N003W contain a moose rutting and winter concentration area. A brown bear concentration area is also present in this township. Several anadromous streams are present, including the Susitna River that adjoins the unit.</p> <p>A public easement application is within this unit. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.</p>
S-03	Pr 68	Map 3-1 S031N002W	Retain lots for public purposes.	Unit consists of two small lots within the area known as “Gold Creek.”

⁴ See the Resource Allocation Table for Legislative Designated Areas for information on L-01 (State Recreation Rivers).

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-04	Gu 90,628	Map 3-1 Various	<p>Manage the unit for multiple uses.</p> <p>Development is unlikely within this unit and, except for certain types of utilities or commercial recreation facilities, is inappropriate given its mountainous terrain. Protect moose rutting and winter concentration areas, as well as brown bear concentrations, along Chunilna Creek. Protect anadromous streams.</p> <p>Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.</p> <p>Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.</p>	<p>This large unit occupies the area between the parcels on the Susitna River to the west and the plan boundary to the east. Its southern boundary is roughly formed by the Talkeetna River drainage.</p> <p>Except for the few river valleys, nearly the entirety of this unit is characterized by mountainous terrain associated with the Talkeetna Mountains. Vegetation within the river valleys is characterized by bottomland spruce-poplar forest while the remaining areas, depending on elevation, consist of shrub, woody wetlands, mixed forest, and alpine tundra. There is little use of this area, although some cabins are situated along Chunilna Creek. A variety of trails (ADL 201263) exist within the unit, providing access to cabins and the backcountry, and the Healy-Willow Intertie bisects the unit. A moose wintering and rutting area occupies much of the Chunilna Creek lowland. Gold Creek, as well as Chunilna Creek and its tributaries, are anadromous streams in the unit. Brown and black bears are known to frequent the anadromous streams.</p> <p>RST-489 and other public access easements are in this unit. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.</p>
S-05	Pr 546	Map 3-1 S031N002W	<p>Manage larger subunit consistent with the Management Agreement with DPOR. Retain both subunits in state ownership. Authorizations, except those related to public safety, public access and environmental protection (or similar public uses), are considered inappropriate.</p> <p>Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. Protect hydrologic values and anadromous streams.</p>	<p>Consisting of two subunits, one of which adjoins Denali State Park and the Susitna River and the other, the mouth of Gold Creek where it empties into the Susitna River. The former is affected by a Management Agreement to DPOR (ADL 225372). Area is to be managed similar to the adjacent state park under this agreement.</p> <p>The smaller of the two parcels should be managed for its hydrologic values. Several anadromous streams are present within the unit, and the parcel adjoins the Susitna River, which is also anadromous. RST-469 and a public easement application cross this subunit.</p>
S-06	Rd 2,018	Maps 3-1, 3-5, 3-10 S028N004W; S028N005W; S027N004W; S027N005W	<p>Unit is to be managed to protect public recreation values and the riverine area of the Susitna River. Parcel is to be retained in state ownership. Authorizations are only to be considered appropriate within this unit if the overall management intent is maintained; only public safety or public recreation uses are considered appropriate. Protect hydrologic values and anadromous streams. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained.</p>	<p>Unit occupies the riverine area adjacent to the Susitna River as well as several tributary creeks. These areas are heavily wooded, consisting of a spruce-poplar forest and are generally level. Moose are present and both rutting and winter concentration areas occupy portions of the unit. The area adjacent to the Susitna River, which includes this unit, is considered to be significant as a fish stream concentration area for brown bears. There are many anadromous streams present, including the Susitna River which adjoins this unit. This unit is readily visible from the Susitna River, which receives extensive recreation use during the summer.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-07	Se 18,870	Map 3-1 S028N004W; S028N003W	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period.</p> <p>As part of subdivision design or remote staking projects, avoid wetland areas adjacent to stream and protect any particularly significant bear and moose concentration areas by providing green space and movement corridors as necessary. Ensure the maintenance of local trails; locate uses at least 0.25 miles distant from the Willow-Healy Intertie.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals.</p> <p>Protect anadromous streams.</p> <p>Protect trails and easements.</p>	<p>Depending on location and elevation, this large unit occupies gently rolling to moderately steep terrain. Vegetation is a mix of evergreen forest, mixed forest, wetlands, and shrub, with mixed and deciduous forest occupying much of the western part of the unit. Shrub and wetlands are more characteristic of the eastern and higher elevation parts. Moose are present in the unit. A winter rutting and concentration area occupies a small part of the southeastern part of the unit; the principal part of the winter concentration area occurs, however, along Chunilna Creek to the east and within unit S-08. Waterfowl are also present. The area adjacent to the Susitna River, which includes portions of this unit, is considered to be significant as a fish stream concentration area for brown bears. The Susitna River is one of several anadromous streams present. There are a number of lakes within the unit and several have fairly extensive wetland areas associated with their inlet and outlet streams.</p> <p>There are numerous small recreation lots and cabins scattered throughout this unit, with concentrations occurring along streams and lakes. The Healy-Willow Intertie crosses a portion of the unit, and there are a number of important local trails (ADL 201263). Portions of the unit may be important for winter and summer recreation, with snow-machining and sport fishing being the principal recreational uses.</p>
S-08	Ha, Wr 15,239	<p>Maps 3-1, 3-5, 3-10</p> <p>S027N003W; S028N004W; S028N003W</p>	<p>Unit is to be managed to protect wildlife, the river drainages and riverine areas of Chunilna Creek, and support recreational use.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership. Further subdivision or remote settlement is considered inappropriate.</p> <p>Protect trails and easements.</p>	<p>This parcel occupies the river drainages of Chunilna Creek and some of its tributaries. Except for portions of a riverine area along this creek, which tend to be somewhat flat, the remainder of the unit is moderately to steeply sloping. Mixed, deciduous, and evergreen forest predominate adjacent to and near Chunilna Creek, while areas further away and upslope from that location are characterized by woody wetlands and mixed forest. Moose are present in the unit and the riverine areas are important moose wintering and rutting areas. Chunilna Creek is an important anadromous stream and is considered also to be important as a brown bear fish stream concentration area. There are other anadromous streams in the unit.</p> <p>Numerous remote cabins and lots are scattered throughout the unit, with significant concentrations in the lower reaches of Chunilna Creek. The Willow-Healy Intertie crosses through the unit, and there are a number of important local trails (ADL 201263).</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-09	Se 36,700	Maps 3-1, 3-5, 3-10 S028N003W; S028N002W; S027N004W; S027N003W; S027N002W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Protect anadromous stream. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. Development is to set back at least 0.25 miles from the Intertie.	This unit has experienced significant settlement activity over the past 20 years; most of this has concentrated around the several lakes and along the principal stream drainages. The Willow-Healy Intertie, RST 1620 and a number of important local trails (ADL 201263) cross portions of the unit. The unit is characterized by hilly topography in most areas except for areas around lakes and portions of the stream drainages. Within the flatter, lower elevation areas vegetation is heavy, consisting of mixed and deciduous forest. Higher elevations are characterized by shrub and woody wetlands. Moose are present throughout the unit, and caribou are present in the easternmost parts. Chunilna Creek is an anadromous fish stream and is considered to be important as a brown bear fish stream concentration area. Several of its tributaries may also be anadromous.
S-10	Se 3,146	Map 3-1 S028N004W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. Protect anadromous stream.	Characterized by rolling terrain in the western and northern part and by steeper topography in the southern, this unit is occupied by numerous recreational cabins and recreational lots. Most of the cabins and lots are situated adjacent to a (single) lake and several small drainages. An anadromous stream is present. Vegetation in these areas is typically deciduous or mixed forest interspersed by some wetlands. In other areas, woody wetlands and mixed forest are more common. Moose and waterfowl are present in parts of the unit, although calving, rutting, or winter concentration areas are not known to exist.
S-11	Ag 4,457	Maps 3-5, 3-10 S027N004W	Manage unit for agricultural use and/or disposal. The large wetland area, which occurs in sections 20 and 29 and extends from a linked wet-land complex to the south in S-12, is to be protected from development or disposal. (The linked wetland complex in S-12, to the south is to be similarly protected.) Protect trails.	This unit, which has been designated Agriculture for over 20 years has experienced little agricultural use or agricultural disposals, although most of the unit is underlain by soils considered suitable for agriculture by the NRCS. There are, however, a number of areas that have been disposed of out of state ownership and a number of OTE lots occur along drainages in section 20. A large wetland complex (primarily emergent palustrine type) exists in parts of sections 20 and 29. Generally level terrain characterizes the unit. Wetlands predominate in the southern part of the unit, while the remainder is occupied by deciduous and mixed forest. Moose are present. At least one trail exists within portions of the unit.

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-12	Se 1,900	Maps 3-1, 3-10 S027N004W	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period.</p> <p>The large wetland area, which occurs in sections 31 and 32 and extends from a linked wet-land complex to the north in S-11, is to be protected from development or disposal. (The wetland complex in S-11 is to be similarly protected.) Protect anadromous streams.</p> <p>Subdivision design is to carefully consider the impact of development upon wetland functioning and on moose winter concentration areas and provide adequate green space or movement corridors as necessary. Subdivisions or remote recreational sales are to avoid wetland areas and either avoid or minimize impacts on moose winter concentration areas.</p>	<p>Significant portions of this unit have existing OTE sales. These occur at lakes and along several streams. Other portions of the unit are not developed with residential uses and are considered generally appropriate for development with the exception of a large wetland complex.</p> <p>The unit is characterized by heavy vegetation, which is predominately deciduous and mixed forest. Moose and waterfowl are present; portions of the unit are occupied by a moose winter concentration area. Anadromous streams are present.</p> <p>A large wetland complex exists within sections 32 and 31. These are mostly of an emergent palustrine type. Wetlands in section 32 and the northeastern part of section 31 are connected to the wetlands that occur immediately north of this unit in S-11. A large portion of the western part of section 31 also contains wetlands.</p>
S-13	Se 1,858	Maps 3-1, 3-10 S027N004W	<p>Further disposal activities in this unit are inappropriate. Retain remaining areas of state land in public ownership. Reoffers of lots returned to the state are appropriate. Protect the Willow-Healy Intertie. A riparian buffer of 200' from OHW is to be maintained on the Talkeetna River.</p>	<p>Extensive subdivision activity during the late 1970s and early 1980s within ASLS 79-149 characterized this unit. Except for a few lots that have been relinquished and may be offered for resale, additional disposal activity is inappropriate. The remaining tracts that surround the lots function as open space, protect access, or perform some other public function. An anadromous stream exists in the unit and flows into Papa Bear Lake. The Willow-Healy Intertie crosses through the unit.</p>
S-14	Ag 1,234	Maps 3-1, 3-10 S027N004W	<p>Manage unit for agricultural use and/or disposal.</p> <p>Agricultural disposals are to carefully consider the impact of agricultural use upon wetlands and moose winter concentration areas. Such sales are to avoid or minimize impacts on moose winter concentration areas and wetlands. Protect anadromous streams; impose riparian buffer in any disposal action.</p>	<p>This parcel contains soils considered appropriate for agriculture and has been classified Agriculture for over 20 years, although actual agricultural development has not occurred. Terrain is consistently level and vegetation consists of a mix of deciduous and mixed forest. Both moose rutting and a winter concentration area occurs within this unit. Anadromous streams cross part of this unit.</p>
S-15	Rd 143	Map 3-10 S027N003W	<p>Manage to protect scenic and hydrologic functions. Other uses within this unit are considered inappropriate.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership.</p>	<p>Unit is situated east of unit S-16, which consists of a large subdivision under ASLS 79-149. Parcel protects a portion of Katie Lake and functions as a buffer.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-16	Se 1,290	Maps 3-5, 3-10 S027N003W	Further disposal activities in this unit are inappropriate. Retain remaining areas of state land in public ownership.	Extensive subdivision activity during the late 1970s and early 1980s under ASLS 79-149 characterized this unit. Except for a few lots that have been relinquished and may be offered for resale, additional disposal activity is inappropriate. The remaining tracts that surround the lots function as open space, protect access, or perform some other public function. Easement authorizations exist within this unit. Includes ADL 212794 – public easement for a runway – the Katie Lake Airstrip.
S-17	Se 1,239	Maps 3-5, 3-10 S026N004W	Further disposal activities in this unit are inappropriate. Retain remaining areas of state land within the Unit in public ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. A riparian buffer of 200' from OHW is to be maintained on the Talkeetna River.	This unit consists of two separate parcels both of which are part of the same state subdivision: ASLS 79-149. Most of the lots have been conveyed out of state ownership but very considerable state land remains within the westerly parcel. These are identified, usually, as tracts of the subdivision but there are also parcels of state land that adjoin the subdivision but are not part of it. They function, however, as buffer areas and are therefore functionally part of the subdivision. An anadromous stream occurs in this unit. RST-331 crosses this unit.
S-18	Rd 476	Map 3-10 S026N004W	Retain in state ownership and manage unit to protect its functions as a riverine area and as a buffer strip between parts of the subdivision.	This unit consists of a number of physically separate parcels that are situated either within the subdivision (ASLS 79-149) or adjacent to it. These areas function as common areas or riverine protection corridors, or serve as buffers between portions of the unit. An anadromous stream occurs in this unit.
S-19	Wr, Rd 1,783	Maps 3-5, 3-10 S026N004W	Manage unit similar to the Talkeetna River State Recreation River. Authorizations except related to public safety or recreation are not considered appropriate. Any use that is authorized must also be consistent with the management intent of this portion of the Talkeetna River SRR. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails and RS 2477 routes.	Unit is situated along the Talkeetna River and also contains the river. It functions in a similar manner to other state land within the Talkeetna River SRR and should be managed in a manner consistent with SRR management intent for that portion of the river. The Talkeetna River, which adjoins the unit, is one of several anadromous streams. RST-1620 and RST-331 cross this unit.
S-20	Pr 450	Maps 3-5, 3-10 S026N004W	Retain in state ownership. Manage for airport purposes. Protect anadromous stream.	This unit includes Talkeetna Airport and adjacent areas, which function as part of the airport. A management right (ADL 224990) to ADOT/PF affects a portion of this unit. An anadromous stream occurs in the unit.
S-21	Rd 145	Maps 3-5, 3-10 S026N005W	Manage unit for its recreation and scenic values. Retain in state ownership. Authorizations except related to public safety or recreation are not considered appropriate. Note the presence of an avigation easement that affects portions of this parcel.	This unit is situated directly south of Talkeetna on the Susitna River and directly east of Alaska Railroad tracks. ARR trains slow down in this vicinity to view Mt McKinley. An avigation easement (ADL 225938) for the protection of the Vortac at the Talkeetna Airport affects portions of the unit.

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-22	Pr 1.59	Map 3-10 S026N004W	Retain in state ownership unless required for public purposes.	This unit consists of several small lots within the community of Talkeetna.
S-23	Se 192	Maps 3-5, 3-10 S026N004W	Except for tracts A-1 and A-6, retain all remaining tracts in subdivision. These tracts are to remain undeveloped. Tracts A-1 and A-6 may be appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Protect anadromous stream.	A previous state subdivision (ASLS 79-143) comprises this unit. Essentially all of the lots have been conveyed or are to be conveyed out of state ownership. A number of tracts remain and most are intended to undeveloped. However, Tracts A-1 and A-6, situated directly to the northwest of the subdivision proper, are undeveloped and may be suitable for land disposal pending further analysis. An anadromous stream occurs in the unit.
S-24	Se 29,061	Maps 3-1, 3-10 S025N003W; S026N003W	Unit is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Tracts within the subdivision that provide buffers or protect streams are to be retained in state ownership. Further development of these tracts is not appropriate. Protect anadromous streams. Avoid moose wintering and calving areas. Protect trails and easements.	This large unit has been classified settlement for over 20 years and has experienced both subdivision activities (the largest of which is the Bald Mountain subdivision, ASLS 80-176). There are also numerous remote lots that have been created during this period. Both the subdivisions and lots are scattered throughout the unit. Portions of this unit are considered to be important as a moose calving and winter concentration area. Anadromous streams occur in the unit. Access easements and a trail easement application exist for this unit.
S-25	Se 409	Map 3-10 S024N004W	If conveyed to state, uplands in eastern portion of unit may be appropriate for land disposal. The western and central portions, occupied by the Alaska Railroad and wetlands, respectively, are to be maintained in their present natural state. Protect anadromous streams. Protect trails and RS 2477 routes. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.	Consisting of two geographically separate parcels within section 7, both have similar characteristics. The easternmost portion is occupied by generally level uplands that have a mixed deciduous-evergreen forest, while the central area is occupied by wetlands and small creeks. The Alaska Railroad bisects the western portion of the parcel, making this area of the parcel essentially inaccessible. Several creeks pass through this portion of the parcel. The Talkeetna Spur Road is situated one mile to the east and several rural residential streets extend to lakes about 0.25 miles from the Spur Road. The parcel is in selection status. Anadromous streams occur in the unit. RST- 1691, Herning Trail – Question Creek, crosses this unit. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.
S-26	Rd 170	Map 3-10 S025N005W	Unit is to be retained in public ownership and managed for its recreation potential and scenic values. Authorizations in this unit are considered inappropriate except as related to public recreation or public safety. Protect anadromous streams through the retention of adequate buffers.	Unit occupies level, heavily wooded terrain situated between the Susitna River and the Alaska Railroad. Development of this tract is constrained by the absence of access (because of the presence of ARR tracks) and in the area adjoining the Susitna River for summer sport fishing. The confluence of Answer Creek and the Susitna River are situated just north of this tract and access to the confluence is provided through this tract. An anadromous stream is present.

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-27	Ma 33	Map 3-10 S025N004W	Manage for gravel extraction.	Site is affected by an ILMA to ADOT/PF for a material extraction site. Gravel extraction is authorized under a Free Use Permit. (ADL 33588)
S-28	Se 59	Map 3-10 S025N004W	Retain interior tract within subdivision. That area of the subdivision occupied by Tract 21, consisting of about 235 acres, is appropriate for land disposal during the planning period.	Unit consists of a previous state subdivision (ASLS 79-109) which include several large, undeveloped tracts situated south of the subdivision itself as well as an interior tract intended to protect the drainage. An agricultural area is situated to the west.
S-29	Wr 282	Map 3-10 S025N004W; S024N004W	Manage to protect palustrine wetlands. Retain in state ownership. Protect the Willow-Healy Intertie.	Unit is comprised almost entirely of wetlands, primarily of the palustrine wetland type. The Willow-Healy Intertie crosses through the unit.
S-30	Rd 28	Map 3-10 S024N005W	Manage to maintain and protect recreation and riverine buffer functions, including preservation of scenic values, and anadromous streams. Retain in state ownership.	Unit adjoins the Susitna River. It occupies level, heavily vegetated terrain. A road right-of-way to DOF affects this unit (ADL 32388). An anadromous stream is present in the unit.
S-31	Rd 81	Map 3-10 S025N005W	Retain in state ownership. Authorizations are not considered appropriate given the shape of the parcel (long and narrow) and its function as a screening strip.	Unit occupies a strip of land adjacent to the Talkeetna Spur Road and functions as a screening strip along that highway.
S-32	Rd 151	Map 3-10 S025N005W	Manage for recreation and riparian values. Retain in State ownership. Authorizations are not considered appropriate given the riverine location, except as related to public recreation or safety. Protect trails and easements.	Unit adjoins Montana Creek, a significant sport fishing stream, which receives significant public use. Terrain is generally level. Parcel is well vegetated. An anadromous stream occurs in the unit. A trail easement exists in this unit, and other recreational trails may be present.
S-33	Se 493	Map 3-10 S024N004W	Retain common areas in state ownership. Authorizations within these areas are not considered appropriate given their function. Sale of the remaining lots as well as lots provided as reoffers are, however, appropriate. Protect anadromous stream with riparian buffer.	This unit is comprised of a previous state subdivision, ASLS 79-143. Nearly all of the lots have been conveyed out of state ownership, although some remain. Several large tracts also remain in state ownership and function as buffers between portions of the subdivision or as protection areas for wetlands and associated drainages. An anadromous stream occurs in the unit.
S-34	Ma 80	Map 3-10 S024N003W	Manage unit consistent with requirements of ILMA. Protect anadromous stream with riparian buffer.	Unit is affected by an ILMA to ADOT/PF for the purpose of developing a rip-rap source for nearby roads. (ADL 47384) Montana Creek which is an anadromous stream runs through the unit. A trail easement exists in this unit, and other recreational trails may be present. The creek supports spawning chum, Chinook, and Pink salmon as well as rearing coho salmon.

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-35	F 12,780	Map 3-5 S024N003W	<p>Manage unit consistent with the requirements of the Forestry Section of Chapter 2 and with applicable Susitna Forestry Guidelines, or its successor, and Forest Resources & Practices Act requirements. Protect anadromous streams and moose winter concentration and calving areas. Maintain the trail identified as ADL 202006. Other recreational areas and corridors may exist within this unit; consult with SCRO and the borough to determine if other such uses/corridors exist and require protection. This review should occur prior to or concurrent with the preparation of a Forest Land Use Plan (FLUP).</p> <p>Consult with ADF&G on the location of moose calving, rutting, and wintering areas prior to or concurrent with the development of a FLUP.</p>	<p>This large unit is a continuation of the state land designated Forestry within the Kashwitna Uplands Region (unit U-01) of the Southeast Susitna Area Plan (SSAP). It has the same characteristics of this unit, consisting of vegetated uplands containing extensive forest resources. Most of the area within this unit is characterized by spruce hardwood forests except along Montana Creek, where a bottomland spruce-poplar forest predominates. A trail exists within portions of the unit (ADL 202006) and Montana Creek is one of several anadromous fish streams in the unit. Portions of this unit are used as moose calving, rutting and winter concentration areas. Caribou are known to be present in easterly portions of the unit.</p> <p>This unit has been classified Forestry for over 25 years and constitutes, together with the contiguous unit U-01 in the SSAP, a significant portion of the DOF sustained yield inventory within the eastern part of the Susitna Valley.</p>
S-36	Ha, Rd 10,717	Maps 3-1, 3-10	Unit, which consists of the Susitna River, is to be managed its water resources, habitat, and public recreation values. Particular emphasis in this management is to focus on maintaining water quality, sensitive habitat, and recreational use of the river.	Unit encompasses the Susitna River, as measured from bank-to-bank from Ordinary High Water. Besides the water column itself, islands and exposed gravel bars are also included in this parcel. The Susitna River is one of many anadromous streams in the unit.
S-37	Ag 40	Map 3-10 S024N003W	Parcel is appropriate as an agricultural land disposal.	This unit has been previously offered as an agricultural land disposal. It occupies a flat, 40-acre parcel of ground east of the Talkeetna Spur Road and just south of Benka Lake. Residential land uses surround the parcel.
L-01	Ha, Rd 9,857 within this region	Maps 3-1 3-5, 3-10 Various	This parcel includes the state recreation rivers in this region. See the section <i>Legislatively Designated Areas</i> for detail on the management of this area.	

Total state land within region (37 units, portions of 1 LDA) – 262,640 acres

Petersville Road Region

The Petersville Road region occupies an area of approximately 397,000 acres on the west side of the Susitna River and at the base of the Alaska Range. Its western boundary is formed by the Sunflower Basin region, and its eastern boundary by the Susitna River. The northern boundary is formed by Denali State Park and its southern boundary by the Susitna Lowlands region. Included within the planning area, and dominant features of this region, are the Parks Highway from Mile 104 to 132; Petersville Road; Kroto and Moose creeks (which are part of the Deshka State Recreation River); and the first 18 miles of the Chulitna River upstream of its confluence with the Susitna River. Refer to Figure 3-1 to locate the map of a particular area.

Distribution and Characteristics

Most of the land within this region is owned by the state (Approximately 292,000 acres) with Borough land (roughly 20% of the area) concentrated in the eastern third of the region especially along the Parks Highway. There are numerous small parcels in private ownership that were purchased under state land disposals. These are most prevalent within a few miles of either the Parks Highway or Petersville Road. Most of these parcels are located on or near waterbodies.

The region is characterized by generally flat terrain with some areas of gently rolling terrain. Four major drainages flow north to south. They are, starting on the west side of the region, Peters, Kroto and Moose creeks and the Chulitna River, a large glacial braided river. While most of the region is covered with a spruce-hardwood forest, there are extensive wetland areas interspersed. The larger wetland complexes also tend to orient north to south. A large number of lakes and small streams are scattered throughout.

State land within this region is to be managed as state general domain land under the authority of Title 38 of the Alaska Statutes. Two stream corridors within this region, however, have been designated as “special purpose sites” by the Legislature and these are to be managed consistent with statutory intent. Termed Legislatively Designated Areas, these are part of the State Recreation Rivers that includes the Deshka River plus its two principal tributaries – Kroto Creek and Moose Creek. State Recreation Rivers are to be managed consistent with AS 41.23.500 and with the DNR Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Access to and within the Petersville Road region is predominantly via the George Parks Highway and Petersville Road along with some attached secondary roads. Numerous trails also access this region with many oriented north/south to accommodate the predominant drainage pattern, skirting wetlands in summer and utilizing frozen wetlands in winter. There are also trails, oriented in all directions, that go directly on the wetlands and are often braided. Boats can be used on the larger waterways and some of the lakes/wetlands are float/ski plane accessible. Foot travel is a popular means of access.

The region functions to provide important habitat to a wide variety of species, but, particularly, brown bear, moose, and trumpeter swan. Brown bear habitat is distributed throughout the region but mainly related to fish stream concentrations on the Kroto, Moose, and Susitna drainages. Moose are present throughout the region and many areas are important as winter habitat or provide rutting habitat. Trumpeter swan nesting habitat is present in the extreme northern and southern reaches of this region. All of the major streams and all of their principal tributaries are categorized as anadromous by ADF&G and many of these streams are believed important as habitat for resident fish species. Depending on location these streams contain king, silver, pink, or sockeye migration, rearing, or spawning areas.

The principal natural resources in the region are related to land available for settlement and that can be used for forest management or agriculture.

Land for residential development, mostly of a rural remote type, is distributed throughout the region and generally coincides with areas of previous land disposals of this type by the state. Most of these disposals, and most of the remaining land suitable for settlement, coincide with attractive features, which are principally lakes, streams, and sites with scenic views.

A portion of the region is valuable for the forest resources. Over 70,000 acres of this type of state land exists in this region. Areas designated Forestry represent those areas that are part of the DOF Priority 1 areas, or those areas of highest priority for inclusion in a program of systematic forest management, which would include timber harvest at certain locations. A substantial amount of the area designated Forestry contains areas of wetlands and other valuable resources and these will be managed to protect these resources for recreation and fish and wildlife use. Recreation activity is widespread throughout the region and generally coincides with fall hunting for moose and bear and summer sport fishing along the major streams, and particularly those streams that historically had good runs of salmon and that are fairly easily accessible – tributaries of the Deshka River experience high levels of use during the summer, with the use coinciding with the timing of the runs. Areas designated Forestry are also important habitat to a variety of species, including brown bear and moose.

A number of locations within the region provide soils considered suitable to agriculture (Class 2 and 3 soils, NRCS). Most of the state land suitable for agriculture occurs in the Moose and Rabideux Creek drainages.

The Petersville mining district is at the western edge of this region and some mining claims exist in the western townships of this region.

Public use of this region is high due to the primary access provided by the Parks Highway and Petersville Road. Further access is via the secondary roads, trails or waterways. Public recreation during the summer is focused on the major recreational rivers: the Susitna and Chulitna rivers and Peters, Kroto, and Moose creeks. Public use of this region also occurs during the fall and winter. Moose, black, and brown bear are the most popular big game species, and hunting pressure tends to be the greatest near the areas of access available in the region – principally the trails used by ATVs and accessible by boat. During the winter snowmachine use occurs in many places given the presence of large rivers and the many wide, open, flat areas that are conducive to snowmachine use.

Management Constraints

Several local management plans affect this region and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the Petersville Road Region. Local plans include the Borough Comprehensive Plan and Coastal Management Plan. These plans contain both generalized land use recommendations and resource management requirements and were helpful in the formulation of recommendations.

Several state management plans affect this region: the 1985 Susitna Area Plan (SAP), which is being revised in this update, and the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan, which controls the management of state land within the Deshka River State Recreation River. The latter is not affected by the SMAP revision. The Denali State Park Management Plan, South Denali Implementation Plan, and the Petersville Road Corridor Management Plan also affect this region.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management intent/recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. Most land will be managed in a manner similar to its designation, which means that state land in the Petersville Road region is fairly equally divided between Settlement, Forestry, and Habitat/Recreation use. In addition a small amount of land has been designated for development of agriculture and material sites.

Approximately 79,000 acres of state land are identified for Settlement, with these areas largely coinciding with those areas identified in the 1985 SAP for that purpose. These areas tend to be distributed around attractive resources such as rivers, lakes, and areas with a scenic view. Since this revision of the 1985 SAP largely uses the same areas for settlement as in the

original plan, most settlement areas that are recommended in the revision will occur in areas with current recreational lots and recreational cabins. Most areas designated Settlement are appropriate for disposal.

Approximately 71,000 acres in this region are designated Forestry and are to be managed for overall forest resource management, which includes timber harvest at specific locations that may be identified in future Five-Year Timber Sales Schedule prepared by DOF. Importantly, areas designated Forestry are to be managed in a comprehensive, holistic fashion such that access is preserved, public recreation allowed to continue, and significant habitats and wetlands protected. Not all of the area designated Forestry contains forest resources. State land in this region is characterized by a mixture of wetlands and forested uplands, and many of these areas provide important habitat and recreation functions. It was determined in the plan preparation process that it would be impracticable to carve out all of the many areas important as wetlands or habitats and that inclusion of large areas of state land with a variety of resource values within a Forestry designation made the most sense since such areas must be managed comprehensively for multiple uses and the Forestry designation is a multiple use designation that encompasses the principles of recreation use and habitat protection. Accordingly, the management intent statement for management units designated Forestry will often include statements concerning the protection of wetlands and habitats, provision of recreation, and maintenance of public access. This management intent is consistent with the Division of Forestry's 'working forest' management concept. All areas designated Forestry are to be retained in state ownership. The management of areas designated Forestry will be guided by the Forest Resources and Practices Act; Susitna Forestry Guidelines, or its successor; and this area plan.

Approximately 78,000 acres of state land is designated to protect habitat, recreation, and water resource uses. This is in addition to the approximately 40,000 acres associated with the two State Recreation Rivers. The Habitat and Public Recreation designations are often paired with each other or with the co-designation of Water Resources to acknowledge equally important values present on the land. Areas of state land affected by these co-designations are to be preserved in their natural state and retained in state ownership.

Approximately 20,000 acres of land is set aside for agriculture. These lands are located in seven parcels, five of which are located within a mile of existing roads. The other two are located on the west side of Moose Creek and access will be more challenging. The plan does not require that this land be retained in state ownership or place specific restrictions on the disposal of agricultural land other than that provided under Alaska statute. That said careful consideration should be given to the disposal of this land given the absence of alternative locations. Areas designated Agriculture are appropriate for disposal.

The remaining land, approximately 2,000 acres, has been designated Materials to provide for gravel resources in the region. These are located mainly in the Parks Highway corridor.

Resource Allocation Table – Petersville Road Region

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-01	Se 31,045	Map 3-9 Various	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period and is to be retained for the purpose of supporting state land disposals.</p> <p>As part of subdivision design or remote staking projects, protect remaining lakeshore and wetland areas adjacent to streams using the guidelines found in Chapter 2. Within existing subdivisions maintain existing tracts of open space.</p> <p>Protect trails and easements. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffer. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on Trapper Creek.</p>	<p>This unit lies in a corridor of land bordering Denali State Park in the north and running between the Parks Highway and Moose Creek State Recreation River down to Petersville Road in the south. Most of the land within a mile of these two roads is Borough land. Therefore the unit begins with the state land beyond. This unit comprises a system of lakes and associated wetland complexes, the largest being Lake Denali and Safari Lake. Topography varies by location but is mostly gently rolling with vegetation consisting of evergreen and deciduous forest interspersed by woody wetlands. Anadromous tributaries of Trapper Creek and Chulitna River cross the unit.</p> <p>There have been many state land disposals in this unit and there are numerous small recreation lots and cabins scattered throughout this unit, with concentrations occurring along streams and lakes.</p> <p>A large regional winter trail network (ADL 228839) including the East-West Express Trail, maintained by the State SnowTRAC Program, crosses the unit. Many local trails run west from the Parks Highway including ADLs 216797, 226368, 218114, 218115, 21554, 228202 and 60022.</p> <p>Numerous MCOs affect this unit including MCO 316, 241, 144, 145, 130 and 780.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-02	Ha, Rd 36,007	Map 3-9 Various	Manage unit to protect its habitat values. Manage Tokositna State Recreation Area consistent with ILMA ADL 225373. Maintain existing trails. Retain land in state ownership.	<p>This unit borders Denali State Park to the north. The eastern half is largely wetlands associated with Swan and Bunco lakes; the remainder is scrub forest along the lower slopes of the Peters Hills. Twentyfive Mile Lake is another major lake located within this unit. The Tokositna State Recreation Area, an ILMA to DPOR (ADL 225373) is within this unit. ADF&G has a permitted weir and research camp at Swan Lake. Tokositna River Trail (ADL 228839) is a major north-south trail bisecting this unit. ADL 210894, a public access easement, and RST 516 are in this unit.</p> <p>There have been state land disposals in this unit and there are numerous small recreation lots and cabins scattered throughout this unit, with concentrations occurring along streams and lakes.</p> <p>Anadromous tributaries to Bunco, Kroto and Peters creeks are present. A known mushroom harvest area occurs in this unit.</p> <p>Trumpeter swan nesting and molting habitat is found in the wetlands of the eastern half of this unit and portions of the unit are a high use area for Tule geese in the summer/fall. Moose rutting habitat is in the western half.</p>
P-03	Ha, Rd 4,105	Map 3-9 Various	Manage unit consistent with the adjacent State Recreation River to protect fish and wildlife habitat and public recreation. Authorizations, except those related to recreation, public safety or environmental protection are considered inappropriate. Protect trails and easements. Retain land in state ownership.	<p>This unit comprises the lake at the headwaters of Moose Creek and borders the Moose Creek State Recreation River (part of Deshka River Management Unit). Life Lake, draining north to Swan Lake and the Tokositna River beyond, is the other large lake in the unit. Both of these lakes are anadromous waterbodies. Anadromous Trapper Creek also crosses the unit.</p> <p>The unit is covered with a mix of deciduous and evergreen forest interspersed with wetlands. The topography is gently rolling.</p> <p>There have been state land disposals in this unit and numerous small recreational lots and cabins ring the lakes. Public Rights-of-way (ADLs 218114, 218115, and 40958) cross this unit.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-04	Se 14,620	Map 3-9 Various	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period and is to be retained for the purpose of supporting state land disposals.</p> <p>As part of subdivision design or remote staking projects, protect remaining lakeshore and wetland areas adjacent to streams using the guidelines found in Chapter 2. Within existing subdivisions maintain existing tracts of open space.</p> <p>Retain land along Petersville Road sufficient for construction of waysides and trailhead parking. Maintain a scenic buffer of 150' each side of Petersville Road right-of-way. Reserve areas to accommodate facilities identified in the South Denali Implementation Plan. Protect trails and easements. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffer. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on Peters Creek and Kroto Creek.</p>	<p>This unit borders the Kroto Creek State Recreation River on the west and is bisected by the Petersville Road. It is dominated by wetlands and shrubs but some mixed spruce-hardwood forest is also present. The terrain is generally flat except for bluffs along Peters Creek.</p> <p>There have been state land disposals in this unit and there are numerous small recreation lots and cabins scattered throughout this unit, with concentrations occurring along streams and lakes.</p> <p>Anadromous Peters and Twentymile creeks cross this unit. Portions of the unit are a high use area for Tule geese in the summer/fall. Moose winter habitat is present. A known mushroom harvest area occurs in this unit.</p> <p>Numerous trails are present including ADLs 58004, 220609, 210894, 228839, 226357 and 226418. At least one trapping cabin is permitted within this unit.</p> <p>Mineral Closing Orders exist including MCOs 98 and 99.</p>
P-05	Se 7,504	Map 3-9 S026N007W; S027N007W	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period and is to be retained for the purpose of supporting state land disposals.</p> <p>As part of subdivision design or remote staking projects, protect remaining wetland areas adjacent to streams using the guidelines found in Chapter 2. Within existing subdivisions maintain existing tracts of open space.</p> <p>Retain land along Petersville Road sufficient for construction of waysides and trailhead parking. Maintain a scenic buffer of 150' each side of Petersville Road right-of-way. Protect trails and easements. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffer. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on Kroto Creek.</p>	<p>This unit borders the Kroto Creek State Recreation River on the east and is adjacent and north of the Petersville Road. This unit has level terrain and encompasses a wetland complex interspersed in a mixed forest.</p> <p>There have been state land disposals in this unit and there are numerous small recreation lots and cabins scattered throughout this unit, with concentrations occurring along streams.</p> <p>Anadromous Seventeen Mile Creek, Gate Creek, and tributaries to Moose Creek are present in the unit.</p> <p>Numerous trails within this unit include ADLs 228839 and 221614. Multiple private access easements exist in this unit.</p> <p>Mineral Closing Order 157 affects this unit.</p>
P-06	Rd, Wr 8,000	Map 3-9 S027N007W	<p>Manage unit consistent with the adjacent State Recreation River to protect fish and wildlife habitat and public recreation. Authorizations, except those related to recreation, public safety or environmental protection are considered inappropriate. Maintain existing trails. Protect the hydrologic functions of the wetlands. Retain land in state ownership.</p>	<p>This unit borders the Kroto Creek State Recreation River on the east. The area is mostly wetlands and therefore level topography. The unit is bisected by the East-West Express Trail (part of the State SnowTRAC program) ADL 228839. This trail allows easy access for winter recreationists from the Parks Highway or Petersville Road to the frozen wetlands complex.</p> <p>Anadromous Gate Creek and tributaries to Moose and Kroto creeks are within this unit.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-07	Ag 6,481	Map 3-9 S026N006W; S027N006W	<p>Manage unit for its agricultural values. Disposal and management of agricultural areas shall be consistent with the requirements of Chapter 2, sections pertaining to Agriculture; Fish and Wildlife Habitat; and Shorelands and Stream Corridors.</p> <p>Avoid existing residential land use and consider methods to minimize adverse impacts from agricultural operations during the preparation of the farm conservation plan. Protect anadromous streams.</p>	<p>This unit lies on the western border of the Moose Creek State Recreation River. The rolling terrain is covered with a mixed spruce-hardwood forest and interspersed wetlands. The unit is bisected by the East-West Express Trail (part of the State SnowTRAC program) ADL 228839.</p> <p>An anadromous tributary to Moose Creek runs through this unit.</p> <p>There have been past land sales in this unit concentrated along the stream in the southern portion. Mineral Closing Order 100 affects the unit.</p>
P-08	Ha, Rd 5,762	Maps 3-9, 3-10 Various	<p>Unit is to be retained in state ownership and managed to protect wildlife habitat and support recreational use. Personal use forestry may be appropriate as long as impact to the habitat and recreation values is minimized. Protect trails and easements.</p>	<p>This unit is comprised of those portions of the Chulitna River that runs through this Petersville Region, as well as some adjacent upland parcels mostly on the west bank. Islands within (between the outer banks of) the river are included. The Chulitna is a braided glacial stream. Many gravel bars and islands exist and they are covered with mostly deciduous forest and woody wetlands.</p> <p>The southern portion of the unit provides winter habitat for moose. The river itself is anadromous. The Chulitna Bluff-Rabideaux Trail (ADL 230118) parallels the river to its west and is part of the State SnowTRAC program.</p>
P-09	Ma 2,182	Map 3-10 Various	<p>Continued use of the material site is considered appropriate, subject to authorization by SCRO.</p> <p>Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers and minimize impact to moose winter habitat.</p> <p>Protect trails and easements. Maintain a scenic buffer adjacent to the Parks Highway and Petersville Road.</p>	<p>This unit is comprised of a series of material sites attached to the Parks Highway as it runs from the Susitna River Bridge to the southern boundary of Denali State Park. One site is on the Petersville Road. Sites include the following, some of which are ILMAs to ADOT/PF: ADLs 45708, 45707, 45706, 45705, 39400, 45704, 45703, 45658, 45659, 45660, 45661, 45662, 45664, 201962 and 57589.</p> <p>Public utility easement ADL 61886 and the right-of-way for the Parks Highway affect these parcels. An MOU (ADL 229584) between the State of Alaska and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough attaches a 150 foot wide scenic buffer to each side of the Parks Highway right-of-way. The Chulitna Bluff-Rabideaux Trail (ADL 230118) is part of the State SnowTRAC program and crosses some of these parcels. LAS 22993, a forest sciences research plot, is issued to UAF.</p> <p>Portions of this unit provide moose winter habitat and anadromous streams cross several of the parcels.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-10	Ha, Rd 180	Map 3-10 S025N005W	Unit is to be managed to protect wildlife habitat and support recreational use. Retain in state ownership. Protect anadromous streams. Protect trails and easements.	<p>This unit is comprised of two small parcels in the vicinity of the Parks Highway and Petersville Road intersection. The parcels are mostly wetlands and anadromous Trapper Creek runs through the northern parcel. The unit provides moose winter habitat.</p> <p>The Chulitna Bluff-Rabideaux Trail (ADL 230118) is part of the State SnowTRAC program and crosses a portion of the unit.</p>
P-11	Rd, Wr 2,028	Map 3-9 S026N006W; S026N007W	<p>Manage unit to support recreation values and preserve hydrologic values. Retain in state ownership.</p> <p>Preserve a scenic buffer on Petersville Road and protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers. Manage existing communication sites pursuant to the lease agreements.</p>	<p>This unit consists of two parcels that border the Petersville Road. The eastern parcel is a wetland area adjacent to Scotty Lake and has an anadromous tributary to Rabideux Creek crossing it. The western parcel has anadromous tributaries to Kroto and Moose creeks crossing it and is mostly wetlands.</p> <p>Communications sites including ADLs 44350 and 215476 exist on the eastern parcel.</p>
P-12	Ag 8,637	Map 3-9 S026N006W; S025N006W; S025N005W	<p>Manage unit for agricultural use and/or disposal.</p> <p>Agricultural disposals are to carefully consider the impact of agricultural use upon wetlands, streams, and moose winter concentration areas. Such sales are to avoid or minimize impacts on moose winter concentration areas. Protect anadromous streams; impose riparian buffer in any disposal action. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Susitna River. Protect easements.</p>	<p>Unit is comprised of four parcels in the vicinity of the Parks Highway and Petersville Road intersection, all within a mile of a road. These parcels have extensive wetlands interspersed with the agricultural soils, which are presently covered with deciduous forest. Anadromous Rabideux Creek and its tributaries as well as tributaries of Moose Creek cross the parcels. Moose winter habitat is present in portions of this unit. Concentrations of brown bears occur seasonally along anadromous fish streams. A public access road (ADL 218684) exists in this unit.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-13	F 70,890	Map 3-9 Various	<p>Manage unit for its forest values. Unit is affected by the Susitna Forestry Guidelines or its successor; all timber sales must meet the requirements of 11 AAC 95. Forest land use plans must, in addition to these requirements, adhere to the requirements of the Forestry section in Chapter 2 (Areawide Land Management Policies).</p> <p>Because of the presence of important habitat and species scattered throughout portions of this unit, it is also to be managed for the maintenance of wildlife species, fisheries, and habitats consistent with Management Guideline B in the Fish and Wildlife Habitat section in Chapter 2 and other management guidelines in this section associated with waterfowl concentrations and moose wintering areas. Consult with ADF&G on sensitive habitats and wildlife locations prior to or concurrent with FLUP preparation.</p> <p>Protect anadromous streams and wetlands. Forestry riparian standards apply (AS 41.17.115 and AS 41.17.118) for riparian areas adjacent to anadromous and high value resident fish streams. Consult with ADF&G to determine the location of high value resident fish streams. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Kahiltna River and Peters Creek.</p> <p>Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. During FLUP preparation, identify these routes and provide suitable protection or mitigation. Coordinate with the SCRO/DMLW, and with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough on trail identification and routing.</p> <p>Effects of timber harvests on areas with remote cabins will be considered and mitigated. Additional land disposals are not appropriate within this unit. Retain land in state ownership. Portions of the unit may be appropriate for inclusion in a state forest.</p>	<p>This large unit consists of two parts straddling Kroto Creek State Recreation River. The majority of the land is covered with a mixed forest of deciduous and evergreen trees, dominated by paper birch and white spruce. Topography is gently rolling except for steep terrain where Bear and Peters creeks have cut through the landscape. Past state land sales have resulted in a few scattered private parcels within this unit. Numerous anadromous streams are present including the Kahiltna River, Peters Creek, Bear Creek, and tributaries to Kroto and Moose creeks.</p> <p>Moose winter habitat is present in the western half of the unit and portions of the unit are a summer/fall high use area for Tule geese. Concentrations of brown bears occur seasonally along anadromous fish streams especially Bear and Kroto creeks.</p> <p>Numerous trails are present including ADLs 46991 and 220609, both paralleling Peters Creek. RST 516 Black Creek Winter Trail and Oilwell Road (ADL 19522) cross this unit. A known mushroom harvest area is within this unit.</p> <p>Mining claims cover the western half of the unit and MCO 153 affects a small portion of the southwest corner of this unit.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-14	Se 15,780	Map 3-9 Various	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period and is to be retained for the purpose of supporting state land disposals.</p> <p>As part of subdivision design or remote staking projects, protect remaining lakeshore and wetland areas adjacent to streams using the guidelines found in Chapter 2. Within existing subdivisions maintain existing tracts of open space.</p> <p>Protect trails and easements.</p> <p>Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffer and avoid moose winter concentration areas and seasonal brown bear concentrations.</p>	<p>This unit consists of four parcels in the southern half of the Petersville Region. All parcels have been involved in past land sales resulting in dozens of private parcels mostly situated along streams and lakeshores. The terrain is gently rolling, covered with a mixed spruce-hardwood forest and interspersed wetlands. Numerous lakes are present and provide some access. Some of the larger lakes are Schneider, Whistling, and Sawmill lakes.</p> <p>Oilwell Road and multiple access easements off this road cross the largest parcel. Trails present include the Amber Lake Trail (ADL 228646) part of the State SnowTRAC Program, as well as local trails such as ADLs 200221, 226059, 19522 and 64788.</p> <p>Anadromous tributaries to Moose and Kroto creeks are present in all parcels. The largest parcel has some moose winter habitat. Concentrations of brown bears occur seasonally along anadromous fish streams.</p> <p>MCO 101, 248, 317, and 199 affect this unit.</p>
P-15	Ha, Wr 19,852	Map 3-9 Various	<p>Manage to protect habitat and hydrologic functions. Retain in state ownership.</p> <p>A 150 foot scenic buffer each side of the right-of-way for the Parks Highway is to be maintained in natural vegetation, although trailhead enhancements may be appropriate. Protect trails and easements.</p>	<p>This unit consists of four parcels in the southeast corner of the Petersville Region. They are mostly level terrain with extensive wetlands with islands of mixed spruce-hardwood forest scattered within. Rockys Lakes and other smaller lakes are scattered throughout this unit. Within the largest parcel past land sales have resulted in a few private lots and a timber sale was conducted here in the 1980s.</p> <p>The right-of-way for the Parks Highway affects these parcels. An MOU (ADL 229584) between the State of Alaska and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough attaches a 150 foot wide scenic buffer to each side of the Parks Highway right-of-way. The Chulitna Bluff-Rabideux and Amber Lake trails (ADL 228646) are part of the State SnowTRAC program and cross some of these parcels. There are also other local trails including ADL 40952. An access route and utility easement (ADL 215242) is within this unit.</p> <p>Numerous anadromous tributaries of the Susitna River cross this unit. Moose winter habitat and swan nesting habitat are present. Concentrations of brown bears occur seasonally along anadromous fish streams.</p> <p>Mineral Closing Order 101 affects a portion of this unit.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-16	Se 9,805	Map 3-9 S024N005W; S024N006W	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period and is to be retained for the purpose of supporting state land disposals.</p> <p>As part of subdivision design or remote staking projects, protect remaining lakeshore and wetland areas adjacent to streams using the guidelines found in Chapter 2.</p> <p>Protect trails and easements. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffer.</p>	<p>This unit consists of two parcels lying between the Moose Creek State Recreation River and the Susitna River. The level terrain is covered with a mixed spruce-hardwood forest with extensive wetlands interspersed. A few small lakes are present and past land sales have resulted in a few lakes in the western parcel being ringed by private lots. A land sales project area ADL 229344 affects the western parcel.</p> <p>The Trapper Lake-Rabideux and Amber Lake trails (ADL 228646) are part of the State SnowTRAC program and cross these parcels. There are also other local trails.</p> <p>Anadromous tributaries of Moose Creek cross the western parcel. Moose winter habitat and swan nesting habitat are present. Concentrations of brown bears occur seasonally along anadromous fish streams.</p> <p>Mineral Closing Order 101 affects the western parcel.</p>
P-17	Ag 5,330	Map 3-9 S024N006W; S024N007W	<p>Manage unit for agricultural use and/or disposal.</p> <p>Agricultural disposals are to carefully consider the impact of agricultural use upon wetlands, swan nesting habitat and moose winter concentration areas. Such sales are to avoid or minimize impacts on swan nesting habitat and moose winter concentration areas. Protect anadromous streams; impose riparian buffer in any disposal action.</p> <p>Protect trails and easements.</p>	<p>This unit is located between and abuts both the Moose Creek and Kroto Creek State Recreation Rivers. It is level terrain covered with a mixed spruce-hardwood forest and interspersed with wetlands.</p> <p>The Amber Lake Trail (ADL 228646), part of the State SnowTRAC program, crosses this parcel.</p> <p>Anadromous tributaries of Kroto Creek cross the unit. Moose winter habitat and swan nesting habitat are present. Concentrations of brown bears occur seasonally along anadromous fish streams.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-18	Gu 1,760	Map 3-9 S028N005W	<p>Permanent encumbrances are not to be issued on this parcel unless approved by the borough (see note in resource information) during the period of time that this parcel remains conditionally conveyed to the borough.</p> <p>Although the plan designation of General Use is assigned, indicating that multiple uses may occur on this parcel, use and management of the parcel is affected by the requirement that is described above and may not occur unless authorized by the borough.</p> <p>At such time as it is determined that this land is not needed to meet the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's entitlement, the conditional approval to the borough is rescinded and the state resumes full management authority. At that time this parcel may be appropriate for state land disposals, but the land would need to be reclassified.</p>	<p>This unit is located on a bench of land on the west side of the Susitna River and south of Denali State Park. It is part of a large block of Matanuska-Susitna Borough selected land, most of which has been conveyed to the borough.</p> <p>The land is a mixed spruce-hardwood forest with interspersed wetlands situated on a level bench above the anadromous Susitna River.</p> <p>MCO 130 affects this unit.</p> <p>Note: This parcel was conditionally approved for conveyance to the borough (see ADL 229271). It is part of and remains in a pool of land that is to be used to meet the borough's entitlement if the currently approved municipal selections are insufficient, which may not be known for some time. Until land approved in entitlement decisions is surveyed and title is transferred to the borough, the exact acreage of land being transferred to the borough is not known with certainty. If the acreage of approved conveyances is insufficient to meet the borough's entitlement, lands from this pool of conditionally approved land will be used to meet the remaining entitlement. At such time as the borough's entitlement is fully met, and assuming this parcel is not required to meet their entitlement requirements, the conditional approval is rescinded from any remaining land in the pool.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-19	Rd 1,622	Maps 3-9, 3-10 S028N004W; S028N005W; S027N005W	<p>Permanent encumbrances are not to be issued on this parcel unless approved by the borough (see note in resource information) during the period of time that this parcel remains conditionally conveyed to the borough.</p> <p>Although the plan designation of Public Recreation is assigned, indicating that recreation uses may occur on this parcel, all state land is considered appropriate for multiple use. In this instance, use and management of the parcel is affected by the requirement that is described above and may not occur unless authorized by the borough.</p> <p>At such time as it is determined that this land is not needed to meet the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's entitlement, the conditional approval to the borough is rescinded and the state resumes full management authority. If/when this occurs, the land is to be retained by the state and managed for its recreation uses and values.</p>	<p>The land encompasses a narrow strip of land along the west bank of the Susitna River south of Denali State Park. It is part of a large block of Matanuska-Susitna Borough selected land, most of which has been conveyed to the borough. This particular parcel was conditionally approved (see ADL 229271) and the same circumstances as explained in the description for Unit P-18 above apply.</p> <p>Much of the land is in the floodplain of the anadromous Susitna River and is covered with a mixed spruce-hardwood forest. It encompasses a steep bluff in places. The railroad runs along the opposite shore. Recreational use is year round on the river. Concentrations of brown bears occur seasonally along anadromous fish streams.</p> <p>MCO 130 affects this unit.</p> <p>Note: This parcel was conditionally approved for conveyance to the borough (see ADL 229271). It is part of and remains in a pool of land that is to be used to meet the borough's entitlement if the currently approved municipal selections are insufficient, which may not be known for some time. Until land approved in entitlement decisions is surveyed and title is transferred to the borough, the exact acreage of land being transferred to the borough is not known with certainty. If the acreage of approved conveyances is insufficient to meet the borough's entitlement, lands from this pool of conditionally approved land will be used to meet the remaining entitlement. At such time as the borough's entitlement is fully met, and assuming this parcel is not required to meet their entitlement requirements, the conditional approval is rescinded from any remaining land in the pool.</p>
P-20	Rp 424	Map 3-9 S028N005W	Manage this unit for recreation pursuant to ILMA ADL 225371 with the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. Retain land in state ownership.	This small unit encompasses the Blair Lake State Recreation Area. It adjoins the southern border of Denali State Park and is located on the south shore of Blair Lake.
L-01	Ha, Rd 39,645 within this region	Map 3-9 Various	<p>State Recreation Rivers occur within this region.</p> <p>Consult the Legislative Designated Area section of the Resource Allocation Table for management guidance and requirements.</p>	

Total state land within region (20 units and portions of 1 LDA) – 291,661 acres

Sunflower Basin Region

The Sunflower Basin region encompasses approximately 536,000 acres in the northwestern part of the planning area and includes Chelatna Lake and the majority of the Dutch Hills and Peters Hills area. Its north and west boundaries are formed by Denali National Park and Preserve and Denali State Park. The southwestern boundary follows the Yentna River and Donkey Creek Slough. The eastern border lies between Peters Creek and Peters Hills and Little Peters Hills. The southern part of the region includes Mt. Yenlo. Refer to Figure 3-1 to locate the map of a particular area.

Distribution and Characteristics

With the exception of limited private holdings, the state owns nearly all of the land within the region. There are approximately 486,000 acres of state general domain land and approximately 44,000 acres of LDA affected land. The limited private holdings include areas of previous remote sales (Donkey Creek Slough), and areas related historically to mining that occur near Collinsville and Peters Creek. Most of the region is characterized by generally flat to gently sloping terrain, with hilly to mountainous terrain concentrated at the Peters Hills, Little Peters Hill, Dutch Hills and Mt. Yenlo. Fairly distinctive vegetation patterns exist, reflecting elevation, hydrology, and soil conditions. Within lowland areas, which occupy the more central part of the region, many areas are characterized by wetlands or woody wetlands. In areas adjacent to many of the streams, particularly the Kahiltna River, deciduous and mixed forests are prevalent. Depending on elevation, upland areas can be forested (upland spruce-hardwood forest) or vegetated by brush, alpine tundra, or barren rock.

State land within this region is to be managed as state public domain land under the authority of Title 38 of the Alaska Statutes. Two areas have been designated as “special purpose sites” by the Legislature and these are to be managed consistent with statutory intent. Termed Legislatively Designated Areas, these include the Lake Creek State Recreation River and the Petersville Recreational Mining Area. State Recreation Rivers are to be managed consistent with AS 41.23.500 and with the DNR Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan. The Petersville Mining District is to be managed consistent with AS 41.23.600 and the requirements of a management plan that is to be prepared for such areas. (No such plan currently exists.)

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

The level of access to this large region varies considerably. Access to the Petersville area is good and is provided by the Petersville Road, an ORV accessible route open primarily in the summer. Access to the remaining areas of the region is limited, reflecting the remote and generally inaccessible location of most state lands.

Regional and local trails provide access. Two major trail systems, one originating about five miles north of Petersville and the other originating at the junction of Petersville Road and Peters Creek, branch off to provide access to placer mines and hunting and recreation areas. These trails receive extensive all-terrain vehicle use for hunting on the east side of the Kahiltna River. Local and regional trails, many of which are RS 2477s, provide access to the remainder of the region, particularly to areas historically important for placer mining. Foot travel is popular. Access is also provided by float or wheeled fixed wing aircraft that use lakes, private airstrips or gravel bars for landing. About 15 airstrips are located along the trail system; some are privately owned and the remainder, publicly owned. Water access is available on the Kahiltna River but is often hampered by local weather conditions. Access west of the Kahiltna River is predominately by air.

Moose are present throughout the region, with concentrations occurring along the drainages, especially the Kahiltna River drainage and adjacent wetlands. Both winter concentration and rutting areas are present within these areas. Elsewhere, moose rutting areas are distributed widely, with concentrations occurring at Mount Yenlo, the Peters Hills, Little Peters Hills, Donkey Hills, and west of Lake Chelatna. The Kahiltna River drainage provides habitat areas for both waterfowl and trumpeter swans. Swan nesting, brood rearing, and molting sites occur within this drainage. This area also supports large concentrations of Tule geese in the summer and fall. The larger streams are anadromous and many of their tributaries, similarly anadromous. Depending on location these streams contain king, silver, pink, or chum migration, rearing, or spawning areas. Lake Creek and Peters Creek are heavily used fishing streams. The area along the Petersville Road and east of the Kahiltna River are used heavily for hunting. Moose, black bear, and brown bear are the most popular big game species.

Significant mineral and moderate coal, oil, and gas resources exist within this region. Placer mining for gold has been and will probably continue to be an important activity in the historic mining areas around Collinsville (Fairview Mountain) and Petersville (Cache and Peters creeks). Mining claims blanket each of these areas. Although additional mineral closures are not recommended in this plan revision, the two existing closure areas are intended to continue: these include the areas of settlement at Donkey Creek Slough and the Lake Creek State Recreation River. These closures do not affect mineral leasing however, and this type of mineral development may occur throughout the region, including portions of the Lake Creek SRR. Lignite and sub-bituminous coal resources, associated with the Cook Inlet Coal Province, occur at locations within the region. The region is open to coal

exploration and leasing except for the areas affected by the State Recreation River LDA. The entire region is open to oil and gas exploration and extraction although certain stipulations, derived from the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Plan and designed to protect public recreation and habitat values, apply in Lake Creek State Recreation River.

Forest and agricultural resources also exist within the region; these occur in specific areas adjoining the Kahiltna River and are part of the Division of Forestry's Priority 1 areas, or those areas of highest priority for inclusion in a program of systematic forest management. Soils suitable for agriculture are found at a number of scattered locations in the region, but concentrate either within the Lake Creek SRR or the floodplain of the Kahiltna River. Agriculture use is not permitted within the SRR, but areas adjacent to the Kahiltna River are suitable and available for agricultural use.

Public use of this region varies greatly and generally reflects the presence of access, provided either along trails or overland by all-terrain vehicles. Public recreation is focused on the Lake and Peters Creeks during the summer season for sport fishing of Chinook and silver salmon. Public use of this region is also heavy in spots during the fall. The majority of hunting use occurs along the Petersville Road and the branching trail systems east of the Kahiltna River. Moose, black bear, and brown bear are the most popular big game species.

Management Constraints

Several state and local management plans affect the planning area and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the Sunflower Basin Region.

State plans affecting this region include the 1985 Susitna Area Plan, which is being revised with this update, and the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan (1991). The Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan provides guidance on the management of state surface and subsurface resources within state recreation rivers. Although it intended that the SMAP only affect state general domain land, if there is a conflict between the recommendations of this plan as they relate to a State Recreation River, the Management Plan controls.

Local plans include the Borough Comprehensive Development Plan and Coastal Management Plan. Local plans contain both generalized land use recommendations and resource management requirements and were helpful in the formulation of recommendations. There are no local comprehensive plans affecting this region.

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 for its mineral, habitat, water resource, or forest resource values. A relatively small amount will also be used for land disposals related to settlement or agriculture. Some areas are co-designated Water Resources and Habitat and will be managed for both their hydraulic and habitat functions.

Most of the mountainous areas near Mount Fairview or within the Peters Hills and Dutch Hills are designated Minerals (approximately 91,000 acres), reflecting their historic mining use as well as mineral potential. Areas designated Minerals will be managed for this activity and, since moose rutting and waterfowl concentration areas exist within portions of these areas, especially the area adjacent to Mount Fairview, for their habitat values as well. Areas with significant habitat values are co-designated Minerals and Habitat (approximately 38,000 acres). The majority of the central, eastern, and southern areas that occupy lowlands are either designated Forestry or Habitat co-designated with Water Resources. Areas designated Forestry (approximately 15,000 acres) will be managed for this resource while those co-designated Habitat/Water Resources will be managed to protect the hydraulic function of extensive wetland areas and the riverine areas that adjoin the region's streams. Areas co-designated Water Resources and Habitat (approximately 214,000 acres) occur where there is a significant presence of waterfowl, trumpeter swan nesting/brood rearing/molting areas, or where moose winter concentration or calving/rutting exist. In these instances, state land is to be managed to protect these resources as well as their hydrologic values. One area, located next to streams or lakes, is designated Settlement (approximately 65,000 acres), and is recommended for disposal during the planning period. Consult the Resource Allocation Table for specific recommendations.

Areas designated Forestry are to be managed for overall forest resource management, which includes timber harvest at specific locations that may be identified in future Five-Year Timber Sales Schedule prepared by DOF. Such areas are to be managed in a comprehensive, holistic fashion such that access is preserved, public recreation allowed to continue, and significant habitats and wetlands protected. Not all of the area designated Forestry contains forest resources. State land in this region is characterized by a mixture of wetlands and forested uplands, and many of these areas provide important habitat and recreation functions. It was determined in the plan preparation process that it would be impracticable to carve out all of the many areas important as wetlands or habitats and that inclusion of large areas of state land with a variety of resource values within a Forestry designation made the most sense since such areas must be managed comprehensively for multiple uses and the Forestry designation is a multiple use designation that encompasses the principles of recreation use and habitat protection. Accordingly, the management intent statement for management units designated Forestry will often include statements concerning the protection of wetlands and habitats, provision of recreation, and maintenance of public access. This management intent is consistent with the Division of Forestry's 'working forest' management concept. All areas designated Forestry are to be retained in state ownership. The management of areas designated Forestry will be guided by the Forest Resources and Practices Act; Susitna Forestry Guidelines, or its successor; and this area plan.

Resource Allocation Table – Sunflower Basin Region⁵

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
B-01	Ha 61,401	Map 3-8 S027N013W; S028N013W; S028N012W; S028N011W	Manage unit to protect its habitat values. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	<p>This large unit occupies the far northwestern part of the Sunflower Basin region. It is remote, inaccessible, and generally unfavorable to development and intensive public use. Terrain is typically mountainous except for the generally flat areas associated with the river basin of Sunflower Creek, an area known as the Sunflower Basin. Vegetation characteristically is shrub in areas of lower elevation, including the area of Sunflower Basin, and either barren rock or dwarf shrub at higher elevations.</p> <p>Moose are known to be present in portions of this unit, generally coinciding with the Sunflower Basin. Rutting areas also occur throughout portions of the unit. Several anadromous streams are present.</p> <p>Except for a small area within the eastern part of S028N013W, the unit consists entirely of state-owned land.</p> <p>Several RS 2477 routes cross portions of this parcel; these include RSTs 228 and 1608. Public easements within this unit include ADL 230038 and 230057. A GPS station, LAS 25649, is within this unit.</p>

⁵ See the Resource Allocation Table for Legislative Designated Areas for information on L-01 (State Recreation Rivers) and L-02 (Petersville Recreational Mining Area).

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
B-02	Mi, Ha 38,430	Map 3-8 S027N012W; S026N012W	<p>Manage unit for its mineral resources and habitat values.</p> <p>Mineral development is appropriate within the unit but shall, during the regulatory review process, consider and mitigate the effects of potential operations on waterfowl and trumpeter swan concentrations, moose rutting areas, spring bear concentrations, and anadromous streams in consultation with ADF&G. See Management Guidelines K, L, and M in <i>Fish and Wildlife Habitat</i> section of Chapter 2. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers.</p> <p>Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. Coordinate trail location with SCRO and the borough. Consult the borough's Recreational Trails Management Plan.</p>	<p>Focusing on Fairview Mountain, this unit comprises a productive placer gold mining area. Terrain is generally flat to gently sloping except for its western part, which coincides with Fairview Mountain. Vegetation is characteristically shrub in the central and western parts, and a mix of woody wetlands, shrub, and woody wetlands in the eastern part. Trumpeter swans and waterfowl occupy substantial portions of the flatter, wetter parts of the unit and moose rutting areas are present in S026N012W. A number of anadromous stream traverse the unit and brown bears are present during the spring. The Lake Creek State Recreation River abuts the parcel on the northeast.</p> <p>Although little mining has occurred in recent years, this area has been historically important for placer mining, focusing on Mills Creek, Twin Creek, and Pass Creek, and occupies a portion of the Yentna Mining District. Platinum may also be present and can represent a secondary product from some placer mines.</p> <p>A number of local trails as well as RS 2477s traverse the parcel: RST 145, 228, 514, 515, 1608. Public easements within this unit include ADL 230038 and 230057. A GPS station, LAS 25649, is within this unit.</p>
B-03	Ha, Wr 16,572	Map 3-8 S027N011W; S026N011W; S026N010W	<p>Manage unit for its habitat and water resource (wetland) values. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.</p>	<p>Unit is bounded on the north by Denali National Park and Preserve, by the Lake Creek SRR on the west and on the east by the Kahiltna River.</p> <p>Terrain and vegetation are characterized by a broad band of forested uplands on the east side of the unit and by extensive lowlands on the west, which consist predominately of either wetlands or woody wetlands.</p> <p>Extensive wildlife and habitat resources exist within the unit, including winter concentration and rutting areas for moose, trumpeter swan concentrations, spring brown bear concentrations, and waterfowl (including both trumpeter swan and Tule Geese) nesting and molting sites. Several anadromous streams are present.</p> <p>Local trails and at least one RS 2477 trails exist within the unit (RST 515, 514 and 1608).</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
B-04	Ha, Wr 78,981	Map 3-8 S027N011W; S026N011W; S025N011W; S025N010W; S024N011W; S024N010W; S023N011W; S023N010W	Manage unit for its habitat and water resource (stream and wetland) values. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	<p>This large, generally flat unit is situated directly west of the Lake Creek SRR and occupies generally level terrain. In terms of topography and vegetation, two distinct regimes exist. Most of the unit, constituting the northern and central parts, is generally flat and is occupied by wetlands and by numerous streams, which often are lined by deciduous and evergreen vegetation. The southern part, in contrast, is characteristically hilly and is covered by a mix of shrub vegetation at the lower elevations and by shrub at the higher. This latter, hilly area coincides with the area known as Mount Yenlo.</p> <p>Although wetlands and streams constitute the principal resource features within the unit, it is also important for its habitat and wildlife values. Waterfowl (including Tule geese and trumpeter swans) are present in the wetland portion and the southern, hilly part functions as both moose rutting and calving as well as brown bear spring and stream concentration areas. There are numerous anadromous streams.</p> <p>A number of local trails traverse the unit and RST 514 and 515.</p>
B-05	Ha, Wr 50,244	Map 3-8 Various	Manage unit for its habitat and water resource (stream and wetland) values. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	<p>Spatially, this unit coincides with the Kahiltna River drainage, an extensive area about 7 miles wide at its greatest east-west extent and 30 miles long in the north-south direction. Most of this area is flat, particularly that area within the area of the river itself and its adjoining floodplain. Somewhat greater relief occurs immediately to the east of the floodplain, in better drained uplands. Wetlands and shrub vegetation predominates within the floodplain and in the forested uplands, primarily deciduous forest.</p> <p>This area provides important habitat for bear, moose and waterfowl, particularly within the areas of floodplain and wetlands. Trumpeter swans and Tule geese are present throughout the unit, with nesting, brood rearing, and molting concentration areas occurring. These same areas serve as a winter concentration and rutting areas for moose and a spring concentration area for brown bear. Waterfowl also heavily use this area, and portions of the unit are important as a fall concentration area. A number of anadromous streams are present.</p> <p>A number of local trails and RS 2477 routes traverse the unit; this includes RSTs 136, 514, 145, 515 and 1608.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
B-07	Mi	Map 3-8	Manage unit for its mineral values.	<p>This large unit in the northwestern part of the region is associated with state lands having a high mineral potential. This area is part of the Yenlo Placer Mining District and has historically produced placer gold from Peters Creek and a number of tributary streams (Dollar, Cottonwood, Bird, and Mills Creeks). It is believed that this geologic terrane has a lode mining potential as well, but mining of this type has not yet occurred.</p> <p>Terrain is typically moderately sloping except for the river valleys, particularly that valley associated with Peters Creek. There are scattered stands of deciduous vegetation within the Peters Creek valley but elsewhere the vegetation is shrub or dwarf shrub, depending on elevation.</p> <p>Moose are present in this unit, with rutting and winter concentration coinciding with areas of lower elevation. There are anadromous streams in the unit.</p> <p>Local trails and several RS 2477 routes are present (RST 136, 510, 511, 512, 513, 516 and 1608). Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.</p>
	92,151	Various	<p>Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. Coordinate trail location with SCRO and the borough. Consult the MSB Recreational Trails Management Plan.</p> <p>Protect anadromous streams with a riparian buffer, and avoid moose rutting and winter concentration areas. Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.</p>	
B-08	Ha, Wr	Maps 3-8, 3-9	Manage unit for its habitat and hydrologic (wetland and streams) values. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.	<p>Except for hilly terrain in the northern and southern parts of the unit, coinciding with the Peters Hills and Little Peters Hills, respectively, this unit is characterized by generally level terrain. It occupies the area between the Kahiltna River and Peters Creek, generally. The hilly to mountainous terrain is typically covered by shrub while lowland areas are a mixture of wetlands, woody wetlands, and shrub, depending on soil conditions and hydrology. Portions of these wetlands are extensive, probably existing as a hydrologic system.</p> <p>The habitat value and species diversity in this unit is significant. Wetland areas are used by waterfowl (fall concentration) and for molting and nesting by trumpeter swans. Moose are present throughout the unit and large portions of it are important as winter concentration areas and for both calving and rutting. There are numerous anadromous fish streams and brown bear are present during the spring. A mushroom harvest area is located within this unit.</p> <p>Several local trails exist and there are at least three RS 2477s that traverse the unit, including RSTs 136, 514, and 516. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.</p>
	68,123	Various		

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
B-09	Se 64,747	Map 3-9 Various	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period.</p> <p>Avoid moose winter concentration areas and bear spring concentration areas; provide open space or movement corridors if necessary.</p> <p>A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Yentna River. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.</p>	<p>This unit has been designated for settlement since at least 1985, and has experienced considerable remote lot settlement patterns. This activity has been mostly concentrated adjacent to the more desirable areas, coinciding with both streams and lakes.</p> <p>Terrain within the unit is gently sloping to moderately sloping depending upon location. There are numerous streams and lakes scattered throughout the parcel, only some of which have existing remote lots. Vegetation varies greatly depending on local soil conditions and topography. Extensive areas are well vegetated with either deciduous forest, evergreen forest, or mixed forest. Areas that are poorly drained or have less suitable soils support a mix, depending on location, of shrub, wetland, or woody wetland vegetation.</p> <p>Trumpeter swans and waterfowl are present in the unit but not in significant concentrations. Moose and brown bear are also present and portions of the unit are important for rutting and as a winter concentration area (moose) and as a spring concentration area (bear). Numerous anadromous streams exist.</p> <p>Several local trails exist and there are at least two RS 2477s that traverse the unit (RST 1608 and 228). Multiple easements associated with access are within this unit.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
B-10	F 15,167	Map 3-9 S023N010W; S024N010W	<p>Manage unit for its forest values. Unit is affected by the Susitna Forestry Guidelines or its successor; all timber sales must meet the requirements of 11 AAC 95. Forest land use plans must, in addition to these requirements, adhere to the requirements of the Forestry section in Chapter 2 <i>Areawide Land Management Policies</i>.</p> <p>Because of the presence of important habitat and species scattered throughout portions of this unit, it is also to be managed for the maintenance of wildlife species, fisheries, and habitats consistent with Management Guideline B in the Fish and Wildlife Habitat section in Chapter 2 and other management guidelines in this section associated with waterfowl concentrations and moose wintering areas. Consult with ADF&G on sensitive habitats and wildlife locations prior to or concurrent with FLUP preparation.</p> <p>Protect anadromous streams and wetlands. Forestry riparian standards apply (AS 41.17.115 and AS 41.17.118) for riparian areas adjacent to anadromous and high value resident fish streams. Consult with ADF&G to determine the location of high value resident fish streams.</p> <p>Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. During FLUP preparation, identify these routes and provide suitable protection or mitigation. Coordinate with the SCRO/DMLW, and with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough on trail identification and routing.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership. Portions of the unit may be appropriate for inclusion in a state forest.</p>	<p>This unit occupies generally flat terrain just west of the Lake Creek SRR. Vegetation is a mix of wetlands, woody wetlands, shrub, and stringers of deciduous along streams and in areas of better well-drained soils, especially within S023N010W. This unit is part of the DOF Priority 1 forestry area within the planning area. Yenlo Creek, and its tributaries, cross much of this unit; all are considered anadromous.</p> <p>A moose concentration area occurs in portions of the unit, especially within S023N010W. Waterfowl and trumpeter swans are known to be present within the unit.</p>
L-01	Ha, Rd 43,959 within this region	Maps 3-8, 3-9	This unit includes all State Recreation Rivers in this region. See the section, <i>Legislatively Designated Areas</i> for detail on the management of this area.	
L-02	Min 489	Map 3-9	This unit includes the Petersville Recreational Mining Area, an LDA. See the section <i>Legislatively Designated Areas</i> following.	

Total state land within region (9 units and portions of 2 LDAs) – 530,263 acres

Susitna Lowlands Region

The Susitna Lowlands region occupies an area of approximately 1,060,000 acres in the central lowlands of the Susitna Valley. Its western boundary (roughly at Range 14W) is formed by the Alaska Range region and the Yentna River and its eastern boundary, by the Susitna River. This region includes the Susitna River and its associated shorelands. The northern boundary is formed by the Sunflower Basin and Petersville regions and its southern boundary, by the Mount Susitna region. Included within the planning area, and dominant features of this region, are a number of significant rivers, including the Skwentna, Kahiltna, and Yentna. Refer to Figure 3-1 to locate the map of a particular area.

Distribution and Characteristics

Most of the land within this region is owned by the state (approximately 974,000 acres), and little land is in selection status. Borough entitlement lands (roughly 10% of this total) are scattered throughout the region and often occur at areas with desirable features for rural residential settlement – often lakes and streams. There are numerous small parcels in private ownership that were purchased under state land disposals. Most of these parcels are located on or near water.

The region is characterized by generally flat terrain with some areas of gently rolling terrain. This extensive lowlands region is characterized by a large number of lakes, small streams, and extensive areas of wetlands. Some of these wetlands occupy large contiguous areas while some occupy smaller areas and are often aligned linearly or, more typically, are distributed in a scattered fashion. Vegetation within this lowland area is, typically, associated with wetlands. Wetlands occur throughout the region but are particularly prevalent east of the Kahiltna River to Neil Lake and immediately west of the Susitna River to (approximately) Neil Lake. Upland areas with better soils are typically vegetated by deciduous and mixed forest, although concentrations of evergreen forest often occur adjacent to streams and within areas where soil conditions, hydrology, and access to sunlight are particularly suited to their growth.

State land within this region is to be managed as state general domain land under the authority of Title 38 of the Alaska Statutes. Two areas within this region, however, have been designated as “special purpose sites” by the Legislature and these are to be managed consistent with statutory intent. Termed Legislatively Designated Areas, these are the three State Recreation Rivers that include Lake Creek, Alexander Creek, and the Deshka River plus its two principal tributaries – Kroto Creek and Moose Creek. State Recreation Rivers are to be managed consistent with AS 41.23.500 and with the DNR Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Access to and within the Susitna Lowlands region is limited. This region is currently accessed by air, trail, or boat. There are a number of landing strips throughout the region and many lakes are floatplane accessible. Gravel bars along rivers are also used for aircraft landings. Boats from Anchorage or from a number of sites in the Susitna Valley (principally Deshka Landing) access the region using the Skwentna, Yentna, Deshka, and Susitna Rivers. There are no year-round roads. Foot travel is popular. Winter and summer vehicles (principally ATVs) use local and regional trails for travel, including the Iditarod National Historic Trail System (INHTS) and Iditarod Race Trail. These trails are distributed throughout the region as are the uses associated with these trails. Many trails emanate southward from the Petersville Road. Seismic lines crossing the region are also used as winter trails. Access west of the Kahiltna River is principally by air.

The region functions to provide important habitat to a wide variety of species, but, particularly, brown bear and moose. Brown bear habitat is distributed throughout the region and is related to both seasonal and fish stream concentrations. Moose are present throughout the region and many areas are important as winter habitat or provide rutting habitat. Moose calving areas exist, but are all located in the southern part of the region south of the Skwentna River. All of the major streams and all of their principal tributaries are categorized as anadromous by ADF&G and many of these streams are believed important as habitat for resident fish species. All of the four species of salmon are present within the region. Dall sheep and caribou are not present.

The principal natural resources in the region are related to land available for settlement and that can be used for forest management or agriculture.

Land for residential development, mostly of a rural remote type, is distributed throughout the region and generally coincides with area of previous land disposals of this type by the state. Most of these disposals, and most of the remaining land suitable for settlement, coincide with attractive features, which are principally lakes, streams, and sites with scenic views.

Extensive areas of the region contain areas valuable for their forest resources. Approximately 319,000 acres of this type of state land exists in this region. A substantial amount of the area designated Forestry contains areas of wetlands and other valuable resources and these will be managed to protect these resources for recreation and fish and wildlife use. Areas designated Forestry represent those areas that are part of the DOF Priority 1 areas, or those areas of highest priority for inclusion in a program of systematic forest management, which would include timber harvest at certain locations. Recreation activity is widespread throughout the region and generally coincides with fall hunting for moose and bear and summer sport fishing along the major streams, and particularly those streams that historically had good runs of salmon and that are fairly easily accessible. The Deshka River and its tributaries as well as Lake Creek both experience high levels of use during the summer, with the use coinciding with the timing of the runs. Areas designated

Forestry are also important habitat and provide important habitat to a variety of species, including brown bear and moose.

A number of locations within the region provide soils considered suitable to agriculture (Class 2 and 3 soils, NRCS). Most of the state land suitable for agriculture occurs in the lowlands immediately west of the Susitna River. Other smaller areas scattered at different locations throughout the region also contain areas appropriate for agriculture.

There are no significant mineral resources or coal resources within the region.

Public use of this region varies greatly and generally reflects the availability of access, provided along trails, overland by all-terrain vehicles, or by boat. Public recreation during the summer is focused on the major recreational rivers of the Susitna, Lake Creek, and Deshka, although significant fishing pressure also occurs along portions of the Skwentna River. Public use of this region also occurs during the fall and winter. Moose, black, and brown bear are the most popular big game species, and hunting pressure tends to be the greatest near the areas of access available in the region – principally the trails used by ATVs and accessible by boat. During the winter snowmachine use occurs in many places given the presence of large frozen rivers and the many wide, open, flat areas that are conducive to snowmachine use. The Iditarod race occurs in the region.

Management Constraints

Several local management plans affect this region and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the South Parks Highway Region. Local plans include the Borough Comprehensive Development Plan and Coastal Management Plan. These plans contain both generalized land use recommendations and resource management requirements and were helpful in the formulation of recommendations.

Several state management plans affect this region: the 1985 Susitna Area Plan, which is being revised in this update, and the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan, which controls the management of state land within the Talkeetna River State Recreation River. The latter is not affected by the SMAP revision.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management intent/recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. Most land will be managed in a manner similar to its designation, which means that state land in the Susitna Lowlands region will be primarily managed for its habitat, recreation, and water resource values. Fully 35% of all state land will be managed for the protection of these resources and or for recreational use. (Note: this estimate does not include the acreage associated with the State Recreation Rivers, which is approximately 78,000 acres.) These uses and resources are

managed through the use of co-designations with the Habitat designation. The Habitat/Water Resources is intended to manage for both its habitat and water resource values, and is approximately 260,000 acres. The management focus of the Habitat/Dispersed Recreation designation is to accommodate recreational uses while protecting important habitat areas; these areas total approximately 63,000 acres. Areas of state land affected by these co-designations are to be preserved in their natural state and retained in state ownership.

The remaining state land, or 65% of the total amount of state land in the region, is to be managed for agriculture or forestry or made available for settlement.

Large areas of the region are designated Forestry and are to be managed for overall forest resource management, which includes timber harvest at specific locations that may be identified in future Five-Year Timber Sales Schedule prepared by DOF. Importantly, areas designated Forestry are to be managed in a comprehensive, holistic fashion such that access is preserved, public recreation allowed to continue, and significant habitats and wetlands protected. Not all of the area designated Forestry contains forest resources. State land in this region is characterized by a mixture of wetlands and forested uplands, and many of these areas provide important habitat and recreation functions. It was determined in the plan preparation process that it would be impracticable to carve out all of the many areas important as wetlands or habitats and that inclusion of large areas of state land with a variety of resource values within a Forestry designation made the most sense since such areas must be managed comprehensively for multiple uses and the Forestry designation is a multiple use designation that encompasses the principles of recreation use and habitat protection. Accordingly, the management intent statement for management units designated Forestry will often include statements concerning the protection of wetlands and habitats, provision of recreation, and maintenance of public access. This management intent is consistent with the Division of Forestry's 'working forest' management concept. All areas designated Forestry are to be retained in state ownership. The management of areas designated Forestry will be guided by the Forest Resources and Practices Act; Susitna Forestry Guidelines, or its successor; and this area plan.

Continued use of the region for remote settlement is also envisaged. Approximately 215,000 acres of state land are identified for this function, with the areas of Settlement largely coinciding with those areas identified in the 1985 SAP for that purpose. These areas tend to be distributed around attractive resources such as rivers, lakes, and areas with scenic view. Since this revision of the 1985 SAP largely uses the same areas for settlement as in the original plan, most settlement areas that are recommended in the revision will occur in areas with current recreational lots and recreational cabins. Areas designated Settlement are appropriate for disposal.

A significant amount of land is set aside for agriculture. Approximately 38,000 acres, or roughly half of all Agriculture land within the planning area, is situated in the Susitna Lowlands region. Most of the state land designated Agriculture is situated in a large, contiguous area west of the Susitna River in areas with soils suitable for agriculture. This area, it should be noted, is the last large area of agricultural land in state ownership within

South-central Alaska. The plan does not require that this land be retained in state ownership or place specific restrictions on the disposal of agricultural land other than that provided under Alaska statute. That said careful consideration should be given to the disposal of this land given the absence of alternative locations. Areas designated Agriculture are appropriate for disposal.

Pipelines may need to be constructed in this region. While there are no pipeline corridors designated in this plan (this is the function of more detailed studies), there is nothing in this plan that affects the placement of such facilities directly.

Resource Allocation Table – Susitna Lowlands Region

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-01	Ha, Wr 91,489	Maps 3-5, 3-6, 3-9 Various	Manage unit to protect its habitat and hydrologic values. Protect trails (including the Iditarod Race Trail), easements and RS 2477 routes. Retain in state ownership.	<p>This large unit occupies generally level lowlands situated immediately west of the Susitna River. It is bounded on the east by the Susitna River and on the west by a State Recreation River (Kroto Creek, a tributary to the Deshka River). These lowlands are vegetated primarily with woody wetlands and, in dispersed locations, ribbons of deciduous forest. Several anadromous streams traverse the unit and a variety of wildlife species are present. This area is generally used by moose and large portions of the unit are used for winter concentration. Brown bears are known to be present on some of the anadromous fish streams seasonally and, owing to the presence of open water and favorable habitat, swans occupy dispersed nesting sites. Portions of the Iditarod Race Trail are in this unit. The Amber Lake-Trapper Lake Trail System (ADL 228646) traverses this unit.</p> <p>Note: the areas of better soil, supporting deciduous and mixed forests, are included in a separate unit, U-14.</p>
U-02	Se 5,147	Map 3-9 S023N006W; S021N006W; S022N006W	<p>Remote recreation land disposals are considered appropriate during the planning period.</p> <p>A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Deshka River. Protect anadromous stream with riparian buffers; avoid brown bear concentration areas.</p> <p>Protect trails and easements.</p>	<p>This unit consists of two subparcels: the northern subparcel occupies areas to the west and east of a small anadromous stream associated with Trapper Lake, located immediately to the south of this parcel. Portions of the unit area occupied by wetlands, although better soils, which characterize the areas adjacent to the stream, are occupied by deciduous forests, along with a scattering of evergreen forest. Brown bears are known to be present along fish streams and portions of the unit are important as a moose winter concentration area. A State Recreation River adjoins the parcel to the west (Moose Creek).</p> <p>A settlement project area, associated with state remote recreation sales, affects this unit, and there have been several sales. (ADL 229300; Moose Creek East Remote Recreation Cabin sites). The remainder of the remote recreational project area occurs in the adjacent region within unit P-16. See also that parcel for additional pertinent information. A regional trail and public access easement traverse this unit.</p> <p>The southern parcel is situated adjacent to and north of Neil Lake. Remote lots have been disposed of by the state in the area around the lake. Some of the area north of this lake is unoccupied and may be appropriate for a residential land disposal. The entire subunit occupies generally level terrain and vegetation is generally either mixed or evergreen forest. Wetlands occupy portions of the subunit north of the lake.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-03	Se 28,036	Map 3-9 S022N007W; S022N008W; S023N007W; S023N008W; S024N008W	Remote recreation land disposals are considered appropriate during the planning period within the western parcel. State land within the eastern parcel is to be retained. Protect trails and habitat values through settlement design and easements.	This unit consists of two separate parcels which are some distance apart from each other. The westernmost parcel is by far the largest of the two and contains an area of a previous remote recreation disposal, while the smaller of the two has been subdivided (ASLS 82-0126) into lots, some of which are situated along a lake. The western parcel is generally flat and contains a mixture of wetlands and deciduous forest on some of the uplands. A number of remote lots have been conveyed, and are situated on the wooded uplands. The eastern parcel is similarly level, and is vegetated almost entirely by deciduous forest. Although some of the lots have been conveyed, a number still remain available at the time of this writing. Moose are known to be present in the unit. A regional trail and the Amber Lake-Trapper Lake Trail System (ADL 228646) traverse this unit. Note: a portion of the western parcel is adjacent to Petersville Region unit P-14.

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-04	F 154,896	Maps 3-6, 3-9 Various	<p>Manage unit for its forest values. Unit is affected by the Susitna Forestry Guidelines or its successor; all timber sales must meet the requirements of 11 AAC 95. Forest land use plans must, in addition to these requirements, adhere to the requirements of the Forestry section in Chapter 2 <i>Areawide Land Management Policies</i>.</p> <p>Because of the presence of important habitat and species scattered throughout portions of this unit, it is also to be managed for the maintenance of wildlife species, fisheries, and habitats consistent with Management Guideline B in the <i>Fish and Wildlife Habitat</i> section in Chapter 2 and other management guidelines in this section associated with waterfowl concentrations and moose wintering areas. Consult with ADF&G on sensitive habitats and wildlife locations prior to or concurrent with FLUP preparation.</p> <p>A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Yentna and Kahiltna rivers. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Susitna River. Protect anadromous streams and wetlands. Forestry riparian standards apply (AS 41.17.115 and AS 41.17.118) for riparian areas adjacent to anadromous and high value resident fish streams. Consult with ADF&G to determine the location of high value resident fish streams.</p> <p>Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, which include the INHTS and Iditarod Race Trail. During FLUP preparation, identify these routes and provide suitable protection or mitigation. Coordinate with the SCRO/DMLW, and with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough on trail identification and routing.</p> <p>Effects of timber harvests on areas with remote cabins will be considered and mitigated. Additional land disposals are not appropriate within this unit.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership. Portions of the unit may be appropriate for inclusion in a state forest.</p>	<p>This extensive unit encompasses those areas within the region that have been identified as having merchantable timber.</p> <p>Vegetation types vary somewhat over this extensive area but are, in areas of that have better drainage and soils, either an upland spruce-hardwood forest adjacent to the Kahiltna River or lowland spruce-hardwood forest in remainder areas. Wetlands are interspersed throughout this area, and consist of scattered wetlands as well as some large areas of contiguous wetlands. Terrain is generally level to gently rolling. The Skwentna River is the major drainage feature in the southwestern portion of the parcel, although the Kahiltna River, since it traverses more of the central part of the unit, is more significant.</p> <p>The unit is an important habitat area for moose, waterfowl, and brown bear. It is a significant moose winter concentration area and waterfowl are distributed throughout the unit (dispersed nesting sites). Concentrations of brown bears occur seasonally along anadromous fish streams. A number of anadromous fish streams are present, the Kahiltna and Skwentna being the most important.</p> <p>Remote recreation cabins from previous state land disposals occur along the Skwentna and Kahiltna Rivers. At least two personal use cabins are within this unit. Additional permits include a commercial dock, winter trail kiosks and a remote camp. An ILMA with ADF&G for a fish research station and a permit for a fish recording station exist in this unit.</p> <p>At least three RS 2477s exists within the parcel (RST 136, 198 and 126) and there are a number of important regional trails. Portions of the INHTS and Iditarod Race Trail are in this unit. Public access easements include ADLs 227431, 212789, 220507, 212971 and 19522.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-05	Se 4,822	Map 3-9 S022N009W; S022N009W; S023N008W; S023N009W	Remote recreation land disposals are considered appropriate during the planning period. Protect anadromous stream. Avoid areas with brown bear concentrations and moose winter concentration areas. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Kahiltna River. Protect trails and easements.	<p>This unit is occupied by a large number of remote recreational cabins, reflecting prior state land disposals in this unit.</p> <p>The unit is characterized by fairly level topography vegetated extensively by areas of deciduous forest and mixed forest and along certain streams, by bands of evergreen forest. Numerous wetlands exist, with some forming long linear systems. The Kahiltna River traverses the eastern portion of the unit, while the western boundary of the unit is formed by Lake Creek, a State Recreation River. Both of these streams, as well as tributaries of the Kahiltna River, contain anadromous fish.</p> <p>Winter moose concentrations occur in this unit and waterfowl are known to be present. Brown bear concentrations occur along anadromous streams.</p>
U-06	Se 37,149	Map 3-9 S024N009W; S024N010W; S025N009W; S025N010W; S028N010W; S022N009W; S022N008W; S023N009W	Remote recreation land disposals are considered appropriate during the planning period. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Kahiltna River. Avoid areas with brown bear concentrations; provide migration corridors.	<p>This large unit, which is somewhat isolated from the remainder of the region, occupies uplands generally between Lake Creek, a State Recreation River, and the Kahiltna River.</p> <p>This unit, which is generally flat, consists of lowlands that are occupied by wetlands and uplands that are characterized by deciduous and mixed forest. Wetlands are particularly evident in the southern portion of the unit as well as that portion of the unit that adjoins Lake Creek SRR. Settlement, which has occurred over time, occupies the upland areas in the southern part of the unit in S024N009W and S024N010W.</p> <p>Moose and waterfowl are present in the unit and portions are used by brown bears seasonally along anadromous streams. Both Lake Creek and the Kahiltna River are anadromous streams as are several tributaries to these streams.</p> <p>State land disposals have occurred primarily in the southern portion of the unit.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-07	F 103,283	Map 3-9 Various	<p>Manage unit for its forest values. Unit is affected by the Susitna Forestry Guidelines or its successor; all timber sales must meet the requirements of 11 AAC 95. Forest land use plans must, in addition to these requirements, adhere to the requirements of the Forestry section in Chapter 2 <i>Areawide Land Management Policies</i>.</p> <p>Because of the presence of important habitat and species scattered throughout portions of this unit, it is also to be managed for the maintenance of wildlife species, fisheries, and habitats consistent with Management Guideline B in the <i>Fish and Wildlife Habitat</i> section in Chapter 2 and other management guidelines in this section associated with waterfowl concentrations and moose wintering areas. Consult with ADF&G on sensitive habitats and wildlife locations prior to or concurrent with FLUP preparation.</p> <p>A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Yentna and Skwentna rivers. Protect anadromous streams and wetlands. Forestry riparian standards apply (AS 41.17.115 and AS 41.17.118) for riparian areas adjacent to anadromous and high value resident fish streams. Consult with ADF&G to determine the location of high value resident fish streams.</p> <p>Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, including the INHTS and Iditarod Race Route. Consult with SCRO and the borough on trail location and routing.</p> <p>Effects of timber harvests on areas with remote cabins will be considered and mitigated. Additional land disposals within this unit are not considered appropriate.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership. Portions of the unit may be appropriate for inclusion in a state forest.</p>	<p>This large parcel is situated generally west of Lake Creek, a State Recreation River, and extends to encompass areas to the north and the south of the Skwentna River. This river constitutes the principal drainage feature within the unit. The community of Skwentna occupies private land at the far western part of the unit.</p> <p>The terrain is generally flat and this unit exhibits many of the physical features of the other Forestry unit in this region (U-04, U-24). Significant wetland concentrations occur south of the Skwentna River as well as near the community of Skwentna. These are both wetlands as well as woody wetlands. On the better drained soils, which primarily occur to the north of the Skwentna River, deciduous and mixed forests are common. Similar vegetation exists to the south of the river, but are less extensive and more scattered.</p> <p>Moose are distributed throughout the unit and some portion of the unit is important for winter habitat. Waterfowl are also present in much of the unit, with concentrations occurring in wetlands and riverine areas. Some portion of the unit is important for dispersed nesting habitat. A number of anadromous streams are present.</p> <p>Remote recreation cabins from previous state land disposals occur along the Skwentna River and at several lakes in the far southern part of the unit.</p> <p>At least one RS 2477 exists within the parcel (RST 199) and there are a number of important regional trails, including the INHTS, Iditarod Race Trail and Iron Dog. Public access and trail easements include ADL 220825, 219091 and 222930. Permits exist for trail signage and an ADF&G fish recording station.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-08	Ha, Wr 102,459	Maps 3-7, 3-8 Various	Manage land for its habitat and hydrologic values. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	<p>Parcel occupies the riverine areas associated with the Yentna River and adjacent lowlands. The community of Skwentna is situated in the far southeastern part of the unit.</p> <p>With the exception of areas adjacent to streams and in the northwestern part of the parcel near and at Stickleback Lake that contain deciduous forests, the remainder area comprises a mix of wetlands and woody wetlands. Terrain follows this distribution; the unit is flat except for hills and other uplands in the northwestern part. Most of this area is important habitat for a variety of species: spring brown bear concentrations occur and lowlands are important as a moose rutting and winter concentration area. Riverine areas are important for waterfowl, providing nesting and molting habitat. At least two RS 2477 routes exist within the parcel (RST 228 and 1608) and there are a number of important regional and local trails. Public access and trail easements include ADLs 230053, 230038, 230039 and 218860. At least one trapping cabin permit is within this unit. A fish recording station is permitted to ADF&G. The Iron Dog Race is in this unit.</p>
U-09	Se 19,606	Maps 3-8 S023N013W; S023N014W; S024N014W	Unit is appropriate for land disposal (remote recreational) during the planning period.	<p>This unit consists of relatively flat to rolling terrain vegetated by deciduous and mixed forest. Moose are known to be present in the unit. Land disposals have occurred in the past and many remote recreational cabins exist.</p> <p>Note: This parcel adjoins R-04, a settlement parcel, in the Alaska Range region.</p>
U-10	Ha, Rd 8,357	Map 3-8 S023N014W; S023N013W	Manage unit for its habitat and recreation values. Retain in state ownership. Additional land disposals in this unit are not authorized.	<p>Unit is bisected by Johnson Creek. It is characterized by fairly level terrain and a mixture of upland vegetation, including evergreen, deciduous, and mixed forest. There are a number of remote cabins situated within the unit. Portions of a moose winter concentration area occupy large portions of the area north of Johnson Creek.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-11	Se 61,223	Maps 3-7, 3-8 S022N012W; S022N013W; S022N014W; S023N012W; S023N013W; S023N014W	<p>Unit is appropriate for land disposal (remote recreational or pre-surveyed subdivisions) during the planning period.</p> <p>Avoid or minimize impacts to moose winter concentration and bear concentration areas; provide open space and vegetated movement corridors. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Yentna and Skwentna rivers. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers.</p> <p>Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, including the INHTS and Iditarod Race Trail. Consult with SCRO and the borough on trail location and routing.</p>	<p>This large unit comprises a number of previous state subdivisions adjacent to the larger lakes of the region, including Hewitt, Whiskey, and Shell, as well as previous individual odd lot sales at scattered locations. Much of the unit is affected by a settlement project application (ADL 230805). Most of the lots within these subdivisions have been sold, although some may be available as reoffers. Scattered land use development has occurred at the subdivisions adjacent to Whiskey and Hewitt Lakes (ASLS 79-148) and at Shell Lake (ASLS 80-174) as well as at locations throughout the unit as a result of previous odd lot sales.</p> <p>Terrain within this area is generally flat to gently rolling and many areas are characterized by scattered wetlands; an extensive, contiguous wetland area exists directly east of Shell Lake, with most of this area encompassed within parcel U-13. Other portions of the unit are occupied by deciduous forests and, in a few areas, by mixed forest.</p> <p>This unit contains a number of anadromous streams, and is important as moose winter concentration and spring brown bear areas. Wetter portions of the unit provide habitat for dispersed swan nesting sites. A permit to ADF&G for fish counting facilities is within this unit.</p> <p>There are a number of important regional access routes within the unit. These include RST 199, the Iditarod Race Trail, Iron Dog and INHTS. Other important local and regional trails may exist.</p> <p>Note: This unit adjoins units to the south in the Alaska Range region that are similarly designated settlement (M-03, M-04).</p>
U-13	Ha, Rd 2,377	Map 3-9 S022N012W	<p>Manage unit for its habitat, hydrologic and public recreation values. Retain in state ownership.</p>	<p>Parcel is situated directly east of Shell Lake and occupies an area consisting of a mixture of shrub and woody wetlands. Most of the unit is generally flat except for a conspicuous hill in the northwestern part of the unit. Moose are present and portions of the unit are important as a brown bear spring concentration area. Authorizations exist for a cell tower and GPS station.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-14	Ag 25,898	Map 3-9 Various	Manage unit for its agricultural values. Disposal and management of agricultural areas shall be consistent with the requirements of Chapter 2, sections pertaining to <i>Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife Habitat</i> , and <i>Shorelands and Stream Corridors</i> sections. Unit not appropriate for other types of land disposals. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers. Protect trails.	This unit consists of three geographically separate subunits that contain soils (Class 1, 2) considered to be suitable to agriculture. Each subunit occupies areas with generally similar characteristics. Each is generally flat and is characterized by upland forest vegetation, consisting of deciduous, mixed, or evergreen forest. Portions of the unit are important for moose winter habitat and the northernmost subparcel is affected by seasonal bear concentrations. Trapper Creek and several other anadromous streams are present. A fish research camp and weir is permitted to ADF&G. A regional trail traverses this unit.
U-15	Rd 640	Map 3-9 S021N008W	Manage unit for recreation and recreation values. Retain in state ownership.	Unit occupies a small area at the confluence of the Kahiltna River and one of tributaries. The site is used as a camping and stopping site for watercraft.
U-16	Se 56,823	Maps 3-6, 3-11 Various	Unit is appropriate for land disposal (remote recreational or pre-surveyed subdivisions) during the planning period. Avoid or minimize impacts to moose winter concentration areas. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffer. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Yentna River. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, including the INHTS and Iditarod Race Trail. Consult with SCRO and the borough on trail identification and routing.	Unit consists of five geographically separate subunits that are generally similar in that they all contain extensive remote settlement areas except for areas that have been developed as pre-surveyed subdivisions near lakes. Extensive land disposal has occurred within these areas and most of the lots have been conveyed out of state ownership. Recreational cabin development has also occurred in the areas of previous state subdivisions. Generally, these subunits occupy somewhat flat terrain, although there are local variations in topography. They often occupy areas with some attractive feature like lakes and streams. Vegetation is mostly deciduous and mixed forest, but portions of the subunits are occupied by wetlands. Moose are present in the subunits and parts are used for winter habitat. Numerous anadromous streams are present. A fish weir is permitted to ADF&G in this unit. Local, regional, and RS 2477 trails are present. RS 2477 routes include RST 126, 198 and 199. Portions of the INHTS and Iditarod Race Trail are in this unit. Public access and trail easements include ADLs 218259, 222930, 212795, 212796, 222126 and 221707.
U-17	Ag 1,897	Map 3-6 S018N007W	Manage unit for its agricultural values. Disposal and management of agricultural areas shall be consistent with the requirements of Chapter 2, sections pertaining to <i>Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife Habitat</i> , and <i>Shorelands and Stream Corridors</i> . Avoid residential land use and consider methods to minimize adverse impacts from agricultural operations during the preparation of the farm conservation plan.	This unit consists of two geographically separate subunits located on soils considered suitable for agriculture (Class 1, 2). Subunits are generally flat to gently rolling and are vegetated with a mixture of evergreen and mixed forest. Wetlands are situated in the northernmost subparcel. Moose are present in the two subunits and parts of each are used for winter habitat. Portions of unit U-16 abut both subunits. U-16 is designated Settlement and a number of remote recreational lots have been conveyed out of state ownership, particularly along the Yentna River and Fish Creek.

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-18	Ag 10,209	Map 3-6 S018N006W; S019N006W; S019N007W; S018N007W	Manage unit for its agricultural values. Disposal and management of agricultural areas shall be consistent with the requirements of Chapter 2, <i>Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife Habitat</i> , and <i>Shorelands and Stream Corridors</i> sections. A minimum of 300 foot riparian buffer will be retained in state ownership along Whitsol Lake and Kroto Slough. Prior to any land sale in the eastern two sections of this unit, a minimum 100 foot right-of-way will be retained by the state providing access between northern unit U-04 and the Susitna River. The Division of Forestry should be permitted to harvest the timber from parcels prior to their conversion to agricultural use.	Unit is considered to have soils (Class 2, 3) suitable for agriculture. Site is generally level with a mix of wetlands and upland vegetation (evergreen, mixed, deciduous forest). Moose are present in the unit and portions are used for swan dispersed nesting habitat.
U-20	Ha, Wr 65,725	Maps 3-6, 3-9 Various	Manage unit to protect its habitat and hydrologic values. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, which include the Iditarod National Historic Trail System. Consult with SCRO and the borough on trail location and routing.	This large parcel occupies flat lowlands on the southern edge of the region situated south of the Skwentna River and centered on Alexander Lake. Except for the area between Alexander Lake and Sucker Lake, the dominant features of this unit are the large contiguous areas of wetlands. Deciduous and mixed forest, however, occupy the area between the two lakes as well as the area to the southeast of Alexander Lake, which is part of a State Recreation River. This area supports a moose calving and wintering area as well as waterfowl. Portions of the INHTS are in this unit. Three RS 2477 routes are within this unit (RST 126, 198 and 199).
U-23	Ha, Rd 4,020	Map 3-6 S018N007W; S018N008W	Manage unit to protect its habitat and recreation values. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, which include the Iditarod National Historic Trail System. Consult with SCRO and the borough on trail identification and routing.	Unit occupies a narrow linear strip along the west bank of the Skwentna River. It is vegetated with a mixture of deciduous and mixed forest. Portions of the INHTS are in this unit. One RS 2477 route is in this unit (RST 198).

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-24	F 10,306	Map 3-6 S018N007W; S018N008W	<p>Manage unit for its forest values. Unit is affected by the Susitna Forestry Guidelines or its successor; all timber sales must meet the requirements of 11 AAC 95. Forest land use plans must, in addition to these requirements, adhere to the requirements of the Forestry section in Chapter 2 <i>Areawide Land Management Policies</i>.</p> <p>Because of the presence of important habitats and species, this unit is also to be managed consistent with Management Guideline B in the <i>Fish and Wildlife Habitat</i> section in Chapter 2 and other management guidelines in this section associated with waterfowl concentrations and moose wintering and calving areas. Consult with ADF&G on sensitive habitats and wildlife locations prior to or concurrent with FLUP preparation.</p> <p>Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. Consult with SCRO and the borough on trail location and routing. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Yentna River.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership. Portions of the unit may be appropriate for inclusion in a state forest.</p> <p>Effects of timber harvests on areas with remote cabins will be considered and mitigated.</p>	<p>Unit occupies forested uplands situated between the Skwentna River and a State Recreation River (Alexander Creek). It contains timber resources considered to have merchantable value.</p> <p>The unit is somewhat hilly, occupying an area called Trail Ridge, and is vegetated by deciduous and evergreen forest interspersed by wetlands. Moose are present within the unit and the unit is important as calving and winter habitat. Swan dispersed nesting sites are also likely to be present. An RS 2477 that functions as a winter trail exists (RST 199), and a regional trail traverses this unit.</p>
U-25	Se 2,384	Map 3-6 S017N007W	<p>The site has been extensively subdivided and no further subdivision of this site is considered appropriate. Un-conveyed tracts are to remain in state ownership.</p> <p>A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Susitna River. Protect riparian areas with adequate buffers. Protect trails and RS 2477 routes.</p>	<p>Unit contains a large lot subdivision (ASLS 81-177) that is configured around a stream (Alexander Creek) and several lakes, of which Otter and Scout are the largest. The site is generally flat in the western part but trends to hilly terrain in the east. Vegetation is a mixture of deciduous and mixed forest. Most of the lots have been conveyed out of state ownership, although some remain as state land. The large, tracted areas in the subdivision encompass important natural and hydrologic features. One RS 2477 route is within this unit (RST 199). The INHTS is within this unit.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-26	F 50,635	Maps 3-7, 3-8 S025N014W; S024N014W; S025N013W; S023N014W; S022N014W	<p>Manage unit for its forest values. Unit is affected by the Susitna Forestry Guidelines or its successor; all timber sales must meet the requirements of 11 AAC 95. Forest land use plans must, in addition to these requirements, adhere to the requirements of the Forestry section in Chapter 2 <i>Areawide Land Management Policies</i>.</p> <p>Because of the presence of important habitat and species scattered throughout portions of this unit, it is also to be managed for the maintenance of wildlife species, fisheries, and habitats consistent with Management Guideline B in the <i>Fish and Wildlife Habitat</i> section in Chapter 2 and other management guidelines in this section associated with waterfowl concentrations and moose wintering areas. Consult with ADF&G on sensitive habitats and wildlife locations prior to or concurrent with FLUP preparation.</p> <p>Protect anadromous streams and wetlands. Forestry riparian standards apply (AS 41.17.115 and AS 41.17.118) for riparian areas adjacent to anadromous and high value resident fish streams. Consult with ADF&G to determine the location of high value resident fish streams.</p> <p>Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. Consult with SCRO and the borough on trail location and routing. During FLUP preparation, identify these routes and provide suitable protection or mitigation.</p> <p>Effects of timber harvests on areas with remote cabins will be considered and mitigated. Additional land disposals for the creation of remote cabin lots are not considered appropriate.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership. Portions of the unit may be appropriate for inclusion in a state forest.</p>	<p>This extensive unit is situated at the far western edge of the Susitna Lowlands region and encompasses those areas within the region that have been identified as having merchantable timber. This area of forest resources also extends westward to include portions of the adjacent region, Sunflower Basin (unit B-10).</p> <p>Vegetation types vary somewhat over this extensive area but are, in areas of that have better drainage and soils, almost entirely deciduous and evergreen forest; the latter concentrate along drainage ways. Wetlands are interspersed throughout this area, and consist of scattered wetlands as well as some large areas of contiguous wetlands. Terrain is generally level throughout the unit except for the hilly northwestern part. The Nakuchna and Kichatna Rivers and Johnson Creek constitute the principal drainages in the unit. The Skwentna River is situated to the south of the unit in the Mount Susitna region.</p> <p>The unit provides habitat area for moose, waterfowl, and brown bear. Portions of the unit provide habitat for winter moose concentrations, waterfowl are found throughout the unit, and concentrations of brown bears occur seasonally during the spring. A number of anadromous fish streams are present, including the Nakuchna and Kichatna Rivers and both Red and Johnson Creeks.</p> <p>Remote recreation cabins occur along some of the drainages.</p> <p>At least one RS 2477 exists within the unit (RST 199), and the INHTS and Iditarod Race Trail pass through the southern portion of the unit.</p>
U-27	Ha, Rd 48,530	Maps 3-5, 3-6 Various	<p>Manage Susitna River for its habitat and recreation values. All shorelands are to be retained in state ownership and except for public recreation or projects that must cross the river (like a road or bridge), are not intended to be developed. Protect the Iditarod Race Trail. Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.</p>	<p>This management unit consists of the Susitna River and all associated shorelands. Portions of the Iditarod Race Trail are in this unit. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.</p>
L-01	Ha, Rd 77,993 within this region	Maps 3-6, 3-9 Various	<p>This parcel includes the state recreation rivers in this region. See the section <i>Legislatively Designated Areas</i> for detail on the management of these regions.</p>	

Total state land within region (23 units and portions of 1 LDA) – 973,902 acres

Mount Susitna Region

The Mount Susitna Region is a remote area of approximately 824,000 acres. It is situated in the lowlands that emerge from and are situated east of the mountainous region occupied by the Alaska Range Region, and encompasses the land between the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Skwentna River, and the Alaska Range Region. Included within this large area are the Mount Susitna, Little Mount Susitna, and Beluga Mountain uplands; the drainages of the Skwentna and Talachulitna rivers, and extensive areas of lowlands in the more central part of the Region. Refer to Figure 3-1 to locate the map of a particular area.

Distribution and Characteristics

The state owns most of the land within the region (approximately 619,000 acres of general domain land and approximately 53,000 acres of LDA affected land), although other significant holdings include those of native corporations and the Borough. In addition, there are small, isolated parcels of privately owned lands. The majority of land in private ownership has derived from previous state subdivisions, which were common in the 1980's. Depending on elevation, fairly distinctive vegetation patterns exist. In the very hilly or mountainous areas that characterize the western area near the Alaska Range Region and the three prominent mountains of Beluga, Little Susitna, and Mount Susitna, shrubs and alpine vegetation are typical. Upland spruce-hardwood forests occur within the lower elevations and within the larger drainages of these areas. The lowland area, which essentially occupies the remainder of the region, occupies flat to rolling terrain characterized by extensive wetlands and lowland spruce-hardwood forests. On soils with better drainage upland spruce-hardwood forest predominates.

With one exception, State land within this region is to be managed as state public domain land under the authority of Title 38 of the Alaska Statutes. The Legislature has designated the Talachulitna River as a State Recreation River, which is to be managed consistent with AS 41.23.500 and Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Access to these lands is very limited, reflecting its remote and generally inaccessible location. What access exists is provided by foot travel and off-road vehicles using either the Iditarod National Historic Trail System (INHTS), Iditarod Race Trail or other regional trails, and by float or wheeled fixed wing aircraft that use private airstrips or gravel bars for

landing. Water access is available on the Skwentna River. Fly in access is often hampered by local weather conditions. There are no roads or major trails connecting the Mount Susitna region to the eastern portion of the planning area.

Moose are present throughout much of the region and rutting areas occur east of Beluga Mountain, although the more significant rutting and calving areas occur in the adjacent region to the north and east. Waterfowl also occur throughout the northern part of the region; trumpeter swans are also present and this region is known to have dispersed nesting and brood-rearing sites. The larger streams are anadromous and many of their tributaries are similarly anadromous. Depending on location these streams contain king, silver, pink, or chum migration, rearing, or spawning areas. Bear concentrations occur seasonally along anadromous fish streams.

Large areas of the region have low to moderate coal potential but only minimal locatable or leasable mineral potential. The entire area is open to coal exploration and development, under coal leasing standards, and to mineral leasing under mineral leasing standards. Locatable mineral closures affect large portions of the region, coinciding with several areas designated for settlement and the portion of the Talachulitna River that is a State Recreation River. Consult <http://dnr.alaska.gov/Mapper/> (Mineral Estate maps) for the location of mineral closures. There is some potential for oil and gas development within the region, although little exploration or development is currently underway. All areas are available for oil and gas leasing, although certain stipulations are placed on such development within the state recreation river by the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan.

Extensive forestry resources occur throughout the region (approximately 219,000 acres). Generally these areas occur in the central lowlands and are characterized by deciduous forest, evergreen forest, or mixed forest, depending on soils and hydrology. These lands are primarily situated west of Alexander Creek and south of the Skwentna River in areas of better drained soils in the central lowlands. Although these resources are not expected to be harvested for large scale commercial purposes during the planning period owing to the lack of road/bridge access, some limited areas may be harvested using winter roads. The extent and distribution of this resource is such that it warrants designation as Forestry and, possibly, protection and management through the creation of a state forest.

Although moderate agriculture resources exist within the region, most of the areas identified as having soils suitable for agriculture occur within the State Recreation River, where agriculture is a prohibited use. Limited agricultural resources (approximately 7,000 acres) occur within areas outside of the SRR; these are situated in a number of scattered tracts, generally of small size, located in the lowlands just west of Alexander Creek. Development of these areas is likely to be limited during the planning period owing to the relatively scattered distribution of the tracts, their remote location, and the lack of road accessibility.

There is comparatively little use of this region by the public, again reflecting its remoteness and difficulty of access. Recreational/seasonal settlement has taken place around several of the lakes and streams as a result of past state land disposals. Public recreation within the

region is focused within the Talachulitna River SRR. There are a number of lodges on the Talachulitna River and some private cabins; both tend to concentrate around Judd Lake and near the mouth of this stream. The Iditarod Race occurs 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 Alaska Range Region. Two state plans affect this region: the 1985 Susitna Area Plan, the subject of this revision, and the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan. State Recreation Rivers in this region are managed under the latter; there are no specific requirements relating to SRRs deriving from the area plan. Local plans include the Borough Comprehensive Plan and Coastal Management Plan. These plans contain both generalized land use recommendations and resource management requirements and were helpful 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 for its habitat, water resource, public recreation, or forest resource values. Some of this land will also be used for the purpose of land disposal, both for residential purposes and agriculture.

Most of the mountainous areas within the region, which are located in its western parts, are designated General Use, a multiple use designation (approximately 97,000 acres). With few exceptions resources are not present within these areas and little development is expected there. The overwhelming majority of the central, eastern, and southern areas that occupy lowlands outside of the major river drainages, are, if forested, designated Forestry (approximately 219,000 acres). These areas will be managed on a long term basis for their forest values, and in those areas where significant wildlife species are present, for their habitat values as well. Where forest resources do not exist and the terrain consists of wetlands or lowland spruce-hardwood forest and where sensitive species are present, these areas are co-designated Habitat and Water Resources (approximately 108,000 acres). Most of the river drainages are affected by this co- designation. The management focus is intended to vary somewhat in areas affected by Habitat and its co-designations, with the protection of hydrologic resources being equally important in areas co-designated Water Resources, while areas co-designated Recreation are to be similarly managed for their recreational activities. A few areas, usually located next to streams or lakes, are designated Settlement (approximately 108,000 acres), and a few areas in the eastern part of the region with suitable soils are recommended for agricultural land disposal (approximately 7,000 acres). Consult the Resource Allocation Table for specific recommendations.

Areas of the region designated Forestry are to be managed for overall forest resource management, which includes timber harvest at specific locations that may be identified in future Five-Year Timber Sales Schedule prepared by DOF. Such areas are to be managed in a comprehensive, holistic fashion so that access is preserved, public recreation allowed to continue, and significant habitats and wetlands protected. Not all of the area designated Forestry contains forest resources. State land in this region is characterized by a mixture of wetlands and forested uplands, and many of these areas provide important habitat and recreation functions. It was determined in the plan preparation process that it would be impracticable to carve out all of the many areas important as wetlands or habitats and that inclusion of large areas of state land with a variety of resource values within a Forestry designation made the most sense since such areas must be managed comprehensively for multiple uses and the Forestry designation is a multiple use designation that encompasses the principles of recreation use and habitat protection. Accordingly, the management intent statement for management units designated Forestry will often include statements concerning the protection of wetlands and habitats, provision of recreation, and maintenance of public access. This management intent is consistent with the Division of Forestry's 'working forest' management concept. All areas designated Forestry are to be retained in state ownership. The management of areas designated Forestry will be guided by the Forest Resources and Practices Act; Susitna Forestry Guidelines, or its successor; and this area plan.

Pipelines may need to be constructed in this region. While there are no pipeline corridors designated in this plan (this is the function of more detailed studies), there is nothing in this plan that affects the placement of such facilities directly.

Resource Allocation Table – Mount Susitna Region

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
M-01	Ha/Wr 45,741	Maps 3-6, 3-7 Various	Manage unit to protect its habitat and hydrologic values. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, which include the INHTS and Iditarod Race Trail. Retain in state ownership.	<p>This extensive unit encompasses the principal areas within the Mount Susitna region that have particularly high habitat values.</p> <p>Reflecting the uneven distribution of wildlife, habitat, and fisheries throughout the region, it is necessarily broken into a number of separate parcels, which can be grouped into two principal hydro-geographic features. One of these comprises areas of lowlands and riverine areas adjacent to major streams and their tributaries. Of these areas, the Skwentna River is by far the largest. The other consists of wetland areas scattered throughout the central lowlands of the region. Vegetation is characterized by a bottomland spruce-poplar forest interspersed with wetlands, usually of the palustrine type. Most of these streams within the unit and some tributaries are anadromous. Many of the riverine areas are known to support moose (winter concentration, rutting and calving areas), waterfowl, and trumpeter swans (dispersed nesting and brood-rearing areas). Wetland areas are known to have similar concentrations, particularly waterfowl. Portions of the INHTS, Iditarod Race Trail and Iron Dog are in this unit. At least two RS 2477s are within this unit (RST 199 and 1862). Trail and scenic easements include ADLs 230053 and 52960. At least one trapping cabin and one personal use cabin is authorized in this unit.</p>
M-02	Se 12,012	Map 3-7 S021N014W; S021N013W	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period.</p> <p>A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Skwentna River. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers; avoid swan nesting sites (refer to Chapter 2 <i>Fish and Wildlife Habitat</i>).</p>	<p>Unit occupies generally flat terrain vegetated by a mixture of wetlands and bottomland spruce-poplar forest. It is situated directly south of the Skwentna River and its associated riverine area.</p> <p>The unit occupies a large, vacant area currently classified Settlement Land located both in S021N014W and S021N013W. The eastern most part of the unit is occupied by ASLS 80-139; all of the lots in this subdivision have been conveyed out of state ownership. A remote staking disposal project area designation affects this unit (ADL 229360).</p> <p>Portions of this unit are known to have trumpeter swan dispersed nesting sites. Anadromous streams are present in the unit.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
M-03	Se 11,076	Map 3-7 S021N012W; S021N013W	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period.</p> <p>Provide for retention of corridors of land suitable for access, public recreation from float plane accessible lakes in disposal design. Provide access through M-01 from Shell Creek, major rivers, and float plane accessible lakes. Avoid/protect moose wintering areas and maintain regional trails. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, which include the INHTS and Iditarod Race Trail.</p> <p>Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Skwentna River.</p>	<p>Unit consists of three separate parcels, all surrounding a large, existing subdivisions (ASLS 81-110, 80-177) that cluster around Onestone and Shell lakes. These three parcels are, in contrast to the areas around the two lakes, largely vacant and undeveloped. Terrain is generally flat to gently rolling near the riverine areas of the Skwentna River and somewhat hilly in those areas more distant. In the flatter areas vegetation is, similar to other parts of the river, bottomland spruce-poplar forest, while the uplands are characteristically occupied by a spruce-hardwood forest. A moose wintering area affects portions of the unit. Several regional trails affect this parcel. Portions of the INHTS, Iditarod Race Trail and Iron Dog are in this unit. Public access easements include ADLs 230053 and 222930. RST 199 traverses this unit.</p>
M-04	Se 5,504	Map 3-7 S021N012W	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers. Avoid moose winter areas and provide movement corridors when necessary.</p> <p>Retain areas designated in the subdivision plats as common open space. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Skwentna River.</p> <p>Protect the INHTS and Iditarod Race Trail.</p>	<p>Unit encompasses an area of previous subdivision development (ASLS 80-177, 81-110) occupies generally flat terrain vegetated by a mixture of bottomland spruce-poplar forest. It is part of a larger settlement area that is located in the Susitna Lowlands region (management unit U-13). Refer to that unit for more detail. Portions of this unit, M-04, are currently vacant and may be considered appropriate for remote settlement. A moose wintering area affects portions of the unit. Anadromous streams occur in the unit. Portions of the INHTS and Iditarod Race Trail are in this unit.</p>
M-05	Gu 94,744	Map 3-7 S018N013W; S018N014W; S019N013W; S019N014W; S020N014W; S021N014W	<p>Manage for multiple uses.</p> <p>Development within this parcel during the planning period is considered inappropriate.</p> <p>Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers.</p>	<p>This large unit occupies fairly mountainous terrain vegetated either by shrubs or alpine tundra. Moose are present in the unit as well as anadromous streams. One of these is a tributary of the Skwentna River, which occupies the northwestern part of the unit. There are no current uses on this parcel and, given its remote location and inaccessibility, little development expected during the planning period.</p>
M-06	Rd 12,477	Map 3-7 S020N013W; S020N014W; S021N013W; S019N013W; S019N014W	<p>Manage for recreation values.</p> <p>Retain in state ownership.</p>	<p>This unit occupies generally flat to gently sloping terrain, with vegetation characterized by a mixture of wetlands and a few, scattered upland forests. The dominant features physiographic features are associated with Contact and Canyon Creeks, both of which are anadromous streams. Deep canyons are associated with each creek. There is moderate recreation use of this unit and no known critical habitat areas, although moose and bear (spring period) are present. At least one trapping cabin is authorized in this unit.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
M-07	F 219,302	Maps 3-6, 3-7 Various	<p>Manage unit for its forest values. Unit is affected by the Susitna Forestry Guidelines or its successor. All timber sales must meet the requirements of 11 AAC 95. Forest land use plans must, in addition to these requirements, adhere to the requirements of the Forestry section in Chapter 2 <i>Areawide Land Management Policies</i>.</p> <p>Because of the presence of important habitat and species scattered throughout portions of this unit, unit is also to be managed for the maintenance of wildlife species, fisheries, and habitats consistent with Management Guideline B in the <i>Fish and Wildlife Habitat</i> section in Chapter 2 and other management guidelines in this section associated with waterfowl concentrations and moose calving and wintering areas. During FLUP preparation, determine if significant moose (calving, rutting or winter concentration areas) or waterfowl concentration areas are present; if present, Chapter 2 requirements apply in addition to any other state or federal management requirements. Consult with ADF&G on sensitive habitats and wildlife locations prior to or concurrent with FLUP preparation.</p> <p>Protect anadromous streams and wetlands. Forestry riparian standards apply (AS 41.17.115 and AS 41.17.118) for riparian protection adjacent to anadromous and high value resident fish streams.</p> <p>Protect local, regional, or RS 2477 trails, which include the INHTS. During FLUP preparation, identify these routes and provide suitable protection or mitigation. Coordinate with the SCRO/DMLW, and with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough on trail identification and routing.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership. Portions of the unit may be appropriate for inclusion in a state forest.</p>	<p>This extensive unit encompasses those areas within the region that have been identified as having merchantable timber.</p> <p>Vegetation types vary somewhat over this area but are usually either an upland or lowland spruce-hardwood forest. Wetlands are interspersed throughout this area, although they are more concentrated in the east and south. Terrain is somewhat hilly in the western parts while flatter areas occur in the remainder of the unit. Moose are present and both winter concentration and calving areas occur in the unit, although winter use areas predominate. Waterfowl are distributed throughout the wetter portions of the unit but concentration areas are not known to be present. Portions of the central part of the unit are known to have trumpeter swan dispersed nesting and brood-rearing areas and may also have Tule geese nesting sites. Small portions of a brown bear spring use area exist within the northwestern part of this unit as well as immediately south of Skwentna. Most of these bear concentrations occur within R-22, which is designated Habitat, and within L-01, a State Recreation River. A variety of anadromous streams are present. A number of local and regional trails, and RS 2477 routes (RSTs 199, 1862) occur within the unit. Portions of the INHTS are in this unit. Two personal use cabins and at least one public easement are within this unit.</p>
M-08	Se 11,670	Map 3-7 S020N012W; S020N013W; S021N012W; S021N013W	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal (remote sales) during the planning period. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers; and avoid sensitive habitat areas.</p> <p>Protect trails and RS 2477 routes. Coordinate with DMLW/SCRO and borough on trail location and routing.</p>	<p>Unit is characterized by generally level to gently rolling topography. Vegetation exhibits a mix of forested uplands, sedges, and wetlands. A number of lakes are present and some have remote sales adjoining them. The Talachulitna River, a State Recreation River, adjoins the unit to the east. A remote staking disposal project area designation affects this unit (ADL 229466). Moose, bear, and waterfowl (including swan dispersed nesting sites) are known to be present. Local trails may be present and a RS 2477 route (RST 1862) exists. Anadromous streams are present in the unit.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
M-09	Se 8,982	Map 3-7 S020N012W; S020N013W; S019N012W; S019N013W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal (remote sales) during the planning period. Avoid sensitive habitat areas; impose adequate riparian buffers & building setbacks. Protect trails and RS 2477 routes. Coordinate with DMLW/SCRO, ADF&G, and borough on trail location and routing.	Unit is characterized by generally level to gently rolling topography with steeper slopes along some creeks. Vegetation exhibits a mix of forested uplands, sedges, and wetlands. A number of lakes are present and some have remote sales adjoining them. A remote staking disposal project area designation affects this unit (ADL 229302). Moose, bear, and waterfowl (including swan dispersed nesting sites) are known to be present. Local trails may be present and an RS 2477 route (RST 1862) crosses the parcel.
M-10	Se 3,823	Map 3-7 S020N011W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Protect anadromous stream with riparian buffer and avoid waterfowl and bear concentration areas.	Unit is characterized by generally flat to level topography and by vegetation that contains a mix of forested uplands and wetlands. The Talachulitna State Recreation River adjoins this parcel to the west. Waterfowl (swan dispersed nesting sites) and a small portion of a brown bear fish stream concentration area occurs within the unit. An anadromous stream is present in the unit.
M-11	Se 3,091	Map 3-7 S019N012W; S019N011W	Land disposal is appropriate during the planning period. Protect anadromous stream with riparian buffer and avoid waterfowl and bear concentration areas. Protect easements.	This unit consists of the area of an existing subdivision (ASLS 91-257). While most lots have been conveyed out of state ownership, it is possible that some may be returned. These are appropriate for disposal as are any remaining unsold lots. Area is generally level and is vegetated by a mix of forested uplands with scattered wetlands, although there is some concentration of the wetlands adjacent to the several creeks that traverse the unit. An anadromous stream is present. Brown bear and waterfowl (swan dispersed nesting sites) occur within the unit. Public easements in this unit include ADLs 224148 and 224147.
M-12	Rd 55,905	Map 3-6 Various	Unit is to be managed for recreation uses and habitat values. Retain in state ownership.	The three major mountainous areas within the Mount Susitna Region (Beluga Mountain, Mount Susitna, and Little Mount Susitna) are encompassed within this unit. Terrain is mountainous and vegetation is mostly alpine tundra and shrubs, with mixed forested uplands within to principal river drainages that occur at lower elevations. A moose rutting area occurs in parts of the Beluga Mountain area. Waterfowl (dispersed nesting sites) are also present.

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
M-13	Se 20,973	Map 3-6 S018N014W; S017N014W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal (remote sales) during the planning period. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers.	Unit occupies the fairly flat riverine areas associated with the main tributaries of Coal Creek. Topography away from riverine areas is characterized by generally level to rolling topography with steeper slopes along some creeks. Vegetation is a mix of forested uplands, wetlands, and shrub at the higher elevations that adjoin the riverine areas. Moose are present within the unit. A number of lakes are float plane accessible. There is a public use easement (ADL 49728) along Coal Creek. There are remote sales within this unit. A remote staking project designation (ADL 229341) affects this unit. Anadromous streams are present in the unit.
M-14	Se 11,772	Map 3-6 S018N013W; S017N013W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal (remote sales) during the planning period. Avoid/protect brown bear spring concentration areas. Protect anadromous stream with riparian buffers.	Terrain in this unit is somewhat level in the various river valleys but hilly in the intervening areas. There are several lakes, which are bordered in places by mixed upland forest. The remaining areas are characterized by shrub and tundra. Several remote sales have occurred in this unit, primarily adjacent to the larger lakes, and a remote staking designation affects the unit (ADL 229341). A portion of a brown bear spring concentration area exists within the unit, and moose are known to be present. An anadromous stream occurs in the unit.
M-15	Gu 2,163	Map 3-6 S017N012W	Unit is to be managed for multiple uses, with emphasis placed on protecting the creeks, their riverine areas, and the extensive area of wetlands; impose riparian buffers & building setbacks. Avoid/protect brown bear spring concentration areas.	This unit encompasses the area surrounding Trinity Lake. Areas adjacent to these lakes have been conveyed out of state ownership and are not part of this parcel, proper. The remainder area of the unit consists of flat terrain that is mostly occupied by wetlands. Only the western part of the parcel may be appropriate for settlement, but this is limited by the lack of specific amenities (views especially). Portions of this unit are affected by a brown bear spring concentration area, and moose are known to be present in the unit. An anadromous stream is present.
M-16	Rd 39	Map 3-6 S017N012W	Unit is to be retained in state ownership and used for public access.	This small parcel consists of an area on the western shore of Trinity Lake. It is currently classified Public Recreation. An anadromous stream is present in the unit.
M-17	Se 4,045	Map 3-6 S017N008W; S017N009W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal (remote sales) during the planning period. Protect anadromous stream with riparian buffer and avoid waterfowl concentration areas.	Unit occupies forested, fairly level terrain adjoining the riverine area of Wolverine Creek. There are several existing remote lots within the unit. Wolverine Creek is an anadromous fish stream. A portion of the trumpeter swan dispersed nesting and brood-rearing area occurs in a portion of the unit. Brown bears congregate seasonally on Wolverine Creek. Moose calve in the unit. Two trails access this area and there are several remote sales in this unit. Low level military flights frequent the area.

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
M-18	Se 2,383	Map 3-6 S017N008W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Protect anadromous streams and avoid waterfowl concentration areas using riparian buffers and building setbacks.	Unit consists of two separate subunits, occupying fairly level terrain north and south of an existing subdivision (M-19). The northern and southern boundaries of these subunits are bordered by a State Recreation River (Alexander Creek). Trail Creek and its tributaries are anadromous streams which traverse the southern subunit. Waterfowl (dispersed nesting sites) are present in portions of the unit.
M-19	Se 2,048	Map 3-6 S017N008W	Further subdivision of this unit is not considered appropriate, and the currently un-subdivided areas are to remain in state ownership. Reoffer of any lots that return to state ownership is appropriate, however. Continued use of the material extraction area is subject to a best interest finding, but is otherwise considered appropriate. Protect anadromous stream with riparian buffers.	This unit occupies flat terrain that is forested except for the western part that is characterized by wetlands. Most of the unit is occupied by an existing development associated with a state subdivision (ASLS 79-209). Nearly all of the lots have been conveyed out of state ownership under contracts of sale, although it is possible that some may be returned. A material area occupies a portion of the northwest part of Section 11. Areas of the unit that have not been developed were not part of the original subdivision; this was probably because of the presence of extensive wetlands. Waterfowl (dispersed nesting sites) are present in portions of the unit. An anadromous stream occurs in the unit.
M-20	Se 3,183	Map 3-6 S017N013W	Further subdivision of this unit is considered inappropriate and the currently un-subdivided areas are to remain in state ownership. Protect anadromous stream with riparian buffer.	This unit, which encompasses a relatively continuous area adjacent to several lakes, consists of two separate subdivisions. These subdivisions (ASLS 81-194 ASLS 80-154) consist of previous state land conveyed out of state ownership which is surrounded by un-subdivided state land. Nearly all of the lots have been conveyed out of state ownership under contracts of sale, although it is possible that some may be returned. Areas not included in lots within the subdivisions are to be retained in state ownership and managed for public recreation. Moose, brown bear, and waterfowl are present in portions of the parcel. An anadromous stream occurs in the unit.
M-21	Se 5,744	Map 3-6 S017N012W; S017N013W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Protect anadromous stream with riparian buffers; protect the RS 2477 route.	This unit consists of generally level land characterized by a mixture of forested uplands, sedge, and wetlands which surrounds Kitty Lake. Some remote settlement has occurred already on this lake. A RS 2477 route (RST 1862) crosses this parcel. Moose, brown bear, and waterfowl are present in portions of the parcel. An anadromous stream occurs in the unit.

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
M-22	Ha, Wr 62,394	Map 3-6 Various	Manage for the maintenance of wetland functions and waterfowl habitat. Protect anadromous streams. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. Retain in state ownership.	This unit is comprised of two separate, large subunits within the central part of the Region that have generally similar characteristics. Wetlands characterize these generally flat subunits, although there are numerous lineal concentrations of forested uplands. Waterfowl concentrations are known to occur, and moose frequent the area as part of their range. An RS 2477 route (RST 1862) and a public scenic easement crosses this parcel.
M-23	Ag 4,204	Map 3-6 S020N011W; S020N010W	Unit is considered appropriate for agricultural land disposal but the high habitat values associated with the unit are to be given careful consideration in the disposal decision and the subsequent design submitted as part of the Farm Development Plan. The potential effect of agricultural operations on moose winter habitat, bear stream concentrations and trumpeter swan nesting sites is to be assessed in the disposal decision prepared by Division of Agriculture. The management guidelines of Chapter 2, <i>Fish and Wildlife Habitat</i> section, apply. Provide riparian protection of at least 150' along anadromous streams. Protect the Iditarod National Historic Trail System.	This unit contains soils suitable for agriculture and is considered appropriate for agricultural development. Vegetation is a mix of deciduous, evergreen, and mixed forest. Moose (winter concentration areas), waterfowl (dispersed nesting sites) and bear (spring concentration areas) are present in the unit. An anadromous fish stream crosses the northern part of the parcel. Portions of the INHTS are in this unit.
M-24	Mi 11,509	Map 3-6 S017N014W; S018N014W	Manage for mineral values; impose riparian buffers on anadromous streams.	This large unit in the southwestern part of the Region is associated with state lands having a high mineral potential, and is an extension of unit R-07 in the Alaska Range region. Mineral potential is associated with both polymetallic (precious and base metals) and base metal deposits (copper, lead, and zinc). Unit occupies fairly mountainous terrain, portions of which are covered by glaciers and glacial moraines. Vegetation, if present, consists of shrub or alpine tundra. Moose are present in valley bottoms, especially the West Fork of Coal Creek.
M-25	Se 1,202	Map 3-6 S016N011W	Further subdivision of this unit is considered inappropriate and the currently un-subdivided areas are to remain in state ownership.	This unit consists of a previous state subdivision (ASLS 80-132). Most of the parcels in this subdivision have been conveyed out of state ownership, although some remain in state ownership and may be available as reoffers. Other areas of the subdivision consist of large tracts, which are not intended for disposal.

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
M-26	Ag 3,046	Map 3-6 Various	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for agricultural land disposal, but the high habitat values associated with the unit are to be given careful consideration in the disposal decision and the subsequent design submitted as part of the Farm Development Plan.</p> <p>The potential effects of agricultural operations on moose winter concentration and calving habitat and trumpeter swan nesting sites are to be assessed in the disposal decision prepared by Division of Agriculture. The management guidelines of Chapter 2, <i>Fish and Wildlife Habitat</i> section, apply. Provide riparian protection of at least 150' along anadromous stream; consult ADF&G.</p>	<p>Unit consists of two geographically separate but basically similar parcels that possess soils suitable for agriculture. Both are flat and are vegetated by deciduous, evergreen, and mixed forest interspersed by woody wetlands. Moose calving and winter concentration areas, dispersed nesting and brood rearing areas for trumpeter swans, and anadromous streams are present. An anadromous stream occurs in the unit.</p>
L-01	Ha, Rd 52,796 within this region	Maps 3-6, 3-7	This parcel includes the state recreation rivers in this region. See the section <i>Legislatively Designated Areas</i> for detail on the management of these regions.	

Total state land within region (26 units and a portion of 1 LDA) – 671,857 acres

Alaska Range Region

The Alaska Range Region occupies a remote, mountainous, glaciated portion of the planning area. It is bounded by Denali National Park and Preserve (except for state land directly to the west of this Park), the Kenai Peninsula Borough to the south, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough boundary to the west, and approximately the 1,500' elevation contour to the east, which generally coincides with Range 14 West. This area encompasses approximately 1.5 million acres. With the exception of small private holdings, all of the land in this Region is owned by the state. There are no outstanding (surface) selections. Refer to Figure 3-1 to locate the map of a particular area.

Distribution and Characteristics

With the exception of the major river valleys, all of the remaining land is mountainous in character and has only alpine tundra or shrub vegetation at the higher elevations. Within some of the lower elevation areas situated in the northeast of the Region, a spruce-poplar forest occurs. A bottomland spruce-poplar forest also occupies the riverine areas of the larger river drainages, such as the Skwentna, Happy, and Kichatna Rivers. Although state ownership dominates land ownership in this Region (approximately 1,471,000 acres of general domain land), there are small, isolated parcels of privately owned lands. The majority of land in private ownership has derived from previous state subdivisions, which were common in the 1980's.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Access to these lands is very limited, reflecting its remote and generally inaccessible location. What access exists is provided by foot travel and off-road vehicles using either the Iditarod National Historic Trail System (INHTS), Iditarod Race Trail or regional trails, and by float or hard surface fixed wing aircraft. Water access is available on the Skwenta River. Fly in access is often hampered by local weather conditions.

Moose are present throughout much of the region and winter concentration and rutting areas occur within the Skwentna and Hayes River drainages. Dall sheep are also present, but their distribution is generally confined to the mountainous areas bordering the western planning boundary. Important brown bear spring concentration areas occur throughout the central and eastern parts of the region, generally coinciding with the principal drainages and their adjacent uplands. Waterfowl also occur throughout this area and an important nesting and

brood-rearing area for trumpeter swans occurs at the confluence of the Hayes and Skwentna Rivers. The larger streams are anadromous and many of their tributaries are similarly anadromous. Depending on location these streams contain king, silver, pink, or chum migration, rearing, or spawning areas.

Mineral potential is considered to be high to very high in the southwestern part of the region, generally coinciding with the Hayes Glacier and its tributary streams. Mineral potential is associated with both polymetallic deposits (precious and base metals like gold and silver) and base metal deposits (copper, lead, and zinc). There are no active mines operating in this region although some exploratory activity has occurred at a number of prospect sites.

There is relatively little use of this region by the public, reflecting its location and difficulty of access. There is limited hunting and the Iditarod Race Trail occurs in the region. That part of the region associated with the Alaska Range is a popular flight seeing area.

Management Constraints

Several state and local management plans affect the planning area and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the Alaska Range Region. Only one state resource plan affects this region: the 1985 Susitna Area Plan, which is being revised with this update. Local plans include the Borough Comprehensive Plan and Coastal Management Plan. These plans contain both generalized land use recommendations and resource management requirements and were helpful 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 for its mineral, habitat, or forest resource values.

Most of the mountainous portions not having mineral potential are designated General Use, a multiple use designation (Approximately 695,000 acres), while the southwestern part of the Region, which has high mineral potential (Approximately 595,000 acres), will be managed for its mineral resources and is designated Mineral. Some of the eastern areas of the Region that contain, in their lower elevations, merchantable timber are designated Forestry (Approximately 45,000 acres) and will be managed along with the other significant forestry areas in the western Susitna Valley for this resource. Riverine areas associated with the larger streams (Skwentna, Happy, Hayes, and Kichatna) are important for their habitat functions and, depending on location, include moose winter and rutting habitat and both waterfowl and trumpeter swan concentrations. These areas (Approximately 104,000 acres) are designated Habitat. A few areas usually located next to streams or lakes, are designated

Settlement (Approximately 32,000 acres), and are recommended for land disposal during the planning period. Consult the Resource Allocation Table for specific recommendations. Areas of the region designated Forestry are to be managed for overall forest resource management, which includes timber harvest at specific locations that may be identified in future Five-Year Timber Sales Schedule prepared by DOF. Importantly, areas designated Forestry are to be managed in a comprehensive, holistic fashion such that access is preserved, public recreation allowed to continue, and significant habitats and wetlands protected. Not all of the area designated Forestry contains forest resources. State land in this region is characterized by a mixture of wetlands and forested uplands, and many of these areas provide important habitat and recreation functions. It was determined in the plan preparation process that it would be impracticable to carve out all of the many areas important as wetlands or habitats and that inclusion of large areas of state land with a variety of resource values within a Forestry designation made the most sense since such areas must be managed comprehensively for multiple uses and the Forestry designation is a multiple use designation that encompasses the principles of recreation use and habitat protection. Accordingly, the management intent statement for management units designated Forestry will often include statements concerning the protection of wetlands and habitats, provision of recreation, and maintenance of public access. This management intent is consistent with the Division of Forestry's 'working forest' management concept. All areas designated Forestry are to be retained in state ownership. The management of areas designated Forestry will be guided by the Forest Resources and Practices Act; Susitna Forestry Guidelines, or its successor; and this area plan.

Pipelines may need to be constructed in this region. While there are no pipeline corridors designated in this plan (this is the function of more detailed studies), there is nothing in this plan that affects the placement of such facilities directly.

Resource Allocation Table – Alaska Range Region

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
R-01	Gu 695,097	Maps 3-4, 3-8 Various	<p>Manage area for multiple uses.</p> <p>Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, which include the INHTS and the Iditarod Race Trail.</p> <p>Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers.</p>	<p>This vast unit encompasses the mountainous topography of the Alaska Range within the Alaska Range Region. There is sparse use of this area given its topography and remoteness. Vegetation is characteristically barren ground or alpine tundra. The most sensitive areas are usually situated within the major river drainages of the Skwentna, Happy, and Kichatna Rivers, which occupy the management unit R-02. Moose are known to be present in portions of this unit, generally coinciding with areas near the major river drainages. Brown bear spring use areas occur in portions of the unit that adjoin management unit R-02. Dall Sheep are present in the mountainous areas of the westerly parts of the unit, generally coinciding with the townships within Ranges 19 and 20. Numerous anadromous streams occur throughout the unit, primarily as tributaries to the principal streams within unit R-02.</p> <p>Portions of the INHTS, Iditarod Race Trail and at least one public easement and one RS 2477 route (RST 174) are in this unit. Other local and regional trails may exist. Additional authorizations include one trapping cabin, at least five permits associated with commercial hunting, commercial back country heliskiing and one GPS station.</p>
R-02	Ha, Rd 103,886	Maps 3-7, 3-8 Various	<p>Manage unit to protect its habitat, hydrologic, and recreational values. Retain land in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, which include the INHTS and the Iditarod Race Trail. Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.</p>	<p>Unit comprises the larger river drainages within the Alaska Range Region. Included are the Skwentna, Happy, and Kichatna River. These rivers often occupy extensive floodplains, and the management unit includes the riparian areas adjacent to the rivers proper. Most of these streams are anadromous for much of their extent and several contain important moose habitat areas (winter concentration areas). A fall concentration of waterfowl occurs along portions of the Kichatna River. Brown bear spring use and moose wintering areas occur throughout the unit. Vegetation is characterized by a bottomland spruce-poplar forest. Portions of the INHTS, Iditarod Race Trail and at least three public access easements and two RS 2477 routes (RST 174 and 199) are in this unit. Other local and regional trails may exist. Additional authorizations include at least five permits associated with commercial hunting and guiding, commercial back country heliskiing, grazing and one weather camera station. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
R-03	F 45,310	Maps 3-7, 3-8 Various	<p>Manage unit for its forest values. Unit is affected by the Susitna Forestry Guidelines or its successor. All timber sales must meet the requirements of 11 AAC 95. Forest land use plans must, in addition to these requirements, adhere to the requirements of the Forestry section in Chapter 2 <i>Areawide Land Management Policies</i>.</p> <p>Because of the presence of important habitat and species scattered throughout portions of this unit, unit is also to be managed for the maintenance of wildlife species, fisheries, and habitats consistent with Management Guideline B in the <i>Fish and Wildlife Habitat</i> section in Chapter 2 and other management guidelines in this section associated with waterfowl concentrations and moose wintering areas. Consult with ADF&G on sensitive habitats and wildlife locations prior to or concurrent with FLUP preparation.</p> <p>A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Skwentna River. Protect anadromous streams and wetlands. Forestry riparian standards apply (AS 41.17.115 and AS 41.17.118) for riparian protection adjacent to anadromous and high value resident fish streams. Consult with ADF&G.</p> <p>Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, which include the INHTS and the Iditarod Race Trail. During FLUP preparation, identify these routes and provide suitable protection or mitigation. Coordinate with the SCRO/DMLW, and with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough on trail identification and routing.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership. Portions of the unit may be appropriate for inclusion in a state forest.</p>	<p>Unit consists of two separate subunits, corresponding to areas of merchantable timber consisting to spruce and poplar. The subunits occupy both hilly and lowland areas, with wetlands characteristic in portions of the lowland units. Moose are present, and winter concentration areas are known to occur within the northernmost parcel. Portions of the area immediately north of Red Salmon Lake in the northeastern part of S021N015W are believed to contain an important nesting and brood-rearing area for trumpeter swans, and swans are known to be present in portions of the northern parcel. Anadromous streams are present in the unit. Portions of the INHTS, Iditarod Race Trail, one RS 2477 route (RST 199) and two access easements are in this unit. There are two authorizations for commercial recreation activities and one public use cabin.</p>
R-04	Se 3,933	Map 3-8 S024N015W; S023N015W	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period.</p> <p>Protect riparian areas with adequate buffers.</p>	<p>Unit occupies generally flat terrain vegetated by a mixture of wetlands and bottomland spruce-poplar forest. It is part of a larger settlement area that is located in S024N014W in the Susitna Lowlands Region (management unit U-09). Refer to that unit for more detail. This unit, R-04, is currently vacant and is considered appropriate for remote settlement. Moose and trumpeter swan may occupy portions of this unit.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
R-05	Se 22,076	Map 3-7 S022N016-018W	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Retain the area associated with USS 3443 at Shirley Lake as a public use area (S022N017W, Sec. 16).</p> <p>As part of subdivision design carefully evaluate moose winter concentration areas. Protect any particularly significant moose concentration areas that are identified.</p> <p>The trumpeter swan nesting and brood rearing area in S021N016W and S022N016W is to be avoided. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Skwentna River.</p> <p>Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, which include the INHTS and the Iditarod Race Trail.</p>	<p>This large unit is characterized by a mixture of uplands, which largely coincide with the Long Lake Hills, and flat to gently sloping terrain along the north and south sides of the Skwentna River. The upland areas are characterized by a mixed spruce-poplar bottomland forest and the uplands, by a mixture of high brush, barren ground, and alpine tundra. Winter moose concentration areas occur within the bottomlands of the Skwentna River drainages. The Skwentna and several of its tributaries are known to be anadromous fish streams. A trumpeter swan nesting and brood rearing area is present in S021N016W and S022N016W. Segments of the INHTS and Iditarod Race Trail occupy the Skwentna River drainage. One right-of-way (ADL 222930) and one RS 2477 route (RST 199) is within this unit. This unit is almost entirely vacant, with only a few cabins present at Shirley Lake.</p>
R-06	Se 6,400	Map 3-7 S021N015-016W	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Skwentna River.</p> <p>As part of subdivision design carefully evaluate moose winter concentration areas. Protect particularly significant moose concentration areas that are identified. Protect easements.</p>	<p>This unit occupies generally flat to gently sloping terrain, with vegetation characterized by a mixture of wetlands and spruce-poplar forest. Portions of a winter moose concentration area may occupy portions of this unit, and Dall sheep may be present in the winter. Currently the unit is entirely vacant and there are no platted lots. An anadromous stream is present in the unit. One public access easement is within this unit.</p>
R-07	Mi 594,702	Maps 3-7, 3-8 Various	<p>Manage unit for its mineral values. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers; and avoid moose winter concentration areas.</p> <p>Protect the INHTS and Iditarod Race Trail. Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.</p>	<p>This large unit in the southwestern part of the region is associated with state lands having a high mineral potential. Prospects occur throughout this unit, with concentrations associated with the Mount Estelle pluton, which extends from Timber Creek in the north to Portage Creek in the south. Mineral potential is associated with both polymetallic deposits (precious and base metals) and base metal deposits (copper, lead, and zinc). Terrain within this unit is almost uniformly mountainous and contains numerous glaciers. (The river bottoms of the major drainages contain lowland, but these are contained within management unit R-02). Vegetation is alpine tundra in exposed locations (or barren rock). Portions of the INHTS and Iditarod Race Trail are in this unit. Dall sheep are known to be present in the western portions of the unit, generally coinciding with the townships occupied by Ranges 19 and 20. Moose winter concentration areas are present in the northernmost part of the unit, in T022NR017W and T022NR018W. Anadromous streams are present. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.</p>

Total state land within region (7 units) – 1,471,403 acres

Glenn Highway Region

This approximately 581,000 acre region encompasses the Glenn Highway corridor from Palmer out past Eureka to the eastern border of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. It follows the Matanuska River Valley with the Talkeetna Mountains to the north and Chugach Mountains to the south. The communities of Palmer, Sutton, and Chickaloon are within this region. Most of the state land within the western third of this region is within the boundary of the Matanuska Valley Moose Range, a Legislatively Designated Area (LDA). Another LDA within the plan boundary and adjacent to this region is a small portion of Chugach State Park at the southwest corner of the region along the Knik River. Two Public Use Areas (PUA) adjoin the boundary of this region: the Nelchina PUA to the north and the Knik River PUA to the south. The Hatcher Pass management area defines the western boundary.

While most of the region is the valley bottom and benchlands of the Matanuska River, the front range of the Talkeetna Mountains, where most of the human use is due to its accessibility from the highway, is also within the region. At the eastern end of the region the land rises to a high plateau and the distance between the Talkeetna and Chugach mountains broadens significantly. Refer to Figure 3-1 to locate the map of a particular area.

Distribution and Characteristics

There are approximately 331,000 acres of general state land (and state-selected) within this region. This does not include the approximately 122,000 acres in the legislatively designated Matanuska Valley Moose Range (MVMR). While this represents the majority of the land within the region, the land closest to the highway is not state-owned. Land south of the Knik River is mostly state-owned, but going north through Palmer and up the Matanuska Valley to Chickaloon is a mix of Borough, Mental Health Trust, Native, and other private land. The exception to this is the MVMR to the north of the highway, which is mostly state land but still has significant private inholdings. MVMR encompasses the land along the foothills of the Talkeetna Mountains but also comprises the valleys of five major tributaries to the Matanuska River along this stretch. They are the Moose, Granite, Kings, Chickaloon, and Boulder drainages. These streams support anadromous fish and the land cover here is a mix of evergreen and deciduous trees. The area between the MVMR and the northern boundary of this region is the steep mountains of the Talkeetna Range, covered with shrub and alpine tundra. East of the MVMR the Matanuska River valley narrows, and the Talkeetna and Chugach Mountains abut the Glenn Highway. Scattered private land occurs in this area, although the majority of land is state-owned. This area is an important Dall sheep movement corridor, as well as a migration corridor for both moose and a wide range of raptors and other birds.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

One of this region's primary features is the Glenn Highway, a designated scenic highway, which provides primary access to the region. East of the Palmer area there are few roads intersecting the highway except at Sutton and Chickaloon. Numerous trails depart from the north side of the highway, some accessing nearby features and others penetrating every drainage leading from the Talkeetna Mountains. Access via both foot and ATV is popular. Trails to the south are less numerous as the Matanuska River presents an obstacle, limiting access to the use of boats or winter means of travel. The Matanuska is only bridged in Palmer and again near the Matanuska Glacier, and the latter is a privately-owned toll bridge. Plane access is available on the numerous lakes that dot the region.

Numerous pockets of development occur along the highway corridor growing sparser as you travel from west to east. It is a mix of year round residences and second homes (vacation cabins). The largest populations are found at Sutton and Chickaloon.

The mountainous parts of the region provide habitat for Dall sheep and caribou. Moose and a variety of furbearing mammals occupy the lowlands, both along the benchlands and the river bottoms. Waterfowl use the numerous lakes that dot this region. Some of the streams support anadromous fish.

A lot of recreation occurs in this region due to its close proximity to half of the state's population, high scenic quality, abundance of trails and variety of terrains close to a major highway. Recreation includes trapping, hunting and fishing; watersports on both flatwater and whitewater; motorized and non-motorized trail use; mountaineering and ice-climbing.

The Matanuska Coal Field underlies the western half of this region with areas around Sutton having a long history of coal extraction. Coal mined here was a major fuel supply for the military and others up through World War II. Coal reserves still exist and there are active coal leases within the MVMR. Large blocks of mining claims are located near Caribou Creek and the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area is located at its confluence with the Matanuska River. There are many Mineral Closing Orders scattered throughout the region, mainly associated with past land sale areas.

The Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority (ANGDA) has a conditional right-of-way lease for a gas pipeline connecting Palmer to Glennallen. This is a large project whose effects would be studied through an environmental impact statement.

Most of the farming and forestry resources in this region are located on non-state lands, although some commercial timber exists on state land within the MVMR.

Management Constraints

The plans affecting this area are the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Coastal Management Plan and Comprehensive Development Plan; the 1985 Susitna Area Plan; the Matanuska Valley Moose Range Management Plan (a 1986 plan in need of revision); the Matanuska River Management Plan (a plan near completion in 2010); the East Alaska Resource Management Plan (BLM), and numerous local comprehensive plans. The latter includes those for Lazy Mountain, Chickaloon, Sutton, Glacier View, and Sheep Mountain. All were consulted in this revision.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table. Most of the land in this region that is road accessible is owned by the Borough, Mental Health Trust, Native corporations, or other private individuals. This leaves the state holding the more remote land that provides recreation and wildlife habitat. As a result approximately 308,000 of the approximately 331,000 acres of state land in the region are designated for public recreation and habitat.

However there are several small parcels that are near the highway and provide good residential land. In addition there are some larger blocks, both south of the Matanuska River and at the eastern boundary of the borough that are suitable for remote land sales. Combined this represents approximately 19,000 acres designated for Settlement.

Most of the remaining approximately 3,000 acres is meant to be retained for specific public purposes such as the prison and the Plant Materials Center on land near Palmer. Other examples are some scenic waysides along the Glenn Highway that provide campgrounds and trails. There is also a small piece of land with merchantable timber that is designated forestry.

Consult the Resource Allocation Table for specific recommendations.

Resource Allocation Table – Glenn Highway Region

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
G-01	Rd, Ha 12,385	Map 3-4 S016N002E; S016N003E	<p>Manage unit to protect habitat and recreation values and to be compatible with the adjacent Chugach State Park. Manage western parcel pursuant to the management agreement with DPOR, ADL 224037 and the ILMA with ADF&G, ADL 227277. Consult the North Anchorage Land Agreement (NALA) prior to any land authorizations.</p> <p>Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.</p>	<p>This unit is composed of two parcels south of the Knik River. The eastern parcel begins a half mile south of the Knik River Road and occupies the east flank of Pioneer Peak. It is steep mountainous terrain with forested lower slopes grading through shrubs and becoming sparsely vegetated talus in the upper reaches. Moose use the lower slopes for calving, rutting and winter habitat. A trail on public right-of-way ADL 224351 starts at Knik River Road, reaches state land within a mile and climbs to Pioneer Ridge.</p> <p>The western parcel is a one mile wide piece of land runs along the line of the Eklutna Lake Aqueduct where it runs underneath East Twin Peak to its northern terminus at the Eklutna Powerhouse at the Knik River. The parcel runs from steep mountainsides, descending from 5874 foot East Twin Peak to sea level in less than three miles, through spruce forest and finally to cottonwood forest along the Knik River. Upper slopes provide important Dall sheep habitat and the lower slopes are used by moose for calving and for winter habitat. Knik River is anadromous.</p> <p>Most of the parcel came to the state via general grant and community grant with a small portion being affected by Limited State Holding (LSH) 282. This parcel is bordered on its east and west by Chugach State Park and a management right has been granted to the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) under ADL 224037 for most of this parcel. The North Anchorage Land Agreement (NALA) ADL 214666 may affect this parcel.</p> <p>Adjacent to the Eklutna Powerhouse, the Eklutna Tailrace is a popular fishery managed by the ADF&G under ILMA ADL 227680. A public utility easement, ADL 227277, runs from the Eklutna Powerhouse and parallels the Knik River. The Old Glenn Highway crosses this parcel. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.</p>
G-02	Pr 286	Map 3-4 S017N002E	<p>Manage pursuant to ADL 228306, management right to the Division of Agriculture. Protect riparian habitat with riparian buffers. If the Plant Materials Center ceases operations a plan amendment will be required.</p>	<p>This unit is level terrain adjacent to the Matanuska River and the Plant Materials Center occupies the site. It's managed based on a management right given to the Division of Agriculture, ADL 228306. This unit consists of OSLs 573 and 859.</p> <p>The Matanuska River is anadromous and the unit provides moose calving and winter habitat.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
G-03	Pr 10	Map 3-4 S017N002E Sec. 1	Manage pursuant to ADL 228000, Interagency Land Management Agreement (ILMA) with the Division of Agriculture. If the experimental forest ceases operations a plan amendment will be required. Protect ADL 225896.	This unit is a level forested lot within the Eckert Subdivision and comprises OSL 1073. It is subject to an ILMA with the Division of Agriculture ADL 228000 and is to be an experimental forest run by the Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District. ADL 225896 is a public easement application along the unit's western boundary.
G-04	Rd 48	Map 3-4 S018N002E	Manage unit to protect its public recreation and habitat values. Preserve trail corridor managed per ILMA, ADL 228571. Preserve scenic value of the Glenn Highway corridor. Retain in state ownership. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers.	<p>This forested unit is bisected by the Glenn Highway and anadromous Moose Creek, providing some access to this fishery. Private, state, and federal agencies have worked to restore fish habitat in Moose Creek. An abandoned railroad corridor parallels the creek that is managed under a cooperative management agreement ADL 228571 between the Alaska Railroad, Mat-Su Borough, City of Palmer, and DNR. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Chickaloon Village Tribal Council are collaborating to rehabilitate and reopen the campground at Moose Creek.</p> <p>This bottomlands parcel provides calving and winter habitat for moose. The Matanuska coal field underlies this area.</p>
G-05	Pr 640	Map 3-4 S019N002E	Manage pursuant to lease ADL 17103 for use as a prison. Protect public utility easement ADL 202787 and coal lease ADL 224865.	<p>This forested unit mostly underlain with agricultural soils is the present site of the Palmer Correctional Facility. The entire section 36, School Trust land, is a Public and Charitable lease to the Department of Corrections, ADL 17103.</p> <p>The parcel provides winter habitat for moose.</p> <p>A public utility easement ADL 202787 runs through the northern portion of the unit. The Matanuska coal field underlies this area and the southwest corner of this unit is affected by coal lease ADL 224865.</p>
G-06	Ma 58	Map 3-4 S018N002E; S019N005E Sec. 4	Manage as a material site pursuant to ILMAs, ADL 35285 and 35286. Preserve trail corridor managed per ILMA, ADL 228571. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers.	This unit is comprised of two small parcels. One near Palmer is a forested parcel that straddles the Glenn Highway and abuts the anadromous Matanuska River. This site is an ILMA with ADOT/PF under ADL 35285. The other is a two acre parcel abutting the Glenn Highway about 5 miles west of the intersection with the Chickaloon Road and is an ILMA with ADOT/PF under ADL 35286. An abandoned railroad corridor parallels the Matanuska River that is managed under a cooperative management agreement ADL 228571 between the Alaska Railroad, Mat-Su Borough, City of Palmer and DNR.

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
G-08	Rd, Ha 14,327	Mapss 3-3, 3-4 Various	<p>Unit is to be managed to protect fish and wildlife habitat, and to support recreational use. Material sales are considered appropriate provided impacts to recreation and wildlife are mitigated. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.</p> <p>Minimize the impacts from erosion. Further guidance can be found in the Matanuska River Management Plan (a joint effort of the borough, state, and other agencies). Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.</p>	<p>This unit consists of the Matanuska River, including islands and gravel bars within the outer banks of the river, and some small adjoining state-owned riparian lands. The Matanuska River is a major glacial river that drains most of the Glenn Highway planning region and has a highly erodible nature. This river has many anadromous tributaries and also serves as a wildlife movement corridor for many terrestrial species.</p> <p>Recreational use is year-round and there are commercial operations in addition to general public use. Material sales such as ADL 226640 and 228311 to ADOT/PF exist within this unit. Several trails and at least four RS 2477s traverse the unit, including RSTs 1896, 1439, 1441 and 1433. An abandoned railroad corridor parallels the Matanuska River that is managed under a cooperative management agreement ADL 228571 between the Alaska Railroad, Mat-Su Borough, City of Palmer and DNR. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.</p>
G-09	Se 1,023	Map 3-4 S019N004E; S019N005E	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. The current material site is considered appropriate providing a vegetated buffer is retained in state ownership and impacts to adjacent land are mitigated.</p> <p>As part of subdivision design, carefully evaluate moose winter concentration areas and consider impacts of recreation and habitat values of adjacent MVMR. Provide wildlife movement corridors if determined necessary. Avoid or protect any particularly significant moose concentration areas. A riparian buffer of 200' from OHW is to be maintained on Kings River. Those portions of the two middle parcels that slope into the Kings River valley should not be developed.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. ADF&G should be consulted to identify and protect public access through these parcels.</p>	<p>Four separate parcels compose this unit along the Kings River drainage and bordering the Matanuska Valley Moose Range. Kings River is anadromous and the area provides moose winter habitat.</p> <p>The western parcel is mostly forested and contains a prior subdivision land sale with many lots being built on. Adjacent to this subdivision is a material site with free use permit ADL 26878 issued to ADOT/PF. The majority of the area is a land sales project area ADL 229500 with access via existing subdivision and a 17(b) easement.</p> <p>Another parcel occupies high forested ground between the Kings River and the Glenn Highway. A small unnamed lake is on the parcel and access is via section line easement.</p> <p>The two eastern parcels are forested parcels located between the Kings River and the Glenn Highway. The larger parcel is part of land sale project ADL 229500 and is accessible via section line easement. The smaller easternmost parcel has a constructed public right-of-way ADL 56129 leading from the Glenn Highway and an easement application ADL 227488 for a parallel route through this parcel.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
G-10	Rd 385	Map 3-4 S019N004E Sec. 16	Manage unit for public recreation values and consistent with the adjoining Matanuska Valley Moose Range. Plan for any necessary development of recreational facilities on this unit in conjunction with the revision of the Matanuska Valley Moose Range Management Plan. Protect winter moose habitat and the anadromous Kings River. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	<p>This unit straddles the LDA Matanuska Valley Moose Range at the mouth of Kings River. It comprises most of Section 16 and is School Trust land. The northern half of the unit ascends from the banks of Kings River to a ridge and is mostly forested. The southern half abuts the Matanuska River and the first quarter mile of the Kings River runs through it. Away from the river bottom the terrain is steep and forested. The Glenn Highway parallels the Matanuska River through this unit. RST 564, the Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail parallels the Kings River through this unit. A portion of this unit is part of the state land sales project area ADL 229500. Public utility easement ADL 262 crosses the unit. An application for public utility easement ADL 228632 affects this unit. Another application for a public right-of-way ADL 225669 to place riprap along Kings River is located in this unit.</p> <p>The entire unit provides moose winter habitat. The Kings River is anadromous. Public recreational use is heavy in this unit with camping on gravel bars and in the woods along the first quarter mile of the trail. Heavy trail use is both motorized and non-motorized.</p>
G-11	Rd, Ha 4,463	Map 3-4 S019N005E; S019N006E	Manage unit to protect its habitat and recreation values. Retain land in state ownership. Settlement (land disposals) and remote cabins are prohibited. Protect anadromous streams. Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.	<p>This unit occupies steep forested terrain east of Kings Mountain. The upper reaches of Carbon and Goat creeks, both anadromous streams, runs through the unit. The land in the eastern township is in selection status with some being topfiled. The terrain is mountainous with the lower slopes forested. A 17(b) easement parallels the Goat Creek drainage.</p> <p>Some Dall sheep winter habitat can be found in this unit. Recreational use is light primarily in the form of hunting and trapping. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.</p>
G-12	Rp 19	Map 3-4 S020N005E Sec. 35	Manage for recreation pursuant to ILMA ADL 42292 with Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. Retain land in state ownership.	This small unit is a level forested strip between the Matanuska River and the Glenn Highway. It is the Matanuska River Wayside, a campground managed by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation under ILMA ADL 42292.

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
G-13	Rd 259	Map 3-4 S020N005E Sec. 36	Manage the unit for its recreation value and protect the Glenn Highway's scenic viewshed. Protect anadromous streams. Protect ADL 265.	<p>This unit straddles the Matanuska River where Carbon Creek comes in from the south and Chickaloon River comes in from the north. All three waterbodies are anadromous. The Glenn Highway runs adjacent to the Matanuska River through this unit and the road to Chickaloon intersects the highway near the mouth of the Chickaloon River. There is steep terrain near the highway but most of the unit has moderate slopes and is forested. The Matanuska coal field underlies the unit. The unit contains moose winter habitat.</p> <p>ADL 265, a public utility easement, crosses the unit. The entire unit is within Section 36, School Trust Land.</p>
G-14	F 430	Map 3-4 S020N007E Sec. 31	Manage for the forestry values present. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Matanuska River. Consider adding this to the Mental Health Trust replacement pool.	<p>The unit occupies moderately sloping terrain adjoining the south side of the Matanuska River. It is bisected by an unnamed stream. This mixed forest is underlain by the Matanuska Coal Field.</p> <p>Land of similar character to the west has been given to the Mental Health Trust.</p>
G-15	Rp 469	Map 3-4 S020N007E Sec. 20	Manage for public recreation value pursuant to ILMA ADL 50072 and protect the existing trail. Protect the Glenn Highway scenic viewshed.	<p>This unit is the Long Lake Wayside and is defined by the ILMA to the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation ADL 50072. Long Lake is entirely within the unit and the Glenn Highway runs through the unit. The terrain is steep with slopes north of the lake being mostly talus and shrub; south of the lake is forested. The entire unit is underlain by the Matanuska Coal Field. Portions of the unit provide Moose winter habitat. Fishing is a year-round pursuit. Public utility easement ADL 32778 runs through the unit. Public right-of-way ADL 52374-L is a 2 mile long trail that runs on the south side of the lake.</p>
G-16	Rp 234	Map 3-3 S020N009E Sec. 27	Manage for its scenic and recreation values pursuant to ILMA ADL 50063 with DPOR. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	<p>This unit is the area of the Matanuska Glacier Wayside as defined by ILMA ADL 50063 to DPOR. The unit occupies steep forested slopes between the Glenn Highway and the Matanuska River. Moose find winter habitat here.</p> <p>ADL 32619 is a public right-of-way through the eastern part of the unit and RST 1441, Matanuska River Trail, runs through the western part. The Glenn Highway and public utilities cross the northern portion of the unit.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
G-17	Ha, Rd 41,426	Maps 3-3, 3-4 S020N007E; S020N008E; S019N008E; S019N009E; S020N006E	Manage to protect its habitat and scenic values. Manage Bonnie Lake State Recreation Site pursuant to ILMA ADL 42397 to DPOR and manage the adjacent upland parcel pursuant to management right ADL 229813 to ADF&G. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	<p>This unit spans several townships with moderate slopes covered mostly with forest and scattered lakes through the midsection. Anthracite Ridge, with its steep slopes and sparse vegetation, runs through the northern part of the unit. Similar terrain marks the southern border of the unit. Moose rutting and wintering habitat are provided in this unit. A salt lick important to Dall sheep is located in this unit. Anthracite Ridge in the northern section of this unit within the Talkeetna Mountains provides important Dall sheep wintering habitat, as do the lower elevation ridgelines in the Chugach Mountains in the south part of this unit. Anadromous Matanuska River bisects the unit as does the Glenn Highway.</p> <p>The Matanuska Coal Field underlies the unit. A portion of the unit is affected by ADL 229297, a conditional right-of-way lease issued to the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority.</p> <p>There are pockets of private and borough land in this unit especially around some of the larger lakes near the highway. Access roads lead from the highway to these subdivisions. ADL 57751 is a lease of three parcels on Index Lake to the adjacent landowner.</p> <p>Bonnie Lake State Recreation Site (SRS), which is the 98 acre lake itself, and an adjacent upland parcel, 31 acre OSL 1352, are also a part of this unit. The SRS is covered by an ILMA ADL 42397 to DPOR and the upland parcel is covered by a management right ADL 229813 to ADF&G.</p> <p>Numerous trails provide access throughout this unit most notably RST 564 Chickaloon-Knik-Nelchina Trail. Other trails include ADL 52374-public rights-of-way; ADL 227491 public right-of-way application; public access ADL 27166; RST 1438, 315, 433, 1441; Purinton Creek trail; and numerous 17(b) easements. Some of these trails may run coincident with each other.</p> <p>Public utility easements include ADLs 32778, 227281, 227333 and 75778 parallel the Glenn Highway.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
G-18	Se 8,778	Maps 3-3, 3-4 S020N008E; S019N008E; S019N009E	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period.</p> <p>As part of subdivision design, avoid or protect any particularly significant moose concentration areas and provide greenspace or migration corridors as necessary; avoid or mitigate impacts to recreation and habitat values and uses adjacent to the Matanuska River. Protect trails. A riparian buffer of 300' from OHW is to be maintained on the Matanuska River.</p> <p>Manage the Cascade Highway Maintenance Camp pursuant to ILMA ADL 56428. The current material sites are considered appropriate providing a vegetated buffer is maintained and impacts to adjacent land are mitigated.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.</p>	<p>This unit is bisected by the anadromous Matanuska River. The northern half is further bisected by the Glenn Highway. There were prior remote land sales in the area between the Glenn Highway and the Matanuska River. The area is mostly moderate slopes covered with a mixed forest. Moose winter habitat is found here.</p> <p>South of the Matanuska River is also moderately sloped but with some steep bluff lines cut through it. The area is mostly forested.</p> <p>A subdivision sale took place at Bench Lake with two lots remaining for sale over-the-counter. A remote staking land sale project area ADL 229343 has been established in this southern area. Access is via plane to Bench and Tatondon lakes or crossing the Matanuska River.</p> <p>Numerous Mineral Closing Orders affect portions of the unit.</p> <p>Public utility easements affecting this unit include ADLs 32778, 226890 and 226134 both near the Glenn Highway. Public rights-of-way affecting this unit include ADLs 52374, 59265, 223729, 218857, and 218862. There is a trail following the west bank of Gravel Creek. There is also RST 1439 Muddy Creek Trail.</p> <p>ADOT/PF has the Cascade Highway Maintenance Camp located on OSL 117 and covered by an ILMA ADL 56428. There are also material sites along the Glenn Highway, ADLs 217788 and 226928.</p>
G-19	Se 930	Map 3-3 S020N010E	<p>Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period.</p> <p>As part of subdivision design, carefully evaluate moose winter concentration areas and provide greenspace or migration corridors as necessary; maintain slope stability near highway. Avoid or protect any particularly significant moose concentration areas. Protect trails and the Glenn Highway viewshed.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals.</p>	<p>This unit is located near the confluence of Caribou Creek and the Matanuska River which is marked by a prominent peak called Lion Head. The unit is bounded by the Glenn Highway on two sides as the highway climbs behind Lion Head and descends into the Caribou Creek canyon. This unit is moderately sloped but is very steep at the margins bordering the highway, making access a challenge. A small lake is located on the property and the area provides moose winter habitat. Some local trails exist on the property. Numerous mining claims have been staked in this unit.</p>
G-20	Rd, Ha 142,436	Map 3-3 Various	<p>Manage unit for recreation and habitat values. The airstrip at Sheep Mountain should be managed pursuant to the ILMA ADL 221793 to ADOT/PF. Protect existing mining claims and communication sites. The current material sites and new applications are considered appropriate providing impacts to adjacent land are mitigated. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.</p>	<p>This large unit spans both sides of the Glenn Highway from Caribou Creek/Lion Head, out past Sheep Mountain and Eureka, ending at the boundary of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in the east. Some mixed forest and shrub exists on the benchlands in the western townships. This grades to sparse black spruce tundra as you climb in elevation to the east. This more open tundra to the east is dotted with numerous lakes. The</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
			<p>Note that the sheep and goat populations are protected within the SMDSMGP. Protect the associated habitat. Any authorizations must avoid or mitigate impacts to the sheep and goats and their habitat. If degradation of the habitat results from certain uses DNR will consider management constraints on those activities.</p> <p>Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.</p>	<p>mountains are steep in the north and south portions of the unit.</p> <p>This area includes Sheep Mountain, one of the state's foremost Dall sheep viewing areas. The Sheep Mountain Dall Sheep and Mountain Goat Preserve (SMDSMGP) is an area that was closed to hunting prior to statehood. This area provides critical year round habitat and refuge to a large number of Dall sheep and mountain goats. The short distance between the Talkeetna and Chugach Mountains in this area provide a critical link between Dall sheep populations, and is essential to the future viability of sheep in this area. Moose winter and rutting habitat is provided in the lower Caribou Creek and Nelchina River portions of this unit. Moose are known to migrate along the South Fork of the Matanuska River between the Matanuska and Nelchina River valleys.</p> <p>The Nelchina and the east and south forks of the Matanuska are the major rivers in this unit. Caribou Creek is anadromous and is a major access point for float trips on the Matanuska River. The upper reaches of Caribou Creek were part of a Power Site Classification PSC 443, but this federal file was closed in 2008.</p> <p>Year round recreation takes place in both the mountains and open tundra afforded by this unit with numerous access trails leaving from both sides of the highway. Some of these trails are RST 1426 Belanger Pass Trail, RST 1601 Crooked Creek Trail, RST 1427 Tahnetta Pass Trail, RST 1428 Startup Lakes Trail, RST 589 Squaw Creek Trail, RST 1431 Eureka-Nelchina-Barnette Trail, RST 1433 Jackass Canyon Trail, RST 1456 Old Man Creek Trail, and RST 1435 Gypsum Creek Mine Trail. Additional trail easements include ADL 228165 and 224434.</p> <p>Many pockets of private land are located along the highway corridor.</p> <p>There are many mining claims in this unit with concentrations in the Caribou Creek, Sheep Mountain and Squaw Creek areas. An airstrip is located at Sheep Mountain on LSH 327 and this is covered by an ILMA ADL 221793 to ADOT/PF. Mineral Closing Order 741 affects this parcel.</p> <p>A portion of the unit is affected by ADL 229297, a conditional right-of-way lease issued to the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority.</p> <p>A communication site ADL 216969 sits atop Lion Head and near Tahnetta Pass ADL 229350 also known as ATT communication site. A material site under ADL 229110 is located on the public access road to this latter site.</p>

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
				Material sites are scattered along the Glenn Highway and include ADLs 225827, 224740 and 220783. Utility easements affecting this unit include ADLs 228263, 224957, 225706, 229475, 221987. Permitted commercial guiding occurs in this unit. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.
G-21	Se 9,453	Map 3-3 C002N010W; C001N010W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. As part of disposal design, carefully evaluate moose winter concentration areas and provide greenspace or movement corridors as necessary; avoid or protect any particularly significant moose concentration areas. Retain a buffer of state land and utilize building setbacks along the Glenn Highway. Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. ADF&G should be consulted to identify and protect public access through these parcels.	This unit abuts the eastern border of the Glenn Highway Region and lies south of the highway. The terrain gently slopes from the highway down to the Nelchina River which lies south of the unit. Lakes are scattered throughout the unit and a spruce forest predominates, albeit stunted due to the average elevation being 2500 feet. Some moose winter habitat exists along the southern edge of the unit. A number of brown bears use this area particularly during late summer and fall months, and are known to move between this area and the Little Nelchina River north of the Glenn Highway. A pre-surveyed parcel disposal project area designation affects this unit (ADL 229494). A remote staking disposal project area designation affects this unit (ADL 230873).
G-22	Rd, Ha 92,468	Map 3-4 Various	Manage unit for its recreation and habitat values and for compatibility with the adjacent Matanuska Valley Moose Range. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. For actions concerning ANCSA selected lands consult Department Order 130. Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.	This unit occupies the steep mountainous terrain north of the Matanuska Valley Moose Range. The range encompasses the valley bottoms in this section of the Talkeetna Mountains while the sparsely vegetated upper slopes constitute this management unit. There are ANCSA land selections in the eastern half of the unit. Recreation is year-round and dispersed. The Matanuska Coal Field underlies a portion of this unit. A salt lick important to Dall sheep is located in this unit. Some Dall sheep winter habitat is also present. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.
G-23	Se 34	Map 3-4 S020N005E Sec. 36	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. ADF&G should be consulted to identify and protect public access through these parcels.	This unit is bounded on the east by the Chickaloon Road and on the north by the Matanuska Valley Moose Range. A mix of forest and shrub cover the moderately sloping terrain. The unit provides moose winter habitat. ADL 265, a public utility easement, crosses a portion of the unit. The Matanuska coal field underlies the unit. The entire unit is within section 36, School Trust Land.

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
L-02	Min 288 within this region	Map 3-3	This unit includes the Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area, an LDA. See the section <i>Legislatively Designated Areas</i> following.	
L-05	Ha, Co 121,913	Map 3-4	This unit encompasses the Matanuska Valley Moose Range, an LDA. See the section, <i>Legislatively Designated Areas</i> for detail on the management of this area.	

Total state land within region (22 units and 2 LDAs) – 453,001 acres

Chugach Mountains Region

This region encompasses areas above 1,000' elevation that occupy the northern flank of the Chugach Range and, with approximately 759,000 acres, it constitutes one of the larger regions within the planning area. With few exceptions all of the land within the region is owned by the state; the remaining areas are federal land, either managed by the BLM or the US Forest Service. The western and southwestern boundaries are formed by the lowlands in the Butte area and by the Knik River Public Use Area. The Matanuska River forms the northern boundary (except for areas near the Glenn Highway that are within the Glenn Highway management unit). The southern and eastern boundaries are formed by the corporate limits of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Included within this large area are extensive mountainous areas, much of which, especially in the southern part, is occupied by glaciers and their moraines and stream valleys. Refer to Figure 3-1 to locate the map of a particular area.

Distribution and Characteristics

There are approximately 706,000 acres of state general domain land within this region. With the exception of stream valleys situated in the northern part of the region, mountainous terrain is characteristic, with glaciers and their geomorphic features covering much of this terrain. Most of the lowland areas are situated in the northeastern part of the region, occupying the floodplains of the Nelchina River and the South and East Forks of the Matanuska River, which emanate from the Matanuska and Powell Glaciers. Vegetation reflects the mountainous terrain and the presence of large areas of glaciers and glacially formed topography, with most areas consisting of alpine tundra, if vegetation is present at all. Stream valleys often consist of mixed forest (evergreen and deciduous) except where large braided streams exist, like the Nelchina River. The elevated portions of their floodplains are characterized by shrub vegetation.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Access to these lands is very limited, reflecting its remote and generally inaccessible location. What access exists is provided by foot travel and off-road vehicles using several local trails in the main stream valleys and by float or wheeled fixed wing aircraft. A RS 2477 route extends from the Glenn Highway down to the east side of the Nelchina Glacier. These trails are commonly used for access into popular bear, moose, and sheep hunting areas. Fly in access is often hampered by local weather conditions.

Use of this large area of state land is very limited, reflecting topography and very limited access, both to the area and within it. Recreational use includes hunting, trapping, rafting, hiking, climbing, and backcountry skiing. Most of this use occurs in the northern part of the unit that has somewhat better access.

Much of the western and northern parts of the region, encompassing management unit C-01, provide habitat to moose, bear, sheep, wolverine, and a number of other small mammals. The management unit C-01 contains winter concentration areas of moose and Dall sheep.

Other than recreation use and its value for certain types of habitat, few other resources exist, reflecting the mountainous topography, limited access, and dearth of resources. Mineral, coal, and oil and gas potential within the region are low, although the region is open to mineral entry and oil and gas development. The scattered mineral licks within the region are managed under a leasehold location order. There are no areas suitable for farming or that contain forest resources in sufficient quality to support a woods product industry.

Management Constraints

The only plans affecting this area are the U.S. Forest Service management plan for the Chugach Forest, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Coastal Management Plan, and the 1985 Susitna Area Plan. All were consulted in this revision. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough does not have a regional comprehensive plan, although local comprehensive plans for specific areas exist but none affect the Chugach Mountains region.

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 state land will be managed for its habitat and public recreation values within management unit C-01. State land will be managed for their multiple use values within unit C-02, although no development is anticipated in this area. Land within this management region is to be retained in state ownership. Settlement (land disposals) and remote cabins are prohibited in this unit. Consult the Resource Allocation Table for specific recommendations.

Resource Allocation Table – Chugach Mountains Region

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
C-01	Ha/Rd 380,502	Maps 3-3, 3-4 Various	Manage unit to protect its habitat and hydrologic values. Retain land in state ownership. Settlement (land disposals) and remote cabins are prohibited. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.	This large unit consists of extensive mountainous terrain divided by steeply incised stream valleys. Vegetation within the stream valley consists of fairly sparse stands of deciduous and mixed forest, while mountainous areas, which predominate, are characterized by ice, barren ground, and alpine tundra. Moose winter and calving concentration areas occur within the stream valleys and Dall sheep are common at higher elevations year round. Windblown lower elevation ridges provide important wintering areas while steep ravines provide lambing and summer habitat. There are no known anadromous streams within the unit. Recreational use is limited by terrain and restricted access and is generally confined to the stream valleys, with most use occurring during the fall hunting season. RST 447 and the Matanuska Peak Trail (ADL 224027) are within this unit. Permitted commercial guide activities occur in this unit. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.
C-02	Gu 333,466	Map 3-3 Various	Manage land to protect its unique geologic and hydrologic values. Retain land in state ownership. Settlement (land disposals) and remote cabins are prohibited. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. Check land status in the selection areas prior to management or disposal decisions.	This unit, which is also very large, predominately consists of mountainous terrain occupied by glaciers and their outflow moraines. There is sparse recreational use in the unit. An RS 2477 route (RST 1431) occupies portions of C001S010W. Two leases for recreational and emergency shelters for skiers, hikers and climbers are within this unit. Glaciers, and their associated moraines and stream valleys, occupy essentially the entire unit; it is distinguished from C-01 by these features. Portions of this unit are in selection status; review land status prior to any management or disposal action.

Total state land within region (2 units) – 706,539 acres

Talkeetna Mountains Region

The Talkeetna Mountains Region encompasses an area of approximately 3.12 million acres and, as such, is the largest region within the planning boundary. It occupies almost uniformly mountainous terrain, except for the riparian areas adjoining the principal streams that drain this region, and is physiographically part of the Talkeetna Mountains province. The Nelchina Public Use Area makes up the majority of this region and defines the northeast and southeast boundaries. The western boundary is in the Talkeetna Foothills and the southwest boundary is the Hatcher Pass Management Plan area and the Matanuska Valley Moose Range. Refer to Figure 3-1 to locate the map of a particular area.

Distribution and Characteristics

Except for isolated private parcels and federal land within the northern part of the Nelchina Public Use Area (PUA), all of which has been selected, the state is the dominant land owner within this region. There are approximately 770,000 acres of state general domain land, and approximately 2.25 million acres of state land within the Nelchina PUA and State Recreation Rivers. Most of the state land is associated with the Nelchina PUA while the remainder is state general domain land administered under Title 38 authorities. Management of the PUA operates within Title 38 authorities but is also affected by the statutory purposes associated with this Legislatively Designated Area. Terrain is mountainous except for riverine areas associated with the seven principal streams that traverse the region; these include the Kashwitna River, Sheep Creek, Montana Creek, Sheep River, Iron Creek, and Talkeetna River. The Talkeetna River is designated as a State Recreation River for much, but not all, of its extent within the region. Riverine areas are fairly flat and are important travel corridors through this region. Within the principle river valleys a bottomland spruce-poplar forest predominates while in other locations, and with increasing elevation, this gives way to shrub and then alpine tundra and barren rock or glacier.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Access to and within the region is very limited. There are no roads and few airstrips. Access is either provided by foot travel, boat (Talkeetna River), float planes, or by a variety of local and regional trails. Most of these trails concentrate in the western half of the region, although a few provide access to and through the Nelchina PUA. Reflecting the size of the region, there are numerous RS 2477s; see *Chapter 2* for a further explanation of these routes and to access online sources that depict location and describe RS 2477 access routes.

The resources of this region, related to economic resources, are limited. The region is not conducive to grazing, agriculture, or forestry. Locatable mineral resources exist, primarily on Nelchina Creek, but the more significant deposits are situated outside of this region, particularly at Valdez Creek and the Independence Mine area of Hatcher Pass. Coal potential in the region is low and oil and gas potential is unknown but expected to be limited. Sub-bituminous coal deposits are situated outside of the region near Chickaloon and within the Matanuska Valley Moose Range, which is open to leasable coal production. Although not yet utilized, this region contains significant hydroelectric power generation potential and, depending on demand and price, may be utilized for power generation in the future.

Most of the region's resources are related to its wildlife and its associated habitat. Significant moose calving, and winter concentration areas occur within the Talkeetna foothills, while Dall sheep are present throughout much of the remainder of the unit and especially those areas that are exposed and provide escape terrain from predators. Both winter and summer caribou concentration areas occur near and east of the Talkeetna River. The prime caribou calving areas occur, however, further to the east within the Nelchina Public Use Area. All of the principal streams are anadromous.

With the presence of significant game populations and adjacent populated areas, this is one of the most heavily used big game hunting areas in the state, offering moose, Dall sheep, bear, and caribou. The majority of the range of the approximately 20,000 animals of the Nelchina caribou herd is located in this region. Its many streams and lakes offer excellent fishing for salmon, lake and rainbow trout, grayling, and other species. Recreation use of this area is limited and is mostly associated with snow-machining, particularly up the Kashwitna River drainage, hiking camping, climbing, and cross-country skiing.

Management Constraints

Several local management plans affect this region and were consulted in the development of recommendations for the South Parks Highway Region. Local plans include the Borough Comprehensive Development Plan and Coastal Management Plan. These plans contain both generalized land use recommendations and resource management requirements and were helpful in the formulation of recommendations. Borough local comprehensive plans do not affect this management unit.

There are two state land use plans that affect this unit: the 1985 Susitna Area Plan, which is being revised with this update, and the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan. State Recreation Rivers (SRR) in this region are managed under the latter; there are no specific requirements relating to SRRs deriving from the area plan.

The Nelchina PUA is to be managed under a separate management plan, but to date no such plan has been prepared. Until this management plan is prepared, the PUA is to be administered consistent with the statutory purposes of the PUA and with the management intent identified in this plan. See the section, *Legislatively Designated Areas*, which follows.

State land southwest of this region is managed under a separate land use plan, the Hatcher Pass Management Plan, and is being revised concurrently with the SMAP. That plan is not affected by the SMAP revision.

Management Summary

State land is to be managed consistent with the plan designations and management recommendations contained in the Resource Allocation Table for this region. Most state land will be managed in a manner similar to that inferred from its designation, which means that most will be managed for its wildlife habitat, water resource, and public recreation values. All state land within this region is to be retained.

This region is not considered appropriate for grazing, commercial timber harvest, or remote settlement – given its inaccessibility and unsuitable terrain. Locatable mineral exploration and development is appropriate within general domain land as well as within the Nelchina PUA, but any such activity must ensure that the numerous mineral licks are avoided or proper mitigation is provided.

Resource Allocation Table – Talkeetna Mountains Region⁶

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
T-01	Ha ,Wr 38,274	Map 3-5 Various	Manage to protect habitat and water resource values. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	This unit consists of the riverine areas adjoining the six principle streams within the Talkeetna Mountains Region – Kashwitna River, Sheep Creek and Sheep River, Montana Creek, Iron Creek, and that portion of the Talkeetna River not included within the LDA designation of a State Recreation River. Riverine areas are generally flat and are mostly vegetated by a fairly dense spruce-poplar forest mix. Moose, caribou, Dall sheep, bears (black and grizzly) and other species use these areas extensively as well as waterfowl and other smaller terrestrial species. Each of these streams is anadromous. RS 2477 routes in this unit include RST 331, 1694 and 1620. Permitted trapping cabins exist in this unit.
T-02	Ha, Rd 730,984	Maps 3-1, 3-2, 3-4, 3-5 Various	<p>Manage unit to protect its habitat and recreation values. Retain land in state ownership.</p> <p>Special consideration shall be given to the protection of mineral licks. Also, authorizations involving projects that adjoin or might directly affect uses within the Nelchina Public Use Area or the Hatcher Pass Management Plan shall consider the impacts of the proposed use upon the management purposes in the Nelchina PUA and the management intent of the adjacent management region within the Hatcher Pass Management area. Proposed uses or structures determined to be inconsistent with those purposes or management intent either shall not be authorized or, if authorized, stipulations to mitigate adverse impacts upon these areas shall be included in the decision.</p> <p>Remote settlement is not considered appropriate within this region owing to the lack of access and the presence of unsuitable terrain. Grazing is considered inappropriate for the same reasons. The limited timber resources of the unit may be used for personal timber harvest. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.</p> <p>Mineral licks are considered important habitat resources. Mineral development shall ensure that these areas are avoided or that suitable mitigation be provided as part of the regulatory review of mineral or other forms of development that may be authorized by the Department.</p>	<p>This unit comprises the remainder of the Talkeetna Mountains region. It extends eastward to abut the Nelchina PUA and southward to abut the Hatcher Pass Management Plan boundary.</p> <p>This area is characteristically mountainous except for the seven prominent river valleys described in unit T-01 and T-02. These areas are fairly flat and are important travel corridors through this region. Within the principle river valleys a bottomland spruce-poplar forest predominates while in other locations, and with increasing elevation, this gives way to shrub and then alpine tundra and barren rock or glacier. Significant moose calving and winter concentration areas occur within the Talkeetna foothills, while Dall sheep are present throughout much of the remainder of the unit and especially those areas that are exposed and provide escape terrain from predators. Both winter and summer caribou concentration areas occur near and east of the Talkeetna River. The prime caribou calving areas occur, however, further to the east within the Nelchina Public Use Area. Recreation use of this area is limited and is mostly associated with snowmachining, particularly up the Kashwitna River drainage. RS 2477 routes in this unit include RST 331, 1694 and 1620. Trail easements include ADL 230040 and 201263. Permitted trapping cabins exist in this unit. Commercial recreational activities occur in this unit.</p> <p>Mineral licks have been reported in two townships: T026N001E (Sec. 25, 28, and 35) and T025N001E (Sec. 1, 2, 4, and 4). There are anadromous streams in the unit.</p>

⁶ See the Resource Allocation Table for Legislatively Designated Areas for management requirements pertaining to the Nelchina PUA.

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Description
T-03	Se 958	Map 3-2 C004N009W	Tracts within ASLS 82-190 are to be retained except, potentially Tract C. Further development of this tract may be appropriate. Any decision to develop this area must be evaluated in a best interest finding and a finding made that this area is appropriate for residential land disposal.	Unit consists of a developed subdivision (ASLS 82-190) on the east side of John Lake and an undeveloped area (Tract C). Terrain in this area is generally level and vegetation consists of evergreen forest in areas of better soils and both shrub and wetlands in other areas. Tracts within the subdivision include uplands and islands; most are of small size and, seemingly, function to provide access or protect a resource. Tract C, consisting of more than 400 acres, is undeveloped and it is not clear if this area was intended to be reserved for future development or retained to provide open space or protect a sensitive resource.
L01	Ha, Rd 20,162 within this region	Maps 3-1, 3-5	This unit includes State Recreation Rivers within this region. Consult the section, Legislatively Designated Areas, following, for details on management.	
L03	Ha 2,247,416	Maps 3-2, 3-3, 3-4	This unit includes the Nelchina Public Use Area. Consult the section, Legislatively Designated Areas, following, for details on management.	

Total state land within region (3 units and part of 2 LDAs) – 3,037,794 acres

Legislatively Designated Areas

Much of the state land within the planning boundary is situated in seven Legislatively Designated Areas (LDA), encompassing a total of 3 million acres out of the 9 million acres of state land within the plan boundary. The bulk of the acreage is associated with just three LDAs: State Recreation Rivers (Alexander Creek SRR, Kroto & Moose Creek SRR, Lake Creek SRR, Talkeetna River SRR and Talachulitna River SRR) totaling approximately 225,000 acres, Denali and Chugach State Parks (approximately 323,000 acres), and, particularly, the Nelchina Public Use Area (Approximately 2.25 million acres). The remaining acreage is associated with the Petersville Recreational Mining Area, (487 acres), Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area (288 acres), the Matanuska Valley Moose Range (approximately 122,000 acres) and a portion of the Chugach State Park (approximately 14,000 acres). However, three LDAs border but are not included in the planning area (Susitna Flats State Game Refuge, Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge, and Knik River Public Use Area). Similarly, the Hatcher Pass management area borders the planning area but is not included in it. The Department is responsible for the administration of each LDA except for the management of fish and game resources, which is the responsibility of ADF&G.

Legislatively Designated Areas are special purpose sites that are managed according to the requirements of the legislation specific to the site and to the general class of LDA⁷, 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 them 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 before it is conveyed out of state ownership. A plan designation is not required for State Parks, however. In general, the LDAs within the plan boundary are assigned the designations of Habitat or Public Recreation, or both, reflecting the intent of the legislation that created the LDA. These plan designations are not intended to provide the 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 a management plan specific to the LDA. 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.

⁷ Article VIII, paragraph 7 of the State Constitution.

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

The following Resource Management Table identifies the seven LDAs. It gives their plan designation, management purposes (which are usually related to statutory purposes), and specifies if a management plan exists that guides Department decision making for the specific LDA.

Resource Allocation Table – Legislatively Designated Areas

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Administrative Aspects and Other
L-01	Ha/Rd 224,714	Maps 3-1, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-9, 3-10 Various	State Recreational Rivers: Manage uses consistent with the legislative purposes described in AS 41.23.500 and with the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan. DMLW is responsible for the management of State Recreational Rivers.	The requirements of this area plan do not apply to State Recreation Rivers. SRRs are closed to locatable mineral entry, but are open to coal and mineral leasing and to oil and gas exploration and development. Specific regulations exist that provide management guidance to DMLW.
L-02	Mi 775	Map 3-9 S028N008W Map 3-3 S020N010E	Petersville Mining Area: Manage uses consistent with the legislative purposes described in AS 41.23.630 and with the management plan required under AS 41.23.630(b). Caribou Creek Mining Area: Manage uses consist with the legislative purposes the requirements of AS 41.23.610(b). When prepared and adopted, also manage this area consistent with the management plan. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	Petersville Mining Area: a management plan, required by statute, has not been prepared (2010). Area is closed to mineral entry, but is open to recreational mining. Multiple uses activities are permitted within the Recreational Mining Area (RMA) insofar as they do not detract from the primary purpose for which the RMA was established. DNR is to permit the construction and realignment of the Petersville Road by ADOT/PF. RST 565 crosses this unit. Caribou Creek Mining Area: a management plan, required by statute, has not been prepared (2010). Area is closed to mineral entry, but is open to recreational mining under AS 41.23.600 – 41.23.620. DNR is to permit the construction and realignment of the Glenn Highway by ADOT/PF. The requirements of this plan do not apply to State Recreational Mining Areas.
L-03	Ha 2,247,416	Maps 3-2, 3-3, 3-4 Various	Nelchina Public Use Area: Manage uses consistent with the legislative purposes described in AS 41.23.010 and with the management plan required under AS 41.23.020, when prepared. Prepare a management plan, required under AS 41.23.020 for the PUA. Until that plan is developed the designations of Wildlife Habitat and Public Recreation-Dispersed apply; management of the Nelchina PUA is to be consistent with the protection of wildlife species, their associated habitats, and with the PUA specific standards of AS 41.23.010. Subsequent to its adoption, authorizations and management actions within the PUA are to be consistent with that plan.	The PUA is open to mineral entry under AS 41.20.020(c), with the exploration, development, and extraction of mineral resources to occur in a manner consistent with the purposes specified in AS 41.23.010(1-4). The management of the surface and subsurface is the responsibility of DNR. ADF&G is responsible for the management of fish and game resources and public use of fish and wildlife. DNR may not manage the PUA as a unit of the state park system. (The latter limits the authority to manage land by DPOR if a management agreement between DMLW and DPOR is created that assigns certain aspects of management to DPOR.) Note: the management plan, required by statute, has not been prepared (2010).

Unit #	Designation(s)/ Acres	Map(s)/ MTRS	Management Intent	Administrative Aspects and Other
L--04	None (refer to statutes establishing the parks) 337,608	Maps 3-1, 3-9 Various	Denali State Park and Chugach State Park: Manage State Parks consistent with the general purposes for state park management under AS 41.21 and with the requirements of the respective state park management plans. Note: DPOR is responsible for the management of the State Parks.	The requirements of this area plan do not apply to Denali and Chugach state parks.
L-05	Co, Ha 121,913	Map 3-4 Various	Matanuska Valley Moose Range: Manage uses consistent with the legislative purposes described in AS 16.20.340 and the Matanuska Valley Moose Range Management Plan (1986).	The PUA is open to coal exploration and development under the coal leasing procedures. It is also open to locatable and leasable minerals, except for Mental Health Trusts Lands, which follow specific procedures for mineral and coal exploration and development. However, there are Mineral Closing Orders affecting a small portion of this unit. The management of the surface and subsurface is the responsibility of DNR. ADF&G is responsible for the management of fish and game resources and public use of fish and wildlife. The requirements of this area plan do not apply to the Moose Range.

Total LDA land within the planning area (5 LDAs) – 2,932,426 acres

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 shorelands, 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.

To see the state’s map of navigable waters, go to:

<http://www.navmaps.alaska.gov/navwatersmap>

For further information on the state’s navigability policy, go to:

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 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. These are listed in Tables 3-1 and 3-2. Anadromous streams and lakes are designated Habitat and those rivers and lakes that are particularly significant for public recreation are designated Public Recreation-Dispersed. In those instances where the stream or lake is important for both purposes, these are co-designated Habitat and Public Recreation-Dispersed. Streams that are neither anadromous nor important for public recreation acquire the designation of the management unit⁸ through which they cross and since there may be numerous parcels that may have differing designations, these streams may have varying designations. Consult the plan maps to determine the appropriate designation(s).

Management Intent: Other Rivers and Lakes

The following designations apply to the rivers and lakes *not* specified in Tables 3-1 and 3-2:

Navigable Rivers and Lakes within LDAs.

Anadromous lakes or streams within LDAs are co-designated Public Recreation-Dispersed and Habitat⁹. 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.

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

⁸ This assumes that the parcel is owned by the state. Unlike other areas of the state, most of the land within the planning area is either owned by the state or has been selected by the state, so it is likely that a stream is crossing state land.

⁹ These designations do not apply to LDAs that are state parks.

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.




Table 3-1: Navigable Streams & Creeks

Streams & Creeks	Classification
Alexander Creek	Ha, Rd
Beluga River	Ha, Rd
Bottle Creek	Ha, Rd
Chickaloon River	Ha, Rd
Chulitna River	Ha, Rd
Chulitna River, East Fork	Ha, Rd
Chunilna Creek	Ha, Rd
Clearwater Creek	Ha, Rd
Deep Creek	Ha, Rd
Deshka River	Ha, Rd
Donkey Creek Slough	Ha, Rd
Eightmile Creek	Ha, Rd
Fish Lake Creek	Ha, Rd
Hayes River	Ha, Rd
Hewitt Creek	Ha, Rd
Iron Creek	Ha, Rd
Johnson Creek	Ha, Rd
Kahiltna River	Ha, Rd
Kashwitna River	Ha, Rd
Knik River	Ha, Rd
Kroto Creek	Ha, Rd
Lake Creek	Ha, Rd
Little Susitna River	Ha, Rd
Little Willow Creek	Ha, Rd
Martin Creek	Ha, Rd
Matanuska River	Ha, Rd
Moose Creek (located on west side of Susitna drainage)	Ha, Rd
Nakochna River	Ha
Nelchina River	Rd
Peters Creek	Ha, Rd
Sheep Creek	Ha, Rd
Shell Creek	Ha, Rd
Skwentna River	Ha, Rd
Susitna River	Ha, Rd
Talachulitna River	Ha, Rd
Talkeetna River	Ha, Rd
Tokositna River	Ha, Rd
Trapper Creek	Ha, Rd
Twentymile Creek	Ha, Rd
Twentymile Slough	Rd
Tyone River	Rd
Willow Creek	Ha, Rd
Yentna River	Ha, Rd

Table 3-2: Navigable Lakes

Lakes	Classification
Amber Lake	Ha
Beluga Lake	Ha
Donkey Creek Lake	Ha
Fish Lake (located near Talkeetna)	Ha
Hewitt Lake	Ha
Kroto Lake	Ha, Rd
Ladyslipper Lake	Ha, Rd
Lockwood Lake	Rd
Lower Beluga Lake	Ha, Rd
Nancy Lake	Ha
Neil Lake	Ha
Quiet Lake	Ha, Rd
Safari Lake	Ha
Swan Lake	Ha
Whiskey Lake	Rd
Witsoe Lake	Ha, Rd

Susitna Matanuska Area Plan (SMAP) August 2011

-  SMAP Boundary
-  SMAP Regions
-  Towns

