

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>

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			<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