

## **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&amp;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&amp;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&amp;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&amp;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&amp;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&amp;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&amp;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	<p>Manage unit for its habitat and recreation values.</p> <p>Retain in state ownership.</p> <p>Additional land disposals in this unit are not authorized.</p>	<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&amp;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&amp;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&amp;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&amp;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