Susitna Matanuska Area Plan

Public Review Draft

Note: To receive full consideration, comments on the Public Review Draft must be received before:

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Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land and Water
Resource Assessment & Development

Table of Contents

NOTE: There are no links in this table of contents. The tables of contents at the beginning of each chapter do contain links.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Introduction and Background ..... 1 - 1
- Summary of Purpose of the Plan ..... 1 - 1
- Description of the Planning Area ..... 1 - 1
- Uplands and Shorelands as Described in This Plan ..... 1 - 2
- Update of the Original Susitna Area Plan ..... 1 - 2
- Planning Area ..... 1 - 3
- How the Plan is Organized ..... 1 - 4
- Why This Plan Was Developed ..... 1 - 4
- The Mandate ..... 1 - 5
- What the Plan Will Do ..... 1 - 6
- How This Plan is Used ..... 1 - 6
- Public Participation in Planning Process ..... 1 - 6
- Process of Plan Preparation ..... 1 - 6
- Who Developed the Plan? ..... 1 - 7
- Uses and Resources Within the Planning Area ..... 1 - 7
- What the Plan Won't Do ..... 1 - 9
- Planning Period ..... 1 - 10

Summary of Plan Actions ..... 1 - 10
- Management Intent ..... 1 - 10
- Land Use Designations ..... 1 - 10
- Management Guidelines ..... 1 - 10
- Classifications ..... 1 - 10
- Summary of Plan Implementation and Modification ..... 1 - 11

Chapter 2: Areawide Land Management Policies

Introduction ..... 2 - 1
- Definitions ..... 2 - 1
- Goals ..... 2 - 1
- Management Intent ..... 2 - 2
- General Framework of the Plan ..... 2 - 2
- Management Guidelines by Activity or Resource Value ..... 2 - 3
- General Guidelines ..... 2 - 3
- Other State Land ..... 2 - 4

Agriculture ..... 2 - 5
- Management Guidelines ..... 2 - 5

Coordination and Public Notice ..... 2 - 8
- Management Guidelines ..... 2 - 8

Cultural Resources ..... 2 - 10
- Management Guidelines ..... 2 - 10

Fish and Wildlife Habitat ..... 2 - 12
Management Guidelines ..... 2 - 12
Forestry ..... 2 - 20
Management Guidelines ..... 2 - 21
Instream Flow ..... 2 - 27
Management Guidelines ..... 2 - 27
Material Sites ..... 2 - 28
Management Guidelines ..... 2 - 28
Recreation and Scenic Resources ..... 2 - 30
Management Guidelines ..... 2 - 30
Settlement ..... 2 - 33
Management Guidelines ..... 2 - 35
Shorelands and Stream Corridors ..... 2 - 40
Management Guidelines ..... 2 - 40
Subsurface Resources ..... 2 - 47
Management Guidelines ..... 2 - 47
Public Access ..... 2 - 50
Management Guidelines: General Public Access ..... 2 - 50
Management Guidelines: Trails Within and Between Developing Areas ..... 2 - 52
Management Guidelines: Iditarod and Iditarod Trail System ..... 2 - 53

Chapter 3: Land Management Policies for Each Management Unit

Introduction ..... 3 - 1
Organization of Chapter ..... 3 - 2
Land Use Designations ..... 3 - 2
Designations Used in This Plan ..... 3 - 4
Explanation of Mineral and Coal Designations ..... 3 - 6
Management Intent ..... 3 - 7
Management Guidelines ..... 3 - 8
Duration and Flexibility of Plan ..... 3 - 9
Glossary ..... 3 - 9
Plan Structure ..... 3 - 9
Plan Regions ..... 3 - 9
Management Units ..... 3 - 10
Region Descriptions ..... 3 - 11
Plan Maps ..... 3 - 12
Land Status Depicted In Plan Maps ..... 3 - 12
Resource Allocation Table ..... 3 - 13
North Parks Highway Region ..... 3 - 15
Distribution and Characteristics ..... 3 - 15
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land ..... 3 - 15
Management Constraints ..... 3 - 16
Management Summary ..... 3 - 16

South Parks Highway Region ..... 3 - 25
Distribution and Characteristics ..... 3 - 25
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land ..... 3 - 26
Management Constraints ..... 3 - 26
Management Summary ..... 3 - 27
Petersville Road Region ..... 3 - 39
Distribution and Characteristics ..... 3 - 39
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land ..... 3 - 40
Management Constraints ..... 3 - 41
Management Summary ..... 3 - 41
Sunflower Basin Region ..... 3 - 53
Distribution and Characteristics ..... 3 - 53
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land ..... 3 - 54
Management Constraints ..... 3 - 55
Management Summary ..... 3 - 55
Susitna Lowlands Region ..... 3 - 65
Distribution and Characteristics ..... 3 - 65
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land ..... 3 - 66
Management Constraints ..... 3 - 67
Management Summary ..... 3 - 67
Mount Susitna Region ..... 3 - 81
Distribution and Characteristics ..... 3 - 81
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land ..... 3 - 81
Management Constraints ..... 3 - 83
Management Summary ..... 3 - 83
Alaska Range Region ..... 3 - 93
Distribution and Characteristics ..... 3 - 93
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land ..... 3 - 93
Management Constraints ..... 3 - 94
Management Summary ..... 3 - 94
Glenn Highway Region ..... 3 - 101
Distribution and Characteristics ..... 3 - 101
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land ..... 3 - 102
Management Constraints ..... 3 - 102
Management Summary ..... 3 - 103
Chugach Mountains Region ..... 3 - 115
Distribution and Characteristics ..... 3 - 115
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land ..... 3 - 115
Management Constraints ..... 3 - 116
Management Summary ..... 3 - 116
Talkeetna Mountains Region ..... 3 - 119
Distribution and Characteristics ..... 3 - 119
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land ..... 3 - 119
Management Constraints ..... 3 - 120
Management Summary ..... 3 - 121

Legislatively Designated Areas ..... 3 - 125
Navigable Rivers and Lakes ..... 3 - 129
Management Intent of Navigable Water Bodies ..... 3 - 129
Public Trust Doctrine ..... 3 - 129
Management Intent: Specific Rivers and Lakes ..... 3 - 131
Management Intent: Other Rivers and Lakes ..... 3 - 131

Chapter 4: Implementation and Recommendations

Introduction ..... 4 - 1
State Land Classifications ..... 4 - 1
Relationship of Land Use Designations in the Plan to State Land Classifications ..... 4 - 3
Public Trust Doctrine ..... 4 - 5
Leasing of State Land ..... 4 - 5
Classification Order ..... 4 - 5
Applicability of Plan Designations/Classifications to State Lands not Identified in the Plan Text or Plan Maps ..... 4 - 6
Survivor Designations and Classifications ..... 4 - 7
Alaska Coastal Management Program ..... 4 - 8
Municipal Entitlement ..... 4 - 8
State Land Selections ..... 4 - 8
State Land Selections ..... 4 - 8
ANILCA Topfiled Lands ..... 4 - 9
Mineral Orders ..... 4 - 9
Legislatively Designated Areas ..... 4 - 10
Generally Allowed Uses ..... 4 - 10
Types of Plan Changes ..... 4 - 10

Appendices

Appendix A: Glossary ..... A - 1
Appendix B: Land Classification Order No. SC-09-002 ..... B - 1

Table of Maps

Chapter 2

Map 2-1: Lands to be Considered for Legislative Designation as a State Forest ..... 2 - 26

Chapter 3

Map 3-1: Planning Boundary and Regions ..... 3 - 3
Map 3-2: Index for Location of Detail Maps .....3 – 135
Detail Maps:
Map 3-3 ..... 3 - 137
Map 3-4 ..... 3 - 139
Map 3-5 ..... 3 - 141
Map 3-6 ..... 3 - 143
Map 3-7 ..... 3 - 145
Map 3-8 ..... 3 - 147
Map 3-9 ..... 3 - 149
Map 3-10 ..... 3 - 151
Map 3-11 ..... 3 - 153
Map 3-12 ..... 3 - 155

Table of Figures

Chapter 1

Figure 1-1: Submerged lands, tidelands, uplands, and shorelands as described in this plan ..... 1 - 2

Table of Tables

Chapter 2

Table 2-1: Application Requirements for Easements and Buffers Along Waterbodies and Related Environmental Features ..... 2 - 45

Chapter 3

Resource Allocation Tables
North Parks Highway Region ..... 3 - 18
South Parks Highway Region ..... 3 - 28
Petersville Road Region ..... 3 - 43
Sunflower Basin Region ..... 3 - 57
Susitna Lowlands Region ..... 3 - 69
Mount Susitna Region ..... 3 - 85
Alaska Range Region ..... 3 - 96
Glenn Highway Region ..... 3 - 104
Chugach Mountains Region ..... 3 - 117
Talkeetna Mountains Region ..... 3 - 122
Legislatively Designated Areas ..... 3 - 127

Table 3-1: Navigable Streams & Creeks ..... 3 - 133
Table 3-2: Navigable Lakes ..... 3 - 134

Chapter 4

Table 4-1: Acreages Associated with Land Designations and Co-designations ..... 4 - 4
Table 4-2: Land Designations – Conversion to Classifications ..... 4 - 5
Table 4-3: Acreages Associated with Land Classifications and Co-classifications ..... 4 - 6

Chapter 1
Introduction

Introduction and Background 1
Summary of Purpose of the Plan 1
Description of the Planning Area 1
Uplands and Shorelands as Described in This Plan 2
Figure 1-1: Submerged lands, tidelands, uplands, and shorelands as described in this plan 2
Update of the Original Susitna Area Plan 2
Planning Area 3
How the Plan is Organized 4
Why This Plan Was Developed 4
The Mandate 5
What the Plan Will Do 6
How This Plan is Used 6
Public Participation in Planning Process 6
Process of Plan Preparation 6
Who Developed the Plan? 7
Uses and Resources Within the Planning Area 7
What the Plan Won't Do 9
Planning Period 10
Summary of Plan Actions 10
Management Intent 10
Land Use Designations 10
Management Guidelines 10
Classifications 10
Summary of Plan Implementation and Modification 11

Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION

Introduction and Background

Summary of Purpose of the Plan

The role of state land use plans was established by state statute (AS 38.04.005). It is the policy of the State of Alaska "...to establish a balanced combination of land available for both public and private purposes. The choice of land best suited for public and private use shall be determined through the inventory, planning, and classification processes..."

The plan determines management intent, land-use designations, and management guidelines that apply to all state lands in the planning area.

Description of the Planning Area

The Susitna-Matanuska Area Plan (SMAP) directs how the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will manage general state uplands and shorelands within the planning boundary. The following is a summary of the acreage to which the plan will apply:

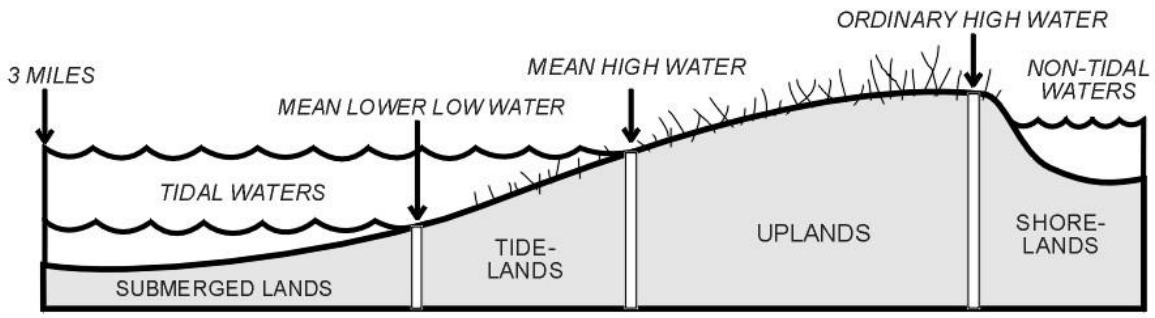
Area	Acres
State-owned uplands	8,795,709
State-owned shorelands	83,663
Total Acreage	8,879,372

NOTE: There are seven Legislatively Designated Areas (LDA) within the planning area which encompass approximately 3 million acres. The SMAP establishes land use designations for all of these areas except for state park units, but management intent is found in the statutes, regulations and management plans applicable to each LDA. Refer to the LDA region description at the end of this chapter, and defined in the Glossary, for more details.

Uplands and Shorelands as Described in This Plan

Figure 1-1 depicts those areas typically owned by the state and affected by area plans. In the case of this area plan, because the planning area does not include tidelands or submerged lands, only that portion of the figure that depicts uplands and shorelands apply. Shorelands include the lands below ordinary high water in non-tidal areas. Uplands include all other land above ordinary high water in non-tidal areas. These definitions are also found in the Glossary.

Figure 1-1: Submerged lands, tidelands, uplands, and shorelands as described in this plan



Update of the Original Susitna Area Plan

The original Susitna Area Plan was prepared in the early 1980s and was adopted in June, 1985. The original plan included a number of regions that are not part of this update.

This revision makes several changes in the planning boundary. The 2010 Susitna Matanuska Area Plan (SMAP) does not include the following regions: Beluga, the southern part of South Parks Highway, Lake Louise, and the northern portion of the Talkeetna Mountains region. The Beluga region has been dropped since it is covered by the Kenai Area Plan. As a matter of practice, DNR develops its area plans to coincide with borough boundaries. The southern portion of the South Parks Highway region has been incorporated into the Southeast Susitna Area Plan (2008), and both the northern part of the Talkeetna Mountains and Lake Louise region have been excluded from this revision and are to be covered in a new area plan for these two regions. Until the land use ownership patterns are established with some amount of finality in the Talkeetna Mountains unit, it did not appear prudent to update this portion of the area plan. Map 3-1 at the beginning of chapter 3 depicts the plan boundary and the planning regions within this boundary for the 2010 SMAP.

Since the adoption of the Susitna Area Plan in 1985, much has changed in the Susitna and Matanuska Valleys, with much of the area along the Parks and Glenn Highways being

developed. A variety of economic and demographic trends has accelerated growth and probably will continue to create growth in the areas most readily accessible from the developed roads or major regional trails. Another major change has been the marked decline in the inventory of state land, which has been particularly noticeable in the areas along and adjoining the Parks and Glenn Highways. In the early 1980s the state was the principal land owner in these areas. Since that time the amount of state land has steadily decreased with state land being conveyed to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Cook Inlet Regional Corporation, the Mental Health Trust, the University of Alaska, and to private parties through state land and agricultural land sales and settlements. This has resulted in a decreased and dispersed state land base in areas near the two highways, although extensive state holdings remain in the more remote and inaccessible parts of the planning area. Additionally, the 1985 area plan has been found difficult to use for decision making in DNR since its land ownership patterns and land classification designations do not reflect the current patterns of state ownership or land classification. For these and other reasons, revision of the 1985 plan was appropriate and was undertaken beginning in 2009. Area plans are intended to be updated on a 15 to 20 year schedule.

The Land Classification Order that accompanies this revision revises and supersedes all previous land classifications. Current mineral orders and leasehold location orders however remain in effect and are not modified by this revision.

Planning Area

The planning boundary of the Susitna Matanuska Area Plan includes all state owned and state selected uplands and shore lands within the area depicted on Map 3-1 at the beginning of Chapter 3. This extensive area consists of vast areas of mountainous terrain associated with the Chugach Mountains in the east, the Talkeetna Mountains and Alaska Range in the north, and the Tordillo Mountains in the west, which are also part of the Alaska Range. Interspersed between these areas is the expanse of the lowlands of the Susitna Valley and portions of the Matanuska Valley. This area coincides with the boundary of the Matanuska Susitna Borough in the west and much of the north, but all of the planning area occurs within the corporate boundary of this borough. Significantly, the planning area does not include the more central and heavily used lowlands that are included as part of the Southeast Susitna Area Plan, the westward extension of the Knik Glacier, and the mountainous area associated with the Hatcher Pass management area. The area of the Knik Glacier and Knik River are managed under the Knik River Public Use Area Management Plan and the area of Hatcher Pass, by the Hatcher Pass Management Plan. Consult these three plans for management requirements on the state lands that they affect. Within this planning area are a number of large Legislatively Designated Areas (LDAs), which total 3,049,211 acres, and include: the Nelchina Public Use Area, Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers, Denali State Park, Matanuska Valley Moose Range, Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area and the Petersville Recreational Mining Area. The recommendations of this plan pertain to the state-owned and state-selected land not within the LDAs, a total of about 6 million acres.

How the Plan is Organized

The plan has four chapters:

Chapter 1 includes a summary of the purpose of the plan, description of the planning area, how and why the plan was developed, what the plan does and does not cover, and a summary of plan actions.

Chapter 2 includes goals of the plan and guidelines that apply throughout the planning area. Guidelines are listed in 11 resource and land-use categories. Guidelines are specific directives that will be applied to land and water management decisions as resource use and development occurs.

Chapter 3 includes an explanation of plan designations, general management intent for state land, descriptions of the eight planning regions, and a detailed listing of management units. It also provides a summary of management constraints and considerations based on existing plans, legislative designations and other management constraints that significantly affect resource management and a description of navigability as it relates to state waters within the planning region.

The bulk of this Chapter, however, consists of the Resource Allocation Tables. State land in the planning area is divided into spatial areas called 'units'. These are either uplands or shorelands and may consist both of small areas of state land, like a lot or tract within a state subdivision, as well as very large areas that have common location, access, use, or resource characteristics. There are 166 upland units and four shoreland units along the Susitna, Matanuska and Chulitna Rivers. This table, for each unit, identifies the recommended land use designation, background and resource information, and management intent. These parcels correspond to the management units identified on the plan maps.

Chapter 4 discusses specific actions necessary to implement the plan. These include a description of how land use designations convert into classifications, a description of survivor designations and classifications, and a land classification order. Procedures for changing the plan are also discussed.

Appendices include a glossary and a land classification order.

Why This Plan Was Developed

The planning area is rich in natural resources, contains a mix of developed and undeveloped land, and there are competing demands for the use of state land. There are many different ideas about how these resources should be used or protected. Although some proposed uses

might be in conflict with each other, many different uses can occur throughout the planning area while protecting vital resources, providing the uses are properly managed.

This plan establishes the land use designation for state land and describes their intended uses. The plan directs which state lands will be retained by the state and which should be sold to private citizens, used for public recreation, or used for other purposes. It also identifies general management guidelines for major resources and land uses within the planning area as well as guidelines for the development and use of resources for specific parcels.

With an area plan, state permits and permit review processes become more efficient for the government and the public. The area plan guides DNR decisions for leases, sales, and permits that authorize use of state lands. Preparation of land use plans for state lands (except for State Park System lands) is required under Title 38 of Alaska Statutes. DNR's actions will be based on the area plan.

The Mandate

The state is responsible for the management of those lands it owns and the Department of Natural Resources is that agency specifically responsible for this management. There are about 9 million acres of uplands within the planning boundary and over 83,663 acres of shorelands associated with the Susitna, Matanuska and Chulitna Rivers. Of the uplands, nearly 33% of all state land within the planning area is associated with Legislatively Designated Areas; the remainder of state land (6 million acres) is associated with general domain land managed under AS 38.04 and 38.05. This plan focuses on the management of the general state land, although plan designations are identified for the LDAs in order to permit leases and other disposal of less than the fee estate to occur.

Alaska Statute (AS 38.04.065) requires the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to "adopt, maintain, and when appropriate, revise regional land use plans that provide for the use and management of state-owned land." To ensure that these lands are properly managed, the Department of Natural Resources has developed this plan for all state lands, both uplands and shorelands in the planning area.

The planning process provides a means of openly reviewing resource information and public concerns before making long-term decisions about public land management. The planning process resolves conflicting ideas on land use and informs the public about what choices were made and why. Decisions are made on a comprehensive basis, rather than case-by-case,

providing consistency and consideration of the wide diversity of resources and uses within the planning area. This process provides for more efficient use and protection of the area's resources.

What the Plan Will Do

The plan will help ensure that state resource management takes into account the sustained yield of renewable resources, that development is balanced with environmental concerns, and that public access to state land is provided. The plan encourages cooperation with other landowners to better address conflicts caused by checkerboard land ownership patterns. Finally, the plan documents the state's intent for land management so that both public and private interests know how the state plans to manage lands over the long term.

How This Plan is Used

This plan is intended to manage state lands and resources within the planning area, and is the expression of how DNR will pursue this management. Much of the use of this plan is by the DNR Division of Mining, Land and Water. Adjudicators use this plan when reviewing and making decisions on authorizations for use of state land, including permits, leases, sales, conveyances, and rights-of-way. The DNR Division of Forestry and Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation also use this plan in the administration of their programs and activities.

Public Participation in Planning Process

The Susitna Matanuska Area Plan is the product of a two year planning process conducted by the Division Mining, Land, and Water (DMLW) of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR); other divisions within DNR; state and federal agencies (primarily ADF&G); local government (Matanuska-Susitna Borough); interest groups, and the public. A first round of public meetings focused on a description of the planning process and planning area and on issue identification and scoping. A second round of public meetings is to be held in the planning area in the spring of 2010. These meetings are to focus on the Public Review Draft with information to be provided on proposed plan designations and management intent (for specific management units) and on plan implementation. The results of these discussions and the subsequent review of public comments submitted on the Public Review Draft will form the basis for revisions to the draft plan, which are to be included in an issue response summary.

Process of Plan Preparation

The following process was used to develop this area plan:

- identify issues in the planning area;
- map and analyze resources and uses;
- conduct public meetings to identify land use issues;
- prepare the Public Review Draft (PRD) based in part on comments previously received from the public and from agencies;
- public reviews the PRD[1];
- prepare an Issue/Response summary of all public comments on the PRD;
- based on the results of the Issue/Response Summary, prepare an Intent to Adopt (ITA) draft of the plan;
- the Commissioner signs the plan and adopts it as DNR's management intent for state lands in the planning area.

Who Developed the Plan?

The DNR planning staff directs the planning process, including data collection, drafting the plan, response to public and agency comments, and final plan preparation. A number of local, state, and federal agencies review the preliminary draft of the PRD and provide land use and resource recommendations that are valuable in refining initial plan recommendations. The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources formally adopts the Susitna Matanuska Area Plan, which is scheduled to occur following the review of public and agency comments on the PRD.

Uses and Resources Within the Planning Area

Uses of State Land. The plan outlines management objectives for state land. This includes describing what resources and valid existing uses should be protected, and what uses are most suitable for development or protection on state land during the planning horizon.

State-selected Land and Land Susceptible to Navigation. Some lands have been selected but not yet been conveyed to the state. Other lands are under waterbodies that, if determined navigable, are state-owned. In both cases, the plan determines how to manage these lands if they are state-owned.

Land Sales. The state has offered land for sale to Alaskan citizens. The planning process reviewed the state land holdings to determine which undeveloped lands are suitable for settlement uses or agricultural land disposal.

[1] This is the current phase of plan preparation.

Land Conveyance. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has completed its land selections under the Municipal Entitlement Act. Accordingly, this plan does not provide additional guidance to the municipal entitlement process as it applies to this Borough.

Roads, Trails, and Access. The plan considers access across state lands, including existing and proposed roads, trails, easements, and rights-of-way.

Mining, Coal Leasing, and Oil and Gas Development. The plan reviews the mineral, coal, and oil and gas potential within the planning area and describes the statutory authorities that affect mining, coal development, and oil and gas extraction. The 1985 area plan implemented a number of mineral closing orders and leasehold location orders; these primarily affected areas proposed for settlement and for designation as state recreation rivers. (The recommendations on recreation rivers were subsequently implemented through a Legislatively Designated Area designation.) This revision maintains all of the current closures but does not recommend any further closures to mineral entry and development. The more critical areas have been adequately covered by the 1985 mineral closures. Other than the 1985 closures, all state owned lands are open to mineral entry. Coal and oil and gas development can occur throughout the planning area, although certain stipulations on these types of uses are proscribed in the Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan.

Forest Resources. Extensive forest resources exist within the planning area. These are scattered throughout the eastern, central, and western portions of the planning area, and total over 689,704 acres. The plan identifies these areas and specifies the areas considered appropriate for inclusion in the sustained yield calculations that are made by the Division of Forestry. Those areas with forest resource potential that are designated Forestry in the area plan are considered appropriate for inclusion in a state forest, should the legislature consider the creation of a state forest within the planning area.

Recreation. Recreation is a popular use of state land. The plan proposes designations to manage lands for recreation in several locations where winter recreation is extensive. Many areas that are designated either Habitat or Water Resources are also widely used for winter recreation and this use is recognized in the management intent of a number of parcels.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat. The plan documents important fish and wildlife habitat areas and provides management intent and guidelines for these resources and uses.

Water Resources. DNR, through the DMLW, is responsible for allocating water resources on all lands within the state of Alaska. The plan designates areas to be managed for their water resource values and describes management guidelines for instream flow reservations. Areas with water resource values are primarily associated with the maintenance of wetlands, which are extensively distributed throughout the planning area.

What the Plan Won't Do

The Susitna Matanuska Area Plan is not the only way in which land management goals are implemented. The area plan is coordinated with a variety of other programs and projects implemented by the DNR and other state agencies. The following are some important issues that are not addressed in this plan:

Non-DNR Lands. This plan does not apply to federal, municipal, private, University of Alaska, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, or Mental Health Trust lands.

Fish and Wildlife. Allocation of fish and game stocks and regulating methods and means of harvest are the responsibility of the state boards of Fisheries and Game.

Generally Allowed Uses (GAU). The area plan does not regulate activities that do not require a written authorization on state land, such as hiking, camping, boating, hunting, and fishing. Generally allowed uses are identified in 11 AAC 09.030 and 11 AAC 96; these sections also indicate the requirements, if any, affecting such uses.

Legislatively Designated Areas. The plan does not apply to state parks, refuges, public use areas, and recreation areas that are legislatively designated. It also does not apply to the Matanuska Valley Moose Range.

Decisions on Specific Applications. While this plan provides general management intent for state lands, the plan does not make decisions about specific land-use authorizations. These decisions are made through the application review process. Land-use authorizations must, however, be consistent with the plan, and existing laws and regulations.

Actions by agencies other than DNR. The plan does not provide management intent for prescribing actions and policies for agencies and governments other than DNR.

Planning Period

This plan reflects land management decisions and allocations based on the best available information on the demand for use of state land and resources projected over the next 20 years. It is also based on a specific set of social, environmental, economic, and technological assumptions. The plan guides state land use and resource decisions for the next 20 years or until the plan is revised.

Summary of Plan Actions

Management Intent

The planning area consists of ten regions that primarily contain uplands and a single region that encompasses seven LDAs. The regions are composed of state-owned and state-selected lands that are contiguous to each other, have similar characteristics, and are thought of as distinct parts of the local community. The plan presents management intent that explains the department's overall resource management objectives for each region and unit, and provides resource and use information for land managers. This information is presented in Chapter 3.

Land Use Designations

Each unit identifies one or more designations representing the uses and resources for which the area will be managed. Plan designations are identified and described in Chapter 3 along with Resource Allocation Tables that contains the designations specific to individual units.

Management Guidelines

According to the Alaska Constitution, state lands are to be managed for multiple uses. When potentially conflicting uses are designated in a parcel, the plan provides guidelines to allow various uses to occur without unacceptable consequences. Management guidelines for specific management units are given in Chapter 3. Guidelines that apply to the entire planning area are identified in Chapter 2.

Classifications

All state lands in the planning area will be classified consistent with the land use designations in this plan. Classifications made by the plan will be noted to the state's Land Status Plats. Table 4-2 in Chapter 4 shows how designations convert to classifications. The Land

Classification Order (LCO) that is to be adopted with this plan is included as Appendix B. The LCO actually enacts and imposes the classifications that are identified as designations in the area plan.

Summary of Plan Implementation and Modification

The plan is implemented through administrative actions such as leases, permits, land conveyances, and classification orders. The plan serves as the final finding for land classifications. Chapter 4 presents the details of plan implementation recommendations and procedures.

Economic and social conditions in Alaska and the planning area are sure to change and the plan must be flexible enough to change with them. The plan will be reviewed periodically to monitor progress in implementing the plan and to identify problems that may require amendment or modification.

Specific modifications may be made whenever conditions warrant them, though a request for these changes must follow certain procedures. The plan may be amended after approval by the Commissioner of DNR following public review and consultation with the appropriate agencies. Special exceptions and minor changes must follow certain procedures. See Chapter 4 for a more detailed description of procedures for plan modifications, amendments, special exceptions, and minor changes.

Chapter 2
Areawide Land Management Policies

Introduction 1
Definitions 1
Goals 1
Management Intent 2
General Framework of the Plan 2
Management Guidelines by Activity or Resource Value 3
General Guidelines 3
Other State Land 4
Agriculture 5
Management Guidelines 5
Coordination and Public Notice 8
Management Guidelines 8
Cultural Resources 10
Management Guidelines 10
Fish and Wildlife Habitat 12
Management Guidelines 12
Forestry 20
Management Guidelines 21
Map 2-1: Lands to be Considered for Legislative Designation as a State Forest 26
Instream Flow 27
Management Guidelines 27
Material Sites 28
Management Guidelines 28
Recreation and Scenic Resources 30
Management Guidelines 30
Settlement 33
Management Guidelines 35
Shorelands and Stream Corridors 40
Management Guidelines 40
Table 2-1: Application Requirements for Easements and Buffers Along Waterbodies and Related Environmental Features 45
Subsurface Resources 47
Management Guidelines 47
Public Access 50
Management Guidelines: General Public Access 50
Management Guidelines: Trails Within and Between Developing Areas 52
Management Guidelines: Iditarod and Iditarod Trail System 53

CHAPTER 2
Areawide Land Management Policies

Introduction

This chapter presents land management policies for each of the major resources affected by the plan: agriculture, fish and wildlife, forestry, materials, mineral resources, recreation and tourism, cultural features, and water. It also presents management policies for several specific land management concerns: protection of fish and wildlife habitat, public and private access, timber harvest, settlement, shoreline and stream corridor management, and public access. These policies apply to state land throughout the planning area regardless of the land use designation.

This chapter consists of goals and management guidelines. Goals are the general condition the department is trying to achieve, and guidelines are specific directives that will be applied to land and water management decisions as resource use and development occurs.

Definitions

For definitions of terms commonly used in this chapter, see Appendix A, Glossary.

Goals

The following goals are for state lands in the planning area. Goals are general conditions that DNR attempts to achieve through management actions. The goals are listed alphabetically. No single goal has a priority over the others.

Economic Development. Provide opportunities for jobs and income by managing state land and resources to support a vital, self-sustaining, diverse local economy.

Environment and Habitat. Manage state land to protect natural ecosystems, sensitive species, and wildlife habitats.

Fiscal Costs. Minimize the needs for, and the fiscal cost of, providing government services and facilities such as schools and roads.

Public Health and Safety. Maintain or enhance public health and safety for users of state land and resources.

Public Use. Provide, plan, enhance, and manage diverse opportunities for public use of state lands, including uses such as hunting, fishing, boating and other types of recreation.

Quality of Life. Maintain or enhance the quality of the natural environment including air, land and water, and fish and wildlife habitat and harvest opportunities; provide opportunities to view wildlife and the natural environment; and protect heritage resources and the character and lifestyle of the community.

Recreation. Protect recreational resources including public access and visual resources, and manage recreational activities to minimize user conflict, while providing for a range of recreational experiences on state land managed for multiple uses.

Settlement. Provide opportunities for private ownership and leasing of land currently owned by the state.

Sustained Yield. Maintain the long-term productivity and quality of renewable resources including fish and wildlife, agriculture, and timber.

Management Intent

Management intent for state land is expressed through statements of management emphasis identified on a unit specific basis. These statements are based on resource and use inventories, the review of existing and potential economic trends, state authorizations, existing plans and similar resource management documents, agency review and comment, and public participation.

General Framework of the Plan

A. State land within the planning area will be managed to allow for multiple use unless legislatively designated, or a parcel of state land is less than 640 acres and managed under a management agreement by another state agency, or affected by 11 AAC 96.014 (Special Use Land).

B. State land will also be managed to protect access and public resources. Types of resources to be protected include, but are not limited to habitat, recreation, water quality, anchorages, watersheds, scenery and trails.

C. State land will remain open to mineral entry unless specifically closed. This plan does not recommend any areas to be closed to mineral entry nor to be managed under a leasehold location order. Consequently, all land within the planning area is open to entry, except for those scattered areas closed in previous mineral closing orders by DNR.

D. In management units where a primary use has been designated, activities and authorizations pertaining to that primary designated use may take precedence over other uses. Although there may be a priority for use in certain parcels, other uses may also be allowed if they do not preclude the primary use assigned to a management unit. This plan emphasizes minimizing land use conflicts through plan guidelines and intent rather than through prohibitions, although prohibitions are sometimes identified. All other uses are initially presumed 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 (11 AAC 55.040 (c)).

E. This plan designates state lands in categories that are generally consistent with current use patterns and reflect the significant resources in the planning area.

F. This plan honors the intent of existing settlement agreements with the Mental Health Trust Authority and the University of Alaska. These settlement agreements as well as pertinent sections of state law shall prevail over the area plan, if inconsistencies exist.

G. DNR, in its consideration of resources and in the management of state land, shall consider the impacts of such use upon fish and wildlife, habitat and soil degradation, and upon other forms of use, including recreation, which may occupy the area that is under consideration in an authorization. Uses that are not compatible with these uses and resources are, if the use is nonetheless determined appropriate, to be made compatible through the use of stipulations. The ability of the Department to manage the subsequent activities that may result from the issuance of an authorization is to be taken into consideration in the adjudication of an application that requires a written determination by DNR.

Management Guidelines by Activity or Resource Value

The remainder of this chapter specifies guidelines that are specific directives to apply to management decisions. DNR will use these guidelines when considering issuing authorizations and conveyances or making management decisions on state lands. These guidelines will also apply to lands that are currently state-selected and ANILCA-filed when they are tentatively approved or patented into state ownership.

Chapter 2 guidelines apply to all state land covered by the SMAP unless the plan explicitly exempts some parcels or designations from a guideline or the resource or use for which a guideline is intended does not exist in the parcel in question. There are few such exemptions.

General Guidelines

A. All authorizations for use of state land within the planning area will be consistent with the management intent in this plan.

B. In considering authorizations for use of state land, DNR will adjudicate applications to:

1) avoid, and if not possible, minimize damages to streambeds, fish and wildlife habitat, vegetation, trails, anchorages, and other resources;

2) minimize conflicts between resources and uses; and

3) protect the long-term value of the resource, public safety, and the environment.

C. If authorizations from other agencies are required, DNR will consider issuing a permit or lease contingent upon issuance of these other authorizations.

Other State Land

Parcels that are donated or acquired after the plan is adopted will be designated for the uses for which they were acquired or donated without an amendment to the plan. Lands that come into state ownership through other means will be designated and classified consistent with the designation identified in the applicable management unit or, if not so identified, according to the standards of the section, 'Applicability of Plan Designations and Classifications', in Chapter 4 without an amendment to the plan.

Agriculture

Goals

Economic Development. Diversity and strengthen the state's economy by increasing the availability of Alaska food products by:

- Encouraging expanded production and availability of competitively priced farm products from existing agricultural lands;
- Increasing the acreage available as demand and market opportunities warrant;
- Preserving the ability to produce agricultural products as a future option.

Agrarian Lifestyle. Provide the opportunity for Alaskans to pursue an agricultural lifestyle.

Conservation of Agricultural Resources. Agricultural land disposals shall be designed to maintain or enhance the productivity of the soil.

Protection of Environment. Agricultural land disposals shall be designed to protect or enhance the quality of the natural environment.

Management Guidelines

The following management guidelines derive, in large part, from AS 38.05.321 (sale or disposal of agricultural land) and11 AAC 67.162 (title and interest conveyed) and 11 AAC 67.177 (farm conservation plan).

A. Agricultural Sales: Location. Agricultural land disposals under AS 38.05.321 may only occur within areas designated Agricultural Land. Other forms of land disposal are not appropriate within such areas.

B. Agricultural Sales: Type and Size. Within the planning area, agricultural sales shall be limited to those authorized under 11 AAC 67.160. Such sales must have a minimum area of 160 acres.

C. Agricultural Land Disposals. Agricultural land disposals shall be consistent with the following requirements. All such disposals are to convey only that portion of the state's title which constitutes the agricultural interest in the tract being conveyed. The sale of the agricultural interest constitutes conveyance of the Land Estate subject to the conditions and covenants relating to agricultural use as set out in 11 AAC 67.162(a).

- Land conveyed under this authority may only be used for agricultural purposes or for purposes that do not conflict with the future option to use the land for agricultural purposes.
- Farm Conservation Plans shall be provided shall as a condition of the sale.
- Land designated in Farm Conservation Plans as to be retained in their natural conditions or undeveloped state shall be retained for that purpose unless modified thorough modification of a Farm Conservation Plan.
- Timber sales may be authorized if this activity is necessary to bring agricultural land into production and if authorized in an approved Farm Conservation Plan.
- Gravel sales are not to be authorized, although in situ gravel may be extracted if necessary to bring the agricultural land into production (or to maintain production).
- Grazing leases may be authorized if grazing is identified as an appropriate use in a Farm Conservation Plan, impacts to habitat and sensitive species are avoided or reduced to acceptable levels, and if the transmission of disease to wildlife populations is considered unlikely or insignificant.

D. Site Specific Requirements. Agricultural land sales within the planning area are subject to the following additional requirements:

- A riparian buffer of undisturbed vegetation of 100 to 150', the width depending on FRPA standards, shall be retained in state ownership adjacent to all anadromous streams and high value resident fish streams. See the standards for riparian areas in the On-line DMLW Procedural Manual and those in the section 'Shorelands and Stream Corridors' in this Chapter.
- Areas of reported historic, archaeological, or paleontological sites should not be disturbed. Agricultural operations shall not be authorized within 300 feet of the boundaries of known sites unless OHA determines, in coordination with the Division of Agriculture, that agricultural activities can occur without significant impact to the cultural resource. OHA shall work with the Division of Agriculture to develop site-specific mitigation measures to protect known cultural sites while allowing agricultural operations. A buffer (or setback) of 50' or greater shall be established around significant cultural resources identified by OHA as part of agency review.
- Agricultural land disposals shall not occur within mapped floodways and may only occur in mapped floodplains where it is determined in the Farm Conservation Plan that agricultural uses are appropriate within and are generally compatible with these areas. The Preliminary Decision that precedes the agricultural land sale is required to make a finding of compatibility of the proposed agricultural use within a floodplain location.
- Timber salvage may be authorized subject to the requirements of Section C and management guideline F in the Forestry section of this Chapter.

- Legal, practical access shall be identified and reserved to and within areas of agricultural sales.

E. Grazing on Important Habitat Lands. Grazing leases may be issued on land designated Agriculture, General Use, or Habitat. The appropriateness of this use shall be assessed on a on a case-by-case basis by DNR, in consultation with ADF&G, so that impacts can be mitigated through the application of specific management guidelines in the Fish and Wildlife section of this chapter.

F. Other Guidelines Affecting Agriculture. Several other guidelines may affect agriculture. See other sections of this chapter.

Coordination and Public Notice

Goals

Coordination with Non-state Landowners. Coordinate the use of state land with that of private and other public landowners to provide for the optimal use, development, and protection of area resources.

Public Participation. Provide local governments, state and federal agencies, adjacent landowners, and the general public with meaningful opportunities to participate in the process of making significant land use decisions.

Management Guidelines

A. Notice for Decisions Requiring Public Notice (Under AS 38.05.945). As required by statute, public notice will be given for decisions involving the sale, lease, or disposal of (or interests in) land, property, or resources. Actions not involving a disposal of interest will require public notice in accordance with Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) procedures and with the requirements of AS 38.05.945. Notice will be given to parties known or likely to be affected by an action proposed by the state or an applicant to the state.

B. Coordination with Local Plans and Zoning Ordinance. The comprehensive plan and zoning map/ordinance as well as the Coastal Management Plan of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough are to be reviewed by DNR prior to issuing permits, leases, or other forms of use authorizations.

C. Avoiding Conflicts with Adjacent Upland Owners. Before DNR issues a land use authorization on shorelands, DNR will require applicants to use areas that will reduce the likelihood of possible land use disagreements with upland owners. DNR will consider comments from private landowners and others before making a decision. DNR will retain the right to issue a land use authorization over the objection of adjacent landowners.

D. Authority of State Plans. State plans only affect state lands and federal lands that have been selected by the state for conveyance. They do not affect Borough, other state lands not affected by Title 38, other federal lands, or private lands.

The MSB has developed and will continue to develop local comprehensive plans for specific parts of the Borough. These are intended to identify preferred land use patterns and development stipulations. DNR reviews these plans in the course of developing management plans or area plans, and often makes use of their recommendations. However, while

community comprehensive plans can make recommendations for state lands within their planning areas, they cannot establish land use designations or other planning requirements for state land. State land use designations are decided on a regional basis through the state planning process and local plans do not supersede state plans for the use of state lands.

E. Other Guidelines Affecting Coordination or Public Notice. Several other guidelines may affect coordination or public notice. See other sections of this chapter.

Cultural Resources

Goal

Cultural Resources. The Alaska Historic Preservation Act establishes the state's basic goal: to preserve, protect, and interpret the historic, prehistoric, and archaeological resources of Alaska so that the scientific, historic, and cultural heritage values embodied in these resources may pass undiminished to future generations.

Management Guidelines

A. Cultural Resources Identification. Identify and determine the significance of cultural resources on state land through the following actions:

1) Cultural resources surveys conducted by qualified personnel;

2) Research about cultural resources on state land by qualified individuals and organizations; and

3) Cooperative efforts for planned surveys and inventories between state, federal, and local or Native groups.

B. Cultural Resources Protection. Protect significant cultural resources through the following actions:

1) The Office of History and Archeology (OHA) within the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) reviews authorizations, construction projects or land uses for potential conflict with cultural resources. The office determines if there may be an adverse effect on heritage resources and makes recommendations to mitigate these effects.

2) Cooperating with concerned government agencies, Native corporations, statewide or local groups, and individuals to develop guidelines and recommendations on how to avoid or mitigate identified or potential conflict.

3) Consult with the certified local government sources (MSB Cultural Resources Specialist) where appropriate.

4) Require the establishment of buffers (50' or greater) around significant cultural resources[1] as part of the overall protection process when subdividing or otherwise using state lands.

[1] Cultural resources, for the purposes of this management guideline, do not include trails or routes.

C. Cultural Resource Surveys Prior to Land Offerings. If determined by OHA during an agency review of a proposed land disposal that a cultural survey may be required, further coordination between OHA and DMLW prior to the land disposal is warranted. Cultural surveys should be considered where OHA reported sites exist or where there is a high potential for such sites to exist. The extent and type of the cultural survey within the area of the proposed land disposal shall be determined by OHA in consultation with DMLW. Detailed procedures exist governing when a survey is required and extent of the cultural resource survey and are to be consulted by DNR adjudicators.

D. Cultural Resources in Timber Management Areas. The Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) will review proposals for timber management activities through the interagency review process for the Five-Year Schedule of Timber Sales and Forest Land Use Plans for individual sales and provide comments and information about areas of concern within the review deadline. OHA will recommend archaeological surveys in timber sale areas with a high potential for cultural resources. Areas of reported historic, archaeological, or paleontological sites that retain historic integrity should not be disturbed. Timber operations shall not occur within 300 feet of the boundaries of known sites unless the OHA determines, in consultation with the Division of Forestry, that certain activities can occur without significant adverse impacts to the cultural resource. The OHA shall assess the extent and significance of the cultural resource and work with Division of Forestry to develop site-specific mitigation measures to protect the cultural sites while allowing timber management.

E. Cultural Resources Adjacent to Recreation Facilities. Recreation facilities that might subject cultural sites to vandalism because of the increased public use should not be placed adjacent to the cultural sites.

F. Heritage sites should be reported when found. The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) is an inventory of all reported historic and prehistoric sites within the State of Alaska and is maintained by the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA). The AHRS is used to protect cultural resource sites from unwanted destruction. By knowing of possible cultural remains prior to construction, efforts can be made to avoid project delays and prevent the destruction of cultural sites. While over 22,000 sites have been reported within Alaska, this is probably only a very small percentage of the sites which may actually exist but are as yet unreported. The AHRS is not complete or static, so heritage sites, when found, should be reported to the OHA.

G. Other Guidelines Affecting Cultural Resources. Other guidelines will affect cultural resources. See other sections of this chapter.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Goals

Ensure Access to Public Lands and Waters. Ensure access to public lands and waters and promote or enhance the responsible public use and enjoyment of fish and wildlife resources.

Mitigate Habitat Loss. When resource development projects occur, avoid or minimize changes in the quality and quantity of fish and wildlife habitat.

Contribute to Economic Diversity. Protect fish and wildlife resources which contribute directly or indirectly to local, regional, and state economies through commercial, subsistence, sport and non-consumptive uses.

Maintain and Protect Publicly Owned Habitat Base. Maintain in public ownership and protect habitat for fish and wildlife resources to conserve sufficient numbers or a diversity of species to support commercial, recreational, or traditional uses on an optimum sustained yield basis; or protect a unique or rare assemblage of a single or multiple species of regional, state, or national significance.

Manage for Sustained Yield. The management of state land and resources shall be consistent with the requirements of sustained yield, as written in the State Constitution under Article VIII (Natural Resources).

Manage to Maintain and Enhance the Natural Environment. DNR shall maintain and enhance the natural environment in areas known to be important as habitat for fish and wildlife.

Avoid the Introduction of and Reduce the Spread of Invasive Plants, Exotic Animals and Diseases. State lands are to be managed to avoid or reduce the spread of non-native invasive animals and plants as well as exotic diseases that can be detrimental of wildlife populations. This management shall be consistent with the applicable requirements of 11 AAC 34.

Management Guidelines

The Management Guidelines that follow apply to all habitat areas throughout the planning area, with emphasis on Dall sheep, moose, and caribou seasonal habitats; anadromous streams and high value resident fish streams; and other uses listed in Guideline B where alternation of the habitat and/or human disturbance could result in a permanent loss of a population or sustained yield of a species.

A. Mitigation. When issuing permits and leases or otherwise authorizing the use or development of state lands, DNR will include stipulations or measures needed to protect fish, wildlife, or their habitats. The costs of mitigation relative to the benefits to be gained will be considered in the implementation of this policy.

All land use activities will be conducted with appropriate planning and implementation to avoid or minimize adverse effects on fish, wildlife, or their habitats.

DNR and ADF&G will enforce permit stipulations and measures appropriate to their agency. Mitigation will be required of any significant damage to fish, wildlife, or their habitats that may occur as a direct result of the party's failure to comply with applicable law, regulations, or the conditions of the permit or lease.

When determining appropriate stipulations and measures, the departments will apply, in order of priority, the following steps. Mitigation requirements listed in other guidelines in this plan will also follow these steps:

1) Avoid anticipated, significant adverse effects on fish, wildlife, or their habitats through siting, timing, or other management options.

2) When significant adverse effects cannot be avoided by design, siting, timing, or other management options, the adverse effect of the use or development will be minimized.

3) If significant loss of fish or wildlife habitat occurs, the loss will be rectified by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected area to a useful state.

4) DNR shall consider replacement or enhancement of, fish and wildlife habitat when steps 1 through 3 cannot avoid substantial and irreversible loss of habitat. The ADF&G will identify the species affected, the need for replacement or enhancement, and the suggested method for addressing the impact. Replacement with or enhancement of similar habitats of the affected species in the same region is preferable. DNR will consider only those replacement and enhancement techniques that have either been proven to be, or are likely to be, effective and that will result in a benefit to the species impacted by the development. Replacement or enhancement will be required by DNR if it is determined to be in the best interest of the state either through the AS 38.05.035(e) or permit review process.

B. Allowing Uses in Fish and Wildlife Habitats (Ha). These habitats are defined as areas that serve as concentrated use areas for fish and wildlife species during a sensitive life history stage where alteration of the habitat and/or human disturbance could result in a permanent loss of a population or sustained yield of the species. Fish and wildlife categories used, in part, to identify Habitat (Ha) designations in this plan include the following:

- Anadromous fish spawning, rearing, and overwintering migration areas.
- American peregrine falcon and trumpeter swan nesting and molting concentrations.
- Waterfowl nesting and molting areas.

- Fish streams frequented by bears (including concentrations by season).
- Moose wintering and calving areas.
- Caribou wintering and calving areas.
- Dall sheep wintering and lambing areas.
- Important wildlife migration corridors.

The areas designated Habitat (Ha) in Chapter 3 of the plan were defined using the best available information when the plan was written. In the granting of authorizations within areas designated Habitat, DNR adjudicators should attempt to acquire more detailed and more recent information pertaining to habitat resources and values if there is some question as to the appropriateness of the use that is under consideration for authorization.

The resource that was used to make the determination that an area should be designated "Ha" is identified in the parcel descriptions contained in Resource Allocation Tables in Chapter 3 under the column, "Resources and Uses". In some cases, there is only a single resource but in other instances, several resources exist, with these resources sometimes occupying differing portions of the parcel. The spatial distribution of habitat resources is described in the management intent language, if known. Units are to be managed to protect the resource(s) identified in these tables. The fish and wildlife associated with the Habitat designation are listed in the Glossary under the term 'Habitat'.

There is a distinct seasonality associated with the critical life periods of certain species; seasonality shall be taken into consideration during project review and approval. Seasonality and critical life cycle stages are identified in various publications.[2] Thus, it may be possible, through consultation with ADF&G and other agencies, that uses and facilities be found appropriate within areas designated Habitat if the seasonality criteria are satisfied by including mitigating measures in project design.

Uses not consistent with a plan designation or not authorized in a management intent statement and that, if permitted would result in the degradation of the resource(s) within areas designated "Ha", are to be considered incompatible and are not to be authorized. Degradation of the resource might result from actions involving one or more of the following factors: dredging, filling, significant compaction of vegetation and sediment, alteration of flow patterns, discharge of toxic substances, or disturbance during sensitive periods. If there is a question as to whether a use would be appropriate or whether it would degrade a listed resource, DNR shall consult with ADF&G in making the determination of initial incompatibility.

[2] These publications include, but are not limited to the following: ADF&G Regional Habitat Guides and NOAA's Oil Spill Response Atlas. Note to DNR adjudicators: In the event that information is not contained in these publications, consult pertinent publications and coordinate with ADF&G and federal agencies with jurisdiction over species in question to determine seasonal windows and use patterns.

Non-designated uses that cause significant adverse impacts to the resources identified within a given "Ha" parcel can be allowed if:

- DNR determines that the management unit in question does not possess those attributes characteristic of a Habitat designation as defined in the plan; or
- If DNR in consultation with ADF&G determines that the non-designated use can be made compatible and significant adverse impacts to the "Ha" area avoided with appropriate design, siting, and operating stipulations; or
- The project is found consistent under the ACMP or necessary (in the best interest of the state) under state disposal decisions under AS 38.056.035(e) and significant adverse impacts are mitigated under Management Guideline A[3].

C. Allowing Uses Outside of Designated Fish and Wildlife Habitat Areas. Habitat-altering uses will be sited consistent with the management guidelines in this chapter, and the management intent and guidelines in Chapter 3.

D. Habitat Manipulation: General Requirements. Habitat restoration through water control, timber management practices, removal of pollution sources, or other measures may be used to improve habitat for fish and wildlife species where ADF&G determines that it is beneficial to the species or habitat and DNR determines that it is compatible with other primary uses.

E. Habitat Manipulation: Management of Invasive Plant and Animal Species. The state shall manage its lands and waters to avoid the introduction of and reduce the spread of invasive non-native plants and animals, consistent with the requirements of 11 AAC 34. Although the strategic management plan for noxious and invasive plant species recognizes this as a statewide issue, in most instances this problem is best handled at the local level. The local Soil and Water Conservation District has a program in place that currently concentrates on surveying areas of infection and providing landowners with treatment options and Best Management Practices in an effort to manage these species. Contact them for more information.

F. Hatchery and Aquatic Farm Source Waters. To preserve the quality of an existing hatchery's water supply, land uses should be limited to those that reduce the risk of reducing water quality or quantity below that needed by the hatchery.

G. Water Intake Structures. When issuing water rights for waters providing fish habitat, DNR and ADF&G will require that practical water intake structures be installed that do not result in entrainment or impingement of fish and will maintain instream flows needed to sustain existing fish populations. The simplest and most cost-effective technology may be used to implement this guideline.

[3] Authorizations involving uses that have been determined to be necessary in the best interest finding but are inconsistent with plan designations and management intent or management guidelines require a plan amendment. See 11 AAC 55.030(f).

Water intake structures should be screened, and intake velocities will be limited to prevent entrapment, entrainment, or injury to fish. The structures supporting intakes should be designed to prevent fish from being led into the intake. Other effective techniques may also be used to achieve the intent of this guideline. The DMLW (Water Section) and ADF&G Division of Habitat should be consulted to determine screen size, water velocity, and intake design if the intake structure is in fish habitat.

H. Alteration of the Riverine Hydrologic System. To the extent feasible, channelization, diversion, or damming that will alter the natural hydrological conditions and have a significant adverse impact on important riverine habitat will be avoided. If projects like this are proposed they will require a review and permit from the ADF&G Division of Habitat and other agencies.

I. Threatened and Endangered Species. All land use activities will be conducted consistent with state and federal Endangered Species Acts to avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of threatened or endangered species of animals or plants, to provide for their continued use of an area, and to avoid modification or destruction of their habitat. Specific mitigations recommendations should be identified through interagency consultation for any land use activity that potentially affects threatened or endangered species. One species (Cook Inlet Beluga whales) has been identified as Endangered within the planning area. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Division of Ecological Services, or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) should be consulted on questions that involve endangered or threatened species. In the instance of the Beluga whale, NMFS is the responsible federal agency.

J. Eagles. Authorizations or disposals that potentially affect bald eagles will be consistent with the state and federal Endangered Species acts and the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 as amended. Applicable standards are drawn from a cooperative agreement signed by the U.S. Forest Service and the USFWS or such subsequent standards that may be promulgated. These standards, however, may not be adequate in all circumstances, and the USFWS may determine that additional measures are necessary. In addition, meeting the guidelines does not absolve the party from the penalty provisions of the Bald Eagle Protection Act; therefore, the USFWS should be consulted when activities may affect bald or golden eagles.

1) **Siting Facilities to Avoid Eagle Nests.** Facilities determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to cause significant disturbance to nesting eagles will not be allowed within 330 feet and up to one-half mile of any bald eagle nest site, whether the nest is currently active or not.

2) **Activities Disturbing Nesting Eagles.** Activities the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines likely to cause significant disturbance to nesting eagles will be prohibited within 330 feet of active bald eagle nests between March 15 and August 31. Temporary activities and facilities that do not alter eagle nesting habitat or disturb nesting eagles, as determined by the USFWS, may be allowed at other times.

K. Dall Sheep Wintering and Lambing Areas, Moose and Caribou Wintering and Calving Areas.

Dall Sheep. The planning area encompasses important concentration areas for Dall sheep in the Alaska Range near and within Denali National Park, and the Talkeetna and Chugach Mountains. Windswept ridges 2000'-5000' in elevation within the plan area are considered prime wintering habitat for Dall sheep. The upper valleys between these ridges provide protected lambing habitat from May through June as well as movement corridors between winter concentration areas.

Dall sheep move seasonally along the north facing slopes of the Chugach Mountains on the south side of the Lower Matanuska River and the Glenn Highway, a corridor which provides critical access to important wintering areas depending on winter severity conditions. Also vital is the 30,000 acre Sheep Mountain Closed Area adjacent to the Glenn Highway, which serves as a year-round refuge for Dall sheep, as well as a historically important viewing area. The narrow Upper Matanuska River drainage between Sheep Mountain and the Chugach Mountains to the south also provides a passageway between sheep ranges, essential to the long-term viability of Dall sheep in this region. ADF&G should be consulted prior to issuing an authorization in an area suspected to contain moderate concentrations of Dall sheep in order to better determine: 1) the location of lambing and wintering areas; 2) when activities within these areas should be avoided; and 3) identify appropriate mitigation measures if no feasible or prudent alternative site exists.

Moose. Many portions of the planning area are important for moose calving and rutting, or are used as winter concentration areas. Calving typically occurs from May through June, depending upon location. Uses that are likely to produce levels of acoustical or visual disturbance sufficient to disturb calving, rutting, or post-calving aggregations that cannot be seasonally restricted should not be authorized in these areas. Uses may be authorized in these areas at other times of the year. DNR authorizations should include seasonal restrictions on activities that would produce significant acoustical or visual disturbance during sensitive periods.

Moose calving and rutting areas change over time. ADF&G should be consulted prior to issuing an authorization in an area suspected to contain such concentrations in order to better determine: 1) the location of calving and rutting areas; 2) when activities within these areas should be avoided; and 3) identify appropriate mitigation measures if no feasible or prudent alternative site exists. Refer to a management unit's 'Uses and Resources' section in the Resource Allocation Tables to determine whether the presence of a rutting or calving area is likely or if it is a winter concentration area.

Caribou. A portion of the planning area in the Talkeetna Mountains region, generally the easternmost area, provides habitat for the Nelchina Caribou herd. Generally, caribou concentrations occur within the Nelchina Public Use Area and therefore are not subject to the requirements of this plan. However, a portion of the Talkeetna Mountains regions that abuts

the Nelchina PUA is also part of the herds range. Authorizations in these areas are to use the same management requirements as those for moose calving and winter concentration areas, described above.

L. Protection of Mineral Licks. Mineral licks identified within specific management units are used by significant numbers of wildlife primarily during the spring and early summer. The regular use of these areas suggests that the licks play an important role in the life history of the animals that use them. These same areas may also have significant mineral values. Management Intent should protect the area around the licks for their wildlife value. Stipulations should be developed on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with ADF&G, for specific leases or permits. The stipulations should address the following: 1) The avoidance of direct and indirect impact on the mineral licks, the animal tracks leading to them and other areas of concentrated animal use that is associated with the mineral lick; 2) Methods for compensating for the destruction or loss of a lick; 3) the method and routing of mining-related access to these areas.

M. Trumpeter Swan Nesting Areas. In tundra swan nesting areas, uses that would disturb a significant number of nesting swans or detrimentally alter their nesting habitat should be avoided. The siting of permanent facilities, including roads, material sites, storage areas, and other forms of permanent structures should be avoided within one-quarter mile of these known nesting sites. Surface entry should also be avoided within one-quarter mile of these nesting areas between April 1 and August 31. Both of these should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Some areas are more open and susceptible to noise and visual disturbances and therefore require larger protection areas. Leases or permits may require seasonal restrictions on activities to avoid disturbance to swans. Consult with ADF&G and USFWS to identify current or potential nesting habitat and to determine guidelines to follow and activities to avoid. The standards of Guideline N, ‘Activities in Important Waterfowl Habitat’, also apply. Refer to the management unit’s ‘Resources and Uses’ section in the Resource Allocation Tables to determine if the presence of a nesting area is likely.

N. Activities in Important Waterfowl Habitat. In important waterfowl habitat, activities requiring a lease, permit, or development plan, and producing habitat disturbance or high levels of acoustical or visual disturbance from sources such as boat traffic, vegetation clearing, construction, blasting, dredging, and seismic operations, will be avoided during sensitive periods such as nesting, staging, or brood-rearing periods. Where it is not feasible and prudent to avoid such activities, other mitigation measures may be required to avoid significant adverse impacts and the activity may be denied. If it is likely that a waterfowl concentration exists within the area affected by a potential project, consult with ADF&G and USFWS to identify areas of important waterfowl in addition to those identified in the management units in this plan and to determine appropriate mitigation or avoidance measures.

O. Fish and Wildlife Enhancement on State Lands. Fish and wildlife enhancement activities on state lands, whether by ADF&G or other parties, will be consistent with the management intent for those lands. Enhancement activities likely to attract significant public

use, including sport fishing use, will be designed and located to minimize the impact of additional public use on the existing recreation resources, including anchorages, campsites, and existing and intended wilderness values.

P. Protection of Fish and Wildlife Resources - Transportation Routes and Facilities. Important fish and wildlife habitats in riparian areas, fish and wildlife movement corridors, important wintering areas, and threatened or endangered species habitat should be avoided in siting transportation routes unless no other feasible and prudent alternatives exist. Location of routes and timing of construction should be determined in consultation with ADF&G.

Q. Protection of Riverine Areas. Riverine areas perform a variety of important functions related to recreation, habitat protection, and water quality/quantity maintenance. The protection of these areas is essential and DMLW and DOAg authorizations are to ensure the maintenance of these areas in any authorizations that may be issued. See Management Guidelines B, D, H, and I in the 'Shorelands and Stream Corridors' section in this Chapter for guidance and standards pertaining to riverine areas. These standards are to apply to authorizations issued by DMLW and the Division of Agriculture.[4]

R. Protection of Resources. DNR, in its consideration of resources and in the management of state land, shall consider the impacts of such use upon fish and wildlife, habitat and soil degradation, and upon other forms of use that may occupy the area that is under consideration in an authorization. Uses that are not compatible with these uses and resources are to be made compatible through the use of stipulations. The ability of the Department to manage the subsequent activities that may result from the issuance of an authorization is to be taken into consideration in the adjudication of an application that requires a written determination by DNR.

S. Other Guidelines Affecting Fish and Wildlife Habitat. Other guidelines may affect the protection and management of fish and wildlife habitat. See other sections of this chapter.

[4] Separate riparian standards under AS 41.17.115 and .118 apply to timber sales conducted by the Division of Forestry on state land. The riparian standards followed by DMLW and DOAg are similar to those followed by DOF.

Forestry

The forest resources of the Susitna planning area are a mixture of White spruce and Paper birch in the upland areas with cottonwood and Balsam poplar in the lowland areas. Paper birch is the dominant species in this boreal forest type. White spruce has commercial value for sawlogs, biomass, fiber, and woodchips. The commercial value of the Paper birch is for biomass, fiber, and wood chips with some sawlog value in birch which contains little or no defect. Most of the birch within the Southeast Susitna is over 70 years old and contains a high percentage of rot or defect. There are some specialty markets for the cottonwood and Balsam poplar but for the most part these species have little commercial value at the present time in this area.

A unique aspect of forest management within the Susitna Valley is the application of specific standards that affect forest operations and management. Normally, areawide management guidelines are not provided at this level of specificity. Rather, the area plan provides forest management recommendations, but these are necessarily generalized and the specifics of forest stand management and harvest layout are deferred to the Forest Land Use Plan(ning) process conducted by the Division of Forestry (DOF) for specific tracts at the time of timber sale. Within the SMAP planning area, the document, 'Susitna Forestry Guidelines' provides the basis for the interim management of forest resources and timber layouts pending the preparation and adoption of the new forest resources management plan described below in Management Guideline J. The Guidelines control the method for calculating sustained yield and establish general and specific design and siting requirements that affect timber harvest layout and operation logging requirements within the Susitna Valley. They complement the requirements for forest management contained in this section. The relationship between the Guidelines and the area plan is described in more detail, following.

This plan also recommends that consideration be given to the creation of a state forest as a mechanism to manage the significant state forestry resources within the planning area. State Forests, besides providing a strong basis for forest stand management, provide areas for public recreation and are important for the protection of key wildlife and fisheries resources and their associated habitat. This recommendation affects those parcels that are designated or co-designated Forestry or General Use where the management intent statement indicates that the parcel is appropriate for timber harvest. See Management Guideline H for more detail. Also recommended is the preparation of a forest resources management plan within areas designated Forestry, to provide more detailed management guidance to the several resources and uses that occur within these areas. See Management Guideline J for more detail on this recommendation.

The recommendations that follow implement constitutional and statutory policies to develop the state's renewable resources, making them available for maximum use, consistent with the principle of sustained yield and with the overall public interest. The primary purpose of the timber management program is timber management that provides for the production,

utilization, and replenishment of timber resources while allowing other beneficial uses of public lands and resources. Forestry designated lands are to be managed by DNR as a 'working forest' consistent with the constitutional mandate to encourage the use and development of state's resources, including renewable resources. A 'working forest' refers to actively managed forest lands that provide wood for personal and commercial use, while protecting fish and wildlife habitat, providing the public with recreation and other multiple use of state land, and maintaining public benefits such as clean air, land, and water.

Personal Use Timber. Provide timber to meet the needs of Alaskans. This program will be provided on a demand basis when the operational costs of administering this program are satisfactory.

Economic Opportunities. Provide for economic opportunities and stability in the forest products industry by allowing the use of state uplands in areas designated Forestry. Also, to benefit the state's and borough's economies by providing royalties to the state from stumpage receipts, and adding to the state's economy through wages, purchases, jobs, and business.

Support Timber Industry. Continue to perform reviews of private timber harvests for adherence to the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act and provide the timber industry with information, technical expertise, and management guidance for utilizing forest resources.

Wildland Fire Suppression. DOF shall continue to provide wildland fire suppression within the planning area consistent with the requirements of the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan.

Forest Health. To improve forest health and vigor by harvesting and replacing mature birch stands with healthy new stands of regrowth, while protecting and maintaining other resource values.

Wildlife Habitat Management. DNR will seek to create, enhance and maintain wildlife habitat consistent with forest management by providing a mosaic of forest stand areas, including some early-successional stages, for the variety of wildlife species that live in the planning area.

Management Guidelines

A systematic program of scheduled timber harvests is appropriate within the planning area. Timber management activities are subject to the following management guidelines. Another important component of the state forestry program within the planning area is fire management. A management guideline is included that describes the broad aspects of this program. The implementation of the state fire management program is identified and controlled in detail by the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan.

A. Timber Harvest Guidelines

1) All timber harvest activities must be compatible with the general management guidelines of this section and with the management intent statements and land use designations identified in specific management units of this plan found in Chapter 3. Systematic timber harvest programs are to be conducted in areas designated Forestry. Forest harvest operations conducted on a parcel of state land intended for subdivision development by DNR can precede actual construction. However, these operations must be consistent with the subdivision plan for the parcel; consultation with DMLW is required before commencing operations.

2) Timber harvest operations will be conducted in accordance with the stipulations in the Forest Land Use Plan, the Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales, the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act (AS 41.17 & 11 AAC 95), the Alaska Land Act (AS 38.05 & 11 AAC 71), Susitna Forest Guidelines[5], and other pertinent state guidelines and laws. The Forest Practices Act provides statewide policy and regulatory authority for managing forestry related activities. The Susitna Forestry Guidelines provide specific management guidance for timber harvest layout in the Susitna Valley, which are in addition to the requirements of the Forest Resources and Practices Act. The specific layout and other site-specific requirements of a timber sale is addressed through a Forest Land Use Plan (FLUPs), which is prepared prior to any commercial timber harvest or sale (AS 38.05.112).

FLUPs developed for timber sale or harvests in the planning area are to be consistent with the Forestry Management Guidelines of this Chapter and the Management Guidelines specified for particular parcels in Chapter 3. FLUPs shall consider, in their preparation, the sensitive resources and wildlife, or any other significant factors, identified in the Management Guidelines for a parcel.

3) This area plan establishes the geographic areas to which the Susitna Forest Guidelines apply. The Guidelines apply to those management units in this plan that are designated Forestry or co-designated Forestry in the SMAP. If there is inconsistency between the requirements of this plan and the specifics of timber harvest and harvest layouts, the Guidelines apply. The Susitna Matanuska Area Plan, however, shall be used as the basis for the determination of the areas appropriate for timber harvest within the planning area and for the calculation of sustained yield estimates within the Susitna Valley.

B. Timber Salvage From Rights-of-Way. Timber with commercial or personal use value should be salvaged from lands that are to be cleared for other uses such as roads, transmission lines, material sites, mining, and habitat enhancement projects (AS 41.17.083). The DMLW Regional Manager shall determine the amount and kind of material that is to be

[5] Or successor management plans. Note: This comment applies to all other references to Susitna Forest Guidelines made in this section.

salvaged and shall coordinate with DOF on timber salvage operations having commercial value.

C. Personal Use Wood Harvest. When forested lands are available near communities and where personal use harvest is consistent with other purposes for which the land is being managed, DOF may provide wood products for personal use. This program will only be undertaken, however, if it can be effectively and efficiently administered by DOF. In areas designated for settlement, personal use forestry permits may be issued by Division of Forestry after consultation with DMLW's Land Sales Section to assure compatibility with future land sales

D. Sustained Yield of Forest Resources. Forestland will be managed to guarantee perpetual supplies of renewable resources to serve the needs of all Alaskans for the many products, benefits, and services obtained from them. The annual allowable harvest will be calculated using the area control method and will be based on the guidelines in Susitna Forestry Guidelines. Only areas designated or co-designated 'Forestry' are to be included in the sustained yield calculation for stands within the SMAP planning area.

E. Salvage of Damaged Trees. Trees damaged due to fire, wind throw, insects or disease, or other causes may be salvaged on all land use designations unless management intent statements for specific management units in Chapter 3 specifically prohibit salvage harvest. A Forest Land Use Plan, if required, will provide the rationale for conducting the salvage harvest and describe how the action will not conflict with the management intent for each management unit.

F. Fire Disturbance. The intent of fire management is to identify where wildland fire can be allowed or managed fires can be used to reduce costs of fire suppression, reduce the risk of damaging fires, and maintain the natural diversity and productivity of forest stands. Fire suppression will be a priority near residential areas or other forms of active land use, high value recreation use areas, and areas with infrastructure development. Consistent with AS 41.15.010 and AS 41.15.020, DOF will protect forest resources from destructive agents commensurate with the values needing protection. However, where feasible, wildland fires will be allowed to burn and suppression will be limited to decreasing the long-term risk of damaging fires and to maintaining the natural diversity of forest stands, stand ages, and habitat types. Where soil erosion in not a concern, habitat enhancement techniques that may be appropriate. Ground scarification to ensure exposure of mineral soil, a substrate essential to the natural regeneration of early successional browse species, may be appropriate for use. Specific fire suppression levels are identified in the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan.

G. Wildlife Habitat. Forest management is an important tool for improving wildlife habitat. DOF will consult with ADF&G's local biologist during the planning stage of timber harvest layout and in the preparation of the Forest Land Use Plan in order to receive guidance on wildlife habitat enhancement opportunities. Trees and vegetation may be manipulated by cutting, crushing, harvesting, or burning to provide or improve wildlife habitat.

H. Creation of a State Forest. This plan recommends that consideration be given to the establishment of a state forest within the Susitna Valley as a Legislatively Designated Area. This recommendation encompasses the forest resources that are identified in this plan (see Map 2-1) but also in the recently adopted Southeast Susitna Area Plan, where extensive forest resources also exist. State forests are multiple use in terms of overall management, providing for areas of public recreation and the protection of key habitat areas, while providing a more vigorous approach to the management of forest stand resources as 'working forests' within the Susitna Valley. This recommendation applies to those management units in both plans that are designated or co-designated Forestry and those units that are designated General Use in SSAP where the management intent for the unit identifies timber harvest as an appropriate use.

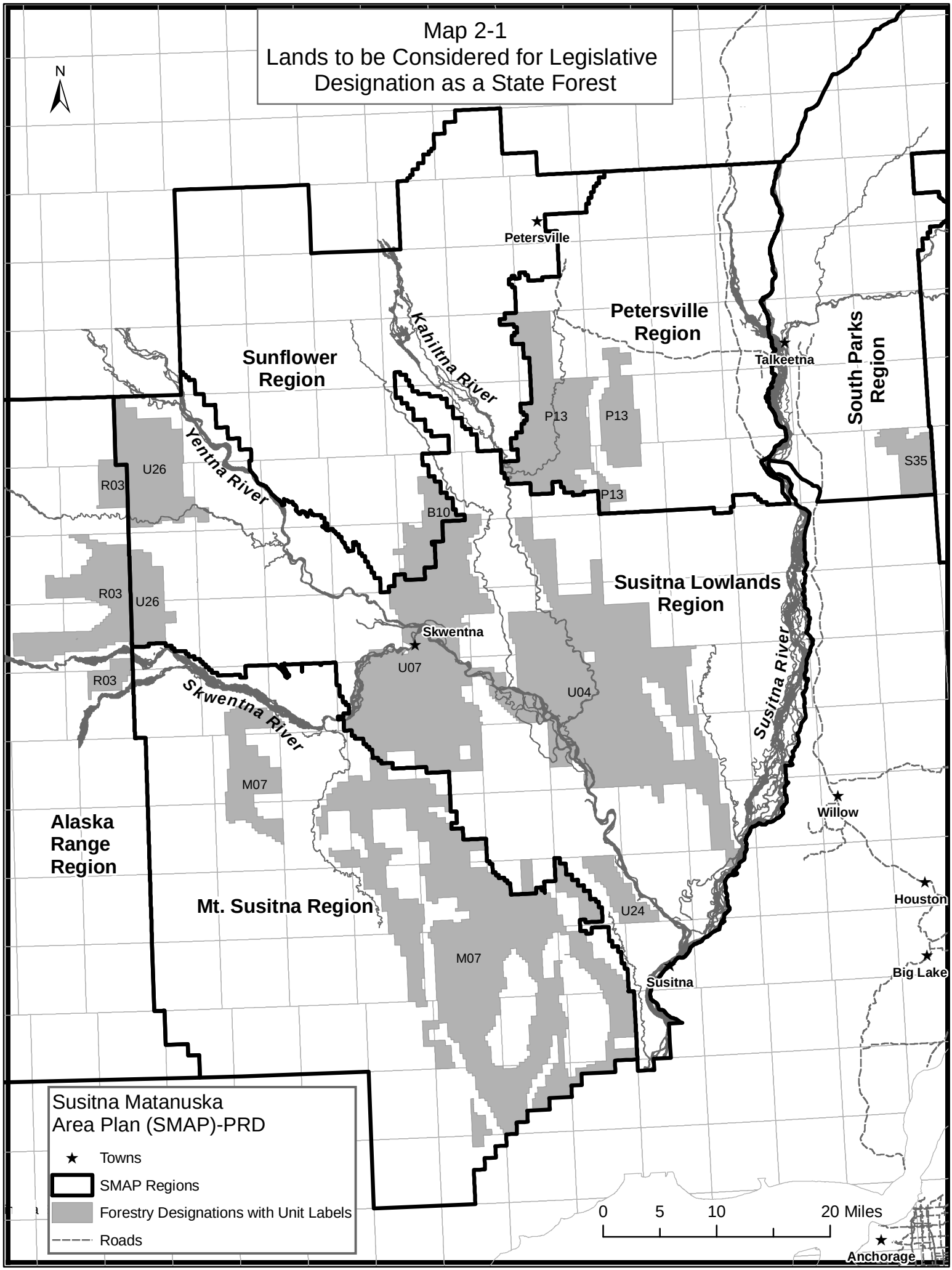
I. Maintenance of State Land Base. Land designated or co-designated Forestry is to be retained by the state and is not to be converted to another designation. If the latter is considered necessary, a public hearing is to accompany the plan amendment. It is the policy of this plan that such conversions not be considered until the plan is revised through a comprehensive plan revision process.

J. Coordination with Borough Forest Management Plans and Programs. Prior to the preparation of the (annual) Five Year Schedule of Timber Sales and the development of a Forest Land Use Plan, DNR should coordinate with the Borough's forest management program and plan to obtain maximum efficiencies and avoid management conflicts over the harvesting of timber and land use.

K. Development of Forest Resources Management Plan. A substantial portion of the planning area, totaling approximately 685,000 acres, in the Susitna Valley is classified Forestry in this plan. This area mostly occupies the more central parts of the Susitna Valley. These lands, under Title 38, are required to be managed in a sustained manner while providing for multiple uses and protection of the environment. Multiple uses include public recreation, water resources, and wildlife/fisheries resources and their associated habitat. While this plan assigns a Forestry designation to this area and provides some management for timber harvest, it is largely silent on other aspects of the management of this large area. Given the importance of this area's varied resources, DOF and DMLW, in consultation with ADF&G, will jointly prepare a forest resources management plan for this area in order for its resources to be more comprehensively and effectively managed, consistent with the concept of a 'working forest'. The development of a forest resources management plan is consistent with the recommendation in this plan to establish, through legislation, a Susitna State Forest; the backbone of which would be those areas designated Forestry in this plan and in the

recently adopted Southeast Susitna Area Plan. However, such a plan is considered appropriate whether or not a state forest is legislatively designated within the areas designated Forestry in this plan. When adopted, the forest resources management plan will supersede the Susitna Forest Guidelines.

L. Other Guidelines Affecting Forestry. Other guidelines will affect management practices for timber development support facilities and forestry. See other sections of this chapter.


Map 2-1
Lands to be Considered for Legislative Designation as a State Forest
N
Petersville
Petersville Region
Talkeetna
South Parks Region
Sunflower Region
Kahiltna River
Yentna River
P13
P13
P13
S35
U26
R03
B10
Susitna Lowlands Region
R03
U26
Skwentna
U07
R03
Skwentna River
U04
Susitna River
M07
Willow
Alaska Range Region
Houston
Mt. Susitna Region
U24
M07
Big Lake
Susitna
Susitna Matanuska Area Plan (SMAP)-PRD
Towns
SMAP Regions
Forestry Designations with Unit Labels
Roads
0
5
10
20 Miles
Anchorage

Instream Flow

Goal

In-stream Flow. Maintain water quantity and quality sufficient to protect the overall ecosystem integrity and as well as the human, fish, and wildlife resources and uses of the region.

Management Guidelines

A. Stream Uses to Consider for In-stream Flow Reservation (General). Streams, lakes, and other waterbodies may be considered for in-stream flow reservations under AS 46.15.145. Such reservations are intended to maintain a specified in stream flow or level of water at a specified point on a stream or body of water, or a specified part of a stream, throughout the year or for specified times. The purposes of the reservation, defined in statute, include: 1) protection of fish and wildlife habitat, migration, and propagation; 2) recreation and park purposes; 3) sanitary and water quality purposes; and 4) navigation and transportation purposes.

B. Priorities. In-stream flow reservations have been established on portions of the Susitna and Talkeetna Rivers, Kroto Creek, and most of the mainstem of the Yenta River. (see http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mapguide/wr_intro.htm). Proposals for new developments requiring substantial water use or uses of water or that have the potential to negatively impact in-stream flows needed to produce fish, sustain water quality, provide for navigation, and/or recreation, should include an evaluation of the need for an in-stream water reservation or other forms of in-stream flow protection.

C. Process for Determining Reservations. Applications for in-stream flow reservations are submitted to the Department for adjudication following the procedures identified in 11 AAC 93.141-147. In general, these procedures estimate the quantity of water seasonally available and review the amount of water already appropriated in consideration of the requested in-stream flows or levels of water for the purposes to be protected.

D. Other Guidelines Affecting In-stream Flow. Several other guidelines will affect in-stream flow. See other sections of this chapter.

Material Sites

Goal

Land for State-Owned Materials Sites. Maintain in state ownership and make available to public and private users sufficient, suitably located materials sites to meet long-term economic needs of the area for material resources.

Avoidance or Minimization of Impacts. Material extraction sites are to be sited so that they avoid impacts, including but not limited to noise and dust, to adjacent residential or institutional areas (i.e., schools).

Management Guidelines

A. Preferred Material Sites. When responding to a request for a material sale or identifying a source for materials, the highest priority should be given to using existing upland material sources. Using materials from wetlands, lakes, tidelands, and active or inactive floodplain rivers or streams should be avoided unless no feasible public upland alternative exists. As a general policy, sales or permits for gravel extraction will not be permitted in known fish spawning areas or within 150 feet of known spawning areas. Material sites shall be maintained in public ownership unless the management intent language for a specific management unit indicates that it may be appropriate for alternative uses.

B. Maintaining Other Uses and Resources When Siting, Operating or Closing Material Sites. Before materials are extracted, the adjudicator will ensure that the requirements of the permit or lease adequately protect other important resources and uses. The disposal of materials should be consistent with the applicable management intent statement and management guidelines of the plan. In some instances, areas occupied by a material site may be appropriate for reuse for settlement or another form of development. When this occurs, this is noted in the 'management intent' of the affected unit and reuse of the parcel for the intended use is appropriate. If this occurs, the reclamation plan shall take this into consideration and account for the probable reuse.

C. Land Sales in Areas of High Material Potential. Generally, if a settlement area contains sand and gravel deposits, rock sources or other similar, high value material resources, a pit area should be identified during subdivision design and retained in state ownership for future use.

D. Screening and Rehabilitation. Material sites shall be screened from roads, residential areas, recreational areas, and other areas of significant human use. Sufficient land should be allocated to the material site to allow for such screening. Material extraction sites adjacent to the Parks Highway shall provide a vegetation buffer of 75' or more. Rehabilitation of the site shall follow the requirements of AS 27.19.020 and 11 AAC 97.250.

E. Protection Area Adjacent to Anadromous Waterbodies. A riparian buffer of at least 150' shall be provided adjacent to anadromous waterbodies. The adjudicator is to review the DMLW on-line procedures pertinent to riparian buffers and Management Guidelines G and H in the 'Shorelands and Stream Corridors' section of this chapter prior to issuing an authorization or disposing of an interest in state land.

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F. Coordination with Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Prior to granting authorizations for material sales, the DNR should coordinate with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to determine applicable local land use requirements.

G. Other Guidelines Affecting Materials. Other guidelines will affect the use of material resources. See other sections of this chapter.

Recreation and Scenic Resources

Goal

Recreation Opportunities. Lands will be provided for accessible outdoor recreational opportunities with well-designed and conveniently located recreational facilities. In addition, undeveloped lands should be provided for recreation pursuits that do not require developed facilities. These opportunities shall be realized by:

- providing recreation opportunities on state land and water that serves multiple purposes such as habitat protection, timber management, and mineral resource extraction;
- assisting communities through cooperative planning, conveyance of state lands, and grants-in-aid for parks and trails within population centers;
- encouraging commercial development of recreational facilities and services through concession contracts, land sales, leases, and permits where public recreation needs can most effectively be provided by private enterprise, while minimizing environmental impacts and conflicts with the existing users of an area;
- protection of recreation resources including public access, visual resources, fish and wildlife important for recreation, and, where appropriate, the isolation and unique wilderness characteristics of the planning area.
- management of recreation to minimize user conflict, provide for a quality experience for all user groups, and protect the natural values and attributes of the area within which the recreation occurs.
- protection of ecosystems and habitat from damage caused by inappropriate recreation use.

Management Guidelines

A. Coordination with Other Landowners and Users of an Area. Recreation management, including the location and management of recreation facilities, will take into account the current and projected future uses of lands owned by local governments and private landowners, and should strive for compatibility with adjacent current and projected uses.

B. Roles of Different Public Land Owners in Providing Public Recreational Opportunities. Generally, the state's role is to retain and manage land supporting recreational opportunities of regional or statewide significance. The state and federal governments are most capable of providing recreational opportunities that require large land

areas, while local government is generally best suited for providing and managing community recreation opportunities. To recognize local government's role in providing community recreation needs, the state may transfer state land designated Public Recreation-Dispersed (Rd) or state recreation sites within or near existing communities, if the municipality has parks and recreation powers and if this action is in the overall best interest of the state (AS 38.05.810). The selection of these sites shall be agreed to by local government and the state, and shall be contingent on the local government's commitment to develop and maintain the recreation uses, facilities, and values of these areas.

C. Public Use Sites. Uses that adversely affect public use sites or areas should not be authorized. Uses that are made available to the public, recreational or other sites (such as airstrip development or docks) may be authorized if consistent with the management intent for the public use site or area and if there is a demonstrated public need.

D. Private Commercial Recreation Facilities and Operations on State Land. Lodges or other private commercial facilities and operations designed to be run as or to support private commercial recreation facilities may be authorized if the facility or operation fulfills the conditions outlined in this section, conforms to the requirements of AS 38.05.850, AS 38.05.070 and .075 or AS 38.05.073, or a management plan is prepared in accordance with AS 41.21.302(c) authorizing the facility.

If so authorized, the facility or operation should be sited, constructed, and operated in a manner that creates the least conflict with natural values and existing uses of the area. The commercial facility and the use it generates should avoid significant adverse impacts on fish and wildlife habitat and existing uses of an area. For facilities supporting recreational fish and wildlife harvest, ADF&G should be consulted on the possible effects of increased harvest on fish and wildlife resources, and on established commercial, recreation, and subsistence users.

E. Commercial Recreation Leasing Processes. There are several processes for leasing state land for commercial recreational facilities under the following Alaska Statues (AS): AS 38.05.070, 38.05.073, 38.05.075, and 38.05.810. The first three are used for commercial recreation facilities and the last is used for not-for-profit entities that provide some type of recreational use or service.

In particular, AS 38.05.073 is designed for creating recreational facility leaseholds. This statute requires that the regional land use plan identify areas suitable for recreational facility leasing. Given the broad scope of the SMAP, the determination of particular sites is impractical, although such uses are generally appropriate within most plan designations, except Agriculture and Water Resources. Authorizations under AS 38.05.073 must evaluate the adequacy of the proposed recreation facility, and a final site determination and best interest finding must support this determination. Any amendments to the SMAP to accommodate a .073 commercial lease shall be reviewed by the Director of DMLW prior to or concurrent with the adjudication process.

F. Permits, Easements, and Leases Adjacent to Recreation Facilities. Permits, easements, and leases may be issued adjacent to recreation facilities if the land manager determines that the two uses can be made compatible by design, siting or operating guidelines; or if the land manager determines there is no feasible and prudent alternative for the activity. This guideline also applies to sites reserved for future recreation facilities. The land manager's determination will be made after consultation with the facility manager.

G. Management of Recreation Use on State Lands. To the extent provided by law, DNR is to manage recreation use and activities to be enable a variety of uses and vehicle types, while ensuring that adverse impacts to fish and wildlife species and habitats are avoided or minimized, and to avoid the creation of user conflicts and if in existence, to minimize their impact.

H. Consultation with ADF&G. Consult with ADF&G in the siting of facilities where fish and wildlife species or important habitats are likely to occur.

I. Other Guidelines that Affect Recreation, Tourism, and Scenic Resources. Other guidelines will affect recreation, tourism, and scenic resources. See other sections of this chapter.

Settlement

Background

The development of the Susitna Valley over the past 25 years has been accompanied by extensive residential development, with much of it occurring along and near the Parks Highway. Most of this development has taken place in that part of the Parks Highway south of the Parks Highway-Talkeetna Spur Road intersection, most of which is outside of the planning boundary. However, considerable growth has also characterized those areas within the planning boundary that are served by road access or, less frequently, float plane or ORV access. Residential growth has been particularly marked within the planning area along the Talkeetna Spur Road, the Parks Highway along and near Trapper Creek, and along and adjacent to the Petersville Road, and the Glenn Highway between Sutton and Chickaloon. Areas lacking immediate road access have experienced much less growth and, where it has occurred, it often has coincided with lakefront and stream front property or with areas having scenic views.

It is likely that the next 25 years will see the further development of residential uses in the Susitna Valley, with the location and density of such uses the result of road access, favorable soils and terrain, and Borough platting requirements. It is likely that much of this growth will occur in those regions that have or will have ready access to the Parks Highway, Talkeetna Spur Road, or the Alaska Railroad. Therefore, the North Parks Highway, South Parks Highway, Glenn Highway, and Petersville regions are more likely to experience such growth.

The Settlement designations in this revision of the Southeast Susitna Area Plan total approximately 686,212 acres or about 13% of the total state land inventory within the plan boundary. This is about the same amount of land in the Settlement designation as in the original 1985 Susitna Area Plan. Settlement areas primarily occur in the more accessible and better drained uplands in the South Parks Highway, Petersville, Glenn Highway, and North Parks Highway regions. Although other regions, especially those west of the Susitna River, contain significant concentrations of Settlement, the amount of growth is less likely and will occur at lower levels of density than in the more accessible areas.

The application of the Settlement designation to a specific parcel resulted from the consideration of a number of factors. It was primarily based on whether it had reasonable access by road, water, or air, consisted of topography that would be suitable for development, and posed minimal conflict with recreation, scenic values, important fish and wildlife resources, or resource development. Compatibility with adjacent land uses and the plan designations used herein were also considered.

It should be noted that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) has developed and will continue to develop local comprehensive plans for specific parts of the Borough. These are intended to identify preferred land use patterns and development stipulations. DNR reviews these plans in the course of developing management plans or area plans, and often makes use of their recommendations. However, while community comprehensive plans can make recommendations for state lands within their planning areas, they cannot establish land use designations or other planning requirements for state land. State land use designations are decided on a regional basis through the state planning process and local plans do not supersede state plans for the use of state lands.

Goals

Private Land Ownership. Provide suitable public land for transfer to private ownership for settlement purposes. DNR will attempt to satisfy three settlement categories within the planning area:

1) **Seasonal residences for recreation.** DNR will offer land suitable for seasonal recreation use. This land will be provided as demand warrants, subject to the availability of funding. This category of land disposal is intended to provide land, often in remote locations, for recreational needs. No public facilities and services are intended to be provided.

2) **Year-round residences for community expansion.** DNR will offer accessible land suitable to meet the needs of existing communities. This category serves people whose principal place of residence and work is, or will be, in the area of the disposal. It also includes land disposals of commercial and industrial land to accommodate the expansion needs of communities. This land will be provided as demand warrants, subject to the availability of funding.

3) **Industrial or commercial development.** DNR will sell, lease, or protect for future use suitable land for private commercial and industrial uses. Within the SMAP planning area most land designated Settlement is intended for residential use. Relatively few parcels are suitable for possible commercial or industrial development and these are indicated in the Resource Allocation Table. If DNR sells the land, the timing of this disposal will depend on market demand and adequate funding.

Community, Social, and Aesthetic Values. In designing future disposals, DNR will maintain compatibility with the cultural lifestyle and aesthetic values of residents and users, and minimize undesired impacts on those values while considering the needs and demands of all state residents.

Protection of Critical Recreational Areas, Environmental Resources, and Habitats. Sensitive environmental features, habitat resource areas, and areas (or corridors) used by local residents for recreation purposes will be taken into consideration in subdivision design and subdivisions should be developed to protect or maintain these features. Vegetated

wildlife migration corridors, riparian buffers, and retained open space should also be considered when there is also a high value for fish and wildlife resources in the areas. Subdivisions should be developed to protect or maintain these features. Refer to the 'Shorelands and Stream Corridors' section of this chapter for guidance on the management of riparian areas.

Fiscal Impacts. Land disposals should be sited and planned to minimize the costs of infrastructure and other services resulting from settlement. Disposals should be focused on areas of existing settlement; areas along the road system or a waterway that can be easily accessed by water transport; or areas where service requirements may be provided by local government or community organizations.

Coordination with Local Governments and Landowners. Where state land adjoins Borough land and where both areas are designated for Settlement, consideration should be given to the coordination of land disposal programs in order to achieve economies of scale and reduce infrastructure costs. Coordinate state land offering programs with similar programs of local governments and major landowners to best achieve common objectives.

Management Guidelines

A. Planning and Coordination.

1) **Competition.** The state may compete with the private sector or local governments if necessary to satisfy demand, provide market choice, or moderate unreasonably high prices.

2) **Local Plans.** DNR will comply with provisions of the Borough comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance (if applicable) regarding the location and density of land development except to the extent that local requirements are inconsistent with a major overriding state interest.

3) **Coordination with Local Governments.** Where state land adjoins Borough land and where both areas are designated for Settlement, consideration should be given to the coordination of land disposal programs in order to achieve economies of scale and reduce infrastructure costs.

4) **Pacing.** Settlement offerings may be phased over 20 years, the life of this plan. The timing and extent of disposals will depend upon anticipated demand, availability of funding, the rate of community expansion, the availability of or costs to provide necessary infrastructure, and the particular land requirements of such expansion. Another factor may be whether the disposal will generate a demand for services that cannot be reasonably expected to be met by local government or community organizations.

5) **Areas Designated General Use.** The large areas of state land that are designated General Use (about 1,324,600 acres) are generally not suitable for development during the planning period. Most General Use areas are remote and generally unsuitable for residential development because of the presence of adverse topography, drainage, and extensive areas of wetlands that adjoin these areas. This makes the uplands within the General Use areas difficult to develop because of the costs and difficulty of road construction in the adjacent wetlands. For these reasons, residential development during the planning period in areas designated General Use is considered generally inappropriate except in those areas that adjoin parcels designated Settlement, where road access has been provided to adjoining properties, or for remote land disposals that are not dependent upon access.

6) **Ensure Access to Remote Settlements.** Because of the scale of area plans, it is not practicable to identify access corridors to Settlement areas adjoined by state land. This plan intends that access be available and provided to state land disposals across state land. This access is to be provided even if the plan designation may differ from that of Settlement.

   The state should continue to coordinate with the MSB on the identification and dedication of trailheads and trail easements that provide access to remote/recreational parcels off the road system. As part of the development of remote settlement areas, DNR should consider the provision of staging areas, parking areas, and/or trailheads in order to accommodate landowners parking vehicles and other equipment while accessing their remote parcels. ADF&G should be consulted to ensure there will be no habitat associated impacts from parking areas or trailheads.

7) **Maintenance of State Land Base.** Areas designated Settlement in the area plan are intended to provide a land base for DNR's long term land disposal program and are not to be converted to other land use classifications. Departures from this standard will require a plan amendment and a public meeting.

B. Types of Settlement Land and Land Offerings. The nature of state land available for private ownership is influenced by both the characteristics of land designated for settlement, and the type of land sales program that makes it available. The Susitna Matanuska Area Plan designates certain lands for settlement and provides guidelines for land sales and, in certain instances, will designate certain management units for remote staking. The designation of remote staking areas in this plan is made when an established pattern of this settlement form has already occurred; for this reason, additional development, to achieve compatibility in land use type, is appropriately the remote staking type. In other instances, the plan does not provide a recommendation for a particular form of settlement. This situation exists when it is equally probable that one or the other, or both forms, of settlement can be developed within a management unit. Many management units are quite large and could accommodate both types of settlement. In these instances the plan is silent as to type of settlement and the decision on type is to be made in the context of the Preliminary Decision.

C. Protection, Management, and Enhancement of Other Resources.

1) **Protect Life and Property.** DNR should design and develop subdivisions to protect life and property. Sensitive areas such as wetlands or potentially dangerous areas such as areas with unstable soil, riverbanks subject to active stream erosion, or within floodways or floodplains, should be avoided in subdivision design or protected by retaining these areas in state ownership or restricting their use through developmental reservations or restrictions. Wildland fire risks in areas with heavy fuels such as black spruce need to be considered during early decision-making on subdivision development. Easements or plat notes can be used for this purpose in lieu of retaining land in state ownership.

2) **Protect and Manage Valuable Environmental Areas.** The state will provide, in its design of land disposals, an open-space system to preserve important fish and wildlife habitats and natural areas such as shorelands, freshwater wetlands, and riparian lands. Where appropriate other design and management approaches may be used; these may complement an open space system or substitute for it, although preference should be given to the provision of an open space system.

   These areas should be designed to provide the necessary linkage and continuity to protect or increase values for human uses and wildlife movements. In some places, large areas may be protected to provide adequate terrestrial habitat.

3) **Priority of Public Uses in Stream Corridors.** Within stream corridors, DNR will set a higher priority on protecting public use values than on providing opportunities for private ownership of land. Disposals near streams with important recreation value will be designed to protect riparian habitat and protect access to and along the stream for fishing, hiking, camping, and other recreational activities. Disposals near streams that have important fish or wildlife habitat or wildlife value will be designed to insure the protection of the habitat or wildlife. In certain limited cases, it may be appropriate to provide land for private use, but such an action must be in the overall best interests of the state. Before lands are disposed of in stream corridors, DNR will assess existing and projected public use needs associated with the stream corridor, in consultation with other affected agencies and the public. Depending on the context, DNR may either protect these areas through retaining land in state or public ownership or through the imposition of a reservation of an interest in land for the maintenance of riparian values and access.

   In making determinations as to whether a riparian area should be protected and the manner of that protection, adjudicators are to consult the DMLW on-line procedures for riparian areas and Management Guidelines G and h of the ‘Stream Corridors and Shorelands’ section of this chapter. These procedures emphasize retaining such areas where a significant public interest or value exists, which is often common in riparian areas.

4) **Protect and Enhance Scenic Features.** DNR will design and develop subdivisions to protect or maintain unique geologic and scenic features such as cliffs, bluffs, or waterfalls. These areas should be avoided altogether or protected in subdivision design and development through the use of reservations or plat restrictions. Where scenic views exist, lots should be oriented to this feature.

5) **Mineral Closing Orders.** Generally, state upland parcels designated Settlement do not coincide with patterns of historical or potential mining activity in the planning area. Since little potential conflict is expected to exist, this plan does not create any new Mineral Closing Orders or Leasehold Location Orders. However, Mineral Closing Orders are recommended for use at the time that an area is being considered for disposal for purposes of settlement or other forms of development that would be inconsistent with mining activity. The timing of the closure is at the discretion of the Department, but should be early enough in the process to avoid the inadvertent staking of mining claims. The current Mineral Closing Orders affecting existing areas of settlement or proposed settlement will be retained.

6) **Timber Harvest.** Timber harvests are considered appropriate in areas designated Settlement if intended to support the costs of subdivision development, provide access to the subdivision, or provide ancillary facilities subject to the other requirements of the Forestry standards in this Chapter. Timber harvests may also be appropriate for purposes of forest health or the clearing of right-of-way. The elective harvesting of timber before subdivision development is considered appropriate, after consultation with the Land Sales Section and if authorized by the Regional Manager, SCRO.

7) **Protect and Enhance Recreational, Educational, and Cultural Opportunities.** DNR should determine the need for and retain appropriate areas for outdoor recreation, hunting, fishing, trails, campsites, boat launches, historic sites, and areas for scientific study. Areas for intensive and dispersed use will be preserved.

D. Design.

1) **Provide State Land for Important Environmental and Resource Development Purposes.** DNR, as a general policy, should retain appropriate green belts, public-use corridors, water supply areas, riparian and coastal buffer areas, wildlife migration corridors, public access sites, material sites, roads and other public facilities, as well as other open space to create a desirable land use pattern in developing areas. Where appropriate other design and management approaches may be used; these may complement retained areas or substitute for them.

Generally, however, subdivision design should provide for the creation of an open space system designed to protect or maintain important uses and values. Depending on the context, DNR may either protect these areas through retaining land in state or public ownership or through the imposition of a reservation of an interest in land for the maintenance of riparian values and access.

2) **Cost of Public Services.** In accordance with AS 38.04.010, DNR will focus year-round settlement to areas where services exist or can be provided with reasonable efficiency. State land that is located beyond the range of existing schools and other necessary public services or that is located where development of sources of employment is improbable will be sited and designed to encourage seasonal use with sufficient separation between residences so that public services will not be necessary or expected. Wildfire management costs that result from settlement will be considered and minimized to the extent feasible.

3) **Ensure Access.** DNR should ensure that legal, practical public access (roads, trails, or other options most appropriate to the particular situation) is identified and reserved to and within land offerings. However, the state is not legally obligated to construct roads. In instances where a subdivision or other development is to abut a major arterial, the location of driveway and main road access is to be coordinated with ADOT/PF and other approving agencies. Section line or other easements should not be relied on for access without field inspection of the practicality of such routes, where topography or other conditions might make the practicability of the section line location suspect. Identified access routes should be described in the land-offering brochure. Where needed to reduce the likelihood of conflicts with existing private owners, DNR may brush or flag public access routes to land offering projects.

4) **Subdivision Design.** Subdivisions will be designed to preserve and enhance the quality of the natural setting and the recreational opportunities that make an area attractive to potential buyers. State subdivision design will take account of site limitations and opportunities such as slope, drainage, soils, erosion, riparian zone and coastal buffer, and other features to ensure that sites offered are buildable and can be developed without the need for extensive public infrastructure. Riparian buffers and building setback shall be imposed on all disposals. DNR should review Borough subdivision requirements prior to the initiation of subdivision design. See also design requirements described in C(1) and D(1), described previously, and Management Guidelines G and H in the 'Stream Corridors and Shorelands' section of this chapter.

E. Other Guidelines Affecting Settlement. Other guidelines will affect settlement. See other sections of this chapter.

Shorelands and Stream Corridors

Goals

Recreation. Provide opportunities for a variety of recreational activities within publicly owned stream corridors, including both wilderness and developed recreational activities.

Habitat. Protect fish and wildlife habitats along lakeshores, stream corridors and wetlands.

Water Quality. Protect water quality to support domestic uses, fish and wildlife production, and recreational activities. Protect watersheds that supply community drinking water.

Water Dependent and Water Related Uses. Provide for needed water dependent and water related uses.

Management Guidelines

A. Alaska Clean Water Act (ACWA). In accordance with the ACWA program, DNR will work with ADF&G and ADEC to protect and improve water quality, water quantity and fish habitat. Any development that impacts anadromous fish bearing waters or resident fish streams will require a permit from ADF&G.

B. Priority of Public Uses in Stream Corridors. DNR will place a higher priority on protecting public use values in stream corridors than on providing opportunities for private ownership or development of land. However, the department recognizes the demand for property along streams and will provide land for private purchase in some stream corridors. Prior to the disposal of stream corridor lands, DNR, in consultation with other affected agencies and the public, will assess existing and projected public use needs associated with the stream corridor. State land sales programs near streams having important recreation value will be designed to protect access to and along the stream (AS 38.05.127) for fishing, hiking, camping, and other recreational activities. Similarly, disposals near streams that have important fish or wildlife habitat or wildlife value will be designed to ensure the protection of the habitat and wildlife through the imposition of measures to ensure riparian protection.

In making determinations as to whether a riparian area should be protected and the manner of that protection, adjudicators are to consult the DMLW on-line procedures for detail. These procedures emphasize retaining such areas where a significant public interest or value exists, which is often common in riparian areas.

C. Public Access Adjacent to Waterbodies. Pursuant to AS 38.05.127, legal public access will be reserved in order to protect the public's right to travel to and along the ordinary high water (OHW) of a waterbody without encouraging trespass. Permits, leases, and plans of

operation for commercial and industrial uses, transportation facilities, pipelines and other water dependent uses may be authorized on state uplands adjacent to waterbodies if their activities are consistent with the management intent for the area and if they maintain tideland and stream bank access, and protect important fish and wildlife habitat, public water supplies, and public recreation. Trails and other forms of non-motorized public access are generally considered to be appropriate within these areas, if they meet the conditions listed in 11 AAC 96.025.

Where feasible and prudent, there should be setbacks between these activities and adjacent waterbodies. The width of this setback may vary depending upon the type and size of the use, but must be adequate to maintain public access to and along riparian areas. The amount of impervious surface created within the riparian area should be minimized.

D. Protection of Land Adjacent to High Value Waterbodies. When the management intent for state land adjacent to waterbodies (including shorelands, streams, or lakes) is to protect wildlife habitat, anadromous or high value resident fish streams, or provide for intensive recreation uses associated with fishing, picnicking, hunting, camping, or other similar uses, the state should retain ownership of the adjacent uplands. Alternatively, to minimize on-going management responsibilities or for some other public purpose, a riparian buffer should be imposed. See Table 2-1 for requirements related to 'riparian buffers'. In instances involving a land disposal, the area of a riparian buffer may be reserved as public open space to be maintained by a common interest association. Whichever method is chosen, they should be designed to minimize negative impacts on visual character, habitat value, water quality, and ensure public access.

In making determinations as to whether a riparian area should be protected and the manner of that protection, adjudicators are to consult the DMLW on-line procedures for detail. These procedures emphasize retaining such areas where a significant public interest or value exists, which is often common in riparian areas.

State owned buffers or riparian buffers may be retained along the full length of the water body or on segments of the water body determined to have high current or future use, public use, or to require habitat protection. If the intent is to provide forested wildlife habitat, the width and configuration of this buffer shall be determined during preliminary subdivision design or in the preparation of the Forest Land Use Plan. Consult with ADF&G.

E. Retention of Access Easements Adjacent to Waterbodies. For waterbodies that are not anadromous and where the primary management intent is to protect the public's right to travel or provide access for utilities, a public use easement under AS 38.05.127 ('to and along') should be imposed. The public rights retained in an easement shall be identified and noted in the DNR decision document and on the subdivision plat. In areas that may be sensitive to vehicular travel, the easement should be reserved for pedestrian access only. Access easements may be used in combination with state land that is to be retained for public

use or for the protection of environmental resources. In these situations, easements may be used to provide access to areas of state retained sensitive land, or provide access corridors between lots or parcels within the subdivision.

In making determinations as to whether a riparian area should be protected and the manner of that protection, adjudicators are to consult the DMLW on-line procedures manual for detail. These procedures emphasize retaining such areas where a significant public interest or value exists, which is often common in riparian areas.

F. Protection Easements and Setbacks to Non-Anadromous Waterbodies. Easements[6] or building setbacks[7] may be used in those instances where public recreation use is moderate or where sensitive habitat or other environmental resources exist but are not of the same importance as described under Management Guideline D. See the requirements for 'Sensitive Environmental Areas' in Table 2-1 when an easement is to be applied. The purpose of the easement or setback should be noted in the Department decision document, and on the subdivision plat. Where a protection easement or setback is to be applied, vehicular use within the area of the easement is inappropriate and should not be authorized. Building setbacks may be used in lieu of a protection easement in those instances where it is not appropriate or necessary for the state to retain any easement rights *or* they may be used in combination with buffers, access easements, and protection easements. Building setbacks used in this fashion provide an added level of protection. See the requirements for 'Building Setbacks' in Table 2-1.

G. Lakeshore Public Access. A portion of the lakefront on lakes greater than 10 acres that have or may be expected to have public recreation and all inlets and outlets of lakes of this size and capable of sustaining year-round natural or stocked game fish species shall remain in public ownership for habitat protection and public recreation. Adequate public access to these lakes shall also remain in public ownership or is to be provided through section line or 'to and along' easements. The amount of public ownership may vary on a site specific basis, but, at a minimum, some portion of these lakes shall remain public. The size of the public reservation shall be appropriate to its expected long range recreational use and relative to the size of the lake. A width of 150' or more measured from OHW is to be retained or protected through an easement along inlet and outlet streams[8]. Public use sites on lakes of 10-20 acres shall have at least 4 contiguous acres reserved for public access. For lakes larger than 20 acres a public use site of at least 6 acres shall be provided.

[6] These areas are often referred to as 'protection areas' in the management units described in the Resource Allocation Tables on Chapter 3.
[7] The Borough applies a setback of 75'. Setbacks applied to state land shall at least be this width.
[8] As measured from each bank of the inlet/outlet stream. This requirement applies whether or not the stream is anadromous.

H. Buffer, Easement, and Building Setback Widths.

1) The width of state retained land, access and protection easements, and building setbacks adjacent to waterbodies (tidelands, lakes, streams) will vary, depending on whether the area is a retained parcel or imposed easement, and according to management intent and the specifics of the parcel under consideration. In addition, this width may vary along the area of the tideland, stream, or lake that is to be protected. Establishing widths, especially for publicly retained lands, will be based on the following considerations: recreational activities to be accommodated, floodway and floodplain widths, habitat protection and management objectives, visual quality, use compatibility, prevention of erosion, or retention of a significant hydraulic resource (like a wetland).

2) Although these widths may vary, the following criteria are provided to establish the minimum width that can be expected on various types of buffers, easements, and setbacks. They are specified here in order to establish some consistency in application and ensure a minimum level of resource and habitat protection or public access. Distances are measured landward from ordinary high water along streams and other inland waterbodies and from the line of mean high water adjacent to coastal waters. Because of the linear nature of streams and certain other habitat or hydraulic features, these minimum dimensions will apply to both sides of the feature that is to be protected. For example, the total protected area along a stream with a 100 foot setback would be 200 feet (100 feet each side).

If state land is to be retained, it may be preferable to retain a larger width, often 200 feet on each side. Widths greater than 200 feet may also be warranted, depending on the specific site characteristics and the importance of the habitat or resources to be protected.

a) Riparian buffers on retained[9] public land along anadromous and high value resident fish streams and waters: 150 feet along each side of the anadromous waterbody or high value resident fish stream. (Widths greater than this amount, up to 300 feet, may be authorized if, after consultation with ADF&G, it is determined that larger widths are necessary to protect fisheries, wildlife, or habitat).

b) Buffers on other freshwater waterbodies on retained public land: 50 feet along each side of the stream or 50 feet along the shoreline of lakes.

c) Easements[10] used in areas of sensitive environmental features: 50 feet on each side of important environmental features, such as high value wetlands. Distances greater than 50' (up to 100') may be appropriate if the feature being protected is considered to be especially sensitive to disturbance and is considered a

[9] In those instances where state land adjacent to an anadromous is not to be retained by the state, a non-development easement or buffer should be applied. Uses within these easements shall be as noted in the following table or as specified in regulation.

[10] These areas are sometimes referred to as 'protection areas' in management unit descriptions in Chapter 3.

particularly high value resource; such features might include lacustrine and riverine wetlands, springs, salt licks, or geologic hazards requiring additional distance separation for public safety. Consult ADF&G if there is a question as to whether a width greater than 50' should be considered.

d) Public access easements, including 'to and along' easements required under AS 38.05.127, or utility easements adjacent to tidelands, lakes, and streams: 50 feet.[11]

e) Building setbacks: 150 feet adjacent to anadromous and high value waterbodies and 75 feet adjacent to all other waterbodies. The use of a building setback is usually not required if a 'riparian buffer' is being imposed in an authorization. Riparian buffers preclude principal and most accessory structures within the riparian area; only water dependent uses are authorized in these areas. For more detail see 'riparian buffer' in Table 2-1.

I. Application Requirements for Easements and Buffers Along Waterbodies and Related Environmental Features. Table 2-1 specifies widths and other requirements for easements, buffers and public access in order to ensure consistency between authorizations along waterbodies and related environmental features. The table captures the information provided in Management Guideline H but also provides guidance on when these requirements are to be applied as well as aspects related to types of uses that may be appropriate.

On a case-by-case basis, widths may be wider, in order to accommodate floodplain width, bank characteristics, size of the waterbody, extent of present or expected future public use, the need to protect important environmental features, or other relevant factors. Similarly, widths can be narrower on a case-by-case basis if it is determined that the harm intended to be avoided by the requirement is not likely to occur because of site-specific circumstances. However, the strip of land must be of sufficient width to allow for public access as well as to screen the waterbody from development, where possible, with an undisturbed strip of vegetation. In all instances, requirements for easements shall be noted on the lease, patent or subdivision plat. This requirement also applies to easements described in Management Guideline H.

J. Other Guidelines for Shorelines and Stream Corridors. Other guidelines will affect shorelines and stream corridors. See other sections of this chapter.

[11] Other types of utility easements may be less than this width, depending on the purposes of the easement.

Table 2-1: Application Requirements for Easements and Buffers Along Waterbodies and Related Environmental Features

Guideline/ Application	Minimum Width/ Measured from	Where it Applies	Primary Purpose	Guidelines
1. Public Access (To and Along Easement) Adjacent to all navigable waters or public waters as determined under 11 AAC 51.035[12].	**50feet** * Landward from ordinary high water line. ** Landward and seaward from mean high water line.	Along: * Lakes * Streams ** Tidelands	Provide public access along navigable and other waterbodies.	• Prohibited: Water Dependent[13] or Water Related [14] uses or structures that would obstruct passage by the public within the area of the easement. Alternate upland access needs to be provided if access is blocked. • Allowed: Water Dependent or Water Related structures that would not significantly obstruct passage by the public within the area of the easement. • 'Along' easement is to be continuous unless topography or land status prevents a continuous easement. See 11 AAC 51.045. • The 'To' easement has a minimum width of 50 feet but may be increased to 60 feet or more if DNR determines that the need for increased public access to navigable and public waters may justify construction of a road along an easement. • A section line easement under AS 19.10.010 can function as a 'To' easement to the extent that the section line easement runs on state land and if the section line easement provides a practical route to the shore or river.
2. Riparian Buffers Adjacent to anadromous water bodies and high value fish streams.	**100' to 150'** * Landward from ordinary high water line. ** Landward and seaward from mean high water line.	Along: * Retained public land * Anadromous and high value resident fish streams and lakes that are navigable or are public waters under 11 AAC 51.035.	Protect riparian areas adjacent to anadromous and high value fish streams.	• Allowed: Water Dependent uses or structures that do not require extensive de-vegetation and/or land clearing. This requirement applies to the first 60' measured from OHW. 'Extensive' means not more than 20% of affected area within the project site. Water related uses or structures that do not de-vegetate more than 40% of the affected area are allowed in areas greater than 60' measured from OHW. • Prohibited: Water related uses within the first 60 feet measured from OHW. Note: the requirements for an 'along' easement also apply within the 50' of OHW.
3. Freshwater Waterbodies Buffer Adjacent to waterbodies that are not protected under #2 but where a significant public use or resource is determined to exist.	**100 feet** * Landward from ordinary high water line along streams and lakes that are not covered in item #2 but are considered to have public significance or from the edge of the waterbodies, including wetlands, that are to be protected.	Along freshwater waterbodies that are determined to have public significance but where the requirements of #2 do not apply.	Protect areas adjacent to freshwater waterbodies that are not important riparian areas but that may be important for other public purposes.	• Prohibited: Water Related structures and uses. • Allowed: Water Dependent structures and uses. • Can be imposed in instances where the To and Along Easement is not applicable if necessary to meet the 'Primary Purpose' of protecting a significant public use or resource. • Areas greater than 100 feet may be imposed on a case-by-case basis.

[12] See 11 AAC 51.035 for determination of Navigable and Public Water. See also 11 AAC 51.045 for easements 'To and Along Navigable and Public Water'. Other waters may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

[13] Water Dependent: means a use or an activity that can be carried out only on, in, or adjacent to a water body because the use requires access to the water body. 11 AAC 112.990(31).

[14] Water Related: means a use or activity that is not directly dependent upon access to a waterbody, but which provides goods or services that are directly associated with water-dependent and which, if not located adjacent to a water body, would result in a public loss of quality in the goods or services offered. 11 AAC 112.990(32).

Guideline/ Application	Minimum Width/ Measured from	Where it Applies	Primary Purpose	Guidelines
4. Sensitive Environmental Features Buffer	**50 feet** *** Measured from edge of sensitive environmental feature.	Areas of important environmental features. These may include hydrologic features (wetlands, marshes), sensitive habitat areas, or areas subject to geotechnical constraints.	Protect sensitive environmental features not otherwise protected under Public Access, Riparian Buffers, or Freshwater Waterbodies.	• Sensitive environmental features may include wetlands, important upland habitat, prominent scenic features, and the like. • The imposition of this requirement is discretionary. • Prohibited: Residential (or other) structures and associated out buildings but not including utilities or minor accessory structures. • Imposed as a public easement with the previous prohibitions or those prohibitions that may be set by state regulation. • Where this easement is imposed as part of a municipal entitlement action, this width is also 50 feet. • Areas greater than 50 feet (up to 100') may be imposed on a case-by-case basis.
5. Building setback Adjacent to all waters <u>except</u> anadromous and high-value resident fish waters (see guideline 6 below).	**<u>75-150 feet</u>** * Landward from ordinary high water. ** Landward from mean high water.	Non-anadromous and non-high-value resident fish: * Lakes * Streams ** Tidelands	Protect riparian habitat including access, recreation, and water quality along all waterbodies.	• This requirement is imposed where feasible and prudent, and necessary to protect public values along the stream. • Does not apply to exceptions listed at bottom of table. • The imposition of this requirement is discretionary. • Areas greater than 100 feet may be imposed on a case-by-case basis.
6. Building setback Adjacent to anadromous and high-value resident fish waters.	**<u>150-200 feet</u>** * Landward from ordinary high water. ** Landward from mean high water.	Anadromous and high-value resident fish: * Lakes * Streams ** Tidelands	Protect riparian fish habitat, water quality, and recreation values along anadromous and high-value resident fish waters.	• This requirement may be imposed if necessary to achieve or protect riparian areas or other sensitive environmental features. • Applies only to Water Related uses. Does not apply to exceptions listed at bottom of table. • It is intended that the area of the setback remain vegetated to maintain habitat values or protect riparian areas.

Where widths apply: * Freshwater areas ** Tidally-influenced areas *** Sensitive Environmental Features

For the definition of *anadromous waters* and *high-value resident fish waters* (derived from AS 41.17.950) see the *Glossary* in Appendix A. Exceptions that apply to items 5 and 6 above: a) Structures such as docks, bridges, and culverts whose purpose is access to or across the stream or lake; b) Uses that must be in or adjacent to the waterbody in order to function, such as placer mining activities, fish culturing, water supply intakes, and similar uses.

Subsurface Resources

Goals

Opportunities for Mineral Exploration and Development. Provide opportunities through state land management for the exploration and development of mineral resources.

Economic Opportunities. Provide economic opportunities and stability by managing state lands for the efficient and environmentally sound:

- transfer of minerals from uplands to transport vessels;
- disposal of tailings;
- development of state land and submerged land mining sites; and,
- siting of infrastructure to support development of mineral resources.

Environmental Quality and Cultural Values. When developing subsurface resources, protect the integrity of the environment and affected cultural features to the extent feasible and prudent.

Management Guidelines

A. Mineral Exploration. By statute, exploration for locatable minerals is allowed on all state lands except those specifically closed to location. A land use permit is required under most circumstances. Hand prospecting and exploration activities generally do not require a permit. DNR may determine that some forms of access will not be allowed in specific areas to avoid resource damage.

B. Open to Mineral Location. By statute, all state lands are open to mineral location unless specifically closed. Where an area is open to mineral location, a miner has the right to stake a mining location regardless of the surface use designation or classification. Any adverse effects of mining on surface resources or uses will be managed through compliance with state laws and regulations and borough ordinances and management intent and guidelines in this plan. Reclamation activities are directed by the Mining Reclamation Act (AS 27.19) and regulations (11 AAC 97). (Note: Mineral entry on Alaska Mental Health Trust Land is not authorized without the prior approval of the Trust Land Office of DNR in accordance with 11 AAC 99.) Similar requirements apply to land owned by the University of Alaska.

C. Reclamation of Mined Land. The reclamation of mining operations, including placer mining, must meet the reclamation standards given in AS 27.19. The reclamation law provides a standard that miners must meet during and after mining. The mining operation must be conducted in a manner that prevents unnecessary and undue degradation of land and water resources and requires that reclamation occur "contemporaneously" with the mining operation. Regulation 11 AAC 97 (Mining Reclamation) details the specific requirements that must be followed. In designated habitat areas, annual reclamation will be required concurrent with mining. Reclamation will be required to restore degraded fish and wildlife habitat and prevent hazards to navigation.

D. Mining in Fish Habitat. When DNR issues a permit for mining in or adjacent to designated fish habitat, conditions of the permit will require any necessary measures, such as levees, berms, seasonal restrictions, and settling ponds that will allow the operation to meet water quality standards and statutes and regulations governing the protection of fish[15]. Because less than 50% of all anadromous streams are listed within the ADF&G Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC), DNR should consult with ADF&G prior to the issuance of an authorization where stream channels are present and the likelihood of anadromous or high value resident fish is high.

E. Mineral Closures

1) **Background.** The decision to apply mineral location closures will be made by the Commissioner of DNR within the standards set by Alaska Statutes. AS 38.05.185(a) requires that the Commissioner determines that mining is incompatible with a significant surface use before an area can be closed to mining. The same section of the statute requires that the Commissioner determine that a potential use conflict exists before imposing leasing requirements for development of locatable minerals. The fact that an area is closed to new mineral location will not be cause for denying access across state land. Mineral closures do not affect valid existing mineral locations.

2) **Land Closed to Mineral Entry.** State mining law stipulates that mining must be determined to be in conflict with significant surface uses before an area can be closed to mineral entry (AS 38.05.300). There is little correspondence between the location of state upland parcels designated Settlement and historical or potential mining activity in the planning area. Since little potential conflict is expected to exist, this plan does not create any new mineral closing orders or leasehold location orders. The current Mineral Closing Orders will, however, be retained. These affect extensive areas within the planning boundary, including most legislatively designated areas[16], many areas designated settlement (current and proposed)areas designated forestry and wildlife habitat, and anadromous streams. To determine the location of areas closed to mineral entry in the planning area consult the DNR Alaska Mapper, available on-line at: http://mapper.landrecords.info/

[15] Note: Mining in fish habitat requires additional permits from ADEC and ADF&G.
[16] The Nelchina PUA and the Matanuska Moose Range both allow subsurface activity.

Mineral Closing Orders are recommended for use at the time that an area is being considered for disposal for purposes of settlement or other forms of development that would be inconsistent with mining activity. The timing of the closure is at the discretion of DNR but should be early enough in the process to avoid the inadvertent staking of mining claims. (Note: Mineral entry on Alaska Mental Health Trust Land is not authorized without the prior approval of the Trust Land Office of DNR in accordance with 11 AAC 99. Similar requirements apply to land owned by the University of Alaska.)

F. Oil and Gas Resources. It is probable that oil and gas resources are present within the planning area. The planning and decision making processes for oil and gas development occur under a separate section of Alaska Statutes (AS 38.05.180) and these processes are not included as part of area plans. For this reason, the area plan does not make any development decisions related to these resources, and defers all decisions regarding licensing or leasing of oil and gas to DNR's existing licensing and leasing processes.

Oil and gas sales are not subject to the regional planning process; instead they follow the planning process identified under AS 38.05.180. The land use designations of the plan are multiple use in character and do not preclude oil and gas development.

G. Coal Resources. The coal potential within the planning area is generally considered low to moderate, although recent advances in technology and changes in the economics of extraction may increase this level to high in those areas where coal is buried at depth. Most of the areas considered to have a better potential occur outside the planning area or are situated within Public Use Areas which have separate management plans[17] that direct how coal exploration and development shall occur. Coal exploration, development, and extraction are governed by a mix of statutory (AS 38.05.150 and AS 27.21.010-.260) and administrative (11 AAC 85) requirements, which must be followed for exploration and for subsequent extraction to be authorized. This plan does not impose additional requirements of coal exploration and extraction to those cited in statute and regulation. All areas, except within areas closed to such activity in legislatively designated areas, are open to coal exploration, development, and extraction.

H. Other Guidelines Affecting Subsurface Resources. Other guidelines will affect subsurface resources. See other sections of this chapter.

[17] The management plan for the Nelchina Public Use Area does not yet exist.

Public Access

Goals

Public Access. 1) Preserve, enhance, or provide adequate access to public and private lands and resources. Provide for future trail and access needs, and protect or establish trail corridors to ensure continued public access consistent with responsible wildlife and fish habitat conservation. 2) Ensure adequate opportunities for the public's use of public resources of local, regional, and statewide significance.

Management Guidelines: General Public Access

A. Reservation of Public Use Easements. Before selling, leasing, or otherwise disposing of the land estate, DNR will reserve public use easements pursuant to the requirements of 11 AAC 51.015. This section of administrative code establishes when public access easements are to be reserved and the widths of these easements. Specific standards for section-line easements are identified in 11 AAC 51.025 and for easements required under AS 38.05.127,to and along navigable and public waters, in 11 AAC 51.045. These sections of Administrative Code shall be used as the basis for the reservation of public access easements in authorizations granted by DNR.

B. Retain Access. Improve or preserve public access to areas with significant public resource values by retaining access sites and corridors in public ownership; reserving rights of access when state land is sold or leased; or identifying, managing and legally validating RS 2477 (Revised Statute Section 2477) rights-of-way. RS 2477 rights-of-way within the planning area that are identified in AS 19.30.400 (d) or otherwise determined by DNR to qualify as RS 2477 trails are to be retained in state ownership or made a stipulation of approval ('subject to') in the transfer of state land. Standards for the vacation of easements are contained in 11 AAC 51.065. Information regarding RS 2477 rights-of-way easements can be found at the DNR web site: http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/trails/index.htm .

C. Access to Non-State Lands. Reasonable access will be provided across state lands to other public and private lands. Existing legal access will not be precluded unless equivalent access is available.

D. Management of ANCSA 17(b) Easements. The state will identify any new 17(b) easements as required and ensure that public access is maintained to existing 17(b) easements. These easements are intended to provide access through private Native lands to public lands and waters. They are reserved and managed by the federal government.

Information regarding ANCSA 17(b) easements can be found at the DNR web site: http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/trails/index.htm .

E. Access for Development. When an access route is constructed for resource development over state land, public access to mineralized areas, recreation, fish, wildlife, or other public resources should generally be retained. If the new resource facility is likely to be of limited duration and provides superior access to the current means of access, the state should retain the new facility for public access. If the new route or facility will not or should not provide public access due to concerns for public safety or the long-term detrimental impact on natural resources, the current means of public access should be retained. Additional access routes in some areas may lead to negative impacts on valuable resources, particularly certain renewable resources. Consultation with ADF&G is necessary to determine whether or not the access road will cause detriment to fish and wildlife habitat and populations. The development of new trails should not displace current methods of access without providing alternative routes.

F. Limiting Access. Access to state lands may be curtailed at certain times to protect public safety, provide for the remediation of public use areas, allow special uses, and prevent harm to the environment, fish and wildlife. Public access may be limited because of the presence of fire management operations, timber harvest, high soil moisture content when vehicular traffic may cause damage to the base or sub-base, or sensitive populations of fish or wildlife.

G. Coordination with Borough Recreational Trails Plan. DNR, in its review of authorizations, material sales, timber sales, or land disposals shall review the MSB Recreational Trails Plan to assist in determining if local or regional routes exist within or near the area of the proposed authorization or disposal. Provision should be made for either the continued use of existing trails or their realignment to a site that is equally effective in providing access. See also management guideline H.

H. Consultation with SCRO, DMLW. Proposed trails, easements, and RS 2477 routes shall be reviewed by SCRO prior to authorization. SCRO determines if the routes or trails are required, consistent with applicable sections of statute and administrative code.

I. Siting and Constructing Temporary and Permanent Roads or Causeways. Temporary and permanent roads or causeways will, to the extent feasible and prudent, be routed to avoid vegetated tide flats, avoid streams and minimize alteration of natural drainage patterns, and avoid long-term adverse effects on fish and wildlife, water quantity or water quality. If a temporary road is routed through vegetated tidelands, clean fill will be required and construction methods, which facilitate removal of the fill, will be required. Temporary roads should be obliterated when no longer needed for their original purpose.

J. Protection of the Environment. In the siting of public access facilities, consideration is to be given to the effect of the proposed project or improvement on the natural environment, fish and wildlife species, and habitats identified in this plan as significant. If significant impacts to fish or wildlife species or their associated habitats are anticipated, ADF&G should be consulted prior to the issuance of an authorization.

K. Joint Use and Consolidation of Surface Access. Joint use and consolidation of surface access routes and facilities should be encouraged wherever it is feasible and prudent to do so[18]. Surface access also should be sited and designed to accommodate future development and avoid unnecessary duplication.

Management Guidelines: Trails Within and Between Developing Areas

A. General. The following guidelines pertain to the siting and development of trails within developed or developing areas and between these areas. This is a more specific application of the general public use easement. These types of facilities provide movement areas for people and, if appropriate, wildlife. The width and siting of trail corridors depends upon their function and location. General precautions should be taken when developing new trails to avoid critical wildlife concentration areas. Easements are used to create an access corridor, similar to the more general public use easements described previously.

B. Requirement for Trails. The Department shall assess the need for public access before selling, leasing, or otherwise disposing of the land estate. If local access needs are identified through the adjudication and agency or public review process, access trails may be reserved. This will occur through the retention of state land in public ownership or through the creation of a public use easement. Under either approach, the public is to have the right of access within the area of state land or the public use easement

C. Ownership. The following factors shall be considered by DNR in making the decision to retain the access corridor under state ownership or to provide for public access through a public use easement:

1) If the access (usually a trail within a developed or developing area) is used as a neighborhood collector trail that connects to a public open space system or a trail of regional significance, access should be retained in public ownership.

2) If a trail is used as access by neighborhood residents, it should be dedicated to local government or established as an easement to an entity willing to accept maintenance and management responsibility. This would typically occur when the purpose is to establish access between lots or to improve pedestrian circulation within subdivision.

3) If the access provides a connection to other areas and is considered of regional or statewide significance, it should be retained in public ownership.

[18] Note: There are instances where access routes should not be consolidated; their purposes may be at odds with one another or one consolidated route cannot effectively provide access to resources required by the public.

D. Width of Trail Corridors. The width of the access corridor[19] shall be determined according to its function and location:

1) Within developed or developing areas, access corridors shall not be less than 25 feet in width for pedestrian movement and not less than 40 feet if motorized movement (other than car or truck) can be expected in addition to pedestrian travel. In areas where topographic conditions restrict development, widths less than 40 feet may be considered.[20]

2) In all other areas, the width shall vary with terrain, function, and the need for separation from other uses, but shall not be less than 50 feet.

3) Trails or other access facilities of statewide or regional significance shall not be less than 100 feet in width.

E. Trail Rerouting. Standards for the vacation and modification of trails are identified in 11 AAC 51.065. Rerouting of trails may be permitted to minimize land use conflicts, reduce duplication in trail routings, or minimize habitat destruction. If trails are rerouted, provision should be made for construction of new trail segments if warranted by type and intensity of use. Rerouting trails shall be done in consultation with affected private users and public agencies. Rerouted trails should allow the same uses and activities as the original trail. Reroutes should not interrupt access, and reroutes should be established, open and usuable for the intended uses before the original route is closed. Closed routes should be blocked off and restored. The development of new trails should not displace current methods of access without providing alternative routes.

F. Alignment with Crossings. When it is necessary for power lines, pipelines or roads to cross trails, crossings should be at a 90-degree angle. Vegetative screening should be preserved at trail crossings.

Management Guidelines: Iditarod and Iditarod Trail System

A. Iditarod Race Trail. Where the Iditarod Race Trail passes through an area that is to be offered for settlement or other development, the trail will be located and protected by a publicly owned corridor 200 feet wide (100 feet on either side of the centerline). The corridor width may be expanded to minimize potential land use conflicts, reduce impacts of the trail on adjacent land uses, or to incorporate authorized safety cabins and cultural and historic sites. Rerouting of the trail corridor may be permitted with the consultation of the State Office of History and Archaeology and the Iditarod Trail Committee or similar body in place at the time. No permanent structures or equipment should be placed in the trail

[19] An access corridor includes the tread of the trail and an area immediately adjacent to the tread.

[20] Note: These standards apply to motorized uses other than cars or trucks, or similar sized and types of vehicles. The standards of 11 AAC 51.015(d)(1)(D) apply when a 'neighborhood service road' is to be established or when a public use easement is to be used by cars or trucks. The width of this road or easement is not less than 60 feet.

corridor if they could adversely affect the trail experience or access along the trail. Where necessary, trail crossings may be permitted to allow access to lands on both sides of the trail. Crossings should be limited to a few discrete areas rather than scattered crossings in many places along the trail. In areas where the trail has been used previously for transporting heavy equipment to mining claims, this use will not be restricted unless there is significant potential for damaging the trail. If damage to the trail cannot be avoided, a feasible and prudent alternative route should be used and/or the activity should be permitted at a time that does not interfere with the race or trail conditions. The presence of the Iditarod Race Trail is noted in the Resource Allocation Tables.

B. The Iditarod National Historic Trail System (INHTS). There are several trails and historic sites within the planning area that were identified as part of the INHTS. Some of these trails and sites are well defined while others are not. Minimum trail widths are generally wider than those established for regional trails. For permits and leases along the INHTS, the State Office of History and Archaeology will be consulted in addition to other notice requirements. The State of Alaska and the U.S. Department of the Interior have signed a memorandum of agreement covering management of the INHTS under terms of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the trail system. The trail will be managed in a manner consistent with the agreement. The presence of the INHTS is noted in the Resource Allocation Tables.

C. Other Guidelines Affecting Public or Trail Management. A number of other guidelines may affect public and trail access management. See other sections of this chapter.

Chapter 3
Land Management Policies for Each Management Unit

Introduction 1
- Organization of Chapter 2
- Land Use Designations 2
- Map 3-1: Planning Boundary and Regions 3
- Designations Used in This Plan 4
- Explanation of Mineral and Coal Designations 6
- Management Intent 7
- Management Guidelines 8
- Duration and Flexibility of Plan 9
- Glossary 9

Plan Structure 9
- Plan Regions 9
- Management Units 10
- Region Descriptions 11
- Plan Maps 12
- Land Status Depicted In Plan Maps 12
- Resource Allocation Table 13

North Parks Highway Region 15
- Distribution and Characteristics 15
- Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land 15
- Management Constraints 16
- Management Summary 16
- Resource Allocation Table – North Parks Highway Region 18

South Parks Highway Region 25
- Distribution and Characteristics 25
- Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land 26
- Management Constraints 26
- Management Summary 27
- Resource Allocation Table – South Parks Highway Region 28

Petersville Road Region 39
- Distribution and Characteristics 39
- Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land 40
- Management Constraints 41
- Management Summary 41
- Resource Allocation Table – Petersville Road Region 43

Sunflower Basin Region 53
Distribution and Characteristics 53
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land 54
Management Constraints 55
Management Summary 55
Resource Allocation Table – Sunflower Basin Region 57
Susitna Lowlands Region 65
Distribution and Characteristics 65
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land 66
Management Constraints 67
Management Summary 67
Resource Allocation Table – Susitna Lowlands Region 69
Mount Susitna Region 81
Distribution and Characteristics 81
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land 81
Management Constraints 83
Management Summary 83
Resource Allocation Table – Mount Susitna Region 85
Alaska Range Region 93
Distribution and Characteristics 93
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land 93
Management Constraints 94
Management Summary 94
Resource Allocation Table – Alaska Range Region 96
Glenn Highway Region 101
Distribution and Characteristics 101
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land 102
Management Constraints 102
Management Summary 103
Resource Allocation Table – Glenn Highway Region 104
Chugach Mountains Region 115
Distribution and Characteristics 115
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land 115
Management Constraints 116
Management Summary 116
Resource Allocation Table – Chugach Mountains Region 117
Talkeetna Mountains Region 119
Distribution and Characteristics 119
Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land 119
Management Constraints 120
Management Summary 121
Resource Allocation Table – Talkeetna Mountains Region 122
Legislatively Designated Areas 125
Resource Allocation Table – Legislatively Designated Areas 127

Navigable Rivers and Lakes 129
Management Intent of Navigable Water Bodies 129
Public Trust Doctrine 129
Management Intent: Specific Rivers and Lakes 131
Management Intent: Other Rivers and Lakes 131
Table 3-1: Navigable Streams & Creeks 133
Table 3-2: Navigable Lakes 134
Map 3-2: Index for Location of Detail Maps 135
Map 3-3 137
Map 3-4 139
Map 3-5 141
Map 3-6 143
Map 3-7 145
Map 3-8 147
Map 3-9 149
Map 3-10 151
Map 3-11 153
Map 3-12 155

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 Map 3-1 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.

Map 3-1 shows the planning area and regions and Map 3-2 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

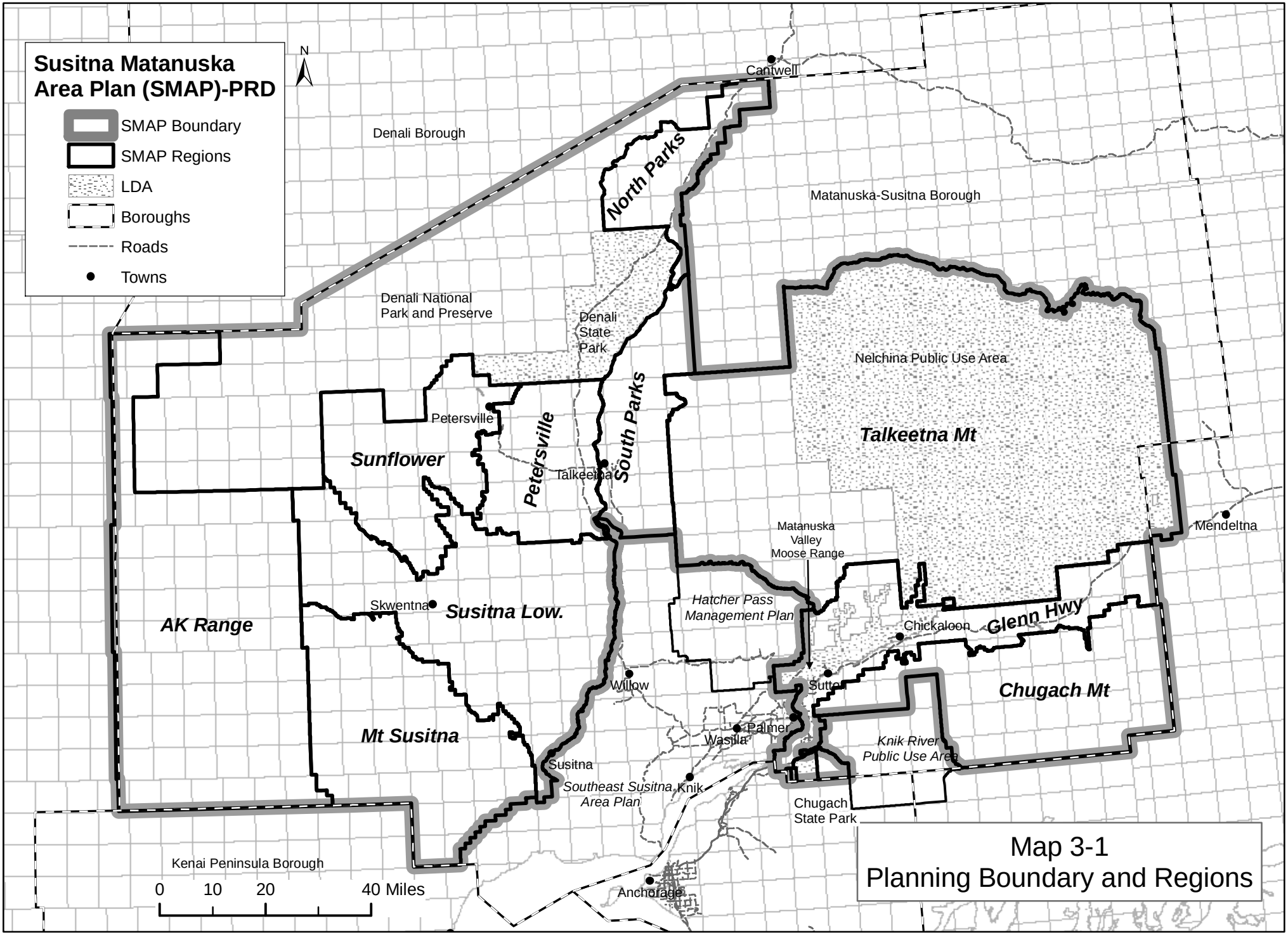
The chapter is organized into the following sections:

- *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.



Map 3-1
Planning Boundary and Regions

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. General use 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 wetland and water resource functions can be maintained. 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 program[1]. 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 occur without serious conflicts. Management guidelines can direct the timing, amount, or

[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.

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

Glossary

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

Plan Structure

Plan Regions

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. Map 3-1 in this Chapter 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 units[3] 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 Map 3-2 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, University of Alaska, and lands under management agreement to another state agency) as well as Borough and private lands. However, because of the way that GIS maps are created, which entails a decision hierarchy on what land status to represent in priority sequence, the colors that represent an ownership pattern may not coincide with the actual pattern of such ownership. The Department has tried to make general land status on the plan maps as accurate as possible, but the ownership patterns of other entities may be incorrect.

The location of state-owned or state-selected parcels is derived from information in the Department's land status records and the federal Master Title Plat. Both the status and spatial boundaries of these parcels are accurately represented at the time of plan preparation (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; 1985 classification; location by Township and Range; and size expressed in acreage. Also included is a description of the resources and uses of a parcel, the designation(s), management intent, and management guidelines.

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

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

Classification: The present land classification is based on the 1985 Susitna Area Plan. Abbreviations used for classifications are:

AGR – Agriculture Land
FOR – Forest Land
GNB – Greenbelt Land
MAT – Material Land
PUR – Public Recreation Land
RMG – Resource Management Land
RSU – Reserved Use Land
STL – Settlement Land
UTL – Utility Land
WHB – Wildlife Habitat Land
WRR – Water Resource Land
WRS – Watershed Land

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.

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

North Parks Highway Region

The North Parks Highway Region encompasses an area of over 241,004 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 Map 3-2 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 241,004 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 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 (100,296 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 (32,146 acres) while some areas, with more of a recreational focus, are designated Public Recreation-Dispersed (6,993 acres). An area east of Hurricane provides dispersed recreational opportunities and is designated Public Recreation-Dispersed (24,976 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 (35,344 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 (37,055 acres), reflecting the presence of polymetallic veins that occur in this area.

Resource Allocation Table – North Parks Highway Region

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
N-01 WHB	Ha 29,041	Map 3-3 Various	Manage unit to protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat and associated hydrologic values. Retain land in state ownership.	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.
N-02 WHB	Gu 7,040	Map 3-3 Various	Manage the unit for multiple uses. 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.	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.
N-03 WHB	Gu 93,256	Map 3-3 Various	Manage the unit for multiple uses. Development is unlikely within this unit and, except for certain types of utilities, is probably inappropriate given its mountainous terrain.	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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
N-04 WHB	Ha 30,790	Map 3-3 S020N010W; S020N009W	Manage unit to protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat and associated hydrologic values. Retain land in state ownership.	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.
N-05 STL	Se 508	Map 3-3 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 STL, MAT	Se 1,354	Map 3-3 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 200' from OHW is to be maintained on the Chulitna River. Land is to be retained for the purpose of supporting state land disposals.	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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
N-07 STL, PUR	Se 10,268	Map 3-3 Various	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. 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 200' 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. Note: Area plan requirements do not apply to the small tract of Mental Health Trust Land in section.	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.
N-08 PUR	Rd, Ha 330	Map 3-3 S021S011W	Unit is to be managed to protect wildlife, the river drainages of Honolulu and Little Honolulu Creek, and to support recreational use. Retain land in state ownership. Protect RST 52 from encroachment.	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. 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. RST 52 (Chulitna Trail) crosses part of the parcel.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
N-09 STL	Se 9,353	Map 3-3 S021S011W; S022S011W	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. 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 200' from OHW is to be maintained on the Chulitna River. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers. Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. Protect RST 52 from encroachment.	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. 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. RST 52 (Chulitna Trail) crosses part of the parcel. Moose and waterfowl are present in the unit and moose winter concentration/rutting areas are also present in parts of the unit.
N-10 RSU, STL	Rd 4,802	Map 3-3 S021S011W	Manage unit for public recreation values. Retain in state ownership. Continued use of the existing material site is considered appropriate, subject to authorization by SCRO.	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.
N-11 MAT	Ma 240	Map 3-3 S021S011W	Continued use of the material site is considered appropriate, subject to authorization by SCRO. Settlement may also be an appropriate use if it is determined that the need for the material site no longer exists.	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.
N-12 STL	Se 1,297	Map 3-3 S033N002W	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.	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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
N-13 STL	Se 5,110	Map 3-3 S033N002W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. 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. Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals.	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.
N-14 WHB	Ha 3,105	Map 3-3 S032N002W; S033N002W	Manage unit to protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat, associated hydrologic values, and scenic values. Retain in state ownership.	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.
N-15 STL	Se 7,455	Map 3-3 S032N002W; S031N002W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. 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.	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. DNR has conducted a number of remote sales in this area and there are numerous remote lots scattered throughout.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
N-16 WHB	Mi 37,055	Map 3-3 F019S011W; F020S011W; F021S011W	Manage unit for its mineral values.	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. 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.

South Parks Highway Region

The South Parks Highway Region encompasses an area of over 262,849 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 Map 3-2 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 272,706 acres of state owned and state selected land in this region, consisting of 9,857 acres of land affected by an LDA designation and 262,849 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 snow-machine or Off Road Vehicles. 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 Creek, 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 cover the Talkeetna and Susitna community councils. 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 (113,513 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 (5,751 acres) be managed for its agricultural potential and is designated Agriculture. Agricultural land disposals are considered appropriate for these areas. Habitat designations (39,699 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. Although almost the entire Talkeetna River is designated a State Recreation River, some sections were not, and the Public Recreation-Dispersed designation (19,212 acres) has been applied to these areas. The extensive area in the southern part of the region (38,636 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 Susitna Forestry Guidelines, or its successor, as well as by the 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 (1,186 acres).

Resource Allocation Table – South Parks Highway Region[4]

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-01 STL	Se 8,046	Map 3-3 S031N002W S030N003W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Land is retained for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. 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. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	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. This unit has been classified settlement since the original SAP, but land disposals have not yet occurred. RST-489 and other public access easements are in this unit.
S-02 WHB	Ha 8,200	Map 3-3 Various	Manage unit to protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat values. Retain land in state ownership. Protect trails and easements.	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. A public easement application is within this unit.
S-03 RSU	Pr 68	Map 3-3 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 # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-04 WHB	Gu 90,691	Map 3-3 Various	Manage the unit for multiple uses. 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. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	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. 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. RST-489 and other public access easements are in this unit.
S-05 RSU	Pr 717	Map 3-3 S031N002W	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. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. Protect hydrologic values and anadromous streams.	Consisting of two subunits, one of which adjoins South 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. 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-06 FOR, WHB, PUR	Rd 2,051	Maps 3-3, 3-7, 3-12 S028N004W; S028N005W; S027N004W; S027N005W	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.	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.
S-07 STL, RMG	Se 20,046	Map 3-3 S028N004W; S028N003W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. 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 Will-Healy Intertie. Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. Protect anadromous streams. Protect trails and easements.	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. 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-08 WHB, MIN, PUR	Ha, Wr 15,740	Maps 3-3 3-7, 3-12 S027N003W; S028N004W; S028N003W	Unit is to be managed to protect wildlife, the river drainages and riverine areas of Chunilna Creek, and support recreational use. Retain land in state ownership. Further subdivision or remote settlement is considered inappropriate. Protect trails and easements.	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. 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).
S-09 STL	Se 38,411	Maps 3-3 3-7, 3-12 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-10 WHB, PUR	Se 3,280	Map 3-3 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, STL	Ag 4,472	Maps 3-7, 3-12 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.
S-12 STL	Se 2,289	Maps 3-3, 3-12 S027N004W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. 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. 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.	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. 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. 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-13 STL, PUR (parts)	Se 2,213	Maps 3-3, 3-12 S027N004W	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.	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.
S-14 AG	Ag 1,239	Maps 3-3, 3-12 S027N004W	Manage unit for agricultural use and/or disposal. 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.	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.
S-15 PUR	Rd 148	Map 3-12 S027N003W	Manage to protect scenic and hydrologic functions. Other uses within this unit are considered inappropriate. Retain land in state ownership.	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.
S-16 STL	Se 1,681	Maps 3-7, 3-12 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 STL	Se 2,572	Map 3-7, 3-12 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-18 FOR, PUR, WHB, STL	Rd 476	Map 3-12 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 WHB, PUR	Wr, Rd 1783	Maps 3-7, 3-12 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 No Classification	Pr 465	Maps 3-7, 3-12 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 STL	Rd 145	Maps 3-7, 3-12 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.
S-22 RSU	Pr 1.59	Map 3-12 S026N004W	Retain in state ownership unless required for public purposes.	This unit consists of several small lots within the community of Talkeetna.
S-23 STL	Se 431	Maps 3-7, 3-12 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-24 STL	Se 32,469	Maps 3-3, 3-12 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 No Classification	Se 409	Map 3-12 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.	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.
S-26 FOR, WHB, PUR	Rd 169	Map 3-12 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.
S-27 STL	Ma 33	Map 3-12 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. See ADL 33588.
S-28 AG	Se 334	Map 3-12 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-29 RSU	Wr 282	Map 3-12 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 PUR	Rd 28	Map 3-12 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 AG	Rd 81	Map 3-12 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 RSU	Rd 203	Map 3-12 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 STL	Se 1,494	Map 3-12 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 FOR, WHB	Ma 80	Map 3-12 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 # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
S-35 FOR, WHB	F 12,781	Map 3-7 S024N003W	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). Consult with ADF&G on the location of moose calving, rutting, and wintering areas prior to or concurrent with the development of a FLUP.	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. 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.
S-36 PUR, FOR, WHB	Ha, Rd 10,794	Map 3-3, 3-12	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 Not Classified	Ag 40	Map 3-12 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	Map 3-3, 3-7 3-12, Various	This parcel includes the state recreation rivers in this region. See the section 'Legislatively Designated Areas' for detail on the management of this area.	

Petersville Road Region

The Petersville Road region occupies an area almost 400,000 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 Map 3-2 to locate the map of a particular area.

Distribution and Characteristics

Most of the land within this region is owned by the state (290,000 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 River 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. Boats can be used on the larger waterways and some of the lakes/wetlands are float/ski plane accessible.

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.

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.

Over 80,000 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.

About 70,000 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.

Over 74,000 acres of state land is designated to protect habitat and recreation uses. This is in addition to the 39,645 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.

About 20,000 acres of land is set aside for agriculture. These lands are located in six parcels, four 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, less than 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 # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-01 STL, PUR, RMG, FOR, WHB	Se 33,328	Map 3-11 Various	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period and is to be retained for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. 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. Protect trails and easements. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffer.	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. 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. 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. Numerous MCOs affect this unit including MCO 316, 241, 144, 145, 130 and 780.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-02 FOR, PUR, WRR, WHB	Ha, Rd 36,213	Map 3-11 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.	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. 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. Anadromous tributaries to Bunco, Kroto and Peters creeks are present. A known mushroom harvest area occurs in this unit. 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-03 PUR	Rd 1,987	Map 3-11 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.	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. The unit is covered with a mix of deciduous and evergreen forest interspersed with wetlands. The topography is gently rolling. 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-04 STL, RMG, FOR, WRR, WHB	Se 16,338	Map 3-11 Various	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period and is to be retained for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. 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. 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 200' from OHW is to be maintained on Peters Creek.	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. 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. 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. Numerous trails are present including ADLs 58004, 220609, 210894, 228839, 226357 and 226418. At least one trapping cabin is permitted within this unit. Mineral Closing Orders exist including MCOs 98 and 99.
P-05 PVR	Se 8,871	Map 3-11 S026N007W S027N007W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period and is to be retained for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. 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. 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.	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. 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. Anadromous Seventeen Mile Creek, Gate Creek, and tributaries to Moose Creek are present in the unit. Numerous trails within this unit include ADLs 228839 and 221614. Multiple private access easements exist in this unit. Mineral Closing Order 157 affects this unit.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-06 RMG, WHB, PUR, WRR	Rd, Wr 8,000	Map 3-11 S027N007W	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.	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. Anadromous Gate Creek and tributaries to Moose and Kroto creeks are within this unit.
P-07 STL, RSU	Ag 6,834	Map 3-11 S026N006W S027N006W	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. 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.	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. An anadromous tributary to Moose Creek runs through this unit. 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-08 WHB, FOR, PUR	Ha, Rd 5,784	Map 3-11, 3-12 Various	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.	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. 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-09 MAT	Ma 2,039	Map 3-12 Various	Continued use of the material site is considered appropriate, subject to authorization by SCRO. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers and minimize impact to moose winter habitat. Protect trails and easements. Maintain a scenic buffer adjacent to the Parks Highway.	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: ADLs 45708, 45707, 45706, 45705, 39400, 45704, 45703, 45658, 45659, 45660, 45661, 45662, 45664, 201962 and 57589. 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. Portions of this unit provides moose winter habitat and anadromous streams cross several of the parcels.
P-10 WHB, PUR, WRR	Ha, Rd 259	Map 3-12 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.	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. The Chulitna Bluff-Rabideaux Trail (ADL 230118) is part of the State SnowTRAC program and crosses a portion of the unit.
P-11 PUR, WRR, WHB	Rd, Wr 2,021	Map 3-11 S026N006W S026N007W	Manage unit to support recreation values and preserve hydrologic values. Retain in state ownership. Preserve a scenic buffer on Petersville Road and protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers. Manage existing communication sites pursuant to the lease agreements.	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. Communications sites including ADLs 44350 and 215476 exist on the eastern parcel.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-12 AGR, STL	Ag 8,541	Map 3-11 S026N006W; S025N006W; S025N005W	Manage unit for agricultural use and/or disposal. 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.	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-13 FOR, PUR, WHB, WRR	F 70,953	Map 3-11 Various	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 Management Policies). 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 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. 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 200' from OHW is to be maintained on the Kahiltna River and Peters Creek. 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. 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.	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. 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. 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. Mining claims cover the western half of the unit and MCO 153 affects a small portion of the southwest corner of this unit.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-14 STL, PUR, WHB, FOR	Se 17,484	Map 3-11 Various	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period and is to be retained for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. 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. Protect trails and easements. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffer and avoid moose winter concentration areas and seasonal brown bear concentrations.	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. 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. 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. MCO 101, 248, 317, and 199 affect this unit.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-15 PUR, WHB, WRR, RMG, STL, FOR	Ha, Wr 19,904	Map 3-11 Various	Manage to protect habitat and hydrologic functions. Retain in state ownership. 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.	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. 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. 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. Mineral Closing Order 101 affects a portion of this unit.
P-16 STL	Se 10,080	Map 3-11 S024N005W S024N006W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period and is to be retained for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. 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. Protect trails and easements. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffer.	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. 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. 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. Mineral Closing Order 101 affects the western parcel.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-17 RMG	Ag 5,250	Map 3-11 S024N006W S024N007W	Manage unit for agricultural use and/or disposal. 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. Protect trails and easements.	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. The Amber Lake Trail (ADL 228646), part of the State SnowTRAC program, crosses this parcel. 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-18 RMG	Gu 1,760	Map 3-11 S028N005W	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. 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. 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.	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. The land is a mixed spruce-hardwood forest with interspersed wetlands situated on a level bench above the anadromous Susitna River. MCO 130 affects this unit. 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
P-19 PUR	Rd 1,622	Map 3-11, 3-12 S028N004W S028N005W S027N005W	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. 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. 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.	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. 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. MCO 130 affects this unit. 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.
L-01	Ha, Rd	Map 3-11	State Recreation Rivers occur within this region.	
WHB, PUR	39,645	Various	Consult the Legislative Designated Area section of the Resource Allocation Table for management guidance and requirements.	

Sunflower Basin Region

The Sunflower Basin region encompasses about 536,039 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 Yenta 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 Map 3-2 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 488,343 acres of state general domain land and 44,446 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 Kahlitna 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. 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 is 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 Plan (1991). The Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Plan provides guidance on the management of state surface and subsurface resources within state recreation rivers. Although it intended that the SAP 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 latter controls.

Local plans include the Borough Comprehensive 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 (92,151 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 (38,430 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 (15,204 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 (210,654 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. A few areas, usually located next to streams or lakes, are designated Settlement (110,804 acres) or Agriculture (20,668 acres), and are 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.

Resource Allocation Table – Sunflower Basin Region[5]

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
B-01 WHB	Ha 61,401	Map 3-10 S027N013W; S028N013W; S028N012W; S028N011W	Manage unit to protect its habitat values. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	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. 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. Except for a small area within the eastern part of T028NR013W, the unit consists entirely of state owned land. 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.

[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 # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
B-02 WHB/MIN	Mi, Ha 38,430	Map 3-10 S027N012W S026N012W	Manage unit for its mineral resources and habitat values. 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 Fish and Wildlife Habitat section of Chapter 2. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. Coordinate trail location with SCRO and the borough. Consult the borough's Recreational Trails Management Plan.	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. 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 Yenta Mining District. Platinum may also be present and can represent a secondary product from some placer mines. 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.
B-03 WHB	Ha, Wr 16,572	Map 3-10 S027N011W; S026N011W; S026N)10W	Manage unit for its habitat and water resource (wetland) values. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	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. 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. 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 nesting and molting sites. Several anadromous streams are present. Local trails and at least one RS 2477 trails exist within the unit (RST 515, 514 and 1608).

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
B-04 WHB, WRR	Ha, Wr 78,981	Map 3-10 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.	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. Although wetlands and streams constitute the principal resource features within the unit, it is also important for its habitat and wildlife values. Both waterfowl 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. A number of local trails traverse the unit and RST 514 and 515.
B-05 WHB, WRR	Ha, Wr 50,244	Map 3-10 Various	Manage unit for its habitat and water resource (stream and wetland) values. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	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. This area provides important habitat for bear, moose and waterfowl, particularly within the areas of floodplain and wetlands. Trumpeter swans 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. A number of local trails and RS 2477 routes traverse the unit; this includes RSTs 136, 514, 145, 515 and 1608.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
B-06	No land associated with this number.			
B-07 MIN	Mi 92,151	Map 3-10 Various	Manage unit for its mineral values. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. Coordinate trail location with SCRO and the borough. Consult the MSB Recreational Trails Management Plan. Protect anadromous streams with a riparian buffer, and avoid moose rutting and winter concentration areas.	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. 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. Moose are present in this unit, with rutting and winter concentration coinciding with areas of lower elevation. There are anadromous streams in the unit. Local trails and several RS 2477 routes are present (RST 136, 510, 511, 512, 513, 516 and 1608).

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
B-08 WHB, WRR, FOR	Ha, Wr 68,123	Map 3-10, 3-11 Various	Manage unit for its habitat and hydrologic (wetland and streams) values. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	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. 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. Several local trails exist and there are at least three RS 2477s that traverse the unit, including RSTs 136, 514, and 516.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
B-09 STL	Se 67,238	Map 3-11 Various	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Avoid moose winter concentration areas and bear spring concentration areas; provide open space or movement corridors if necessary. A riparian buffer of 200' from OHW is to be maintained on the Yentna River. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	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. 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. 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. 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
B-10 WHB	F 15,204	Map 3-11 S023N010W; S024N010W	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 Management Policies). 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 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. 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. 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. Retain land in state ownership. Portions of the unit may be appropriate for inclusion in a state forest.	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. 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.
L-01	Ha, Rd	Map 3-10, 3-11	This unit includes all State Recreation Rivers in this region. See the section, “Legislatively Designated Areas” for detail on the management of this area.	
L-02	Min	Map 3-11	This parcel includes the Petersville Recreational Mining Area, an LDA. See the section “Legislatively Designated Areas” following.	

Susitna Lowlands Region

The Susitna Lowlands region occupies an area of 1,059,869 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 is 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 Map 3-2 to locate the map of a particular area.

Distribution and Characteristics

Most of the land within this region is owned by the state (923,018 acres), and little land is in selection status. Borough entitlement land (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 two State Recreation Rivers that include Lake 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 River 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 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. 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. Over 323,000 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 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 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 65% 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 two State Recreation Rivers, which total 138, 642 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 totals

262,921 acres. The management focus of the Habitat/Dispersed Recreation designation is to accommodate recreational uses while protecting important habitat areas; these areas total 762,279 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 35% of the total amount of 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.

Continued use of the region for remote settlement is also envisaged. About 236,000 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. About 33,930 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.

Resource Allocation Table – Susitna Lowlands Region

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-01 WHB, WRR	Ha, Wr 93,426	Map 3-7, 3-8, 3-11 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.	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. Note: the areas of better soil, supporting deciduous and mixed forests, are included in a separate unit, U-14.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-02 STL	Se 5,359	Map 3-11 S023N006W; S021N006W; S022N006W	Remote recreation land disposals are considered appropriate during the planning period. A riparian buffer of 200' from OHW is to be maintained on the Deshka River. Protect anadromous stream with riparian buffers; avoid brown bear concentration areas. Protect trails and easements.	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). 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. 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-03 STL	Se 29,910	Map 3-11 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 also situated in the Petersville Region; see parcel P-14.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-04 WRR, WHB, RSU	F 158,143	Map 3-8, 3-11 Various	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 Management Policies). 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 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. A riparian buffer of 200' 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. 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. 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.	This extensive unit encompasses those areas within the region that have been identified as having merchantable timber. 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. 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 Kahlitna and Skwentna being the most important. Remote recreation cabins from previous state land disposals occur along the Skwentna and Kahlitna 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. 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-05 STL, WHB	Se 4,894	Map 3-11 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 200' from OHW is to be maintained on the Kahiltna River. Protect trails and easements.	This unit is occupied by a large number of remote recreational cabins, reflecting prior state land disposals in this unit. 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. Winter moose concentrations occur in this unit and waterfowl are known to be present. Brown bear concentrations occur along anadromous streams.
U-06 RMG	Se 39,358	Map 3-11 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 200' from OHW is to be maintained on the Kahiltna River. Avoid areas with brown bear concentrations; provide migration corridors.	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. 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. 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. State land disposals have occurred primarily in the southern portion of the unit.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-07 FOR, WHB, WRR	F 104,069	Map 3-11 Various	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 Management Policies). 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 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. A riparian buffer of 200' 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. 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. Effects of timber harvests on areas with remote cabins will be considered and mitigated. Additional land disposals within this unit are not considered appropriate. Retain land in state ownership. Portions of the unit may be appropriate for inclusion in a state forest.	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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-08 WHB, PUR	Ha, Wr 103,033	Map 3-9, 3-10 Various	Manage land for its habitat and hydrologic values. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	Parcel occupies the riverine areas associated with the Yenta River and adjacent lowlands. The community of Skwentna is situated in the far southeastern part of the unit. 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 specifies: 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.
U-09 STL	Se 21,305	Maps 3-10 S023N013W; S023N014W; S024N014W	Unit is appropriate for land disposal (remote recreational) during the planning period.	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. Note: This parcel adjoins R-04, a settlement parcel, in the Alaska Range region.
U-10 WHB, PUR	Ha, Rd 8,658	Map 3-10 S023N014W; S023N013W	Manage unit for its habitat and recreation values. Retain in state ownership. Additional land disposals in this unit are not authorized.	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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-11 STL, RMG	Se 65,861	Map 3-9, 3-10 S022N012W; S022N013W; S022N014W; S023N012W; S023N013W; S023N014W	Unit is appropriate for land disposal (remote recreational or pre-surveyed subdivisions) during the planning period. Avoid or minimize impacts to moose winter concentration and bear concentration areas; provide open space and vegetated movement corridors. A riparian buffer of 200' from OHW is to be maintained on the Yentna and Skwentna rivers. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers. 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.	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. 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. 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. 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. Note: This unit adjoins units to the south in the Alaska Range region that are similarly designated settlement (M-03, M-04).
U-13 WHB, PUR	Ha, Rd 2,380	Map 3-11 S022N012W	Manage unit for its habitat, hydrologic, and public recreation values. Retain in state ownership.	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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-14 WHB, AGR	Ag 25,898	Map 3-11 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 Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife, and Shorelands and Stream Corridors 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 PUR	Rd 640	Map 3-11 S021N008W	Manage unit for recreation and recreation values. Retain in state ownership.	Unit occupies a small area at the confluence of the Kahlitna River and one of tributaries. The site is used as a camping and stopping site for watercraft.
U-16 STL, WHB	Se 65,859	Map 3-8, 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 200' 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 presurveyed 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-17 AGR	Ag 1,899	Map 3-8 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 Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife, and Shorelands and Stream Corridors. 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.
U-18 FOR, PUR, WHB, AGR	Ag 6,094	Map 3-8 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, Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife, and Shorelands and Stream Corridors sections.	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 WHB, WRR	Ha, Wr 66,463	Map 3-8, 3-11 Various	Manage unit to protect its habitat and hydrologic values. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, which includes 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 WHB	Ha, Rd 4,031	Map 3-8 S018N007W; S018N008W	Manage unit to protect its habitat and recreation values. Retain in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, which includes 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 # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-24 WHB	F 10,311	Map 3-8 S018N007W; S018N008W	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 Management Policies). Because of the presence of important habitats and species, this unit is also to be managed consistent with Management Guideline B in the Fish and Wildlife 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. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes. Consult with SCRO and the borough on trail location and routing. A riparian buffer of 200' from OHW is to be maintained on the Yentna River. Retain land in state ownership. Portions of the unit may be appropriate for inclusion in a state forest. Effects of timber harvests on areas with remote cabins will be considered and mitigated.	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. 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.
U-25 STL, RMG	Se 3,653	Map 3-8 S017N007W	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. 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.	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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
U-26 WHB, PUR	F 50,814	Map 3-9, 3-10 S025N014W; S024N014W; S025N013W; S023N014W; S022N014W	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 Management Policies). 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 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. 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. 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. 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. Retain land in state ownership. Portions of the unit may be appropriate for inclusion in a state forest.	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). 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. 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. Remote recreation cabins occur along some of the drainages. 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.
U-27	Ha, Rd 50,960	Map 3-7, 3-8 Various	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.	This management unit consists of the Susitna River and all associated shorelands. Portions of the Iditarod Race Trail are in this unit.
L-01 WHB, PUR	Ha, Rd	Map, 3-8, 3-11 Various	State Recreation Rivers occur within this region. Consult the Legislative Designated Area section of the Resource Allocation Table for management guidance and requirements.	

Mount Susitna Region

The Mount Susitna Region is a remote area of approximately 823,870 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 Mt. Susitna, Little M. 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 Map 3-2 to locate the map of a particular area.

Distribution and Characteristics

The state owns most of the land within the region (625,629 acres of general domain land and 52,796 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. Consult pages 3-65 to 3-78 for management requirements that derive from this 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 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 Alaska 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 (221,688 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 (7,263 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.

here 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 (94,791 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 (221,688 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 (108,292 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 (113,663 acres), and a few areas in the eastern part of the region with suitable soils are recommended for agricultural land disposal (7,263 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.

Resource Allocation Table – Mount Susitna Region

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
M-01 WHB	Ha/Wr 45,898	Map 3-8, 3-9 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.	This extensive unit encompasses the principal areas within the Mount Susitna region that have particularly high habitat values. 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.
M-02 STL	Se 12,610	Map 3-9 S021N014W; S021N013W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. A riparian buffer of 200’ from OHW is to be maintained on the Skwentna River. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers; avoid swan nesting sites (refer to Ch. 2 Fish and Wildlife).	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. 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). Portions of this unit are known to have trumpeter swan dispersed nesting sites. Anadromous streams are present in the unit.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
M-03 STL, RMG	Se 11,226	Map 3-9 S021N012W; S021N013W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. 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. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers. A riparian buffer of 200' from OHW is to be maintained on the Skwentna River.	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.
M-04 STL	Se 6,395	Map 3-9 S021N012W	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. Retain areas designated in the subdivision plats as common open space. A riparian buffer of 200' from OHW is to be maintained on the Skwentna River. Protect the INHTS and Iditarod Race Trail.	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.
M-05 RMG	Gu 94,791	Map 3-9 S018N013W; S018N014W; S019N013W; S019N014W; S020N014W; S021N014W	Manage for multiple uses. Development within this parcel during the planning period is considered inappropriate. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers.	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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
M-06 WHB, PUR	Rd 12,477	Map 3-9 S020N013W; S020N014W; S021N013W; S019N013W; S019N014W	Manage for recreation values. Retain in state ownership.	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.
M-07 FOR, WHB, WRR	F 221,688	Map 3-8, 3-9 Various	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 Management Policies). 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 Fish and Wildlife 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. 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. 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. Retain land in state ownership. Portions of the unit may be appropriate for inclusion in a state forest.	This extensive unit encompasses those areas within the region that have been identified as having merchantable timber. 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
M-08 STL	Se 12,141	Map 3-9 S020N012W; S020N013W; S021N012W; S021N013W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal (remote sales) during the planning period. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers; and avoid sensitive habitat areas. Protect trails and RS 2477 routes. Coordinate with DMLW/SCRO and borough on trail location and routing.	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.
M-09 STL	Se 9,124	Map 3-9 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 WHB	Se 3,878	Map 3-9 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 STL	Se 3,535	Map 3-9 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
M-12 WHB, PUR, FOR	Rd 55,905	Map 3-8 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, Big Susitna Mountain, and Little Susitna Mountain) 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.
M-13 STL	Se 21,097	Map 3-8 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 STL, WHB	Se 11,839	Map 3-8 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 RMG	Gu 2,280	Map 3-8 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
M-16 PUR	Rd 40	Map 3-8 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 WHB, FOR, PUR	Se 4,059	Map 3-8 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 tundra swan dispersed nesting and brood-rearing area occurs in a portion of the unit. Moose are present in the unit. There are several remote sales in this unit.
M-18 AGR, STL, FOR, WHB	Se 2,421	Map 3-8 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 STL, MAT, FOR, WHB	Se 2,466	Map 3-8 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
M-20 STL	Se 3,520	Map 3-8 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 WHB, WRR	Se 5,792	Map 3-8 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.
M-22 WHB, WRR	Ha, Wr 62,394	Map 3-8 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 WHB, RMG	Ag 4,204	Map 3-8 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, Fish and Wildlife 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
M-24 MIN	Mi 11,509	Map 3-8 S017N014W; S018N014W	Manage for mineral values; impose riparian buffers.	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 STL	Se 1,280	Map 3-8 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.
M-26 RMG, WHB	Ag 3,059	Map 3-8 Various	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 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, Fish and Wildlife section, apply. Provide riparian protection of at least 150' along anadromous stream; consult ADF&G.	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.
L-01	Ha, Rd	Maps 3-8, 3-9	This parcel includes the state recreation rivers in this region. See the section "Legislatively Designated Areas" for detail on the management of these regions.	

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 Map 3-2 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 Kichutna Rivers. Although state ownership dominates land ownership in this Region (1,500,685 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 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 (703,330 acres), while the southwestern part of the Region, which has high mineral potential (615,730 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 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 Kichutna) are important for their habitat functions and, depending on location, include moose winter and rutting habitat and both waterfowl and tundra swan concentrations. These areas (103,886 acres) are designated Habitat. A few areas usually located next to streams or lakes, are designated Settlement (32,428 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.

Resource Allocation Table – Alaska Range Region[6]

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
R-01 WHB	Gu 703,330	Map 3-9, 3-10 Various	Manage area for multiple uses. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, which include the INHTS and the Iditarod Race Trail. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers.	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. 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.

[6] See the Resource Allocation Table for Legislative Designated Areas for information on L-01 (State Recreation Rivers)

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
R-02 WHB	Ha, Wr 103,886	Map 3-9, 3-10 Various	Manage unit to protect its habitat and hydrologic values. Retain land in state ownership. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, which include the INHTS and the Iditarod Race Trail.	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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
R-03 WHB	F 45,310	Map 3-9, 3-10 Various	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 Management Policies). 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 Fish and Wildlife 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. A riparian buffer of 200' 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. 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. Retain land in state ownership. Portions of the unit may be appropriate for inclusion in a state forest.	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.
R-04 STL	Se 3,933	Map 3-10 S024N015W; S023N015W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Protect riparian areas with adequate buffers.	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 S04N014W 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
R-05 STL	Se 22,076	Map 3-9 S022N016-018W	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:16). As part of subdivision design carefully evaluate moose winter concentration areas. Protect any particularly significant moose concentration areas that are identified. The trumpeter swan nesting and brood rearing area in S021N016W and S022N016W is to be avoided. A riparian buffer of 200' from OHW is to be maintained on the Skwentna River. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes, which include the INHTS and the Iditarod Race Trail.	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.
R-06 STL	Se 6,419	Map 3-9 S021N015-016W	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. A riparian buffer of 200' from OHW is to be maintained on the Skwentna River. As part of subdivision design carefully evaluate moose winter concentration areas. Protect particularly significant moose concentration areas that are identified. Protect easements.	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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
R-07 MIN	Mi 615,730	Map 3-9, 3-10 Various	Manage unit for its mineral values. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers; and avoid moose winter concentration areas. Protect the INHTS and Iditarod Race Trail.	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.

Glenn Highway Region

This 579,278 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 Map 3-2 to locate the map of a particular area.

Distribution and Characteristics

There are over 315,580 acres of general state land (and state-selected) within this region. This does not include the 131,957 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. 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.

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 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 290,000 of the 315,000 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 about 22,000 acres designated for Settlement.

Most of the remaining 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 # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
G-01 PUR, WHB	Rd, Ha 12,422	Map 3-6 S016N002E S016N003E	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. Protect anadromous streams with riparian buffers. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	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. 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. 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. 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
G-02 RSU	Pr 406	Map 3-6 S017N002E	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.	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. The Matanuska River is anadromous and the unit provides moose calving and winter habitat.
G-03	Pr 10	Map 3-6 S017N002E1	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 PUR, RSU	Rd 48	Map 3-6 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.	This forested unit is bisected by the Glenn Highway and anadromous Moose Creek, providing some access to this fishery. 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. This bottomlands parcel provides calving and winter habitat for moose. The Matanuska coal field underlies this area.
G-05 RSU	Pr 640	Map 3-6 S019N002E	Manage pursuant to lease ADL 17103 for use as a prison. Protect public utility easement ADL 202787 and coal lease ADL 224865.	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. The parcel provides winter habitat for moose. 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
G-06 MAT	Ma 58	Map 3-6 S018N002E S019N005E4	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 near Chickaloon and is an ILMA with ADOT/PF under ADL 35286. 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.
G-07	No land associated with this unit.			
G-08 PUR, WHB	Rd, Ha 16,125	Maps 3-5, 3-6 Various	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.	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. This river has many anadromous tributaries and also serves as a wildlife movement corridor for many terrestrial species. 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 creek that is managed under a cooperative management agreement ADL 228571 between the Alaska Railroad, Mat-Su Borough, City of Palmer and DNR.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
G-09 STL, RSU FOR	Se 1,139	Map 3-6 S019N004E; S019N005E	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. 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. Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	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. 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. 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. 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
G-10 PUR, WHB, STL	Rd 385	Map 3-6 S019N004E16	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.	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. 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.
G-11 PUR, WHB	Rd, Ha 4,463	Map 3-6 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.	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. Some Dall sheep winter habitat can be found in this unit. Recreational use is light primarily in the form of hunting and trapping.
G-12 GNB	Rp 19	Map 3-6 S020N005E35	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 # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
G-13 GNB, PUR, WHB	Rd 393	Map 3-6 S020N005E36	Manage the unit for its recreation value and protect the Glenn Highway's scenic viewshed. Protect anadromous streams. Protect ADL 265.	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. ADL 265, a public utility easement, crosses the unit. The entire unit is within Section 36, School Trust Land.
G-14 FOR	F 430	Map 3-6 S020N007E31	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.	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. Land of similar character to the west has been given to the Mental Health Trust.
G-15 PUR, WHB	Rp 480	Map 3-6 S020N007E20	Manage for public recreation value pursuant to ILMA ADL 50072 and protect the existing trail. Protect the Glenn Highway scenic viewshed.	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.
G-16	Rp 234	Map 3-5 S020N009E27	Manage for its scenic and recreation values pursuant to ILMA ADL 50063 with DPOR. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	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. 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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
G-17 PUR, WHB, RMG	Ha, Rd 41,682	Map 3-5, 3-6 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.	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. 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. 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. 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. 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. Public utility easements include ADLs 32778, 227281, 227333 and 75778 parallel the Glenn Highway.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
G-18 STL, UTL	Se 9,746	Map 3-5, 3-6 S020N008E; S019N008E; S019N009E	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. 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. 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. Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals. Protect trails, easements and RS 2477 routes.	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. South of the Matanuska River is also moderately sloped but with some steep bluff lines cut through it. The area is mostly forested. 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. Numerous Mineral Closing Orders affect portions of the unit. 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. 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.
G-19 STL	Se 930	Map 3-5 S020N010E	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. 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. Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals.	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.
G-20 PUR, WHB	Rd, Ha 118,386	Map 3-5 Various	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	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

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
			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.	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 mountains are steep in the north and south portions of the unit. This area includes Sheep Mountain, one of the state's foremost Dall sheep viewing areas. Closed to hunting prior to statehood, this area provides critical year round habitat and refuge to a large number of Dall sheep. 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. 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. 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 Tahneta 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. Many pockets of private land are located along the highway corridor. 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. Mineral Closing Order 741 affects this parcel. A portion of the unit is affected by ADL 229297, a conditional

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
				right-of-way lease issued to the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority. A communication site ADL 216969 sits atop Lion Head and near Tahneta 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. 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.
G-21 STL	Se 9,720	Map 3-5 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.	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 PUR, WHB	Rd, Ha 97,545	Map 3-6 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.	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.

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
G-23 MIN	Se 159	Map 3-6 S020N005E36	Unit is considered appropriate for land disposal during the planning period. Retain land in state ownership for the purpose of supporting state land disposals.	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.

Chugach Mountains Region

This region encompasses areas above 1,000' elevation that occupy the northern flank of the Chugach Range and, with 828,792 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 Map 3-2 to locate the map of a particular area.

Distribution and Characteristics

There are over 709,067 acres of state general domain land within this region. Almost all of this land is state owned. 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 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 Borough Coastal Management Plan, and the 1986 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 # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
C-01 WHB/PUR	Ha/Rd 373,563	Map 3-5, 3-6 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.	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.
C-02 WHB/PUR	Gu 335,505	Map 3-5 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.	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.

Talkeetna Mountains Region

The Talkeetna Mountains Region encompasses an area of over 3.1 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 Map 3-2 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 769,805 acres of state general domain land and 2,354,255 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 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 on-line 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 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 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 Region[7]

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
T-01	Ha ,Wr 38,275	Map 3-7 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.

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

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
T-02 WHB	Ha, Rd 730,250	Map 3-3, 3-4, 3-6, 3-7 Various	Manage unit to protect its habitat and recreation values. Retain land in state ownership. 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. 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. 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.	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. 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 snow-machining, 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. 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.
T-03 STL	Se 1,280	Map 3-4 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	Map 3-3, 3-7	This unit includes State Recreation Rivers within this region. Consult the section, Legislatively Designated Areas, following, for details on management.	

Unit # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Description
L03	Ha	Map 3-4, 3-5, 3-6	This unit includes the Nelchina Public Use Area. Consult the section, Legislatively Designated Areas, following, for details on management.	

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 Recreational Rivers (Alexander Creek SRR, Kroto & Moose Creek SRR, Lake Creek SRR, Talkeetna River SRR and Talachulitna River SRR) totaling 244,419 acres, Denali State Park (323,428 acres), and, particularly, the Nelchina Public Use Area (2,334,713). The remaining acreage is associated with the Petersville Recreational Mining Area, (490 acres), Caribou Creek Recreational Mining Area (288 acres), the Matanuska Valley Moose Range (121,671 acres) and a portion of the Chugach State Park (14,197 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 LDA[8], 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.

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

[8] Article VIII, paragraph 7 of the State Constitution.

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 # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Administrative Aspects and Other
L-01 WHB, PUR	Ha/Rd 245,624	Map 3-3, 3-7, 3-8, 3-9, 3-10, 3-11, 3-12 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 MIN	Mi 775	Map 3-11 S028N008W	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 (2009). 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 (2009). 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 WHB	Ha 2,334,789	Map 3-4, 3-5, 3-6 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 # / 1985 Classification	Designation(s) / Acres	Map(s) / MTRS	Management Intent	Administrative Aspects and Other
L--04	None (refer to statutes establishing the parks) 337,622	Map 3-3, 3-11 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 MIN	Co, Ha 121,671	Map 3-6 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. 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.

Navigable Rivers and Lakes

Management Intent of Navigable Water Bodies

Background

The intent of the plan is to designate and provide management intent for the shorelands under all navigable water bodies. 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 water body. Therefore the plan identifies general management intent and designations for most of the water bodies within the planning area. In some cases, however, specific designations are identified for a particular water body 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 water bodies is impractical on maps of the scale used in this plan. *The DNR records on navigability and hydrology must be consulted in order to determine whether a specific stream or lake is likely to be navigable*. These records are available in the Public Access and Assertion Defense unit in the Division of Mining, Land and Water in Anchorage.

For further information on the state's navigability policy, go to http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/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 unit[9] 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:

<u>Navigable Rivers and Lakes within LDAs.</u>

Anadromous lakes or streams within LDAs are co-designated Public Recreation-Dispersed and Habitat[10]. Lakes and streams that are not anadromous are designated Public Recreation-Dispersed.

<u>All other Navigable Rivers and Lakes</u>.

The designation and management intent for navigable water bodies 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 water bodies 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

[9] 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.

[10] These designations do not apply to LDAs that are state parks.

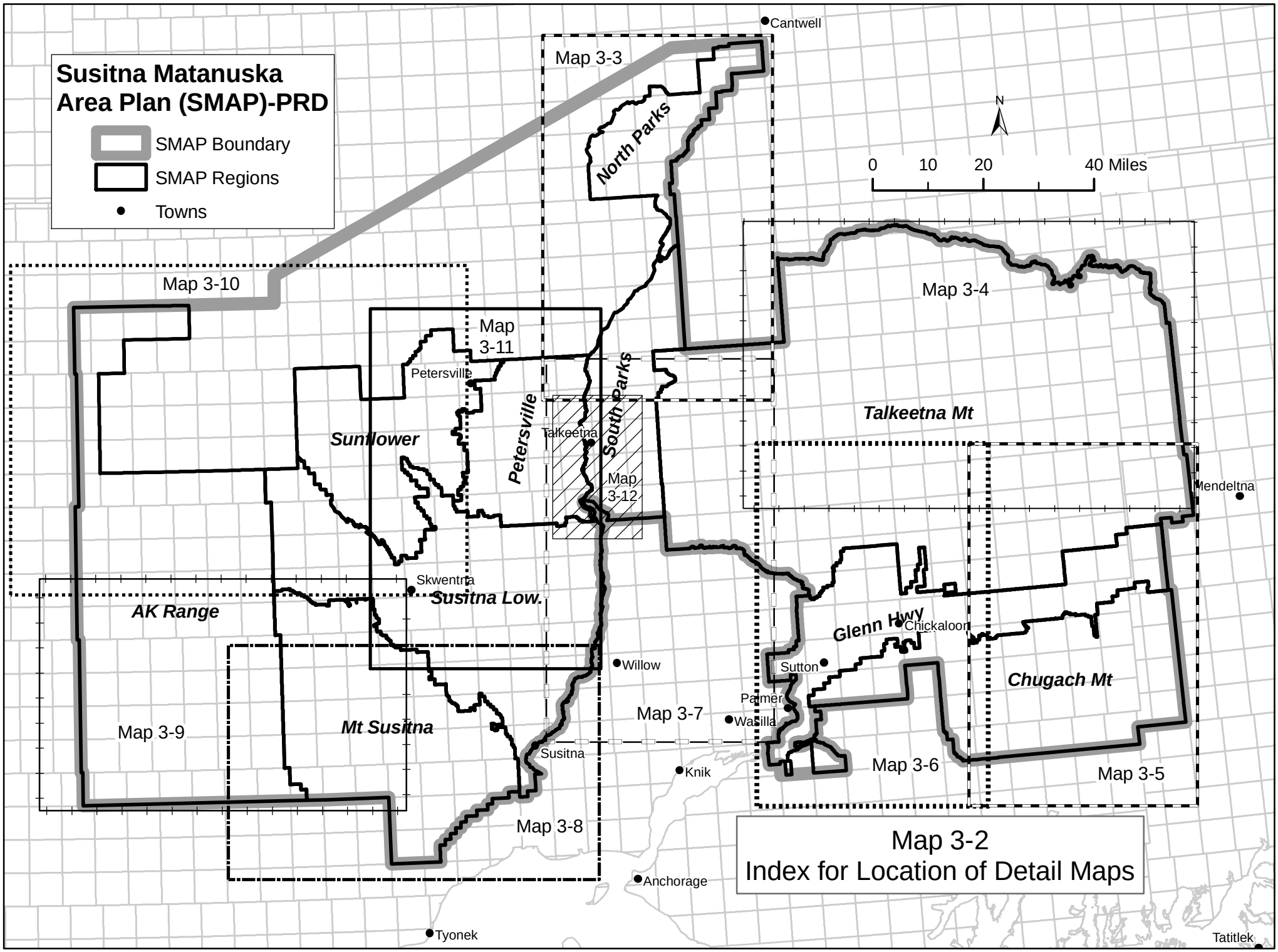
ownership (e.g. Mental Health, University, and state tracts quitclaimed to a state agency other than DNR). Upland uses are usually designated in an adopted land use or resource management plan, or can be inferred from the actual or planned use of the parcel.

Table 3-1: Navigable Streams & Creeks

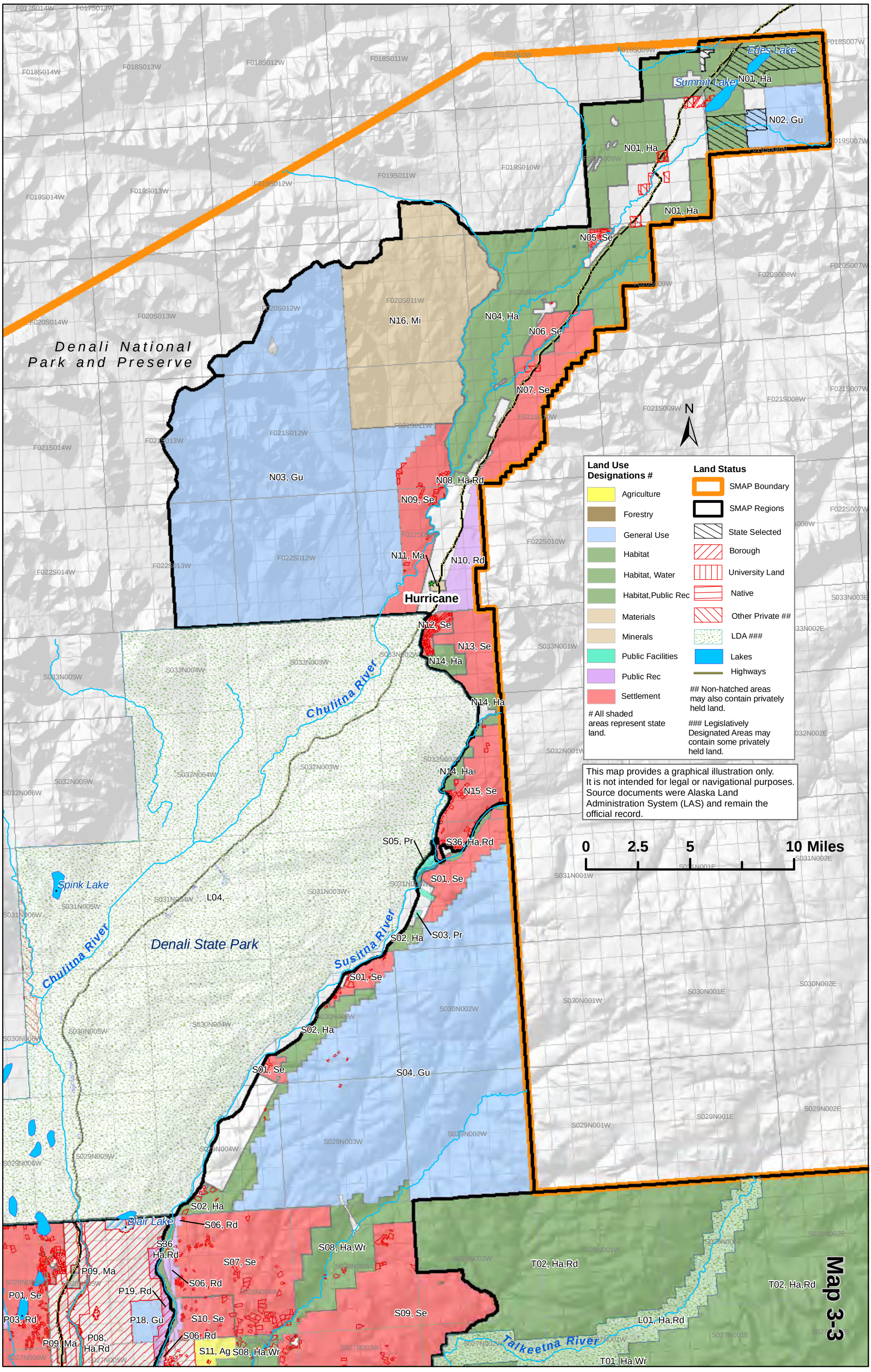
Streams & Creeks	Classification
Alexander Creek	Ha, Rd
Beluga River	Ha, Rd
Bottle Creek	Ha, Rd
Chickaloon River	Ha, Rd
Chulitna River	Ha, Rd
Chulitna River, East Fork	Ha, Rd
Chunilna Creek	Ha, Rd
Clearwater Creek	Ha, Rd
Deep Creek	Ha, Rd
Deshka River	Ha, Rd
Donkey Creek Slough	Ha, Rd
Eightmile Creek	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	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

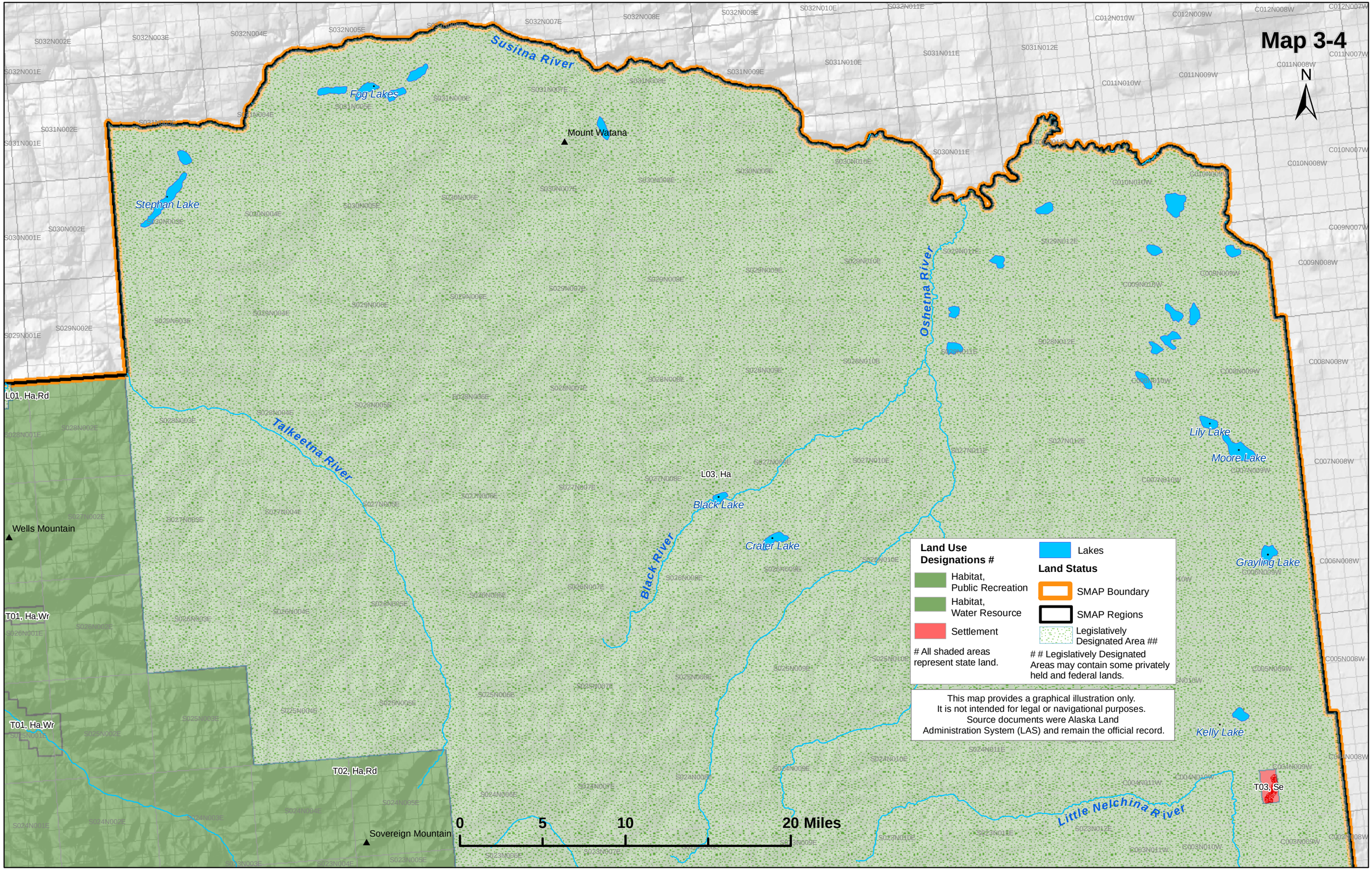
Lakes	Classification
Amber Lake	Ha
Beluga Lake	Ha
Big Lake	Ha
Donkey Creek Lake	Ha
Fish Lake	Ha
Hewitt Lake	Ha
Kroto Lake	Ha, Rd
Ladyslipper Lake	Ha, Rd
Lockwood Lake	Rd
Lower Beluga Lake	Ha, Rd
Nancy Lake	Ha
Neil Lake	Ha
Quiet Lake	Ha, Rd
Red Shirt Lake	Ha, Rd
Safari Lake	Ha
Swan Lake	Ha
Whiskey Lake	Rd
Witsoe Lake	Ha, Rd

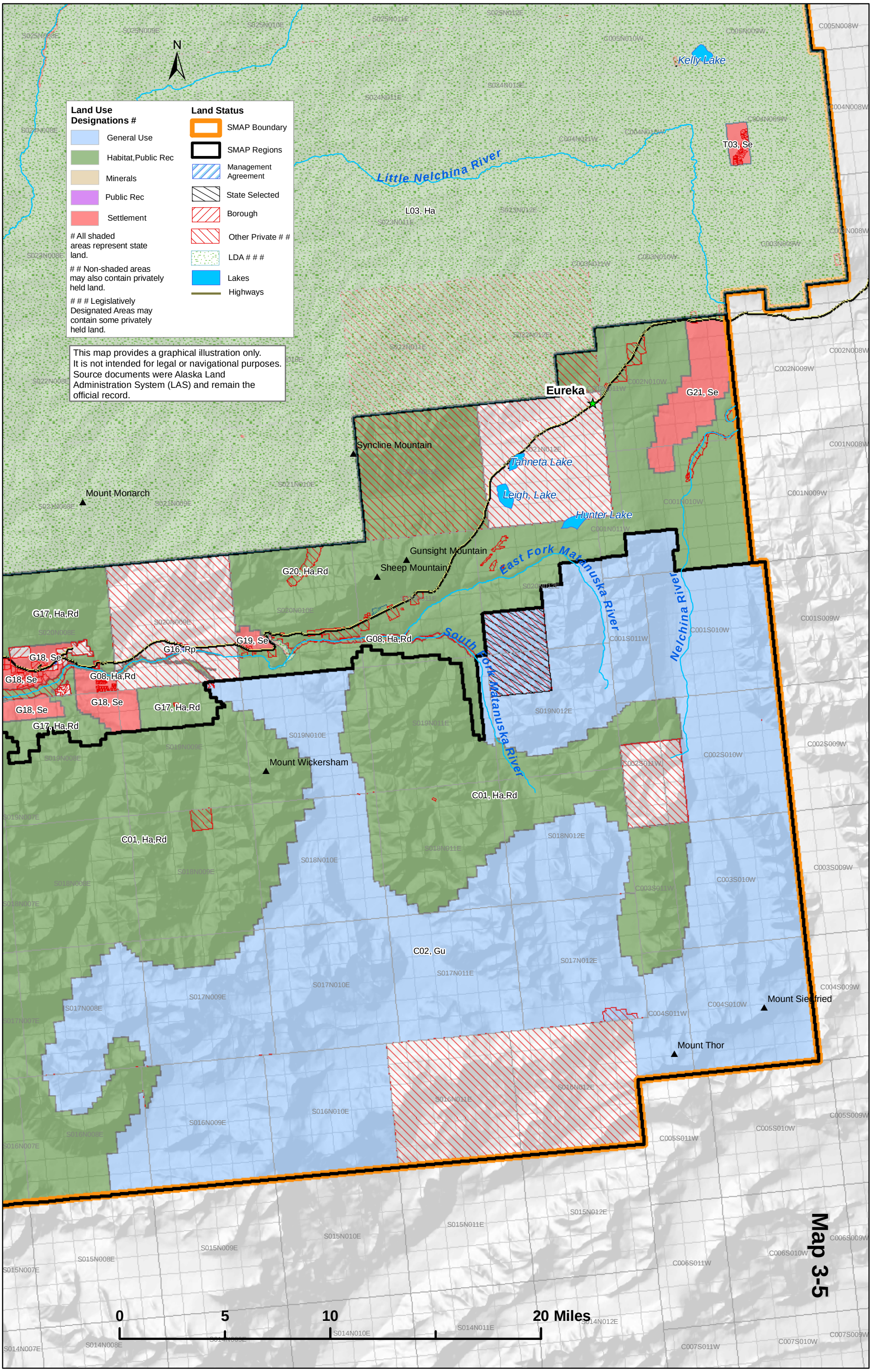


Map 3-2
Index for Location of Detail Maps

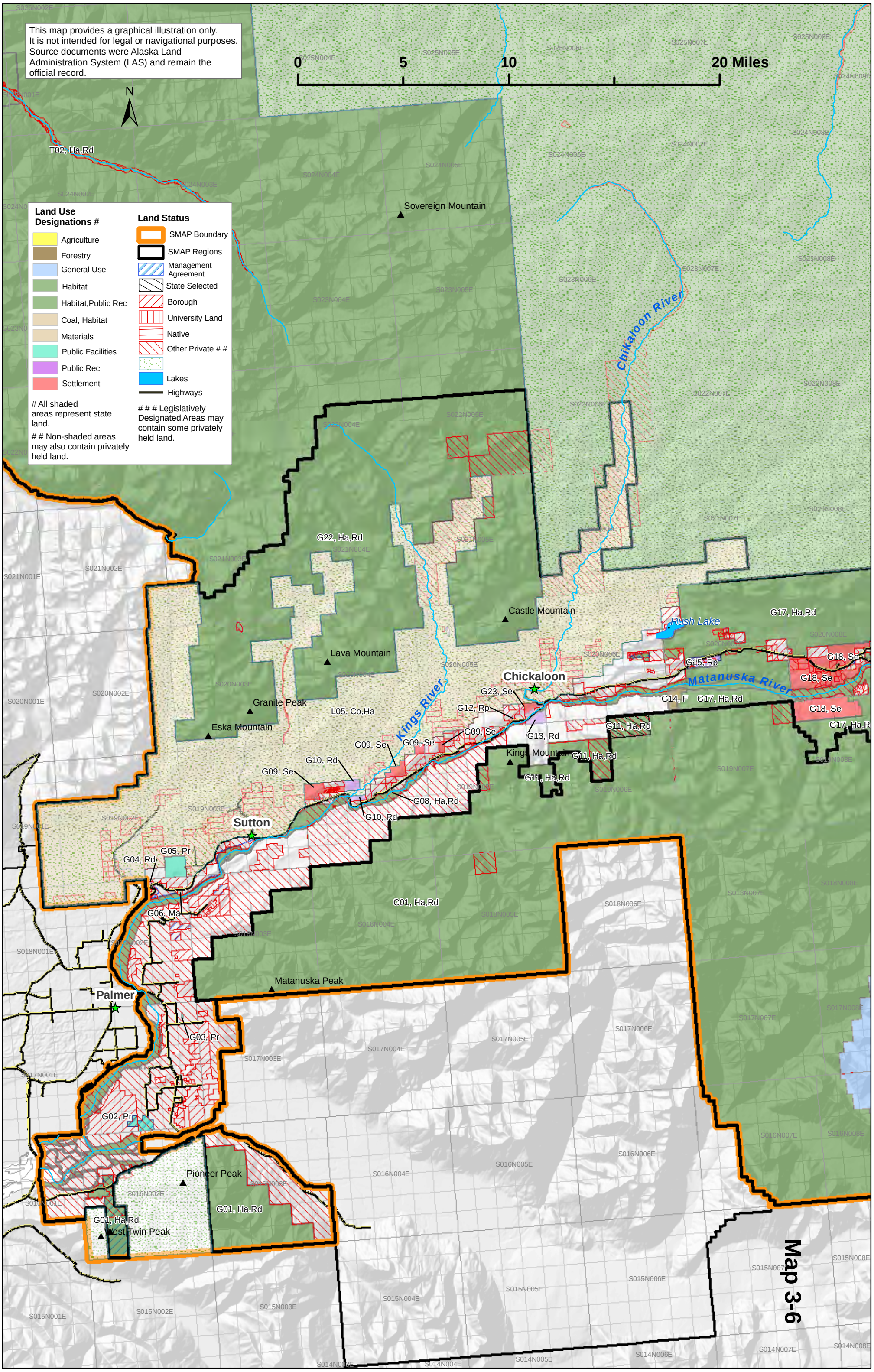

Edes Lake
Summit Lake
N01, Ha
N02, Gu
N01, Ha
N01, Ha
N05, Se
N16, Mi
N04, Ha
N06, Se
Denali National Park and Preserve
N07, Se
N03, Gu
N08, Ha,Rd
N09, Se
N11, Ma
N10, Rd
Hurricane
N12, Se
N13, Se
N14, Ha
Chulitna River
N14, Ha
N14, Ha
N15, Se
S05, Pr
S36, Ha,Rd
S01, Se
Spink Lake
L04,
Denali State Park
Susitna River
S02, Ha
S03, Pr
S01, Se
S02, Ha
S01, Se
S04, Gu
Blair Lake
S02, Ha
S06, Rd
S36, Ha,Rd
S07, Se
S08, Ha,Wr
P09, Ma
S06, Rd
P19, Rd
P01, Se
P03, Rd
P18, Gu
S10, Se
S09, Se
P09, Ma
P08, Ha,Rd
S06, Rd
S11, Ag
S08, Ha,Wr
T02, Ha,Rd
T02, Ha,Rd
L01, Ha,Rd
Talkeetna River
T01, Ha,Wr
N
0 2.5 5 10 Miles
Land Use Designations #
Agriculture
Forestry
General Use
Habitat
Habitat, Water
Habitat,Public Rec
Materials
Minerals
Public Facilities
Public Rec
Settlement
All shaded areas represent state land.
Land Status
SMAP Boundary
SMAP Regions
State Selected
Borough
University Land
Native
Other Private ##
LDA ###
Lakes
Highways
Non-hatched areas may also contain privately held land.
Legislatively Designated Areas may contain some privately held land.
This map provides a graphical illustration only. It is not intended for legal or navigational purposes. Source documents were Alaska Land Administration System (LAS) and remain the official record.

Map 3-3

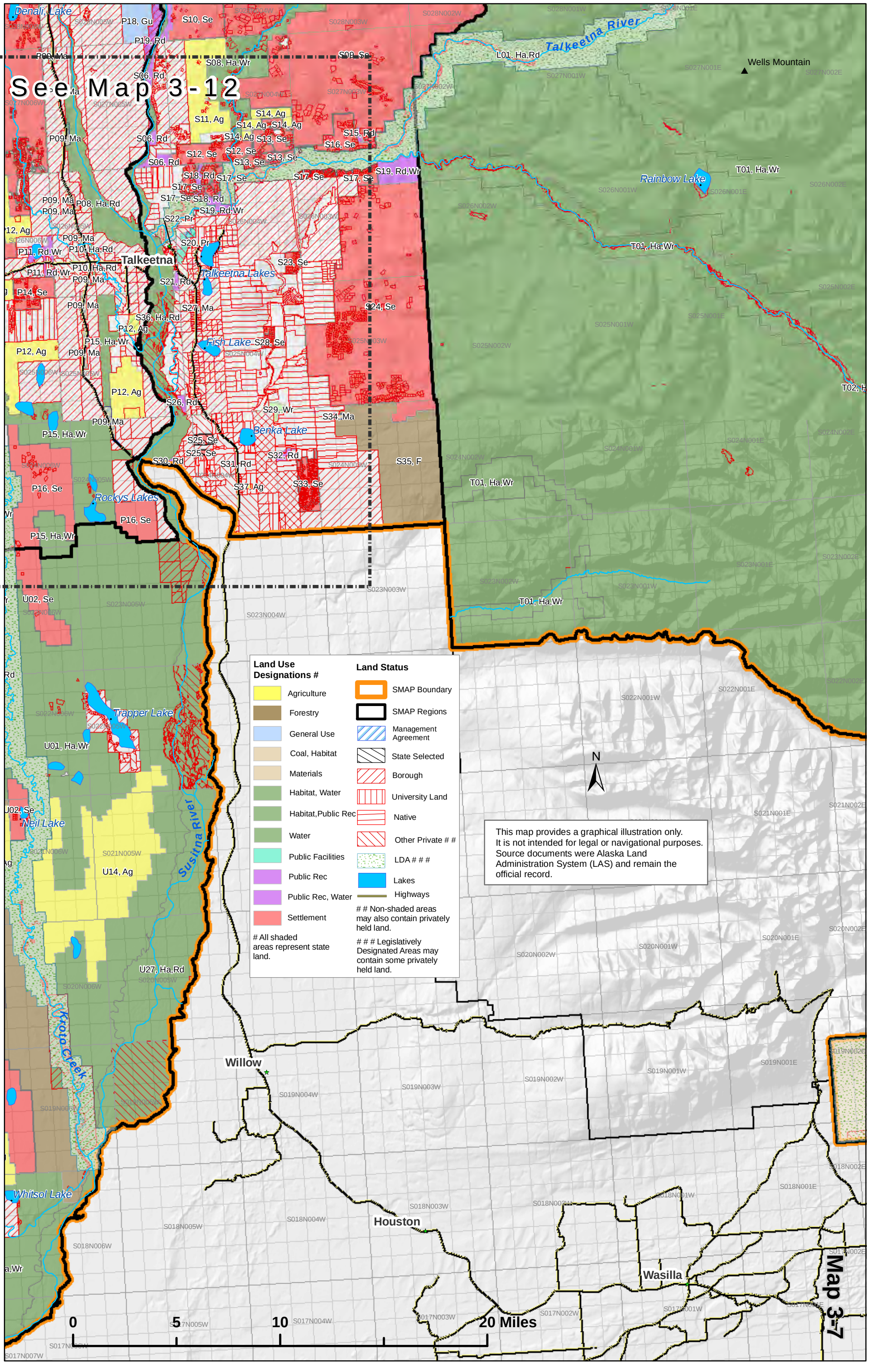

Map 3-4
N
Susitna River
Fog Lakes
Mount Watana
Stephan Lake
Oshetna River
L01, Ha,Rd
Talkeetna River
Lily Lake
Moore Lake
L03, Ha
Black Lake
Crater Lake
Black River
Grayling Lake
Wells Mountain
T01, Ha,Wr
T01, Ha,Wr
T02, Ha,Rd
Kelly Lake
T03, Se
Little Nelchina River
Sovereign Mountain
0
5
10
20 Miles
Land Use Designations #
Habitat, Public Recreation
Habitat, Water Resource
Settlement
All shaded areas represent state land.
Lakes
Land Status
SMAP Boundary
SMAP Regions
Legislatively Designated Area ##
Legislatively Designated Areas may contain some privately held and federal lands.
This map provides a graphical illustration only.
It is not intended for legal or navigational purposes.
Source documents were Alaska Land
Administration System (LAS) and remain the official record.


N
Land Use Designations #
General Use
Habitat,Public Rec
Minerals
Public Rec
Settlement
All shaded areas represent state land.
Non-shaded areas may also contain privately held land.
Legislatively Designated Areas may contain some privately held land.
Land Status
SMAP Boundary
SMAP Regions
Management Agreement
State Selected
Borough
Other Private # #
LDA # # #
Lakes
Highways
This map provides a graphical illustration only. It is not intended for legal or navigational purposes. Source documents were Alaska Land Administration System (LAS) and remain the official record.
Kelly Lake
Little Nelchina River
T03, Se
L03, Ha
Eureka
G21, Se
Syncline Mountain
Tahneta Lake
Leigh, Lake
Hunter Lake
Mount Monarch
Gunsight Mountain
Sheep Mountain
G20, Ha,Rd
East Fork Matanuska River
Nelchina River
South Fork Matanuska River
G17, Ha,Rd
G19, Se
G08, Ha,Rd
G16, Rp
G18, Se
G18, Se
G08, Ha,Rd
G18, Se
G17, Ha,Rd
G17, Ha,Rd
Mount Wickersham
C01, Ha,Rd
C01, Ha,Rd
C02, Gu
Mount Siegfried
Mount Thor
0
5
10
20 Miles

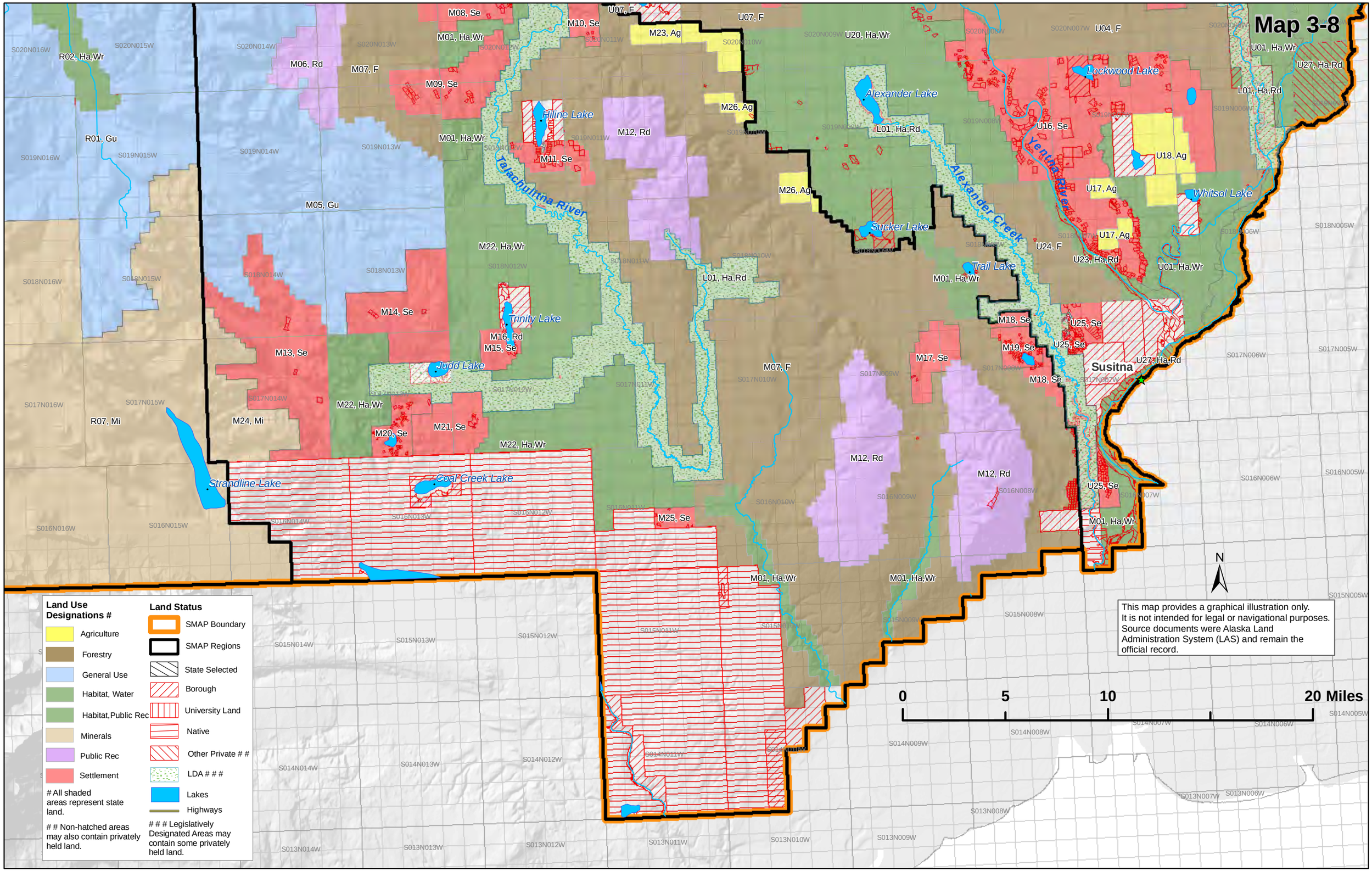
Map 3-5

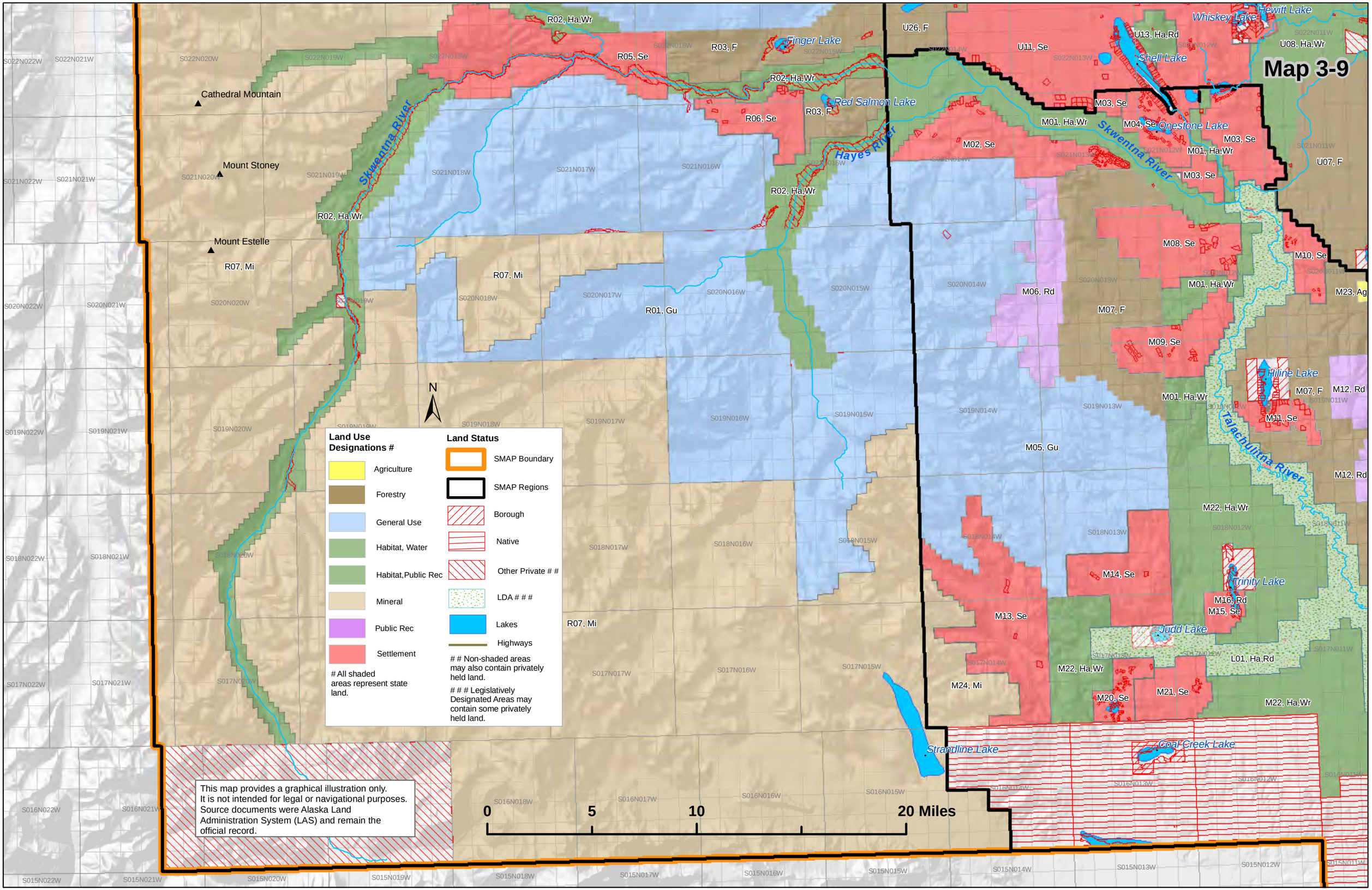

This map provides a graphical illustration only.
It is not intended for legal or navigational purposes.
Source documents were Alaska Land Administration System (LAS) and remain the official record.
N
0
5
10
20 Miles
Land Use Designations #
Agriculture
Forestry
General Use
Habitat
Habitat,Public Rec
Coal, Habitat
Materials
Public Facilities
Public Rec
Settlement
All shaded areas represent state land.
Non-shaded areas may also contain privately held land.
Land Status
SMAP Boundary
SMAP Regions
Management Agreement
State Selected
Borough
University Land
Native
Other Private # #
Lakes
Highways
Legislatively Designated Areas may contain some privately held land.
T02, Ha,Rd
Sovereign Mountain
Chikaloon River
G22, Ha,Rd
Castle Mountain
Rush Lake
G17, Ha,Rd
Lava Mountain
Chickaloon
G15, Rp
G18, Se
Matanuska River
G23, Se
G14, F
G17, Ha,Rd
Granite Peak
L05, Co,Ha
G12, Rp
Kings River
Eska Mountain
G09, Se
G13, Rd
G11, Ha,Rd
G10, Rd
Kings Mountain
G08, Ha,Rd
Sutton
G05, Pr
G04, Rd
C01, Ha,Rd
G06, Ma
Matanuska Peak
Palmer
G03, Pr
G02, Pr
Pioneer Peak
G01, Ha,Rd
West Twin Peak

Map 3-6

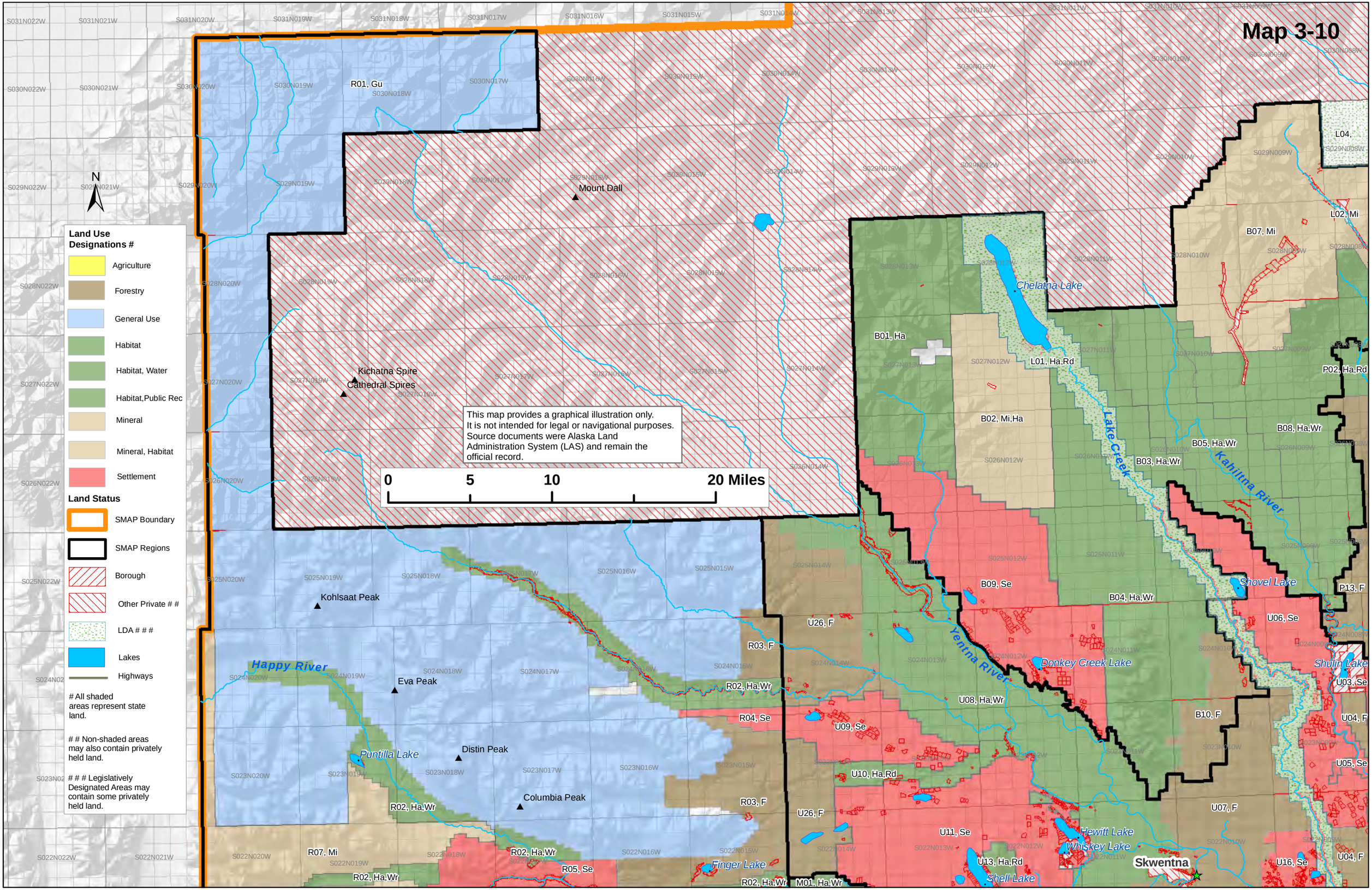

See Map 3-12
Denali, Lake
Talkeetna River
Wells Mountain
Rainbow Lake
Talkeetna
Talkeetna Lakes
Fish Lake
Benka Lake
Rockys Lakes
Trapper Lake
Neil Lake
Susitna River
Kroto Creek
Whitsol Lake
Willow
Houston
Wasilla
Land Use Designations #
Agriculture
Forestry
General Use
Coal, Habitat
Materials
Habitat, Water
Habitat,Public Rec
Water
Public Facilities
Public Rec
Public Rec, Water
Settlement
All shaded areas represent state land.
Land Status
SMAP Boundary
SMAP Regions
Management Agreement
State Selected
Borough
University Land
Native
Other Private # #
LDA # # #
Lakes
Highways
Non-shaded areas may also contain privately held land.
Legislatively Designated Areas may contain some privately held land.
This map provides a graphical illustration only. It is not intended for legal or navigational purposes. Source documents were Alaska Land Administration System (LAS) and remain the official record.
N
0
5
10
20 Miles
Map 3-7

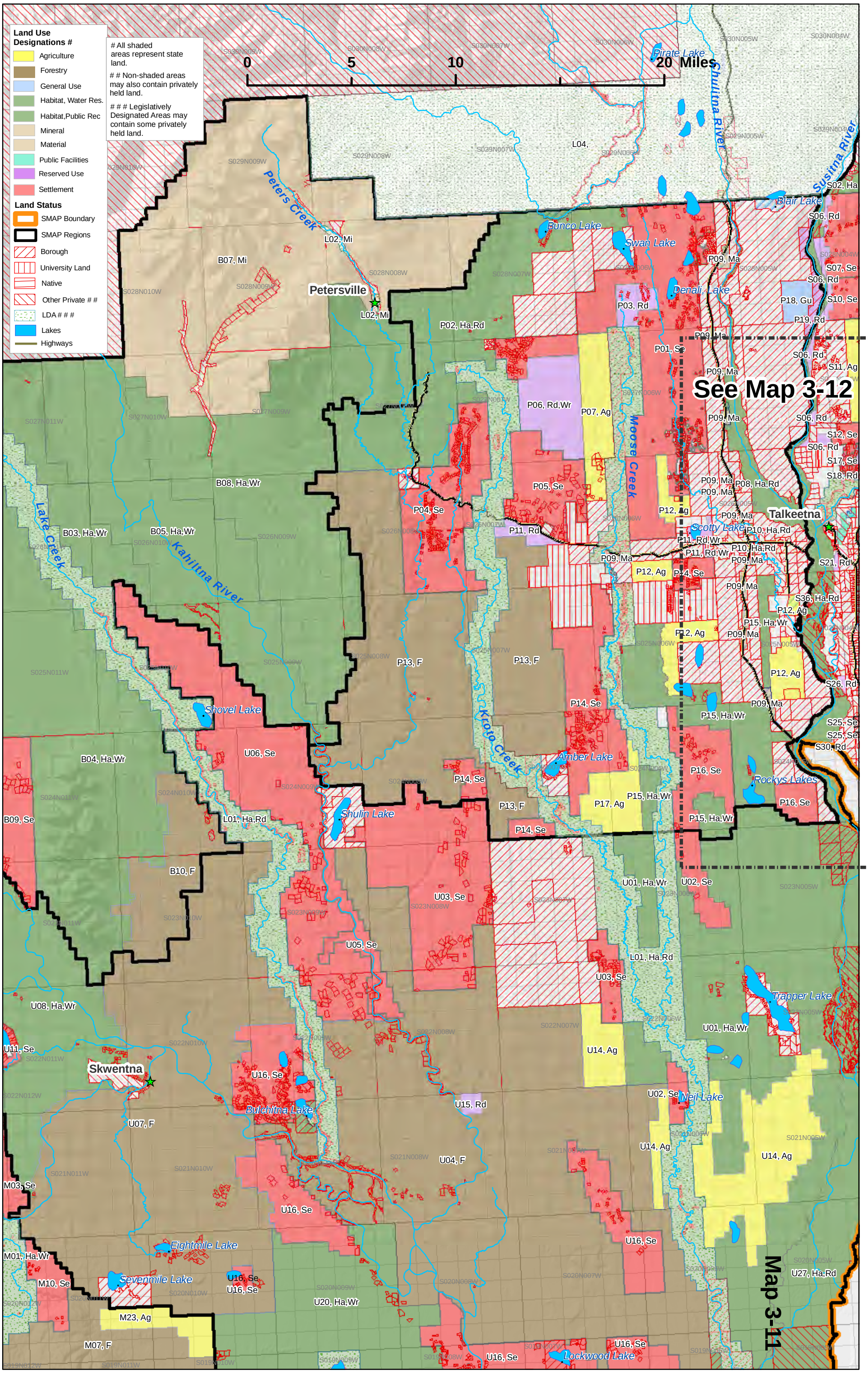
Map 3-8

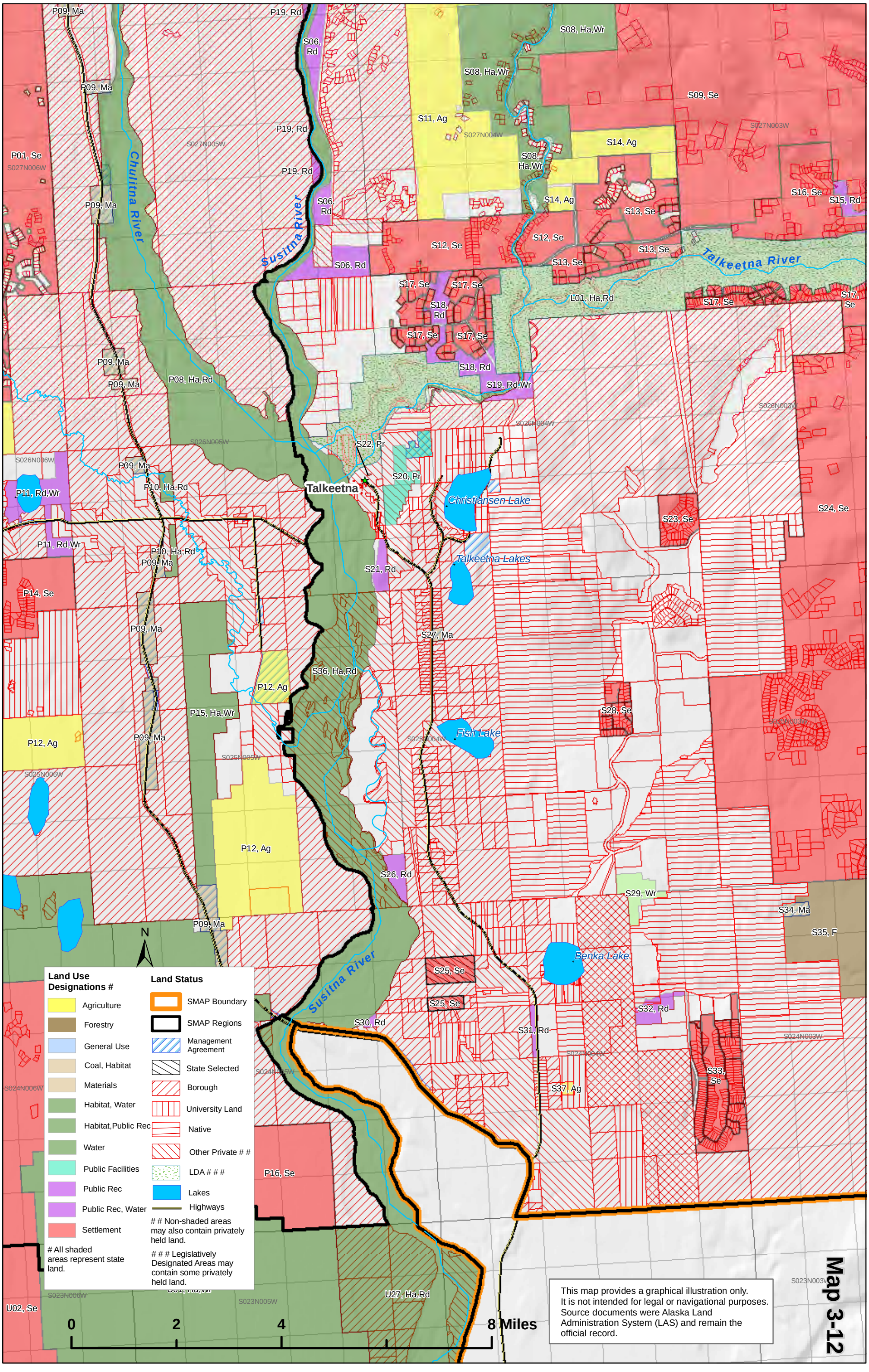

Land Use Designations #
Agriculture
Forestry
General Use
Habitat, Water
Habitat,Public Rec
Minerals
Public Rec
Settlement
All shaded areas represent state land.
Non-hatched areas may also contain privately held land.
Land Status
SMAP Boundary
SMAP Regions
State Selected
Borough
University Land
Native
Other Private # #
LDA # # #
Lakes
Highways
Legislatively Designated Areas may contain some privately held land.
This map provides a graphical illustration only. It is not intended for legal or navigational purposes. Source documents were Alaska Land Administration System (LAS) and remain the official record.
0
5
10
20 Miles
N
Susitna
Talachulitna River
Yentna River
Alexander Creek
Hiline Lake
Alexander Lake
Lockwood Lake
Whitsol Lake
Sucker Lake
Trail Lake
Trinity Lake
Judd Lake
Coal Creek Lake
Strandline Lake
R02, Ha,Wr
R01, Gu
R07, Mi
M08, Se
M01, Ha,Wr
M06, Rd
M07, F
M09, Se
M10, Se
M23, Ag
U07, F
U20, Ha,Wr
U04, F
U01, Ha,Wr
U27, Ha,Rd
L01, Ha,Rd
M26, Ag
M12, Rd
M11, Se
U16, Se
U18, Ag
U17, Ag
M05, Gu
M22, Ha,Wr
U24, F
U23, Ha,Rd
M14, Se
M16, Rd
M15, Se
M13, Se
M18, Se
U25, Se
M19, Se
M17, Se
M24, Mi
M20, Se
M21, Se
M25, Se


Map 3-9
Cathedral Mountain
Mount Stoney
Mount Estelle
Skwentna River
Hayes River
Talachulitna River
Finger Lake
Red Salmon Lake
Whiskey Lake
Hewitt Lake
Shell Lake
Onestone Lake
Hiline Lake
Trinity Lake
Judd Lake
Strandline Lake
Coal Creek Lake
R02, Ha,Wr
R03, F
R05, Se
R06, Se
R07, Mi
R01, Gu
U26, F
U11, Se
U13, Ha,Rd
U08, Ha,Wr
U07, F
M03, Se
M01, Ha,Wr
M04, Se
M02, Se
M08, Se
M10, Se
M23, Ag
M06, Rd
M07, F
M09, Se
M12, Rd
M11, Se
M05, Gu
M22, Ha,Wr
M14, Se
M13, Se
M16, Rd
M15, Se
L01, Ha,Rd
M24, Mi
M20, Se
M21, Se
N
0
5
10
20 Miles
Land Use Designations #
Agriculture
Forestry
General Use
Habitat, Water
Habitat,Public Rec
Mineral
Public Rec
Settlement
All shaded areas represent state land.
Land Status
SMAP Boundary
SMAP Regions
Borough
Native
Other Private # #
LDA # # #
Lakes
Highways
Non-shaded areas may also contain privately held land.
Legislatively Designated Areas may contain some privately held land.
This map provides a graphical illustration only. It is not intended for legal or navigational purposes. Source documents were Alaska Land Administration System (LAS) and remain the official record.

Map 3-10


N
Land Use Designations #
Agriculture
Forestry
General Use
Habitat
Habitat, Water
Habitat,Public Rec
Mineral
Mineral, Habitat
Settlement
Land Status
SMAP Boundary
SMAP Regions
Borough
Other Private # #
LDA # # #
Lakes
Highways
All shaded areas represent state land.
Non-shaded areas may also contain privately held land.
Legislatively Designated Areas may contain some privately held land.
This map provides a graphical illustration only. It is not intended for legal or navigational purposes. Source documents were Alaska Land Administration System (LAS) and remain the official record.
0 5 10 20 Miles
R01, Gu
Mount Dall
Kichatna Spire
Cathedral Spires
Kohlsaat Peak
Happy River
Eva Peak
Puntilla Lake
Distin Peak
Columbia Peak
Finger Lake
R02, Ha,Wr
R03, F
R04, Se
R05, Se
R07, Mi
U26, F
Chelatna Lake
B01, Ha
L01, Ha,Rd
B02, Mi,Ha
B03, Ha,Wr
B05, Ha,Wr
B08, Ha,Wr
Lake Creek
Kahiltna River
L04,
L02, Mi
B07, Mi
P02, Ha,Rd
B09, Se
B04, Ha,Wr
Shovel Lake
P13, F
U06, Se
Yentna River
Donkey Creek Lake
Shulin Lake
U03, Se
U08, Ha,Wr
B10, F
U04, F
U09, Se
U05, Se
U10, Ha,Rd
U07, F
U11, Se
Hewitt Lake
Whiskey Lake
U13, Ha,Rd
Shell Lake
Skwentna
U16, Se
M01, Ha,Wr


Land Use Designations #
Agriculture
Forestry
General Use
Habitat, Water Res.
Habitat,Public Rec
Mineral
Material
Public Facilities
Reserved Use
Settlement
Land Status
SMAP Boundary
SMAP Regions
Borough
University Land
Native
Other Private # #
LDA # # #
Lakes
Highways
All shaded areas represent state land.
Non-shaded areas may also contain privately held land.
Legislatively Designated Areas may contain some privately held land.
0
5
10
20 Miles
Pirate Lake
Shulitna River
Susitna River
Blair Lake
Bunco Lake
Swan Lake
Denali Lake
Peters Creek
Petersville
Moose Creek
Talkeetna
Scotty Lake
Kahiltna River
Lake Creek
Shovel Lake
Kroto Creek
Amber Lake
Rockys Lakes
Shulin Lake
Trapper Lake
Skwentna
Bulchitna Lake
Neil Lake
Eightmile Lake
Sevenmile Lake
Lockwood Lake
See Map 3-12
Map 3-11
L04,
L02, Mi
B07, Mi
P02, Ha,Rd
P03, Rd
P09, Ma
P01, Se
S06, Rd
S07, Se
S10, Se
P18, Gu
P19, Rd
S11, Ag
P06, Rd,Wr
P07, Ag
S12, Se
S17, Se
S18, Rd
B08, Ha,Wr
P05, Se
P08, Ha,Rd
P04, Se
P12, Ag
P11, Rd
P11, Rd,Wr
P10, Ha,Rd
S21, Rd
B03, Ha,Wr
B05, Ha,Wr
P14, Se
S36, Ha,Rd
P15, Ha,Wr
P13, F
S26, Rd
S25, Se
S30, Rd
B04, Ha,Wr
U06, Se
P16, Se
P17, Ag
B09, Se
L01, Ha,Rd
U01, Ha,Wr
U02, Se
B10, F
U03, Se
U05, Se
U08, Ha,Wr
U11, Se
U14, Ag
U16, Se
U15, Rd
U07, F
U04, F
M03, Se
M01, Ha,Wr
M10, Se
M23, Ag
M07, F
U20, Ha,Wr
U27, Ha,Rd


Susitna River
Chulitna River
Talkeetna River
Talkeetna
Christiansen Lake
Talkeetna Lakes
Fish Lake
Benka Lake
N
Land Use Designations #
Agriculture
Forestry
General Use
Coal, Habitat
Materials
Habitat, Water
Habitat,Public Rec
Water
Public Facilities
Public Rec
Public Rec, Water
Settlement
All shaded areas represent state land.
Land Status
SMAP Boundary
SMAP Regions
Management Agreement
State Selected
Borough
University Land
Native
Other Private # #
LDA # # #
Lakes
Highways
Non-shaded areas may also contain privately held land.
Legislatively Designated Areas may contain some privately held land.
0
2
4
8 Miles
This map provides a graphical illustration only. It is not intended for legal or navigational purposes. Source documents were Alaska Land Administration System (LAS) and remain the official record.

Map 3-12

Chapter 4
Implementation and Recommendations

Introduction 1
State Land Classification 1
Relationship of Land Use Designations in the Plan to State Land Classifications 3
Table 4-1: Acreages Associated with Land Designations and Co-designations 4
Table 4-2: Land Designations – Conversion to Classifications 5
Public Trust Doctrine 5
Leasing of State Land 5
Classification Order 5
Table 4-3: Acreages Associated with Land Classifications and Co-classifications 6
Applicability of Plan Designations/Classifications to State Lands not Identified in the Plan Text or Plan Maps 6
Survivor Designations and Classifications 7
Alaska Coastal Management Program 8
Municipal Entitlement 8
State Land Selections 8
State Land Selections 8
ANILCA Topfiled Lands 9
Mineral Orders 9
Legislatively Designated Areas 10
Generally Allowed Uses 10
Types of Plan Changes 10

Chapter 4
IMPLEMENTATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

This chapter includes information and recommendations necessary to implement plan goals, management intent, and guidelines. Information is included on the following:

- State Land Classification
- Relationship of Land Use Designations in the Plan to State Land Classifications
- Public Trust Doctrine
- Leasing of State Land
- Classification Order
- Applicability of Plan Designations/Classifications to State Lands not Identified in the Plan Text or Plan Maps
- Survivor Designations and Classifications
- Alaska Coastal Management Program
- Municipal Entitlement
- State Land Selections
- Mineral Orders
- Legislatively Designated Areas
- Generally Allowed Uses
- Types of Plan Changes

State Land Classification

To implement the plan on state lands, DNR must "classify" state lands to reflect the intent of "land use designations" made by this plan. State law requires that land classification precede most conveyance or leasing of state uplands or tidelands. According to state statute classification means, ". . . the designation of lands according to their apparent best use." It " . . . identifies the primary use for which the land will be managed . . . " but " . . . all other uses

are initially presumed as compatible with the primary use." For this reason, all plan classifications are intended for multiple uses. In this plan most management units are assigned a single, principle designation.

In some instances more than one designation is identified; these are termed "co-designations" and indicate that two (or more) uses are considered to be compatible within a specific management unit of state land. The General Use (Gu) designation is used occasionally in this plan, typically applying to the large management units where two or more uses are judged to be compatible within specific portions of the management unit. Compatibility of uses should be able to be achieved through distance separation, or siting and design techniques that should reduce or preclude the undesirable effects of a particular use.

Following is a list of land classifications, and their associated definitions in Alaska regulations (the Alaska Administrative Code – AAC), which will apply to state lands in the planning area as a result of plan adoption. DNR will manage state lands and resources consistent with these classifications and with the management directions given in Chapter 3 for specific management units of state land.

11 AAC 55.050. Agricultural Land. Land classified agricultural is land 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 of future agricultural use.

11 AAC 55.055. Coal Land. Land classified coal is land where coal resources exist and where development is occurring or is reasonably likely to occur, or where the coal potential has been determined to be high or moderate under 11 AAC 85.010.

11 AAC 55.070. Forest Land. Land classified forest is land that is or has been forested and is suited for forest management because of its physical, climatic, and vegetative conditions.

11 AAC 55.120. Material Land. Land classified material is land that is suitable for the extraction of common varieties of sand, gravel, stone, peat, clay, and other similar materials.

11 AAC 55.130 Mineral Land. Land classified mineral is land where known mineral resources exist and where development is occurring or is reasonably likely to occur, or where there is reason to believe that commercial quantities of minerals exist.

11 AAC 55.160. Public Recreation Land. Land classified public recreation is land that is suitable for recreation uses, waysides, parks, campsites, scenic overlooks, hunting, fishing or boating access sites, trail corridors, or greenbelts along bodies of water or roadways.

11 AAC 55.170. Reserved Land Use. (a) Land classified reserved use is land that:

1) is reserved for transfer to another governmental or non-governmental agency that is performing a public service;

2) is reserved for transfer through land exchanges; or

3) has been designated for a public facility.

(b) Nothing in this section requires classification of land identified for a future land exchange under AS 38.50.

11 AAC 55.200. Resource Management Land. Land classified resource management is either:

1) land that might have a number of important resources, but for which a specific resource allocation decision is not possible because of a lack of adequate resource, economic, or other relevant information; or for which a decision is not necessary because the land is presently inaccessible and remote and development is not likely to occur within the next 10 years; or

2) land that contains one or more resource values, none of which is of sufficiently high value to merit designation as a primary use.

11 AAC 55.202. Settlement Land. An upland area classified settlement is land that is, by reason of its physical qualities and location, suitable for year-round or seasonal residential or private recreational use or for commercial or industrial development.

11 AAC 55.222. Water Resources Land. Land classified water resources is land encompassing watersheds or portions of watersheds and is suitable for such uses as water supply, watershed protection, or hydropower sites.

11 AAC 55.230. Wildlife Habitat Land. Land classified wildlife habitat is land which is primarily valuable for:

1) fish and wildlife resource production, whether existing or through habitat manipulation, to supply sufficient numbers or diversity of species to support commercial, recreational, or traditional uses on an optimum sustained yield basis; or

2) a unique or rare assemblage of a single or multiple species of regional, state, or national significance.

Relationship of Land Use Designations in the Plan to State Land Classifications

The classifications contain no specific land management directives; those directives are expressed through the use of land use designations in the plan and described in detail for individual Regions and management units included in Chapter 3. However, the designations used in the area plan must be converted into land classifications outlined in state regulation (11 AAC 55) that reflect the intent of the plan.

Since plan designations are central to the management of state land in this area plan, knowledge of the amount of area associated with particular designations is important, allowing a comparison between the designated uses. Table 4-1 identifies the acreage associated with the designations recommended in this plan. Descriptions of each of the following designations are also provided at the beginning of Chapter 3. Note: Acreages associated with plan classifications are given in Table 4-3.

Table 4-1: Acreages Associated with Land Designations and Co-designations

Symbol	Designation	Acreage
Ag	Agriculture	67,998
Co/Ha	Coal/Habitat	121,671
F	Forestry	689,703
Gu	General Use	1,326,373
Ha	Habitat	2,467,327
Ha/Wr	Habitat/Water Resources	759,673
Ha/Rd	Habitat/Public Recreation-Dispersed	1,759,551
Ma	Materials	2,593
Mi	Minerals	757,220
Mi/Ha	Minerals/Habitat	59,895
Rd or Rp	Public Recreation	83,634
Pr	Public Facilities-Retain	2,306
Se	Settlement	709,545
Wr	Water Resources	62,889
Wr/Rd	Water Resources/Public Recreation-Dispersed	8,994
Total		8,879,372

NOTES: 1) Shoreland acreage is (mostly) combined with that of upland units. In three instances shoreland upland segregated from that of the adjoining uplands. The three shoreland units, which total 83,633 acres, include the Susitna River, Matanuska River, and the Chulitna River. Each is designated Habitat and Public Recreation-Dispersed. 2) This table includes the acreage associated with the LDAs that are assigned a plan designation (and subsequently a land classification). The amount of land that is designated for particular uses in LDAs follows: Susitna Recreation Rivers, 261,883 acres co-designated Habitat and Public Recreation-Dispersed; Nelchina PUA, 2,334,713 acres designated Habitat; Matanuska Valley Moose Range, 121,671 acres co-designated Habitat and Coal; and the Petersville and Caribou Creek Recreation Mining Areas, 775 acres designated Minerals.

The conversion of land use designations used by this plan into state land classifications is indicated in the table below. These are intended to identify the allowable uses of a state upland or tideland area, consistent with the definitions described previously and with any management intent given in Chapter 3.

Table 4-2: Land Designations – Conversion to Classifications

Symbol	Designation	Classification
Ag	Agricultural	Agricultural Land
Co	Coal	Coal land
F	Forest	Forest Land
Gu	General Use	Resource Management Land
Ha	Habitat	Wildlife Habitat Land
Ma	Materials	Material Land
Pr	Public Facilities - Retain	Reserved Use Land
Rd	Public Rec. - Dispersed Use	Public Recreation Land
Rp	Public Rec. - Public Use Site	Public Recreation Land
Se	Settlement	Settlement Land
Wr	Water Resources	Water Resources Land

Public Trust Doctrine

See the Management Intent for Navigable Rivers section at the end of Chapter 3.

Leasing of State Land

Under the authority of AS 38.05 and 11 AAC 58.300-.340, state land within the planning area is available for surface leasing, provided that the project is consistent with the land's classification and with the management intent set forth in this area plan.

Applications for uses of state land within the planning area will be considered by the Regional Manager for the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water, Southcentral Region, Anchorage, Alaska.

Classification Order

State land is classified under the authority of AS 38.04.005, AS 38.05.300, and 11 AAC 55.010 -.280 according to the management intent set forth in this area plan.

Land Classification Order SC-09-002 classifies all state land within the plan area. See Appendix B. This Land Classification Order supersedes and replaces all previous classifications and classification orders affecting the planning area of the Susitna Matanuska Area Plan.

Also refer to the following section, "Applicability of Plan Designations/Classifications to State Lands not identified in the Plan Text or Plan Maps." This section describes how lands inadvertently omitted in the Area Plan or acquired by the state subsequent to this revision are to be treated in terms of plan designation and classification.

Table 4-3 provides estimates of the acreage by classification and co-classification for upland and shoreland units of state land.

Table 4-3: Acreages Associated with Land Classifications and Co-classifications

Classification	Upland Acreage	Shoreland Acreage[1]
Agricultural land	67,998	
Coal/Wildlife Habitat land	121,671	
Forest land	689,703	
Resource Management land	1,326,373	
Wildlife Habitat land	2,467,327	
Wildlife Habitat/Water Resources land	759,673	
Wildlife Habitat/Public Recreation land	1,675,888	83,663
Material land	2,593	
Mineral land	757,220	
Mineral/Wildlife Habitat land	59,895	
Public Recreation land	83,634	
Reserved Use land	2,306	
Settlement land	709,545	
Water Resources land	62,889	
Water Resources/Public Recreation land	8,994	
Totals	8,795,709	83,663

Applicability of Plan Designations/Classifications to State Lands not Identified in the Plan Text or Plan Maps

This section deals with those lands that are not designated in the SMAP or classified in the Land Classification Order. Such lands include those state lands inadvertently omitted in the SMAP and those lands that may be acquired by the state in the future but not designated or classified in the Area Plan. The state has acquired and will continue to acquire isolated

[1] This estimate is for the Susitna, Matanuska, and Chulitna river management units. Shoreland acreage is combined with the adjacent upland management units for all other units.

parcels of land through foreclosure, escheat, and other methods. The purpose of this section is to give direction to the designation of these lands by the Department when future issues of parcel classification and management arise.

The following guidelines of plan designation/classification and potential disposal out of state ownership are to apply:

- Parcels in or near Existing Communities. If the parcel is in or is immediately adjacent to an existing community or past state land offering, the designation of Settlement and classification of Settlement Land apply. Such land can be considered for disposal use unless it is appropriate as a site(s) for schools, material sites, roads, parks, or other similar public use. Unsold lots identified for disposal in existing subdivisions and lots that return to state ownership will be available for lease, sale, or conveyance. Tracts identified for community purposes in existing subdivisions will not be sold but may be conveyed to municipalities or homeowner associations if they are not needed for state purposes and community purposes will be protected.
- Parcels near other State Land. If the parcel adjoins or is surrounded by other state land, the designation of that area(s) applies. It is to be managed according to the management intent and guidelines applicable to the adjacent lands. Such lands can be considered appropriate for disposal if they are designated Settlement unless it is appropriate as a site(s) for schools, material sites, roads, parks, or other similar public use. They may also be conveyed to a municipality even if it is suitable for these public uses as long as the proposed uses are for comparable municipal (public) use.
- Parcels not near Other State Land. Parcels not near other state land or that occur within areas designated General Use are to be designated General Use and classified as Resource Management Land. These lands are to be managed according to the management intent and guidelines applicable to the adjacent lands. Disposal of these lands to the adjacent landowner may be appropriate but will require reclassification to Settlement Land.
- Newly Acquired State Lands. Lands that were acquired proactively through exchange, purchase, or other methods will be managed and classified consistent with the purposes for which they were acquired.
- Other Lands. If the designation/classification of a parcel of acquired or omitted state land cannot be adequately determined, the parcel is to be designated General Use and classified Resource Management Land.

Survivor Designations and Classifications

This revision of the SMAP replaces and supersedes all previous plan designation and land classifications (termed ‘survivor’) that affect the SMAP planning area. It does not replace or supersede Special Use Designations predating the approval of this revision.

Alaska Coastal Management Program

The Alaska Coastal Management Program will be implemented through the coastal consistency review process described in Title 46 of the Alaska Statutes and associated regulations at 11 AAC. Activities, federal activities, and activities that require a state or federal authorization within the coastal zone of the planning area must be conducted in a manner consistent with the standards of the Alaska Coastal Management Program and the enforceable policies of the four coastal district plans. Consult the Alaska Coastal Management Program web site at www.alaskacoast.state.ak.us for the coastal zone boundaries and enforceable policies of the Borough Coastal District Plan.

Municipal Entitlement

The Municipal Entitlement Act (AS 29.65) determines a municipal general grant land entitlement and identifies what lands are available for transfer to a qualifying municipality. The term “municipality” includes both incorporated cities and organized boroughs. The size of a municipality’s entitlement is generally 10 percent of the vacant, unappropriated, unreserved (VUU) state general grant land within the municipal boundaries. State general grant lands that meet the criteria of VUU land as defined in AS 29.65.130 (i.e., classified as Agricultural, Grazing, Material, Public Recreation, Settlement, Resource Management, or unclassified land) may be appropriate for conveyance to municipalities with a remaining general grant land entitlement under AS 29.65.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough is entitled to 355,210 acres of state land under the Municipal Entitlement program. Recent entitlement decisions (2006) have approved the conveyance of state land to the Borough that will fulfill the Borough’s entitlement acreage. Accordingly, this plan does not designate areas for selection under the Municipal Entitlement program.

State Land Selections

State Land Selections

Under the Statehood Act, Alaska is entitled to approximately 130 million acres of federal land. The selections made by the state in the planning area occurred under the “General Grant" program, and nearly all have been either conveyed to the state through patent or are in TA (Tentative Approval) status, which gives management authority to the state. The areas noted as state-selected land on the plan maps depict those areas of federal land selected for eventual conveyance to the state. Areas of state selections on the plan maps include, in addition to state selections proper, ANILCA topfiled selections and areas subject to Public Land Orders.

There may be areas of state selections that this plan has not identified. In these instances, land conveyed to the state is to be considered classified under this plan and land classification order. In those instances where a plan designation has not been assigned to a state selection, classifications are to be assigned according to the standards described in the section, "Applicability of Plan Designations/Classifications to State Lands not Identified in the Plan Text or Plan Maps."

Because the SMAP plan maps indicate the status of state land and state land selections to a specific date (2009), DNR adjudicators must review the status of state land at the time of an adjudicatory decision. It would be imprudent to rely upon the land status information contained in this plan given the changing character of state land selections. Consult DNR MapGuide or Alaska Mapper for the most recent state selection information.

ANILCA Topfiled Lands

There are certain areas that are topfiled by the state under the provisions of Sec. 906 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). These are selections made by the state that become valid when Native regional or village ANCSA (Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) selections are relinquished. It is uncertain how many of these state selections will become valid during the planning period because the amount of Native selections, in terms of acreage, greatly exceeds that allowed under the corporation's selection entitlement. The Bureau of Land Management is currently adjudicating all prioritized Native village and regional corporation selections so the corporations and state can receive their land. The category of "State-Selected Land" on region plan maps includes areas of ANILCA topfiled selections in addition to areas of state-selected land.

The same caution in the use of plan maps for ANILCA topfiled lands as for state land selections exists (see above).

Mineral Orders

Alaska Statute 38.05.185 requires the Commissioner of DNR to determine that mineral entry and location is incompatible with significant surface uses in order to close state-owned lands to mineral entry. This plan retains all existing mineral closing orders. However, additional mineral closing orders or leasehold location orders are not recommended since few conflicts should exist between mining and sensitive surface uses given the location of the mineral deposits and settlement areas. Most of the settlement areas are not located within or adjacent to the areas of principal mineral deposits.

Legislatively Designated Areas

There are numerous existing Legislatively Designated Areas within and adjoining the planning area. These include state parks, public use areas, state recreational rivers, and state recreational mining areas. These special purpose areas encompass the principal recreational, mining, and habitat resources that require special management within the planning area and additional LDAs are not recommended for the management of recreational or habitat resources.

Areas designated Forestry may, however, be appropriate for legislative designation. The 1985 Susitna Area Plan proposed legislative establishment of high value forested lands as state forests and as multiple use areas with forestry as a primary use. The creation of a State Forest may be appropriate for those lands designated Forestry in the Susitna-Matanuska Area Plan. DOF should further evaluate the use of this management vehicle and if found to be appropriate, advance it for legislative consideration.

Generally Allowed Uses

Under 11 AAC 96.020 there are a variety of uses and activities that are allowed on state land that usually do not require a permit from DNR. These uses are listed in 11 AAC 96.020 and are explained further in a DNR Factsheet on Generally Allowed Uses (GAUs) that may be obtained from a DNR Public Information Center. In some instances it may become necessary to limit or preclude certain uses on state land that would otherwise be permitted as a Generally Allowed Use on state land under 11 AAC 96.020. Uses may be limited under the authority of 11 AAC 96.014 when land use or natural resource management requires it, but limits to such uses must be codified in all cases on general domain land in state administrative code. Although there are instances where uses are limited under this authority in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, they do not occur within the plan boundary of the SMAP nor are any such limits to GAUs recommended to be imposed in this plan.

Types of Plan Changes

The various kinds of changes allowed in 11 AAC 55.030 are:

“A revision to a land use plan is subject to the planning process requirements of AS 38.04.065. For the purposes of this section and AS 38.04.065, a ‘revision’ is an amendment or special exception to a land use plan as follows:

An ‘amendment’ permanently changes the land use plan by adding to or modifying the basic management intent for one or more of the plan’s subunits or by changing its allowed or prohibited uses, policies, or guidelines. For example, an amendment might close to new

mineral entry an area that the plan designated to be open, allow a land use in an area where the plan prohibited it, or allow land to be opened to homestead entry in an area that the plan designated for retention in public ownership.

A 'special exception' does not permanently change the provisions of a land use plan and cannot be used as the basis for a reclassification of the subunit. Instead, it allows a one-time, limited-purpose variance of the plan's provisions, without changing the plan's general management intent or guidelines. For example, a special exception might be used to grant an eligible applicant a preference right under AS 38.05.035 to purchase land in a subunit designated for retention in public ownership. A special exception might be made if complying with the plan would be excessively burdensome or impractical or if compliance would be inequitable to a third party, and if the purposes and spirit of the plan can be achieved despite the exception.

A minor change to a land use plan is not considered a revision under AS 38.04.065. A 'minor change' is a change that does not modify or add to the plan's basic intent, and that serves only to clarify the plan, make it consistent, facilitate its implementation, or make technical corrections."

Appendices

Appendix A ..... A - 1
Glossary ..... A - 1
Appendix B ..... B - 1
Land Classification Order No. SC-09-002 ..... B - 1

Appendix A
Glossary

AAC. Alaska Administrative Code

Access. A way or means of approach. Includes transportation, trail, easements, rights of way, and public use sites.

ACMP. Alaska Coastal Management Plan

ADF&G. Alaska Department of Fish and Game

ADOT/PF. Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

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. Also refers to the plan designation of Agriculture or the land classification of Agricultural Land.

Anadromous waters. A river, lake or stream from its mouth to its uppermost reach including all sloughs and backwaters adjoining the listed water, and that portion of the streambed or lakebed covered by ordinary high water used by salmon to spawn. Anadromous waters are shown in "The Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes" (referred to as the Anadromous Waters Catalog (AWC)) compiled by ADF&G and DNR.

ANCSA. Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (1971)

ANILCA. Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act (1980)

Area Plan. A plan approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources under the authority of AS 38.04.065 that establishes the land and resource management policies for state land within a planning area. Such plans also assign land use designations to individual parcels of state land, which are subsequently converted to land use classifications in a Land Classification Order. When used in this plan, the term 'Area Plan' refers to the Susitna Matanuska Area Plan.

AS. Alaska Statutes

ASLS. Alaska State Land Survey

Authorized Use. A use allowed by DNR by permit or lease.

AWC. Anadromous Waters Catalog, see *Anadromous waters.*

Borough. Refers to Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Buffer. An area of land between two activities or resources managed and used to reduce the effect of one activity upon another.

Classification. Land classification identifies the purposes for which state land will be managed. All classification categories are for multiple use, although a particular use may be considered primary. Land may be given a total of three classifications in combination.

Classification Order. *See Land Classification Order.*

Closed to mineral entry. Areas where the staking of new mineral claims is prohibited because mining has been determined to be in conflict with significant surface uses in the area. Existing mineral claims that are valid at the time of plan adoption are not affected by mineral closures.

Commissioner. The Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

DEC. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Department. Alaska Department of Natural Resources or DNR

Designated use. An allowed use of major importance in a particular management unit. Activities in the unit will be managed to encourage, develop, or protect this use. Where a unit has two or more designated uses, the management intent statement and guidelines for the unit; the Chapter 2 guidelines; and existing statutes, regulations, and procedures, will direct how resources are managed to avoid or minimize conflicts between designated uses.

Designation. See *Land Use Designation.*

Developed recreational facility. Any structure or facility that serves either public or private recreational needs.

Director. The division director of the state division responsible for managing state land. Most often, director refers to the Director of the Division of Mining, Land and Water; for lands administered by DPOR, director refers to the Director of DPOR.

Dispersed recreation. Recreational pursuits that are not site specific in nature, such as hunting, fishing, recreational boating or wildlife viewing.

DMLW. Division of Mining, Land and Water, a division of DNR

DNR. Alaska Department of Natural Resources

DOAg. Division of Agriculture, a division of DNR

DOF. Division of Forestry, a division of DNR

DPOR. Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, a division of DNR

Easement. Generally, an interest in land owned by another that entitles its holder to a specific limited use. (As applied in this plan, it also includes those easements that are issued to SCRO and are retained by the state.)

17(b) Easement. Easement across Native corporation land reserved through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Uses of the easements are limited to transportation purposes and other uses specified in the act and in conveyance documents. Information on 17(b)2 easements may be found at the DNR website: http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/trails/index.htm

Feasible. Capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, technical, and safety factors.

Fish and wildlife. Any species of aquatic fish, invertebrates and amphibians, in any stage of their life cycle, and all species of birds and mammals, found in or which may be introduced into Alaska, except domestic birds and mammals. The term “area(s)” in association with the term “fish and wildlife” refers to both harvest and habitat areas.

FLUP. Forest Land Use Plan. FLUPs are prepared by the Division of Forestry and precede state timber sales.

FRPA. See Forest Resources Practices Act.

Forestry. Land that is or has been forested and is suited for long-term forest management because of its physical, climatic, and vegetative conditions. Also refers to the plan designation of Forestry or the land classification of Forest Land.

Forest Resources and Practices Act. That section of Alaska Statute (AS 41.17.010-.955) that deals with the use, management, and protection of forest resources within the State of Alaska. More formally described as the Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act.

General Use. Uplands designated General Use provide some combination of settlement, timber, recreation, habitat or other values. When used in this plan, this designation refers to areas where resource information is insufficient to warrant a specific designation, development is unlikely during the planning period of 20 years, or where a number of uses

can be accommodated within a given area. For specific General Use areas, see the management intent statement of the individual management units in Chapter 3. Also refers to the plan designation of General Use, which converts to the land use classification of Resource Management Land.

Generally allowed use (GAU). An activity conducted on state land managed by the Division of Mining, Land and Water that is not in a special category or status. For the most part these uses are allowed for 14 days or less, and a permit is not required. See AAC 11 AAC 96.020.

Goal. A statement of basic intent or general condition desired in the long term. Goals usually are not quantifiable and do not have specified dates for achievement.

Guideline. A course of action to be followed by DNR resource managers or required of land users when the manager permits, leases, or otherwise authorizes the use of state land or resources. Guidelines also range in their level of specificity from giving general guidance for decision making or identifying factors that need to be considered, to setting detailed standards for on-the-ground decisions. Some guidelines state the intent that must be followed and allow flexibility in achieving it.

Habitat. Areas that serve as a concentrated use area for fish and wildlife species during a sensitive life history stage where alteration of the habitat and/or human disturbance could result in a permanent loss of a population or sustained yield of the species. This designation, when used, applies to localized areas having particularly valuable or sensitive habitat within the planning boundary. The “Ha” designation does not preclude human uses that are compatible with the following categories. Also refers to the plan designation of Habitat or the land classification of Wildlife Habitat Land.

Fish and wildlife categories used to identify “Ha” (Habitat) designations in this plan include the following:

- anadromous fish spawning, rearing and overwintering migration areas.
- American peregrine falcon, tule geese, and trumpeter swan nesting and molting concentrations.
- waterfowl nesting and molting areas
- Dall sheep wintering and lambing areas
- fish streams frequented by bears (including concentrations by season)
- moose and caribou wintering and calving areas
- important wildlife migration corridors.

High value resident fish. Resident fish populations that are used for recreational, personal use, commercial, or subsistence purposes (from AS 41.17.950(10)).

ILMA or ILMT. See Interagency Land Management Agreement/Transfer.

Improvements. Buildings, wharves, piers, dry docks, and other similar types of structures permanently fixed to the uplands, tidelands, or submerged lands that were constructed and/or maintained by the applicant for business, commercial, recreation, residential, or other beneficial uses or purposes. In no event shall fill be considered a permanent improvement when placed on the tidelands solely for the purposes of disposing of waste or spoils. However, fill material actually utilized for beneficial purposes by the applicant shall be considered a permanent improvement. [11 AAC 62.840]

Instream flow. An instantaneous flow rate of water through a stream during specified periods of time, from a designated location upstream to a designated location downstream.

Instream flow reservation. The legal water reservation for instream uses such as fish, wildlife, recreation, navigation, and water quality.

Interagency Land Management Agreement/Transfer (ILMA/ILMT). An agreement between DNR and other state agencies that transfers some land management responsibility to these other agencies.

Land Classification Order. An order approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources that classifies state land into specific land use categories (AS 38.04.065). The Land Classification Order in this Area Plan classifies all state lands within the planning area according to the land use designations assigned to individual land parcels in the Resource Allocation Tables contained in Chapter 3 of the Area Plan.

Land disposal. Same as Land offering, defined below; except that land disposal areas referenced in Chapter 3 may include lots reserved for lease or sale for public, commercial, or industrial facilities. Differs from an agricultural land disposal.

Land offering. Transfer of state land to private ownership as authorized by AS 38.04.010, including fee simple sale and sale of agricultural rights. They do not include leases, land use permits, water rights, rights-of-way, material sales, or other disposals of interest in lands or waters. (See also, Land disposal.)

Land use designation. A category of land allocation determined by a land use plan. Designations identify the primary use of state land. Chapter 4 sets out how the land use designations of this plan will be classified according to 11 AAC 55.

Leasable minerals. Leasable minerals include deposits of coal, sulfur phosphates, oil shale, sodium potassium, oil and gas.

Lease. A Department of Natural Resources authorization for the use of state land according to terms set forth in AS 38.05.070-105.

LDA or Legislatively Designated Area. An area set aside by the state legislature for special management actions and retained in public ownership. Examples are State Game Refuges and State Recreation Areas.

Locatable minerals. Locatable minerals include both metallic (gold, silver, lead, etc.) and non-metallic (feldspar, asbestos, mica, etc.) minerals.

Log Transfer Facility (LTF). Any facility or mechanism necessary to transfer timber.

Management intent statement. The statements that define the department's near and long-term management objectives and the methods to achieve those objectives. As most often used in the plan, it refers to the management objectives and methods to achieve those objectives for a particular management unit.

Materials. "Materials" include but are not limited to common varieties of sand, gravel, rock, peat, pumice, pumicite, cinders, clay and sod. Materials may also refer to the designation of Materials or the land classification of Materials Land.

MCO. See Mineral Closing Order.

Mineral Closing Order (MCO). Mineral closing orders close state lands (mineral estate) to mineral entry. All state lands are open for the prospecting and production of locatable minerals unless the lands are specifically closed to mineral entry. The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources may close land to mineral entry if a finding has been made that mining would be incompatible with **significant surface use** on state land [AS 38.05.205]. A significant surface use of the land has been interpreted by DNR to include not only residential and commercial structures, but also fish and wildlife habitat, recreational, and scenic values.

Mineral entry. Acquiring exploration and mining rights under AS 38.05.185-38.05.275.

Mineral Opening Order. An order approved by the Commissioner that opens state land to mineral entry.

Mineral Order. An order approved by the Commissioner that either closes or opens land to mineral entry. The use of this term is fairly recent. Previously the Department issued mineral opening orders or mineral closing orders. Reference in this plan is to 'mineral closing order' since this is the instrument that was used by the Department to close areas within the planning area and since state status plats make reference to 'Mineral Closing Orders'.

Mining. Any structure or activity for commercial exploration and recovery of minerals, including, but not limited to resource transfer facilities, camps, and other support facilities associated with mineral development. The term "mining" does not refer to offshore prospecting.

Mining claim. Rights to deposits of minerals, subject to AS 38.05.185-38.05.275, in or on state land that is open to claim staking may be acquired by discovery, location and recording as prescribed in AS 38.05.185-38.05.275. The locator has the exclusive right of possession and extraction of the minerals lying within the boundaries of the claim, subject to AS 38.05.185 -38.05.275.

Minor Change. A minor change to a land use plan is not considered a revision under AS 38.04.065. A minor change is a change that does not modify or add to the plan's basic intent, and that serves only to clarify the plan, make it consistent, facilitate its implementation, or make technical corrections. [11 AAC 55.030]

Multiple use. Means the management of state land and its various resource values so that it is used in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the people of Alaska, making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; it includes:

a) the use of some land for less than all of the resources, and

b) a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the short-term and long-term needs of present and future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific, and historic values. [AS 38.04.910]

Native-owned land. Land that is patented or will be patented to a Native corporation.

Native-selected land. Federally owned land that is selected by a Native corporation but not yet patented.

Navigable. Used in its legal context, it refers to lakes and rivers that meet federal or state criteria for navigability. Under the Equal Footing Doctrine, the Alaska Statehood Act, and the Submerged Lands Act, the state owns land under navigable waterbodies.

Ordinary high water mark (OHW). The mark along the bank or shore up to which the presence and action of the nontidal water are so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to leave a natural line impressed on the bank or shore and indicated by erosion, shelving, changes in soil characteristics, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or other distinctive physical characteristics [from 11 AAC 53.900(23)].

Permanent use. A use that includes a structure or facility that is not readily removable.

Permit. A Department of Natural Resources authorization for use of state land according to terms set forth in 11 AAC 96.

Planning period. Refers to the length of time that the plan covers, which is 20 years. However, the area plan and the land use classifications that derive from the plan remain valid until the area plan is revised.

Policy. An intended course of action or a principle for guiding actions; in this plan, DNR policies for land and resource management include goals, management intent statements, management guidelines, land use designations, implementation plans and procedures, and various other statements of DNR's intentions.

Primary use. See Designated use.

Prohibited use. A use not allowed in a management unit because of conflicts with the management intent, designated primary or secondary uses, or management guideline. Uses not specifically prohibited nor designated as primary or secondary uses in a management unit are allowed if compatible with the primary and secondary uses, the management intent statements for the unit, and the plan's guidelines. Changing a prohibited use to an allowable use requires a plan amendment.

Public Trust Doctrine. A doctrine that requires the state to manage tidelands, shorelands, and submerged lands for the benefit of the people so that they can engage in such things as commerce, navigation, fishing, hunting, swimming, and ecological study. (See also Chapter 3.)

Public use. Any human use of state land, including commercial and non-commercial uses.

Recreation. Any activity or structure for recreational purposes, including but not limited to hiking, camping, boating, anchorage, access points to hunting and fishing areas, and sightseeing. "Recreation" does not refer to subsistence hunting and fishing.

Riparian Areas. Areas adjacent to streams and rivers and, occasionally, lakes.

RS 2477. RS 2477 stands from Revised Statute 2477 from the Mining Act of 1866, which states that "The public right-of-way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public use, is hereby granted. Information on RS 2477s can be accessed at the DNR website: http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/trails/index.htm

Region. A spatial unit used in area plans to describe major geographic areas within the plan boundary. Often regions occupy state lands that are contiguous or are generally close to each other and that may have similar resource and use characteristics. In this plan, there are 11 regions: ten regions that encompass state general domain land and one that covers areas affected by Legislatively Designated Area designations.

Resource management. A land classification used for lands which are presently inaccessible or remote and may have a number of resources; where the lack of adequate resource, economic or other relevant information combined with the unlikelihood of resource

development within the next 20 years makes a specific resource allocation decision unnecessary; or where a number of uses can be accommodated in a given area. The plan General Use designation converts to the classification of Resource Management.

Retained land. Uplands, shorelands, tidelands, submerged lands, and water that are to remain in state ownership.

Right-of-way. The legal right to cross the land of another.

Secondary use. A use of lesser importance than the primary use in a particular management unit. Secondary uses are generally not used in the Susitna Matanuska Area Plan; instead, if two uses or resources are of equal importance and are generally complementary to each other, a co-designation is used. The co-designation applies to the entirety of the management unit unless otherwise stated in the management intent section of a particular management unit.

SCRO. Southcentral Regional Office of the Division of Mining, Land and Water, Alaska Department of Natural Resources.

SMAP. Susitna Matanuska Area Plan

SSAP. Southeast Susitna Area Plan

Settlement. The sale, leasing, or permitting of state lands to allow private recreational, residential, commercial, industrial, or community use. May also refer the designation of Settlement or the land classification of Settlement Land.

Shall. Same as “will.”

Shoreland. Land belonging to the state that is covered by navigable, nontidal water up to the ordinary high water mark as modified by accretion, erosion or reliction. (See definition of Navigable.) Shorelands are generally lake bottoms or the beds of navigable rivers and streams. (See Figure 1-1, Chapter 1.)

Should. States intent for a course of action or a set of conditions to be achieved. Guide-lines modified by the word “should” state the plan’s intent and allow the manager to use discretion in deciding the specific means for best achieving the intent or whether particular circumstances justify deviations from the intended action or set of conditions. A guideline may include criteria for deciding if such a deviation is justified. (See Types of Plan Changes, Chapter 4.)

State land. A generic term meaning all state land, including all state-owned and state-selected uplands, all shorelands, tidelands and submerged lands. See also definitions of state-owned land and state-selected land as well as definitions for shorelands, tidelands, and

submerged lands. Refer to Figure 1-1 in Chapter 1 for a graphical depiction of these areas. 'State Land' excludes lands owned by the University of Alaska, the Mental Health Trust Authority, or by state agencies that have acquired through deed.

State-owned land. Land that is patented or will be patented to the state, including uplands, tidelands, shorelands, and submerged lands.

State-selected land. Federally owned land that is selected by the State of Alaska, but not yet patented nor TAed (Tentative Approval) by the Bureau of Land Management.

Subsistence. From the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act (ANILCA) [PL 96-486, Sec. 803]. The customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation; for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of non-edible byproducts of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption; for barter or sharing of personal or family consumption; and for customary trade.

Suitable. Land that is physically capable of supporting a particular type of resource development.

Temporary use. A use that is one year or less in duration requiring a state permit. Any structure associated with the use must be readily removable.

Unsuitable. Land that is physically incapable of supporting a particular type of resource development (usually because that resource doesn't exist in that location).

Uplands. Lands above mean high water. (See Figure 1-1, Chapter 1.)

USFWS or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. United States Fish and Wildlife Service, a division of the U.S. Department of Interior.

Viewshed. Viewsheds are surfaces visible from a viewpoint on a road corridor or from marine waters.

Water Resources. Refers to the plan designation of Water Resources or the land classification of Water Resources Land.

Water-dependant. From 6 AAC 80.900(17): "water-dependent" means a use or activity which can be carried out only on, in, or adjacent to water areas because the use requires access to the water body.

Water-related. From 6 AAC 80.900(18): "water-related" means a use or activity which is not directly dependent upon access to a water body, but which provides goods or services that are directly associated with water-dependence and which, if not located adjacent to water, would result in a public loss of quality in the goods or services offered.

Wetlands. Includes both freshwater and saltwater wetlands. "Freshwater wetlands" means those environments characterized by rooted vegetation which is partially submerged either continuously or periodically by surface freshwater with less than 0.5 parts per thousand salt content and not exceeding three meters in depth. "Saltwater wetlands" means those coastal areas along sheltered shorelines characterized by salt tolerant, marshy plants and large algae extending from extreme low tide which is influenced by sea spray or tidally induced water table changes.

Will. Requires a course of action or a set of conditions to be achieved. A guideline modified by the word "will" must be followed by land managers and users. Deviation from plan designations, management intent, or management guidelines requires a plan amendment. (See Chapter 4- Types of Plan Changes.)

Working Forest: A "working forest" refers to actively managed forest lands that provide wood for personal and commercial use, while protecting fish and wildlife habitat, providing the public with recreation and other multiple use of state land, and maintaining public benefits such as clean air, land, and water.

Appendix B

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER

Land Classification Order No. SC-09-002

I. Name: Susitna Matanuska Area Plan (SMAP)

II. The classifications in Part III are based on written justification contained in one of the following plans:

Area Plan: **Susitna Matanuska**
Adopted (x) Revised ( ) Dated _____

Management Plan:
Adopted ( ) Revised ( ) Dated _____

Site Specific Plan:
Adopted ( ) Revised ( ) Dated _____

III.

Legal Description	Acreage	Acquisition Authority	Existing Classification	Classification by this action
See plan maps SMAP 2010	9 million	GS, CG	Susitna AP 1985	See plan maps SMAP 2010

III. This order replaces and supersedes all existing land classification orders within the plan boundary of the SMAP.

IV. This order is issued under the authority granted by AS 38.04.065 and AS 38.05.300 to the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources. The above described lands are hereby designated and classified as indicated. Nothing shall prevent the reclassification of these lands if warranted in the public interest.

Classified: _____ Date: _____
Commissioner, Department of
Natural Resources