

MANAGEMENT UNIT: SUSITNA CORRIDOR

MANAGEMENT INTENT

The Susitna Corridor is to be managed for its forestry, fish and wildlife, and agricultural values. Management of state lands within the unit for forestry will help provide a stable flow of commercial quality raw materials to the area's developing forest industry and help meet the growing demand for personal use products. At the same time forestry management can improve habitat - principally for moose.

The potential recreational opportunities within this management unit should be developed. The principal near term recreational use will be hunting. As access to the unit improves trails, access sites and campgrounds should be provided adjacent to the Susitna River. The watershed/habitat values of the wetlands in the eastern portion of the unit should be preserved.

This plan also recognizes the high agricultural value in portions of the unit: forestry and habitat management will not adversely affect the potential for future agricultural development. An area of approximately 920 acres in the northeast corner of the unit is scheduled for agricultural disposal by the state in fiscal year '82. An additional approximately 4,000 acres of borough land in the northern part of the unit are designated for agricultural use.

Grazing is permitted as a secondary use in subunit D, south of Susitna Station. This portion of the management unit has limited forestry value. Much of it is in the active floodplain of the Susitna River. Because of the dominance of alder, willow and other shrub and brush-type vegetation, this subunit is very important moose winter habitat. Grazing can be compatible with the protection of this habitat if appropriate guidelines are followed.

To show the land use designations, the unit is broken into four subunits: the forestry/habitat lands, the wetlands, the agricultural land, and the grazing area.

SUBUNIT A: FISH AND WILDLIFE/FORESTRY AREA

Primary Land Uses

- Fish and Wildlife
- Forestry

Secondary Land Use

- Recreation (hunting; access sites, trails, and campgrounds along the Susitna River)

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Forestry

Forestry guidelines for this area are presented in Chapter III, Goals, Policies, and Management Guidelines; Forestry, - Joint Forestry/Habitat Management in Upland Areas.

Agriculture

The potential agricultural value of this area should be protected. Transportation routing and forestry/habitat enhancement should minimize negative impacts on potential agricultural development.

Subsurface Resources

See Chapter III, Goals, Policies, and Management Guidelines; Subsurface Resources.

SUBUNIT B: THE AGRICULTURAL LAND

Primary Land Use

-Agriculture

Secondary Land Use

-Forestry
-Fish & Wildlife
-Watershed

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Agriculture

To the extent feasible, Class II and III soils in this subunit should be sold for agricultural use. Small farm agricultural development should be encouraged where parcel configuration or topography renders large farms infeasible.

Wetlands/Wetland Buffers

For management guidelines governing the disposal of agricultural lands adjacent to wetlands, see Chapter III, Goals, Policies, and Management Guidelines; wetlands.

Stream Buffers

Rolly Creek and tributaries with significant recreation value should have a publicly owned buffer designed to protect water quality, riparian habitat, public access and use, and to provide protection from erosion. The buffer should be designed prior to sale of agricultural lands in the subunit. See Chapter III, River and Stream Corridors for more specific guidelines concerning retention of publicly-owned buffers along streams with significant recreation value.

Forestry

All timber having high value for commercial and personal use shall be salvaged on lands to be cleared for agricultural use. See Chapter III, Goals, Policies, and Management Guidelines; Forestry, for implementation techniques.

SUBUNIT C: THE WETLANDS

- Fish and Wildlife
- Watershed

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Wetlands/Wetland Buffers

See Chapter III, Policies and Management Guidelines; Wetlands.

SUBUNIT D: THE GRAZING AREA

Primary Land Use

- Fish and Wildlife

Secondary Land Use

- Grazing

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

See Chapter III, Goals, Policies, and Management Guidelines; Agriculture, Grazing Guidelines.

AREA-WIDE POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Chapter III presents additional policies and land management guidelines which may be relevant to particular decisions in this management unit. Categories of these policies and guidelines are listed below for ease of reference:

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