

MANAGEMENT UNIT: SUSITNA FLOODPLAIN

MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit is to be managed both to preserve and enhance the existing fish and wildlife habitat and to maximize the long term commercial harvest potential of the timber stock. The unit contains important potential public recreation sites on the Susitna River which will be identified through detailed planning.

The public lands along Willow Creek below the Parks Highway bridge are being studied cooperatively by the borough and state for possible recreation development and inclusion in the State Park System.

Primary Land Uses

- Forestry
- Fish and Wildlife

Secondary Land Use

- Recreation

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Forestry

Forestry guidelines are designed to protect views of the area from the river and the shore, prevent erosion, and provide vegetative cover for wildlife.

Visual Protection: Clearcuts are prohibited where the cuts would affect frequently viewed areas. This prohibition extends 200 feet from the river shore of both the mainland and islands which can be viewed from the main channel of the river. This distance may be modified based on site specific visual analysis. This clear-cut buffer also applies adjacent to heavily used boating routes in smaller channels of the river and on islands easily viewed from shore.

Wildlife Cover: The preceding guideline is sufficient to provide vegetative screens for wildlife on all islands and riverbanks.

Coordination: All timber sales should be planned in coordination with the ADF&G. Visual analysis should be coordinated with the Division of Parks.

Miscellaneous: For other guidelines, see Chapter III, Forestry.

Recreation

The management plan for the area should identify potential public recreation access sites on the Susitna River, and access routes necessary to reach them. Forestry activities on or adjacent to these sites should not affect future recreation potential. Restrictions on forestry might include outright prohibition or a restriction on clearcutting. Forestry access routes should follow potential recreation access routes when feasible.

Subsurface Resources

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

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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