

SUBUNITS 3A and 3B, SOUTH SLOPE

1. Background

This subunit contains most of the best stands of timber in the Deception Creek Management unit. Generally, the primary vegetation between 600- and 1000-foot elevations is closed deciduous forest in medium-aged stands (primarily birch, with some spruce). In addition, this subunit is known for its important wildlife habitat, especially moose winter and summer range; the variety of habitats provides for essential escape and thermal cover as well as habitat for other species. Black bear are commonly found in the area, especially during the spring moose calving period.

The Willow Creek sled trail, Lloyd's Trapline and Dogmushing trail, the Bench Lake trail, and the Houston-Meadow Lakes trail all pass through this unit, providing many opportunities for the public to hunt black bear, moose, and small game. Trapping for furbearing animals also occurs in this subunit.

The land within subunit 3A has been identified by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough as a borough interest area. It was also identified as development reserve land in Technical Report Number 4 by the New Capital Site Planning Commission in 1982.

Both subunits are part of the watershed for the city of Houston and surrounding development. Part of the watershed that is in subunit 3A and is of particular concern to the city of Houston is the unnamed tributary of the Little Susitna that rises in sections 10 and 11 and flows through sections 14, 15, and 23. (See Little Susitna Watershed map in this section, and Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys' Public-data File 86-62, *Reconnaissance of Surface--Water Resources in the Houston Area, Alaska.*) Houston wants the option preserved to use this creek as a city water supply. (There is a 100-foot buffer on either side of this stream; see Lakeshore and Stream Corridor Guidelines in Chapter II.)

The portions of this unit that were adjacent to the Little Susitna River have been deleted from this plan because they were designated as part of the Little Susitna Recreational River by the legislature in 1988.

Slightly less than one section within this subunit is within the boundaries of the city of Houston and is zoned Public Lands and Institutions (PLI) E $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 15; NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 23; and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 24 of T18N, R3W, S.M. Timber harvest and other natural resource extraction activities are a conditional use in the PLI zone.

2. Primary Uses

Forestry, wildlife habitat, and watershed

3. Classification

Subunit 3A: Resource Management

Subunit 3A is classified Resource Management because, in addition to the designated primary uses, it also has long-term development potential. Not enough economic and social information is available at this time to determine how or whether the development potential (other than timber) should be realized. This decision should be reserved for the future [as envisioned in AS 38.04.005 (c)]. In such situations, Resource Management is an appropriate classification.

Subunit 3B: Forest Land, Water Resources Land, and Wildlife Habitat

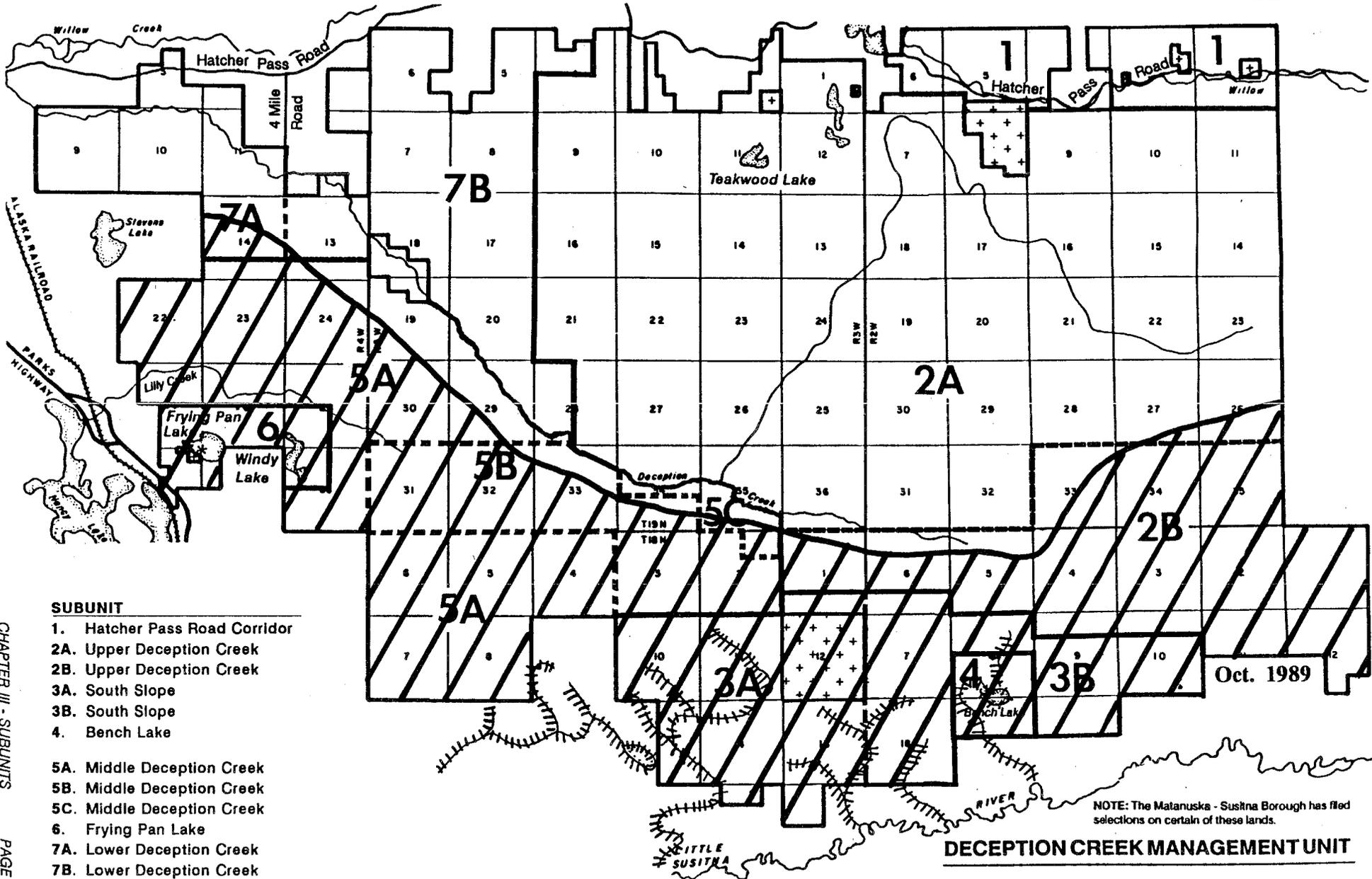
4. **Management Intent** These subunits will be managed primarily for their forestry, wildlife, and watershed values. More specifically, the subunits will be managed for hardwood (deciduous) and softwood markets and as winter range for moose. Timber harvest must be designed and timed to meet both goals.

This subunit is open to mineral entry under leasehold except for the 80 acres in section 23 which is mental health land. This will remain closed to new mineral entry until or unless the closing order on mental health land is lifted. At that time, this 80 acres should be opened to mineral entry under leasehold.

5. **Guidelines**

- a. **Timber Harvest** Certain forested areas within this subunit will not be harvested if determined by DNR to be necessary to protect seasonal habitat based on information provided by ADF&G.
- b. **Five-Year Cutting Plan** The Division of Forestry will include this area in its general 5-year cutting schedule, but will make it a separate subsection. Upon request at the time of their review of the 5-year cutting schedule, ADF&G will be given a subsequent opportunity to identify seasonal habitat that needs to be protected, maintained, or enhanced.
- c. **Design and Timing of Harvest** Design and timing of timber harvest and regeneration plans in this subunit must be mutually agreed to by the Division of Forestry and the Department of Fish and Game.
- d. **Trail Buffers** The Willow Creek Sled trail, the Bench Lake trail, the Houston-Meadow Lakes trail, and Lloyd's Trapline and Dogmushing trail are subject to a 50-foot vegetated buffer on either side of center line of these trails. See the Transportation section for activities that may take place within these buffers.

LITTLE SUSITNA WATERSHED



- SUBUNIT**
- 1. Hatcher Pass Road Corridor
 - 2A. Upper Deception Creek
 - 2B. Upper Deception Creek
 - 3A. South Slope
 - 3B. South Slope
 - 4. Bench Lake
 - 5A. Middle Deception Creek
 - 5B. Middle Deception Creek
 - 5C. Middle Deception Creek
 - 6. Fryling Pan Lake
 - 7A. Lower Deception Creek
 - 7B. Lower Deception Creek

	Private, university, or borough land		Little Susitna watershed
	2.3 acre parcel of state land on Fryling Pan Lake		Potential water sources for Houston

NOTE: The Matanuska - Susitna Borough has filed selections on certain of these lands.

DECEPTION CREEK MANAGEMENT UNIT

0 1 MILES
SCALE



Oct. 1989