

## SUBUNITS 5A, 5B, and 5C, MIDDLE DECEPTION CREEK

### 1. Background

Subunits 5 and 6 comprise the core development area of the once-proposed capital city. Most of the proposed town center was located in section 29 in the Capital Site 1982 General Development Plan. (See Capital Site 1982 General Plan in the Appendix.) All of subunit 5 has been identified by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough as a borough interest area.

Most of the unit is part of the Little Susitna watershed; the southern part of the unit is part of the watershed for the city of Houston.

This subunit also contains good timber, mostly birch, mostly 80 to 100 years old, with some spruce. These areas are interspersed with black spruce and wetlands.

Deception Creek is an important anadromous fish stream (the Fisheries Rehabilitation and Enhancement Division of the Department of Fish and Game obtains salmon eggs from the mouth). It also has important recreation potential. Possible eventual recreational uses in the Deception Creek corridor include a hiking trail and campsites and picnic sites. The southwest side of the Deception Creek gorge is within this subunit; it was identified as undevelopable by the Capital Site Planning Commission.

Subunits 5B and 5C have important wildlife values. Both are moose winter range, and subunit 5C is the south side of Deception Creek at the confluence of its north and east branches.

### 2. Primary Uses

5A Forestry and Watershed

5B Forestry, Watershed, Wildlife habitat

5C Wildlife Habitat; and Watershed southwest of the southwest bank of Deception Creek

#### Secondary Uses

5A Grazing

### 3. Classification

Resource Management.

This subunit 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.

4. **Management Intent** Subunit 5 will be managed primarily for its forestry and watershed values. There will be a 200-foot buffer above high water on each side of Deception Creek that will be subject to the stream corridor guidelines and the special mining guideline number 4b. (The boundary of this subunit is the ordinary high water mark on the south side of Deception Creek.) Much of this subunit has high settlement/development potential; it will be retained in state ownership, will remain closed to new locatable mineral entry, and will be managed to preserve the options for settlement. During the next six years, several small timber sales are proposed for this unit. See map entitled Proposed Timber Harvest Areas, and Timber Sales table below. The map also shows two proposed new logging roads, each to be 12 feet wide. The map shows only proposed commercial sales. In addition, the Division of Forestry expects to make some areas available for personal use cutting, but has not yet identified the locations. Most likely, one or more of the sales shown on the map will be converted into a personal use sale. Final cutting unit boundaries and road locations will be determined following agency and public review of the proposed timber sales.

5. **Guidelines**

- a. **Grazing in Subunit 5A** Grazing is allowed under lease or permit within T18N, R3W, sections 4-8 of subunit 5A, during the regeneration period following timber harvest. Regeneration must be established before a grazing permit or lease may be issued. The Division of Forestry should be given an opportunity to review grazing operations plans for this subunit. The length of a grazing lease may not exceed the period needed for regeneration.
- b. **Grazing in Subunit 5C** Grazing is not allowed in subunit 5C. When SCS acquires additional range data, and if there is a request for a grazing authorization in subunit 5C, the planning team will reevaluate the grazing prohibition for this subunit. Grazing will not be allowed in brown bear concentration areas. During this period, ADF&G will collect further data on the extent of brown and black bear use of these subunits, to the extent possible and that funding is available.

Table 1

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING WHETHER A LEASE OR PERMIT IS APPROPRIATE

PERMIT	LEASE
(a) Small numbers of animals, generally 25 or less.	(a) Larger number of livestock, more than 25.
(b) Non-commercial animals	(b) Commercial Livestock.
(c) Small areas.	(c) Larger areas.
(d) Type and degree of conflict: Potential high conflicts with wildlife or other high value land uses which long-term grazing may negatively impact.	(d) Potential conflicts are of a less critical nature and can be managed within terms of the grazing operations plan.
(e) Shorter grazing seasons.	(e) Better sites and longer seasons of use.
(f) Less costly range improvements needed.	(f) Higher cost range improvements needed to mitigate other resource conflicts.
(g) Site specific benefits, which may allow short term use of a site such as utilizing intensive grazing to reduce grass competition with other species as a research method.	

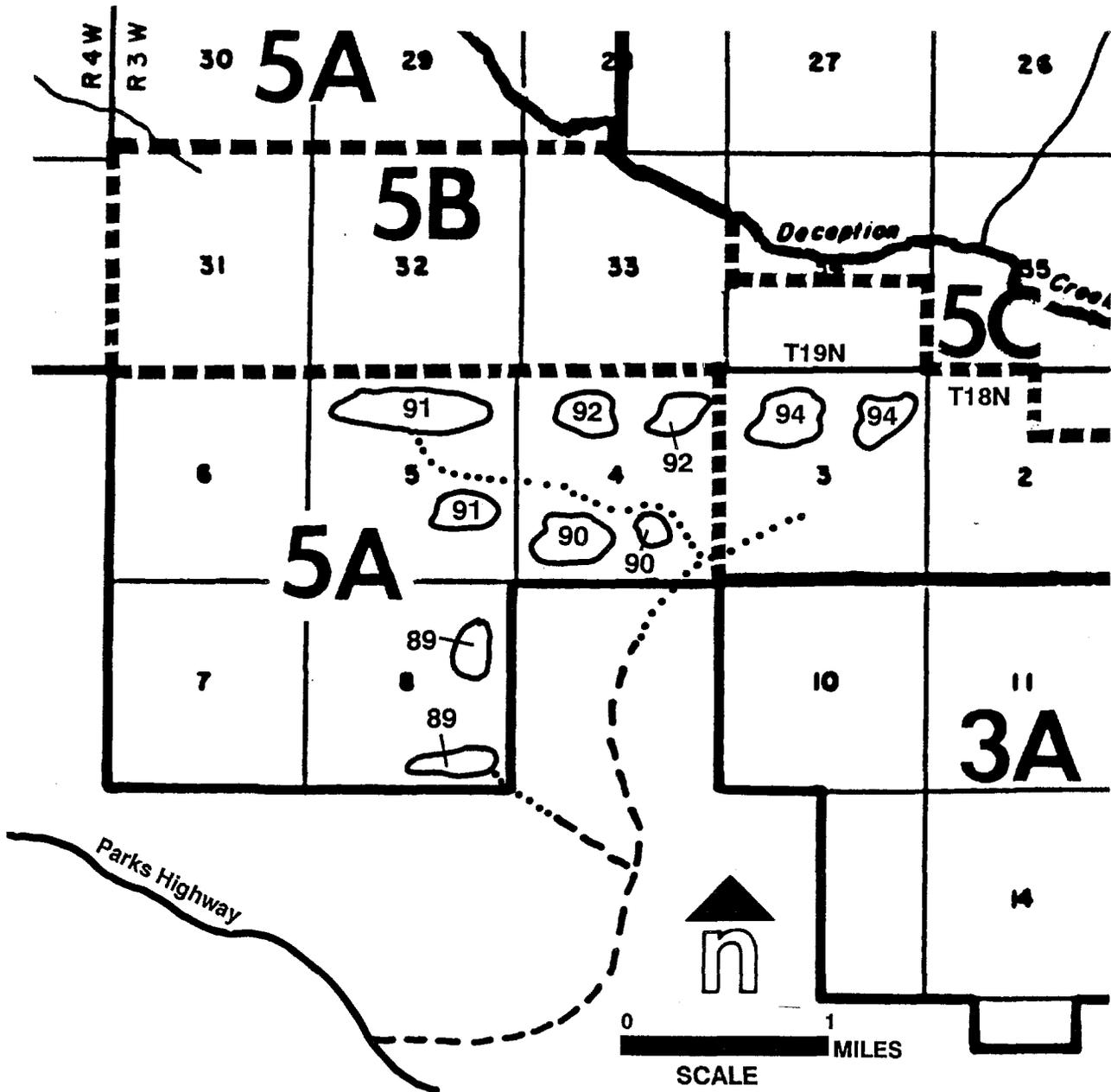
TABLE 2

PROPOSED COMMERCIAL USE TIMBER SALES 1989-1990

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>Sale/ UNIT</u>	<u>ACREAGE</u>	<u>Contract Duration</u>	<u>Cords Birch</u>	<u>MBF* Spruce</u>
1	89-1	35	2 yr	170	48
1	89-2	32	2 yr	130	52
2	90-3	35	3 yr	204	37
2	90-4	46	3 yr	300	43
3	91-5	80	3 yr	320	60
3	91-6	60	3 yr	240	30
4	92-7	70	3 yr	350	35
4	92-8	80	3 yr	370	75
5	----				
5	----				
6	94-9	65	3 yr	340	55
6	94-10	<u>75</u>	3 yr	<u>460</u>	<u>65</u>
		577 acres		2,884 cords	500 MBF

\* MBF means thousand board feet

# DECEPTION CREEK MANAGEMENT UNIT



## PROPOSED COMMERCIAL TIMBER HARVEST AREAS 1989 - 1994

SUBUNIT	PRIMARY USE(S)
3A SOUTH SLOPE	Forestry/Watershed/
5B MIDDLE DECEPTION CREEK	Wildlife Habitat
5A MIDDLE DECEPTION CREEK	Forestry/Watershed

--- Existing Roads/Trails

..... Proposed 12' Road

(89) Proposed cutting unit and year of sale