# Heritage Resources

There are no known cultural or historic sites in this unit.

# Recreation

## DESIGNATIONS AND EXISTING USE

Recreation is a secondary use in subunits a and b. Current recreation is mostly associated with hunting (see Fish and Wildlife in this chapter) or snowmachine and other off-road vehicle (ORV) travel. Recreation in the Kashwitna Unit has increased in recent years. Several major ORV trails cross the unit (see also Chapter 3, Transportation and Access). There are no existing commercial or public facilities in this unit.

## RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL

High moose populations, increased access, and new access to fisheries in Little Willow Creek are likely to increase hunting, fishing, and trail use in the Kashwitna Unit (see also Fish and Wildlife in this chapter). The unnamed lake in Subunit a has potential for public recreation, including picnicking, sport fishing, camping, and hiking. Use of this lake will depend on provision of access.

Recreation sites are identified on the unnamed lake in Subunit a and at the trailheads to the Willow Creek Mountain trail in Subunit b and the proposed ORV trail in Subunit a (see also Chapter 3, Recreation and Map 3). A recreation analysis is required prior to designing a stream crossing over Little Willow Creek to determine what recreation facilities (for example, parking) are needed at the crossing.

# Subsurface Resources

## DESIGNATIONS AND EXISTING USE

All public lands in subunits a and b are open to mineral entry and available for leasing for coal, oil, and gas. Subunit c was closed to mineral entry by the Willow Subbasin Area Plan to prevent conflicts with agricultural development. The land added to Subunit c by this plan (the part of Subunit c in T20N R4W sections 13-14) will be closed to new mineral entry before agricultural homesteads are sold.

No active mining claims exist in the Kashwitna Unit. Claims exist east of the planning area on Peters Creek and Purches Creek. There are no existing coal, oil, or gas leases in the planning area.

## RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL

Two distinct physiographic regions exist within the Kashwitna Unit: the Talkeetna Mountain foothills and the Susitna Basin lowlands. The foothills are of tertiary conglomerates and coal sequences, plus outliers of a diorite batholith. The tertiary sequence in the foothills shows at

the surface as low hogbacks of sandstone and conglomerate rocks and troughs of softer rocks like coal and fine sediments.

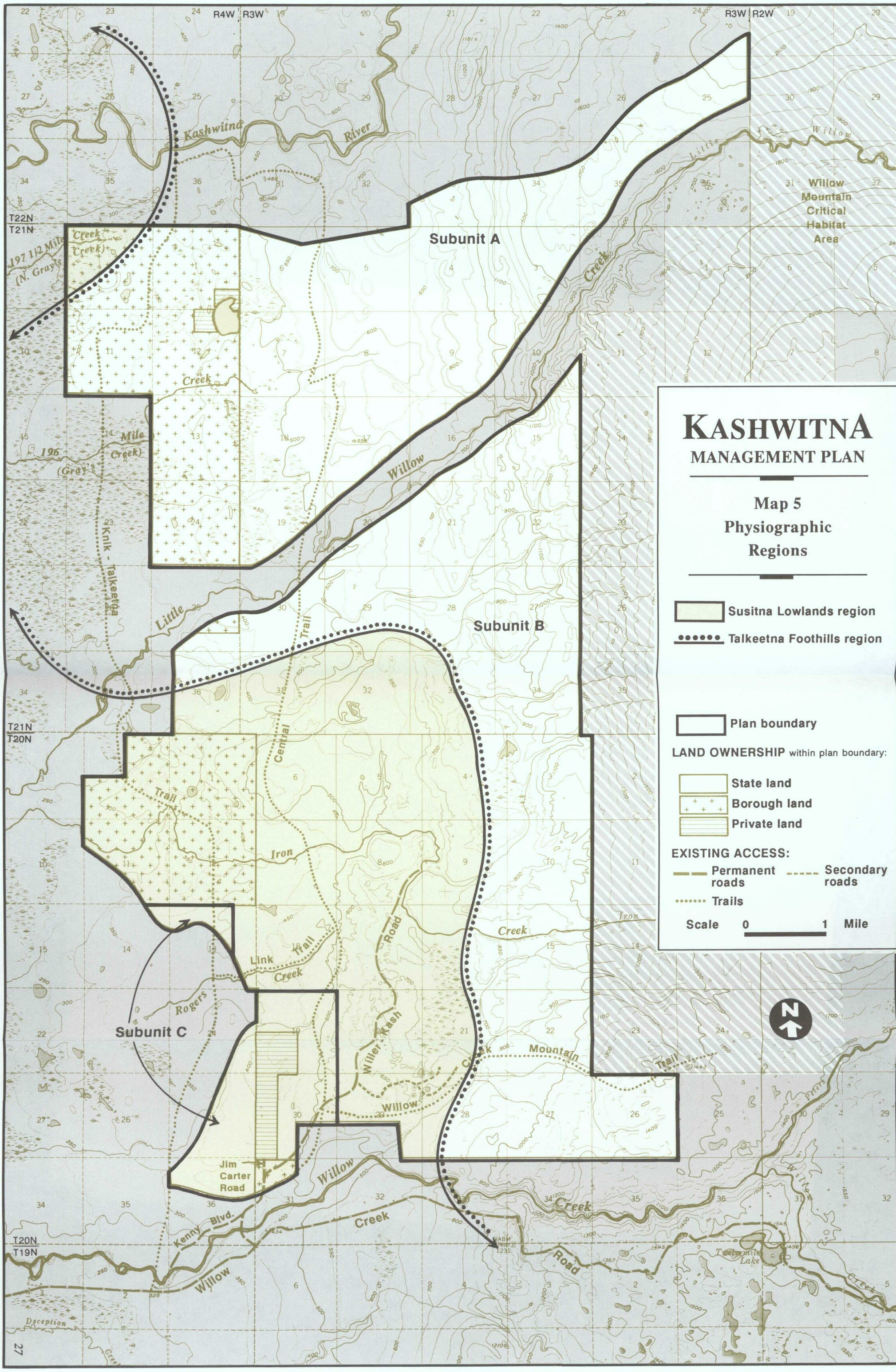
The lowlands have peat deposits over glacial, glacial lake, and glacial river deposits. These deposits overlay the tertiary sequence from the foothills. In general, the Susitna lowlands region contains large reserves of subbituminous and lignite coals within tertiary rocks of the Kenai Group. The bogs contain peat and the conglomerates and sandstones are a source for aggregates and groundwater.

The eastern edge of the Susitna Basin crosses the southwest portion of the planning area (see Map 5). In this area, the Susitna Basin is relatively shallow and Kenai Group strata lie on plutonic rocks of the Talkeetna Batholith. Tertiary exposures are confined to the foothills of the Talkeetna Mountains and isolated, incised stream valleys within the lowlands. The tertiary units are deposited on Mesozoic basement rocks and are covered by Pleistocene glacial, stream, or glacial stream sediments.

It is difficult to estimate mineral potential because of the scarcity of outcrops and subsurface data in the planning area. Kenai coal-bearing sediments occur north and south of the Kashwitna Unit, and by inference are assumed to underlie the southwest portion of the Kashwitna Unit.

Based on existing geologic data, coal resources are thought to be of low potential. As geologic data are upgraded, estimates of potential may change. In the future, areas where Kenai Group coal-bearing sediments occur, coal gasification or other types of gas resources may be developable as a local energy resource.

The DNR Division of Oil and Gas rates the petroleum potential in the Kashwitna Unit low to moderate.


KASHWITNA
MANAGEMENT PLAN
Map 5
Physiographic
Regions
Susitna Lowlands region
Talkeetna Foothills region
Plan boundary
LAND OWNERSHIP within plan boundary:
State land
Borough land
Private land
EXISTING ACCESS:
Permanent roads
Secondary roads
Trails
Scale 0 1 Mile
Subunit A
Subunit B
Subunit C
Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area
Kashwitna River
Little Willow Creek
Willow Creek
Knik - Talkeetna Trail
Central Trail
Iron Creek
Link Trail
Rogers Creek
Willer Kash Road
Willow Creek Mountain Trail
Jim Carter Road
Kenny Blvd.
Willow Creek Road
Twelvemile Lake
Deception Creek
R4W R3W
R3W R2W
T22N
T21N
T20N
T19N