

Multiple Use. Individual farms are encouraged to promote ecological diversity and wildlife abundance by retaining vegetation suitable for wildlife food and cover in woodlots, hedgerows between fields, and along roadsides wherever possible. Where possible, woodlots should be situated to increase the effective size of stream and wetland buffers.

Agricultural homesteaders are encouraged to consider regulated public hunting as a potential tool for reducing crop damage by wildlife. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will provide technical assistance to any agricultural homesteader who wishes to permit regulated public hunting on agricultural lands.

Agricultural Development Adjacent to Wetlands.

1. Class I wetlands (see Appendix A, Glossary) and surrounding buffers should remain in public ownership whenever feasible. A Class I wetland buffer shall include all soils of Class V or worse agricultural capability (for example, Class V, VI, etc.) which lie adjacent to the wetland *or* a 100-foot strip adjacent to the wetland - whichever provides the greatest buffer width. However, maximum buffer width should be 300 feet. Restrictive use covenants and public access easements rather than public ownership may be used to protect Class I wetlands and associated buffers under conditions specified in the Restrictive Use Covenants and Public Access Easements guideline in the Wetlands section of this chapter.
2. Class II wetlands and certain surrounding lands (buffers) should remain in public ownership whenever feasible. A Class II wetland buffer shall include all soils of Class V or worse agricultural capability which lie adjacent to the wetland, *or* a 60-foot strip adjacent to the wetland - whichever provides the greatest buffer width. However, maximum buffer width should be 300 feet. Restrictive use covenants and public access easements rather than public ownership may be used to protect Class II wetlands and associated buffers under conditions specified in the Restrictive Use Covenants and Public Access Easements guideline in the Wetlands section of this chapter.
3. Class III wetlands may be sold as part of the farmstead. Draining, clearing, or other modifications must conform to the applicable permit requirements (for example, Army Corps of Engineers "Section 404" Permit).

Stream Corridors. Agricultural homesteads in the Kashwitna Unit will be designed to exclude anadromous and high value resident fish streams. Based on existing evidence, the streams in subunit c are narrow, traverse mostly wetlands, and have low recreation and fishery values. Agricultural homesteads will require a 75-foot building setback from the ordinary high water mark on streams in subunit c. A public access easement will also be established that extends 50 feet from the ordinary high water mark on these streams. The setback and easement are intended to retain public access to the streams and protect water quality. See also guidelines for Agricultural Development Adjacent to Wetlands in this section.

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

General. Protection, maintenance, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat values shall be an important consideration in managing all public lands, regardless of the dominant land use. Development activities will be conducted in a manner that minimizes negative impacts on fish and wildlife habitat.

Two publications are highly recommended to both public and private land developers for practices that protect and enhance wildlife resources:

A Synthesis and Evaluation of Fish and Wildlife Resources Information for the Willow and Talkeetna Sub-basins. DFG, 1980.

Guidelines for Wildlife Design in Residential Developments. DFG Habitat Protection Section, 1979.

Maintenance of the hydrologic system. The quality of anadromous fish streams of the Kashwitna Unit and of the overall hydrologic system -- lakes, tributaries, wetlands and groundwater - should be preserved at a level which: 1) supports sportfishing effort at current or increased levels of human use; and 2) provides a contribution of salmon to the Cook Inlet commercial salmon fishery equal to the average over the last five years.²

Management by general habitat type. The state and borough will strive to protect and enhance the diversity of habitat types occurring in the Willow Sub-basin. Consideration must be given to the overall pattern of lands preserved for fish and wildlife production as well as the qualities of specific sites. Wherever possible, habitat lands shall be linked through migration corridors, river corridors, and buffers.

Life history of species. Land management practices should be designed to minimize impacts on species during critical portions of their life histories, such as moose calving or fish overwintering areas). The borough and state should consult with DFG to develop plans for mitigating impacts during these periods.

FORESTRY

Susitna Forestry Guidelines apply. Susitna Forestry Guidelines will apply to the Kashwitna area. Additional guidelines specific to the Kashwitna Management Plan follow.

Six timber sales have occurred in Subunit b and one in Subunit c (see Map 3):

| <i>Sale #</i> | <i>Size (acres)</i> | <i>Length of sale</i> |
|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1255 | 320 | 5 yr (expires 4-13-92) |
| 1310 | 320 | 4 yr |
| 1311 | 320 | 5 yr |
| 1312 | 160 | 4 yr |
| 1314 | 960 | 5 yr |
| 1368 | 160 | 2 yr |
| 1369 | 160 | 2 yr |
| Total | 2,400 | |

Timber base. The estimated area available for sustained yield timber management is summarized in Tables 4 and 5. On state land, about 11,290 to 11,980 acres of high site forest land and 8,260 to 9,040 acres of low site forest land are available without special conditions. On borough land, about 2,590 to 2,660 acres of high site forest and 1,340 acres of low site forest are available.

The timber base excludes areas where timber harvesting is prohibited or is a conditional use. Timber harvest is prohibited on land within 100 feet of anadromous and high value fish waterbodies, and at trailhead recreation sites, in the Willer-Kash Road buffer, and in the 60' right-of-way that would be cleared along new roads. Rights-of-way would be harvested once, but would not be available for continued management. See guidelines for Harvesting along Waterbodies and Willer-Kash Road management in this section.

²Effort is measured in angler-days. Current effort is the mean annual effort from 1985-1990.