
Chapter 3

MANAGEMENT INTENT AND GUIDELINES

Management Intent

SUBUNITS a AND b

The lands in subunits a and b supply timber for personal and commercial use, support fish and wildlife habitat and harvest, provide opportunities for public recreation, and provide access to public and private lands.

Forestry and wildlife habitat are the primary uses and classifications on **state land** in subunits a and b. Recreation is a secondary use in both subunits; grazing is a secondary use in Subunit b. (See Map 2 for subunit boundaries). The state land in these subunits will be retained in public ownership and managed to provide timber for commercial and personal use, maintain and enhance moose habitat, and provide opportunities for public use. In Subunit b, guidelines for grazing ensure compatibility with forest and habitat management.

Borough land within these subunits has been classified by the Borough Assembly as Forest Management land. Forest Management lands are presently or potentially valuable for the production of timber and other forest products. They will be managed using the multiple use concept.

The borough owns most of T21N R4W section 25, including some land in Subunit b. To consolidate state and borough lands into blocks that can be managed more efficiently, to decrease the need for additional permanent roads, and to minimize road access to Little Willow Creek, the borough and state will consider exchanging borough land south of the creek in this section for state land elsewhere in the borough. This exchange is subject to AS 29.65.090.

Three public recreation sites are identified in subunits a and b (see Map 3). One is on the largest lake in the Kashwitna unit. The site will ensure public access to the lake, and, if public use increases, provide a place for recreation facilities such as picnic sites, trails, and campsites. The other sites are at the junctions of major trails with the Willer-Kash Road. They will provide off-road parking for trail users.

Additional access is encouraged in subunits a and b to support timber harvesting and provide access to borough lands in the western part of the subunit. A potential off-road vehicle route to the part of the Willow Critical Habitat Area north of Little Willow Creek is also identified.

SUBUNIT c

Small farm agriculture is the primary use in Subunit c and the land is classified for agriculture. Forestry, grazing, and wildlife habitat are secondary uses. To the extent feasible, soils that can support agriculture will be used for agricultural homesteads. Two agricultural homesteads exist in this subunit, and eight more are proposed for sale on state land under 11 AAC 67.154. Land remaining in public ownership will be managed for grazing to supplement on-farm hayland, and for public use, including forestry and wildlife habitat and harvest.

Management Guidelines

AGRICULTURE

Consolidation of agricultural homesteads. The Willow Subbasin Area Plan designated five agricultural homestead areas in the Kashwitna, eastern Little Willow Creek, and Iron Creek units. The Kashwitna Management Plan amends the Willow plan, consolidates the agricultural homesteads lands into one area, and reclassifies the original agricultural areas (See Map 6). The westernmost block of Little Willow Creek subunit b is not affected by this change.

The changes:

- cluster farm parcels to allow more efficient agricultural development,
- locate farm parcels on soil with good agricultural potential,
- decrease the extent of new roads needed,
- provide a consistent, wider habitat and recreation buffer along Little Willow Creek, and
- decrease the amount of farmland adjacent to wetlands.

Approximately 1,760 acres are classified for agriculture in Kashwitna Subunit c, and 3,530 acres in Iron Creek Subunit a. In addition, about 320 acres in Subunit c have already been sold as agricultural homesteads.

Agricultural homestead offerings. In the Kashwitna Unit, approximately 640 acres of land will be offered for sale as agricultural homesteads in the southern block of Subunit c during or after 1992 (see Map 6).¹ These sales cover the remaining agricultural land in the southern block. A few additional agricultural homesteads may be offered in the northern block of Subunit c (that part in T20N R4W sections 13 and 14). Land in Subunit c not sold as agricultural homesteads will be retained in public ownership and managed for access and public use.

The proposed 1992 offering includes portions of up to eight parcels that total approximately 640 acres.

Agricultural Homestead Conservation Plan. Agricultural Homestead Conservation Plans are required under 11 AAC 67.155.

¹Under 11AAC 67.154, sales of agricultural homesteads convey land to private ownership subject to covenants that limit use to agriculture and other activities that support agricultural use.