Public Use Sites

See Public Use Sites in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

PU 2b.1 Silver Hole(s) (RM 3.9). This site is used for camping and fishing. Users camp both on the shore and in their boats.

PU 2b.2 Walk-in Fishing Hole (RM 6). This is a popular fishing and camping site.

2c. Middle Deshka River Subunit

Background

MILES OF RIVER/RIVER CHARACTERISTICS, RM 6.8 to RM 14.4
This subunit extends from the Laub Homestead to Trapper Creek. Wetlands are located adjacent to the river and cover less than 25 percent of the upland area.

LAND OWNERSHIP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>2,617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matanuska/Susitna Borough</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 Private Parcels</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,365</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WILDLIFE
Neither active bald eagle nor trumpeter swan nests have been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

CAMPING
Good campsites are scarce in this subunit. Only 3 secondary campsites were observed.

DEVELOPMENT
Nine cabins and three lodges are located in this subunit. All the cabins are located in the northern half of this subunit along the river.

ACCESS
Powerboat activity is heavy in this subunit during highwater periods. River navigability becomes marginal during low water levels in late summer. A tractor trail and seismic line are used by vehicles at RM 10 on the west side of the river.

HERITAGE RESOURCES
The potential to locate heritage sites in this subunit is high.

Management Intent

Class II. This subunit features high quality fishing, hunting, and camping opportunities for powerboaters and floaters in a relatively remote, undeveloped setting. In winter the subunit is used by snowmachiners, dog mushers, and skiers. There are also a number of private parcels in the subunit. The subunit contains salmon spawning and moose wintering habitat. The subunit will be managed to provide and enhance these recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitat, while accommodating uses associated with private lands. A limited number of temporary camps will be allowed. Maintaining public use sites will be a high priority. A voluntary no-wake area is
proposed at the Silver Hole public use site to protect public safety. There are no non-motorized areas in this subunit.

**Borough Lands.** Borough lands in this subunit are classified "Borough Land Bank." For management intent on borough lands, contact the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

**Management Guidelines**

**Voluntary No-wake Area.** See management guidelines for the Deshka River Management Unit in this chapter.

**Commercial Camps.** A maximum of two temporary camps may be authorized in this subunit. Commercial camps will not be authorized in public use sites.

**Public Use Sites**

See Public Use Sites in Chapter 2 for management guidelines. Specific locations are shown on maps at the end of this unit.

- **PU 2c.1.** Unnamed (RM 10.1). This is a popular fishing and camping site.
- **PU 2c.2** Unnamed (RM 13.8). This is a popular fishing and camping site.
- **PU 2c.3** Trapper Creek (RM 14.5). This is a popular fishing and camping site.

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**2d. Neil Lake Subunit**

**Background**

**MILES OF RIVER/RIVER CHARACTERISTICS, RM 14.4 to RM 23.3**

This subunit extends from Trapper Creek to Neil Lake. The terrain is flat; the river slow-moving. Just over 50 percent of the area is contiguous wetland. Neil Lake and the land around it are not in the Recreation Rivers.

**LAND OWNERSHIP**

The land ownership is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>17 Private Parcels</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5,182 acres</td>
<td>81 acres</td>
<td>5,263 acres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WILDLIFE**

Neither active bald eagle nor trumpeter swan nests have been sighted in recent surveys of this subunit.

**CAMPING**

This subunit is very popular for camping. Twenty-nine secondary campsites have been identified, mostly on gravel bars.

**DEVELOPMENT**

There are many cabins around Neil Lake which is adjacent to the subunit. One is used commercially as a lodge for airboat fishing trips. Another lodge is located at the south end of the subunit. Five docks are located on the lake. Signs mark some of the trailheads on both the river and lake.