

MANAGEMENT UNIT 5: Lake Louise Road Area

Background

This management unit includes land north of the Glenn Highway and within about 5 miles of the Lake Louise Road. Proximity to roads and high wildlife and recreation values makes this an area that will be actively managed for several uses.

Most of the unit is state owned, although many private parcels exist along the Glenn Highway. There have been three previous state land disposals within the area.

Management Intent

Management Subunits 5A, 5H. These state lands will be retained in public ownership for multiple use, with emphasis on wildlife habitat (especially caribou and moose) and dispersed recreation. These subunits will remain open to mineral entry. Several remote parcels are located in subunit 5H; these parcels remain closed to new mineral entry.

Management Subunits 5B, 5G, and 5I. These are past state land offerings. Unsold or unstaked parcels from previous land offerings and parcels that are not sold (due to foreclosure or failure to prove-up) can be reoffered for private ownership. Remaining state lands within each of these areas that were previously classified for retention will not be reclassified by this plan.

Subunit 5C - Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna Creek. This management subunit includes state land that is now used for camping, picnicking, hunting, fishing, and floating (Mendeltna Creek). The area along the old Lake Louise Road provides exceptional views of Tazlina Lake, Tazlina Glacier, and the distant Chugach Mountains. Fairly intensive public use combined with passive land management has created problems with garbage and unauthorized uses (such as permanent camps) in the area. This area is also more suitable for camping than the two smaller state recreation sites along the Glenn Highway at Little Nelchina River and Tolsona Creek.

The area has considerable recreation potential because of a unique combination of opportunities for camping, canoeing, floating, cross country skiing, and snowmachining. The area is adjacent to the Glenn Highway and about three hours driving time from Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Valley area.

This area will be actively managed for public recreation, yet will remain open to multiple use, particularly hunting and fishing. The area will be closed to new mineral entry. Camping and picnicking areas should be established near Crater Lake and along the old Lake Louise Road. The oil well road provides access to Mendeltna Creek and a canoe-floatboat put-in should be established here. Small rafts and canoes can float down to the Glenn Highway or canoes can be paddled upstream (with some effort) into Old Man Lake. Old Man Lake will be managed as a wilderness lake (see p. 2-41).

The Alaska Legislature should consider designating this area and possibly subunit 5F, as a state recreation area. This unit should be retained in public ownership and provided with appropriate funding for management according to these guidelines. An advisory board of local residents should be formed by the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation to develop a legislative recommendation for the Commissioner of DNR (see page 4-11). The advisory board should make recommendations on the boundaries and management of the recreation area.

Until legislative designation occurs, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) and DLWM will develop a cooperative agreement to give DPOR authority to develop and maintain recreation facilities on this land. The cooperative agreement should also specify which agency should enforce trespass and other land management responsibilities. DPOR will review all land use activities proposed for this area. Chapter 4 includes additional details on the proposed legislative designation.

Subunit 5D - Tolsona Ridge - Ridgeview. This management subunit includes land along the ridge from the Lake Louise Road to the top of Tolsona Ridge. The area will be offered for settlement under the land disposal program, although some land should be retained in public ownership to protect wetlands (located upstream from local water supplies) and protect access to areas north of the ridge for recreation, hunting and fishing (see management guidelines below for details). Approximately 2,500 acres (net) will be offered for private ownership. DNR will only authorize the construction of access roads to this land offering where the road has been platted as part of the land offering.

Subunit 5E - Tolsona Ridgetop. This is a small area of state land along the road that runs to the Alascom and former White Alice Station on top of Tolsona Ridge. The state-owned land along the road should be retained in public ownership for multiple use, particularly as an undeveloped recreation area and for forestry. The top of the ridge will be retained in state ownership and will be available for communication towers. The top of the ridge also affords exceptional vistas of the entire basin. The lower part of the road from the Glenn Highway crosses private land and an easement needs to be acquired (see management guidelines below).

Subunit 5F - Lakes North of Tolsona Ridge. The lakes north of Tolsona Ridge have excellent recreation potential and should be retained in public ownership and managed for recreation. The area is accessible from the Lake Louise Road via a section line. The lakes have potential for a canoe trail system. This potential should be evaluated and, if appropriate, DNR should pursue development of a canoe trail system here. The area should be considered for inclusion in the special legislative designation for the Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna Creek area.

Access to a land offering at Ridgeview - Tolsona Ridge may be developed through the southern part of this area. This access should be designed to also provide access to the lakes.

Management Guidelines

Trails. The Resource Information Summary lists several trails, all of which should have marked trailheads and should be retained for public use through any proposed land offerings.

Tolsona Ridge Road. A road to the top of Tolsona Ridge is used for access to the communications towers on top of the ridge. The first 1/4 mile (approximately) of the road (called Happs Road) crosses private land on an easement that does not allow for public access. The landowners have expressed a willingness to provide the state with ownership of the road through a land exchange. DNR will pursue a land exchange with the private owners to acquire public ownership of this road.

School Site. A 40-acre site should be reserved at Milepost 159 to meet possible future needs for a school in this area.

Ridge View Land Offering (Subunit 5D). A system of open space within this unit should be retained to enhance the value of the land offering and to protect public use opportunities. Areas to be retained include:

1. Blueberry picking area within 1/2 mile of the north side of the Tolsona Ridge Road.
2. Several wood lots near the Glenn Highway.
3. The trailhead at the top of the hill in the eastern portion of the unit and the trail from Tolsona ridge to the lake in section 2A.
4. A 1/4-mile buffer east of the Lake Louise Road in the vicinity of the proposed recreation area (Subunit 5C).
5. A public-access route (including the road to the gravel pit) that links the Lake Louise Road and lakes north of the disposal area.

This land offering will be designed to protect views from the Glenn Highway (see p. 2-28).

Swan Staging Area - Old Man Lake. The outlet of Old Man Lake into Mendeltna Creek is an important spring and fall staging area for migrating trumpeter swans. The guideline for Documented High Value Trumpeter Swan Nesting and Concentration Areas on page 2-10 applies to any state land in T. 4 N., R. 8 W., Sections 11 (S 1/2) and 14 (N 1/2). Seasonal restrictions apply from April 15 through June 1 and September 15 through November 15, restrictions do not apply here from June 1 through September 15.

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit; however, guidelines that are most likely to apply are:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Recreation, cultural, and scenic resources
- Settlement
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Wetlands management
- Public access

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 5 - Lake Louise Road Area
(Page 1 of 3)

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
5A	State	Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	
5B	Past state land offering	Settlement	Wildlife habitat	Disposal area closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Remote cabins	Loon Lake land offering
5C	State	Public recreation	Wildlife habitat	Closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins Grazing	Proposed legislative designation - Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna Creek Area

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

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LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 5 - Lake Louise Road Area
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SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
5D	State	Settlement	Forestry Water resources Wildlife habitat	Open to mineral entry. Disposal area closed before offering	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Trapping cabins	Tolsona Ridge land offering - aprox. 2500 acres net
5E	State	Public recreation, Communication site	Wildlife habitat Forestry	Open to mineral entry except for communication site	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins Trapping cabins	
5F	State	Public recreation, Wildlife habitat	Forestry	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	Proposed canoe trail system on small lakes, possible legislative designation

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LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY
MANAGEMENT UNIT: 5 - Lake Louise Road Area
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SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
5G	Past state land offering	Settlement	Wildlife habitat	Disposal area closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Remote cabins	Small lakes land offering
5H	State, some past state land offerings	Wildlife habitat	Forestry Public recreation	Open to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Land offerings Remote cabins	T5N, R6W, is a past remote parcel offering
5I	Past state land offering	Settlement	Wildlife habitat	Disposal area closed to mineral entry	Available for leasing	Remote cabins	South of Lake Louise homestead area

* Other uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits, that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2.

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RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 5 - Lake Louise Road Area (page 1 of 3)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	5A	5B	5C	5D
Fish	salmon - s	salmon	salmon - s	none docum.
Forestry	unsuitable	unsuitable	unsuitable	moderate conif.
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	low	low	low	low
Recreation	moderate	moderate to small lakes	very high; Mendeltna Creek, Crater Lakes area	moderate; scenic ridge
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	none ident.	none ident.	existing site
Settlement Suitability	variable	past offering at Loon Lake	moderate to high	
Transportation	Lake Louise Rd.,	Lake Louise Rd.	Lake Louise Rd., Tazlina airstrip to south	Glenn Hwy., Lake Louise Rd.
Wildlife	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose; B-1 - habitat	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose

Important Trails:

Subunit 5A and 5B: Trail from Lake Louise Rd. due west along southern boundary of state land disposal project at Loon Lake, towards Mendeltna Springs.

Trail from Lake Louise Road due west to Loon Lake state land disposal

Subunit 5C: Trail from Mendeltna Lodge, northeast to Lake Louise Rd.

Trail from Tazlina Lodge to Lake Louise Road

Trail from Glenn Hwy., 1 mile west of Lake Louise Rd. Junction to north of Lake Louise Rd.

Subunit 5D: Trail from Lake Louise Rd. east to Tolsona Ridge that parallels Glenn Hwy. 1 1-2 miles to the north

Notes: Kettlehole Lakes - Mendeltna Creek (subunits 5C and 5F) is a potential state recreation unit

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 5 - Lake Louise Road Area (page 2 of 3)

RESOURCE	SUBUNIT			
	5E	5F	5G	5H
Fish	none docum.	none docum.	none docum.	none docum.
Forestry	unsuitable	moderate conif. and decid.	unsuitable	moderate conif. and decid.
Historic-Cultural	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown
Minerals	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes	outside of known mineral terranes
Oil and Gas	low	low	low	low
Recreation	high, scenic overlook	high, canoe lake system	low	low
Sand and Gravel	none ident.	none	none	none
Settlement Suitability	high	moderate	past offering at small lakes	low; some past remote parcel entries in area
Transportation	road to top of ridge that crosses private land	none ident.	Lake Louise Rd.	Lake Louise Rd.
Wildlife	A-2 habitat - caribou	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose

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Important Trails:

Subunit 5H: Trail (across private land) from Trapper's Den on the Glenn Hwy. north to north shore of Crosswind Lake

For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

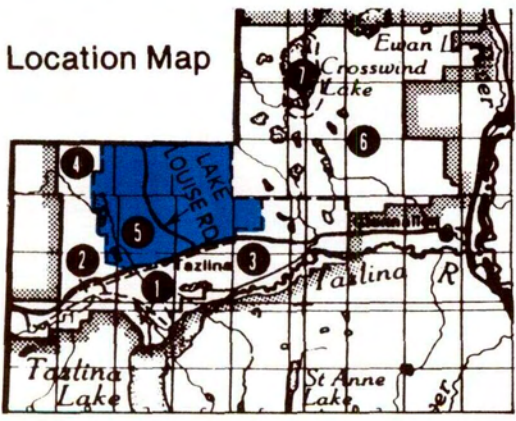
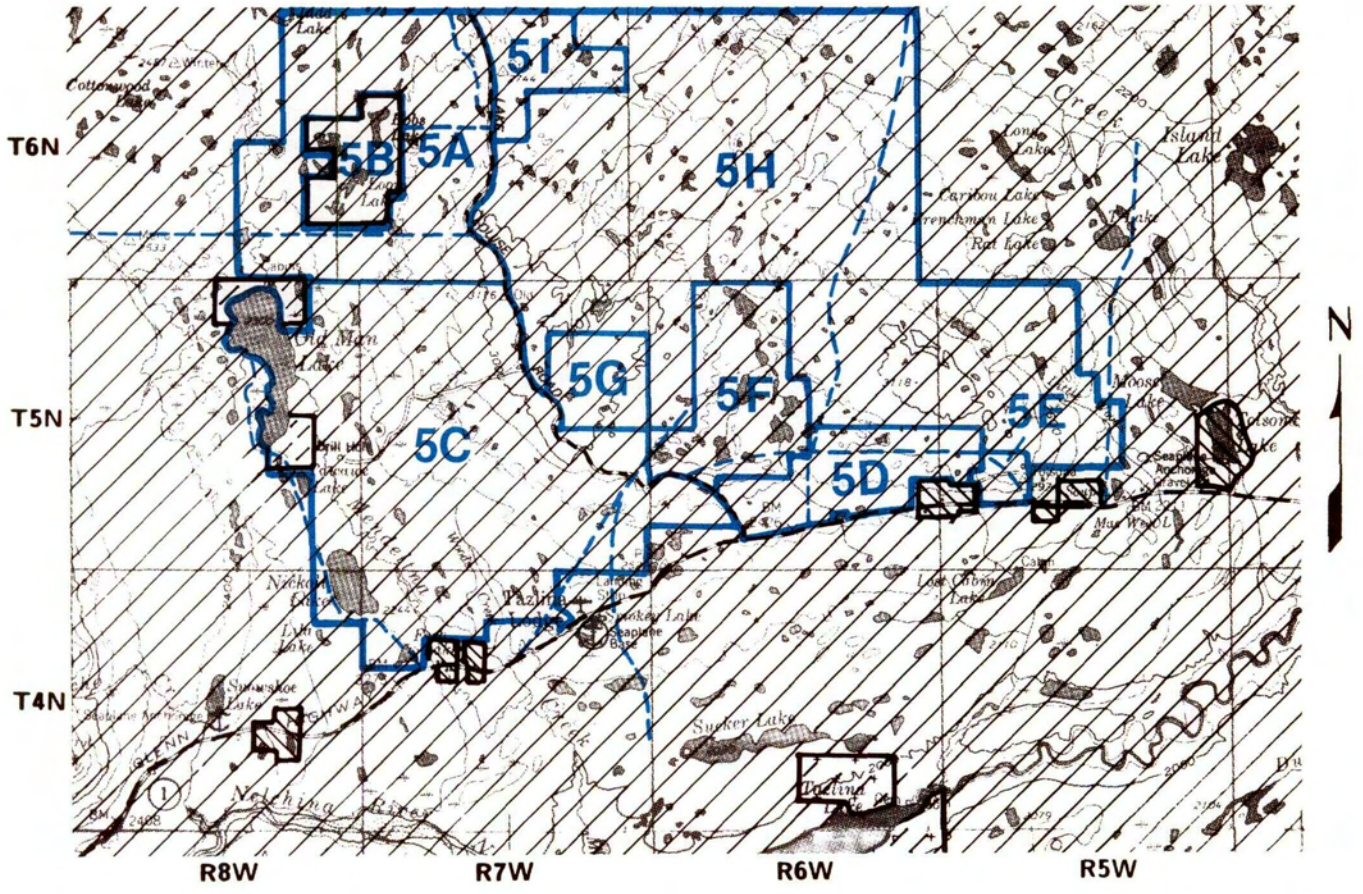
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RESOURCE	SUBUNIT
	5I
Fish	none docum.
Forestry	unsuitable
Historic-Cultural	unknown
Minerals	outside of known mineral terraces
Oil and Gas	low
Recreation	low
Sand and Gravel	none
Settlement Suitability	past offering at South Lake Louise
Transportation	Lake Louise Rd.
Wildlife	A-2 habitat - caribou, moose


For definitions of ratings, see glossary. For more detailed information on any resources, see resource elements published under separate cover.

MANAGEMENT UNIT 5

Lake Louise Road Area



U.S.G.S. Quads:
Gulkana
Map scale:
1:250,000

-  State Owned
-  State Selected
-  Native/Private Owned
-  Native Selected
-  Federal
-  Trails on public lands

Map shows approximate location of easements to state land and major trails across state land. Portions of trails may cross private lands. See appendix D.