

MANAGEMENT UNIT 3: TONZONA

Background

Location and Land Status. The Tonzona management unit consists of the upper watershed of the Tonzona River and a small portion of the Little Tonzona and Swift Fork River drainages. The upper sections of these rivers are highly scenic; the rivers originate at glaciers in the Alaska Range and passing through steep glacial valleys. About two-thirds of these lands are state owned; the remaining third, most of which overlaps with Native selections, is state selected. Denali National Park and Preserve borders this unit on the east; state lands within the Susitna Area Plan are to the south.

Land Use and Access. The area is used for hunting, trapping, and guiding. The area also has some potential for expanded future recreation as an access point into Denali National Park and Preserve. Two lodges (one on Amos Lakes and the other on Camp Creek), a few BLM homesteads, and several hunting camps are located in the area. Access is primarily by plane. Amos Lakes, Scotty Lake, and other small lakes provide floatplane access in summer. An airstrip is located on Camp Creek. Natural landing areas along stream bottoms provide access by wheeled plane in summer. Winter access is primarily by ski plane. No major trails exist in the area. The few trails that exist are traplines, trails used by local residents, and a larger trail up Camp Creek. The Tonzona River is seldom used by boats.

Resources. This unit is vegetated with hardwoods, black spruce, shrubs, and open white spruce. Open white spruce are mostly confined to the areas adjacent to the Tonzona River. Hardwoods, primarily birch and cottonwood, occur on south-facing slopes. These timber resources are used locally for firewood and house logs.

The southwest portion of the unit has moderate to high potential for coal and maybe underlain by a significant coal-bearing basin

but lack of access makes coal extraction unlikely in the near future. Some claims are located along the upper tributaries of the Swift Fork River. Significant tin-uranium-silver mineralization occurs on Boulder Creek. The riparian habitat in the southern part of the unit provides winter moose habitat and portions of the Alaska Range within the unit provide habitat for sheep.

Management Intent

The general management intent for this area is to provide opportunities for remote cabins and public use of state lands. The lands along the Tonzona River provide the most suitable vegetation in this unit for remote cabins, and the location of state land in this highly scenic area next to Denali National Park and Preserve make these sites desirable. Some of the proposed disposal area contains overlapping state and Native selections and cannot be offered until land ownership is resolved. Lands outside the disposal will be kept in public ownership and managed for multiple use with emphasis on wildlife habitat, hunting, trapping, personal-use forestry, and public recreation. Other uses will be allowed on an individual basis whenever consistent with the management intent for each subunit. Although bordered by federal or Native-owned lands, the beds of navigable waters are subject to the guidelines in the plan. State-owned beds of navigable waters in this unit will remain open to mineral entry and materials extraction.

Subunit 3a - Amos Lakes

Most of this unit is state owned; the remainder has overlapping state and Native selections or is state selected. Two trapping cabin permits have been issued on Red Paint Creek, one guide site has been applied for on Red Paint Creek, and an airstrip has been applied for on Amos Lakes. This subunit will remain in public ownership and be managed for multi-

ple use with emphasis on wildlife habitat, public recreation, hunting, trapping, and personal-use timber harvest. A guidesite, airstrip, and trapping cabin permit have been applied for in this subunit. Four trapping cabin permits have been issued. Amos Lakes and many of the smaller lakes in this subunit are used for public recreation and access to public and private lands in the area. This area is receiving increased public use particularly in the fall for hunting. The upper reaches of the Tonzona drainage in the Alaska Range are highly scenic and include productive sheep habitat. A lodge is located on Amos Lakes, and a lodge and airstrip are located on Camp Creek. Several hunting camps are also in this subunit. This area contains moderate to high mineral potential. A significant tin-uranium-silver system exists on Boulder Creek and may be underlain by significant coal reserves. State lands near these lakes should be considered for a public use cabin because of the recreational value of Amos Lakes and the fact that they will be retained in public ownership. Part of this subunit will be open to remote cabin permits.

Subunit 3b - Boulder Creek

This subunit has low surface resource values and will be retained in public ownership and managed for general multiple use. This subunit also contains moderate to high mineral potential. A significant tin-uranium-silver system exists on Boulder Creek and may be underlain by significant coal reserves. This subunit contains exposed outcrops of coal on the Little Tonzona River and is probably underlain by a significant coal bearing basin. Though development of this coal in the near term is unlikely because of the lack of access, the land in this unit will be retained in public ownership and managed for public recreation and wildlife habitat so that its potential value for coal extraction is not reduced. Part of this unit will be open to remote cabin permits.

Management Guidelines

The complete set of management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2. Any of the

guidelines could apply to uses within this management unit. Those most likely to apply are listed below:

- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Lakeshore management
- Public access
- Public and commercial recreation resources
- Remote cabins and trapping cabins
- Subsurface resources
- Public access
- Stream corridors
- Trail management
- Wetlands management

Subunits 3a and 3b - Amos Lakes and Boulder Creek

Grazing. Grazing leases or permits will not be allowed in the following areas because of their importance as winter concentration zones for moose. This does not prohibit temporary passage through these areas for travel between areas where grazing is permitted. Grazing may be allowed in portions of these closed areas (Map 2.1) if consistent with the guidelines in Chapter 2 ("Grazing on Important Habitat Lands"). The following townships are all in the Seward Meridian:

- T33N R15W sec. 31 & 32
- T32N R19W sec. 36
- T32N R18W sec. 12-15 & 21-36
- T32N R17W sec. 4-10, 14-23 & 26-35
- T32N R16W sec. 1-3, 10-16, 20-29 & 32-36
- T32N R15W sec. 4-9, 16-21 & 28-33
- T31N R20W sec. 23-26 & 36
- T31N R19W sec. 1-3 & 9-36
- T31N R18W
- T31N R17W sec. 1-35
- T31N R16W sec. 1-4, 9-16, 21-29 & 31-36
- T33N R15W sec. 4-8 & 18

Subunits 3a and 3b - Amos Lakes and Boulder Creek

Remote Cabins Permit Areas. Parts of these subunits are within the Tonzona - South Fork River block of the Alaska Range remote cabin permit area. Boundaries of the area open for remote cabin permits are shown on Map 2.2.

Parts of the subunits 3a and 3b are also within this block. A total of nineteen remote cabin permits will be allowed in the Tonzona - South Fork River block, with a maximum of one remote cabin permit allowed in any one township.

RESOURCE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Management Unit 3 - Tonzona

Resource	Subunit	
	3a	3b
Agriculture	Low to unsuitable	Unsuitable
Energy	High, moderate, and low coal potential	Moderate to very low coal potential
Fish	Resident fish	Resident fish
Forestry	Low-unsuitable	Unsuitable
Grazing	High to low potential	High potential
Historic/cultural	Unknown	Unknown
Materials	Low potential	Low potential
Minerals	Moderate potential a few mining claims	Moderate potential; a few mining claims
Oil & gas	Partially within currently mapped estimated Minchumina sedimentary basin boundary	Partially within currently mapped estimated Minchumina sedimentary basin boundary
Public access	Plane to lakes or winter landings	Airstrip, winter landings
Recreation	Low use and moderate potential	Unknown
Settlement suitability	Most very low to unsuitable; some moderate and low along Tonzona River	Most very low to unsuitable; low along Tonzona River
Wildlife	B-1; moose winter range; Dall sheep, bear	Mostly C; some B-2; bear, moose
Important trails	Local trails	Trail to mining claims on Camp Cr.; local trails

See glossary for definition of ratings.

LAND-USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 - TONZONA



SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				COMMENTS
		Primary Surface Uses	Secondary Surface Uses	Prohibited Surface Uses ^a	Subsurface ^b	
3a Amos Lakes	Most state, some state/ Native sel. & state sel.	Public recreation Wildlife habitat	Remote cabins in most of subunit	Grazing in part of subunit Land disposals Remote cabins in part of subunit	Open	Possible site for public use cabin
3b Boulder Creek	Most state, some state/ Native select. & state	General use: low resource values	Remote cabins in part of subunit	Land disposals Remote cabins in part of subunit	Open	

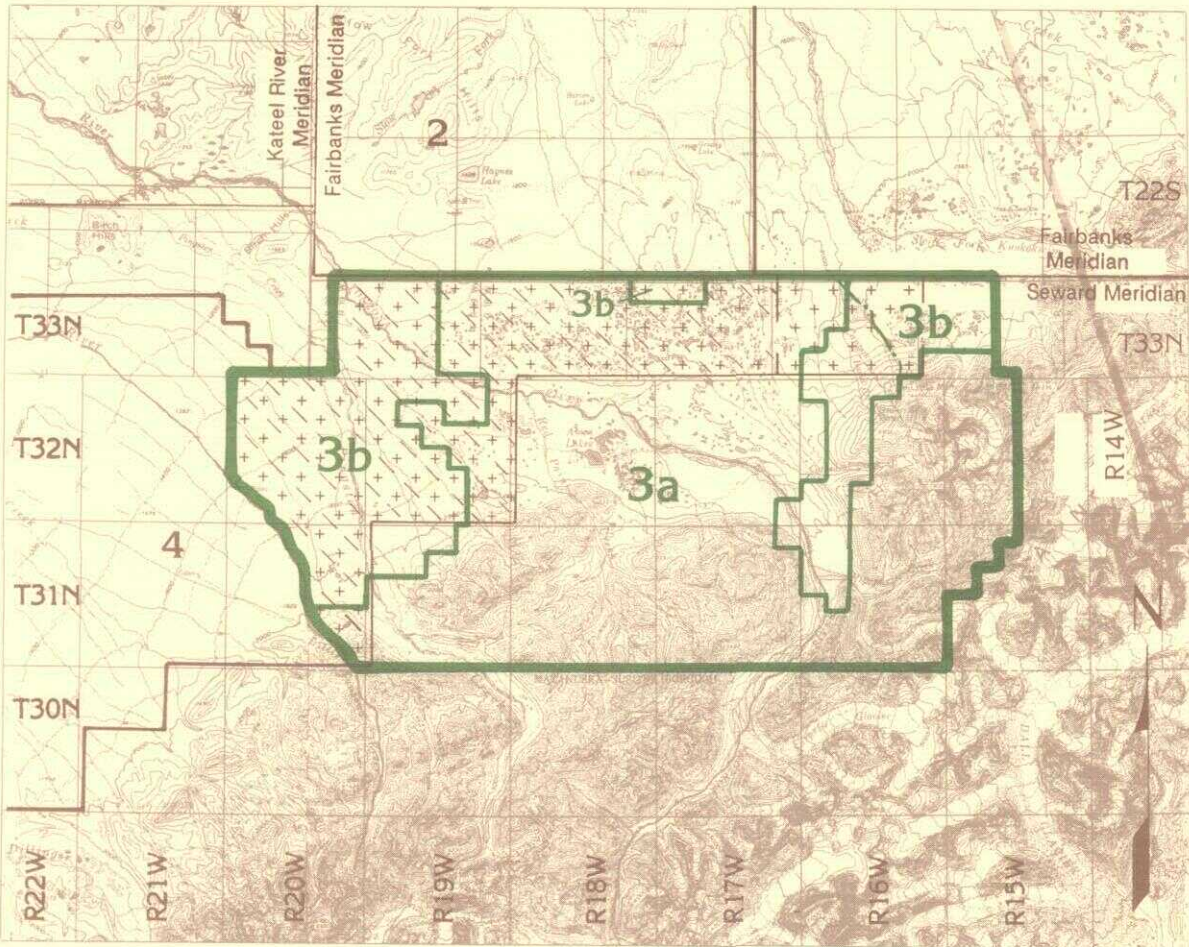
^aOther uses such as material sales, land leases, or permits that are not specifically prohibited may be allowed. Such uses will be allowed if consistent with the management-intent statement, the management guidelines of this unit, and the relevant management guidelines listed in Chapter 2. Grazing may be allowed in portions of closed units when consistent with the guideline in Chapter 2 (Grazing on Important Habitat Lands).

^bAll areas are available for leasing for leasable minerals. Statements of whether or not the unit is open to mineral entry refer only to locatable minerals.

Kuskokwim Area Plan

3: Tonzona

-  Management Unit Boundary
-  Subunit Boundary



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

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

Map Scale:
1:500,000

U.S.G.S. Quads:
McGrath
Talkeetna

Location Map

