

Yukon Flats Region (Y)

The Yukon Flats Region encompasses an area of 12,483,460 acres and is situated in the middle of the planning area. The area, generally described, approximately matches the border of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. The communities of Venetie, Chalkyitsik, Fort Yukon, Circle, Birch Creek, Beaver, and Stevens Village are located within this region and are located along the Yukon River. Nomadic, subsistence lifestyles characterized the area when permanent settlement began in the early 1900s. Settlement began as a response to school building, influx of gold interest, and trading, typically in areas that were already culturally significant. The communities' populations have remained steady or slowly decreased since their founding in the mid-1900s. Infrastructure has increased throughout the region to include schools, post offices, airstrips, stores, and more, centrally located within the villages. The communities are mainly Gwich'in people who have been with the lands since time immemorial. Residents continue to use the land for subsistence activities.

The Yukon Flats Region is a matrix of wetlands, lakes, rivers, and streams, underlain with discontinuous permafrost. The topography is generally flat, with a few isolated mountains and ridges. It is an important area for moose and breeding for birds of conservation concern; two extensive important bird areas, crucial habitats identified by the National Audubon Society, are within the region.

Distribution and Characteristics

Land ownership is mixed throughout this region and includes state land, private land, Native land, and federal land. State land and state selected land are concentrated south of Chalkyitsik and north of the Yukon River and make up 336,752 acres and 115,467 acres respectively. Private land, derived from land disposals and Native allotments comprise 47,898 acres. Native owned land is generally located around villages and within the Venetie Indian Reservation; these lands account for 2,801,856 acres. The remainder of the land is federally owned, 8,807,407 acres, mainly located within the Yukon Flats Wildlife Refuge.

Access, Resources, and Uses of State Land

Access to this region is primarily by fly-in, except Circle is accessible by the Steese Highway. Within the region, access is with snowmachines in the winter and ATVs and boats in the summer. The natural resources of the Yukon Flats are the animal resources that can provide utility or economic benefit to humans. Biological resources of the Yukon Flats are primarily moose, fish, and birds. Residents of the communities use the region for hunting, fishing, and general subsistence activities.

Management Planning Constraints and Considerations

No state or local management plans have previously affected this area.

Management Summary

State land will be managed consistent with its designation(s), as specifically articulated through management intent found in the Resource Allocation Table in Chapter 3 and the applicable goals, objectives, and guidelines found in Chapter 2. Some lands have one designation while other lands are co-designated. The table below provides a quick reference of the designations and co-designations used in this region and their acreages.

Designation or Co-Designations	Acreage
Habitat / Harvest	42,280
Habitat	119,836
Settlement	7,039
Resource Management	307,319
Public Facilities-Retain	910
Materials / Habitat	63
Habitat / Harvest / Public Recreation-Dispersed	437,733

Resource Allocation Table – Yukon Region

Unit # / Name	Designation/ Acres	Map	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
<p>Y-01 Grass River Wetlands</p>	<p>Ha, Hv 15,262ac</p>	<p>3-3a</p>	<p>Manage to protect and maintain wildlife and habitat values. Unit is to be retained in state ownership.</p> <p>DNR shall consult ADF&G and may contact USFWS regarding authorizations involving uses that may impact moose and bird habitat or sensitive life stages. Authorizations must consider the potential impacts on the habitat values and include general mitigation measures that will avoid, minimize or mitigate any negative effects. Due to the remote nature of these lands, development is not anticipated.</p> <p>Maintain and protect opportunities for subsistence.</p> <p>Authorizations that may impact RS 2477 routes should ensure access is maintained.</p>	<p>Topography is mostly flat with one gentle hill centered in the southwestern portion of the unit. Vegetation is a mix of deciduous, mixed, and evergreen forest with wetlands covering the northern portion. The unit provides habitat for moose calving, rutting, and winter concentrations in the western half of the unit. Duck nesting sites are present.</p> <p>The unit is within an Important Bird Area (IBA), Yukon Flats East. This area regularly holds significant numbers of flyway populations of local conservation concern, supports significant numbers or exceptionally high densities of a species, subspecies, or flyway population, and is the location of a long-running research or monitoring project, still in operation. All of these characteristics make this area important globally in supporting and protecting bird species. This area is core for the white-winged scoter. It is also important for black scoter, trumpeter swan, Arctic terns, bufflehead, canvasback, common loon, short-billed gull, Pacific loon and red-necked grebe production.</p> <p>Land in this unit is being considered for wood bison release and restoration efforts.</p> <p>Chalkyitsik community members harvest bear, waterfowl, furbearers, and moose within the unit.</p> <p>RS 2477 Trails are located within this unit and include: (RST 476) Circle - Chalkyitsik - Yukon Border Trail</p>
<p>Y-02 Mardow Lake</p>	<p>Ha 108,316ac</p>	<p>3-3a</p>	<p>Manage to protect and maintain wildlife and habitat values. Unit is to be retained in state ownership.</p> <p>DNR shall consult ADF&G and may contact USFWS regarding authorizations involving uses that may impact moose and bird habitat or sensitive life stages. Authorizations must consider the potential impacts on the habitat values and include general mitigation measures that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate any negative effects. Due to the remote nature of these lands, development is not anticipated.</p> <p>Authorizations that may impact RS 2477 routes should ensure access is maintained.</p>	<p>Topography is largely flat with gentle hills throughout. Vegetation is a mix of deciduous, mixed, and evergreen forest interspersed with wetlands which provide prime habitat for moose calving, rutting, and winter concentrations in the western half of the unit. Duck nesting sites are present.</p> <p>The unit is within an Important Bird Area (IBA), Yukon Flats East. This area regularly holds significant numbers of flyway populations of local conservation concern, supports significant numbers or exceptionally high densities of a species, subspecies, or flyway population, and is the location of a long-running research or monitoring project, still in operation. All of these characteristics make this area important globally in supporting and protecting bird species. This area is core for white-winged scoter. It is also important for black scoter, trumpeter swan, Arctic terns, bufflehead, canvasback, common loon, short-billed gull, Pacific loon and red-necked grebe production.</p>

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				<p>Land in this unit is being considered for wood bison release and restoration efforts.</p> <p>RS 2477 Trails are located within this unit and include: (RST 476) Circle - Chalkyitsik - Yukon Border Trail</p>
<p>Y-03 Two Lakes Remote Settlement</p>	<p>Se 3,840ac</p>	<p>3-3a</p>	<p>Land disposal during the planning period is appropriate. See Chapter 2 requirements for additional guidance.</p> <p>Avoid moose calving, rutting, and winter concentration areas in siting. Consult with ADF&G.</p>	<p>Lands in this unit have been identified as a potential settlement area for disposal through the state land sales program.</p> <p>Terrain is generally flat with vegetation of evergreen and mixed forest interspersed with wetlands.</p> <p>Moose calving, rutting, and winter concentration areas are present throughout most of the unit.</p> <p>Land in this unit is being considered for wood bison release and restoration efforts.</p>
<p>Y-04 Three Lakes Remote Settlement</p>	<p>Se 3,199ac</p>	<p>3-3a</p>	<p>Land disposal during the planning period is appropriate. See Chapter 2 requirements for additional guidance.</p> <p>Avoid duck nesting areas and damage to Important Bird Area habitat in siting. Consult with ADF&G.</p>	<p>Lands in this unit have been identified as a potential settlement area for disposal through the state land sales program.</p> <p>Terrain is generally flat with evergreen and deciduous forest.</p> <p>Duck nesting sites are present.</p> <p>The unit is within an Important Bird Area (IBA), Yukon Flats East. This area regularly holds significant numbers of flyway populations of local conservation concern, supports significant numbers or exceptionally high densities of a species, subspecies, or flyway population, and is the location of a long-running research or monitoring project, still in operation. All of these characteristics make this area important globally in supporting and protecting bird species. This area is core for white-winged scoter. It is also important for black scoter, trumpeter swan, Arctic terns, bufflehead, canvasback, common loon, short-billed gull, Pacific loon and red-necked grebe production.</p> <p>Land in this unit is being considered for wood bison release and restoration efforts.</p>

Unit # / Name	Designation/ Acres	Map	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
Y-05 Big Creek	Rm 241,335ac	3-3a	<p>DNR shall consult ADF&G and may contact USFWS regarding authorizations involving uses that may impact moose and duck habitat or sensitive life stages. Authorizations must consider the potential impacts on the habitat values and include general mitigation measures that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate any negative effects. Due to the remote nature of these lands, development is not anticipated.</p> <p>Authorizations that may impact RS 2477 routes should ensure access is maintained.</p>	<p>Gentle hilly terrain characterizes the landscape. Vegetation is generally deciduous, evergreen, and mixed forest with a few areas of shrub and wetlands.</p> <p>Moose calving, rutting, and wintering areas occur in the northern edges of this unit and near the Yukon River. Duck nesting sites are present in a small portion of the unit.</p> <p>Land in this unit is being considered for wood bison release and restoration efforts.</p> <p>Approximately 57 sections of this unit’s land are in selection status with the lowest priority level. Selections occur in the following townships: F014N019E and F013N18E. The remaining land is state owned.</p> <p>RS 2477 Trails are located within this unit and include: (RST 476) Circle - Chalkyitsik - Yukon Border Trail</p>
Y-06 Paddle Creek	Rm 65,984ac	3-3a	<p>Due to the remote nature of these lands, development is not anticipated.</p>	<p>Gentle hilly terrain characterizes the landscape, with more mountainous elevations in the northern and southern portions of the unit. Vegetation is almost entirely shrubland with a few pockets of forest and wetlands.</p> <p>Moose wintering areas occur in the northeastern edges of this unit.</p> <p>The entirety of this unit’s land is in selection status with the lowest priority level. It is considered unlikely this parcel will be conveyed to the state.</p>
Y-07 Yukon River Wetlands	Ha 11,520ac	3-3a	<p>Manage to protect and maintain wildlife and habitat values. Unit is to be retained in state ownership.</p> <p>DNR shall consult ADF&G and may contact USFWS regarding authorizations involving uses that may impact moose and bird habitat or sensitive life stages. Authorizations must consider the potential impacts on the habitat values and include general mitigation measures that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate any negative effects. Due to the remote nature of these lands and presence of wetlands, development is not anticipated.</p> <p>Authorizations that may impact RS 2477 routes should ensure access is maintained.</p>	<p>Topography is flat. Vegetation is wetlands-type throughout. Habitat for moose winter concentration areas are in the western half and eastern edges of the unit. White-fronted geese nesting, fall, and spring concentrations sites are present nearby. High concentrations of waterfowl are present throughout the unit.</p> <p>RS 2477 Trails are located within this unit and include: (RST 270) Circle - Fort Yukon Trail.</p> <p>The entirety of this unit’s land is in selection status with the lowest priority level. It is considered unlikely this parcel will be conveyed to the state.</p>

Unit # / Name	Designation/ Acres	Map	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
Y-08 Yukon Flats Region Public Facilities	Pr 900ac	3-3b	<p>This unit consists of multiple parcels of land under management agreements with other agencies or deeded for specific purposes. Airport sites should be managed according to FAA and DOT/PF operational requirements and with the management plan. Other DOT/PF owned or managed lands should continue to be managed for public purposes.</p> <p>Authorizations that may impact RS 2477 routes should ensure access is maintained.</p> <p>Protect heritage sites.</p>	<p>The topography consists of low-lying terrain, with sparse mixed forest and small areas of wetlands.</p> <p>Moose calving, rutting, and winter concentrations occur throughout the parcels. There are white-fronted geese and duck nesting areas, and geese spring and fall concentration areas. Stevens Village and Chalkyitsik community members harvest game in and around this unit.</p> <p>Management agreements associated with the parcels in this unit include: ADL 81341, ADL 75845, ADL 416831, ADL 54391, ADL 53230, and ADL 416875.</p> <p>RS 2477 Trails are located within the southwestern subunit (ADL 416875) and include: (RST 257) Beaver-Horse Creek - Chandalar Lake Trail (RST 27) Beaver - Caro Trail (RST 476) Circle - Chalkyitsik - Yukon Border Trail.</p> <p>The AHRS reports heritage sites in or around this unit.</p>
Y-09 Yukon Flats Region Material Sites	Ma, Ha 63ac	3-3b	<p>Manage the unit for its material values and resources consistent with the authorizations issued by DNR. DNR shall consult ADF&G regarding authorizations involving uses that may impact moose or waterfowl habitat.</p> <p>Authorizations that may impact RS 2477 routes should ensure access is maintained.</p>	<p>This unit consists of 4 parcels located on state-owned shorelands containing material sources within the Yukon River and Draanjik (Black) River. Some sites may be open and active, or they may be closed and inactive. Usage at any one of these sites varies by demand. This unit is primarily used for gravel and construction material extraction. There is potential for further development of these resources.</p> <p>Moose calving, rutting, and winter concentrations are present. Duck nesting sites are also present throughout the parcels. Subsistence occurs in and around this unit.</p> <p>RS 2477 Trails are located within the northeastern subunit (ADL 419711) and include: (RST 476) Circle - Chalkyitsik - Yukon Border Trail</p>
Y-10 Fort Yukon Sewage Site	Pr 3ac	3-3b	<p>Manage this unit for sewage purposes only. This unit is to be retained in state ownership and managed in accordance with deed restrictions.</p>	<p>The topography consists of low-lying terrain with sparse forest.</p> <p>Moose calving, rutting, and winter concentrations occur throughout the parcel. There are white-fronted geese and duck nesting areas and geese spring and fall concentration areas.</p>

Unit # / Name	Designation/ Acres	Map	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
<p>Y-11</p> <p>Yukon Flats Region Public Purpose Lands</p>	<p>Pr 7ac</p>	<p>3-3b</p>	<p>This unit consists of dispersed parcels. Manage this unit for school or other public purposes only.</p> <p>Protect heritage sites.</p>	<p>School infrastructure is present on the Fort Yukon school parcel. Infrastructure is present on OSL 1466 near the Chalkyitsik airport. No infrastructure appears to exist on the Stevens Village parcel. The topography consists of low-lying terrain with limited vegetation.</p> <p>Potential hazardous site (ADL 420163) resulted from the old BIA school building that had three 4,000 gallon ASTs and the hazards occur throughout most of the Stevens Village parcel.</p> <p>Moose calving, rutting, and winter concentrations occur throughout the parcels. There are white-fronted geese and duck nesting areas and geese spring and fall concentration areas. Subsistence activities occur in and around this unit.</p> <p>The AHRS reports heritage sites in or around this unit.</p>
<p>Y-12</p> <p>Yukon River</p>	<p>Ha, Hv, Rd 413,363ac</p>	<p>3-3a 3-3b</p>	<p>Manage this unit for the protection of habitat, recreation, and hydrologic values. Emphasis should be on preserving water quality, sensitive habitat, and recreational use of the river.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership.</p> <p>Maintain public access on trails and easements that provide access to and across the river.</p> <p>Maintain and protect opportunities for subsistence.</p> <p>Protect heritage sites.</p>	<p>This management unit consists of the portions of the Yukon River as measured from bank-to-bank from ordinary high water mark which are located within the Yukon Flats region. Besides the water column itself, islands and exposed gravel bars are also included in this unit. The Yukon River is a navigable waterbody. Cultural resources are present in this unit. Subsistence for moose, bear, waterfowl, fish, furbearers, plants, and wood occurs in and around this unit by the Birch Creek, Venetie, and Stevens Village communities.</p> <p>The river has abundant habitat resources. Duck and geese nest and have spring and fall concentrations throughout the unit. Eagles nest in various locations along the river. Moose calving, rutting, and winter concentrations occur throughout the unit. The river is anadromous, supporting anadromous fish such as Arctic lamprey and Chinook, chum, and coho salmon that are migrating to their spawning tributaries. Anadromous sheefish, humpback whitefish, broad whitefish, and Bering cisco spawn in this portion of the river during the fall. This is one of only 3 places in Alaska where Bering cisco spawn.</p> <p>The land surrounding the river is owned by multiple property owners including state, native, federal, and privately owned parcels.</p>

Unit # / Name	Designation/ Acres	Map	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
<p>Y-13</p> <p>Ikheenjik River (Birch Creek)</p>	<p>Ha, Hv, Rd 7,048ac</p>	<p>3-3a</p>	<p>Manage this unit for the protection of habitat, recreation, and hydrologic values. Emphasis should be on preserving water quality, sensitive habitat, and recreational use of the river.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership.</p> <p>Maintain public access on trails and easements that provide access to and across the river and to BLM's Steese National Conservation Area.</p> <p>Maintain and protect opportunities for subsistence.</p> <p>Protect heritage sites.</p>	<p>This management unit consists of the portions of the Ikheenjik River (Birch Creek) as measured from bank-to-bank from ordinary high water mark which are located within the Yukon Flats region. Besides the water column itself, islands and exposed gravel bars are also included in this unit. The Ikheenjik River is a navigable waterbody. Cultural resources are present in this unit. Subsistence for furbearers, moose, bear, waterfowl, small game, fish, and plants occurs in and around this unit by the Birch Creek community.</p> <p>The river has abundant habitat resources. Ducks nest throughout the unit. Moose winter concentrations are present in the southern portion of the unit. The river is anadromous and Chinook, chum, and coho salmon spawn in the Ikheenjik River. In addition, the river has sheefish, Arctic grayling, slimy sculpin, whitefish, burbot, and longnose suckers.</p> <p>The land surrounding the river is owned by multiple property owners including state, native, federal, and privately owned parcels.</p>
<p>Y-14</p> <p>Draanjik (Black) River</p>	<p>Ha, Hv, Rd 17,322ac</p>	<p>3-3b</p>	<p>Manage this unit for the protection of habitat, harvest, and hydrologic values. Emphasis should be on preserving water quality, sensitive habitat, and subsistence use of the river.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership.</p> <p>Maintain public access on trails and easements that provide access to and across the river.</p> <p>Protect heritage sites.</p>	<p>This management unit consists of the portions of the Draanjik (Black) River as measured from bank-to-bank from ordinary high water mark which are located within the Yukon Flats region. Besides the water column itself, islands and exposed gravel bars are also included in this unit. The Draanjik River is a navigable waterbody. Cultural resources are present in this unit. Subsistence for bear, moose, caribou, waterfowl, furbearers, fish, small game, plants, and wood occurs in and around this unit by the Chalkyitsik community. The entire length of the river has been used for trapping and homesteading purposes.</p> <p>The river has abundant habitat resources. Ducks nest on the lower portion of the river. Moose winter concentrations occur throughout the unit, with calving and rutting on the lower river. The river is anadromous, supporting spawning Chinook, chum, and coho salmon. Other species present include Arctic lamprey, Arctic grayling, lake chub, longnose sucker, northern pike, trout perch, slimy sculpin, and round whitefish.</p> <p>The land surrounding the river is owned by multiple property owners including native, federal, and privately owned parcels.</p>

Unit # / Name	Designation/ Acres	Map	Management Intent	Resources and Uses
Y-15 Beaver Creek	Ha, Hv 6,898ac	N/A	<p>Manage this unit for the protection of habitat, harvest, and hydrologic values. Emphasis should be on preserving water quality, sensitive habitat, and subsistence use of the river.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership.</p> <p>Maintain public access on trails and easements that provide access to and across the river.</p> <p>Protect heritage sites.</p>	<p>This management unit consists of the portions of Beaver Creek as measured from bank-to-bank from ordinary high water mark which are located within the Yukon Flats region. Besides the water column itself, islands and exposed gravel bars are also included in this unit. Beaver Creek is a navigable waterbody. Subsistence for moose, furbearers, waterfowl, and bear occurs in and around this unit by the Birch Creek and Stevens Village communities.</p> <p>The river has abundant habitat resources. Ducks nest and molt on the lower portion of the creek. Moose winter concentrations occur throughout most of the unit, with calving and rutting on the lower creek. The river is anadromous, supporting spawning populations of Chinook, chum, and coho salmon. In addition, Beaver Creek supports populations of burbot, Arctic grayling, lamprey, longnose sucker, northern pike, slimy sculpin, lamprey, and round whitefish.</p> <p>The land surrounding the river is owned by multiple property owners including native, federal, and privately owned parcels.</p>
Y-16 Teedriinjik (Chandalar) River	Ha, Hv 20,120ac	N/A	<p>Manage this unit for the protection of habitat, harvest, and hydrologic values. Emphasis should be on preserving water quality, sensitive habitat, and subsistence use of the river.</p> <p>Retain land in state ownership.</p> <p>Maintain public access on trails and easements that provide access to and across the river.</p> <p>Protect heritage sites.</p>	<p>This management unit consists of the portions of the Teedriinjik (Chandalar) River as measured from bank-to-bank from ordinary high water mark which are located within the Yukon Flats region. Besides the water column itself, islands and exposed gravel bars are also included in this unit. The Teedriinjik River is a navigable waterbody. Cultural resources are present in this unit. Subsistence for moose, caribou, bear, furbearers, waterfowl, small game, fish, and wood occurs in and around this unit by the Venetic community.</p> <p>The river has abundant habitat resources. Ducks nest on the lower portion of the river. Moose winter concentrations, calving, and rutting occur on the lower river. The river is anadromous, supporting spawning populations of Chinook and fall chum salmon. Also present are Arctic grayling, longnose sucker, northern pike, slimy sculpin, round whitefish, lake chub, and burbot.</p> <p>The land surrounding the river is owned by multiple property owners including native, federal, and privately owned parcels.</p>

Map 3-3a: Yukon Flats Region Planning Units and Designations

Chapter 3: Yukon Flats Region

Map 3-3b: Yukon Flats Region Planning Units and Designations

