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## Background

This unit includes mountainous peaks, glaciers, and upper reaches of river valleys. The unit is mostly state land that is above treeline. Land in this unit lies outside of Chugach National Forest. Some rivers in this unit have potential placer deposits.

Near Thompson Pass, the area is part of the roadside recreation area for the City of Valdez. The unit is important as a recreation area for Valdez and Copper River Basin residents and as the scenic backdrop for tourist traffic along the road. Much of the frequently used mountainous land, however, is in the Valdez management unit, as is the Richardson High-

way. The potential highway link to Cordova, over Marshall Pass, is on Native-selected land.

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## Management Intent

The management unit should be retained in state ownership and managed for multiple use. Very little active management is likely to be needed for any of the potential uses including mining, recreation, wildlife, or transportation. The unit remains open to mineral entry.

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## 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.

**LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY**  
**Management Unit 20: Valdez Mountains**

<u>SUBUNIT</u>	<u>LAND OWNERSHIP</u>	<u>LAND USE DESIGNATIONS</u>			<u>COMMENTS</u>
		<u>Primary Surface Use<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Prohibited Surface Use</u>	<u>Subsurface<sup>1</sup></u>	
Entire Unit	State-owned uplands	Resource management, low value	Land offerings	Open	

<sup>1</sup>All areas are available for leasing of leasable minerals. Statements of whether or not the unit is open to mineral entry refer only to locatable minerals.

<sup>2</sup>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, management guidelines of this unit, and relevant management guidelines in Chapter 2. See Chapter 2, pages 2-11 and 2-12, for floathome policies. Trapping Cabin and Remote Cabin permits will not be given in the planning area. See guideline B-3, page 2-39.

## Resource Information Summary<sup>1</sup>

<b>Management Unit: 20. Valdez Mountains</b>					
SUBUNIT	Fish & Wildlife <sup>2</sup>	Recreation	Minerals	Settlement <sup>3</sup>	Forestry <sup>3</sup>
Entire Unit (uplands)	Mountain goat winter range and general distribution; bear use	Dispersed recreation	Moderately mineralized; known placer deposits in Heiden Creek, Bench Creek and Wortmann Creek	Incapable	Low

<sup>1</sup> This resource summary describes only the resources for state uplands and tidelands.

<sup>2</sup> Resource list includes Crucial, Prime, and Important habitats as defined by ADF&G (see Appendix E). Anadromous fish streams are not listed; they exist in most subunits. See ADF&G anadromous fish stream catalogue.

<sup>3</sup> Land offering and timber harvest do not occur on tidelands. Therefore, settlement and forestry resources are not rated for tideland subunits.