

2. MANAGEMENT INTENT AND GUIDELINES BY SUBUNIT

MANAGEMENT INTENT

This subregion consists of a single management unit. The general intent is to retain this subregion in public ownership and manage it for habitat, recreation, and the trapping, guiding and hunting that depend on the wildlife resources. In addition, one area will be offered for sale, primarily to provide sites for dwellings to support private recreation. The Alaska Range Subregion will be open to mineral entry and available for coal leasing except for the area proposed for sale in subunit 1a. All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing.

The subregion is divided into seven subunits: a proposed land sale area around Shirley Lake (1a), the Skwentna, Happy and Kichatna river corridors (1b), mountainous uplands with high habitat values (1c), mountainous uplands with lower habitat values (1d), state owned and state selected lands (1e), the Chakachatna River corridor (1f), and federal lands within Lake Clark National Park (1g). See the land use designation chart for a summary of land uses and the maps at the end of this section for subunit boundaries.

Subunit 1a (Shirley Lake): This subunit will be designated for settlement. Land disposals will be located in the lowland portions of this subunit where forest resources are more abundant and provide greater screening potential along trails and lakeshores.

Subunit 1b will be retained in public ownership and managed for public recreation and riparian habitat. Remote cabin permits are an allowed use, and provide opportunities for private recreation along the Happy, Skwentna and the Kichatna rivers. Commercial development to support recreational activities is encouraged in the Rainy Pass-Puntilla Lake area of this subunit.

Subunits 1c and 1d: State land in these subunits will be retained in public ownership and managed to protect fish and wildlife habitat and use and allow for mineral exploration and development.

Subunit 1e: State selected lands in T16N R19 and 20W, S.M. are recommended for relinquishment. The benefit to the state in relinquishing these lands would be the ability to select approximately 46,000 acres of more valuable land elsewhere. If relinquished, the unit should remain open to mineral entry unless specifically closed, and the Department of Fish and Game would retain management authority over fish and wildlife use. Therefore, the two primary resource values in this unit would not be seriously affected.

Subunit 1f (Chakachatna River): A hydroelectric project has been proposed on the Chakachatna River just outside the planning area. If the project is eventually constructed, this subunit may be used for access to the dam site and for transportation of materials or other uses associated with the project. In the interim, this subunit will be retained in public ownership and managed for habitat and public recreation.

Subunit 1g is within the boundaries of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve and is not affected by provisions of this plan.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The complete set of areawide management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2 of this plan. All of the guidelines potentially apply to uses within this management unit; however, those that are most likely to be applicable are indicated below with asterisks.

- Agriculture
- *Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Forestry
- *Recreation
- *Settlement
- *Subsurface
- Transportation
- Instream Flow
- *Lakeshore Management
- Public Access
- *Remote Cabin Permits
- Stream Corridors
- *Trail Management
- Wetlands Management

Management guidelines that are specific to this management unit are presented below by subunit.

Subunit 1a (Shirley Lake)

Settlement

Land sales are limited to dispersed, low density sales below 2000' elevation in the Long Lake Hills area and further east in the more forested portions of the valley. Sales should be located to produce minimum impact on habitat and recreation values.

Subunit 1b (Skwentna, Happy and Kichatna Rivers)

Remote Cabins, Stream Corridors, and Trails

Remote cabin permits are an allowed use within these

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Alaska Range

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 – Alaska Range

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
1a Shirley Lake	State/ State Selected	Settlement	Forestry Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed prior to disposal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Grazing	Estimated net disposal area = 3,330 acres
1b Skwentna, Happy & Kichatna Rivers	State/ State Selected	Wildlife Habitat Public Recreation	Forestry Remote Cabins	Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposals Closed to grazing in Happy River portion of Subunit (see mgmt. guidelines)	
1c Kichatna Mountains	State/ State Selected	Wildlife Habitat	Public Rec.	Open	Available for leasing	Grazing Land Disposals Remote Cabins	

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

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Alaska Range

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 — Alaska Range

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
1d Tordrillo Mountains	State/ State Selected	Minerals	Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposals Remote Cabins Closed to grazing west of Skwentna River	
1e Relinquishment	State Selected	Reserved Use	Wildlife Hab.	Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposals Remote Cabins Closed to grazing west of Skwenta River	Recommended for relinquishment
1f Chakachatna River	State	Water Resources Wildlife Hab.	—	Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposals Remote Cabins	
1g Lake Clark National Park and Preserve	Federal	—	—	—	—	—	Legislatively designated as Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

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

subunits. Cabin sites shall be dispersed along the river and stream corridors in a very low density because of the limited forest resources (approximately 1 cabin per mile or clustered putting 3-4 cabins every few miles). Remote cabins will not be permitted within 500' of the Iditarod Trail.

Grazing

The riparian zone along the Happy River will be closed to grazing because of the importance of the area for moose winter range.

Subunits 1a and 1b (Land Sale Area and Remote Cabin Permit Area)

Stream Corridors

The management intent for land adjacent to the streams referenced below is to permit uses such as fishing, camping and other active uses, and to protect water quality and riparian habitat. Consequently, this land should be retained in public ownership. Corridor widths will be set on a case-by-case basis using policies in Chapter 2. The standard minimum buffer width (200' on each side of the river) should be used on the Happy, Skwentna and Kichatna Rivers.

Subunit 1d and 1e (Tordrillo Mts. and Proposed Relinquishments)

Grazing

The portions of subunits 1d and 1e west of the Skwentna River are closed to grazing because of the importance of these areas for Dall sheep habitat.