

## 2. MANAGEMENT INTENT AND GUIDELINES BY SUBUNIT

### MANAGEMENT INTENT

This subregion consists of a single management unit that is divided into four subunits: an area near Lazy Mountain with grazing potential (1a); state land selections near Harvard Glacier recommended for relinquishment (1b); glaciated areas (1c); and areas closed to grazing to protect habitat values (1d). All public lands in this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. Public lands in this unit also will remain open to mineral location and be available for coal leasing except for the mineral lick area (parts of subunits 1a & 1d) which will be open under leasehold location. See the maps at the end of this section for boundaries and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses.

**Subunit 1a** consists of approximately 8,300 acres of land in the Lazy Mountain area that have grazing potential. These lands will be retained in public ownership and managed to protect fish and wildlife and recreation values. Due to high values for fish and wildlife and recreation, grazing will be a secondary use in this area.

**Subunit 1b** contains two townships of federal land (T16N R11 and 12E, S.M.) which the state selected as part of its land entitlement. They are recommended for relinquishment to the federal government because they are heavily glaciated and have low surface values. They are located in the southeast portion of the study area near Harvard Glacier.

**Subunit 1c** consists of those portions of the subregion with generally low surface values for fish and wildlife and recreation but which have mineral potential. The area will be managed to protect existing fish and wildlife habitat and use, recreational opportunities, and mining. There are a significant number of mining claims in this subregion and the area will remain open to new mining claims.

**Subunit 1d** encompasses the majority of the subregion which has value for fish and wildlife habitat, recreation and minerals. Due to the high values for fish and wildlife (the area provides moose winter habitat, bear denning and feeding areas, and important sheep habitat) and recreation, this subunit will be retained in public ownership and managed for habitat and recreation. To avoid potential conflicts between wildlife and livestock, it will be closed to additional grazing. Decisions on the eventual renewal of the existing grazing lease in this unit should be made in a manner consistent with the grazing policies in the Agriculture section of Chapter 2 of this plan and with the land use designations for the subunit. This subunit will remain open to new mining claims.

The mineral licks identified within this management unit are used by significant numbers of wildlife, primarily during the spring and early summer. No information currently exists on the biological function served by these licks; however, the regular use of these areas suggests that the licks play an important role in the life history of the animals that use them. These same licks also may have significant mineral values.

The management intent for the area around the licks is to protect their value for wildlife and also to allow exploration and development of mineral resources. This will be done through developing a general policy for management of all mineral licks in the Chugach Mountains. Although mineral development may result in disruption of a particular lick or animal access trail, this policy will ensure that at least some licks are open to wildlife use at all times.

In order to ensure these areas can be managed successfully for both wildlife protection and development of mineral values, mineral licks and the adjacent land (the nine sections surrounding each lick) will be open to mineral entry by leasehold location. Stipulations will be applied to individual leases to balance habitat values and mineral development. The general subjects and objectives of these stipulations are presented in the management guideline section below. Existing mining claims within or adjacent to leasehold areas will not be converted to leasehold locations nor will holders of existing claims be required to get a lease from the state prior to production. However, exploration and mining on existing claims will be managed as outlined in the management guidelines through miscellaneous land use permits to afford protection to the mineral lick areas.

### 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 with asterisks in the list below.

- \*Agriculture
- \*Fish and Wildlife Habitat
- Forestry
- \*Recreation
- Settlement
- \*Subsurface -
- Transportation
- Instream Flow
- Lakeshore Management
- \*Public Access

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Chugach Mountains

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 - Chugach Mountains

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 Lazy Mountain	State	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Grazing	Mineral Lick-leasehold location (see mgt. guidelines) other areas open	Available for leasing	Remote Cabins	—
1b Relinquishment	State Selected	Reserved Use	—	Open	Available for leasing	—	Recommended for relinquishment
1c Matanuska Glacier	State/ State Selected/ Native Selected	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	—	Open	Available for leasing	Remote Cabins	—
1d Metal Creek	—	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	—	Mineral Lick-leasehold location (see mgt. guidelines) other areas open	Available for leasing	Grazing 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, objectives, and management guidelines of this plan and with the management guidelines in Chapter 2.

Remote Cabin Permits  
Stream Corridors  
\*Trail Management  
Wetlands Management  
Resource Management

### **Subunits 1a and 1d (Lazy Mountain and Metal Creek)**

#### **Subsurface**

Mineral exploration and development will be allowed in the nine sections surrounding specified mineral licks. Stipulations included as part of the mining lease and/or permit will include measures to minimize, to the extent feasible and prudent, the potential impacts of mining on wildlife use of these areas. The following guidelines will be followed in preparing stipulations for specific leases and permits.

1. Stipulations will be developed on a case-by-case basis for specific leases or permits considering the type and importance of wildlife use and of planned mining activities at a particular site. At the same time, the status of wildlife use and potential for mineral development of other mineral licks in the region will be taken into consideration. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, to the extent feasible and prudent, will ensure that a minimal number of licks are being intensely explored or developed at any one time.
2. Stipulations associated with the lease or permit must address the following concerns:
  - The avoidance of direct and indirect impact on the mineral licks, the animal trails leading to them and other areas of concentrated animal use that are associated with the mineral lick.
  - Methods for compensating for the destruction or loss of a lick (this could take the form of relocating or introducing new mineralized material).
  - The method and routing of mining-related access to these areas.

Areas open under leasehold location affected by these guidelines are listed below:

T17N R3E S.M.

section 9 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ; section 10 S $\frac{1}{2}$ ; section 11 S $\frac{1}{2}$ ; section 12 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ ; section 13 W $\frac{1}{2}$ ; section 14; section 15; section 16 E $\frac{1}{2}$ ; section 21 E $\frac{1}{2}$ ; section 22; section 23; section 24 W $\frac{1}{2}$ ; section 25 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ ; section 26 N $\frac{1}{2}$ ; section 27 N $\frac{1}{2}$ ; section 28 NE $\frac{1}{4}$

### **Subunit 1d (Metal Creek)**

#### **Grazing**

The subunit is closed to grazing. However, there is a large (50,000 acre) existing grazing lease in the northeast part of this subunit. Decisions on the eventual renewal of the lease should be made in a manner consistent with the grazing policies in the Agriculture section of Chapter 2.