

MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 – KNIK RIVER

MANAGEMENT INTENT

This unit includes the broad channel of the Knik River up to the boundary of the planning area (near the mouth of Knik Glacier) and adjacent uplands. It is a surprisingly wild area given its location relative to Palmer and Anchorage and offers excellent climbing and hiking, hunting and fishing, and remarkable views of the massive Knik Glacier and adjacent peaks of the Chugach Range.

Much of this unit is in Native ownership. The public lands in the unit will be managed to protect or improve public recreation opportunities, including fishing, hunting, hiking and boating, and to protect the quality of fish, waterfowl and wildlife habitat. State-owned land within the management unit includes three popular recreation features — Pioneer Peak, the Jim-Swan Lakes area, and portions of the Knik River waterway. This management unit provides the overland and water routes to the upper Knik River and Knik Glacier-Lake George scenic and hunting area. All public lands within this unit are available for oil and gas leasing. Public lands in this unit will remain open to mineral location and be available for coal leasing except for land within Chugach State Park and the proposed Jim-Swan Lakes State Parks Recreation Area.

The management unit has four subunits: the Pioneer Peak area (3a), the Jim-Swan Lake area (3b), the Knik River-Friday Creek area (3c), and lands within Chugach State Park (3d). See the maps at the end of this section for boundaries of these areas and the accompanying chart for a summary of land use.

All public land in **subunit 3a**, the Pioneer Peak area, will be retained and managed to provide opportunities for hiking, climbing and other types of public recreation. In order to simplify management of state land in this subunit, the possibility of adding all this land to the state park should be investigated.

Subunit 3b, the Jim-Swan lakes area, will be managed to provide a variety of recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing. Because of its high value for these uses, its proximity to large population centers, and its vulnerability to overuse and environmental degradation, the area should be designated by the legislature as a state recreation area. (The portion of this subunit within T16N R3E S. M. is Native owned land managed by the state under provisions of the North Anchorage Land Agreement).

Subunit 3c is mostly in private ownership (primarily Native). The state, in its management of the public land

within and along the Knik River and also in dealings with the Native and other private land holders, will attempt to maximize opportunities for public recreational use of this area. A particular objective should be to maintain public access into the Upper Knik and Hunter Creek areas for hiking, hunting and climbing.

Uses within **subunit 3d**, Chugach State Park are described in the Alaska Statutes Title 41.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

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

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

Management guidelines that apply to this management unit only are presented below, by subunit.

Subunit 3a (Pioneer Peak)

Forestry

Personal use timber permits may be issued in limited quantities in this area. Permits for firewood, Christmas trees or other timber uses shall be limited to amounts and locations that do not significantly reduce recreational or visual quality.

Access

Land in this subunit will be managed to protect and, if possible, improve public access from the Old Glenn Highway and Knik River Roads to the Twin Peaks-Pioneer Peaks area and to the Knik River. The small piece of land in T16N R2E S.M. sections 7 and 8 in

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Glenn Highway

MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 – Knik River

SUBUNIT	LAND OWNERSHIP (GENERALIZED)	LAND USE DESIGNATIONS				PROHIBITED SURFACE USE(S)*	COMMENTS
		SURFACE		SUBSURFACE			
		PRIMARY USE(S)	SECONDARY USE(S)	LOCATABLE MINERALS	LEASEABLE MINERALS		
3a Pioneer Peak	State/ Private	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Forestry (personal use)	Open	Available for leasing	Trapper Cabins Remote Cabins Land Disposals Grazing	---
3b Jim/Swan	State	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Water Re- sources	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Trapper Cabins Remote Cabins Land Disposals Grazing	Proposed for legislative designation
3c Knik River	State/ Selected Native Selected	Primarily Private Land--Recommended Uses: Public Recreation, Forestry (personal use), Wildlife Habitat, Water Resources		---	---	---	---
3d Chugach St. Park	State	Public Recreation	Wildlife Hab. Forestry (personal use)	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Trapper Cabins Remote Cabins Land Disposals Grazing	Existing State Recreation Area

345 *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.

particular should be used as a picnic area, public boat launch or parking area.

Subunit 3b (Jim-Swan Lakes)

Access

State, borough, and Native land owners should develop a cooperative access plan for this area. Access is difficult for at least several months of the year since the only public roads into the lakes traverse wet ground. Legislation setting this area aside as a park or refuge should include funding to improve the existing roads — to the extent this objective is compatible with the area's fish and wildlife management objectives. Land use authorizations within this unit should be located to ensure that appropriate public access into this area is available.