

MANAGEMENT UNIT 6 – MATANUSKA VALLEY MOOSE RANGE

MANAGEMENT INTENT

This area is located along the southern edge of the Talkeetna Mountains north of Palmer and Sutton. The area is predominately state-owned and mostly covered by fairly dense stands of spruce and birch. The overall management intent for this unit was set by the legislature through passage of a law in 1984 designating this area as the Matanuska Valley Moose Range. Public land within this area will be retained in public ownership and, consistent with the legislation (AS 16.20.340), be managed to maintain, improve and enhance moose populations and habitat and other wildlife resources of the area and to perpetuate multiple use of the area, including fishing, grazing, forest management, hunting, trapping, mineral and coal entry and development and other forms of public uses compatible with these purposes.

Details of the management of this area will be worked out through preparation of a management plan. This plan, which is required by the Moose Range legislation to be completed before 1987, will be prepared cooperatively by ADNR, ADF&G and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Although the Moose Range legislation directly affects only state land, the Moose Range boundaries include substantial quantities of private land. To help clarify which lands will be affected by the law, this management unit is divided into subunit 6a (the state land within the Moose Range) and 6b (the private land). The few parcels of borough land in the area are included in subunit 6a. This division identifies only the larger blocks of private land. See the maps at the end of this section for boundaries of these subunits and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses.

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 below.

- *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 6a (Moose Range – State Land)

Habitat Enhancement

Enhancement of habitat will occur through a combination of commercial and individual timber harvests and direct vegetation manipulation by mechanical methods (chaining) or prescribed fire. Limits on available funding likely will result in emphasis on timber harvesting methods. Plans for timber harvests, other habitat enhancement activities, road building and the provision of recreational opportunities should be worked out in a management plan for this area prepared cooperatively by the Mat-Su Borough, ADNR and ADF&G.

Coal Leasing and Development

1. Environmental Protection

Any coal mining in this area will be regulated under the strict guidelines of the Alaska Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, federal clean air and water laws and a variety of other state, federal, and local laws. As a result, this plan proposes no additional guidelines to regulate the environmental impacts of coal mining in this management unit.

2. Terms of Lease

Terms of coal lease diligence requirements will be written to provide significant financial incentives to the lessee to reduce acreage under lease or, if production appears unlikely, to give up the lease entirely. This will keep as much land as possible open for various public uses.

Access

Habitat enhancement methods, especially those based on issuance of timber harvest permits to individuals, will require construction of access roads. These roads shall be laid out as part of the management plan for the area.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Glenn Highway

MANAGEMENT UNIT 6 -- Matanuska Valley Moose 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		
6a Moose Range (Public Land)	State/ Borough	Coal Forestry Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Grazing	Open	Available for leasing	Land Disposal	Existing legislatively designated Moose Range
6b Moose Range (Private Land)	Native/ Private	Primarily Private Land-- Recommended Uses: Wildlife Habitat, Forestry, Coal, Public Recreation		---	---	---	Existing legislatively designated Moose Range (Note: legislation does not directly affect private land)
		*AS 16.20.350(b) provides that the management plan developed by the Department of Natural Resources for the Matanuska Moose Range shall reflect the concurrence of the Department of Fish and Game. AS 16.20.350(d) provides tht the area shall be managed to sustain fish and wildlife resources in perpetuity, according to the principle of sustained yield.					

*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.

Protection of Sheep Mineral Licks

Several small portions of this unit will be open to mineral location under lease. This policy is intended to protect several sheep mineral licks. The exact boundaries of these areas, and the stipulations associated with mineral leases or permits, are set out in the management intent statement and management guidelines of Management Unit 12, this subregion.