
2. MANAGEMENT INTENT AND GUIDELINES BY MANAGEMENT UNIT

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1: LAKE LOUISE-SUSITNA LAKE

MANAGEMENT INTENT

Management Unit 1 includes Lake Louise, Susitna Lake, and adjacent uplands. The unique character and accessibility of this management unit results in substantial pressure both for the protection of the area's existing resources and for additional state land sales and recreational development.

Lake Louise and Susitna Lake are cold clear lakes covering 37 square miles of surface area, and are fed by streams emanating from smaller spring-fed lakes to the north and west. Water from Lake Louise flows north into Susitna Lake through a narrow channel at the northwest end of Lake Louise. The outlet of this hydrologic system is Tyone Lake located at the north end of the management unit. Tyone Lake narrows to Tyone River and flows into the Susitna River. The lakes support good fishing for arctic grayling, freshwater lingcod, whitefish, longnose sucker and lake trout. Bird Island, located off the west shore of Lake Louise, serves as an important nesting area for a number of shore birds. In addition to the natural amenities of this management unit, a group of archaeological sites dating back 3,000 to 6,000 years is located on the isthmus between Lake Louise and Susitna Lake.

There is already a large amount of private land located around the shore of Lake Louise and a much smaller amount around Lake Susitna. In addition to the land sold to private owners by the BLM years ago, the state sold approximately 375 acres on the north and eastern shores of Lake Louise over the last 3 years. Approximately 120 acres along the shoreline in the vicinity of these past state sales were retained in state ownership for public recreation.

Although Lake Louise and Lake Susitna have very high recreation value, the area's cold climate, high water table, and permafrost limit the supply of settlement land. Lodges and residences rely mainly on the lakes as a source of water. Sewage disposal is handled throughout the area with open pit toilets and seepage pits. High settlement densities without proper controls could pose water quality hazards.

Access into the Lake Louise-Susitna Lake Management Unit is by road, air and water. Lake Louise Road ends at the south shore of Lake Louise. Three short spur roads branch off this road to the east providing access to several boat landing sites. Additionally, there are several local roads serving a private subdivision con-

taining 40 one-acre parcels along the waterfront of Lake Louise. A publicly owned landing strip and a float plane site are located at the southern shore of Lake Louise. Boat access is possible via the Susitna River starting at the Denali Highway and proceeding to the Tyone River and south through Susitna Lake into Lake Louise. Boat travel on the lakes, however, can often be dangerous due to high winds and choppy waters.

This area will be managed to support a mixture of public and private recreation uses and to protect and allow public use of fish and wildlife resources. In broad terms, this will be achieved by retaining most of the land in public ownership but allowing a few sales at Lake Susitna and Lake Louise. At Lake Louise, limited amounts of land will be sold along the shore and in several clusters back from the lakefront. Additionally, funding will be sought to improve the area's public recreation facilities and to better control public recreational use.

This management unit will be open to mineral location and available for coal leasing except for areas designated for settlement. All public land within this unit is available for oil and gas leasing.

Access improvements should include identification and reservation of a trail system for winter and summer use. One section of this system which should be considered is a foot trail starting at the north shore of the channel between Lake Louise and Susitna Lake and following the shoreline around the east side of the lake until it terminates at the road on the south shoreline of Lake Louise. This area is spotted with fresh water lakes, and canoe portage trails should also be developed. The most promising route follows a system of lakes located roughly 1 mile east of Lake Louise and Susitna Lake.

Management Unit 1 consists of three subunits: Lake Louise public lands (1a), Susitna Lake (1b), and Lake Louise settlement lands (1c). See the maps at the end of this section for boundaries of these areas and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses for each subunit.

Subunits 1a and 1c, which comprise land surrounding Lake Louise intended for retention and sales, respectively, should be planned and managed as an integrated block. The values that make the Lake Louise area attractive are quite fragile and could be damaged by excessive or poorly located development. As a result, funding should be requested for further, more

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Lake Louise

MANAGEMENT UNIT 1 — Lake Louise-Susitna Lake

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 Lake Louise Public Lands	State	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	—	Open	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Lake Disposals Grazing	
1b Susitna Lake	State/ Private	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Settlement	Open (except for 25 sites to be sold by the state)	Available for leasing	Remote cabins Grazing	Recommended for legislative or administrative designation; estimated net disposal area =125 acres
1c Lake Louise Settlement Lands	State/ Private	Settlement (Past and planned sales)	Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed prior to land disposal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote cabins Trapper cabins Grazing	Estimated net disposal area =1,000 acres (includes acres offered in Spring '84)

*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.

detailed planning in the area, especially for the location of land sales and recreation improvements. The sales sites identified in this plan should be viewed as preliminary judgments but not necessarily the final locations.

A portion of the area considered for land sales— the area surrounding Little Lake Louise — is subject to a 1,600 acre Native group selection. The original selection was denied and is now under appeal. The status of this selection should be ascertained prior to the disposal design process.

Subunit 1b, the land in the vicinity of Lake Susitna, generally will be retained in public ownership and managed to provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, boating and other recreational activities in a natural setting. In order to ensure the long term protection of these values, this area will be proposed for legislative or administrative designation. A small amount of additional land sales will be allowed in this area (<25 parcels). These will be located to minimize their impacts on the area's public recreation values. This subunit will be a high priority for the construction of public use cabins.

The area within the legal description specified below under management guidelines, "Swan Nesting Habitat," provides extremely important trumpeter swan habitat. It is the intent of the state and federal governments to protect swan populations in these areas. These lands and waters may be nominated for special legislative or administrative designation to protect swan habitat. The swan population in this area depends on lands and waters in both the Lake Louise Subregion and in the adjacent Copper River Basin. The determination of whether to propose Lake Louise Subregion swan habitat for special designation will be made at the time that proposals are developed for swan habitat designations within the Copper River Basin Area Plan. Any proposals developed at that time will be reviewed by the public. Proposals for special designations within the Susitna Area will require an amendment to 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 with asterisks in the list below.

- Agriculture
- *Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- Forestry
- *Recreation

- *Settlement
- Subsurface
- Recreation
- 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 1a and 1c (Lake Louise Public Lands and Settlement Lands)

Location of Land Sales

Future sales around the lake should be limited to 2 or 3 clustered sites. These sites should be chosen and planned to provide good views and lake access to both lakefront lots and lots that are located several tiers back from the lake. Preliminary investigation suggests use of sites between Lake Louise and Little Lake Louise, at Dog Lake, and at the lakes in T6N, R7W C.R.M. Sections 13, 14, 23 and 24. These locations appear to have soils capable of supporting residential use as well as proximity to large attractive lakes located adjacent to the main lake. If these sites prove not to be appropriate, others in these two subunits (including lands designated as retention) should be considered. Sales of a limited number (less than 25) of previously surveyed lake front lots is allowed; however, the amount and location should be carefully selected so as not to diminish the value of rear lots. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has agreed to work out exceptions to the road building requirements of the borough subdivision ordinance for small lots in this area that will be accessible through a combination of water and foot access.

Water Quality

This area is particularly vulnerable to water quality degradation due to its high water tables, climatic and soil factors and permafrost. All land sales in the area, as throughout the state, will require compliance with DEC water quality protection laws. Because of the value and sensitivity of water resources in this area, however, DNR and DEC should take special care to protect this resource.

Trails and Access Improvements

Prior to land sales in this area, the state Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation should investigate and identify public access routes that need need to be re-

tained in public ownership or protected by easement. Public access routes of known importance include routes into small lakes at the southeast end of Lake Louise and from Denny Lake Campground over the hill to Little Lake Louise Creek and other adjacent creeks. Prior to additional sales, the state and borough should investigate the need for parking facilities at the southern end of Lake Louise and, if necessary, seek funding for parking improvements.

Campground Improvements

The Department of Natural Resources should seek funding to upgrade the campground on the south shore of Lake Louise. Improvements should include tree planting, grading, etc.

Public Use Cabins

Construction of public use cabins is recommended in subunit 1c. Sites for public cabins should be determined in consultation with local residents. Public cabins should be constructed only if adequate staff for their management is ensured.

Location of Recreation Sites

Lakefront public recreation sites should be concentrated in large blocks (10-40 acres or more) rather than scattered over a wider area in smaller parcels. This policy will help reduce the impacts of public recreation use — fires, litter, etc.

Protection of Bird Island

Bird Island, located in Lake Louise, is a nesting site for large groups of shorebirds. Measures to protect this valuable habitat should be taken including proposing this area for legislative or administrative designation as a wildlife sanctuary or reserve.

Subunits 1a, 1b and 1c (Lake Louise Public and Settlement Lands and Susitna Lake)

Swan Nesting Habitat

Portions of these subunits may be recommended for legislative or administrative designation to protect swans. Until it is determined whether or not they will be included in proposals for special designation, the following guidelines are intended to provide sufficient protection and will be applied by the Department.

1. **Restricted Activities.** Activities that potentially will damage swan nesting habitat or cause visual or noise disturbance should be prohibited from April 1 through August 31 within at least one-quarter mile of current or potential swan nesting or staging ponds, marshes or lakes. Particular activities may

be restricted in a wider area if their potential level of damage or disturbance warrants doing so. Activities that may be restricted include, but are not limited to, use of off-road vehicles, airplanes and motorboats. However, some traditional access routes and sites will be designated that will remain open to motorized access. This guideline will result in the restriction of the activities described above on most ponds, marshes and lakes other than those that have been identified as traditional access points.

2. At a minimum, permits should not be issued for those types of off-road vehicle use requiring permits in the areas and during the period described in 1. above.
3. **Aircraft.** At a minimum, landing of aircraft should be prohibited in the areas and during the period described in 1. above except at designated access sites.

The area where swan guidelines apply is described below:

T6N R8W C.R.M.

section 3-10; section 15-22; section 23 W½; section 26 W½; section 27-34; section 35 W½;

T7N R8W C.R.M.

section 4-9; section 16-21; section 28-34;

T7N R7W C.R.M.

section 4 W½; section 5; section 6 W½; section 7 W½; section 8; section 9; section 10 W½; section 14 W½; section 15; section 16; section 21-23; section 25; section 26 W½ NW¼; section 35 NE¼; section 36;

T8N R7W C.R.M.

section 7-8; section 17-20; section 29; section 30 W½; section 31 W½; section 32.

Trails

Foot trail and canoe trail systems that may be developed in these subunits will be designed to minimize adverse impacts on trumpeter swan populations.

Subunit 1b (Lake Susitna)

Location and Amount of Land Sales

Lots offered in this area will be limited to the existing vacant, state owned surveyed lots at various locations around the lake. The total number offered will not exceed 25 lots. Sites should be selected to allow additional sales without creating the perception of more development. This can be done by concentrating new sales into areas where there are currently privately owned lots.

Management Planning and Remote Cabins

It is recommended that a management plan be prepared for this management unit. The management plan will determine, among other things, whether remote cabins will be permitted in this area. Remote cabin permits will not be offered until and unless areas open to remote cabins are designated by a management plan.