

MANAGEMENT UNIT 8 – TALACHULITNA LAKE

MANAGEMENT INTENT

Management Unit 8 includes the Coal Creek drainage and lands adjacent to the Talachulitna River corridor in the vicinity of Judd Lake. Present uses include recreation activities such as boating, fishing, and hunting; and seasonal/recreational settlement. Fish and wildlife habitat, lands capable of supporting remote settlement, and moderate to high coal potential are among the unit's resources. The major land use objective for the area will be to provide opportunities for public recreation, recreational settlement, and mining. Management Unit 8 will remain open to mineral location and coal leasing except for existing disposals in Subunit 8c and lands along an important tributary to Talachulitna Creek that crosses subunits 8a and 8b.

There are four subunits within Management Unit 8: Talachulitna and Kitty lakes (8a), Trinity and Movie lakes (8b), the past Coal Creek remote parcel offering and the southeastern portion of the past Sunday Lake remote parcel area (8c), and the High Mt. Lake Subdivision and remote parcel area (8d). See the maps at the end of this section for boundaries of these areas and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses in each subunit.

Subunit 8a, Talachulitna and Kitty lakes and the surrounding lands, contains important recreation and fish and wildlife values. Due to the subunit's proximity to Judd Lake and the Talachulitna River, this area is expected to receive significant recreational use and will, therefore be retained in long-term public ownership and managed for public recreation and fish and wildlife habitat. Since this area contains moderate coal potential, coal prospecting also will be allowed.

Subunit 8b, the land around Trinity and Movie lakes, is accessible by float plane and attractive for recreational settlement. The land immediately surrounding the lakes is borough owned and will be retained in the borough land bank in the near term. The state owned land southwest of the lakes will be retained in resource management and managed for public recreation in the near term (5-10 years). Land in this subunit will be reevaluated for possible future sales contingent upon the borough's management decisions for this area.

Subunit 8c, (Sunday Lakes/Coal Creek) includes two past remote parcel offerings. Subunit 8c will remain open for additional disposals.

Subunit 8d, comprises the existing High Mt. Lakes Subdivision and past remote parcel area. The primary use of the subunit will be settlement. There are no additional sales planned for the immediate future. However, unsold surveyed lots in the subdivision will remain available over-the-counter.

Access into Management Unit 8 is primarily by boat via the Talachulitna River, or by float plane. Although there are currently no plans for road or rail construction, a right-of-way has been established originating on the east side of the Susitna River, crossing the river and running south into the Beluga Subregion. A second right-of-way then travels northwestward to the area immediately west of Coal Creek Lake and ends at the southern boundary of Management Unit 8. The construction of this road will be dependent mainly upon the economic returns expected from coal extraction in the Beluga area. A trail system should be designed and built to provide public access from past and proposed settlement areas to Judd Lake and the Talachulitna River until, and if, the road is constructed. Such a system would not only provide access into settlement areas, but enable increased use of the recreational resources in and adjacent to the Talachulitna River corridor.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The complete set of areawide management guidelines is presented in Chapter 2 of this report. 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
- Forestry
- *Recreation
- *Settlement
- *Subsurface
- 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.

LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION Mt. SusitnaMANAGEMENT UNIT 8 – Talachulitna 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		
8a Talachulitna Kitty Lakes	State	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	Forestry (personal use)	Open except along unnamed tributaries to Talachulitna Creek & River (see management guidelines)	Available for leasing	Remote Cabins Land Disposals Portion closed to grazing (see mgmt. guidelines)	—
8b Trinity and Movie Lakes	State/ Borough	Resource Management (high)/Borough Land Bank Values: Forestry, Recreation, Settlement, Wildlife Habitat		Open except along unnamed tributaries to Talachulitna Creek & River (see management guidelines)	Available for leasing	Remote Cabins	—
8c Sunday Lake and Coal Creek Remotes	State	Settlement	Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed prior to disposal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Closed to grazing along Coal Creek (see mgmt. guidelines)	Estimated net disposal area = 2,560 acres
8d High Mt. Lakes	State/ Private	Settlement (existing sub- division & past remote parcel area)	Forestry (personal use) Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins	Approximately 100 unsold surveyed lots remain available over- the-counter

*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

land use designations in chapter 2

Subunit 8b, 8c, and 8d, (Trinity/Movie Lakes, Sunday Lake/Coal Creek, and High Mt. Lakes)

Stream Corridors

The management intent for land adjacent to the streams referenced below is to permit 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 Coal Creek and West Fork Coal Creek. A 200' buffer generally should also be retained on the unnamed streams that appear on the 1:63,360 scale USGS topographic maps. The corridors on tributaries to Talachulitna Creek should be 300' to permit hunting and protect the natural setting on streams that feed the boatable portion of the Talachulitna system.

Wood Lots

Woodlot areas will be identified near settlement and land bank areas prior to disposal.

Subunit 8a & 8b (Talachulitna/Kitty Lakes, Trinity/Movie Lakes)

Mining

Lands within 300' of the unnamed tributaries to the Talachulitna River that originate in Kitty Lake and Trinity Lake will be closed to mineral entry. The closure is intended to protect water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in one of the most important tributaries to the Talachulitna River.

Subunit 8a & 8c (Talachulitna/Kitty Lakes and Sunday Lake/Coal Creek)

Grazing

The riparian zone along Coal Creek and the west fork of Coal Creek will be closed to grazing. Grazing is prohibited in order to avoid conflicts with bears, which concentrate seasonally in this zone.