

## MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 – CHULITNA RIVER

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### MANAGEMENT INTENT

This management unit extends south from near Broad Pass to the southern border of the subregion along the Middle Fork of the Chulitna River. The management unit contains a mix of public and private land. It will be managed to provide public recreation opportunities and protect fish and wildlife values while offering land to the private sector for seasonal recreational settlement. This is one of the few places in the planning area where there is much state land along the Parks Highway or Alaska Railroad — approximately 15 miles of the highway and railroad within this unit are bordered on at least one side by state land. 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 existing and proposed disposal areas (subunits 3b, 3c, and 3e).

The management unit has been divided into five subunits. The approximately 2,800 acres of private and Native lands scattered throughout the management unit comprise subunit 3a. Past disposal areas comprise subunit 3b. The Antimony Creek subunit (3c) is state land mostly east of the highway from near Hurricane north to the East Fork Chulitna River. The Middle Fork Chulitna River unit (3d) is public land running along the Parks Highway north of Honolulu. Subunit 3e includes all but one of the new disposal offerings in the subregion. See the map at the end of this section for boundaries of these areas and the accompanying chart for a summary of land uses.

**Subunit 3a** is primarily private land. Private lands are not affected by this plan.

**Subunit 3b** includes two areas that were open for staking of remote parcels in the spring of 1984. The Hurricane disposal has been closed to further offerings, and any unstaked land will be retained in public ownership and managed to protect habitat and public recreation values. The area is an important fall and winter moose concentration area and spring concentration area for black bear. It supports a high diversity of species. Recreational uses in the winter include snowmobiling and cross-country skiing and in the summer, hiking, fishing and camping. The Middle Fork Chulitna remote parcel area is a smaller, more accessible area and has been heavily staked. Remaining unstaked parcels will be retained in public ownership. Subunit 3b also includes the existing Indian River Subdivision (spring 1981) in which there are 4 unsold lots remaining available over-the-counter.

In **subunit 3c**, sales of up to 500 acres (net area) of land will be offered. The acreage shall be located in either one or two sites, the location of which will be determined by the Division of Land and Water Management in consultation with the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The land remaining in public ownership outside the sale area will be managed for public recreation, wildlife habitat and timber harvest for personal use.

**Subunit 3d** will be retained in public ownership and managed to provide buffers and open space between blocks of private land and settlement areas. This will provide opportunities for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and other types of recreation, and protect especially scenic views from the Parks Highway.

**Subunit 3e** is designated settlement. Within this area, three disposal projects are proposed as homesteads — Hurricane Addition (FY 86), Pass Creek (FY 86), and Chulitna Bluffs (FY 86 or 87).

### 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 Management
- Forestry
- \*Recreation Permits
- \*Settlement
- \*Subsurface Transportation
- Instream Flow
- \*Lakeshore
- \*Public Access Remote Cabin
- \*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 North Parks HighwayMANAGEMENT UNIT 3 – Chulitna 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 Private Land	Private	Primarily Private Land	—	—	—	—	
3b Chulitna Bluffs, Hurricane Remote, Indian R. Subdivision and Middle Fork Chulitna Remote	State/ Private	Settlement (Past remote parcel offerings & existing subdivisions)	Forestry Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Closed to Grazing on public lands in past Hurricane remote parcel area & Indian River subdivision Remote Cabins	Approximately 4 unsold surveyed lots remain available over-the-counter in the Indian River Subdivision
3c Antimony Creek/ Hurricane	State	Settlement Public Recreation	Forestry (personal use) Wildlife Hab.	Settlement area closed prior to disposal; other areas remain open	Settlement areas not available for coal leasing or prospecting; other areas available	Portions closed to Grazing (see mgmt. guidelines) Remote Cabins	Estimated net disposal area =500 acres

\*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.

# LAND USE DESIGNATION SUMMARY

SUBREGION North Parks Highway

MANAGEMENT UNIT 3 — Chulitna 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		
3d Railbelt/ Chulitna Butte	State	Public Recreation Wildlife Habitat	—	Open	Available for leasing	Portions closed to Grazing (see mgmt. guidelines) Land Disposals Remote Cabins	—
3e Hurricane Addn. Pass Creek	State	Settlement	Forestry (personal use) Public Rec. Wildlife Hab.	Closed prior to disposal	Not available for coal leasing or prospecting	Remote Cabins Trapper Cabins Closed to grazing in Hurricane Addition & Pass Creek disposal areas	Estimated net disposal area =2,210 acres

\*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.

**Subunits 3a, 3c, and 3d (Private Land, Antimony Creek-Hurricane, and Railbelt-Chulitna Butte)**

**Scenic Highways**

The study *Scenic Resources along the Parks Highway*, (ADNR, 1981) should be consulted for additional information on scenic resources whenever planning occurs for management activities which are likely to result in significant changes to visual quality along the Parks Highway. (See also Visual Quality Guideline for subunit 3c below.

**Subunit 3b (Hurricane)**

**Grazing**

The lands remaining in public ownership within the past Hurricane remote parcel area (the portions of subunit 3b in T21S and 22S R11W F.M.) will be closed to grazing because of the importance of this area for brown bear and moose winter range.

**Protection of Transportation Routes**

Chapter 4 of this plan identifies a system of possible improvements to the regional and local transportation system. One set of improvements is proposed for this subunit. These include a trail into the Hurricane disposal area, improvements to the foot bridge across the Chulitna River, acquisition of access to the bridge, and a parking area along the Parks Highway. The precise locations of the trail and facilities has not been determined, although a general location is given on the map in Chapter 4. Land use authorizations in this unit, such as land sales, leases or other actions should be located so as not to preclude the option to develop these facilities at feasible and efficient locations.

**Subunit 3b, 3c, 3d and 3e (All Public Lands)**

**Mining**

In areas easily viewed from the Parks Highway or Alaska Railroad, stipulations attached to miscellaneous land use permits for mining operations will be designed to minimize adverse impacts on scenic quality. Stipulations should address reclamation; siting of processing facilities, access roads and tailing piles; and other activities affecting visual quality.

**Subunit 3c (Antimony Creek-Hurricane)**

**Visual Quality**

Land sales or other development along the highway should be designed to have minimal impact on views from the Parks Highway. This can be achieved by retaining land immediately adjacent to the highway, locating sales that are on the east side uphill from the

road where they would be less visible or concentrating sales in areas with existing development. Refer to *Scenic Resources Along the Parks Highway* (DNR, 1981) for further details.

**Location of Land Sales**

Sales should be located to produce minimum impacts on access and public recreation values, including Hurricane Gulch. This can be accomplished by locating sales east of the highway on the ridge and clustering them to allow public use of other land in the area.

**Recreation and Fish and Wildlife**

Public access to the land surrounding the rest area and picnic area in T20S R10W Section 26 will be retained in public ownership.

**Grazing**

The portions of subunit 3c within Townships 21S R10W, and 22S R11W (F.M.) will be closed to grazing because of the importance of this area as moose winter range and the presence of brown bear concentration areas.

**Subunit 3c and 3d (Antimony Creek-Hurricane and Railbelt-Chulitna Butte)**

**Protection of Access**

Chapter 4 of this plan identifies a system of possible improvements to the regional and local transportation system. Improvements for these subunits include provision of parking areas along the Parks Highway to provide public access into adjacent land. The precise location of these areas has not been determined, although a general location is given on the maps in Chapter 4. Land use authorizations in this unit, such as land sales, leases or other actions should be located so as not to preclude the option to develop these facilities at feasible and efficient locations.

**Subunit 3c and 3e (Antimony Creek-Hurricane and Hurricane Addition-Pass Creek)**

**Stream Corridors**

The management intent for land adjacent to the streams referenced below is to permit uses such as 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 Honolulu and Little Honolulu creeks, Antimony Creek, Hardage Creek, Granite Creek and unnamed creeks that appear on the 1:63,360 scale USGS topographic maps. On the Chulitna River a wider corridor should

be retained. The wider buffer is intended to preserve the visual quality and natural character along the river for boaters and floaters and to allow for hunting in addition to the uses identified above.

### **Subunit 3d (Railbelt-Chulitna Butte)**

#### **Grazing**

The portions of subunit 3d within Township 33N R2W (S.M.) will be closed to grazing because of the importance of this area as moose winter range.

### **Subunit 3e (Hurricane Addition and Pass Creek)**

#### **Recreation and Access**

In the proposed Pass Creek sale, land will not be sold above 2,000' elevation.

#### **Forestry**

When sales are designed in this subunit, several sites within the sale areas will be identified and reserved for woodlots to provide timber for personal use.

#### **Protection of Transportation Routes**

Chapter 4 of this plan identifies a system of possible improvements to the regional and local transportation system. One such route passes through subunit 3e. The precise location of this route has not been determined, although a general location is given on the maps in Chapter 4. Land use authorizations in this unit, such as land sales, leases or other actions should be located so as not to preclude the option to build this road along a feasible and efficient route. In addition, a trail into the Chulitna Bluffs area should be built and parking facilities developed on the Parks Highway.